

# Indian U-19 Men's Volleyball team arrives in Tashkent for CAVA Championship 2025



Indian Under-19 Men's Volleyball Team with Manager Kuldeep Magotra and other official posing for a photograph.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
TASHKENT/JAMMU: The Indian Under-19 Men's Volleyball Team has landed in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, to participate in the Central Asian Volleyball Association (CAVA) U-19 Men's Volleyball Championship 2025. Scheduled to be held from June 10 to 16, the tournament promises high-

octane action as the continent's best young talents compete for regional supremacy. The Volleyball Federation of India's Adhoc Committee has officially announced a 12-member squad representing the country at this prestigious event. Carefully selected based on skill, form, and fitness, the team features a strong and bal-

anced mix of attackers, blockers, universals, setters, and liberos. The Indian squad includes Rajat Singh, Mahendra Dhurwe, Ashish Kumar, Sunil Muwal, Nandamudi Mourya, Vignesh Shanmugan, Adarsh Rai, Aadhi Krishna Nediyaara, Kunal Das, Akhilan Kamaraj, Alok Manoj Todkar, and Nikhil

Jat. These players, drawn from different states, have demonstrated remarkable consistency and potential on the domestic circuit. The team will be led by Head Coach K R Lakshminarayan, with support from Assistant Coaches Surinder Kumar and Mohd Javed. Manager Kuldeep Magotra is managing the squad, while Dr.

Utkarsh Kulshreshta has been appointed as the team's therapist. Narendar Kshatriya will accompany the contingent as referee. India opens its campaign against a formidable Iranian side on June 10. This will be followed by matches against Kyrgyzstan on June 11, Uzbekistan-I on June 12, and Uzbekistan-II on June

14. The group stage performances will be critical in determining the semifinal line-up.

Speaking ahead of the tournament, Manager Kuldeep Magotra expressed confidence in the squad's preparedness.

"The boys have trained rigorously, and we are entering this championship with high hopes. The aim is not just to compete but to showcase India's rising talent in international volleyball," he said. "The CAVA U-19 Championship is considered a vital platform for emerging players in Central and South Asia, offering a gateway to higher international exposure. With India's focus on nurturing young athletes, the performance in Tashkent will be closely watched by fans and sports authorities alike," he said.

As the Indian contingent settles into Tashkent and prepares for the opener, the entire nation rallies behind them, hoping for a strong performance and a podium finish in the week-long tournament.

## 6-day training of Trainers Programme on Civil Defence begins



Commandant SDRF 2nd Bn Jammu, Zahid Naseem Manhas with other officials and participants.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A six-day Training of Trainers (ToT) programme aimed at enhancing Civil Defence preparedness commenced on Monday at the Central Training Institute (CTI) HG/CD, Kot Bhalwal.

The programme was inaugurated by Commandant SDRF 2nd Battalion Jammu, Zahid Naseem Manhas. The event was attended by Dy. Commandant NDRF 13th Bn. Uttam Chand; Dy.SP & Staff Officer to DIG HG/CD & SDRF Jammu Tajinder Kour; Dy.SP & Principal CTI HG/CD Jammu Naseem Akhter; Dy.SP (Trainings) Dinesh Gupta

and Inspector Mohinder Parkash, In-charge Trainings SDRF 2nd Bn. Jammu. In his address, Commandant Zahid Naseem Manhas emphasized the importance of strengthening Civil Defence mechanisms, describing it as a critical component for collective disaster response and preparedness, especially during emergencies or enemy air strikes.

He also reviewed the logistical arrangements, including boarding and lodging facilities for the trainees, and issued directives to instructors for effective training delivery to Civil Defence volunteers.

## Faculty of Basic Sciences initiates global knowledge exchange through expert lecture series

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Under the visionary leadership and able guidance of Vice Chancellor, Prof. B.N. Tripathi, the faculty of Basic Sciences has launched an Expert Lecture Series aimed at enriching academic discourse through interactions with eminent scholars and researchers from across the globe.

Dr. Tareali spoke on his work on Cryptoneuroparasitica (Murrill) M.E. Barr fungus conducted at the University of Debrecen, and elaborated on the biological significance, historical background, global impact, and management strategies associated with the fungus.

He also provided insights into the academic environment at the University of Debrecen and explored possible avenues for research and academic collaboration, particularly focusing on Indo-Hungarian partnerships.

During the session, Dr. Sanjay Guleria, Dean, Faculty of Basic Sciences, welcomed the speaker and

emphasized the importance of such initiatives in fostering international academic engagement.

