

# Martand Raina to play for East Bengal in prestigious ISL

Eyeing India spot ace athlete becomes inspiration for footballers of J&K, Rajasthan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Hailing from a village Seer Jagir, Sopore in North Kashmir-- born and brought up in Jaipur, Rajasthan, the son of the soil, ace footballer Martand Raina will be the first player from Rajasthan to don the East Bengal colours and also will become the first ever player from Kashmiri Pandit community to do so.

His extraordinary soccer talent has fetched him a massive three-year contract of Rs one crore and ten lakhs (1,10, 00, 000) for East Bengal to represent it in the prestigious Indian Super League (ISL) and other tournaments.

Martand will receive an yearly contract money of Rs 30, 40, 40 lakh in three seasons respectively. Martand will begin his East Bengal journey in the forthcoming Durand Cup Football with the first match against South United Football Club in Kolkata on July 23, 2025.



Influenced and motivated by his sporting family and inspired by his Grand Father Kanaya Lal Raina (a topeclass footballer who was approached by Mohan Bagan in his prime youth) and his uncle Ajay Raina (a graceful Club cricketer of the valley), son of

Smita and Dr Subash Raina, the champion footballer Martand began his soccer journey from St Xaviers School Jaipur where he studied from Class 1st to Class 12th. Martand continued his soccer brilliance while pursuing Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree from Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi, thus making balance between sports and studies.

Playing in a local soccer tourney in Jaipur, Martand was spotted by the administrators of Rajasthan United Football Club (RUFC) who hired him to start playing professional soccer.

"Martand has become a role model for young footballers of Rajasthan and his doning the East Bengal jersey will surely lure young footballers of the State towards making soccer a profession. He is a class act when on song and has made all of us proud. He has not only brought

laurels to his Club (RUFC), but to Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir as well. We wish him best of luck for his future endeavours," said Kamal Singh Saroha, Director of Rajasthan United Football Club (RUFC).

Acerediting his success to his coach, parents and well wishers, Martand said that his ultimate goal is to represent the country, adding that he will leave no stone unturned to achieve that feat.

"Representing East Bengal is a dream come true for me and my ultimate destination is to represent the nation at the highest level. My contract with East Bengal has opened the doors for me and brought me closer to the ultimate goal. God is kind," asserted Martand.

It is pertinent to mention here that Martand Raina has made name for himself in the i-league with Rajasthan United Football Club. Over the course of 21

appearances, the 24-year-old defender scored four goals, a notable feat for a center?back-while showcasing strong ball progression and aerial prowess. His intelligent interceptions, ability to carry the ball forward, and effectiveness on set pieces made him one of the standout defenders in the 2nd tier of Indian football last season. Following interest from at least six ISL clubs, including Mumbai City FC, Punjab FC, and Hyderabad FC, East Bengal successfully secured Raina's signature.

East Bengal Head Coach, Oscar Bruzon has echoed the sentiment, noting, "Raina was one of the most effective and consistent performers in the I-League. His signing will strengthen our back-line and increase competition for starting positions. Raina, who previously played in Bengal with Adamas United, is eager to begin his new chapter."

# Manjit Club felicitates India camper Rehan



Shaheed DySP Manjit Singh Memorial Volleyball Club Poonch members felicitating Rehan Parvaiz.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Shaheed DySP Manjit Singh Memorial Volleyball Club Poonch felicitated young Rehan Parvaiz for attending the India camp in under-16 category at Bangalore. The camp held for 16 boys, who were shortlisted out of 24 spikers selected across the country. Finally, a 12-member India team was named out of the campers for participation in the AVC Cup in Bangkok (Thailand). Rehan, who was among 12 campers, could not make it to the final team for the International event. Rehan was honoured for the achievement by veteran volleyball player and retired Sports Officer of the J&K Sports Council, Krishan Lal Sharma in the presence of Mohd Tariq, chairman Shaheed DySP Manjit Singh Memorial Volleyball Club Poonch. Prominent among those present on the occasion were Pardeep Khanna, social activist; Intaiz Ahmad, Parvinder Singh and Mohd Shafiq.

