

# JKCA appoints CAC; Qayoom, Bhaskar, Meenu as members

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former cricketers of great repute Abdul Qayoom Bagaw, Vidya Bhaskar and Meenu Singh Slathia have been appointed as the Cricketer Advisory Committee (CAC) Members with immediate effect by Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) for 2025-26 season.

While Qayoom has retained his place as the Member of the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) as he held the post continuously from last four seasons, hugely experienced Bhaskar is the new induction and Meenu after replacing another former reputed Cricketer and Coach, Dr Roopali Singh Slathia last season, has also retained the her place this season also.

Abdul Qayoom was unquestionably one of the most talented fast bowlers India has ever produced. He was unlucky not to find a place in the Indian squad because the era was reigned by the legendary fast bowlers like Kapil Dev and then Srinath and likes. He has taken 152 wickets with 7/57 as his best in 48 matches, besides having the ability to bat lower-down the order. He had a big number of 5-wicket hauls in an innings and a good number of 10-wicket hauls in the match. Qayoom used to wobble the ball both ways and had mastery in hitting the right areas



consistently. He has achieved sobriquet 'Horse' for bowling lot many overs at a stretch in Ranji Trophy more than once despite being a genuine fast bowler. He has the honour of playing for the Rest of India, Wills Trophy, representing North Zone in Duleep Trophy, Deodhar Trophy and Vizy Trophy, besides representing MRF Pace Foundation Camp under the legendary Dennis Lillee. He has the distinction of captaining the Jammu Kashmir cricket team for seven years.

Under his captaincy and with his outstanding performance, he helped the J&K Team to qualify for the knock-out stage of Ranji Trophy during the year 2000-2001 for the first time in the history of the J&K Ranji Trophy.

In the year 2013-2014 he was appointed Head Coach of the J&K

Ranji Trophy team and in the same year our team qualified for the knock-out stage for the 2nd time.

Bhaskar has the honour of leading J&K Ranji Trophy team and producing good results. He has been the veteran of many battles in his illustrious career.

After his playing career, Bhaskar has served the JKCA in many capacities, especially as Senior Selector and chairman of Senior Selection Committee. He has scored 2178 runs in his 48 matches with 3 centuries and 12 half-centuries. He has always been a class act when on the song, whether as a Player, Mentor, Coach or Selector. Bhaskar was the Chief Selector of J&K Ranji Trophy team that crushed strong Mumbai at their home and qualified for historic quarter-finals last season, besides being Chief Selector of JKCA Men's

U-23 team that qualified for the knockouts more than once.

Meenu Singh Slathia was simply an International stuff--an all-rounder to perfection. A top and middle-order batter and an off-spinner, Meenu has played for both Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab teams for more than a decade. Apart from being a successful captain, Meenu has the distinction of being part of the J&K team which had clinched the gold medal in the prestigious All India National School Games at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh. Meenu has played Inter-University twice and has been part of North Zone teams many a time. She has represented J&K around 120 times. 181 runs off 88 balls, studded with 37 boundaries, has been the highlight of her cricketing career.

Meenu has been serving as Head Coach and Coach of JKCA women teams for the last three years. A die-hard cricketer, always a hard nut to crack. With her all-round brilliance, Meenu has contributed in a big number of wins for both J&K and Punjab at the national scene.

Meenu was a member of the Coaching Staff of JKCA's Senior Women's One-Day Team that created history by qualifying for the knock-out stage in BCCI's Senior Women's One-Day Trophy 2021-22 season.

# Kuldeep conferred Doctorate in Sports



General Secretary JKAKA, Kuldeep Gupta receiving honorary Doctorate (PhD) Degree by the Cambridge Digital University.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Technical director of the Asian Kabaddi Federation and general secretary of Jammu and Kashmir Amateur Kabaddi Association, Kuldeep Kumar Gupta has been conferred the honorary Doctorate (PhD) Degree by the Cambridge Digital University in an award ceremony which held at Goa.

Also secretary of Vansh Sabre Sports Foundation, Kuldeep Gupta has been conferred the Doctorate for excellence in the field of Sports.

Earlier, the Kuldeep's profile was recommended by academics council committee of Cambridge Digital University basis of his achievements and contributions in the field of sports.

The Cambridge Digital University Senate and Committee extended good wishes for his future endeavours and excellence in sports management.

Before awarding the degree, the Cambridge Digital University read the citation wherein the institution highlighted the work done by Kuldeep Gupta and his contribution

towards sports and passion for the indigenous game of Kabaddi.

"The award function took place at Goa. I, on behalf of the entire sports fraternity of J&K, especially those associated with the game of Kabaddi, express my gratitude towards Cambridge Digital University for bestowing honour on me. Such honours come once in a life, so I pray to the Almighty God to give strength and courage to further work for the development of sports," said Kuldeep Gupta.

# Poonch Open Volleyball tourney begins



SP Poonch, Mohan Lal Sharma meeting with players.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: District Poonch Open Volleyball Tournament, organised by Shaheed DySP Manjit Singh Memorial Volleyball Club, got underway at Government Degree College ground, here.

