

# KIIT-DU sends largest contingent from India to 2025 World University Games

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BHUBANESWAR: KIIT-DU is set to make history by sending the largest contingent of student-athletes among all Indian universities to the 2025 World University Games (WUG) in Germany. With 40 athletes competing across seven sporting disciplines, KIIT will have the highest representation by a single Indian university in any edition of the Games.



Founder of KIIT and KISS, Dr Achyuta Samanta with faculty and participating players.

Association of Indian Universities (AIU), continuing a leadership role it has played in previous editions such as Napoli 2019 and Chengdu 2023. The athletes representing KIIT include Rupal (400m sprint); Ankita Dhyani (3000m steeplechase); Jeswin Aldrin (Long Jump); Praveen Chithravel (Triple Jump) and Animesh Kujur (current national record holder in 100m sprint). Congratulating the sports

persons and also the Indian Team the Founder of KIIT and KISS, Dr Achyuta Samanta said, "We are promoting "Education with Sports" model at KIIT." KIIT University has invested heavily in sporting infrastructure, training facilities, and athlete support systems, he added while speaking to the media. Among others, Vice Chancellor of KIIT DU Prof. Sharanjit Singh, Registrar Prof Jnyana

Ranjan Mohanty, Director General Sports Dr. Gaganendu Dash, Olympians Dutee Chand and Srabani Nanda were also present at the event. KIIT's role in the Indian delegation is not limited to athletes alone. The 407-member contingent (including sports and administrative officials) will benefit from the presence of seasoned coaches and experts such as Arjuna Awardee Rahul Banerjee (Archery),

Surinder Singh (National Archery Coach), Sanjay Garnaik (International Athletics Coach), Lotak Bindu Dash (International Volleyball Coach), and Baljit Singh Sekhon (International Shooting Official and Head of Delegation). The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, the AIU, and the Odisha Government have extended their support to ensure Indian athletes are well prepared.

In Odisha, KIIT-DU leads with highest number of players (40) selected in various categories in the upcoming games, while one each from Utkal and Sambalpur Universities have been selected for the event. In all, 42 players are representing Odisha in Germany. Similarly, Odisha is at the second state after Punjab to be sending the maximum number of players to the World University Games.

# J&K set to host 69th National School Games with vigour

Anuradha leads with mission to empower youth through sports, sustainability

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In a significant stride towards promoting youth sports and holistic development, the Director General of Youth Services and Sports (YSS) J&K, Anuradha Gupta, chaired a preliminary high-level meeting to discuss preparations for the 69th National School Games, set to be hosted in the Union Territory.



DG YSS J&K, Anuradha Gupta chairing a meeting.

The meeting, attended by Joint Directors Vinakshi Koul and Abdul Rashid Kohli, Deputy Director Jitender Mishra, District Youth Services and Sports Officers, and section heads, focused on crucial aspects including finalization of dates, venue identification, technical committee formation, equipment procurement, and boarding and lodging arrangements for athletes and officials.

Jammu and Kashmir will proudly host four prestigious disciplines of the National School Games: Football (U-19 Boys) and Wushu (U-17 Boys & Girls) in Srinagar, while Taekwondo (U-19 Boys & Girls) and Table Tennis (U-19 Boys & Girls) will be conducted in Jammu.

Encouraging a professional and organized approach, DG Anuradha Gupta urged all stakeholders to set benchmarks in event execution, ensuring a seamless experience for participants from across the nation. She

emphasized the importance of timely identification of venues and lodging centres to ensure readiness and smooth logistics, both for hosting and for team preparation.

Highlighting the significance of athlete development, she stressed on long-duration coaching camps with expert trainers, standard equipment, and performance-focused strategies to improve results and boost the medal tally of J&K at the national level.

"Let this event not only be a platform to compete but an opportunity to inspire. We must make extraordinary efforts to enhance the performance of our teams and create an environment where youth can grow into champions," she added.

