

Executive Body of Jammu District Gymnastics Association formed; Shilpa Gupta elected President

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JAMMU: In a significant development for gymnastics in the region, the Executive Body of the Jammu District Gymnastics Association was formally constituted following a General Body meeting of the ad-hoc committee, which included former international and national medalist gymnasts.

In a unanimous decision, Shilpa Gupta, Trustee of the SP Smart Schools chain and a former National Medalist Gymnast, was elected President of the Association.

The newly elected office bearers are Sanjeev Dogra, National Player, and Harvinder Singh, former Gymnast (Vice Presidents);



Executive Body of the Jammu District Gymnastics Association posing for a photograph.

Surinder Pal Singh, former Manager, J&K Sports Council and CA Rahul Saadria, former Gymnast (General secretaries); Vivek Sharma, International Player and Ruhi Saadria, National Medalist Gymnast (Joint Secretaries).

Dr. Raviya Verna, Sudipti, Lalit Rathore, Stuti Gupta, Akhil Jamwal have been elected as Executive Members.

In her maiden address, Shilpa Gupta expressed gratitude to the members for their confidence in her leadership. She reaffirmed her dedication

to the growth and promotion of gymnastics across Jammu District, encouraging the active participation of clubs and educational institutions in this dynamic discipline.

Exercising her constitutional powers and with the consent of the Executive

Members, Gupta appointed Kamal Singh, Manvinder Singh as Head of the Technical Committee of Artistry and Aerobic Gymnastics respectively to supervise the technical aspects of the Association's activities. The entire election process was conducted in strict compliance with the Sports Code of the J&K Sports Council and the guidelines of the Government of India, ensuring transparency and legitimacy.

This newly formed body is poised to bring fresh momentum to gymnastics in the Jammu district, with a focus on structured development, grassroots outreach, and athlete welfare.



Namrta demands revocation of discriminatory Urdu Clause in Naib Tehsildar Recruitment



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JAMMU: Namrta Sharma, Senior Congress Leader and social-political activist, has strongly condemned the recent JKSSB notification that mandates Urdu as a compulsory qualification for the post of Naib Tehsildar.

In her statement, she described the move as arbitrary, exclusionary, and in violation of the spirit of the Jammu & Kashmir

Reorganisation Act, 2019. While the J&K Official Languages Act, 2020 recognizes Hindi, English, Kashmiri, Dogri, and Urdu as official languages, the selective imposition of only Urdu—especially where it holds no administrative relevance in the majority of Jammu districts—reflects blatant linguistic discrimination.

Highlighting the deeper systemic neglect, she emphasized that vacancies for Urdu teachers have remained unfilled for over 11 years, yet suddenly Urdu proficiency is mandated. "Expecting fluency in a language the system never ensured was taught is a travesty of justice," Namrta remarked.

Namrta Sharma appealed to LG Manoj Sinha and the JKSSB to review and revoke this discriminatory Urdu clause, and to implement a recruitment policy grounded in constitutional values of inclusion, equity, and merit.

"This is more than a language issue—it impacts the futures of thousands of capable candidates from Jammu," she concluded, reaffirming her commitment to stand with the region's youth.

J&K BJP organizes professional meets in 5 districts

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JAMMU: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir organized a professional meet as part of the ongoing nationwide campaign to commemorate 11 years of public-welfare governance under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

J&K BJP President Sat Sharma, accompanied by Party General Secretary and Incharge of the 'Viksit Bharat Ka Amritkaal - Sewa, Sushasan, Gareeb Kalyan Ke 11 Saal' campaign, Adv. Vibodh Gupta, Vice-President and MLA Yudhvir Sethi, addressed the gathering organized by BJP District Jammu, led by its President Adv. Rajesh Gupta, at the Jammu Club.

Sat Sharma, in his address, spoke about the vision of a Viksit Bharat (Developed India) and emphasized the goal of transforming India into a fully developed nation by 2047, marking 100 years of independence.

He highlighted the importance of the Amrit Kaal - the period between 75 to 100 years of India's independence - and underlined the role of initiatives like Make in India, Startup India, and Vocal for Local in building a strong and self-reliant India. He further stated that a Viksit Bharat is only possible when the nation is strong both internally and externally, adding that women and youth are taking significant advantage of government policies to launch startups and contribute to national growth.

