

Inaugurates 2-day 'National Level Sports Conference'

Link sports with education for complete youth development: LG

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday inaugurated the two-day 'National Level Sports Conference - SRIJAN', organised by Department of Youth Services and Sports at Jammu.

The Conference will identify the actionable strategies to further strengthen sports systems in J&K UT, prepare a roadmap for effective implementation of the National Sports Policy 2025 & J&K Sports Policy 2022 and high-light measures for shaping a resilient and future-ready generation.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor called for linking Sports with education and essential life skills. He said, with integration in education curriculum, sports can become a powerful tool for the complete and holistic development of youth.

"Sports is a powerful force that shapes individuals, brings communities together, and plays a vital role in nation-building.



LG Manoj Sinha speaking at 'National Level Sports Conference-SRIJAN' being organized by Department of Youth Services and Sports at Jammu.

For youth, sports serve as a real-life school which teaches discipline, values, and leadership through lived experience. It is a strong medium for empowerment, social awareness, and the overall progress of the society," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that sports should be kept away from politics. He observed that sporting talent can only be nurtured in a peaceful environment. In order to make India a true sporting powerhouse, we must keep sports and politics strictly separate. The Lieutenant Governor

said that the Politics should not interfere in sports and the talented youth should not be deprived of the opportunities they deserve. "We must move forward and create a system where there is no room for doubt on the selection process," he said.

He also reiterated the administration's resolve to extend requisite support to the sportspersons and developing state-of-the-art sports infrastructure at grassroots level.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised on giving special focus and strong encouragement to the participation of

women and youth in sports and working towards removing the major barriers that hold them back.

He said the policymakers and industry leaders should create avenues of opportunity through sports.

"Investing in sports means investing in disciplined citizens and a confident future to shape the destiny of the country.

"To truly build a sports culture, we must bring sports into the heart of daily community living and connect sports with education and life skills," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor

commended the Department of Youth Services and Sports, J&K for its unique endeavour aimed at advancing the national sports agenda through sharing of best practices in governance, participation, athlete development and performance excellence.

He urged sports councils, federations, administrators and officials to chalk-out a strategic development plan specifically designed to elevate performance in international competitions.

Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Yasha Mudgal, Commissioner/Secretary to Government, Youth Services and Sports; Padma Shri Dr Karnam Malleswari (Olympian) Vice Chancellor, Delhi Sports University; Ramesh Kumar; Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Anuradha Gupta, Director General Youth Services and Sports, senior officials, representatives of Sports Authority of India; eminent sports personalities; sports-experts and youth in large number attended the inaugural ceremony.



DIET Jammu holds three-day training on Project Based and Experiential Learning

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The District Institute of Education and Trainings (DIET) Jammu organised a three-day Capacity Building Programme on Project Based and Experiential Learning from 14 to 16 January 2026.

The programme brought together fifty teachers from fifteen educational zones of Jammu district. The aim was to strengthen classroom practices linked to NEP 2020, competency-based teaching, experiential methods, and project planning.

The programme opened with a prayer led by Tripta Charak and was inaugurated by Principal DIET Jammu, Dr. R. G. Dogra, in the presence of senior faculty members.

In his address, Dr. Dogra said that professional development becomes meaningful only when teachers turn training inputs into measurable outcomes in their classrooms. He stressed that NEP 2020 expects teachers to move towards active, child-centred, and evidence-based practices, and urged participants to apply the strategies learnt during the programme with consistency and seriousness.

Senior faculty member



Principal DIET Jammu, Dr. R.G. Dogra presenting certificate to a participant.

Saraljit Kour spoke about the responsibility teachers hold as instructional leaders. She underlined the need for structured planning, clarity of purpose, and flexible execution to support diverse learners.

The programme covered key areas such as experiential learning, holistic development, inquiry-based teaching, collaborative work, rubric-based assessment, and the design of simple classroom projects. Teachers were given opportunities to discuss local classroom realities, share experiences, and work together on practical school-level ideas. Engagement activities and demonstrations were used to show how meaningful student participation can be created even in resource-limited settings.

Pre and post-assessments

showed improvement in teachers' understanding of experiential and project-based pedagogies. DIET Jammu will conduct follow-up visits to track implementation, and teachers will share classroom evidence from their schools.

HOD CMDE, Jamil Ahmed, delivered the Vote of Thanks and acknowledged the contribution of resource persons, DIET faculty, participating teachers, and supporting staff. Certificates were awarded to teachers from all 15 educational zones, reflecting wide district participation.

The programme was coordinated by HOD CMDE, Jamil Ahmed; HOD DIET Jammu, Saraljit Kour; Senior Lecturer, Monika Gupta; and Lecturer, Tripta Charak.

Exhibitions vital for preserving Ladakh's Traditions & Cultural Heritage: LG Ladakh

Inaugurates exhibition 'Between Wind and Wool: Ladakh Design Today' at Pragati Maidan

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, on Saturday inaugurated the exhibition "Between Wind and Wool: Ladakh Design Today" at the Innovation Gallery, National Crafts Museum & Hastakala Academy, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The exhibition is being showcased as part of the Innovation Gallery housed within Textile Gallery II: Tradition & Innovation, a platform dedicated to contemporary interpretations of India's rich craft traditions.

