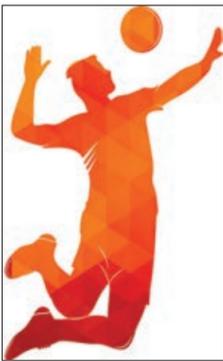


VAJK to organise 37th Doda District Volleyball Championship from March 24

STATE TIMES NEWS
DODA: The Volleyball Association of J&K (VAJK) is set to organise the 37th Doda District Volleyball Championship Men from March 24 to 25, 2026 at Govt Degree College Bhaderwah under the banner of the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council.

The championship will be conducted as per the rules laid down by the Volleyball Federation of India.

All interested volleyball clubs of Doda district have been requested to confirm their entries on or before March 23, 2026. For further details regarding participation, teams can contact Mob



No-7006929422 of Mudassar. Organising Secretary of Doda District Volleyball Championship.

Speaking about the event, Hony General Secretary VAJK, Kunal Magotra said that the association remains committed to promoting volleyball at the grassroots level.

"This championship provides a vital platform for local players to showcase their talent and compete in a professional environment. We are confident that the event will further strengthen the sporting culture in Doda district," he said.

He added that the championship aims to highlight emerging talent and promote volleyball as a growing sport in the region, while encouraging youth participation and healthy competition.

IGNOU Term-End Examinations starting from June 1; online exam form submission link thrown open

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The online link for submission of examination forms for June 2026 Term End Examinations of IGNOU has been thrown open for the eligible students. The examinations are tentatively going to commence from June 1, 2026 across the Country in one go and will conclude on July 15, 2026. The online link for submission of examination forms is <https://ignou.samarth.edu.in/index.php/site/login> which can be accessed on the SAMARTH portal of IGNOU. The last date for submission of exam forms has been fixed for April 10, 2026 without late fee. From April 11, 2026 onwards, a late fee component of Rs.1100/- in addition to



Rs.200/- per course will be charged.

Under the Jammu Region, 34 Examination Centres have been established including four Examination Centres in District Jail Ambphalla, District Jail Udhampur, District Jail Kathua and Central Jail Kot Bhalwal Jammu exclusively for Jail inmates and also in one Examination Centre in Northern Command Udhampur exclusively for Army personnel. Regional

Centre Jammu has established Examination Centres in all the ten district headquarters of Jammu province in order to ensure that no student has to travel long distances to take their respective exams.

Regional Director Dr. Sandeep Gupta informed that out of the 34 examination centres established in the region, as many as 13 exam centres have been established in Jammu district only other than the two jail centres of Central Jail and District Jail Jammu. This has been done keeping in mind the huge rush of examinees opting for Centres in Jammu city and outskirts in summers. The exam centres established in Jammu district include prominent

and prestigious Institutions like GGM Science College, Govt. SPMR College of Commerce, Govt. Degree College, RS Pura, Govt. Degree College Paloura (Mishriwala), Govt. College for Women, Parade, Govt. College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, Govt. M.A.M. College, Central Sanskrit University, Kot Bhalwal Campus, SKUAST Jammu, Chatha Campus, KC College of Education, Akhnor Road, and Govt. Degree College Akhnor. In addition to these, one examination centre has been established in National Skill Training Institute (NSTI), Women, Bhour Camp exclusively for the students who opt for taking exams in CBT mode. Dr. Sandeep Gupta expressed

confidence in conducting fair and smooth Term End Examinations across the region with the cooperation of administration, Higher Education Department, management and staff of RC, Centre Superintendents and other stakeholders and field functionaries in the region. He advised the students to exercise caution while submitting the examination form online since there would be no option to carry out rectifications of any sort in the later stages as per SAMARTH guidelines. The Regional Centre hand-out also mentioned that the students should submit the exam form online without waiting for the last date in order to avoid last hour rush and digital traffic complications.

IIT Jammu organizes workshop on "Academic Administration at IITs and the Role of Functionaries"

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Technology Jammu organized a workshop on the theme "Academic Administration at IITs and the Role of Functionaries," aimed at strengthening institutional governance, administrative efficiency, and leadership within the academic ecosystem.

