

# VAJK releases sports calendar for 2025-26

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The office bearers of Volleyball Association of J&K in a meeting held under the chairmanship of its President, Sidharth Daluja on Thursday have released sports calendar activities for the year 2025-26 at Lemon Tree Hotel Jammu.

While releasing the calendar, the President disclosed as many as 20 district volleyball championships all across J&K UT besides two J&K UT Level volleyball Championships for juniors and seniors in men and women groups shall be organized at Jammu and Srinagar as per dates given in the calendar.

The salient features of the calendar shall be holding of 4th South Kashmir (Men & Women) championship at Pulwama and first Tribal Boys and Girls Volleyball championship at Baramulla during the calendar year.

The Association also proposes to organize 8 Summer District Coaching Camps in J&K during 2025-26.

All these events shall be organized in coordination



President VAJK, Sidharth Daluja and other office bearers releasing annual calendar of activities at Jammu on Thursday.

with J&K Sports council.

Unveiling the concept of holding volleyball league in memory of Late Daswandi Ram Daluja, the President said from the current year in the month of August 2025, this league championship will be held at M A Stadium, Jammu under flood lit courts.

Special attractions of cash prizes to the tune of Rs 1 lakh, Rs 75,000 and Rs 50,000 besides trophies/mementoes shall be given away to the best

adjudged three teams of the league, he said adding that in this championship a team comprising of 12 players including two outsiders are eligible to contest.

The President congratulated players/coaches/office bearers for their excellent performance in Senior National Volleyball Championship held at Jaipur recently & qualified in Pre quarter finals for the first time.

The cash prizes worth Rs 90,000 were given away to

players for this achievement.

"Sports play a powerful role in shaping healthy, disciplined, and focused individuals. They offer a natural outlet for energy, stress, and emotions, helping people-especially youth-stay away from harmful habits like drug use," Sidharth Daluja said adding that engaging in sports builds teamwork, self-confidence, and resilience.

"It creates a sense of purpose and belonging, reduc-

ing the chances of turning to drugs as an escape," he said. "Drugs destroy lives, families, and futures. In contrast, sports uplift and inspire. Whether it's any sports including volleyball teach commitment, goal-setting, and perseverance-qualities that build a strong foundation for success in life," Sidharth Daluja said.

"By supporting sports, we're not just building athletes-we're building healthier, stronger, and more focused generations. Let's encourage sports and say no to drugs-for a brighter, drug-free future. Choose the game, not the substance," Sidharth Daluja urged youth of the UT.

The meeting was attended by Kuldeep Magotra, Chief Executive Officer, ILS Gill Executive Vice-President, Vijay Kumar Magotra General Secretary, Romesh Sharma Treasurer of Volleyball Association of J&K. The office bearers reiterated their dedication for selfless services for grooming of volleyball players in J&K UT.

# MBS College celebrates Baisakhi Festival



MBS CET Jammu faculty and students during Baisakhi celebration.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The campus MBS College of Engineering and Technology, Jammu, was imbued with vibrant colors and joyous energy as students, faculty, and staff came together to celebrate Baisakhi-a festival that symbolizes not just the spirit of harvest and prosperity, but also serves as a powerful reminder of our rich cultural heritage, the valor of Sri Guru Gobind Singh, the resilience of our farmers, and the sacrifices made by freedom fighters.

The celebration commenced with a warm and enthusiastic welcome address by Nitika Kashyap (6th CSE) and Joicepreet Kour (2nd CSE),

setting the tone for a day filled with cultural pride and collective joy. Prof. Parveen Singh, Dean Academics, addressed the gathering, emphasizing the importance of religious and cultural festivals in fostering unity and preserving our Heritage. Dr. Anurik Singh Incharge Principal was the guest of honour.

The festivities featured an impressive lineup of performances, including energetic Bhangra, graceful Giddha, soulful singing, expressive poetry, and engaging skits that showcased the rich cultural tapestry of Punjab and the spirit of togetherness.

