

## JKians shine at 23rd J&K UT Athletics Championship



JK Public School Kunjwani faculty felicitating winner students.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: JK Public School, Kunjwani registered a remarkable sporting triumph at the 23rd J&K UT Athletics Championship, held at the JU on 20th & 21st December 2025, securing an impressive tally of 3 Gold, 4 Silver and 3 Bronze medals.

A special highlight of the event was the outstanding debut of Rudransh Singh, a young and promising athlete from 'Toddlers' World, who clinched a Bronze medal in the 60M (U-12 category), marking a memorable beginning to his athletic journey.

The list of medal winners includes: Digvijay Singh-Gold in Long Jump, Gold in 4x100M Relay & Bronze in

Triple Jump; Payal-Gold in High Jump (U/18 category); Manat-Silver in High Jump (U/16 category); Dananjaya - Silver in Shot Put (U/16 category); Aakriti Singh - Silver in Shot Put (U/18 category); Advik Jyoti - Silver in High Jump (U/16 category); and Devanshi Thakur - Bronze in Decathlon (U/14 category).

In a special announcement made during the morning assembly, Director Shashi Chaudhary and Principal Rajesh Rathore congratulated the medal-winning athletes for bringing laurels to the school and the city. They applauded the athletes' dedicated hard work, discipline and competitive spirit, which continue to elevate JKPS's reputation in

the sporting arena.

They also acknowledged the invaluable mentorship and strategic training provided by Coach Shiv Dev Singh and HOD (Sports) Subash Chander, whose dedication has been instrumental in shaping these champions.

JK Public School, Kunjwani remains steadfast in its commitment to holistic development, creating a learning ecosystem where academic excellence goes hand-in-hand with sporting achievement. With yet another powerful display at a prestigious state-level championship, JK-IANS have once again proven that greatness is achieved through passion, perseverance and purpose.

## 7th Jammu & Kashmir UT Karate C'ship 2025 declared open

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 7th Jammu & Kashmir UT Karate Championship 2025 was successfully organized by the Amateur Karate-Do Association of Jammu & Kashmir (AKAJK), featuring competitions in Sub-Junior, Cadet, Junior, Under-21, and Senior categories. The championship marked another significant milestone in the promotion of karate across the Union Territory.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 600 athletes representing a wide range of districts, including Jammu, Poonch, Rajouri, Kathua, Samba, Reasi, Srinagar, Ganderbal, Budgam, Bandipora, Kupwara, Udhampur, Kishtwar, Doda, Baramulla, and Anantnag. This extensive participation highlighted the growing popularity and expanding reach of karate throughout Jammu & Kashmir.



Dignitaries and participants at opening ceremony of 7th Jammu & Kashmir UT Karate Championship 2025.

The championship was formally declared open by Anissa Nabi, Chief Sports Officer, J&K Sports Council, who graced the Opening Ceremony as the Chief Guest. Rahil Gupta, Vice Chairman, AKAJK, and Munish Gupta, General Secretary, Chamber of Industries and Commerce, attended the event as Guests of Honour. Renowned actor, director, and President of Nat Manch, Tarun Sharma, was also present on the occasion.

The function was presided over by

Ambedkar Gupta, President, AKAJK and National Karate Team Coach, along with Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, General Secretary, AKAJK.

Addressing the gathering, Anissa Nabi appreciated the continuous efforts of AKAJK in promoting karate across every corner of the Union Territory. She expressed her happiness at seeing participation from far-flung districts and encouraged the athletes-especially girl players-to strive for excellence in the sport.

Nabi also distributed medals to the winners in their respective categories and lauded the dedication, discipline, and technical excellence being promoted by Ambedkar Gupta and his team. She commended their commitment to nurturing genuine and high-quality karate in Jammu & Kashmir.

The championship was conducted under the close supervision of the Referee Commission, Sports Commission, and Athlete Commission of AKAJK, ensuring fair play, transparency, and high techni-

cal standards throughout the tournament. Mr. Akhtar, Head Admin, Sports Data South Asia, served as the Tournament Technical Director.

The successful conduct of the event was made possible by the dedicated efforts of the Organising Committee, which included officials and members from various commissions. In addition to individual events, special team events were also organized, adding excitement and enhancing the competitive spirit of the championship.

## Science Club, GGM Science College organises educational visit to CSIR-IIIM Jammu



GGM Science College students and faculty during visit to CSIR-IIIM.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Under the aegis of the Principal, Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta, the Science Club Government Gandhi Memorial (GGM) Science College Jammu organised an educational visit for 40 students of the 7th semester to the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu, as part of its academic enrichment and experiential learning initiatives.