Institutions of higher learning thrive not only on academic excellence but also on robust administrative systems and effective leadership. Recognizing the critical role played by academic and administrative functionaries in translating institutional vision into impactful action, IIT Jammu initiated this workshop as a platform for reflection, dialogue, and capacity building.

The workshop brought together key institutional stakeholders, including Assistant Registrars, Deputy Registrars, Deans, Associate Deans, Professors-in-Charge, and other functionaries, with the objective of enhancing understanding of academic governance, institutional processes, and leadership responsibilities within the IIT system.

The inaugural session was graced by Prof. S. N. Singh, Professor Emeritus, IIT Delhi, as the Chief Guest. In his address, Prof. Singh



A dignitary lighting ceremonial lamp.

emphasized the importance of informed decision-making, administrative accountability, and a clear understanding of institutional roles. Drawing from his vast academic and administrative experience, he highlighted the need for functionaries to engage deeply with institutional processes and exercise their responsibilities with clarity and diligence.

Prof. B. K. Kanaujia, Director, NIT Jalandhar, delivered an insightful session on "Professional Ethics, Moral Conduct, and Decision Making at the Workplace." He underlined the importance of ethical practices, time management, and responsible decision-making in academic administration. He stressed that visible activity must translate into tangible progress and encouraged participants to adopt principled and transparent approaches in their profes-

sional roles.

An expert session on "Administrative Structure in the IIT System" was delivered by Prof. S. N. Singh, who provided a comprehensive overview of the governance framework within IITs. He elaborated on the hierarchy, roles, and responsibilities of various administrative units and emphasized the importance of understanding both the authority and limitations associated with different roles. He also highlighted the significance of adhering to administrative protocols and thoroughly examining institutional matters before decision-making.

Col Virinder Singh Jeji (Retd.), Registrar, IIT Jammu, delivered a session on "Navigating Governance, Administration, and Academic Excellence in an IIT Ecosystem." He discussed the critical role of the Registrar's office in ensuring

the smooth functioning of institutional processes. He elaborated on administrative procedures, regulations, and ordinances, while also emphasizing clarity in roles, responsibilities, and execution mechanisms within the system.

The concluding expert session was delivered by Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur, Director, IIT Jammu, on "SARAL and Automation at IIT Jammu." Prof. Gaur shared insights into the institute's digital transformation initiatives, particularly the SARAL automation system, which has significantly enhanced efficiency, transparency, and ease of administration. He highlighted the importance of adopting technology-driven solutions to build responsive and future-ready governance systems. The workshop was coordinated by Dr. Ankit Tyagi, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Jammu, and witnessed active participation and engagement from faculty members and administrative officials.

Through interactive sessions and expert insights, the workshop successfully fostered a culture of collaborative leadership, ethical governance, and effective academic administration, reinforcing IIT Jammu's commitment to institutional excellence.

Chief Secretary interacts with young achievers in Leh



Chief Secretary Ladakh, Ashish Kundra at interactive meeting with young achievers from across the region in Leh.

STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Ashish Kundra, today chaired an interactive meeting with young achievers from across the region in Leh and virtually from kargil.

The interaction brought together a diverse group of innovators, entrepreneurs, and change-makers representing sectors such as sustainable tourism, handicrafts, pashmina production, waste management and recycling, renewable energy, agriculture, film-making, urban planning, hospitality, and social entrepreneurship.

Participants included founders of local enterprises, NGOs, charitable organizations, creative studios, travel companies, and independent artists, all of whom have been contributing significantly to Ladakh's socio-economic and cultural landscape. The meeting served as a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and idea exchange between

the administration and

emerging leaders of the region. During the session, the Secretary of Higher Education, Ms Bhanu Prabha appreciated the achievements and voluntary contributions of these young leaders, particularly their involvement in school orientation programs and educational development. She emphasized the importance of sustained engagement and requested the Chief Secretary to facilitate the institutionalization of such a forum to ensure long-term collaboration and structured support.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Secretary highlighted that the primary objective of forming this forum is to broaden perspectives, encourage innovation, and harness the collective potential of Ladakh's youth. He described the initiative as a "Young Leaders Forum" aimed at fostering unity, collaboration, and shared vision for the Union Territory's

development.