A special highlight of the event was a storytelling seg-

ment where students shared personal reflections and stories on the significance of Baisakhi. These narratives touched on themes of gratitude, community bonding, and cultural identity, resonating deeply with the audience.

The event was thoughtfully organized by Saravjeet Kaur and Amarjot Kour, Assistant Professors, CSE Department.

The celebration concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by Harpreet Kour (6th IT), who expressed gratitude to Hond TV for covering the event and to all the dignitaries, performers, and participants for their enthusiastic involvement and support.

# Seminar on Career Counselling for B.Sc Biotechnology students by Rapture Biotech

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Department of Biotechnology, GGM Science College, under the patronage of Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal GGM Science College organized a seminar on Thursday. The seminar was organized in collaboration with Rapture Biotech Group to create awareness regarding the mandatory summer internship and various short term training program options available for the students. The event aimed to guide students through the wide array of career paths available after graduation in biotechnology, and was met with an enthusiastic response from the students.About 100students from Sem 2nd and Sem 4th Biotechnology (Major) participated in the seminar. The event began with a welcome address by Dr. Neha Mahajan, Assistant Professor Biotechnology who highlighted the importance of early career planning in a dynamic field like biotechnology. Prof. KiranBala, Head, Department of Biotechnology appreciated the students and resource persons for their active participation. The session was led by expert speakers from Rapture Biotech, Dr. Ambika and Er. Mayank Bhardwaj. The resource persons shared their knowledge and experience about current industry trends, higher education options, research opportunities, and emerging sectors such as bioinformatics, clinical research, and pharmaceutical sciences. One of the key highlights of the seminar was an interactive Q&A session, where students engaged directly with the experts, seeking clarity on career paths, required skillsets, and internship opportunities.

The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. Gourav Gupta, Assistant Professor Biotechnology who appreciated Rapture Biotech for sharing their valuable time and expertise.

Dr. Nancy Gupta, Dr. Richa Sharma, Prof Kirti Sharma and Dr. ArtiHeer also graced the occasion with their presence. Overall, the session proved to be highly informative, motivating, and well-received by attendees.



# Chess trials organised in Doda by BCADD

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Launching an ambitious programme to develop interest among the youngsters for the mind game of Chess in district Doda, the Bhaderkashi Chess Association of District Doda (BCADD) on Thursday organised trials at Bhartiya Vidhya Mandir Bhaderwah in sub-junior age groups of Under-seven, Under-nine, Under-11, Under-13 and Under-15.

In total, 95 players took part in this special talent hunt exercise. Principal of Bhartiya Vidhya Mandir Bhaderwah declared the event open while Rajesh Kotwal was observer from

J&K Sports Council. Leaders after two rounds in Girls section: Vanika Sharma and Jivika Charak in Under-seven; Aanaya Sharma and Yashahvi Manhas in under-nine; Shagun Kotwal and Yashika Kotwal in under-11; Aakriti Goswami, Sanchi Sharma, Viranagana Singh and Ojaswi Choudhary in under-13 and Izma Fatima Butt and Tapasiya Sharma in under-15.

Boys leaders at the end of round-two: Yudhveer Kotwal in under-seven; Yudhveer Kotwal and Zafir Ahmad in under-nine; Yudhveer Kotwal, Ansh Kotwal and Kavish Mehta

in under-11; Muneef Ahamad, Ranveer Singh, Anshuman Bhagat, Suryavansh, Zial UI Haq and Yudhveer Kotwal in under-13 and Sayam Kotwal, Shiva Thakur and Neeraj Kotwal in under-15.

The selection competition is being conducted by experienced Anil Kotwal FIDE (Arbiter).

Meanwhile, president of the BCADD, Anil Kotwal informed that similar event in senior categories of Under-17, Under-19 and Open shall be conducted in the month of June. For further queries, chess enthusiasts may feel free to contact Kotwal (7006471020).

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sherra of Punjab lifted the 44th annual Salora Kesari Dangal title defeating Ishaq Ahmed of J&K Police in the main bout that took place at Salora in district Reasi.

