

LG Kavinder inspects KIWG venues ahead of opening ceremony

Calls for seamless, flawless Khelo India arrangements; ensures zero inconvenience to participants

STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, conducted a comprehensive inspection of all three venues designated to host the 6th Khelo India Winter Games, scheduled from January 20 to 26, to assess ongoing preparations. At the main venue, NDS Ice Hockey Stadium-which will host ice hockey matches and the grand opening ceremony- Administrative Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Moses Kunzang, briefed the Lt Governor on extensive preparations. He informed that approximately 1000 participants from over 21 states, including players and technical staff, are expected. He also informed that comprehensive stay facilities with heating arrangements have been provided, alongside a health advisory addressing high-altitude and cold condi-



Lt Governor of Ladakh Kavinder Gupta reviews preparations for the 6th Khelo India Winter Games.

tions in Ladakh.

The Sports Secretary briefed the Lt Governor about key upgrades including a dedicated vehicle for automated ice rink cleaning and smoothing, which was previously done manually; testing of the chilling plant-produced ice sheet for seamless matches, and two dedicated rooms equipped with seating and heating for guests alongside the installation of digital scoreboard.

Then, the Lt Governor visited Guphuks Pond, the speed skating venue, where Administrative Secretary Moses Kunzang and Joint Director, Youth Services and Sports, Tahir Hussain, detailed efforts made by them to ensure pond freezing and surface smoothing to ensure seamless ice skating event. They informed that natural freezing delays this year necessitated intensive interventions for uninter-

rupted events.

At Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre (LSRC), the Lt Governor and Administrative Secretary received a warm welcome from Commandant, LSRC, Col Kamal Pandey. Ice hockey matches will also be hosted at this venue.

Commending the meticulous arrangements, the Lieutenant Governor asserted that the Khelo India Winter Games represent a flagship national initiative aimed at promoting winter sports, nurturing young talent, and strengthening India's sporting ecosystem in challenging terrains like Ladakh.

He said the Games provide a vital platform for athletes from across the country to showcase their skills, gain competitive exposure, and foster the spirit of sportsmanship and national inte-

gration. He noted that hosting such a prestigious event reflects the growing capacity of Ladakh to successfully organise major national sporting events.

The Lt Governor further stressed that the successful conduct of the Khelo India Winter Games would significantly strengthen Ladakh's image as an emerging hub of winter sports and adventure tourism.

He directed the administration to ensure seamless coordination, effective branding, and flawless execution at every level, reiterating that there should be zero inconvenience to participants.

He underlined that every detail must reflect Ladakh's organisational excellence, efficiency, and warm hospitality, leaving a lasting and positive impression on all visitors.

JKPS Panjtirthi student represents J&K at 69th National School Games Handball Championship

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 69th National School Games 2025-26 Handball Championship was organized by the Directorate of Secondary Education, Rajasthan, at Chittorgarh, Rajasthan, witnessing participation from talented young sportspersons across the country.

Azan Dar, a student of Class VI of JK Public School (JKPS) Panjtirthi, represented Jammu and Kashmir in this prestigious national-level championship. His participation at such a young age marks a significant achievement and reflects his dedication, discipline, and passion for sports.

Congratulating the jakeian, the Principal of JKPS Panjtirthi, Suman Banbah, expressed immense pride in Azan's accomplishment. She remarked that his participation at the national level is a matter of great honor for the school and serves as an inspiration for fellow students.

"Azan's achievement highlights the importance of discipline, perseverance, and consistent effort. Such accomplishments motivate other students to strive for excellence not only in sports but in all spheres of life," she said.

Extending her best wishes, Banbah



added, "May this achievement be the beginning of many milestones. Best wishes and good luck for a bright and successful future ahead."

The school fraternity congratulated Azan Dar for his commendable performance and wished him continued success in his sporting journey, hoping he brings further laurels to the institution and the Union Territory in the years to come.