He stressed the need to strengthen Ladakh's tourism sector, which remains a key source of livelihood for its people. Emphasizing the global uniqueness of Ladakh, he underscored the importance of creating an integrated, AI-driven tourism portal that provides comprehensive information to visitors, similar to advanced global destinations. Such a platform, he noted, would showcase cultural heritage, travel experiences, and local enterprises while enabling achievers to contribute their ideas and insights.

The Chief Secretary also called upon the participants to take on mentorship roles for aspiring youth, encouraging entrepreneurship over conventional dependence on government employment. He highlighted the power of inspiration, peer learning, and collaboration, stating that local achievers possess deeper understanding of the region and can drive mean-

ingful change in partnership with the administration.

The vision includes developing integrated tourism packages, standardizing services, and building a robust regulatory and support framework.

The Chief Secretary also stressed the importance of leveraging financial resources, technology, and skill development to address challenges effectively. He encouraged participants to adopt a collective spirit, think from a local perspective, and contribute to designing a comprehensive development roadmap for Ladakh.

During the interaction, the achievers shared their experiences and raised concerns related to funding constraints, lack of awareness, educational gaps, and operational challenges in running startups and organizations. Issues related to tourism infrastructure and sectoral development were also discussed in detail.

Six M.Sc. Biotechnology students of CUJ qualify CSIR-UGC NET December 2025 Examination



STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Six students from the M.Sc. Biotechnology programme, Central University of Jammu have brought laurels to the institution by successfully qualifying the highly competitive CSIR-UGC National Eligibility Test (NET) held in December 2025. The successful students include Ankita Sharma (JRF), Siya Sharma (NET), Ruchika Sharma (NET), Ritika Sharma (NET), Prachi Sharma (NET) from the 2023-2025 session, and Sanskriti (JRF) from the 2024-2026 session. All are students of the Department of Biotechnology and Bioengineering, also known as the Centre for Molecular Biology.

The CSIR-UGC NET is a prestigious national-level examination that determines eligibility for Assistant Professor and awards the Junior Research Fellowship (JRF), enabling candidates to pursue advanced research and Ph.D. programmes in premier institutions across India. The outstanding performance of these students reflects their academic excellence, consistent dedication, and strong conceptual understanding in the life sciences. Their achievement also highlights the supportive academic environment and rigorous training provided by the Department of Biotechnology and Bioengineering, which has consistently promoted analytical thinking and research-oriented learning.

Congratulating the students, Director of the Centre for Molecular Biology, Dr. Narendra K. Bairwa, Dean of the School of Life Sciences, Prof. Sunil Dhar, and faculty members praised their hard work and perseverance. They expressed confidence that this accomplishment will open new avenues in research and academia for the students and inspire others to achieve similar milestones.

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, also lauded the achievement and attributed the success to the students' dedication, discipline, and effective mentorship by the faculty. He extended his best wishes to all NET and JRF qualifiers for their future academic and research endeavors.

Awareness Campaign on "From Plastic to Eco-Friendly Bags" held at GCW Gandhi Nagar

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An impactful awareness campaign on the theme "From Plastic to Eco-Friendly Bags" was successfully organized at Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government College for Women under the banner of 8 J and K Girls Battalion NCC. The programme was conducted in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee and the Department of Education, aiming to sensitize students and the local community about the harmful effects of plastic and the need for sustainable alternatives.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from NCC cadets, students, and faculty members. The Special Guest, Major Praveen, addressed the gathering and emphasized the importance of disciplined and collective efforts in adopting eco-friendly practices in daily life.

A key highlight of the programme was an informative lecture delivered by Randeep Manhas, who elaborated on the environmental hazards caused by plastic pollution. He stressed the



8 J&K Girls Battalion NCC cadets at awareness campaign.

urgent need for individual and collective responsibility in minimizing plastic usage and protecting the environment.

