

# CM reviews preparations for Jammu Half Marathon, Ultra Marathon 2025

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday chaired a review meeting to discuss the preparations for the Jammu Half Marathon and Ultra Marathon 2025, scheduled to be held later this year.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance Satosh D. Vaidya, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, Commissioner Secretary Tourism Yasha Mudgal, Director Tourism Jammu, representatives from BISAG-N, marathon experts, and other concerned officials, both in person and virtually.

Omar Abdullah appreciated the initiative, emphasizing that the marathon should receive widespread publicity



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chairing a meeting at Jammu on Friday.

to attract top athletes from across the country.

The Chief Minister highlighted the significance of such events in boosting tourism in Jammu & Kashmir and positioning the region as a prime destination for sports and adventure tourism. "The success of this marathon will not only promote fitness and sports culture but will also bring Jammu into the spotlight as a key tourist destination. Ensure that all necessary preparations are in place and

give the event the prominence it deserves," the Chief Minister directed the officials.

At the outset, Commissioner Secretary Tourism Yasha Mudgal presented a detailed overview of the planned events.

She briefed the meeting on the proposed routes, event schedules, and logistical arrangements for the marathon.

The Chief Minister instructed the officials to ensure that the event dates

do not clash with other major marathons across the country, allowing maximum participation from national and international athletes.

The Jammu Half Marathon 2025 will feature: 21 km Half Marathon, 10 km Fitness Gauge Run and 5 km Fun Run. Discussions were also held on the route planning, prize structure, logo, flag-off timings, T-shirts, branding, sponsorships, and digital outreach.

The meeting emphasized collaboration with key stake-

holders, including the trade and travel industry, hotel and hospitality sector, corporate sponsors, government departments, and business establishments to enhance the event's scale and impact.

Additionally, the meeting reviewed the Jammu Ultra Marathon, drawing inspiration from prestigious ultra-marathons like the Khardung La Challenge and Bangalore Ultra Marathon. The discussion covered key aspects such as the route, prize structure, registration process, branding, and promotional activities.

The inclusion of an adventure race in Kashmir valley was also deliberated upon.

The Chief Minister directed officials to ensure meticulous planning and execution to make the Jammu Half Marathon & Ultra Marathon 2025 a landmark event, promoting Jammu as one of the premier sports tourism centre.

# City Excise Range, South Jammu organises Badminton, Volleyball Competitions

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the directions of the Excise Commissioner, Subash Chander Chhibber and under the supervision of Deputy Excise Commissioner (Executive), Jammu Sanjay Bhat and ETO, City Excise Range South, Rupali Vaid and with cooperation of principal and management of the Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Satwari, under the supervision of Neetu Randhawa, Jammu & Kashmir Excise Department, City Excise Range South, Jammu organised sports event i.e., Volleyball & Badminton matches under Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan.

In the sports event, volleyball and badminton doubles matches were played in which the teams played with absolute passion, fervour and enthusiasm. Suman Rajput, Anjali Tahakur and Amandeep Kour, Anjali Sharma were



Excise Dept officials with winner teams and faculty.

the winners in the Badminton Doubles matches. The Winning teams of both the events were awarded trophies, medals and certificates of appreciation beside refreshments for all the players and other students.

Further, students took an oath to stay away from drugs and prevent their peers from falling victim to drugs.

During the event, Principal, staff members and student of host School and Inspectors of Excise Department Varun Chandan, Arun Kumar, Ashwani

Kumar and Naeem Choudhary and other excise officials of City Excise Range South, Jammu were also present for the encouragement and motivation of the students.

The gathering appreciated the efforts of Excise Department in generating awareness among the students regarding ill effects of the drugs abuse and to motivate them to participate in different sports activities which will be organised by the department for their better future.

# Satish declares open 'Inter-School Badminton Tournament'



Sports Minister, Satish Sharma inaugurating IDPS Combat Academy.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma on Friday declared open the Inter-School Badminton Tournament at IDPS Jammu held under the patronage of Jammu Sahodaya Schools Complex.

Players from 20 CBSE schools of the region are participating in the two day event.

Satish Sharma also inaugurated the IDPS Combat Academy for Martial Arts and Splash Pool for primary wing, marking a significant

milestone in the school's commitment towards fostering health, fitness and wellness among the students.

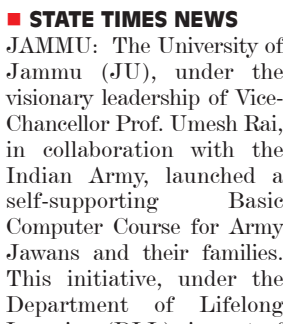
Speaking on the occasion, the Minister extended his best wishes to the participating team from different schools. He asserted that this event is not only a celebration of talent, sportsmanship and dedication, but also the spirit of unity and camaraderie that sports foster among young minds.

