

Indian Men's Ice Hockey team returns from China

STATE TIMES NEWS
LEH: The men's ice hockey team from Ladakh has returned from Harbin, China, after competing in the prestigious 9th Asian Winter Games. Representing India on such a grand stage, the team displayed remarkable skill and determination, securing a historic victory against Macau, China, in their debut appearance.



Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson along with team.

Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, extended his heartfelt congratulations to the entire team for their outstanding achievement. Recognizing the significance of their victory, he felicitated each player and wished them success in their future endeavors. "Ladakh's ice hockey play-

ers have once again made us proud on the international stage. Competing and winning at the Asian Winter Games is a monumental achievement. The Council has always supported the development of ice hockey in Ladakh, from providing infrastructure and equip-

ment to extending incentives for our players," he said. The CEC also highlighted ongoing efforts to bring national recognition to the sport and also mentioned ice hockey's potential in promoting sports tourism in Ladakh. He assured that the Council would continue to provide all necessary support to take the sport forward. As a token of appreciation, a cash reward of Rs 2,50,000 has been announced for the team. CEC also briefed the team about the Lieutenant Governor Brig. (Dr.) B. D.

Mishra (Retd.) crucial role in making their participation in Harbin, China, possible. He highlighted the LG's personal efforts in ensuring the team's representation at the international level and acknowledged the financial assistance provided, along with the support extended by the UT administration which played a crucial role in facilitating the team's journey. "Our players have showcased their exceptional talent and resilience, bringing pride to Ladakh and inspiring many along the way. We will continue to work towards strengthening the sports ecosystem in our region and ensuring that ice hockey gets the recognition it deserves at the national level," CEC further added.

BSNL J&K Circler felicitates women employees

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The BSNL J&K Circle organized a function to Honour the strength, resilience and achievements of women employees of BSNL J&K Circle across various fields on the eve of International Women's Day 2025. Women employees of BSNL Srinagar and Leh business areas participated in the function in VC mode.



Speaking on the occasion, Vijay Kumar Surendra, Chief General Manager, BSNL J&K Circle said that women have always been the driving force behind the progress of the society. By respecting women societies can unlock the full potential of half their population leading to a more prosperous, equitable and sustainable future. Chief General Manager acknowledged the hard work, perseverance, and significant role of women employees in the growth of BSNL J&K Circle. Ms Sarabjeet Kaur Sasan, SDE (MM) Circle Office was adjudged as Best Women Employee 2025 in Executive category and Ms Praisy Sharma, JE (Customer Service Centre, Kachi Chawni) was adjudged as Best Women Employee 2025 in Non-Executive

category. The winners were felicitated with honorarium & a Certificate of Merit for their outstanding contribution in BSNL. Earlier, welcoming the participants Sudershan Kumar Sudan, DGM (HR/Administration) highlighted the significance of the event. Partap Singh GM (HR) presented vote of thanks. Others present on the occasion included Sh. Kush Kumar PGM (CM), Sh. Roopam Garg PGM (EB), Sh. Mumtaj Ahmad PGM (Jammu BA) & other senior officers of BSNL.

International Women's week celebrated by Centre for Women's Studies at GCW Parade

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: An International Women's week was celebrated by Centre for Women's Studies at GCW Parade Ground, Jammu under the supervision of Principal, Dr. Ravender Kumar Tiekoo on the theme 'Accelerate Action'. 'Health Talk' was organized in collaboration with Department of Home Science.



Dr. Nitu Sharma, Hod Home Science welcomed resource persons of the event, Dr. Nancy Sharma, clinical nutritionist and physiotherapist. The resource person delivered an engaging presentation on "Women's Health" and shared valuable insights on the importance of health education, nutritious diet, healthy life style habits, exercise to keep oneself healthy, early disease detection etc. A dynamic quiz competi-

tion was done by Dr. Aakriti Verma and Dr. Samriti Gupta. The students participated with great enthusiasm and winners were felicitated with gift hampers. On 8th March, poetry recitation was organized in collaboration with MKM (International Organization J&K). The programme started with lighting of the traditional lamp followed by Saraswati Vandana by students of Music Dept. The Chief Guest of the event was Dr. Nalini Kohli, Former

