

Budget set to enhance sports culture, produce international stuff

Commissioner/ Secretary YSS chairs meeting of officers to deliberate on budget announcements

State-of-art Cricket Academies, Gymnastics Academy, Youth Hostels in offing

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In order to make Jammu and Kashmir ready to produce international stuff, thus making it a sporting hub, the Government has kept higher allocation towards sports in Budget 2025.

The Government had underlined its commitment to make J&K an elite sporting State/UT through the 2025 budget, where sports received its highest-ever allocation.

To deliberate on the budget announcements and review the activities and achievements of the department, Commissioner/ Secretary Youth Services and Sports, Sarmad Hafeez chaired a meeting of officers in his office chamber here today.

The meeting discussed budget announcements and strategic implementation of the same with letter and



Commissioner/ Secretary Youth Services and Sports, Sarmad Hafeez chairing meeting of officers.

spirit.

The budget announcements included engaging 75 lakh youth in sports activities across J&K; establishment of National Centres of Excellence for Water Sports at Dal Lake in Srinagar and Basohli in Jammu; setting up of Gymnastics Academy at Gindun Rajbagh and Khel Gaon Nagrota; establishment of four state-of-the-art Cricket Academies with budgetary funding of Rs 8 crore; construction of

two new Youth Hostels, one each in Jammu and Kashmir divisions for which amount of Rs 10 crore has been kept in the budget; high performance training centres are being developed in all districts in phased manner to enhance athletes training and performance; hosting of national/international sports events to boost tourism and infrastructure including the 9th Aerobic Asian Championship in 2025 and the Rafting World

Cup in Kashmir for which a separate provision of Rs 4.5 Crore has been kept; Football exchange programme to be conducted; focus on empowering coaches by organising specialised capacity building programmes like the football development programme and world coach programme; development of 247 playgrounds, stadiums and sports courts for enhanced facilities; construction and upgradations of 19 sports buildings across the region; procurements of sports equipments and generators for stadiums; provision of Rs 150 crores for sports infrastructure; commissioning of two swimming pools in both the capital cities, creation of sports facilities for migrants; focus on involvement of rural/tribal population in games and establishment of 100 khelo India

Centres.

It was also discussed in the meeting that a Water Sports Festival will jointly be organised by J&K Sports Council in the month of April in collaboration with the Department of Youth Services and Sports. The enhancement in honorarium and refreshment charges of the players were also discussed in the meeting.

Prominent among others who attended the meeting were Rajinder Singh Tara, Director General Youth Services and Sports; Jyoti Rani Slathia, Special Secretary YSS; Ashok Kumar Khajuria, Director Finance YSS; Nuzhat Gul, Secretary J&K Sports Council; Ashiq Bhat, Joint Director Planning; Ravi Kumar, Deputy Director Planning YSS; Jitender Mishra, Deputy Director Central and Nitin Hangloo, representative of NYK.

Janta Club, Jammu Enterprises win Veterans League ties

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Janta Sports Club and Jammu Enterprises won their respective matches to strengthen their position in the ongoing Anti-Drug Veterans Cricket League, organised by Ludhiana Brothers in collaboration with Team Jammu at MA Stadium, here on Wednesday.

In the first game of the day, Janta Club outplayed Trikuta Cricket Club by six wickets, courtesy brilliant 74 runs knock from Saranjeet and unbeaten half century by Guru Partap.

Batting first, after winning the toss, Trikuta Club set a target of 164 runs for the loss of five wickets. Sunny was top scorer with 42 runs, followed by Rakinder, who contributed 28 runs to the total. Kewal and Dr Sandeep contributed 18 runs each. From Janta Club, Chaitanya and Saranjeet took two wickets each.

In reply, Janta Club chased the total in 18.4 overs losing four wickets. Saranjeet (74) and Guru Partap (53) not



Saranjeet receiving man of the match.

contributed highest 43 and 36 runs respectively. Suresh bowled brilliant spell taking away five wickets. Lablu and Raheshwar were other wicket takers with two each.