In a move that links sports with sustainability and well-being, DG-YSS also announced a massive plantation drive themed "Plants for Nutrition". Under this initiative, each district is

encouraged to plant at least 1,000 trees, with focus on nutritional species such as amla, moringa, summer apple, and other local fruit-bearing trees. She called for active involvement of school children and Physical Education staff, urging them to adopt and nurture the plants as part of a deeper environmental and personal commitment.

"You have to develop youth holistically," said Anuradha Gupta. "Apart from providing them platforms in sports, we must instill healthy lifestyle habits and create an environment that makes them not just players, but ambassadors of health, fitness, and nutrition." As the countdown to the 69th National School Games begins, Jammu and Kashmir stands poised to not only host the nation's best school athletes, but also to set new standards in sportsmanship, organization, and youth empowerment.

## Aadit Chopra from JPS Jammu sets international record

**STATE TIMES NEWS**



JAMMU: In a remarkable display of strength and balance, Aadit Chopra, a 4-year-old student from Jodhamal Public School, Jammu, set an international record for the longest time hanging upside down from a pull-up bar. With his feet firmly braced against a wall and his body suspended mid-air, Aadit held the gravity-defying pose for 2 minutes and 35 seconds.

Aadit's achievement at such a young age has drawn praise from educators and fitness enthusiasts alike. His parents, Rohit Chopra & Tanya Chopra, credit the accomplishment to early exposure to physical activity and the school's strong encouragement of holistic development.

Aadit's extraordinary feat is not just a record-it's a reminder of what young minds and bodies can achieve with the right support and spirit.

## Rozi Sharma qualifies Ph.D

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Rozi Sharma, daughter of Madho Kumar and wife of Deepak Sharma, resident of Ward No 10 Kathua has been declared qualified for the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Environmental Science by the University of Jammu. She worked on the topic "Potential of Phragmites based constructed wetland treatment system for remediation of textile wastewater" under the supervision of Professor Piyush Malaviya.



## Ranks pinned to newly promoted ASIs in Doda



SSP Doda, Sandeep Mehta with newly promoted ASIs at pipping ceremony.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
DODA: A formal pipping ceremony was organized today in the office of SSP Doda, Sandeep Mehta JKPS, to felicitate the promotion of several Head Constables (HC) to the rank of Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI). The event was attended by senior police officials, including Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP) Headquarter Doda, Ajay Anand, and SHO PS Doda, Inspector Pervaiz Ahmed Khanday.

The promoted officers who received their new ranks were Mohd Hussain, Zakir Ali, Irshad Ahmed, Javaid Iqbal, Ziafat Ali, Raj Mohd, Altaf Hussain,

Shehzad Hussain, Raj Kumar, Shamas Din, Beer Singh, Manohar Lal.

The ceremony was conducted with traditional pomp and dignity, during which the officers were pinned with their new insignia.

Addressing the gathering, SSP Doda, Shri Sandeep Mehta, congratulated the promoted officers on achieving this significant milestone in their careers. He emphasized that the promotion to ASI is a recognition of their dedication and hard work, but also brings added responsibilities. He urged the officers to uphold the highest standards of integrity, pro-

fessionalism, and commitment in discharging their duties.

SSP Mehta highlighted the importance of continuous learning and dedication to serve the community effectively, urging the officers to be exemplary in their conduct and to work diligently for the safety and security of the district. He assured full support from the police department in their future endeavors and expressed confidence in their abilities to serve with honesty and dedication.

The officers and their families expressed gratitude and pledged to serve the nation with renewed zeal and responsibility.

