

# JU organizes EDP in collaboration with T-Hub

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Skill Innovation Incubation and Entrepreneurship Development Centre (SIEDC), University of Jammu (JU), in collaboration with T-Hub, formally inaugurated the Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) on "Innovation and Entrepreneurship."

The EDP aims to strengthen the startup culture in the JU. A number of expert-led sessions focused on ideation, incubation, business modelling, and scaling. The programme now transitions into an immersive, in-person learning experience aimed at deeper engagement, practical exposure, and direct mentorship.

Prof. Alka Sharma, Director, SIEDC, reiterated the



Ganesh Iyer, Lead Strategist, Young India Project being honoured.

University's commitment to fostering innovation-driven growth and empowering youth to become job creators rather than job seekers. She informed that under the visionary leadership of Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice-Chancellor, JU, SIEDC entered into collaboration with T-Hub to promote startup cul-

ture in J&K. Prof. K. S. Charak, Mentor, SIEDC, emphasised the importance of mentorship and experiential learning in transforming innovative ideas into viable enterprises. He encouraged participants to leverage the opportunity to interact directly with experts from

of India's premier innovation ecosystems. Ganesh Iyer, Lead Strategist, Young India Project, and Mohammed Hafeezuddin, Associate, T-Hub, shared valuable insights into emerging startup trends, innovation strategy, and ecosystem building. They emphasized how structured entrepreneurial training, combined with mentorship and networking, can accelerate startup journeys from ideation to scale.

Earlier, Prof. Anil Gupta, Convener, Entrepreneurship Vertical, SIEDC, in his welcome address, highlighted the University's sustained efforts in developing incubation support systems, organizing startup initiatives, and creating structured pathways for entre-

preneurial learning. Prof. Rachna Mahajan, Program Coordinator, presented the formal vote of thanks. Around 70 students and research scholars from various departments including SEITM, TBS, ICeR & IIRM, Botany, Computer Science & IT, Museology, SIEDC, DLL, Home Science, Library Science, Bhaderwah Campus, UIET and Kathua Campus showed enthusiastic participation in the EDP.

With this initiative, the NAAC A++ accredited University of Jammu reaffirms its commitment to fostering innovation-led growth and strengthening collaborations that empower the next generation of entrepreneurs.

# Aashita Sadhotra of JKPS Panjtirthi wins gold at 5th J&K UT Karate Championship



Principal JKPS Panjtirthi, Suman Banbah felicitating winner Aashita Sadhotra.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Aashita Sadhotra, a Class 4 student

of JK Public School, Panjtirthi, has brought pride to her institution by winning a Gold Medal in the 5th J&K UT Karate Championship organised by the Traditional Karate-Do Association of Jammu and Kashmir. Displaying remarkable skill, confidence, and determination, the young athlete delivered an outstanding performance throughout the competition.

Principal of JK Public School, Panjtirthi, Suman Banbah, congratulated Aashita on her impressive achievement and appreciated her dedication, discipline, and sportsmanship. She also acknowledged the dedicated efforts of her coaches in guiding the student towards success and expressed gratitude to her parents for their constant encouragement and support.

The achievement has been widely applauded by the school community, highlighting the institution's continued commitment to promoting sports and holistic development among students.

# Ranji Trophy Final: Pundir's masterclass ton; Yawer, Samad fifties power J&K to 284/2 on day-1



**STATE TIMES NEWS**

**HUBBALLI:** In a commanding display of batting mastery, Jammu and Kashmir seized control of the Ranji Trophy 2025-26 final, reaching a formidable 284/2 against a star-studded Karnataka side at the KSCA Stadium here today.