Director Colleges and Special Guest was Dr. Ravender Kumar Tiekoo, Principal GCW Parade, Jammu. A total of 22 participants from different streams of the college and Dr. Arti Devi and Dr. Mamta Sharma of the college also participated in poetry recitation. A heart touching and emotional skit based on the theme 'Survivors of Acid Attacks' was performed by the students of the college. Mementos were awarded to all the participants. Chief Guest elaborated on the significance of the day and focused on the theme. Suman Pal and other members of MKM also graced the occasion with their presence. The programme was sponsored by Silver lines and Formation. In continuation of the celebration of International Women's Week, the Centre for Women's Studies, Govt. College for Women, Parade Ground, Jammu, organised an awareness talk on 'Cervical Cancer: Screening and Prevention on 11th march, 2025. The Resource person of the program was Dr. Neha Gupta Sr. Consultant, Obstetrician & Gynaecologist, Medanta Medicity, Gurugram. Dr. Neha Gupta delivered a comprehensive presentation on Cervical Cancer, its risk factors, symptoms, and its prevention tips. She also discussing in detail about screening methods, PAP smear

procedure, HPV vaccine, FOGSI recommendation & Breast Cancer. The session concluded with an engaging question-and-answer segment fostering greater awareness and understanding. Sandeep Singh Jamwal from Medanta Medi consult Centre, Jammu along with Dr. Seema Malhotra, Convener, CWS coordinated the whole event. Dr. Ravinder Kumar Tiekoo principal of the college appreciated the efforts of the convener and members of CWS Prof. Anita Sharma, Dr. Shally Chadha, Prof. Usha Devi, Prof. Sukhvinder Kaur, Dr. Pallavi Jamwal for organising the programme. The event was attended by students of all semesters, senior faculty members and members of the organising committee. The events were compered by Dr Iesha Sharma. On the whole the events honored the spirit, strength and achievements of women.

Aash Foundation honours Mahek Warikoo's Legacy with Scholarship Distribution Ceremony

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Aash Foundation, a registered NGO committed to empowering education, celebrated the spirit of hope and resilience by hosting a Scholarship Distribution Ceremony at K.L. Saigal Hall of the Writers Club in Jammu. The event honoured six meritorious girl students from underprivileged backgrounds in memory of Mahek Warikoo, a bright and vibrant young girl whose life was tragically cut short. The ceremony witnessed the presence of distinguished personalities, including Vijay Bakaya (IAS, Former Chief Secretary and MLA) as the Chief Guest, and Kuldeep Khuda (IPS, Former DGP and Chief Vigilance Commissioner) as the Guest of Honour. The event was also attended by B.L. Saraf, former District and Session Judge, along with renowned activists, intellectuals, and community leaders. In their addresses, the guests highlighted Mahek's love for life and learning, calling her story a testament to resilience and determination. Chairman of the Aash Foundation, Ashok Kotha, spoke about his personal bond with Mahek and emphasized the Foundation's commitment to supporting young minds through education. "Through this ceremony, we aim to honor Mahek's memory, inspire young girls, and reaffirm our commitment to empowering future generations," he stated.

The Mahek Foundation, an initiative inspired by her legacy, is dedicated to providing educational resources and opportunities to deserving girl students. Seema Mattoo shed light on Mahek's multi-dimensional personality, emphasizing her passion for knowledge and dreams for a brighter world. Adding a soulful touch to the evening, renowned singer Prof. Kailash Mehra mesmerized the audience with her spiritual Bhajans. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Rakesh Hangloo, Secretary of the organization. The Aash Foundation's efforts continue to shine as a beacon of hope for young students, ensuring that Mahek Warikoo's legacy of learning and kindness lives on.