Later, Saranjeet was named man of the match for his match winning innings. Ashok and Deepak were umpires in this match.

Meanwhile, in other match of the day, Jammu Enterprises defeated ACB by three wickets. Batting first, ACB scored 138 runs losing all their wickets in 19.3

overs. Shanny and Manider

contributed highest 43 and 36 runs respectively. Suresh bowled brilliant spell taking away five wickets. Lablu and Raheshwar were other wicket takers with two each.

Batting second, Jammu Enterprises chased the 136 runs target for the loss of seven wickets. Anil Choudhary and Pritam Singh were main scorers with 29 and 26 runs respectively. Maninder and Vishal took two wickets each from ACB.

For his five wickets haul, Suresh presented the man of the match trophy.

CRC Jammu, Tiger Division empower Divyangjan in Border Area



CRC and Tiger Division officials during the programme.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a remarkable effort to support and uplift Divyangjan (persons with disabilities) in the R.S. Pura Border Area of Jammu, Composite Regional Centre (CRC) Jammu, under DEPWD, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MOSJE), in collaboration with the Mahar Regiment under Tiger Division of the Indian Army, organized a special aids and appliances distribution programme.

With a commitment to improving the quality of life for Divyangjan, CRC Jammu

played a pivotal role in facilitating this initiative by providing essential assistive devices worth approximately Rs 11 lakh. The distributed aids aim to enhance mobility, independence, and overall well-being of over 80 identified beneficiaries. The identification process was meticulously carried out by Tiger Division jawans through an extensive door-to-door survey, ensuring that support reached those who needed it the most.

To further educate and empower the beneficiaries, Dr. Rohnika Sharma, Director, CRC Jammu, delivered an

insightful guest lecture on various welfare schemes of MOSJE, highlighting opportunities available for persons with disabilities. Additionally, Dr. Hasnain Khan, Incharge, PMDK, CRC Jammu, conducted a demonstration session to guide beneficiaries on the proper operation and maintenance of the distributed aids and appliances.

This initiative underscores CRC Jammu's unwavering dedication to the holistic development and rehabilitation of Divyangjan in the region. Through continuous outreach programs, assistive support, and awareness initiatives, CRC Jammu remains at the forefront of empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring their seamless integration into society.

The Tiger Division of the Indian Army and CRC Jammu together reaffirm their commitment to community welfare, extending their support to those in need and fostering an inclusive and self-reliant society.

Senior Citizens Joy Society of Channi Himmat inaugurated

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Senior Citizens Joy Society (SCJS), Channi Himmat was inaugurated on Wednesday by Vikram Randhawa, MLA Bahu. The occasion was graced by I.D. Soni, a renowned educationist, social activist, and philanthropist, as the Guest of Honour. K.S. Samyal, President, Senior Citizens Rejuvenation Centre, was the special invitee.

SCJS is an offshoot of Vichar Kranti Manch International (VKMI), dedicated to the well-being and engagement of senior citizens.

On the occasion, Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner, was unanimously nominated as Chairman/Advisor of SCJS, while Ashok Gupta, Founder and Managing Trustee, was appointed as President. Ashok Khazuria, President of Shivalik Bharat Vikas Parishad, was nominated as General Secretary, and Narinder



Society members during the event.

Wadhwa was designated as Treasurer.

Dr. Shreyansh Jain welcomed the dignitaries and participants and introduced the guests. He also announced the executive body of SCJS, which includes Prof. Virender Gupta, H.C Vaid, Rajneesh, C.M Sharma, Rakesh Misra and Anju Bansal.

Ashok Gupta elaborated on the aims and objectives of the newly inaugurated society, emphasizing the promotion of senior citizens' interests, organizing recreational tours, and ensuring their active

engagement in society.