Winner Sherra awarded with a cash prize of Rs. 60,000 while runners up Ishaq Ahmed (Lallu) given away cash prize of Rs. 40,000.

In another main bout, Parveen of Delhi defeated Benia Min of J&K Police to be awarded a cash prize of Rs 60,000. Benia got Rs 40,000 as cash prize.

In another interesting bout, Abhinayak of Uttar Pradesh held equally good Shanbeen



Winner wrestler posing with dignitaries.

of Punjab to draw. Both the wrestlers shared Rs one lakh cash prize.

In this day-long dangal, 66 bouts took place. The organisers spent over Rs seven lakh to make the dangal

memorable.

Swarn Singh, prominent wrestling promoters was the chief guest, who made a contribution of Rs one lakh to the organising team. Shiv Kumar Sharma, president

# IGNOU extends last date for online submission of Examination Forms for June 2025 TEE

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: IGNOU has extended the last date for submission of online examination forms to appear in the June 2025 Term-End Examination (TEE) till 28th April, 2025 without any Late Fee.

The Examination fee is INR 200 per course for theory component and INR 300 per course for practical component. Students can fill out the IGNOU Exam Form for June 2025 online by visiting the official portal of the university <https://exam.ignou.ac.in/> followed by SAMARTH portal <https://ignou.samarth.ac.in/exam.php>. The examinations are likely to commence from 2nd June 2025.

"The Examination Centre will be allotted on the first come first serve basis and in case the sitting capacity at the chosen exam centre is full, the learners may opt for the nearest/alter-

nate exam centre", said Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director.

The University reserves the right to reschedule/cancel examinations/papers at any time in all the Examination Centre across the Country or in any particular Examination Centre/State due to any exigency or any other reasons.

The University has also extended the last date for submission of assignments till 30th April, 2025 for the June Term End exam 2025 for programmes. University accepts assignments for all programmes such as BSc, BCom, BBA, MBA, MCom, MA, MCA, and more to appear in the June TEE 2025. The assignments form an important component in the courses of programme completion as they carry 30% weightage of the total marks/grades.

# JMC felicitates wrestlers participated in Swachh Dangal on Baisakhi held at Suryaputri Tawi River Front



JMC officers with wrestlers at felicitation ceremony.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In celebration of the vibrant festival of Baisakhi, a wrestling competition was held at the scenic Suryaputri Tawi River Front. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from wrestlers representing Jammu & Kashmir Police, and other districts including Jammu, Udhampur, Reasi, and Samba.

The event highlighted the spirit of sportsmanship and community celebra-

tion, making the Baisakhi festival even more special for the people of Jammu.

To recognize their outstanding performances and sportsmanship, the participating wrestlers were felicitated by the officials of Jammu Municipal Corporation. Medals and trophies were presented to the winners, and runner-up players. Coaches, technical officers, and other officials associated with the event were also honored for their contribu-

tions to the successful organization of the competition.

Among others, Joint Commissioner (Administration), Krishan Lal, Joint Commissioner (R&E) Rakesh Gupta, Joint Commissioner (H&S), Abdul Star, Deputy Commissioner (South), Lal Chand, , Chief Accounts Officer, Sandeep Singh, VAS, Dr. Priyanka, besides other senior officers and officials were present on the occasion.

# JU organises one-day Manuscript Exhibition-cum-Workshop

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Urdu, University of Jammu (JU) and the Manuscript Conservation Centre, Shashvat Art Gallery and Museum, Jammu regional and Research Centre of National Mission for Manuscripts, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, New Delhi jointly celebrated "World Heritage Day " today on the theme "Conservation of Manuscripts."

The event featured exhibition and one-day workshop led by expert conservators from the Manuscript Conservation Centre, operating under National Mission for Manuscripts, the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, New Delhi.

The event included the exhibition-cum-workshop which was inaugurated by Nasir Aslam Wani, Advisor to Chief Minister of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir while Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, JU presided over the function.

The presidium was also

shared by Prof. Shohab Inayat Malik, Head, Department of Urdu, JU and Dr. Suresh Abrol, Coordinator of the Manuscript Conservation Centre under, National Mission for Manuscripts, Regional and Research Centre Jammu, Ministry of Culture.