Women Kabaddi trials at Kathua from Jan 21

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Amateur Kabaddi Association shall hold women selection trials for the 72th Senior National Kabaddi Championship at Indoor Stadium, Kathua from January 21 to 23.

This was stated by the general secretary of the Association, Dr Kuldeep Kumar Gupta in a handout issued here today.

Those interested eligible women Kabaddi players have been advised to report the venue at 3 pm along with necessary supporting documents.

Important to mention here that the selection trials were earlier scheduled to be held at MA Stadium in Jammu but were postponed because of certain reasons.

For further trials related queries players can may contact district secretary, Kathua, Mohd. Yakoub (9858616766, 9796521777).



JU clinches overall championship at 3rd Chancellor's Trophy 2025-26

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The University of Jammu (JU) once again asserted its sporting dominance by lifting the Overall Championship Trophy at the 3rd Chancellor's Trophy 2025-26 for Men and Women. The championship was organized by the Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, JU, and held from January 15 to 19, 2026.

The JU secured an impressive 11 winning trophies along with two runners-up trophies to claim the overall title. Cluster University of Jammu finished as overall runners-up, while the University of Ladakh secured the overall second runners-up position.

The Valedictory-cum-Prize Distribution ceremony was graced by Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Registrar, JU, as the Chief Guest. The Guests of Honour included Dr. Dharminder Magotra, CDC, JU; Dr. Vinod Bakshi, Director Sports, Cluster



University of Jammu emerging overall Champion at the 3rd Chancellor's Trophy 2025-26 for men and women.

University of Jammu; and Dr. G. M. Lone, Secretary Sports, Cluster University of Srinagar.

A large gathering of dignitaries, players, officials, students, university staff, and members of civil society attended the event.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Neeraj Sharma congratulated the organizers for successfully conducting the championship and emphasized the importance of

sports and physical activities in student life, in line with the vision of NEP 2020. He appreciated the enthusiastic participation of players and officials from various universities and institutions of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and neighboring states.

Earlier, Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba, Director, Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, JU presented a

detailed report of the championship. He informed that around 800 players from different universities and institutions participated in various men's and women's events during the championship.

The proceedings of the function were conducted by Lakshika Jamwal and Yammesh Thakur, while the vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Mandeep Singh, Assistant Professor,

Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, JU.

The entire championship was conducted under the direct supervision of Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba.

Among those present were Dr. Mandeep Singh, Dr. Vimal Kishore, Raj Kumar Bakshi, Ravish Vaid, Vikas Karlopia, Gagan Kumar, Padam Dev Singh, Jai Bharat, Harinderpal Singh, Dr. Inderjeet Singh, Dr. Mahak, Rishiv Sharma, Richa Mandla, Dr. Devis, and officials of the participating teams.

Final Day Results

Table Tennis (Men) Final: JU defeated IUST Awantipura (3-0). Third Place: Cluster University of Srinagar (CLUS) defeated SMVDU Katra (3-1).

Badminton (Women) Final: JU defeated CLUJ (2-0).

Kabaddi (Men): Final: CLUJ defeated JU by one point

Volleyball (Men) Final: JU defeated KU (3-2). Third Place: University of Ladakh

defeated CLUJ (2-0).

Football (Men) Final: JU defeated University of Ladakh (1-0).

Kho-Kho (Women) Final: JU defeated CLUJ by four points.

Basketball (Men) Final: JU defeated Central University of Jammu (34-16).

Basketball (Women) Final: JU defeated MIET (30-12).

Handball (Men) Final: GNDU Amritsar defeated JU (28-19). Third Place: University of Ladakh defeated CLUJ (16-07).

Handball (Women) Final: JU defeated University of Ladakh (13-02).

The matches were officiated by a panel of experienced officials including Ravish Vaid, Vikas Karlopia, Gagan Kumar, Raj Kumar Bakshi, Ranbir Singh, Dr. Inderjeet Singh, Harinderpal Singh, Rishiv Sharma, Richa Mandla, Sakshi Dabgotra, Jeevan Lal, Arjun Sharma, Mena Ragesh, and Anil Singh.

