

## JYBT flags off 23rd Ganga Darshan pilgrimage

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust (JYBT), known for its dedicated service to spiritual causes, has successfully organized yet another "Ganga Darshan" pilgrimage.

Over the last year, the Trust has facilitated 22 such trips, benefiting approximately 1,150 yatis, with each batch consisting of 50 devotees.

On this auspicious occasion of "Amavasya Pary" on Thursday, the Trust organized 23rd special pilgrimage to Haridwar for a Holy Dip in the sacred Ganga.

The trip was arranged on the request of Satish Sharma, Cabinet Minister, as a continuation of the Trust's efforts to



Pawan Kumar Shastri flagging off bus.

promote spiritual fulfillment. In addition to transportation, the JYBT provided comprehensive boarding, lodging, and food arrangements for the yatis at its Haridwar Bhawan. A special "Yoga Shivar Camp" was also organized for the pilgrims to enhance their spiritual experience.

Pawan Kumar Shastri, President of the Trust, expressed his pride in facilitating such divine journeys, emphasizing the role of the pilgrimage in spiritual cleansing, self-purification, and inner peace.

The event began with a sacred Vedic Havan and Pooja Archana at the Sankat Mochan Panchmukhi Shree Hanuman Mandir Complex, located on B.C. Road, Jammu.

The holy rituals, accompanied by the chanting of mantras, created a deeply spiritual atmosphere for the yatis. Following the rituals, the batch of devotees was flagged off in a special bus by Pawan Kumar Shastri on behalf of Satish Sharma. Before their departure, the yatis were served refreshments, including food packets and bottled water, ensuring their journey was comfortable.

Speaking at the flag-off ceremony, Pawan Shastri extended his heartfelt wishes to the yatis, urging them to embrace the pilgrimage as an opportunity for spiritual awakening and divine blessings. He emphasized that the journey was not just a travel experience but a profound step towards inner peace and enlightenment.

The flag-off ceremony was graced by several distinguished personalities, including Gurlas Sharma (Treasurer/Trustee, JYBT), Raj Kumar Gupta (Trustee), Ajay Sharma (S.P. South, Jammu), Agrezoo Ram Sharma (P.R.O. to Cabinet Minister Satish Sharma), Sham Lal Shastri, Sukhdev Sharma (WCM, JYBT), Rajesh Rakwal (Private Secretary to President), Rashpal Sharma (Engineer, JYBT), and Raj Kumar (General Manager, Head Office, JYBT).

## Rakesh Charak elected as President of Greater Kailash Traders Association

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In a significant development for the business community in Greater Kailash, 32 shopkeepers gathered in Lane No. 26 for a meeting of the Greater Kailash Traders Association.

The meeting concluded with the unanimous election of Rakesh Singh Charak (Raka) as the new President of the association. The decision reflects the collective trust and confidence of the traders in Charak's ability to represent their interests and lead the association effectively.

As the new president, he is expected to address key issues faced by the business community, promote unity among traders, and work towards improving the



Meeting of Greater Kailash Traders Association during meeting.

overall trade environment in Greater Kailash. Speaking on the occasion, members expressed their optimism about the association's future under Charak's leadership. They lauded his dedication to the community and emphasized

the need for strong leadership to tackle the challenges faced by local traders. The meeting marked a pivotal moment for the traders in Greater Kailash, setting the stage for collaborative efforts to enhance trade and commerce in the area.

## KCPS students selected for National Netball Championship

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The J&K Netball Association recently conducted trials to select a contingent of 24 boys and girls to represent the UT of J&K at the National Sub-Junior Netball Championship 2025 scheduled to be held at Bhiwani, Haryana from 27th March to 2nd April 2025. Hundreds of gifted Netball players from all the District of J&K appeared in the selection trials and put their best foot forward in an effort to find a place for themselves in this prestigious National sporting event.

Four boys and two girls of KC Public school made a mark at the selection trials and earned the honour of representing the UT of J&K at this National Level contest. The selected students were Devansh Singh, Aditya Raina, Advay Singh



Management along with coaches and winner students.

Shivansh Sharma, Manasvi Sudan and Sharanya Khajuria. The students were trained by their coach Shrislita. "We are incredibly proud of our students for being selected to compete at the Sub-Junior National Netball Championship," said Principal Amarendra Kumar Mishra. "Their hard work, determination, and teamwork have paid off, and we are excited to see them showcase their talent on a national stage."

Management of KC Public School wished the students the best of luck as they prepare to represent the school and the UT on this prestigious stage.

## Vishwa Bharti College of Education organizes seminar on 'Nasha Mukh Bharat'

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Vishwa Bharti College of Education, Akalpur, organized a seminar on the critical issue of 'Nasha Mukh Bharat'.