## Guru Purnima celebrated with devotion in Poonch; thousands receive Guru Diksha at Shri Guru Nivas

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

POONCH: Guru Purnima, the festival symbolizing reverence and gratitude towards spiritual teachers, was celebrated with deep devotion and enthusiasm across Poonch district. A grand religious gathering was held at Baba Beernshahi Gurugaddi Shri Guru Nivas in Poonch town, drawing thousands of devotees from within and outside the region. Devotees from Rajouri, Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur, Delhi, Mendhar, and Surankote gathered to offer prayers and seek blessings from Guru Bhai Lokesh Dutt Ji, who is seated at the



prayers for peace and harmony across the country," he said. The spiritual atmosphere at Shri Guru Nivas reflected the strong bond between Guru and disciple. The annual celebration continues to hold a special place in the religious and cultural fabric of the district.

Speaking on the occasion, Mahant Bhai Lokesh Dutt Ji shared that a large number of followers came to take part in the prayers. "We offered

## Govt focuses on innovative policies, youth empowerment: Dy CM

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

PAMPORE: The Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) on Thursday hosted a successful Entrepreneurship and Startup meet at its Pampore campus, drawing significant participation from the government officials, startup founders, innovators and trainees.



Dy CM Surinder Choudhary presenting certificate to an Entrepreneur.

The event commenced with the registration and inauguration of 20 exhibition stalls, which showcased innovative products and services by startups, RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) trainees and units supported by JKEDI.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary graced the occasion as chief guest. He visited the stalls, engaging directly with the young entrepreneurs and commending their spirit of innovation.

The Deputy Chief Minister emphasized the government's unwavering commitment towards fostering a vibrant startup ecosystem in J&K. He underscored that JKEDI continues to serve as a vital institution for entrepreneurship development in the region, committed to enable the youth through training, mentorship and strategic policy interventions.

Emphasizing on creating startup ecosystem and new initiative enterprises, the Dy CM called for setting up cross

sectoral business support ecosystem for growth of entrepreneurship at all levels along with generation of mass employment opportunities.

Surinder Choudhary reiterated government's commitment to establish J&K as a thriving hub of enterprises and holistic employment by fostering entrepreneurship and transitioning towards sustainable economy, livelihood and empowered youth.

A key highlight of the event was the address by the MLA Pampore Hasnain Masoodi

during which multiple important initiatives were launched including, procedural guidelines for Startup Policy 2024-27, Startup Idea Challenge, DPR Portal and Certificate distribution among the trainees of MDP/ESDP under the RAMP initiative.

Earlier, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce Department, Vikramjit Singh, highlighted the importance of institutional support for entrepreneurial growth in the region.

An interactive feedback and interaction session allowed the participants to engage with the policymakers and share suggestions and experiences.

The event concluded with the presentation of mementoes, a formal vote of thanks by the Director of JKEDI, providing a platform for further collaboration among startups, mentors and government officials.

## 2-day FDP under 'SCERT on Wheels' initiative concludes

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A two-day Faculty Development Programme (FDP) for DIET faculty along with ZNO's of District Jammu in collaboration with SCERT Jammu was successfully conducted from July 9 to 10, 2025, under the innovative outreach initiative "SCERT on Wheels," aimed at strengthening institutional capacity and fostering academic collaboration between JKSCERT and DIETs across Jammu Division.

The programme was jointly organised by DIET Jammu and the JK SCERT Divisional Office Jammu, under the guidance of Dr. Sindhu Kapoor, Joint Director, JK SCERT Jammu Division. A total of 45 trainees including 22 DIET Faculty (including HOD's) and 23 ZNOs were sensitized during this two



day FDP.

The programme was formally inaugurated by R. G. Dogra, Principal, DIET Jammu, who highlighted the importance of capacity building and inter-institutional synergy in realising the goals outlined in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The core objectives of the FDP were to develop a comprehensive understanding of the mandate, vision and structure of SCERT and DIETs as per NEP 2020, clarify specific roles and responsibilities, familiarise faculty

with departmental functioning and promote mechanisms for improved coordination and academic support at the grassroots level.