The visit offered students first-hand exposure to advanced research facilities and contemporary scientific practices at one of the country's premier research institutions. During the visit, students toured several key divisions, including the Plant Biotechnology Laboratory, Crude Drug Repository (CDR), Quality Control and Quality Assurance Division, Janaki Ammal Herbarium,

and the Centre for Pre-clinical Research.

Scientists and technical experts at CSIR-IIIM interacted with the students and provided detailed briefings on ongoing research programmes, state-of-the-art instrumentation, and applications of integrative medicine and drug discovery. These interactions helped students gain deeper insights into modern

research methodologies and the translational aspects of science.

The educational visit aimed to strengthen students' practical understanding, expose them to real-world research environments, and motivate them to pursue careers in scientific research and innovation.

The students were accompanied and supervised by Dr. Brinder Kumar, Convener,

Science Club, along with Prof. Bal Krishan and Prof. Susheel Kumar. The accompanying faculty members expressed their gratitude to the CSIR-IIIM administration and scientific staff for their cooperation and for providing a highly enriching learning experience.

The Principal, GGM Science College, Jammu, appreciated the efforts of the organising team and faculty members for successfully coordinating the visit and emphasised the importance of such academic and research-oriented activities in bridging the gap between classroom learning and contemporary scientific research.

The Science Club of GGM Science College continues to organise such initiatives to foster scientific curiosity, research orientation, and experiential learning among students.

## Raksham Mattu declared Best Athlete at 23rd J&K UT Athletics C'ship

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Raksham Mattu, son of Shamsher Singh and a student of the Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ), delivered a stellar performance at the 23rd J&K Union Territory Athletics Championship, where he was adjudged the Best Athlete of the Championship.

The championship, sponsored by the J&K Sports Council and organised by the J&K Amateur Athletics Association, was held on December 20 and 21, 2025 at the University of Jammu.

Representing CLUJ, Raksham competed in the 100 metres and 200 metres events in the Under-20 age category. Showcasing exceptional speed, stamina, and discipline, he secured gold medals in both races. In recognition of this outstanding feat, Raksham Mattu was declared the Best Athlete across all age groups at the championship.



On the occasion, the Vice-Chancellor of CLUJ, Sr. Prof. (Dr.) K. S. Chandrasekar, along with the Dean Academic Affairs, Dean Students Welfare, and the Director, Physical Education & Sports, CLUJ, informed that Raksham Mattu will represent the university at the forthcoming All India University Athletics Championship, to be organised by Rajiv Gandhi Health University, Bangalore.

The university community extended best wishes to Raksham Mattu for his future sporting endeavours. He encouraged student-

athletes to take inspiration from Raksham's dedication, hard work, and perseverance.

Meanwhile, the Director, Physical Education & Sports, CLUJ, informed that Raksham Mattu will represent the university at the forthcoming All India University Athletics Championship, to be organised by Rajiv Gandhi Health University, Bangalore.

The university community extended best wishes to Raksham Mattu for his future sporting endeavours.

## Shastri Judo Club shines in J&K UT Junior Judo Championship

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shastri Judo Club made a mark at the J&K UT Junior Judo Championship held at Bagwati Nagar Indoor Sports Complex, Jammu. Sana Sharma (Below 44 kg), daughter of Satish Sharma, clinched the Gold Medal and secured selection for the Junior National Judo Championship scheduled from Jan 23-25, 2026, at Calcutta Salt Lake Stadium. Ela Bhaghat (63 kg, Doda) won the Bronze Medal, adding to the club's achievements. The team's success was credited to the guidance of Coach Rameshwar Singh and support from President Udhay Bhanu Singh Chib and General Secretary Ranjodh Singh. With the nationals approaching, the Shastri Judo Club is gearing up for further accolades, reflecting their dedication, discipline, and strong training regime.



## Academic Block for Design Your Degree program inaugurated at JU

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The University of Jammu (JU) marked a significant step towards strengthening its academic infrastructure with the inauguration of a dedicated Academic Block for the Design Your Degree (DYD) programme. The new facility reflects the University's commitment to innovative, flexible, and student-centric higher education.

The Academic Block was formally inaugurated by Shantmanu, Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Higher Education Department, Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory.

The ceremony was held in the presence of Prof. Umesh



Shantmanu, Financial Commissioner Higher Education Department, J&K inaugurating Academic Block.

Rai, Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu; Prof. Sangeeta Gupta, Dean, Planning and Development, JU.

Envisioned as a dedicated academic and creative space, the newly inaugurated Academic Block is designed to foster innovation, experiential learning, and academic excellence. Equipped with

modern classrooms and collaborative learning areas, the facility will support student-centric pedagogy, project-based learning, and interdisciplinary engagement, which form the core philosophy of the Design Your Degree programme.