Talented southpaw Shubham Singh Pundir anchored the innings with a classic unbeaten 117, while openers Yawer Hassan (88) and Abdul Samad (52\*) unleashed fifties of grit and flair to win the Day 1 battle outright. Earlier, skipper Paras Dogra won the toss and unhesitatingly chose to bat on a true batting paradise-a flat Hubballi pitch offering little early assistance to

seamers under clear skies. Opener Qamran Iqbal and Yawer Hassan negotiated the new ball with discipline, but Qamran fell cheaply for 6 (off 36 balls) at 18/1 in 10.2 overs, nicking Prasad Krishna to the slips. Undeterred, Yawer exemplified steel resolve, forging a match-defining 139-run stand with Pundir to propel J&K to 157/2. The gritty opener departed soon after, chopping on for 88 off 150 balls-his knock laced with 13 boundaries, a testament to his tenacity against Karnataka's probing attack.

Pundir, J&K's standout warrior, rose to the occasion with an impeccable 117\* off 221 balls (12 fours, 2 sixes), blending impeccable defense with crisp

strokeplay. Joining him in an unbroken 127-run alliance, Abdul Samad erupted for a brisk 52\* off 67 balls (5 fours, 1 six), his power-hitting signaling ominous intent. Skipper Dogra, meanwhile, contributed a gutsy 9 before retiring hurt, ensuring stability at the top.

Karnataka's bowlers toiled without reward. Prasad Krishna (2/36 from 16 overs) struck twice, while Vidyadhar Patil, Vyshak Vijaykumar, Shreyas Gopal, and Shikhar Shetty finished wicketless, unable to pierce J&K's armor.

Excitement spilled over on social media, with Brig Anil Gupta, Member-Administration JKCA, tweeting: "Ranji Trophy Final: Day-1 dominated by J&K against strong Karnataka. Top order delivered when it mattered most. Two century stands speak volumes of our batting depth. Very well played. Yawer missed a ton, Pundir proved class, Samad is hungry. Carry on...!"

J&K's clinical top-order show sets a daunting platform-Karnataka faces a steep chase to claw back on day-2.

# APS Damana organises FLN Mela to promote foundational learning

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Army Public School (APS) Damana organised an engaging FLN Mela titled "A Day in School" under the theme 'Learn, Play and Achieve', aimed at strengthening Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) skills through activity-based learning and meaningful parental involvement. The event reflected the school's commitment to implementing innovative teaching practices aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The programme began with the arrival of the Chief Guest, Surabhi Sonal, Chairperson FWO Chenab Brigade, who was warmly welcomed by Srishta Sharma, Coordinator Foundational Wing, along with Jr Vice Head Boy Kavin (IV-D) and Jr Vice Head Girl Dammala Joshnika (IV-B). Students of Class II delivered the welcome address, setting



APS Damana students and faculty at a Mela.

an enthusiastic tone for the event. Young learners showcased their creativity through a variety of performances and interactive sessions. Students of Classes I and II presented a vibrant dance performance titled "Adding Beats, Subtracting Fears", creatively blending mathematical concepts with music and movement. BV II students presented "Phonics in Rhythm,

Numbers in Rhyme", highlighting the importance of language and numeracy skills through engaging musical expressions. Activities such as "Imagination Ka Treasure Box - Jadui Pitara" encouraged creativity among students, while FLN Round Tables prepared by BV III displayed innovative teaching-learning materials and hands-on learning techniques. A puppetry show titled "Learning through

Laughter" further reinforced key foundational concepts in an enjoyable manner. A special highlight of the event was the participation of parents, who visited classrooms to observe learning activities and shared feedback through the "Feedback Tree" initiative. The programme concluded with a pledge by parents, reaffirming their commitment to supporting their children's educational journey.

Chief Guest Surabhi Sonal appreciated the efforts of students and teachers, emphasising the importance of strong foundational skills in early education. The event was organised under the leadership of Principal Pushpinder Kaur, with guidance from Headmistress Anurita Koul, marking another step towards nurturing confident and life-long learners.

# Youth Engagement Programme 2026 ignites football revolution



Officials with players at a programme.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

**KISHTWAR:** District Youth Services & Sports department on Tuesday conducted the Trial-cum-Selection process to constitute U/17 and U/19 Boys Football teams. The event, held here on Chowgan Grounds, formed part of the ambitious Youth Engagement Programme 2026 - League of Classics - an initiative to strengthen grassroots sports in the district.