Yudhvir Sethi, while addressing the gathering, stated that "a strong India is a safe India." He elaborated on the effective actions taken against terrorism and Nazalism, and discussed major initiatives in cyber safety. He highlighted the indigenous development of missiles and the strengthening of India's defense capabilities with additions like the Rafale jets and the S-400 missile systems, which have made the Indian Air Force more

invincible. He also spoke about Atmanirbhar Bharat, mentioning that institutions like DRDO and HAL are now manufacturing indigenous warplanes and naval ships such as INS Vikrant. Modern body armor, drones, and thermal imaging equipment for BSF and ITBP were also noted. He praised the government's success in safely evacuating citizens from war zones and stressed the nation's progress under a policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism, citing Operation Sindoor as a clear message to terror perpetrators.

Earlier, Adv. Rajesh Gupta provided the introductory overview of the meet, stressing the importance of disseminating the message of development to every section of society. He also recounted several major achievements of the Modi government over the past 11 years.

BJP spokesperson Gaurav Gupta conducted the stage proceedings, while Ramesh Gupta presented the

vote of thanks.

Similarly Professional meets in other organizational districts of BJP were also held to recount upon the achievements of Modi government.

Former Deputy Chief Minister Dr. Nirmal Singh, MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat, and former MLA Rajiv Sharma addressed a Professional meet in BJP organizational district Akhnor.

BJP Vice-President & MLA Shakti Raj Parihar, MLA Dalip Parihar, and Spokesperson Dr. Bahr Choudhary addressed a Professional meet in BJP organizational district Doda.

MLA Pawan Gupta, MLA RS Pathania, and former MLA & district President Neelam Langhe addressed a Professional meet in BJP organizational district Ramban.

MLA Th. Randhir Singh, Ch. Zulfikar, and Spokesperson Adv Purnima Sharma addressed a Professional meet in BJP organizational district Rajouri.

Panun Kashmir seeks panel to probe support structure of terrorism in J&K



Panun Kashmir chairman Ajay Churungoo talking to reporters.

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JAMMU: Panun Kashmir, an organisation of displaced Kashmiri pandits, on Tuesday demanded a high-powered committee to examine the overground support structure of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

It also questioned the 2015 alliance between the PDP and the BJP to govern J&K, claiming that the agenda of alliance was "subversive" and had the potential to help separatists.

"We are taking pride in the achievements of Operation Sindoor but are fully aware of the fact that terrorism in J&K cannot be eradicated without eliminating its overground support structures.

"Panun Kashmir urges the government of India to institute a high-powered commis-

sion to examine the critical and serious issue of overground support structures of terrorism in J&K," Panun Kashmir chairman Ajay Churungoo said at a press conference here.

He said overground support structures cannot be eliminated without examining the role of political parties operating in J&K as "bona fide political formations while practising politics which is halfway separatist and committed to promoting communal interests".

"Since it involves a wide range of political and strategic issues, we urge the Modi government to start the process by a comprehensive analysis of the alliance of the BJP with the regional party PDP" Churungoo said. "Who was responsible for giving assent to the subversive agenda of alliance that led to

the PDP-BJP rule in J&K? What has been the role of agenda of alliance in entrenching overground supporters of terrorist separatism into mainstream politics? How could the BJP ignore the role of PDP founder Mufti Mohammad Sayeed in the 1986 riots and agree to share power with him?" he asked.

He also asked how could the BJP agree to PDP founder becoming the home minister of India?

"We also appeal to the government of India not to treat internally displaced Hindus of Kashmir as experimental birds or animals to create an illusion of secularism and normalcy. Such an act will tantamount to abetting genocide," Churungoo said.

Open Volleyball Tourney at Poonch from June 17

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POONCH: Shaheed DySP Manjit Singh Memorial Volleyball Club Poonch is going to organise an Open District Championship from June 17 to 20, here.

The event is being organized in collaboration District Volleyball Association Poonch. Interested clubs have been advised to confirm the entries by depositing a fee of Rs 1000 to the Chairman Organising Committee Poonch, Mohd Tariq. Winners and runners-up teams shall be awarded with cash prizes and title trophies. For further queries, the teams can contact the organisers on Mobile No. 9419675061.

Terrorist hideout busted in Rajouri

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RAJOURI: Security forces on Tuesday busted a terrorist hideout in a remote area in Rajouri district and seized 10 Under Barrel Grenade Launchers (UBGLs) along with other material, an official said.

The hideout was unearthed in Darra Barachara village in Thanamandi area during a joint search operation by police and the army, the official said.

In addition to UBGLs, the search parties also seized a damaged ammunition box, a blanket, a plastic tarpaulin, two packets of medicine, some utensils and daily use items, he said.