GDC Kunjwani signs MoU with CT University Ludhiana



Officials of GDC Kunjwani and CT University, Ferozepur Ludhiana after signing MoU.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Government Degree College (GDC) Kunjwani signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CT University, Ferozepur Ludhiana to foster Collaboration and innovation in the field of academics. The MoU was signed by Dr. Manisha Kohli Principal

GDC Kunjwani and, Shahid Lateef Deputy Director CT University. The MoU will mark the beginning of a strategic partnership aimed at prompting academic collaboration, research innovation and students exchange programme. The collaboration focus on various initiatives including joint research projects, facul-

ty exchanges, curriculum development and global studies programmes design to provide students with access to diverse academic and cultural experiences. By leveraging the combined strengths of both the institutions, the partnership will aim to drive progress in the fields of Science Technology and Arts. Dr. Arti Pandoh Gupta (Convener) and Dr. Bhavana Sharma (Co-Convener) Carrier Counselling and Placement Cell attested the MoU as witnesses. The MoU was signed in the presence of Dr. Neeru Sharma, Dr. Sajjad Iqbal and Dr. Ashaq Hussain from GDC Kunjwani and Admission Managers CT University-Asif Amin Padder and Mohd. Danish Khan.

Celebration of International Women's Day

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a remarkable celebration of International Women's Day, Dhanvantri Library, University of Jammu, organized a thought-provoking Book Exhibition under the theme "Accelerate Action: Together We Can Forge Women's Equality". The event aimed to highlight the importance of women's contributions in literature and knowledge while fostering discussions on gender inclusivity. The exhibition was digitally inaugurated by Prof. Savita Nayyar, Director, Centre for Women Studies, University of Jammu, who emphasized the role of literature in empowering women and shaping progressive narratives.

The exhibition showcased a meticulously curated collection of books that illuminated women's issues, ideas, and remarkable achievements, alongside an extensive selection of literature authored by and about women across diverse genres. In her inspiring address, Prof. Savita Nayyar strongly advocated for the need for collective efforts in promoting women's rights, strengthening empowerment, and closing the gender gap. With deep insight, she emphasized the pivotal role of education, advocacy, and societal reform in dismantling obstacles and creating a more just, inclusive, and equitable future. Her words resonated as a compelling call to action, inspiring a united commitment to driving lasting change.

Dr. Vikram Singh Sahi, I/C Librarian, Dhanvantri Library, also addressed the gathering, highlighting the library's commitment to providing resources that elevate women's voices and achievements. The event witnessed a diverse gathering from across the University, including faculty, staff, researchers, and students, who came together to celebrate the occasion. Under the convenership of Rakesh Kumar (Deputy Librarian), Library Activities Committee, executed the overall program with precision and excellence. The unwavering dedication and exceptional contributions of team members Neelam Bhagat, Babita Jamwal, Meghabat Singh, Karan

Kumar, and Raj Singh played a pivotal role in ensuring a flawlessly organized and highly successful event. Among the esteemed dignitaries present were Dr. Saranjit Kaur, Kunzang, Nimmi Suri, Jasjeet Singh, Ashok Nargotra, Om Parkash Sharma, and Kussam. Additionally, several distinguished library professionals graced the event, including Charu Gupta, Ranjana Kapoor, Meenu Nanda, Sonika Sharma, Rajni, Meenakshi Sharma, Preeti, Prince Partap Singh Bhatyal, Diksha Sharma, Deepika Singh, and Riya Bajral. The vote of thanks was delivered by Azmit Begum (Assistant Librarian).

ingued library professionals graced the event, including Charu Gupta, Ranjana Kapoor, Meenu Nanda, Sonika Sharma, Rajni, Meenakshi Sharma, Preeti, Prince Partap Singh Bhatyal, Diksha Sharma, Deepika Singh, and Riya Bajral. The vote of thanks was delivered by Azmit Begum (Assistant Librarian).

CLUJ student Ridima Bajpai wins 1st prize at 38th National Youth Festival



VC CUJ Sr. Prof. K.S. Chandrasekar along with Ridhima Bajpai and faculty members.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Ridima Bajpai, a talented student of Government College for Women (GCW), Gandhi Nagar, a constituent college of Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ), has brought immense pride to the institution, Cluster University of Jammu and the region by securing the 1st prize in the Indian Classical Vocal Solo Event at the prestigious 38th National Youth Festival. The festival was being organized by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and hosted by Amity University, Noida. The competition witnessed participation from 147 universities across India, rep-

resenting all zones and competing in various categories, including Music, Theatre, Fine Arts, and Literary events. Ridimas victory is particularly significant as she is the first student from Jammu and Kashmir to clinch the top position in the Classical Vocal Solo Category. A dedicated disciple of renowned music mentor V.K. Sambyal (Rangeley Thakur), Ridima delivered a spellbinding performance, accompanied by Rahul Bhardwaj on Tabla and Vishal Pandita on Harmonium. The contingent representing Cluster University of Jammu was accompanied by Teacher In-charges Asha Rani and Vishal Pandita.

