

# J&K Shooting team leaves for National

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Screening of J&K team conducted by J&K Sports Council held at MA Stadium here before the UT team left for participation in the 67th National Shooting Championship, organised by National Rifle Association of India at MP Shooting Academy in Bhopal beginning today. However, the Pistol events are already underway at Dr. Karni Singh Shooting ranges, New Delhi and culminate on January five. J&K



Chairman JKRA, Kuldeep Singh Jamwal and other dignitaries with teams during flagging off ceremony.

Shooting contingent of 61 was selected by the selection committee of the Association.

Earlier, the team flagged off by chairman JKRA, Kuldeep Singh Jamwal and CEO JKRA, Sharat

Chander Singh in presence of Divisional Sports Officer, Baljinder Singh; Manager MA Stadium, Suraj Bhan; Rajesh Virdhy, Madhupal Singh, Vijay Kumar and Vishal Mehra.

The Team: Rumit Singh, R U Gupta, Shamsher Singh, Himanshu Gupta, Utkarsh Khajuria, Vishal Sharma, Arun Dev Singh, Anirudh Sharma, Sainath Jogdand, Vansh Charak, Arjun Chib, Renu Devi, Akul Mengi, Katrina Kaif, Krishiv Sharma, Pragma Verma, Shubhashish Pada, Surinder Singh Chib, Tarun Dev Singh Jamwal,

Anshuman Khajuria, Mohd Zain Salaria, Raveena Jangid, Viraj Koushal, Tajinder Paul Singh, Avinash Basotra, Kamal Sharma, Pranav Sambyal, Rajinder Singh, Samarth Tuli, Vijay Kumar, Nippun Singh, Aman Singh, Himanshi Aggarwal, Oshin Dutta, Sunny Khajuria, Shimani Choudhary, Aneesa Sharma, Saksham Virdhy, Sukhpreet Kour, LaaBibah Michelle Tahir, Sachin Sharma, Vardhan Rastogi, Vinod Puri, Shreyansh Jaglan, Kavya Koehar, Samarvir Singh, Vibhav Sharma, Yashika Sharma, Jujhar Singh, Vanshaj Sambyal, Romijet Singh, Nitin Choudhary, Abhay Gupta, Prabjot Singh, Pavneet Kour, Ridhvan Sharma, Shreya Charak, Prajvaldev Singh Jamwal and Bhagirathi.

Patron in chief JKRA, Dilbag Singh and president JKRA, SS Sodhi wished good luck to all the participating shooters.

# Brigadier Usman SPPR Inter-District Tehsil Cricket Tournament: Sunderbani to face Poonch in final

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NOWSHERA: The Brigadier Usman SPPR Inter-District Tehsil Cricket Tournament, organized by the Indian Army at the Sports Stadium in Nowshera, has been an exciting spectacle over the past seven days.

The tournament featured eight teams and concluded its semi-finals on Sunday, setting the stage for a thrilling final between Sunderbani and Poonch.

The first semi-final match took place on Sunday morning between Sunderbani and Reasi. Sunderbani won the toss and opted to bat first, setting a competitive total of 166/8 in 18 overs. The team displayed solid batting, led by key contributions from their players.

In response, Reasi mounted a strong chase but fell short, finishing at 158 all out in 17.5 overs. Sunderbani emerged victorious by 8 runs, securing their spot in the final.



Outstanding players after receiving cash prizes.

Key individual performances included Vikas Anand from Sunderbani, who was named Man of the Match for his all-round performance. Malik Mohammad Aslam from Reasi was awarded the Best Fielder accolade, while Ranjeet Singh from Sunderbani claimed both the Best Catch and the Most Sixes awards, hitting several boundaries to help his team set a challenging target.

The second semi-final was played in the afternoon between Poonch and Rajouri. Poonch won the toss and chose to bat first, putting up a total of 130

runs before being bowled out in 17.3 overs.

Rajouri, in their chase, fell short, finishing with 116/9 in 18 overs. Poonch won by 14 runs, sealing their place in the final.

In this match, Mohammad Arif of Poonch was named Man of the Match for his outstanding performance with the bat. Mohammad Imran from Poonch took home the Best Fielder award, while Yasir Hussain of Rajouri won the Best Catch award. The Most Sixes award went to Faizan Bhat from Poonch, who played a pivotal role in his team's innings.