Adding a creative dimension to the campaign, NCC cadets prepared handmade eco-friendly bags and awareness placards. These were distributed among local shopkeepers and street vendors to encourage a shift away from plastic carry bags. The cadets also presented a powerful nukkad natak, effectively conveying the message of environmental conservation, followed by an awareness rally in the

Gandhi Nagar market area to engage the public.

The programme was conducted under the patronage of Dr Kulvinder Kour, who reiterated the institution's commitment to environmental sustainability. Dr Neetu Raina also extended her support and encouraged students to adopt eco-conscious lifestyles.

The event was efficiently coordinated by Rukhsana Kousar and concluded with a pledge by participants to reduce plastic usage and promote eco-friendly alternatives for a greener future.

J&K UT Wushu C'ship from March 27

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Wushu Association of J&K shall organize 19th J&K UT Wushu Championship at Indoor Hall, Bhagwati Nagar, here from March 27 to 30.

The event is being organized in collaboration with J&K Sports Council. The weigh-in and registration of players will take place on March 27 and the competition shall formally open on March 28.

The participants from all the 20 districts of the UT are expected to compete in this championship, a handout issued here today informed.

For further queries with regard to the event, those interested eligible participants may contact the organizing secretary (9797455055).



JMC urges residents to clear water dues before March 31 deadline

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: With the deadline for payment of water bills approaching on March 31, the Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation Dr. Devansh Yadav issued comprehensive directives to ensure maximum public participation in clearing pending dues and to streamline the collection process across the city.

In line with these directions, the Jal Shakti Department particularly Divisions 1 and 2 functioning within the jurisdiction of JMC launched a widespread awareness and facilitation campaign. As part of this initiative, 12 dedicated camps



JSD officials at an awareness campaign.

have been established at various locations across Jammu to educate residents about the importance of timely payment of water charges and to provide convenient on-the-spot payment facilities.

Under Division 1, camps have been set up at

Roopnagar, Dhonthli, Resham Ghar, Janipur and Hazuri Bagh. Similarly, under Division 2, camps are operational at Kunjwani, Trikuta Nagar, Sainik Colony, Digiana Ashram, Channi Himmat, Channi Rama and Greater Kailash.

These camps witnessed active participation from residents, with officials providing guidance, addressing queries and facilitating immediate bill payments.

The initiative aims not only to improve revenue realization but also to promote a sense of civic responsibility among citizens regarding the maintenance and sustainability of essential water supply services. Officials highlighted that water dues amounting to nearly Rs 30 crore are still pending across Jammu city, which significantly impacts the department's ability to maintain and upgrade infrastructure.

Appealing to the public, the

department urged all consumers to take advantage of these camps and clear their outstanding dues well before the deadline to avoid last-minute inconvenience. The camps have been strategically located to ensure easy accessibility for residents from all parts of the city.

Providing further details, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Department (Division 1) Tajinder Pal Singh said that strict action may be initiated against defaulters after the due date. He cautioned that non-payment of water charges could lead to disconnection of water supply connections and urged residents to act promptly.

Dr Syed Darakhshan visits Dargah Hazratbal for reviewing Eid congregation arrangements

STATE TIMES NEWS

HAZRATBAL: Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board (JKWB) Chairperson Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Thursday visited Dargah Hazratbal and paid obeisance there. Later she took stock of the arrangements for Eid-ul-Fitr congregation being made by Waqf Board.

Andrabi reviewed the arrangements on the spot along with the Waqf officers and the staff. She said that the Board has finalized all preparations for the biggest Eid prayer congregation being held here.

"People are witness to the up to the mark arrangements made by the Board here and



JKWB Chairperson Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi during visit to Dargah Hazratbal.

elsewhere for very huge prayer gatherings on Eid festival during the last four years. We are keeping up with our tradition and all preparations have been completed. We have installed many water proof facilities for prayers keeping in view the wet season but we are hopeful that

during the prayers on Eid, by the grace of God we will have a pleasant weather", said Dr Darakhshan.

Congratulating people on Eid, Andrabi wished a peaceful, prosperous future for all and prayed for the end of wars and violence throughout the world.