The Minister, during his address, encouraged all the participants to play with

enthusiasm and sportsmanship and not only strive for victory but also celebrate the spirit of healthy competition and mutual respect.

Satish Sharma emphasized the importance of sports in shaping young leaders and maintaining a balanced education. He said that sports has the power to unite and inspire. He also praised the school's contributions towards educational landscape of J&K acknowledging its role in nurturing many distinguished individuals over the years.

# Self-Supporting course in Computers for Jawans of Army and their families by JU



University of Jammu faculty and army officials with family at Army Station Ratnuchak, Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The University of Jammu (JU), under the visionary leadership of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai, in collaboration with the Indian Army, launched a self-supporting Basic Computer Course for Army Jawans and their families. This initiative, under the Department of Lifelong Learning (DLL), is part of JU's outreach activities aimed at serving the community and fulfilling educational needs.

Dr. Priyanka Sharma, Head of DLL, highlighted the department's mission of connecting the university with the broader community. She emphasized how such programs cater to the educational needs of non-university individuals, fulfilling the department's mandate.

The inaugural event took place on Friday at the Army Station Ratnuchak, Jammu. The ceremony commenced with a Lamp Lighting by

dignitaries, marking the significance of the event.

Vishal Kumar, the event's anchor, welcomed the distinguished guests, including Prof. Suman Jamwal, Dean of Social Sciences, JU, who was commended for her support and presence.

Special gratitude was extended to Dr. Priyanka Sharma for her efforts in curating the computer course for the welfare of Army Jawans and their families.

Brigadier Sumeet Sharma and Colonel Sandeep

Thakkar were also thanked for their leadership in conceptualizing the program, which focuses on the well-being of the Army personnel and their families. The program also honored Monika Sharma, Chairperson of the Family Welfare Organization, Sabre Bde, along with the serving soldiers and their families.

Dr. Priyanka Sharma addressed the gathering, offering insights into the range of programs available through DLL, with a particular emphasis on collaborative initiatives designed for the welfare of the Army.

Prof. Suman Jamwal highlighted the importance of such programs, appreciating the efforts of the Indian Army and the university in organizing these activities. She specifically lauded the vision of Brigadier Sumeet Sharma, who took the initiative, and acknowledged the collaborative efforts of Dr. Priyanka Sharma and Colonel Sandeep Thakkar.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks from Brigadier Sumeet Sharma,

who appreciated the leadership and participation of Prof. Suman Jamwal and Dr. Priyanka Sharma, as well as their dedication to the program. Tokens of appreciation were presented to the distinguished guests, and the event concluded with a group photograph and interaction with the participants. This collaboration between JU and the Indian Army marks a significant step in offering educational opportunities to the families of Army Jawans, furthering the welfare of those who serve.

# DG-YSS flags off 54-member Samba District trekking contingent Visits proposed site of Youth Hostel Samba, Suchet Singh Stadium

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Director General of Youth Services and Sports (DG-YSS) J&K, Rajinder Singh Tara during an extensive tour of District Samba flagged off a 54-member Trekking Contingent to Patnitop and visited the proposed site of Youth Hostel at Bela in Samba, besides visiting Rani Suchet Singh Sports Stadium and Indoor Complex at Arazi, Samba, on Friday.



DG-YSS J&K, Rajinder Singh Tara flagging off contingent.

The Director General Youth Services & Sports

was accompanied by Joint Director YSS, Ved Parkash, Deputy Director Central Jitender Mishra, Deputy Director Planning Ravi Kumar Sharma, DYSSO Samba, Dharmvir Singh and Section Officer of the Directorate, Shivnandan Singh.

During DG YSS's visit at the proposed site of 8 kanal land for the construction of a Youth Hostel in Bela, Samba, where land transfer is under process, the concerned Tehsildar and officials from the Revenue Department were also present.

Tara directed Deputy Director Planning and DYSSO Samba to expedite the land transfer process with the Administrative Department to facilitate the project's commencement. During his visit to Rani Suchet Singh Stadium Arazi, Samba, DG-YSS inspected the existing infrastructure and facilities available in the Stadium and Indoor complex. He further inquired about the requirements and other infrastructural needs. These projects, executed by the Engineering Wing of the J&K Sports Council, are progressing at a rapid pace. The DG Sports also reviewed other ongoing projects in the district.

The DG expressed satisfaction with the progress of the projects and reiterated the Department's commitment to developing state-of-the-art modern sports infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir. He urged all stakeholders to work judiciously to ensure the timely completion of these facilities, which will play a crucial role in nurturing young talent and promoting sports in every nook and corner of the Union Territory.

