

Refresher Course of DYSS concludes with certificate distribution

Accomplish yourself as Master Trainers: Mishra to trainees

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Director Youth Services and Sports Central, Jitender Mishra honoured the trainees with certificates as the Refresher/ Orientation Course for the officials in various sports disciplines, organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) concluded at Sports Training Centre, Nagrota today.

The 12-day long Course in which 104 officials (PETS and PEMs) drawn from various districts of the Union Territory took part, was formally declared closed by the Deputy Director Youth Services and Sports Central in an impressive, colourful and well attended function. The officials were trained



Deputy Director YSS Central, Jitender Mishra with trainees and other dignitaries after distributing certificates.

in weightlifting, handball, judo and yoga.

The Department had named 13 expert officials as the Resource Persons in the Course, who left no stone unturned in bestowing necessary tips to the trainees to make them more skillful.

Speaking on the occasion, Jitender Mishra advised

the whole contingent of PETS, PEMs and PELs that they must percolate it down what they have learnt during the Course and leave no stone unturned to become Master Trainers for such Courses to be held in future.

He said the Course was earlier inaugurated by the Director General Youth

Services and Sports J&K, Anuradha Gupta in the presence of a galaxy of departmental officers.

He further said such Courses are important to build grass-root framework and help the Department to produce better stuff of trainers and coaches.

Earlier, Accounts Officer of the Directorate Sunil

Kotwal addressed the Trainers and Trainees and threw light on the importance of the Course.

Some participating officials also expressed their views and were thankful to the Director General Youth Services and Sports for organizing such a didactic course in which they have imbibed a lot of good things, let alone the latest techniques and pedagogies.

They said such courses should remain a regular feature of the Directorate.

Prominent among others present on the occasion were, Sukhdev Raj Sharma, DYSSO Jammu, Altaf Hussain, CVO Directorate and Course Incharge; Rajesh Dhar, Lecturer in Physical Education and the officials from Activities Section of the Directorate.

Rajat Charak wins historic gold in Wushu Asia Cup



Rajat Charak with Indian team members at the Asia Cup Wushu Championship.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Rajat Charak of Jammu and Kashmir has scripted history by clinching the Gold in the just concluded Asia Cup Wushu Championship at China. Rajat, who serves with Indian Army, defeated his strong opponent from Kazakhstan in the final bout thus made the entire nation proud. Rajat was part of the 16-member Indian Wushu contingent, which delivered a remarkable performance winning three gold, as many silver and five bronze medals in different weight categories and events. The Indian team, sponsored by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and the Sports Authority of India attended a month-long foreign exposure training camp in China, prior to the event Asia Cup Championship.

Charak had previously won Silver medal in the 2024 Asian Championship in Macau, which qualified him for this elite continental event. Serving

with Indian Army, Charak continued rise on the international stage is backed by a consistent medal-winning record.

On team's return to India, the medal-winning athletes received a rousing welcome at Indira Gandhi International Airport, hosted by the Wushu Association of India (WAI) team, led by Suhel Ahmed (CEO). Meanwhile, office bearers of Wushu Association of J&K, including president Vijay Saraf, vice president, Ranjeet Kalra, general secretary Bhavneet, and treasurer Shoot Sharma, extended compliments to Rajat for his achievement and wished him continued success. Dronacharya Awardee Kuldeep Handoo also lauded the Indian Wushu team for their commendable performance, with special praise for Rajat Charak. He laid emphasis on focused attention to the sport of Wushu in J&K by the Government.

3 J&K fencers find berth in NCOE

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Three promising young fencers from Jammu and Kashmir, Dhananjay Pandit, Amish Sharma and Subhanaya Sharma have been selected by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) for advance training through its Khelo India National Centre of Excellence (NCOE). All three fencers have been enrolled in the prestigious sports institutions of the country considering their performance at the National and international level events.

While Dhananjay Pandit and Amish Sharma have been short-listed for NCOE Aurangabad, Subhanaya Sharma made it to the country's premier Khelo India Centre Army Sports Institute Pune.

The SAI covers all the expenses of the selected fencers in the NCOE including fencing equipment, education, boarding and lodging, insurance cover, and participation at the national and international stage, including foreign exposure.