The programme was organized under the directions of Director General Youth Services & Sports J&K Anuradha Gupta and under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma. DYSSO Jaffer Haider Sheikh coordinated the event. A large number of enthusiastic young footballers hailing from Kishtwar and Municipal areas participated

in the selection process. The atmosphere at the ground reflected high energy, discipline and competitive spirit as players showcased their skills, teamwork and determination to represent the district at higher levels. The League of Classics initiative aims to provide structured competition and meaningful exposure to young athletes, thereby strengthening the overall sports ecosystem in the District.

# IIM Jammu conducts Trekking-Based Leadership Skills for Managers in the Lower Himalayas for NTPC Limited

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management Jammu inaugurated a unique Leadership Skills for Managers - Trekking Based Management Development Programme (MDP) in the serene environs of the Lower Himalayas for officials of NTPC Limited, a Maharatna Company of the Government of India. The inaugural ceremony was presided over by Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean, Faculty and Research, IIM Jammu. The inaugural ceremony was graced by Prof. Rajesh Sikka, Co-Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy (EE&C), IIM Jammu along with Program Directors Dr. Mahesh Gadekar and Dr. Naveen Goyal, Programme Directors, IIM Jammu. The training programme witnessed the enthusiastic participation of 45 professionals from various parts of the country, all serving with NTPC Limited, reflecting the organization's pan-India pres-



A dignitary lighting ceremonial lamp.

ence and commitment to capacity building. Addressing the participants, Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean, Faculty and Research, IIM Jammu, expressed happiness at continuing the strong association with NTPC. He highlighted that IIM Jammu has successfully conducted multiple programmes for NTPC in the past and continues to collaborate with leading public sector organizations such as NHPC, SAIL, HAL, and Coal India. He appreciated the rigorous

recruitment process of NTPC and congratulated the participants for being selected for this prestigious programme. He emphasized that the programme marks a transition from a managerial role to a leadership role. The trekking component, including the spiritual visit to Mata Vaishno Devi, is designed to foster reflection, resilience, and deeper self-awareness. He noted that while participants already possess strong managerial skills and rich experience, the programme aims to

bring about an attitudinal transformation. He encouraged active participation, peer learning, and a co-creation model to ensure meaningful takeaways that will contribute to both individual growth and organizational development. Prof. Rajesh Sikka, Co-Chairperson, EE&C, welcomed the participants and inquired about their expectations post the trekking. Many participants shared that they felt energetic and enthusiastic after the trekking experience. He described the programme as an excellent opportunity for bonding, networking, and strengthening professional relationships. He also provided an overview of the Executive Education and Consultancy initiatives at IIM Jammu for Central and State Government organizations and encouraged participants to make the most of the campus experience. Dr. Mahesh Gadekar, Programme Director, delivered the inaugural address and described the MDP as a

unique and transformative initiative designed to develop leadership capabilities through experiential learning. He informed participants that the next three days would feature power-packed sessions led by distinguished faculty members, integrating classroom learning with trekking-based experiential modules. He also provided a brief overview of IIM Jammu and wished the participants success. Dr. Naveen Goyal, Programme Director, delivered the vote of thanks. The session concluded with participants introducing themselves and sharing their expectations from the programme, setting a collaborative and energetic tone for the days ahead. The trekking-based Leadership Skills for Managers Programme reflects IIM Jammu's commitment to innovative executive education that blends management theory, experiential learning, and personal transformation amidst the inspiring landscape of the Lower Himalayas.

# Projects Today introduces AI-Driven business opportunity platform to strengthen India's project ecosystem

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Projects Today introduced AI-Driven business opportunity platform to strengthen India's project ecosystem. The new positioning brings project lifecycle context, tenders and L1/order updates, and stakeholder intelligence into one convenient workflow - helping organisations engage the right projects at the right time.



The upgraded platform introduces an AI-enabled evolution focused on practical outcomes, including BOQ search, sub-project tracking, tender-to-order journey visibility, bidder and participation insights, opportunity estimation tools, credibility and analytics dashboards, and richer stakeholder relationship mapping. These capabilities enable faster discovery of relevant opportunities based on user needs - helping organisations move from "what is happening" to "what should we do next," with clearer context on stage, scope, and stakeholders.

