

# Com Secy YSS discusses Budget proposals

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports (YSS), Yasha Mudgal, on Thursday convened a meeting to discuss the Budget proposals, comprising the Revised Estimates (RE) 2025-26 and Budget Estimates (BE) 2026-27 for both Revenue (Revex) and Capital (Capex) components. The exercise was undertaken with due consideration to expenditure trends, departmental priorities and the government's emphasis on fiscal prudence, efficient public spending and improved service delivery. The meeting was attended by the Director General, Youth Service and Sports Department; Director NCC; Director Finance, YSS and Secretary, J&K Sports Council. During the deliberations, the Director Finance presented the consolidated



Commissioner Secretary YSS, Yasha Mudgal chairing a meeting on Thursday.

budgetary requirements of all Heads of Departments, supported by performance indicators, physical achievements and projected needs for the ensuing financial year. Yasha Mudgal underscored the imperative of maintaining strict fiscal discipline, ensuring realistic assessment of departmental requirements and aligning all bud-

get proposals with government priorities and welfare-oriented initiatives. She emphasized that inflated projections must be avoided and that every demand should be substantiated with verifiable data and sound justification. The meeting focused extensively on augmentation of revenue through optimal utilization of departmental facilities, improved digital integration, adoption of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models, tourism and event-based collaborations, increased Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) participation and progressive user fee rationalization across departmental assets. Heads of the Departments were directed to ensure timely disposal and auction of unserviceable items lying in various offices to ensure transparency, space optimization and enhance revenue realization. The Commissioner Secretary stressed the need for intensified efforts to attract CSR funding to support the departmental programmes and youth-centric initiatives across the Union Territory. To boost tourism-linked engagements, the Commissioner Secretary highlighted the importance of strengthening the tourism

potential of youth hostels and allied departmental assets. She laid emphasis on improved visibility, service standards and partnership opportunities with the tourism stakeholders. Further directions were issued to all district and sectoral officers to submit justified proposals under M&S, M&E, M&R and outsourcing heads to ensure efficient utilization of funds and operational preparedness. The meeting also underscored the importance of enhancing the department's overall spending capacity for timely and effective use of budgetary allocations. The officers were instructed to maintain close coordination with the Finance Department for timely clearance of pending treasury bills, ensuring smooth financial operations and uninterrupted implementation of ongoing activities.

# Indian Hawks skaters shine with 8 medals at Sahodaya Inter-School Roller Skating Championship

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** Four talented skaters from Indian Hawks Sports Academy delivered an outstanding performance by winning a total of 8 medals at the recently concluded Sahodaya Inter-School Roller Skating Competition, held at JK Public School, Kathua on 29th November, 2025. Displaying exceptional skill and speed, Gurtej Singh and Pearl Suri emerged as the stars of the competition by winning two gold medals each, thereby becoming Champions in their respective age groups. Continuing the winning streak, Saransh Koul showcased great determination and fighting spirit to clinch one gold and one bronze medal, while Shambhavi added to the academy's medal tally by



securing two silver medals with consistent performances. Ashok Gandotra (Retd. Chief Engineer), Chief Patron of the Academy, appreciated the outstanding performance of the medal winners and congratulated them for their remarkable achievement. He encouraged the young skaters to continue working hard and bring more laurels to the academy and the region. The impressive performance of the skaters reflects the dedication, discipline, and high-quality training imparted at Indian Hawks Sports Academy. Their success has brought pride not only to the academy but also to the sporting community of Jammu.

# Jammu wins Relay events of boys U-17 Athletics

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** District Jammu won both 4x100 and 4x400 Relay events of the annual inter-district UT level under-17 boys athletics meet which held at University of Jammu Athletics Arena under the banner of Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS). The two-day event concluded today under the overall supervision of district (DYSS) officer Jammu, Sukhdev Raj Sharma and his team of senior officials. He later presented medals and certificates of merit and participation to the athletes from different districts of J&K. The technical panel in this event comprised Gurbachan Singh, Harjot Kour, Vijay Sharma, Kailash Choudhary, Sukhdev Singh, Harvinder Singh, Ravinder Singh, Amit Sharma, Anil Gandotra and Pawandeep



Kour. The Results: 200 mts: Toiyab Shad, Jammu, Gold; Mukund Katal, Samba, Silver and Furqan Azad, Baramulla, Bronze. 800 mts: Shaz Ali Mir, Jammu, Gold; Aryan Sharma, Reasi, Silver; Haroon Rashid, Baramulla, Bronze. 1500 mts: Shahid Reyaz, Ganderbal, Gold; Sourabh Sharma, Udhampur, Silver and Mohit Sharma, Rajouri, Bronze. Discuss Throw: Shahid Rey, Ganderbal, Gold; Sourabh Sharma, Udhampur, Silver; Mohit Sharma, Rajouri, Bronze. 4x400 Relay: Jammu (Anshman Aryan, Akshansh Parihar, Shaz Ali Mir, Momin Mirza), Silver; Baramulla (Hilal Akbar Ganie, Zubair Ahmad Wani, Haroon Rashid, Zakir Manzoor), Bronze.