The event commenced with a ceremonial lamp-lighting led by President S.K. Koul, along with former President J.L. Koul, Retired IGP Yoginder Koul, Prof. A.N. Sadhu, Retired Session Judge B.L. Saraf, Dr. R.K. Saproo, and Virender Dembi. Faculty members, students, and staff of the college gathered to seek the blessings of Goddess Saraswati.

Presiding over the seminar, Ex-President and founding member J.L. Koul, who was



Dignitaries during the seminar.

also the chief guest, emphasized the importance of addressing drug abuse as a societal threat. The program began with a warm welcome by third-semester students, who also anchored the event. Various students delivered

speeches on the dangers of drug abuse, drug trafficking, and strategies to combat these issues. They also discussed rehabilitation programs initiated by the government, private, and voluntary organizations.

President Dr. S.K. Koul commended the students' efforts and shared valuable insights, highlighting the critical role future educators play in creating a drug-free nation. Treasurer of the Jammu

Unit, Yoginder Koul, emphasized the responsibilities of upcoming teachers in eradicating drug abuse and contributing as constructive members of society. Senior member J.L. Koul suggested including the topic of drug abuse in the B.Ed. curriculum to foster awareness among educators. Outstanding speakers were recognized and awarded trophies and certificates by the judging committee for their performances. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. Soomam Latta. The seminar served as a platform to inspire collective efforts towards a drug-free India.

### Deputy Director I&C honours winners

## Jammu lifts Sr Men's, Women's Softball titles

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: District Jammu lifted the twin titles of J&K UT Softball/Baseball Championship 2024-25, organized by J&K Softball Association in collaboration with Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council, which concluded at Bakshi Stadium, here on Thursday.

Deputy Director Industries & Commerce Kashmir, Dr Iqbal Hussain Wani was the chief guest on the closing ceremony, while Nusrat Gazala, Divisional Sports Officer Kashmir; Mushtaq Ahmad, Managing Director, C P Advertising Company Pvt Ltd; Mushtaq Ahmad Zargar, Senior Manager, J&K Sports Council and Hilal Ahmad, Deputy Manager, J&K Sports Council were the guests of honour. In Senior



Organisers along with winner team posing for photograph.

Men's, Jammu emerged the winner, Pulwama runners-up and the third place went to Srinagar, while in Senior Women, Jammu claimed the title, Srinagar won runners-up trophy and the third place went to Pulwama. Meanwhile, in Baseball Junior Category in boys section, Udhampur bagged the title, Pulwama emerged runners-up, while in Baseball Sub Junior Category in boys Section, Pulwama bagged the title, Udhampur

emerged runners-up trophy. In Sub Junior Boys, District Srinagar clinched the title, Udhampur emerged runners-up and the third place was bagged by Samba, while in Sub Junior Girls, Srinagar emerged winner, Anantnag runners-up & third place won by J&K Softball Academy. In Junior Boys, Srinagar bagged the title, Samba claimed runners-up trophy and the third place went to Pulwama, while in Junior

Girls, Udhampur bagged the title, Jammu claimed runners-up trophy and the third place went to Kulgam. Over 500 athletes from 14 districts of both Jammu and Kashmir Divisions participated in the Championship. Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest congratulated J&K Softball Association for organizing such a beautiful Championship in the most professional and befitting manner. He said that regular tournaments will



Organisers along with players during the tournament.

continuously be organised by the Association with the support of J&K Sports Council for taking this medal winning sport of Softball to great heights in UT of Jammu & Kashmir. He also appreciated the initiative taken by the association for the development of Softball in J&K. Later-on, the chief guest distributed Medals and Trophies among the winners, runner-up and third place holders in all categories of both events and encouraged them for further upgrading of their sports skill in this potential sport of Softball.

The vote of thanks was given by Waseem Raja Khan, General Secretary of J&K Softball Association who extended thanks to the dignitaries and all for their support.

gathering, including senior citizens, senior cricketers, youth of Poonch, media fraternity, and the general public, all gathered to honor the sacrifice and service of Shaheed DySP Manjeet Singh. The tournament began with a ceremonial start by SSP Poonch, Shafkat Hussain, who was joined by other senior officers from the Police Poonch, including Addl SP and SP Operations, Poonch. The tournament will provide an opportunity for local talent

to showcase their cricketing skills while commemorating the legacy of the martyr. The event has been warmly received by the local community and promises to be an exciting occasion for all participants and spectators. The tournament stands as a tribute to the sacrifice of Shaheed Dy. SP Manjeet Singh, and its successful organization emphasizes the deep connection between the police, youth, and the community in Poonch.

## J&K teams leaves for National Kho Kho Championship



Coaches along with team posing for photograph before departure.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir UT Kho Kho Association flagged off its Men's and Women's teams for the 57th Senior National Kho Kho Championship 2025. The championship, set to take place in Odisha from March 31 to April 4, 2025, is a platform for the region's finest athletes to showcase their skills and bring national recognition to their talent and hard work.