A team of seasoned officers from JKSCERT Jammu and SCERT Central served as resource persons and conducted sessions on a variety of crucial academic themes. Paawan Vivek, Sr. Academic Officer, conducted the orientation session on the programme, initiatives undertaken and achievements of SCERT along with essentials of the training design and modules and NEP 2020. Manu Vasudeva AO delivered sessions on NEP 2020 and SARTHAQ tasks implications and road map for SCERT and DIET's. Dr. Harpreet Kour covered topics related to the role, responsibilities and functioning of DIET's and SCERT, planning and monitoring for effective implementations of various objectives of SCERT and challenges in Educational research. Dr. Sunita Sharma guided participants on developing content and training program based on NCF-SE competencies. Rajesh Hali from SCERT Central spoke on the vision for DIETs of Excellence, and Dr. Balgar Singh provided insights into national Digital initiatives and institutional

alignment. Participants gained enhanced conceptual clarity on DIET & SCERT's mandate, deeper insights into departmental roles, and practical strategies for collaboration and institutional improvement. In his valedictory address, R.G Dogra lauded the collaborative efforts and emphasised that the realisation of NEP 2020 depends on how effectively SCERTs and DIETs bring policy into practice. He urged DIET faculty to act as change-makers, document best practices and lead with innovation and commitment. He described the FDP not just as a training programme, but as a call for strategic academic leadership at the grassroots.

The programme was coordinated under the supervision of Dr. Romesh Kumar, Head of Department, DIET Jammu. The vote of thanks was delivered by. Kanwal Preet Kour HOD and the sessions were anchored by Tripta Charak, Lecturer, DIET Jammu. The success of this initiative marks another step in reaffirming SCERT's commitment to institutional excellence, grassroots empowerment and the transformation of school education in line with the vision of NEP 2020.

## Progress of banks reviewed in Kathua

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

KATHUA: DLRC/DCC meeting for the quarter ending March 2025 was held on Thursday at the DDC Office in Kathua. The purpose of the meeting was to review the flow of credit and assess the performance of banks in key areas such as deposits, advances under the priority sector, and government-sponsored schemes.



Nipun Sharma, DDM Nabard Kathua, Parshottam Kumar, Cluster Head, JK Bank, Jatinder Kumar Khajuria, Chief Agriculture Officer, and Kavita, PO (DUDA), Dr Rohini AD Handicraft along with senior representatives from various banks and line departments. The meeting was convened by Aman Jasrotia, SBI LDM Kathua.

The Chairman, Surinder Sharma (JKAS), reviewed the progress of various financial schemes such as KCC, New KCC (Dairy, Poultry, Fisheries, and Sheep Husbandry), P M E G P (KVIB/KVIC/DIC/NULM), N R L M Handloom/Handicraft, and PMAY. His focus was particularly on the credit linkage for beneficiaries under

these schemes. He directed both banks and line departments to reconcile sponsored loan applications effectively. Surinder Sharma (JKAS) emphasized the importance of awareness programs aimed at the general public, farmers, and skilled individuals to help them set up new economic units and thereby improve the credit-deposit (C.D) ratio in the district. He called for

enhanced coordination between banks and line departments to maximize the potential of agriculture and allied activities to meet the Annual Credit Plan objectives.

The Chairman urged banks to utilize all available resources and develop solid action plans to raise the current C.D ratio from 54.15% to at least 60% by the end of the financial year 2024-25. He recommended the formulation of bank-specific action plans for a more targeted approach to increasing this ratio. Furthermore, he insisted on the coverage of a maximum number of individuals under social security schemes such as Jan Dhan Yojana, Suraksha Bima Yojana,

Jeevan Jyoti Yojana, and Atal Pension Yojana, ensuring their penetration at all block levels. Highlighting a moral obligation to the people of Kathua,

he stressed the need for widespread dissemination of government schemes. ADDC Surinder Sharma also recommended organizing special awareness camps for social welfare initiatives with active collaboration from banks and departments, along with increasing agricultural loans in allied sectors. He instructed banks to process pending loan applications under JKREGP, PMEGP, and other schemes before March 2025. Among other CAO, CHO, Fishere Department, DIC, other Banks, etc.

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