# DPS Udhampur hosts 'Literary Luminary Lounge 2025'

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**UDHAMPUR:** Delhi Public School (DPS) Udhampur organised its much-awaited "Literary Luminary Lounge 2025," also known as Lit Fest 2.0, celebrating a vibrant blend of culture, creativity, literature, innovation, and heritage. The event provided a dynamic platform for students to showcase their diverse talents and intellectual abilities, reflecting the school's commitment to holistic education. The programme began with the traditional Lighting of the Lamp, followed by an enchanting classical performance by the School Band. A powerful and visually captivating Kathakali dance performance further elevated the ambience, receiving enthusiastic applause from dignitaries, judges, parents, and students.



DC Udhampur, Saloni Rai posing with faculty and students of DPS Udhampur.

Several unique and intellectually stimulating segments formed the core of the festival. In Education Through Monuments (ETM), students introduced an innovative method of learning academic subjects through historical monuments, using the Shankaracharya Temple, Ramnagar Fort, and Sudh Mahadeva as creative teaching tools. The Jazz Chant category mesmerised the audience

through lyrical and rhythmic narrations of the Ramayana and Mahabharata. The Shark Show Down saw budding entrepreneurs pitch their business ideas under the "Vocal for Local" initiative, while the Battle of Wits featured a lively debate on pressing global issues, showcasing critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Through Gyan Manthan, students presented working models

in Science, Social Science, Mathematics, and Computers, demonstrating their conceptual clarity. A dedicated exhibition proudly displayed over 250 books authored by DPSU students, highlighting the school's emphasis on nurturing literary excellence among young writers. The opening ceremony was graced by Saloni Rai, DC Udhampur, who commended the ingenuity and passion of the students. The closing ceremony was honoured by Subhash

Chander Gupta, CEO Udhampur, who praised the school for fostering an enriching academic and creative environment. The event was further elevated by the presence of eminent dignitaries, including Dr. J. C. Gupta, Mr. Vivek Gupta, Ms. Sucheta Gupta, Dr. Kunal Anand, distinguished judges, and special invitees from varied professional backgrounds. Lit Fest 2.0 concluded as an outstanding success, leaving behind a lasting impression of intellectual vigour, creativity, and cultural brilliance.

# S.S. Sodhi elected to Board of Governing Members of National Rifle Association of India

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**NEW DELHI:** S.S. Sodhi, President of the Jammu & Kashmir Rifle Association (JKRA), has been elected to the Board of Governing Members of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), as the Federation announced its new leadership structure following the official declaration of office-bearer election results in Mohali on Thursday. The election, conducted under the supervision of Justice Nirmaljit Kaur (Retd.) as Returning Officer (RO), also marked the beginning of Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo's first full four-year term as NRAI President and the unopposed election of Pawan Singh as Secretary General-both highly respected figures in Indian shooting sport. With a strengthened Executive Committee and



President JKRA, S.S. Sodhi being elected to Board of Governing Members of NRAI.

Governing Body in place, the inclusion of Sodhi in the apex decision-making panel reflects both his regional leadership and the collective vision of the newly elected team. Sharing his first reactions, Singh Deo stated, "Indian Shooting has currently seen its most successful phase in history over the last couple of

years, both in terms of success and popularity and that increases our responsibilities manifold. I wholeheartedly thank the entire General Body for restoring faith in me and my team and we promise to leave no stone unturned to accelerate this growth momentum even further and to maximize the potential that our extremely

talented Shooting athletes possess. With the Flag paramount in our thoughts, let us all work together to make India number one in the world in our beloved sport." Also sharing his first priorities as Secretary General, Pawan Singh said, "All the functions in the NRAI are already online, from registration to results, and now the

next step is to use technology efficiently. We want to leverage AI and performance data to identify talented shooters across the country. My focus will be on using technology to find and nurture promising athletes from every corner of India. We also want to train coaches and shooters for coaching so that they have an alternate career when they retire and can earn from the sport they have invested their life in." In the two electoral contests which took place, Amit Sanghi from Telangana was elected as the Senior Vice President of the Governing Body while Kanwar Sultan Singh and Sushma Singh were elected Vice-Presidents in the 15-member Executive Committee (EC). The four sports persons in the EC will be Olympic bronze medalist Gagan Narang, Kunti Malik,

Zorawar Singh Sandhu and Elavenil Valarivan respectively. S. S. Sodhi's election marks a significant milestone for the shooting fraternity of J&K, recognising his sustained efforts in strengthening shooting sports, nurturing emerging talent, and expanding competitive opportunities across the region. He extended his heartfelt gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor of J&K, the Secretary Sports Council, the Sports Ministry, Dilbag Singh (Founder and Chief Patron of JKRA), all office bearers of the Executive Committee, shooters, coaches, and members of JKRA for their constant support. He reaffirmed his commitment to contributing meaningfully to India's journey toward excellence in shooting.