He also highlighted key necessities to be undertaken to enhance the care and well-being of senior citizens, including establishment of a Day Care Centre to provide a space where seniors can spend quality time, engage in meaningful activities, and interact socially; regular health check-ups and medical support ensuring timely health monitoring, preventive screenings, and access to quality medical care; organizing tours, picnics, and cultural events to keep the seniors entertained and men-

tally engaged; addressing emotional and psychological needs through counseling sessions and creating a support system; promoting physical and mental well-being through regular fitness and yoga sessions tailored for senior citizens; and spreading awareness about the rights and welfare schemes available for senior citizens and ensuring their implementation.

Vikram Randhawa congratulated the SCJS team and assured full support, including assistance in arranging suitable land for the society's office. I.D. Soni

blesed the participants and encouraged them to actively participate in the initiatives of the society. K.S. Samyal added a spiritual touch to the event by reciting a Bhajan.

A moment of pride was marked by the felicitation of Sunita Mahajan on her appointment as a National Executive Member of Mahila Sahbhagita.

C.M. Sharma shared his views on the importance of such initiatives, while Ashok Khazuria skillfully conducted the proceedings. The event also included the celebration of the birthdays of members, including Anju Bansal, Anita Baru, and Narinder Wadhwa. The event was observed by Vikram Randhawa and Arun Sharma, Regional General Secretary, Bharat Vikas Parishad, who appreciated the efforts of SCJS in fostering a positive environment for senior citizens. Many other representatives and participants also attended the ceremony, adding to the success of the event.

Two-day national seminar on Indigenous Languages and NEP 2020 concludes at CUJ

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Educational Studies, Central University of Jammu (CUJ) on Wednesday concluded a two-day National Seminar on "Indigenous Languages and NEP 2020: Pathways to Sustainable Education", sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR).

The seminar was conducted under the guidance of Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain.

The seminar brought together eminent academicians, researchers, and policymakers from across the country to discuss the significance of indigenous languages and their integration into mainstream education in line with NEP 2020.

Vijay Kumar qualifies Ph.D

STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Vijay

Kumar, son of Krishan Lal, residence of Ward No 21, Nagrota, has been declared qualified for the award of Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Sociology by Guru Nanak Dev University Amritsar. He worked on the topic of "A Sociological Perspectives to Study Religious Tourism: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine", under the supervision of Dr. Gurnshaminder Singh Bajwa of Guru Nanak Dev University Amritsar.



Officials along with participants during the seminar.

The event involved plenary sessions and technical sessions that were focused on the role of indigenous languages in shaping sustainable and inclusive education.

Experts highlighted the role of NEP 2020 in promoting multilingualism, the integration of indigenous knowledge systems, and the need for policy-driven initiatives to revitalize and preserve linguistic diversity.

Participants engaged in insightful deliberations on the transformative potential of indigenous lan-

guages in making education more holistic and accessible, particularly in rural and tribal communities.

The plenary session was enlightened with featuring discussions by Prof. Rajagopal Gibikote, Former Dean of School of languages, EFL-University, Hyderabad, Prof. Aswini Kumar Nanda, Head, Department of Economics, CUJ, Prof. Ritu Bakshi, Dean Student Welfare, CUJ and Dr. Abhay Rajput, Head, Department of Mass

Communication and New Media, CUJ.

Their discussions further examined the preservation of indigenous languages and their role in shaping educational policies, emphasizing the importance of academic and technological interventions to support language revitalization efforts.

Following the plenary session, two Parallel technical sessions were held, where scholars from across India presented research papers on technology's role in promoting

indigenous languages and multilingual education.

The sessions were chaired by Dr. Neena Vij and Dr. Kiran, along with Dr. R. Sudhakar and Dr. Chittibabu Puteha. Discussions explored digital tools, artificial intelligence, and policy frameworks that can support indigenous language education in modern contexts.

The seminar concluded with a valedictory session, under the presence of Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar, CU Jammu whereas Prof. Ritu Bakshi, welcomed the dignitaries and the partici-

pants followed by a detailed seminar report presentation by Dr. Ravi Vanguri.