The exhibition explores how Ladakh's high-altitude geography, harsh climatic conditions, and pastoral way of life have shaped its unique wool and Pashmina heritage. It highlights the manner in which contemporary designers reinterpret age-old practices such as spinning, weaving, resist-dyeing, and traditional garment construction into modern forms and silhouettes, while remaining deeply rooted in Ladakh's cultural memory and identity.

Featuring works by leading Ladakhi designers including 2112 Saldon; Jigmat Norbu and Jigmat Wangmo (Jigmat Couture); Padma Yangchan (Namza Couture); and Zilzom by Stanzin Palmo, the



LG Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta after inaugurating exhibition "Between Wind and Wool: Ladakh Design Today" at New Delhi.

exhibition presents a diverse range of creative expressions. The displays include sculptural installations, ceremonial garments, ritual objects, and handwoven wool and Pashmina ensembles, reflecting Ladakh's spiritual, environmental, and material connections.

A strong visual dimension has been added through landscape portraits by Gautam Kalra (Creative Direction & Styling) and Hormis Anthony Tharakan (Visual Direction & Photography). These visuals situate Ladakhi garments against the region's dramatic terrain, reinforcing the dialogue between land, climate, and design.

Lt Governor Kavinder Gupta said that

such exhibitions play a vital role in preserving and revitalising traditional textiles while safeguarding Ladakh's broader cultural heritage, including indigenous knowledge systems, rituals, craftsmanship, and community practices. He emphasized that showcasing living traditions on public platforms helps strengthen cultural pride and ensures their meaningful transmission to future generations.

The Lt Governor stressed the need for organizing more national and international exhibitions to promote Ladakh's textile heritage, noting that such platforms create a vital interface between artisans, designers, and global markets, thereby enhancing

livelihood opportunities and reinforcing Ladakh's cultural identity.

Highlighting the theme of the exhibition, Gupta said it reflects Ladakh's philosophy of balancing extreme climatic challenges with innovation and warmth derived from wool. He underscored the global significance of Ladakhi Pashmina, describing it as a rare natural gift of the Changthang region, produced under extreme sub-zero conditions. He added that protecting the purity and authenticity of Pashmina through GI tagging and traceability remains a top priority.

The Lt Governor also spoke about the Ladakh Administration's initiatives in skill development, combining traditional craftsmanship with modern design, branding, and marketing to promote sustainable livelihoods. He said the exhibition aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Vocal for Local" and "Aatmanirbhar Bharat".

The exhibition, curated by Sunil Sethi with support from the FDCI team, was attended by Guest of Honour Amrita Raj, Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), and will remain open to the public till the end of March 2026.

Sakeena addresses National Technical Conclave on ISM at GCET-J



Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo addressing National Technical Conclave on ISM at GCET-Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo on Saturday remarked that Education is a powerful weapon which can change the dynamics of the world, adding that semiconductor technologies are the future now.

The Minister made these remarks while addressing National Technical Conclave on India Semi-Conductor Mission (ISM) at Government College of Engineering and Technology (GCET), Jammu. The Conclave is being organised by GCET Jammu in technical collaboration with IIT Kharagpur and close association with Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and department of Industries and Commerce, J&K Government.

MLA, Nagrota, Devyani Rana; Commissioner Secretary Higher Education, Ram Niwas Sharma; Director School Education Jammu, Naseem Javaid Choudhary; Director Technology at ISM, Dr. Manish Kumar Hooda; Director and Principal GCET Jammu, Dr. Sameeru Sharma; experts from IIT Jammu, Keynes technologies, senior faculty members of the college and large number of students were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Sakeena said that Education is a very powerful weapon which can change any aspect of the world, adding that semiconductor technologies are future and our lives are surrounded these things.

She highlighted the importance of semiconductor technologies in shaping J&K's economic growth, technological self-reliance, and future-ready workforce.

Minister Sakeena emphasized that institutions of higher technical education have a pivotal role in nurturing skilled talent, promoting research and fostering industry aligned curricula to meet the evolving demands of the semiconductor ecosystem.

Sakeena Itoo called upon academia, industry, and research institutions to work in close collaboration to create a robust pipeline of engineers and technologists equipped with cutting-edge skills. She stressed on the need to encourage start-ups within engineering institutions to translate research into scalable solutions.

Commending GCET Jammu for hosting the conclave, the Minister noted that such platforms enable knowledge exchange, policy dialogue and exposure for students and faculty to societal priorities in advanced technologies.

On the occasion, the Education Minister also said that the Auditorium of GCET Jammu will be upgraded on modern lines, adding that the institute has a rich legacy in educational sector of Jammu and Kashmir.

In her address, MLA Nagrota, Devyani Rana said that the students and youth of J&K are very talented and they have proven their mettle in every field. She encouraged the students to actively engage in this Conclave as chip design

and semiconductor technologies will be key drivers of future employment and innovation. She also stressed on importance of internships for young students in technological sector especially in emerging technologies, adding that to be competitive and employable is very important in present day technological job market.