# Jodhamal's Team Pawan Putra wins overall trophy at National Drone Championship in Gurugram



Winner Jodhamal Public School team with faculty members.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Jodhamal School has once again scripted history by showing brilliant results in the recently concluded Melange 4.0, a National Drone Championship at the Suncity School, Gurugram. In a highly competitive environment, with 37 teams from across the county competing for the coveted title, Jodhamal School was the only School which was represented by three Teams: Team Pawan Putra, Team Aeroflight and Team Udaan.

The Team Pawan Putra of Jodhamal School emerged the 'Overall

Winner' of the competition, while the Team Aeroflight bagged the first position in Drone Flying and Team Udaan bagged the first position in Drone Assembly.

The Overall Champion Team Pawan Putra comprised: Aarav Handoo, Jigisha Thusoo, Avni Sharma, Atharv Jain, Iraj Duggal and Rajveer Singh while Team Aeroflight was composed of Suryanarayan Ghosh, Manan Suri, Evan Arora, Vihaan Mahajan and Sehjot Singh and Team Udaan had Jiniya Gupta, Pavitt Singh, Dhruv Mengi, Divyam Diwan and Advait Gupta as its mem-

bers. These promising Young Technocrats have been consistently participating and winning laurels in the tech-fields and drone technology-related competitions specifically, under the guidance of their mentor Neetu Johri. Their performance in Melange 4.0 is, not only a matter of pride for the School and their parents, but for the entire Jammu and J&K also. Expressing his pride on this achievement, the Trustee of the School, Nandan Kuthiala said, "It is a rare accomplishment. Our Teams have been working hard and learning this state-of-art drone technology in the School. Their efforts have finally paid off."

The Director of the School, Arati Kuthiala was ecstatic at this stupendous achievement. Principal Girish Kumar and Vice Principal Amita Arora complimented the Teams and their mentor on their extraordinary achievements.

# Masters' Badminton Tournament-2024 begins

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Police, in collaboration with the Badminton Association of J&K, inaugurated the Masters' Badminton Tournament-2024 at the Police Line Badminton Hall, Gulshan Ground, Jammu.

Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Jammu zone, Anand Jain graced the inaugural ceremony as the Chief Guest. Gulzar Singh Sathia, former IGP, was the Guest of Honour on the occasion. Balbir Janwal, General Secretary, Badminton Association of Jammu and Kashmir also graced the occasion.



ADGP Jammu zone, Anand Jain posing with other dignitaries and participating players.

Speaking at the event, ADGP Anand Jain applauded the players for their active participation and highlighted the importance of sports in promoting a healthy lifestyle and keeping society away from the menace of drugs.

He emphasized that such tournaments not only encourage physical fitness but also foster unity and camaraderie among participants. The inaugural day witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 100 Master Badminton players representing various districts of Jammu and Kashmir. The

matches were conducted under the supervision of Sukhdev Singh, in-charge of the Police Line Badminton Hall, with officiating by Anil Gurkha, Sunil Gurkha, and S. Saravanan. The tournament promises exciting matches in the coming days, reflecting the spirit of sportsmanship and the dedication of the players.

The tournament serves as a platform to promote sportsmanship, camaraderie, and a spirit of healthy competition among the players, reaffirming the commitment of Jammu and Kashmir Police to encourage sports and community engagement.

# Jammu hosts Strength Lifting Championship

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir UT Strength Lifting Association, affiliated with the Indian Strength Lifting Federation and the World Strength Lifting Federation, organized the Strength Lifting Championship at Galaxy Gym, Jeevan Nagar, Jammu.

The inaugural ceremony, held with much enthusiasm, marked the participation of around 90 athletes competing in various categories.

The event was inaugurated by Parveen Singh Lucky, the guest of honor, alongside Ajay Sharma, General Secretary of the JK UT Strength Lifting Association. Other prominent dignitaries present included Rahul Sawhney, Vinay Sharma, and Parminder Singh, who added grace to the occasion with their presence.



J&K UT Strength Lifting Association members at an event.