Goal Shot Ball trials today

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Goal Shot Ball Association of Jammu and Kashmir shall hold selection trials to name the UT team for participation in the 3rd Sub-Junior National (boys and girls) Championship.

The trials shall take place tomorrow at S D Sabha School grounds, Rehari, here at 4:00 PM, a handout issued by the Association here today informed.

The Sub-Junior National is being hosted by Goal Shot Ball Association of Andhra Pradesh at Tirupati from February 2 to 5.

Police Martyrs Volleyball Tournament

Shaheed DySP Manjit Singh Club to meet Shaheed Mumtaz Club Chandak in final

STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: In the ongoing Police Martyrs Volleyball Tournament, Shaheed DySP Manjit Singh Memorial Volleyball Club Poonch and Shaheed Mumtaz Club Chandak have entered the final after winning their respective semifinal matches today.

In the first semifinal, Shaheed DySP Manjit Singh Memorial Volleyball Club Poonch defeated Uehhad Volleyball Club in a closely contested five-set match. The scores were 25-12, 21-25, 25-20, 22-25 and 15-10 in favour of Poonch Club. The match witnessed intense rallies, powerful spikes and strong defensive play from both teams, keeping the spectators engaged throughout.



A Volleyball match in progress and Chief Guest interacting with players.

In the second semifinal, Shaheed Mumtaz Club Chandak registered a convincing victory over Knight Riders in four sets with scores of 22-25, 25-20, 25-18 and 25-19 to secure their place in the final.

On the occasion, Shashi Kant, DySP, attended as the special guest. He appreciated the sportsmanship and performance of all participating teams and encouraged the youth to stay away from harmful habits

and follow the footsteps of volleyball icon Saqlain Tariq. He also lauded Mohd Tariq, Chairman of Shaheed DySP Manjit Singh Memorial Volleyball Club Poonch, for his efforts in promoting volleyball

in the region. The match officials included Shabir Ahmad, Sidarat Bhatti, Wasim Akram, Ikhlq Ahmed, Imtaiz Ahmed, Muzammil Sultan, Shahid Khan, Ajaz Ahmed and Intazar Ali.

Nirmal Singh scripts history: becomes first-ever National Starter from J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a landmark achievement for Jammu & Kashmir's sporting fraternity, Nirmal Singh, a former ace athlete and Lecturer in Physical Education at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Bishnah, has etched his name in history as the first-ever National Starter from the Union Territory.

This milestone comes after Singh successfully qualified the rigorous national-level examination conducted by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) at the prestigious Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports (NSNIS), Patiala.

The high-stakes assessment, meticulously supervised by Chief Referee and International Starter Alan Bell from England, encompassed both practical demonstrations and theoretical evaluations, testing the finest technical acumen in athletics officiating.

Singh's stellar performance has now propelled him into the ranks of India's elite National Starters-a cadre of officials entrusted with ensuring precision, fairness,



and excellence at the highest levels of track and field competitions.

A proud State Awardee, Singh already holds the distinction of being a National Technical Official. His illustrious career includes officiating at marquee international events such as World and Asian Athletics Meets,

where his expertise has consistently upheld the sport's global standards.

This extraordinary accomplishment not only brings immense glory to the Department of Youth Services and Sports, Jammu & Kashmir, but also stands as a beacon of inspiration for budding athletes, coaches, and officials across the region. Singh's journey-from athlete to trailblazing adjudicator-exemplifies unwavering dedication, technical mastery, and the boundless potential of J&K's sporting talent.

The employees of the Department extended their heartfelt congratulations to Nirmal Singh and reaffirmed their commitment to nurturing such excellence through robust training and development programs.