Commissioner Secretary Higher Education, Ram Niwas Sharma, in his address highlighted the importance of this institute for Jammu and Kashmir. He called upon the young students to be drivers of change and emerge as Job givers rather than job seekers in near future. He highlighted

that Capacity Building of faculty is must as per the emerging technologies and developments.

Director, India Semi-Conductor Mission, in his address spoke in length about the objectives of ISM.

In her welcome address, Director and Principal, GCET, Dr. Sameeru Sharma enlightened the audience about the broad contours of this National Conclave.

The Conclave will feature technical sessions, expert talks and interactive discussions with academicians, industry experts, and policymakers, focusing on opportunities and challenges under the India Semiconductor Mission.

The Minister, on the occasion also inaugurated PRISM portal of GCET Jammu, an integrated academic and examination system for the benefit of students as well as faculty of the college.

Earlier, Minister Sakeena also laid foundation stone of Canteen block of the college, to be constructed by R&B department at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.54 crores.

SP City South Jammu interacts with students of Madarassa Husainiyan Nizamiyan Bathindi



SP City South Jammu, Dr Ajay Sharma being welcomed and posing with students at Madarassa Husainiyan Nizamiyan Educational Charitable Trust, Bathindi.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As part of a Jammu police community outreach initiative launched by SSP Jammu, Joginder Singh, SP City South Jammu, Dr Ajay Sharma in Saturday interacted with students of Madarassa Husainiyan Nizamiyan Educational Charitable Trust, Bathindi.

The interaction focused on nationalism, duties towards the nation, moral values, character building, Right Knowledge, compassion, Humanity and the role of education in shaping responsible citizens.

Dr Ajay Sharma along with SDPO city East and ICPP Bathindi, sensitized the students on social and national responsibility, active citizenship, role of religion on nation building with special emphasis on staying away from drug abuse and other social evils.

He also highlighted the importance of tenant verification, installation of CCTV Cameras and urged citizens to act as the "eyes and ears" of the police by promptly sharing information about any suspicious activities to help maintain public safety. Addressing the gathering,

SP South Jammu underlined that modern policing is not limited to law enforcement but also involves guiding and mentoring youth towards a positive and disciplined life. Students were encouraged to focus on education, devotion towards nation building, ethical conduct and self-discipline, and to refrain from crime and unlawful activities.

The programme was attended by the Madarassa staff, committee members Ch. Zain Din, Hafiz Manzoor Ahmed and Mufti Azhar-ud-Din, local residents, and around 50-60 students.

Moulvis and Muftis of the Madarassa also addressed the students, reaffirming their commitment to impart ethical education and guide students away from anti-social activities.

Reiterating the commitment of Jammu Police to community-oriented policing, Dr Ajay Sharma stressed the need for trust, cooperation and regular interaction between police and educational institutions. The programme concluded on a positive note with a collective resolve towards education, moral development, national unity and youth welfare.

Dy CM inaugurates mega health camp at Seri

STATE TIMES NEWS

NOWSHERA: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, on Saturday inaugurated a mega health camp organised by the 80th Infantry Brigade in collaboration with the health department and Shafa multi-specialty clinic Nowshera at Senior Secondary School, Seri, Nowshera, providing medical services to a large number of people from border and far-flung areas.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister along with Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports and Transport, Satish Sharma, inaugurated the Border Sports

Festival-2026 at the Sports Stadium, Nowshera.

On the occasion, the dignitaries also laid foundation stone for construction of a volleyball court, practice pitch and other allied works at the stadium.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul, who highlighted the government's initiatives to strengthen sports infrastructure and promote sporting culture in border areas.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Chief Minister said that projects worth ₹2 crore have been sanctioned for improving sports infrastructure in



Dy CM Surinder Choudhary at a camp.

Nowshera. He announced that the stadium will be equipped with proper lighting facilities and released ₹20 lakh from his Constituency Development Fund (CDF) for further development works.

The Dy CM warmly welcomed international players participating in the Border Sports Festival and emphasized that sports

play a vital role in steering youth away from drugs. He said the government is actively considering the regularisation of Rehbar-e-Khel and appealed the parents to encourage their children to actively participate in sports.

Highlighting the patriotic spirit of the region, he said the people of Nowshera have always stood firmly

with the nation and defence forces, citing their courage and resilience during Operation Sindoor. He reaffirmed that the government is committed towards safeguarding the rights of players, farmers and residents of far-flung border areas.

Satish Sharma, while speaking on the occasion, said the government is fully committed to promote border sports, developing employment hubs and strengthening indoor sports facilities. He remarked that "today's sweat becomes tomorrow's success" and reiterated the government's resolve to combat drug menace and narco-terrorism.

The Minister announced

that playfields will be developed in every Panchayat and a cricket academy will be established next year. He also appreciated the efforts of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for actively promoting sports activities across Jammu and Kashmir.

As part of the Border Sports Festival, a vibrant Dangal (traditional wrestling) competition, Kabaddi competition and tug of war were also organised, drawing enthusiastic participation and large public turnout.

The programme concluded with a felicitation ceremony, where the players, organisers and contributors were honoured for their outstanding efforts.