The event was declared open by SSP Poonch, Mohan Lal Sharma, who spoke to the participating teams amidst introduction with the players and their officials.

Being organised in collaboration with District Volleyball Association, six teams are taking part in this event, the reports reaching here informed.

The motive behind this volleyball tournament was to channelise and reorganise the young spikers, who, otherwise had confined to their homes aftermath shelling from across the border. Speaking to the gathering the chief guest appreciated the efforts of Mohd Tariq,

chairman of the organising club towards engaging the youth from border areas in sports.

The Club also felicitated the gold winner volleyball player from the district, in the Khelo India Youth Games. A senior woman spiker, Shaheen Akhtar, who has become qualified the FIVB level 1 coach, was also honoured.

Among others present were Krishan Lal Sharma, Secretary Poonch District Volleyball Association; Advocate Rajinder Singh, former chairman Municipal Council, Poonch.

Earlier, in the opening match, Bacheiawali Volleyball Club defeated Khelo India Centre Poonch in straight sets of 25-18, 25-16, 25-21. Today's opening match officiated by the technical penal including Shabir Ahmad, Zahid Hussain and Ayaz Ahmad.

# Mega Job Fair 2025 on June 23 at PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar Campus: Prof Chandraseker

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ) announced a significant collaborative initiative with Desh Bhagat University, Punjab, the Mega Job Fair 2025, scheduled to be held on 23rd June 2025 at the PSPS, GCW Gandhi Nagar Campus, of Cluster University of Jammu.

During the press interaction, Prof. K.S. Chandraseker, Vice Chancellor, CLUJ briefed that in a landmark move aimed at bolstering youth employment and enhancing industry-academia synergy, the event will be inaugurated by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, who will grace the occasion as the Chief Guest.



Prof. K.S. Chandraseker, Vice Chancellor, CLUJ talking to reporters.

The fair will also witness the presence of Shantmanu, Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department, J&K Government, who will visit various company stalls and engage with recruiters, reflecting the government's proactive approach in facilitating employment opportunities for the youth of the region.

Prof. K.S. Chandraseker, further emphasized that the university's unwavering commitment to nurturing skill-based education and ensuring career readiness for its students.

He remarked, "The Mega Job Fair 2025 is a concrete step towards bridging the gap between education and employability." Echoing this vision, Dr.

Harsh Sadawarti, Vice Chancellor of Desh Bhagat University, Punjab, underlined the importance of regional collaboration in driving sustainable employment. "This joint effort is aimed at opening new doors for thousands of job seekers and creating real-world platforms that connect talent with opportunity," he stated.

Prof. D.S. Manhas, Director, Placement Cell, Cluster University of Jammu, briefed the media on the extensive logistical and infrastructural arrangements made for the fair, which is expected to host nearly 50 renowned companies offering around 4000 job vacancies across technical, non-technical, and service sectors.

He noted that the fair is open to students, graduates, and job seekers from all educational institutions and will begin promptly at 9:00 AM.

The Mega Job Fair 2025 stands as a beacon of hope and progress, reinforcing the shared responsibility of academia, industry, and government to empower the youth and drive national development through meaningful employment.

# JKSC member visits Poonch Taekwondo Club, commends young athletes, donates Rs 50,000 for equipment

## STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Rajeev Sharma, Member of the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council, paid a special visit to the Poonch Taekwondo Club on Wednesday, where he interacted with young athletes and praised their unwavering dedication to the sport. His visit marks a significant moment of encouragement and recognition for the sporting community in the border district of Poonch.

During the visit, Sharma lauded the pivotal role played by Rajinder Singh, NIS-certified Taekwondo coach, National Referee, and the founder of Taekwondo in District Poonch.

Under his exemplary leadership, the club has produced several national-level medalists, including Mohd Arhaan



Boys and girls of Taekwondo posing with Rajeev Sharma JKSC member and others officials.

and Arohi Dutta, who recently clinched silver medals at the Sub-Junior National Taekwondo Championship held in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

Other medal-winning athletes representing Jammu and Kashmir at the national level included Sukriti Sharma, Khalida Jabeen, Akarshit Sudan, and Toseef Tahir. Sharma also acknowledged the commendable efforts of

Priyanka Singh, President of the District Poonch Taekwondo Association, and Taranpreet Kaur, General Secretary, for their continuous work in promoting and expanding the reach of Taekwondo in the region.

As a gesture of support, he generously donated Rs 50,000 for the procurement of advanced Taekwondo equipment and assured further

assistance through the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council to boost the sport's development in Poonch.

In recognition of the athletes' dedication, Sharma felicitated the players with Black Belt Dan promotions and distributed National-level certificates to celebrate their accomplishments.

The event was attended by several distinguished guests

including Priyanka Singh, President of the District Poonch Taekwondo Association; Khaterpal Sharma, President of Sanatan Dharam Sabha Poonch; Taranpreet Kaur, General Secretary of District Poonch Taekwondo Association; Pawan Kumar, PEL; Mohd Tariq Khan, International Volleyball Coach; and Ravinder Singh, Secretary of the Veteran Athletic Association Poonch.