DIG JSK Range unveils cartoon-based J&K Police Calendar 2026



DIG Shiv Kumar unveiling cartoon-based J&K Police Calendar 2026.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shiv Kumar, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range, on Monday unveiled a special cartoon-based Calendar (2026) prepared for the Jammu and Kashmir Police. The unveiling ceremony was held in the presence of Sanjay Kumar Sharma, SO to DIG JSK Range, Amit Bhasin, SSP Traffic Jammu, Addl. SP Traffic Jammu, Rabinder Raina, Private Secretary to DIG JSK Range, and other senior officers.

The calendar, created through impactful cartoons drawn by internationally acclaimed cartoonist Chandrashekhar, carries strong social messages aimed at law violators and those ignoring civic responsibility. It highlights the proactive and positive role of J&K Police in maintaining law and order and safeguarding

society. Special emphasis has been placed on youth-related issues, particularly drug abuse. The calendar depicts strict police action under Operation Sanjeevani against drug peddlers and smugglers, reinforcing the force's commitment to a drug-free society. It also portrays the police's firm stand against terrorism and crime.

Other critical issues addressed include the dangers of Chinese kite string (gattu), reckless bike stunts by underage riders, and harassment of women and minors, all of which are shown alongside police enforcement measures.

This 12-page calendar effectively communicates social concerns in a simple yet powerful manner, reflecting the dedication and vigilance of the Jammu and Kashmir Police in building a safer and more responsible society.

2nd DG Lohia Memorial Debate held

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Anand Jain, Additional Director General of Armed Police, Jammu and Kashmir, fondly remembered late Hemant Kumar Lohia as a respected senior, a dear friend, and an exceptionally efficient police officer who rendered meritorious services to the Union Territory, particularly in combating terrorism. He was speaking as the Chief Guest at the 2nd DG Hemant Kumar Lohia Memorial Debating Contest held at Government MAM Post Graduate College, Jammu.

The debate was organized by the Hemant Kumar Lohia Memorial Charitable Trust on the topic "This House believes that drug addiction is mainly caused by personal choice and weak will power." Around 20 students from 10 colleges across Jammu participated in the competition, speaking for and against the motion.

The programme commenced with the National Anthem, followed by a welcome address by Trustee



Vikram Garg. The vote of thanks was presented by Daleep Dhar, Trustee. Prof. Dr. Chanchal Sharma Dogra, former Principal, and Prof. Anjali Mahajan, Principal GDC Nagrota, acted as judges. The programme was coordinated by Prof. Anitpal Kour and anchored by Dr. Bharti Salathia.

Manit Verma from Government MAM College secured the first position, Ridham from SPMR College of Commerce bagged the second position, while Aneesha Kour from Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, won the third prize.

Consolation prizes were awarded to Taranpreet Kour from SPMR College of Commerce and Mahi Gupta from GOW Gandhi Nagar.

Prominent among those present on the occasion were Prof. Dr. Archana Kaul, Principal Government MAM PG College Jammu; Rajiv Kumar Khajuria, Patron, HKLM Trust; Virender Gupta, President and Managing Trustee, HKLM Trust; and trustees Daleep Dhar and Ashiq Bhat. Others present included Ratan Bhatti, Hafiz Kamal, Jatinder Aggarwal, Kapil Dhar, faculty members, and

students of MAM College and participating institutions. Rajiv Khajuria said the occasion was not merely for debate but also to celebrate the remarkable life and enduring legacy of Lohia, along with remembering the significant contribution of Madhu Lohia towards Jammu and Kashmir.

Prof. Archana Kaul thanked the Trust for choosing MAM College as the venue and appreciated the relevance of the topic, highlighting the serious campaign being carried out by J&K Police against drug abuse.

In his presidential address, ADGP Anand Jain shared personal memories of working with Hemant Kumar Lohia over the years. He described Lohia as a highly professional officer who dedicated his life to the welfare of Jammu and Kashmir through his relentless fight against terrorism and strong engagement with civil society and youth. He termed the debating contest a meaningful and intellectual tribute to an officer of Lohia's calibre and assured full support of the Police Department to the charitable activities of the Trust.