Ajay Sharma, while addressing the gathering, applauded the outstanding achievements of the association, which has won numerous medals at national and international levels. He encouraged the youth to channel their energy positively and avoid harmful habits, raising the slogan, "Say

No to Drugs." Ajay emphasized the role of sports in nation-building and expressed pride in the participants' dedication and the association's efforts to nurture young talent. Parveen Singh Lucky expressed his appreciation for the organizers and participants, commending their

efforts in making the event a success. He underscored the importance of sports in shaping a well-rounded personality, highlighting how physical activities not only enhance fitness but also contribute to mental well-being. He urged the youth to adopt a disciplined and healthy lifestyle, focusing on personal growth and community development.

Rahul Sawhney, in his speech, congratulated the JK UT Strength Lifting Association, particularly Ajay Sharma, for engaging the youth in meaningful activities that promote health and fitness. He emphasized the association's commitment to keeping the younger generation away from negative influences such as drugs and guiding them toward productive pursuits. Vinay Sharma also lauded

the association for organizing the championship, which he described as a valuable platform for youth to showcase their skills and capabilities. He stressed the importance of utilizing one's energy for constructive purposes and staying away from anti-social activities and drug abuse.

Officials Deepak Jyoti, Parminder Singh, and Umesh Sharma were also present, contributing to the event's smooth organization.

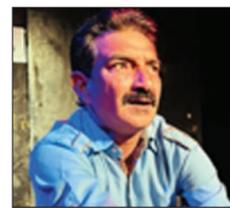
The championship was a testament to the association's dedication to fostering a healthy and drug-free society. It provided a vibrant platform for athletes to excel while reinforcing the message of positivity and national development through sports.

# Pankaj delivers solo act on 'Marriage and Reconciliation'

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Natrang today presented a new play "Yeh Meri Wife Hai" as part of its popular weekly theatre series "Sunday Theatre" at Natrang Studio Theatre, Jammu.

The play, written by Azra Choudhary and Pankaj Sharma, was also directed and performed by Pankaj Sharma, who showcased his acting prowess by skillfully enacting multiple roles as the sole performer.

Pankaj Sharma is one of the senior actors of Natrang who has dedicated over 35 years to the service of theatre. Known for brilliant comedy performances in the plays like Ghumayee, Kanjoos, Bagia



Bancha Ram Ki and Saiyan Bhaive Kotwal, Pankaj always mesmerises audiences with his outstanding histrionics.

Presented in Hindustani, the play compellingly highlights the shifting paradigms of husband-wife relationships, transitioning from early affectionate years to the challenges and bitterness that arise due to family

responsibilities, financial pressures, and changing priorities.

The play was supported by Neeraj Kant, who executed the lighting design with precision, enhancing the emotional and dramatic tone of the performance. The show was efficiently coordinated by Mohd Yaseen.

The play "Yeh Meri Wife Hai" captivated the audience with its relatable narrative and heartfelt message, leaving a lasting impact. It reminded viewers of the significance of love, understanding, and reconciliation in navigating the inevitable challenges of life and relationships.

# Enhanced Funding for Poshan to impact lives of poor sections: Balbir

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The recent decision of the union Government under PM Narendra Modi for a significant hike in the funding for the flagship Poshan (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition) Abhiyaan, will serve to benefit women and children in particular. Balbir Ram Rattan, BJP senior leader & former Vice Chairperson, said this while noting that the hike underscores the government's commitment to eradicating malnutrition and ensuring the health and well-being of women and children across the nation, particularly the poor sections.



Balbir said that the increased allocation under the Poshan scheme is expected to bring about a transformative impact on the lives of women and children of poor sections.

This hike in funding will enable the government to provide enhanced nutritional support to pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children under the age of six. This support will address the critical issues

of undernutrition, stunting, and wasting, contributing to healthier and more productive future generations.

The scheme will help upgrade Anganwadi centres with modern facilities, digital tools, and better infrastructure. These improvements will ensure effective delivery of nutrition and health services, including regular health check-ups, immunizations, and pre-school education. Balbir further said that the hike will allow for better integration of technology in monitoring nutritional programmes. With enhanced funding, the use of mobile apps and data analytics for tracking beneficiaries, monitoring supply chains,

and assessing programme outcomes will become more efficient, ensuring accountability and transparency. The increased investment will help communities adopt healthier dietary and hygiene practices, creating a lasting impact on their overall well-being. "By addressing malnutrition and related health challenges, the scheme will empower poor women and children to lead healthier lives", Balbir said, adding that the programme will also contribute to gender equity by supporting women in their critical maternal phases.