"The Government of Jammu and Kashmir is committed to promote sports culture and raise sports infrastructure in UT of Jammu and Kashmir. The Department will leave no stone unturned in fulfilling the Government's commitment and making the UT a sporting hub," Tara maintained.

# KNIT bids farewell to outgoing students



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Kotwal National Institute of Teaching (KNIT), Bharat Nagar Talab Tillo, a leading Educational Institution, organized a party for its 12th (Session 2024-25) students to wish them good luck for their Board Exams and successful future.

The event was celebrated with cultural programme comprising heart touching songs, nostalgic skits, traditional dances and emotional speeches by students and teachers.

Principal, Binla Blawria, showered her blessings on the students saying, "It is a bittersweet moment for us as we bid farewell to the 12th class outgoing students". WE are proud of our Kunitites as they will radiate their discipline and good manners in the society. We wish them all the best for their future endeavors.

Prof J.L Kotwal, the Director KNIT, insisted upon building good character of the students. He emphasized on hardwork as the only key to success. He wished that Kunitites should come out with flying colors and bring laurels not only to the Institute but also to the society and Nation.

Ruhaan and Tania were adjudged as Mr. KNIT and Ms. KNIT respectively. The Party concluded with a sumptuous lunch.

# Baramulla Carrom meet begins



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The two-day Baramulla Carrom Championship declared open by Adil Rashid Shah, president of the Jammu and Kashmir Carrom Association at Indoor Stadium, Khawja Bagh, Baramulla. Among those prominent present were Showkat

Ahmad, Incharge of Indoor Stadium Khawja Bagh, Baramulla and members of the District Baramulla and J&K Carrom Association. Speaking at the event, Adil Rashid Shah emphasized the Association's commitment to identifying and nurturing the best carrom players across J&K. He also acknowledged the role being

played by J&K Sports Council in promoting sports.

"Associations alone, despite having high morale, cannot achieve their best without the unwavering support of the Sports Council. Their backing has been instrumental in the successful organization of these events. We are immensely grateful for providing all possible help in making this initiative a success," said Adil Shah.

Under the J&K Sports Council's "My Youth, My Pride" initiative, district championships shall also be organized in district Pulwama, Budgam, Jammu, Udhampur, and Ramban.

# 9th District Jammu Handball Championship begins



Principal Govt. Polytechnic Jammu, Talat Mahmood Shawl with dignitaries and participating teams.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The three days 9th District Handball Championship in Senior men and women and Junior Boys and Girls categories began at Playfield Shastri Nagar here on Friday.

The championship is being organized by Player Association Handball Jammu in collaboration with J&K Handball Association and sponsored by J&K Sports Council. Talat Mahmood Shawl, Principal Govt. Polytechnic Jammu was the Chief Guest and Sukhdeep Singh Head of Department Civil Govt Polytechnic Jammu was the Guest of Honour at the opening ceremony.

On his address, the Chief Guest stressed upon the players to concentrate on honing their skills and maintaining high physical standards to achieve big. He congratulated the Player Association Handball Jammu office bearers for organizing the championship. Among others present on the occasion were Ashwani Kumar Raina, President, J&K Handball Association, Rajesh Kapoor Vice President, Rajesh Chandan General Secretary, Sanjeev Jamwal Treasurer, Shiv Arora, Sunil Raina and other Member.

About 140 players of different

Handball clubs of the district Jammu are participating in the tournament. The matches were officiated by Anuj Langer, Utkarsh Raina, Sahil Padha, Pardeep Bajaj and Richa Mandela. The 1st match in the Junior Boys section was played between Sandeep Pal Club and Sampark Handball Club in which Sandeep Pal Club defeated Sampark Handball Club by 15 - 11 goals. In the 2nd match of Junior Boys section was played between Sampark Handball Club and Jammu Club in which Sampark Handball Club defeated Jammu Club by 16-15 goals.

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# Trikuta Volleyball Club felicitates players



Chairman Trikuta Volleyball Club, Amarjeet Singh Sudan with players and others.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: For their achievements within J&K and outside the Union Territory, Chairman Trikuta Volleyball Club, Amarjeet Singh Sudan felicitated the female spikers in a get-together at Shastri Nagar playfields, here.

These players had participated in the senior national volleyball championship, under-19 school nationals, under-14 school nationals

and under-17 school nationals besides winning the 36th J&KUT Volleyball Championship 2024-25. Both special guests, Amarjeet Singh and Manpreet Kour appreciated the performance of the players during the season 2024-25. Players were also complimented and wished good luck by Rajesh Virdhy, Veena Kumari and Mulkh Raj Khajuria for bringing laurels to the Trikuta Volleyball Club.