Nasir Aslam Wani emphasized the pivotal role of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in redefining the educational landscape by placing language, culture, and the arts at the core of learning.

He urged students and scholars to recognize the immense value of Indian languages like Urdu, Hindi, Punjabi, and Sanskrit.

"These are not just mediums of communication-they are carriers of our history, our emotions, and our identity," he said. Stressing the importance of linguistic pride, he added, "One should never be apologetic about speaking their mother tongue. Language is a source of dignity, not division."

The Chief Guest also laid strong emphasis on the



Nasir Aslam Wani, Advisor to CM of J&K UT with Prof. Umesh Rai, VC JU visiting an exhibition.

preservation of manuscripts, describing them as the "living soul of our heritage."

He pointed out that these ancient texts encapsulate centuries of wisdom, philosophy, literature, and cultural memory, and their conservation is vital to understanding who we are as a civilization.

"Preserving manuscripts is not just an academic exercise-it is an emotional and cultural responsibility. They are a testimony to our pluralistic past

and must be safeguarded with urgency and care," he asserted.

He called for greater institutional support and public awareness to ensure that this legacy is passed on to future generations with pride and purpose. Presiding over the event, Prof. Umesh Rai, delivered an insightful address that called for a fundamental reimagining of how language education is approached in the modern era. Expressing con-

cern over the declining interest in traditional languages like Urdu, Dogri, and Punjabi, Prof. Rai urged academic departments to think beyond the conventional blackboard model and focus on making languages relevant, practical, and employment-oriented.

"We must ask ourselves-how many teachers or researchers can we realistically produce in these fields? Where will our students go if we do not link

language studies with opportunities for meaningful careers?" he said.

In a thought-provoking remark, Prof. Rai questioned whether artificial intelligence could be leveraged to restore incomplete manuscripts. "Can we create software, particularly in Urdu, that could help recover missing portions of historical texts? Can AI assist us in manuscript reconstruction and preservation?" he asked.

Encouraging interdisciplinary innovation, he urged language departments to explore such possibilities in collaboration with IT and heritage studies. He further reiterated the University's commitment to digitizing manuscripts and extending support for their preservation. "This is not merely an exhibition; it's a mission. Unless we adopt a mission-oriented approach, the true impact of such initiatives will remain unrealized," he affirmed. Highlighting the broader context of heritage conservation, Prof. Rai con-

cluded the preservation of manuscripts to the larger ecosystem of cultural heritage, which includes language, literature, arts, and indigenous knowledge systems.

"Our heritage is a mirror to our identity and evolution as a society. It holds immense potential in fostering social cohesion, economic empowerment, and environmental sustainability," he said.

Concluding his address, the Vice Chancellor called for embracing the four Cs-Culture, Creativity, Commerce, and Collaboration-as guiding pillars in safeguarding India's rich and diverse cultural legacy. He congratulated the Department of Urdu and the associated departments for their commendable efforts in organizing the manuscript exhibition, held in observance of World Heritage Day.

Dr. Suresh Abrol emphasized the significance of manuscript conservation. The resource persons, including Coordinator Dr. Suresh

Abrol, Senior Conservator Kailash Kumar and Junior Conservator Kewal Krishan Kotwal and Romesh Chander Advisor of the above said Museum conducted training sessions on the fundamentals of manuscript conservation.

Earlier, Prof. Shohab Inayat Malik provided insights into the Centre's initiatives and rationale behind selecting the workshop theme, aligning with the International Council of Museums' (ICOM) overarching theme for World Heritage Day 2025, "Museums for Education and Research."

Dr. Abdul Rashid Manhas, Assistant Professor at the Department of Urdu conducted the proceeding of the program while vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Chaman Lal, Assistant Professor at the Department of Urdu. A large number of students, scholars, college and University faculty members including Aaseer Kishitwari, Khalid Hussain, Sohail Kazmi and Dr Shehnawaz Parveen.