The Poonch Taekwondo Club continues to serve as a beacon of inspiration, nurturing young talent and contributing immensely to the sporting excellence of Jammu and Kashmir. The vote of thanks was delivered by Smt. Priyanka Singh, expressing gratitude to all guests and supporters.

# 2nd District Magistrate Open Chess Championship 2025 concludes

## STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: The 2nd District Magistrate Open Chess Championship 2025 concluded on Wednesday at Dina Nath Rafiq Memorial (DNRM) Girls Higher Secondary School. The event was organized by the District Administration Poonch in collaboration with the Department of Youth Services and Sports.

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal attended the closing ceremony as the Chief Guest. He congratulated the participants and gave away trophies and cash prizes to the winners for their excellent performance.

In the girl's category, Heena Mir secured 1st position, Musarat Nayeem



DC Poonch Vikas Kundal with winner players and officials.

2nd and Vanshika Raina 3rd. In the boy's category, Rashid Manzoor stood 1st, followed by Suryanish Sharma in 2nd and Raman Sharma in 3rd place.

The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the efforts of the Youth Services and Sports Department and the school

for promoting sports among the youth. He also announced the introduction of rugby in the district to further engage young talent.

The championship ended on a high note, reflecting the growing interest and talent in chess among students of the region.

# 41 rural girls complete 15th Annual Summer Camp of HREF

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 15th Annual Summer Camp organized by the Harbans Roshan Bhalla Educational Foundation (HREF) concluded today with a vibrant closing ceremony. A total of 41 girls from rural backgrounds successfully completed the 14-day residential camp, aimed at holistic development through academic enrichment, personality building, and recreational exposure.

The students, hailing from remote villages such as Arnia, Jourian, Doomi, Patti, Kore-Jagir Nagrota, Bathera, Amb, Marjali, Kangrair, Prithipur, Udhampur, Akalpur, Gurah Brahmana, and Garh Mandi, were provided free boarding, lodging, study material, and medical care by Bee Enn General Hospital.

During the camp, participants engaged in a wide



HREF members with students at Jammu on Wednesday

range of activities including daily yoga sessions, academic classes, debates, sports competitions, singing events, and field visits to Panchari, Krimchi Temple, Aghar Temple, and Reasi. These experiences fostered confidence, discipline, and teamwork among the students.

The closing ceremony was

attended by prominent citizens, supporters of the Foundation, and proud parents, who applauded the efforts of HREF for its tireless commitment to empowering girls from underserved regions. Guests interacted with the students and motivated them to continue striving for academic and person-

al excellence.

Cash prizes were distributed to high achievers across various categories, including academics, debates, sports, and singing. The Lion House team was adjudged the best house of the camp.

A highlight of the event was the distribution of Rs 2 lakh under the Sunanda Dua Memorial Awards to 31 board exam toppers from Classes 10th, 11th, and 12th. These annual awards are part of the Foundation's larger effort to support the education of approximately 600 children every year through scholarships and online tutoring.

The event concluded with a community lunch enjoyed by students, their parents, and the Foundation team - a warm celebration of collective growth, learning, and shared aspirations for a brighter future.

# DG Sports for speedy completion of developmental works at Khel Gaon Venue developing into a sporting hub: Anuradha

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Director General Youth Services and Sports J&K, Anuradha Gupta during a visit to Khel Gaon Nagrota on Wednesday served strict instructions to the concerned authorities for speedy completion of developmental works, here.

The DG Sports was accompanied by Vinakshi Koul, Joint Director Youth Services and Sports Jammu, Ravi Sharma, Deputy Director Youth Services and Sports (Planning); Sunil Kumar Sharma, Accounts Officer of the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports and few other officers and officials of the Directorate.

While inspecting the developmental works, Anuradha batted for early completion of the infrastructural facilities at this venue, which is the first of its kind multipurpose



DG YSS J&K, Anuradha Gupta during visit to Khel Gaon Nagrota on Wednesday.

sports facility owned by the Department.

She inspected the ongoing developmental work of Hockey Turf, Synthetic Athletic Track, Cycle Track and Multipurpose Hall, the work of which was in full swing at this venue.

On the occasion, Executive Engineer Sanjeev Sharma, AEE Gautam Raina, JE Kunal and Incharge Khel Gaon, Vishal Bharti Slathia,

Incharge Works were present. All of them assured the Director General Youth Services and Sports of early completion of the construction works.

Terming the venue as an asset for the Department rather a sporting hub, the Director General Youth Services and Sports said that the Department was committed to raise sports infrastructure at all levels

and in every nook and corner of the Union Territory, adding that making Khel Gaon a sporting hub was the need of the hour.

"Khel Gaon caters to the needs of thousands of sportspersons as it is a multipurpose sports facility. The dire need is to enhance sports infra at the venue and the Department is committed to do so," maintained Anuradha.

She further said the sporting facility at Khel Gaon enables the Department to hold multiple activities simultaneously at the venue and yield better results.

Director General Youth Services and Sports also served instructions to the concerned regarding the requisite arrangements needed to celebrate World Yoga Day, falling on June 21, in a most befitting manner.