Backed by 25+ years of research-led coverage, Projects Today tracks over 50,000 active projects currently in serious consideration, planning, tendering, or execution. The platform captures 1,500+ new projects and 10,000+ tenders every month, along with 1,200+ monthly L1/order updates - supporting decision-making across sectors and states. The aim is bigger than information access. The core intent is to ensure opportunity flows seamlessly between those who build the nation and those who enable it - promoters, contractors, consultants, suppliers, service providers, and financiers. Projects Today will continue to evolve with new technology and deeper intelligence, while staying anchored to one principle: Client First, Nation Always.

# Workshop on academic writing, research methodology held

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Research Studies Committee of Government College for Women Parade on Tuesday organized a one-day workshop on Academic Writing and Research Methodology to enhance research aptitude and academic writing skills among students and early career faculty members. The programme featured eminent resource persons, Dr Rekha Choudhary, former Dean of Research, University of Jammu and Dr Kanika Singh, Director Centre for Writing and Communication, Ashoka University, Haryana. Dr Choudhary deliberated on the fundamentals, significance and interdisciplinary nature of research, highlighting various quantitative and qualitative approaches. Dr Singh conducted an engaging and interactive session on academic writing, focusing on summarizing, critical analysis and rewriting through practical exercises. The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from Fourth-Year and Postgraduate students, DYD

Research Project scholars and Book Club members. The participants appreciated the insightful sessions and expert guidance. E-certificates were awarded to registered participants who attended both sessions. The smooth conduct of the

workshop was assured by the dedicated efforts of the organizing team comprising Dr Randheer Kour, Dr Sonam, Dr Anoop Singh, Dr Anju Devi, Dr Ramesh Chander, Dr Deepti Gupta and Dr Sukriti Sharma.

# 76 Bn CRPF hosts Volleyball tournament



Winner team posing with dignitaries.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The 76 Battalion, CRPF on Tuesday organised a Volleyball Tournament under Civic Action Programme-2026 here at Gangyal. Five local teams participated in the tournament. Sai Tangali Volleyball club

secured the first position (WINNER), while Saheed Bhagat Singh (Sports Club) secured the second position (Runner-up). Vezoto Tinyi, Commandant-76 Bn motivated the participants to stay healthy and imbibe a positive attitude to achieve excellence in life. M.K. Sison, Commandant;

# 137 CRPF Bn hosts 5-day Volleyball tournament



CRPF officials at inaugural ceremony of volleyball tournament.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

UDHAMPUR: A five-day Volleyball Tournament, organised by 137 Bn, CRPF under the Civic Action Programme commenced on Tuesday here at the SRTC campus, Udhampur. Six teams are participating in the event. CRPF personnel and local coaches conducted the first match between Veer Volleyball Club and C.V.C. Volleyball Club, featuring high-energy plays, skill demonstrations and team-building drills. M.K. Sison, Commandant;

Kartar Singh, Second-in-command; R.L. Meena, Dy. Comdt; Suresh, Dy. Comdt; Dr. Manish Rindla, Medical Officer of 137 Bn, CRPF; Ashok Padha, President, Volleyball Association, Udhampur cum Executive Member-J&K Volleyball Association; Naveen Kumar, PEM, Dy. SSO, Sanjay Sharma, PEM, Dy. SSO, Manik Nargootra, PEM, Dy. SSO; Amit Sharma, PET, Dy. SSO; Vinod Sharma, Dy. SSO & Kuldeep Sharma, J&K, Jt. Secretary-Volleyball Association of Udhampur

and media personnel along with players, CRPF Jawans and locals were present on this occasion. Local coaches and officials provided guidance to local youth, especially on fitness, teamwork and sports discipline. They also motivated participants to adopt healthy habits, build physical strength and overcome limiting mindsets for overall well-being. Prizes and sports equipment were distributed among Volleyball Players to promote sports and fitness.