Dr. Brajeshwar Singh, Head, Division of Microbiology, formally introduced Dr. Tareali and Dr. Vinod Kumar, Associate Professor moderated the session. The lecture witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty, students, and researchers, marking a successful beginning to the lecture series.

This initiative reflects SKUAST-Jammu's commitment to academic excellence and global outreach through collaborative learning and knowledge exchange.

## DHS Jammu chairs DLR meeting at SDH Bhandarwah

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BHADERWAH: Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Hamid Zargar on Monday convened a District-Level Review (DLR) meeting to assess the implementation of Health Programmes here in the Conference Hall, Sub-District Hospital Bhandarwah.

The meeting was attended by Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Om Kumar; Dy CMO Dr Sat Lal Manhas, Medical Superintendent AH GMC Doda, Block Medical Officers, District and Block Programme Management Units (DPMU/BPMUs) and other senior health officials and staff.

At the outset, the CMO gave a detailed Power Point presentation highlighting



Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Hamid Zargar chairing a DLR meeting.

status of key health indicators, achievements and the overall achievements recorded under the flagship health programmes in the district.

Dr. Hamid Zargar held an in-depth review of the functioning of the Drug and Vaccine Distribution Management System (DVDMS) Portal, Implementation and utilization of e Sahaj, Ambulance Services, progress achieved under the National TB Elimination Programme,

Status of e Sanjeevani telemedicine services, Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) screening and management, C-section service availability at delivery points, Performance of Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), functioning and maintenance of Oxygen Generation Plants, implementation of the National Programme for Control of Blindness, Activities under the ASHA programme, Progress of other flagship

National Health Programmes besides Monitoring and reporting under Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) through the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP).

Dr. Zargar appreciated the efforts of the district health team and emphasized the importance of efficient services delivery, timely reporting and collaborative efforts to meet the set health targets.

He also gave on-spot directions to address gaps in service delivery and encouraged all stakeholders to work in synergy for the betterment of public health services in Doda district.

He also stressed the need for capacity-building of field staff, regular monitoring and strengthening grassroots-level health infrastructure to ensure last-mile delivery of essential services. The DHS urged all programme officers to focus on community engagement, digital reporting and cross-departmental coordination to achieve the desired outcomes under various health initiatives.

The meeting concluded with a pledge of continued dedication towards strengthening the healthcare infrastructure and ensuring quality healthcare services reach every citizen, especially in far-flung and underserved areas.

## DIPR Cultural Unit presents street play on BP care, control at SDH R S Pura

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The artists of the Cultural Wing, Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Jammu on Monday staged an impactful Street Play (Nukkad Natak) in the premises of Sub District Hospital, R.S. Pura on the prevention and control of Hypertension (Blood Pressure) - a silent but deadly health condition.



In the play, the artists conveyed tips in a simple and relatable manner, ensuring that people from all walks of life could understand and absorb the information.

Speaking on the occasion, Block Medical officer Dr. Monika Suri appreciated the Cultural Unit, Department

of Information and Public Relations for organizing such informative and socially relevant events. "Such initiatives are essential to motivate people towards preventive healthcare" she added.

Zonal Leprosy Officer Dr. Sushma Matto also informed the audience regarding

hypertension and presented the vote of thanks.

The entire programme was conducted under the directions of Joint Director Information Jammu Deepak Dubey and under the supervision of Cultural Officer Mukesh Kumar Sharma.

The event received whole hearted support from Medical staff and the supportive staff of the hospital.

The Department of Information and Public Relations reaffirmed its commitment to continue using cultural tools like street theatre to reach the masses and spread awareness on vital social and health-related issues.

## Rita Rehan appointed Coach of Indian Junior Girls Roll Ball Team for World Cup

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In a proud moment for Jammu & Kashmir, Rita Rehan, Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) in the MID I&FC Department, has been officially nominated as the Coach of the Indian Junior Girls Roll Ball Team.



The team will represent the nation at the prestigious 1st Junior Roll Ball World Cup, scheduled to be held in Nairobi, Kenya from 22nd to 29th June 2025.

The announcement was

Sports, Government of India, and J&K State Sports Council.

The decision is seen as a landmark achievement not only for Rehan but also for the growth of Roll Ball in the region and at the national level.

According to the Association, this appointment is a recognition of Rehan's dedication, experience, and outstanding contribution to the sport over the years. Under her guidance, the Indian team is expected

to display great spirit, skill, and sportsmanship on the global platform.

