

## Reasi District Volleyball Championship begins Veer VC Reasi, Viper's VC Katra enter finals



VVK officials with other dignitaries and participating teams.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

**KATRA:** The 37th Reasi District Volleyball Championship commenced today at the Sports Complex, Katra. The two-day championship is being organised by the Volleyball Association of J&K in coordination with the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and is being held under the aegis of the J&K Sports Council.

A total of eight teams from different far-flung areas of Reasi district are participating in the tournament. The championship aims to explore and promote volleyball talent among the youth of the district.

Sanjeev Kotwal, DGM, SMVDSB, inaugurated the championship as the Chief

Guest. While addressing the players and sports enthusiasts, he appreciated the efforts of the organisers for selecting the Sports Complex Katra as the venue for the event. He emphasized that the Shrine Board remains committed to channelizing the energy of youth towards nation-building and encouraging them to stay away from the menace of drugs.

The matches witnessed energetic rallies, impressive skills, and strong coordination among players as teams competed enthusiastically for a place in the finals.

Speaking on the occasion, Kuldip Magotra, on behalf of the Volleyball Association of J&K, highlighted the importance of sports in the overall

development of youth and their role in nation building. After a series of competitive matches, Veer Volleyball Club Reasi and Viper's Volleyball Club Katra secured their places in the finals of the championship.

The Chief Guest was also honoured with a memento during the inaugural ceremony. The day-long event was attended by a large number of players and sports lovers from across Reasi district.

Among the dignitaries present on the occasion were Senior VVK member VK Magotra, Jagdeep Singh (Shooting Coach), Rakesh Sharma, and Subash Shastri from the Jammu District Volleyball Association.

## CSIR-IIIM marks International Women's Day with focus on POSH awareness and workplace dignity

### STATE TIMES NEWS

**JAMMU:** The CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu organised a programme to mark International Women's Day under the theme "Rights. Justice. Action. For All Women and Girls - Ensuring Fair, Inclusive and Accessible Justice for All Women." The event focused on strengthening workplace culture through awareness about the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) Act and promoting dignity, respect and safety in professional spaces.

Purnima Arora, Deputy Secretary, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), attended the programme as the Chief Guest, while social activist Alka Sharma delivered the keynote address. Scientists, researchers, administrative staff and students of the institute participated in the event. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Arora said International Women's Day is not mere-



Deputy Secretary CSIR, Purnima Arora with other dignitaries posing for a photograph.

ly a symbolic celebration but a reminder to ensure equal opportunities and supportive environments for women. She referred to constitutional provisions such as Articles 14, 15 and 16 that guarantee equality before the law, prohibit gender-based discrimination and ensure equal opportunity in public employment.

She noted that several legislations-including the POSH Act, the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act and the Maternity Benefit Act-have been enacted to safeguard women's rights and dignity.

However, she emphasised that legal provisions alone are not sufficient and soci-

ety must ensure that women are empowered to exercise these rights effectively.

Highlighting women's growing role in science and administration, Dr. Arora said CSIR employs around 10,500 personnel across its laboratories, with nearly 20 percent being women, including directors, scientists and research leaders. She added that women are increasingly contributing to innovation, research leadership and organisational management.

Delivering the keynote session, Dr. Alka Sharma emphasised that the POSH Act is not only a legal framework but a foundation for creating a

respectful workplace culture. Through interactive examples, she explained various forms of workplace harassment, including inappropriate remarks, unwanted invitations and invasion of personal space. She stressed that safe, respectful workplaces are essential for institutional productivity and innovation.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Zabeer Ahmed highlighted the evolving role of women in institutions and society. He noted that women are making significant contributions across sectors, including science, governance and infrastructure development. He also

observed that the number of women researchers and scholars at CSIR-IIIM has been steadily increasing.

Dr. Ahmed reaffirmed the institute's commitment to creating an inclusive environment and announced that a day-care facility will soon be established on campus to support working mothers. He also conveyed greetings on behalf of Union Minister Jitendra Singh. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Contoller of Administration Kaushal Kumar. Women staff members were also felicitated for their contributions, and the event proceedings were conducted by Dr. Gurleen Kour.

## IIM Jammu inaugurates Advanced Management Development Programme under ESDP-DCMSME

### STATE TIMES NEWS

**JAMMU:** The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu inaugurated the Advanced Management Development Programme under the Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programme (ESDP) of the Development Commissioner MSME, Government of India, at its Jagti Campus on Monday.

The inaugural ceremony began with the traditional lighting of the lamp, symbolising the pursuit of knowledge and collective wisdom. The five-day residential programme, scheduled from March 9 to March 13, 2026, has brought together 25 participants from various regions of the country, including Jammu & Kashmir, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Haryana, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

The inaugural session was presided over by Prof.