Subhanaya Sharma, Amish Sharma, and Dhananjay Pandit.

Ai+ smartphone launched at Rs 4499, sales start from July 12

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a historic step for India's digital future, NxtQuantum has officially launched the Ai+ Smartphone, marking the arrival of the country's first fully authored smartphone.

Built entirely in India-right from software to manufacturing-the Ai+ Smartphone offers a new era of mobile innovation where performance meets purpose and privacy is paramount.

The launch was led by Madhav Sheth, CEO of Ai+ Smartphone and Founder of NxtQuantum Shift Technologies, alongside Shashikumar Sreedharan, Managing Director of Google Cloud India, and Smriti Ravichandran, Vice President - Mobiles, Flipkart.



Highlighting the motivation behind this innovation, Madhav Sheth said, "Ai+ Smartphone is about putting control back in the hands of Indian users. For years, we've relied on phones and platforms that weren't made with India in mind. These phones change that-they're fast, beautiful, and most importantly, secure." "With over 800 million smartphone users, India is

the world's second-largest smartphone market. Yet, most phones in use today operate on foreign systems with little transparency. The Ai+ Smartphone addresses this critical gap, giving users complete control over their data, right from storage to access, all within India," he said.

"The Ai+ Smartphone is powered by NxtQuantum OS, India's first sovereign

mobile operating system. It delivers high performance, unmatched data protection, and full transparency to users, offering an alternative to foreign-made devices and software ecosystems that often route personal data through overseas servers. All personal information on Ai+ devices is stored securely in India using Google Cloud's MeitY-empowered servers, built on zero-trust security architecture," Madhav said.

The launch lineup includes two smartphones-Pulse and Nova 5G, both designed with the needs of Indian users in mind. These phones feature 6.7-inch IID+ displays, large 5000mAh batteries, 50MP dual AI cameras, and expandable memory up to 1TB. The Pulse, equipped with a T615 chip and a 90Hz

display, scores 262K on Antutu and starts at just Rs 4499. The Nova 5G steps up with a T8200 chip, 120Hz refresh rate, and a remarkable 501K Antutu score, starting at Rs 7499. Both models are available in five striking colours-Blue, Black, Green, Purple, and Pink.

Manufacturing for the Ai+ Smartphones is being done by United Telelinks (Bangalore) Limited at their Noida factory, demonstrating NxtQuantum's commitment to Atmanirbhar Bharat and the creation of a sovereign digital infrastructure.

The phones support regional languages, local content, and offer deep personalisation through the NxtQuantum Theme Designer Tool, catering to the lifestyle, communication,

and digital preferences of Indian users.

Smriti Ravichandran said, "At Flipkart, we've seen growing demand for smartphones that are not just affordable but also trustworthy. Ai+ delivers on both counts-performance and privacy."

Available now on Flipkart, the Ai+ Smartphone offers Day 1 flash sales with exciting launch offers. The Pulse will go live on 12th July at 12 noon, while Nova 5G follows on 13th July at 12 noon. Special offers include a Rs 500 instant discount on Axis Bank cards and EMI transactions, 3 months of no-cost EMI on Bajaj Finserv, and exchange bonuses under the Prexo program, applicable even for non-functional phones.

J&K duo to represent India at Asian Softball Championship

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bringing laurels to the Union Territory and keeping its flag high at the National scene, ace Softball Athletes Shaista Wani and Farhana Rehman have been named in the Indian Women's Softball team for Asian Championship.

Both Athletes will represent India in Asia Cup (Women) Softball Championship scheduled to held at Sports Stadium, Xian, China from July 14 to 20, 2025. The championship is hosted by the Chinese Softball Association under the aegis of Softball Asia.



Asia Cup (Women) Softball Championship at China will also be the qualifying event for World Cup (Women) Softball Championship 2026, if Indian

team will figure in top two teams at Asian Championship.

The selection of the Athletes for National Camp was done by Selection Committee of SBAI

during the final selection trials on April 15 and 16, 2025. Both of them were part of the two National Camps-one at Indore, Madhya Pradesh and another ongoing at Vikas Puri Stadium, New Delhi.