# Yashasvi Nanda of JKPS Panjtirthi shine in symposium 'Success follows those who refuse to stop trying'

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** Inter School symposium competition was organised by Variksh Mitra in collaboration with Manda Green, Samiksha, Bharat Vikas Parishad and B H U M I T R Foundation. Among various participants from different reputed schools, Yashasvi Nanda of class 6th of JKPS Panjtirthi clinched the second prize. The Principal of JKPS Panjtirthi Suman Banbah congratulated the Jakian and added, "Victory is not the end-it's the beginning of your next challenge. Keep rising."



# Ground prepared for Basketball to grow in J&K

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** Once a popular sports discipline among youngsters in Jammu and Kashmir, the Olympic game of Basketball is all set to grow in the UT with new setup in place. This was evident from the fact that after a long time, a J&K level event witnessed participation from over 20 competitive teams with having representations from affiliated district units and the departments across UT. The new look J&K Basketball Association (JKBA) has established its units in 13 districts and serious efforts are being to set up permanent district bodies in the left out districts soon. With adequate infrastructure, raised by the Government, in place and needed support from the J&K Sports Council (JKSC), extended to its affiliated sports body, the game of Basketball has started attacking the school and college youngsters back to the courts. Since the number of permanent coaches with the JKSC has come down to one as against five a decade ago, still the Khelo India and PMPD schemes have adequately contributed to the trainers pool with five in J&K. With regard to regular playing facilities, Basketball has edge over other disciplines, especially in the capital cities of Jammu and Srinagar. While Jammu has got three regular training centres at Mini Stadium,



Parade; MA Stadium and Shartri Nagar play fields as also SAI STC, Srinagar has an independent Basketball area at the fast growing Gindun Sports Complex in addition to similar single court facility within Sher-Kashmir Indoor Sports Complex. "The competitive game of Basketball witnessed bad times due to certain issues, but, now, things are changing on a fast pace with a stable body (Association) in place and adequate support from the Government (JKSC). The time has come when Basketball will return to its old glory and popularity in J&K," said general secretary of the JKBA and veteran player, Aman Sharma.

# Handball team leaves for 37th Federation Cup

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir Handball team left to participate in 37 Th Federation Cup Handball Championship (Men) which is scheduled to be held at Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) from 6th to 10th Dec 2025. The J&K team were screened by J&K Sports Council (JKSC). The team is being accompanied by Anuj Langer as Coach.



# DYSSO Srinagar starts UT-Level Badminton Championship for U-19 Girls at SKISC

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**SRINAGAR:** The Inter-District UT-Level Badminton Championship 2025-26 for boys and girls across all age groups is being held at the Sher-i-Kashmir Indoor Sports Complex (SKISC), Wazir Bagh, Srinagar, bringing together young sporting talent from across Jammu and Kashmir. The third phase of the tournament, the Under-19

Girls category, was formally inaugurated by District Youth Services & Sports Officer (DYSSO) Srinagar, Ghulam Hassan Lone. The event features 80 players representing 16 districts of the Union Territory. The opening ceremony was attended by the Nodal Officer, convenors, selectors and technical officials associated with the conduct of the championship. Addressing the gathering,

Lone appreciated the efforts of the Department of Youth Services & Sports (YSS) in promoting sports at the grassroots level. He lauded the leadership of DG YSS, Anuradha Gupta, under whose supervision DYSSO Srinagar has successfully hosted several UT-level sporting events. He also thanked the technical staff, convenors, media wing and supporting officials for their commitment in ensuring the smooth

conduct of the tournament. The championship is witnessing strong performances from young shuttlers, with players from various districts displaying high levels of skill, discipline and sportsmanship. The competition aims to select promising players for participation in forthcoming national-level events, providing a major platform for emerging badminton talent in the region.

# Udhampur Taekwondo meet from Dec 8

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** The Taekwondo Association of District Udhampur shall hold 15th District Udhampur Taekwondo Championship under the aegis of the J&K Taekwondo Association and JK Sports Council (JKSC). The two-day event shall be held at the Indoor Hall, Subash Stadium, Udhampur on December eight and December nine under 'My Youth My Pride' initiative of the JKSC. The event will feature exciting competitions across Sub-Junior, Cadet, Junior, and Senior categories thereby providing a platform for the young athletes of the district to demonstrate their skill, spirit, and sportsmanship. Such eligible participants have been advised to report at the venue on December seven at 2 pm for the weigh-in and mandatory documents scrutiny. For further information, players can contact Coordinator of the event, Narayan Dass (9906275291).