Participants and dignitaries posing for a photograph at IIM Jammu.

Prashant Mishra, Chairperson, Executive Education & Consultancy (EE&C), IIM Jammu. The programme directors, Dr. Praveen Kumar and Ms. Shivani Sachdeva, also graced the occasion.

Welcoming the participants, Prof. Prashant Mishra highlighted the timeless Indian ethos of "Atithi Devo Bhava" and "Guru Devo Bhava," emphasizing respect for guests and teachers in the learning process. He encouraged participants to adopt an entrepreneurial mindset and strive to

become job creators rather than job seekers, stressing the importance of innovation and enterprise development.

He also shared insights from his professional journey and explained the role of Executive Education and Consultancy initiatives at IIM Jammu, noting that such programmes serve as an important bridge between academic knowledge, industry practices and professional development. He further underlined the importance of peer learning, encouraging participants to share their

experiences and insights to create a collaborative environment for mutual learning. Dr. Praveen Kumar, Programme Director, provided an overview of the five-day programme and highlighted the importance of Management Development Programmes (MDPs) in enabling professionals to upgrade their skills and remain relevant in a rapidly evolving business environment.

He also stressed the growing significance of Artificial Intelligence-based applications, stating that the programme aims

to equip participants with contemporary insights and practical understanding of AI and its role in modern professional and entrepreneurial ecosystems.

During the session, participants introduced themselves and shared their expectations from the programme. The inaugural event concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Programme Director Ms. Shivani Sachdeva.

The outreach and initial engagement with MSMEs across India for the programme were facilitated by Dr. Atanu Dutta, Officer-in-Charge for the Advanced MDPs at IIM Jammu. The programme is being coordinated by the Executive Education and Consultancy Office of IIM Jammu.

The initiative aims to equip entrepreneurs with strategic insights, managerial competencies and collaborative networks, enabling them to accelerate enterprise growth and contribute effectively to India's MSME ecosystem.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) has added another vibrant feather to its colourful cap with the selection of three standout women cricketers in the North Zone squad for the Senior Women's Multi-Day Tournament, scheduled to be held from March 20, 2026 to April 3, 2026. The selection meeting, convened by the Member Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) of JKCA, Meenu Singh Slathia at Hostel Ground, Jammu, brought together esteemed selectors namely Reema Malhotra (DDCA), Rajni Kumari (HCA), Rajwinder Kour (PCA), Surinder Mehta (HPCA), Amit Prashar (UTCA), and Anuradha Sharma (JKCA). From a competitive 15-member squad, the selectors unanimously picked stylish batting all-rounder Chitra Singh Jamwal (JKCA), Ayushi Soni (DDCA), Ananaya Sharma (JKCA), Preeti Bose (HCA), Bismah Hassan (JKCA),



player Bawandeep Kaur (JKCA) also earned a spot.

These seasoned performers dominated the league phase: Chitra smashed 245 runs with two half-centuries; Bismah Hassan has taken 6 wickets in the league phase and has impressed the selectors with her rhythmic run-up and speed; and Ananaya's control and variation has made her selectors' favourite.

North Zone Squad: Priya Punia (DDCA), Pragya Rawat (WK) (DDCA), Shweta Sehrawat (Captain) (DDCA), Chitra Singh Jamwal (JKCA), Ayushi Soni (DDCA), Ananaya Sharma (JKCA), Preeti Bose (HCA), Bismah Hassan (JKCA),

Soni Yadav (DDCA), Suman Guliya (HCA), Mannat Kashyap (PCA), Taniya Bhatia (UTCA), Tanisha Singh (DDCA), Sushmita Singh (HPCA), Sushma Verma (WK) (HPCA),

Standbys: Sheetal Rana (HCA), Bawandeep Kaur (JKCA), Pragati Sharma (PCA), Monika (UTCA), Bharti Rawal (DDCA), Shivangi Singh (HPCA), Deeksha Sharma (DDCA). The Support Staff includes Deepti Dyani (Head Coach DDCA), Andrea Kour (Assistant Coach PCA), Raj Yadav (Trainer UTCA), Divya Sarotia (Physiotherapist JKCA), Parveen Aziz (Manager JKCA), R. Mani Raj (Performance Analyst HCA), Sonali Thakur (Masseur HPCA).

Brig Anil Gupta, Member-Administration, JKCA, congratulated the JKCA's trio on this landmark achievement, hailing them as "special talents" and wishing them success in their future endeavours.