Addressing the gathering, Shantmanu, described the Design Your Degree programme as a visionary initiative that represents a decisive shift in higher education. He noted that the programme has emerged as a role model for universities across the country, inspiring several institutions to adopt flexible and interdisciplinary academic frameworks. Emphasising its success, he remarked that DYD places

innovation, adaptability, and informed choice at the centre of learning, making education more relevant to contemporary societal needs.

Interacting with DYD students, Shantmanu expressed satisfaction at witnessing their engagement in diverse academic pathways, including management, technology, and skill-based learning. He highlighted that the freedom to design one's own academic journey keeps students motivated and deeply connected to their interests.

While appreciating the pre-fabricated academic infrastructure completed within a short time frame, he also advised students and faculty to make thoughtful academic choices that address long-

term societal requirements in a rapidly evolving world.

The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks, followed by a visit to the newly inaugurated Academic Block. The inauguration ceremony was also attended by Prof. K. S. Charak, Prof. Sadaf Shah (Associate Director, SIIEDC), Dr. Jatinder Manhas (Associate Director, SIIEDC), Prof. Shalilu Sehgal, Dr. Anil Gupta, Dr. Pallavi Sachdeva, Dr. Sunil Kumar, Dr. Sandeep Arya, Dr. Sakshi, Prof. Sarika Manhas, Dr. Ripu Daman Parihar, Dr. Manish Kumar, who contributed to the academic and administrative deliberations of the occasion.

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## Heritage School hosts TGF National Golf Talent Hunt



Heritage School faculty and students with dignitaries at a programme.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Heritage School hosted TGF National Golf Talent Hunt on Monday an initiative by The Golf Foundation, supported by the BMW India Foundation, aimed at identifying and nurturing young golfing talent under the EWS Talent Identification Programme, in the school premises.

The programme aimed to identify young talent, especially from Economically Weaker

Sections (EWS), and provide them with structured exposure, professional guidance, and a clear pathway for growth in the sport of golf. Such initiatives play a vital role in making sports inclusive and accessible while promoting excellence at the grass-roots level.

The initiative strongly resonates with the vision of the Lieutenant Governor of J&K, Manoj Sinha, whose emphasis on inclusion and empower-

ment through sports has created meaningful opportunities for students from economically weaker sections. Heritage School is proud to align itself with this larger vision of opportunity, social upliftment and holistic development.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, who were provided with exposure to professional-level golf training and assessment. The programme was conducted by Romit Bose,

Head Coach, renowned golf instructor, and President of the PGA of India. His expert guidance, valuable insights and motivational interactions greatly inspired the young participants.

The programme was graced by the presence of the Chairman and members of the Trustee Board. The Chairman of Heritage School, an avid golfer himself, reaffirmed his strong commitment to promoting sports and encouraging

golf as an integral part of holistic education. His vision and continuous support have been instrumental in strengthening the school's sports culture.

Addressing the gathering, the Principal of Heritage School expressed sincere appreciation to The Golf Foundation and the BMW India Foundation for choosing the school as a venue for this prestigious national initiative and for creating meaningful opportunities for students.

## Huge pay hike for domestic women cricketers, match officials

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The BCCI has more than doubled the match fees of women cricketers and officials in domestic cricket, a move triggered by India's maiden ODI World Cup triumph and aimed at creating a more equitable pay structure across the circuit.

The substantial hike was approved by the Board's Apex Council.

As per the revised structure, senior women cricketers plying their trade in domestic tournaments will now earn Rs 50,000 per day, a significant jump from the existing Rs 20,000 (Rs 10,000 for reserves) per match day.

For senior women's domestic one-day tournaments and multi-day competitions, players in the first XI will receive Rs 50,000 per day, while

those in reserves will be paid half the amount at Rs 25,000 per day.

In national T20 tournaments, first XI players will earn Rs 25,000 per match day, with reserves receiving Rs 12,500.

If a top domestic women cricketer now features across all formats during a full season, she can earn anywhere between Rs 12 lakh and Rs 14 lakh, according to BCCI officials. The Apex Council has also increased the remuneration for junior women cricketers. Players in the Under-23 and Under-19 categories will be paid Rs 25,000 per day, while reserves will get Rs 12,500.

Match officials, including umpires and match referees, will also benefit from the revised fee structure.

For league matches in

domestic tournaments, the proposed earnings for umpires and match referees will be Rs 40,000 per day.

For knockout matches, the per-day fee will range between Rs 50,000 and Rs 60,000, depending on the importance of the game and operational requirements.

As a result of this hike, umpires officiating in Ranji Trophy league matches will now earn around Rs 1.60 lakh per game, while knockout fixtures will fetch them between Rs 2.5 lakh and Rs 3 lakh per match.

The BCCI believes the revised pay structure will provide greater financial security and motivation to women cricketers and domestic match officials, while strengthening the overall domestic ecosystem.