However, the official said no one was arrested in connection with recovery.

IIM Jammu inaugurates CBP for Finance and Planning Officials of Batch-4 under CITaG at SKUAST-K

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JAMMU serves as the Nodal Knowledge Partner and implementing body for CITaG, driving its mission to catalyse innovation-led governance and transformational change across the region.

The ceremony began with the traditional lighting of the lamp, symbolizing the pursuit of knowledge and commitment to excellence in governance. Talat Parvez Rohella, IAS, Secretary, Planning Development and Monitoring Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, and Shri Madan Gopal Sharma, Director, Planning, Government of Jammu and Kashmir (attending virtually), presided over the inaugural ceremony. The event was graced by the presence of Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir.

The Capacity Building Program features 94 participants from officials of the Finance and Planning & Monitoring Department of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. Also present on the occasion were Dr. Sanjay Pathak, Chairperson,

Jammu as the Nodal Knowledge Partner.

He highlighted the role of CITaG in driving the government's vision of a developed Jammu and Kashmir through data-driven decision-making, AI integration, and innovative governance practices. He noted that the training equips officials with advanced IT tools, governance models, and real-world case studies, aimed at strengthening institutional capacity.

He also underlined the value of leveraging IIM Jammu's academic excellence and mentorship in executing the CITaG project to build a robust, transformative governance ecosystem in the region.



Dignitaries and Finance and Planning officials during CBP at SKUAST-K.

Executive Education & Consultancy (joining virtually), along with Program Directors Prof. Ravij Sethi, Dr. Guangpuanang Kahmei, and Dr. Garima Maurya. Dr. Kapil Gunte and Dr. Chinnmaya Kumar Swain are also serving as Program Directors for the training program under CITaG.

In his address, Talat Parvez Rohella, Secretary, Planning and Monitoring Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, emphasized the importance of the collaborative governance initiative Future Ready Governance, led by the State Institute of Transformation with IIM

Jammu as the Nodal Knowledge Partner.

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Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir, welcomed all participants and emphasized the need for Jammu and Kashmir to transition from a primarily agrarian economy to a diversified, innovation-driven one. Referring to the long absence of tourism in the region, he underscored the importance of moving from primary to secondary agriculture to boost per capita income.

He highlighted the role of capacity-building programs in preparing officers to actively contribute to India's vision of 2047. Stressing the importance of critical thinking and pur-

poseful participation, he encouraged self-reflection among officials through structured assessments.

He also outlined SKUAST-Kashmir's innovation-led progress and lauded Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, for establishing the institute's permanent campus in record time-calling it a model of visionary leadership and efficient execution.

Madan Gopal Sharma, Director, Planning, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, expressed his pleasure in joining the inaugural session of the fourth batch under the collaborative initiative with IIM Jammu. Acknowledging the successful completion of training for previous batches, he urged current participants to attend all sessions, actively engage, and contribute innovative ideas—especially in areas such as PPP models, revenue generation, and emerging technologies like AI and machine learning.

He extended his gratitude to IIM Jammu for its pivotal role in training officials from the Finance and Planning &

Monitoring Department through this impactful program.

Prof. Sanjay Pathak, Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy, IIM Jammu, welcomed all participants and expressed his privilege in being part of the program.

He emphasized the significance of the three-day learning experience and encouraged participants to apply the financial and strategic insights gained to strengthen governance and contribute towards making Jammu and Kashmir a leading Union Territory in the country.

Prof. Ravij Sethi, Program Director, Capacity Building Program for Finance and Planning Officials under CITaG, delivered the inaugural address, outlining the program's objectives, structure, and expected outcomes.

He emphasized the need to enhance strategic and analytical capabilities among officials across all districts of Jammu & Kashmir and encouraged active participation. He also shared an overview of CITaG's mission

to promote innovation and drive transformative governance in the region.

Dr. Garima Maurya, Program Director, Capacity Building Program for Finance and Planning Officials under CITaG, extended a warm welcome to all participants of the fourth batch. She set the tone for the three-day program by expressing optimism about the enriching insights and meaningful discussions that would unfold throughout the sessions.

An audio-visual presentation showcasing IIM Jammu's history, achievements, and contributions to nation-building provided participants with a comprehensive understanding of the institute's journey and impact.

The session featured participant introductions, followed by a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Guangpuanang Kahmei, Program Director, Capacity Building Program under CITaG. The ceremony culminated with the National Anthem, marking a dignified start to the week-long training initiative.