Expressing immense pride in Ridimas achievement, Vice-Chancellor of Cluster University of Jammu, Sr. Prof. K.S. Chandrasekar, extended his heartfelt congratulations. He also commended the efforts of the Department of Students Welfare, led by Dr. Raj Shree Dhar, for their continued dedication to fostering young talent in cultural and literary activities. Dr. Raj Shree Dhar, Dean Student Welfare CLUJ added that Ridimas remarkable success marks a milestone in the regions cultural landscape, inspiring aspiring artists and reinforcing Cluster University of Jammu's commitment to excellence in arts and academia.

Usha Silai School inaugurated by Mission Director JKRLM

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Care for You NGO announced the inauguration of the Usha Silai School in Ghaink Bhalwal, Jammu. The event, which took place on Wednesday, was inaugurated by Dr. Shubhra Sharma, Mission Director of Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM). The inauguration was followed by a nine-day capacity-building program aimed at equipping women with the skills to become self-reliant through tailoring and sewing. In addition to the inauguration, the program also included the distribution of Usha sewing machines to all participants, marking a significant step toward empowering local women. This initiative is set to provide these women with the tools and training to create sustainable livelihood and contribute to the community's economic development. The event was attended by several prominent fig-



Dr. Shubhra Sharma, Mission Director JKRLM along with school faculty members during the programme.

ure, including Anisa Naib Senior Project Manager JKRLM, Touseef Malik, Founder of Care for You NGO, and other key members of the Care for You team. Also present was Shayista Ayoub, Program Manager of Usha J&K, state co-ordinator Ramiz raja & Project Manager Care foryou Navya, Shruti Uppal, BPM JKRLM who played an instrumental role in the program's success. Dr. Shubhra praised the efforts of Care for You

NGO, commending the organization for its commitment to empowering women across Jammu and Kashmir. They emphasized that such programs are vital in promoting skill development, self-reliance, and socio-economic empowerment among women. This initiative is part of Care for You NGO's ongoing mission to create positive social impact and uplift underprivileged communities, with a special focus on women's empowerment.

Dr Hina Shafi Bhat honoured with ET Inspiring Women Leaders Award

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat, Former Chairperson of the Jammu & Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (J&K KVIB), has been honored with the prestigious ET Inspiring Women Leaders Award at the ET Women Inspiring Conclave, held at Grand Hyatt, Gurugram. The event was organized by the Times Now Group to recognize exceptional contributions by women leaders across various fields. Dr. Hina Bhat is the daughter of the late Mohammad Shafi Bhat, a former Member of Parliament. In 2014, she chose to leave behind a flourishing career in dentistry to enter politics by joining the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). That same year, at the age of 36, she contested her first election from the Amira Kadal assembly segment in Srinagar but was unsuccessful. Shortly after coming to power in 2014, the BJP appointed her as the vice president of the state chapter of the Mahila Morcha, the party's women's wing. In 2017, she was inducted into the northern zone of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his Mann Ki Baat address, acknowledged her efforts in restoring the Pampore training center of KVIC, which had remained inactive for 25 years. During her tenure as Vice Chairperson and later Chairperson of J&K KVIB, Dr. Hina Bhat played a pivotal role in transforming the board into a key driver of employment generation in Jammu and Kashmir. Between 2019 and 2024, KVIB successfully established 30,850 micro-enterprises, creating livelihood opportunities for 246,800 individuals—a significant increase compared to the 7,662 units and 47,638 jobs created between 2014 and 2018. Notably, women entrepreneurs accounted for nearly 40% of these new ventures, reflecting a strong commitment to gender empowerment. Under Dr. Hina Bhat's leadership, KVIB also spearheaded the revival of traditional crafts such as beekeping, Sozni embroidery, and chain stitch through the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI). Currently, eight SFURTI clusters worth ₹20 crore are at various stages of implementation. Two of these clusters have already been inaugurated by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, positively impacting approximately 10,000 artisans and workers.



Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat, Former Chairperson J&K KVIB receiving award.