Both young and energetic Softball Athletes one from district Srinagar and another from district Pulwama started playing Softball sport at very young age and have won medals at National level events for the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

Now, both are set to be part of Indian National Women

Softball team to represent the country in the International Softball Championship at China.

Waseem Raja Khan, Hony General Secretary J&K Softball Association congratulated Shaista and Farhana for this landmark achievement.

He added, their selection highlight the growing talent and dedication of athletes from Jammu & Kashmir on the international stage.

"To honour this, duo and other outstanding Athletes, who have represented India at various International Championships this year, the Felicitation Ceremony will be held after return from the prestigious Championship," said Waseem Raja Khan, who is also holding post of Joint

Secretary in National Federation of Softball sport in India.

He advised budding Softball Athletes of Jammu & Kashmir to make this potential Olympic sport of Softball, which is presently played in 142 Countries around the World, a career option.

He lavished praise for Secretary J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul for her tremendous support in upliftment of Sports in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Indian Softball Women team is leaving for Asia Championship on July 12 from New Delhi under the banner of Softball Association of India which is the National Governing body for the sport of Softball in India.

Tariq Mustafa qualifies Ph.D

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Tariq Mustafa, son of Noor Mohd, resident of Village Rehan, Tehsil Koteranka and District Rajouri, has been declared qualified for the award of Degree of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Physics by the University of Jammu. He worked on the topic, "Preparation, characterization and properties of pure and rare earth doped transition metal complexes" under the supervision of Prof. K.K. Bamzai.



Bhanupriya Slathia qualifies PhD

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bhanupriya Slathia, daughter of Suman Slathia and Kishore Singh Slathia, resident of Gurha Morh, Tehsil Vijaypur, District Samba, and wife of Itin Pal Singh, at present resident of Buta Nagar Paloura, Jammu has been declared qualified for the award of Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Sociology by the University of Jammu. She worked on the topic, "A Sociological Study of Gender Roles in Civil Aviation" under the supervision of Prof. Vishav Raksha.



125th Birth Anniversary of Late R.N. Prabhakar celebrates at Home for Aged and Infirm

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Home for the Aged and Infirm, Ambphalla, Jammu, held a solemn and graceful event on Wednesday to commemorate the 125th Birth Anniversary of its revered founder, Late Ram Nath Prabhakar. This milestone occasion reflected the enduring legacy of compassionate service and selfless care initiated by Prabhakar.

The day commenced with a Hawan Ceremony from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM, invoking peace and blessings, followed by a tribute programme that began at 11:00 AM.

The Chief Guest, Jugal Kishore Sharma, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, graced the occasion with his inspirational presence. He was joined by Yudhvir Sethi, MLA (East), who offered heartfelt tributes to the founder for his tireless service to society and lauded the Home's ongoing contributions to elder care.

The programme began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the dignitaries, symbolizing light, knowledge, and reverence. This was followed by a formal welcome address delivered by Pankaj Gupta, Member, Managing Committee.

A powerful and emotional skit titled "We Are Not Waste Products" was performed by interns from Padma Shri Padma Sachdeva College of Education, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, Dev Bhoomi Uttarakhand University, and Christ College, Pune.

The performance creatively emphasized the value and dignity of the elderly, drawing deep emotional engagement from the audience.

Shreyansh Kumar Jain, President, Viehar Kranti Manch International, captivated the gathering with a thought-provoking poem on the theme "Old Age is a Boon, Not a Curse."



Jyoti Bala, grand-daughter of Late R.N. Prabhakar, shared heartfelt memories, highlighting the simplicity and relentless dedication of her grandfather towards elder welfare.

Nirmala Chattoo, President of Malin NGO (working for senior citizens), addressed the gathering with blessings for the inmates and encouraged them to embrace life with hope and positivity.

Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Rakesh Sharma, President, Ex-Servicemen League, conveyed his warm wishes and urged society to respect and support the elderly.

Prem Gupta, IPS (Retd.), Patron of the Home, presented a memento to the Chief Guest as a token of gratitude and appreciation for his presence and support.

I.D. Soni, President of the Home, provided an overview of the Home's ongoing activities and appealed to citizens to engage with the residents through visits and voluntary support.