The Men's team comprises a mix of experienced and emerging players namely Hunykeit Sharma, Yogesh Kumar, Sourav Kumar, Ashish Singh, Shabir, Manav Singh, Tarun Kumar, Rajan Sharma, Sunil Singh, Vansh Sharma, Sukhpreet Singh Ball, Manpreet Singh, Mohd. Tahir, Tejis Kotwal, and Irshad Salman Khan. The team is guided by Head Coach Dhiraj

Sharma, Assistant Coach Sahil Dev Singh, and Manager Aasif Ayoub. The Women's team, known for their grit and agility, features talented players such as Akshra, Anchal, Sonia Katoch, Sonia Choudhary, Shalini Kotwal, Ruchi Mala, Insha, Shubnum, Munnera, Palivi Thakur, Sneha Mahajan, Priyanka Devi, Aadya Manhas, Bandana Sharma, and Anamika Sharma. Their journey is supported by Head Coach Pushpawati Bali, Assistant Coach Sahil Angural, and Manager Babli Kumari, who have played a vital role in nurturing their potential.

The formal flag-off ceremony was a moment of pride and excitement, attended by key officials and mentors. Among those present were DSO JK Sports Council Baljinder Pal Singh, Anil Sharma

## Col Ranveer leads historic Mt. Kangchenjunga expedition

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Bringing glory to Jammu and Kashmir and India, pride of Jammu, Colonel Ranveer Singh Jamwal, a renowned mountaineer and adventurer, has embarked on a historic mission to lead the Mt. Kangchenjunga Expedition 2025, which was flagged off by Minister of State for Defence, Sanjay Seth.

This ambitious expedition, undertaken by Team NIMAS (National Institute of Mountaineering and Adventure Sports, Arunachal Pradesh), aims to hoist the Tricolor on India's highest peak, Mt. Kangchenjunga (8,586m), marking the true culmination of the 'Har Shikhar Tiranga' initiative.

Colonel Ranveer Singh, the only person from J&K to have summited Mt. Everest three times, has once again made the



Minister of State for Defence, Sanjay Seth along with participants before departure.

region proud by leading this prestigious expedition. He is also the only person from the UT to have climbed the highest mountains of all seven continents and has set multiple world, Asian, and Indian records in mountaineering, cycling, and rafting. Over the

beyond limits. Under Col Jamwal's leadership, NIMAS has been setting new records every year. Most recently, in February 2025, Team NIMAS made history by becoming the first-ever team to raft the entire 1,040 km stretch of the Brahmaputra River in India, achieving a new world record. Kangchenjunga is the third highest mountain in the world, but it is known to be even more challenging than Mount Everest due to extreme weather, technical climbs, and high avalanche risks. This expedition is not just about reaching the summit-it is about honoring India's mountaineering legacy and proving the strength and skill of Indian climbers on the global stage. Speaking at the flag-off ceremony, Minister of State for Defence, Sanjay Seth praised

NIMAS's efforts and acknowledged Col Jamwal's invaluable contribution to adventure sports in India. Colonel Jamwal has long been an inspiration for the youth of J&K. From humble beginnings to becoming India's most accomplished mountaineer, he has continuously pushed boundaries, proving that determination and hard work can take you to the greatest heights. His message to the youth remains the same: "Dream big, work hard, and never give up. The mountains may be tough, but the spirit of a true adventurer is tougher." This historic expedition will place Jammu once again on the world map of adventure sports, and as Col Jamwal and his team take on this monumental challenge, the people of J&K stand proudly behind him, cheering for his success.

years, he has become a symbol of resilience, discipline, and adventure, proving that a boy from Jammu can reach the highest summits in the world. His achievements have inspired thousands of youth, not just in J&K but across the country, to embrace adventure and push

## Insp Rashid selected as Coach for Indian Fencing Team at Senior Fencing World Cup

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Inspector Rashid Ahmed Choudhary of Jammu and Kashmir Police has been appointed as the Coach of the Indian Fencing Team. The team will compete in the Senior Fencing (Sabre) World Cup, scheduled to be held in Budapest, Hungary, at the end of March 2025.

A former international fencing player, Rashid

Ahmed Choudhary has represented India on numerous occasions, bringing laurels to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. His journey from being an exceptional athlete to a respected coach reflects his dedication and passion for the sport. Rashid has previously coached the Indian Fencing Team in various events, further showcasing his expertise and commit-



ment. Rashid's accolades include the prestigious State Award, Sher-e-Kashmir Sports Award, and the DGP Medal for his outstanding contributions to sports. Additionally, he holds the distinction of being the first Indian to earn an FIE B License as a Sabre Referee, underlining his exceptional standing in the global fencing community. Vijay Kumar, President of the J&K

Fencing Association, congratulated Rashid on this remarkable achievement, calling it a proud moment for the entire Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The fencing fraternity across the region has also extended their wishes, acknowledging the significance of this milestone in Rashid's career and its positive impact on the sport in the region.