This move is expected to uplift underprivileged communities and create a stronger, healthier nation.

# Melodies of Christmas: Carol Competition fills Jammu with Festive Harmony



MLA Bahu constituency, Vikram Randhawa with other dignitaries and winner students.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: St. Mary's Garrison Church resonated with harmonious melodies during the Christmas Carols Competition, organized by the Diocese of Jammu-Srinagar to mark the joyous season.

16 schools and churches participated in this annual

event, held in fond remembrance of Fr. Raphael Jeykumar, whose enduring legacy continues to inspire the celebration.

Fr. Suhail Joseph welcomed the gathering and highlighted the timeless role of carols in proclaiming the good news of Jesus's birth. Rev. Fr.

Sebastian Nagathungal, in his message, reflected on Jesus as the prince of peace, born to save humanity from sin and despair; and described Christmas as a powerful reminder of God's boundless love for all.

The competition welcomed Vikram Randhawa, MLA of Bahu constituency, as the Chief Guest. In his address, he remarked, "It is heart-warming to witness such vibrant and soulful performances that embody the true spirit of Christmas-love, joy, and harmony. Events like this bring people together in unity and peace, and I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all participants and organizers for this inspiring celebration."

He shared Christmas greetings with the audience and wished them a season of peace

and joy. Anusya Jamwal, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) of Jammu, attended the event as the Special Guest. She commended the choirs for their captivating performances, expressed her delight in being part of the event, and extended Christmas greetings, praying for peace and harmony in the region. Fr. Shajun Chacko, the spokesperson of the Diocese, applauded the choirs for their exceptional renditions, noting the positivity and joy that filled the air. He emphasized how music has the power to spread love and harmony and hoped the Holy Season of Christmas would inspire such values in everyone's lives. A distinguished panel of judges, comprising Fr. George GP from Jalandhar, Lawrence Makhil, and Geetu Paul-acclaimed figures in Christian devotional music-evaluated the spirited performances. Each team brought enthusiasm and passion, using their voices to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Fr. Jafat Masih expressed gratitude to the sponsors, participants, and organizers for their efforts in making the event a grand success. He acknowledged the competition as a testament to the Diocese of Jammu-Srinagar's mission to promote unity and share the spirit of Christmas.

The event was hosted by Sheetal and Justina ensuring its seamless execution.

# T R Gupta Trust donates warmers to needy Rajouri students

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Continuing with its charitable activities, the TR Gupta Public Charitable Trust distributed Warmers among the students of Govt. Middle School Chad, in District Rajouri, an underprivileged hilly area. Many of the students belong to poor families and don't have means to cook food for them and they come to the school for education empty stomach and

wait for Mid-day meal to quench their hunger. The warmers like sweaters were handed over to all the 102 students of the school by Dr Ashok Kumar Gupta, Trustee and former HOD Paediatrics, Govt Medical College, Jammu. Two other Trustees, Naresh Gupta, Kailash Langer and Manager of the Trust, Raman Pargal.

Earlier in February this year, the Trust has distrib-



Students welcoming TR Gupta Public Charitable Trust members.

uted items like Note Books, Pencils, Shoes, and socks to these students. The school authorities had then talked about the need for sweaters for them and the Trust fulfilled its commitment at the beginning of the winter so that these students do not face winter without woolens.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Ashok Gupta advised the students to eat a healthy diet and avoid junk food,

packed juices, cold drinks, etc. He asked the students to eat homemade foods and inculcate a habit of eating seasonal vegetables and fruits.

Most of the students were found to be undernourished, stunted, and anaemic. They were encouraged to regularly undergo deworming once every 6 months and use iron folic acid tablets, which are available in all the Govt. Health Institutions.

The Trust thanked the school teachers and other staff for their tireless efforts and commitment in shaping the future of children, especially Master Ajay Sharma the main organizer. On the occasion, the students presented a colourful cultural program. They presented dance items and songs in different languages. Melodious Gojri songs were sung by some students.