## CLUJ VC wins ISTD National Best Member award

### STATE TIMES NEWS

**JAMMU:** Vice Chancellor (VC) of Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ), Prof. K. S. Chandrasekar was awarded the Indian Society for Training and Development (ISTD) Best Member 2024-25 at a glittering ceremony held at the Mahindra Resort, Mysore during the Annual National Convention of ISTD on 6th March 2026.

He was selected among the 11000 members from 57 chapters across the country on various criteria including performance of the member, organising training and development programs, seminars, student capacity



Past President Dr. Upinder Dhar and the present President, Dr. Atul Shah presenting award to Prof. K. S. Chandrasekar.

development programs, regular attendance at the Managing committee meeting, developmental activi-

ties. ISTD is a not for profit organisation having members from the field of Human Resources, Training and Consulting areas.

Dr. K.S Chandrasekar is currently the Chairman of the ISTD Trivandrum chapter and since joining Cluster University, has taken initiatives to start a Chapter in Jammu and Kashmir with Jammu as a centre.

The award was jointly given by the Past President and former Vice Chancellor, Dr. Upinder Dhar and the present President, Dr. Atul Shah. More than 400 members participated in the National convention.

## Teachers' Professional Development workshop held at KNIT



Director KNIT, Prof. J.L. Kotwal with teachers at a workshop.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

**JAMMU:** A Teachers' Orientation Programme was organized at Kotwal National Institute of Teaching (KNIT), a leading Institution at B-11, Bharat Nagar, Talab Tillo, Jammu

to enhance teaching methodologies and strengthen educators' pedagogical skills in modern classroom practices. The workshop brought together teachers from various departments who actively participated in interactive

sessions from 25th February 2026 to 7th March 2026. The workshop was inaugurated by the Director KNIT, Prof. J.L. Kotwal and the Principal

Bimla Blaria. They emphasized the importance of continuous professional development in adapting to evolving educational needs by undergoing SWOT Analysis. The Director highlighted that such initiatives play a crucial role in maintaining high academic standards and fostering a culture of lifelong learning among educators.

The workshop concluded with a vote of thanks with participants expressing that the sessions were insightful, motivating and beneficial for their professional development.

## GHSS Paloura hosts Parent-Teacher Meet



GHSS Paloura faculty at parent-teacher meet.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

**JAMMU:** Government Higher Secondary School Paloura on Monday organized a Parent-Teacher Meet (PTM) cum Result Declaration Programme for classes 6th to 9th.

The PTM was held under the guidance of the School Principal Rajesh Magotra. The meeting witnessed active participation from

parents, students and teachers.

The teachers discussed the academic performance of students and shared valuable feedback with parents. Students who secured the 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions in their respective classes were felicitated and awarded prizes by the Principal.

## CM Omar Abdullah hosts dinner to honour J&K's Ranji Trophy Champions

### STATE TIMES NEWS

**JAMMU:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday hosted a dinner in honour of the Jammu & Kashmir Ranji Trophy champion team, celebrating their remarkable achievement. The team was warmly received by the Chief Minister in the presence of his Cabinet colleagues and senior officers. On the occasion, the players were also presented with an award money of Rs 2 crore in recognition of their outstanding performance. President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, Mithun Manhas, was also present at the event. Congratulating the players, the Chief Minister lauded their dedication and perseverance, saying their achievement has



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah honouring J&K Ranji Trophy champion team.

brought immense pride to Jammu & Kashmir. He wished them continued success and encouraged them to keep striving for excellence and making the region proud on the national stage.

Among those present on

the occasion were Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary; Ministers Sakina Itoo, Javed Ahmad Rana, Javid Ahmed Dar and Satish Sharma; Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo; Commissioner Secretary

Youth Services & Sports Shahid Iqbal Choudhary; Director General Youth Services & Sports, JKCA administrators and members, Secretary Sports Council and other senior officers.

## International Women's Day celebrated in K.C. College of Education

### STATE TIMES NEWS

**JAMMU:** A Poster Making Activity on the theme "Give to Gain" was organized at KC College of Education on the occasion of International Women's Day. The activity aimed to spread the message that sharing kindness, support, and opportunities with others helps everyone grow. Students participated

in order to gain equality and empowerment. The event was organized by the NSS Programme Officer, Priya Gupta, who encouraged students to express their ideas through art and creativity. The Principal of KC College of Education, Dr. Sanjay Tickoo appreciated the efforts of the students and praised their creativity and participation. The activity successfully



KC College of Education students making posters.

enthusiastically and made creative posters highlighting the idea of giving respect, encouragement, and help to women in soci-

spread awareness about the importance of giving support and respect to women for building a better and more equal society.