The session also featured a valedictory address by Prof. G.R. Angadi about the conjoining force of Indian regional literature and English literature, presidential remarks by Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar, CUJ and a vote of thanks by Dr. Kiran. The event was also graced by Prof. K. Pushpanadham, Head of the Department of Educational Administration, MS University Baroda, Prof. Asit Mantry, Prof. J. N. Baliya, Dr. Aman, Dr. Yad Ram, Dr. Mohan Galgotra, Dr. Aarushi Baloria, Shivali Khajuria, Dr. Disha Sharma, Arvind Kumar and other faculty members of the various departments along with scholars and students from various disciplines.

DG-YSS flags off trekker girls for Mansar Trekking Camp

Camp provides youth opportunity to connect with nature, build resilience: Tara



Director General Youth Services and Sports J&K, Rajinder Singh Tara flagging off contingent.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To give fillip to holistic development of the youth and promote adventure sports, thus fostering the mental and physical well-being of the students, the Director General Youth Services and Sports J&K, Rajinder Singh Tara flagged off a contingent of 141 students and 15 officials for District-Level Trekking Camp at Mansar from MA Stadium, here on Wednesday.

The officials include 10 females and 5 males, drawn from 14 Zones of District Jammu with one from each Zone.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director General YSS said the Camp, organized at the picturesque destination of Mansar would provide a learning experience to the young trekkers.

He advised the trekkers to maintain discipline during the trip and enjoy beauty and serenity of this scenic destination, adding the five-day Trekking Camp was aimed at providing students with an opportunity to connect with nature, build resilience, develop teamwork skills, besides

exchanging culture and language.

"The Department of Youth Services and Sports is committed to providing such platforms to the youth of the Union Territory to explore their potential and embrace challenges," Tara said.

The participants are being accompanied by the experienced officials of the Department to ensure their safety throughout the trip. Earlier, Deputy Director Youth Services and Sports Central, Jitender Mishra in his welcome address emphasized the importance of such initiatives in shaping the holistic development of youth. "Adventure activities like trekking not only strengthen physical fitness but also instill a sense of discipline, leadership, and camaraderie among the students," Mishra said.

Sukhdev Raj Sharma, District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO), Jammu said that the Department has made meticulous arrangements to ensure the success of the Camp, including logistical support, safety measures and experienced escorts.

District Nodal Round of Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament commences in Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The two days District Nodal Round of Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament organised by MY Bharat NYKS commenced on Wednesday at GCW Parade Jammu.

The program was graced by Ravi Kesar IFS Retd, Advisor NHAI. 50 participants were called for the event on the first day while the remaining will participate on the second day.

The jury members of the program were Prof Dr Jigar Mohd Renowned historian, Dr B B Anand Retd Principal Govt MAM College Jammu, Dr Muzammil



Ravi Kesar Advisor NHAI being honoured during the event.

Hussain Retd Principal GDC Reasi, Preeti Sharma leading young Women Entrepreneur, Adv Sunil Sharma President Bar

Association Poonch and former Chairman Municipal Council Poonch.

Participants delved into the topic One Nation One

Election - Paving the Way for Viksit Bharat and shared their thoughts and ideas. The proceedings of the event were live streamed through social media handles.

The Chief Guest, while expressing his appreciation for the event, said that programs like these play an important role in connecting youth directly with governance process.

He further said that through Youth Parliament, youth can present their ideas for Viksit Bharat and important topics like One Nation One Election.

He further appreciated the

work done by MY Bharat - NYKS under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and GCW Parade in providing platform to the youth.

Among others present in the program were Dr Ravinder Kumar Tiekoo Principal GCW Parade, Dr Nitin Sharma Asst Professor Law School Jammu University, Dr Gurpreet Kour NSS PO GCW Parade, Nitin Hangloo District Youth Officer Jammu and Sushil Singh Charak renowned Social Worker and Chief Functionary Nations Development Association (NDA).