Rehan's leadership is anticipated to play a crucial role in preparing the young athletes to compete against top international teams and secure glory for the country.

The Roll Ball Association of J&K extended heartfelt congratulations to Rehan for this well-deserved honour and conveyed their best wishes to her and the Indian team for a successful campaign in Kenya.

## Inter-District Zonal Tournament concludes; Zone Surankote remained overall champions

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
POONCH: Four-day Inter-District Zonal Tournament, organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS), concluded on Monday with enthusiasm and sporting spirit.



DYSSO Poonch, Mohd Qasim presenting trophy to a winner team.

The tournament, held over five days in various venues across Poonch, witnessed overwhelming participation from boys and girls in the Under-14 and Under-17 categories, representing different zones of the district.

The event provided a platform for young athletes to showcase their skills in a range of sports disciplines, and the matches were marked by competitiveness, discipline, and a strong display of teamwork and sportsmanship.

At the end of a closely contested series of events, Zone Surankote emerged as the overall champions, demonstrating outstanding performances across multiple categories. Their consistent efforts and collective team spirit won them the top honour among all participating

zones. Speaking on the occasion, Qasim said, "Such tournaments play a vital role in shaping the character and discipline of our youth. Sports not only develop physical strength but also teach valuable life lessons like teamwork, perseverance, and leadership. I am proud of every participant who contributed to the success of this tournament."

The DYSSO particularly commended the staff of Zone Surankote, including Zonal Physical Education Officers

(ZPEOs), Physical Education Masters (PEMs), Physical Education Lecturers (PELs), Rehbar-e-Khel (REKs), and National Youth Corps (NYC) volunteers, for their unwavering dedication and efforts.

Throughout the tournament, participants exhibited a high standard of discipline and fair play. From the opening day to the final matches, the atmosphere remained charged with excitement and mutual respect among players, coaches, and officials.

## JU initiates Computer-Based Recruitment exams with enhanced biometric security

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: University of Jammu (JU), under digital initiatives, has initiated online examination (CBT mode) for the recruitment of non-teaching positions with effect from Monday.

On the first day of the examination, 304 candidates have appeared for 10 different technical and non-teaching positions.

Prof Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor of the university inspected the examination

centres and expressed his happiness and satisfaction for the arrangement made for the smooth conduct of examination.

As per vision of Prof Rai to maintain complete transparency in the appointments, the experts and officers from different organizations and cadre were invited to oversee the complete recruitment examination process.

In another unique initiative, the University has introduced the IRIS Sean and

Biometric imaging of all the candidates at every step of the examination till joining in order to avoid the impersonation" said the Coordinator of EEC, Prof Pankaj Srivastava.

He further informed that the CCTV surveillance, monitoring of live streaming of CCTV at command Centre established in University and there monitoring by the senior professors and officers are part of this transparency initiatives of the University.

A team of senior officials from the University also visited the centre as flying squad members and observers.

The first phase of the recruitment process will continue up to 21st of June 2025.

The result of the screening test will be declared soon after giving an opportunity to the candidates to see their response sheets and challenge the answer key, said Kuldeep Raj, Assistant Registrar of EEC, University of Jammu.

## NSS Unit of GDC Bani campaigns Environmental Stewardship with week-long Awareness Campaign

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BANI: The National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Bani started a week-long campaign dedicated to promoting environmental awareness and sustainable practices. The initiative, held in observance of Environment Week, saw enthusiastic participation from students and faculty, reaffirming their commitment to a clean and green future.

A pivotal moment of the week was the pledge ceremony, where students of GDC

Bani, led by Dr. Nisha Devi, the Program Officer of the NSS unit, solemnly vowed to protect and preserve the environment. The pledge underscored their commitment to adopting sustainable habits and encouraging others to do the same. Dr. Manohar Lal, Principal of GDC Bani, was present to encourage the students and lauded their active involvement. In his address, he highlighted pressing environmental issues and emphasized the crucial role of the student community in driving positive change. "The enthusiasm

and dedication shown by our students this week are truly inspiring," said Dr. Lal. "It is imperative that we empower our youth with the knowledge and motivation to become lifelong advocates for our planet." The event was graced by the presence of esteemed faculty members, including Prof. Naseeb Kumar Bhagat, Dr. J S Soodan, Dr. Resham Singh, Prof. Akash Zutshi, Dr. Sunil Kumar, Dr. Narinder Kumar, and Prof. VishabThappa, who lent their support to the initiative.