Other dignitaries in attendance included Dr. Sunita Kapoor, the first woman Major General from J&K, Vijay Bhagotra, Former Secretary, H.S. Manhas, Vice President, Vijay Gupta, Joint Secretary, and R.C. Vaid, Committee Member, among others.

A key highlight of the programme was the student skit that beautifully conveyed the values and life philosophy

of Late Prabhakar. It served as a moving reminder of our responsibilities toward the elderly and was widely appreciated by all present.

Several speakers shared personal reflections and insights into Prabhakar's mission, inspiring all to continue supporting such noble causes. The gathering included well-wishers, senior citizens, interns, and members of the managing committee.

In his closing remarks, Chief Guest Jugal Kishore Sharma, MP, praised the management for the smooth functioning of the Home. He remarked that while in an ideal society, there should be no need for old age homes, until that ideal is achieved, institutions like this must be supported and equipped to offer the best possible care and comfort. The event concluded with a Langar, reflecting the inclusivity and compassion that Late Prabhakar exemplified throughout his life.

The programme was anchored by Bhoomi Sharma and Khushi Sharma, and the vote of thanks was delivered by Sat Paul Sharma.

Additionally, to mark the occasion of the Foundation Day, a free medical camp was also organized by Dr. Parveen Yograj, MS assisted by Dr. Rajinder Thappa for the residents and attendees, further reflecting the Home's commitment to the well-being of the elderly.

India's innovation story comes alive in Srinagar: 'Bharat Sanrachana-2025' from July 10-12

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: India's biggest development and innovation exhibition, Bharat Sanrachana - Jammu and Kashmir 2025, is set to open in Srinagar from 10 to 12 July at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC).

Addressing the media persons at SKICC, Hon'ble Member of Parliament Gulam Ali Khatana's called Bharat Sanrachana Jammu & Kashmir 2025 is a remarkable initiative that brings together the diverse developmental efforts of various Government of India departments under one platform.

"This exhibition serves as a live testament to the vision of 'Viksit Bharat' and the Hon'ble Prime Minister's commitment to inclusive growth, especially in regions like Jammu & Kashmir," he said.

"The schemes and policies showcased here-from scientific advancements by ISRO and DRDO, to rural and infrastructure development by NHPC, THDC, and Ministry of Textiles, to agricultural innovations by ICAR and APEEDA-demonstrate how the central government is working relentlessly to empower every citizen. It also reflects the transformative impact of flagship initiatives on the ground, including in remote and aspirational districts of Jammu & Kashmir; he added.

He also said that he firmly believes that such exhibitions not only spread awareness about government schemes but also strengthen the people's participation in nation-building.

"This is a platform of opportunity, learning, and vision. I congratulate the organisers and all participating ministries for making this a gateway to India's development story," he further added.

Organised by Tarmeh Events, the mega event brings together over 60 top government ministries, scientific institutions, and public sector organisations to showcase India's progress and future vision. With free entry for all, the exhibition is specially designed for students, youth, women entrepreneurs, and local representatives of Jammu and Kashmir.

The exhibition is part of a broader national initiative to foster citizen engagement in the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 and aims to build meaningful connections between the people of the region and India's leading development institutions. Open daily from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, the event promises a unique, interactive learning experience for all visitors.

Among the major participants are the Defence Research and



Development Organisation (DRDO), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Geological Survey of India (GSI), National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Indian Jute Board, Ministry of Textiles, Department of Science and Technology, and the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Visitors can explore thematic pavilions on defence, space, water, energy, agriculture, digital transformation, startups, skill development, and women empowerment. A dedicated youth zone will feature live demonstrations, innovation showcases, and career guidance sessions. The exhibition will also celebrate the region's rich heritage through displays of Kashmiri handicrafts, tourism, and culture, while informative installations will highlight flagship government schemes, scientific achievements, and national priorities.

More than just an exhibition, the event is envisioned as a platform for grassroots engagement-where local innovators, pan-chayat members, students, and aspiring entrepreneurs can discover opportunities, build awareness, and connect directly with institutions shaping the future of India.

Tarun Jain, Director of Tarmeh Events, said, "This is not just an exhibition-it's a national connect. It brings India's top institutions face-to-face with the people, especially the youth, to ignite curiosity, showcase progress, and shape the future together."