# DC Bandipora inaugurates ASMITA Kickboxing League 2025-26

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANDIPORA: The ASMITA Kickboxing League 2025-26, a nationwide initiative under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, was inaugurated on Saturday by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri at Salvatore International School Shilvat, Sumbal.

The league is being organized under the flagship Khelo India programme and is aimed at empowering girls through sports. As many as 150 girl athletes from various districts across the Kashmir province are participating in the event.

The league is part of the ASMITA (Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women through Action) campaign, which is being implemented across India to promote the active participation of women folk in competitive sports, enhance self-defense skills, and foster discipline among young girls.

During the inaugural ceremony, National Kickboxing Coach Faisal Ali Dar (Padma Shree Awardee), Sub Divisional Magistrate Sumbal, Murtaza Ahmad, and other dignitaries were present.

On the occasion, DC felicitated some of the participating athletes and lauded their dedication, courage, and sporting spirit.



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Speaking at the event, DC emphasized the importance of such leagues not just in advancing careers in sports but also in building confidence, self-discipline, and self-defense skills among young girls.

He appreciated the efforts of the WAKO Kickboxing India and Kickboxing Association of Kashmir for organizing the event in Bandipora and providing a platform for young girls to excel in martial arts.

# CLUJ to organise placement drive

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Continuing with the initiative and the university's proactive approach in connecting its graduates with reputed institutions and fostering their professional development., the Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ) announced yet another significant placement drive, reaffirming its commitment to enhancing career opportunities for its students.

The drive is scheduled to be held on July 14 and 15, 2025 at the School of Sciences, Cluster University of Jammu, under the supervision of Prof. D. S. Manhas, Director of Placement, and under the guidance of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. K. S. Chandrasekar.

This placement initiative is being organized in collaboration with NIMS

University / NIMS Medical College and Hospital, Jaipur, Rajasthan.

Sharing further details, Prof. Manhas stated that the placement drive aims to recruit candidates for the post of Admission Counsellors (Female), with 300 vacancies available.

Candidates with a minimum qualification of graduation and basic knowledge of MS Office and computer applications are eligible to participate.

Interested candidates are encouraged to attend the placement drive to explore this valuable employment opportunity.

The Cluster University of Jammu remains steadfast in its mission to bridge the gap between academia and industry, equipping students not only with academic knowledge but also with practical pathways for career growth.

# Nukkad Natak organised to promote cleanliness, safety awareness among Amarnath pilgrims



DIPR's Cultural Unit members performing Nukkad Natak.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Nukkad Natak was organised on Saturday at the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Token Centre, Railway Road, Jammu, to promote cleanliness and safety among pilgrims.

The event was organised by

the Cultural Unit, Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu in collaboration with District Administration Jammu.

The play conveyed messages on cleanliness, biodegradable waste use, disposal practices

and following safety guidelines.

The initiative was held under the directions of Joint Director Information Jammu, Deepak Dubey and under the supervision of Cultural Officer Jammu, Mukesh Kumar Sharma.

# Sakeena inaugurates CRWM for WSSs at Noorabad Kulgam

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KULGAM: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, inaugurated the Common Raw Water Main (CRWM) for three major water supply schemes (WSSs) including Dranbal Waripora, H N Guri and C S Rather at Dadran, Noorabad, D H Pora here on Saturday. The project, completed with at a cost of Rs. 7.42 crore, Rs. 1.71 crore and Rs. 1.22 crore respectively, will tap raw water from two alpine lakes of Pir Panchal, Bramha Sar and Chir Sar and carry it to a water treatment plant. Addressing a huge gathering on the occasion, the Minister said that the Omar Abdullah-led government is committed towards fulfilling the promises made to the people and is working tirelessly to ensure the prosperity, welfare and holistic development of Jammu and Kashmir. She added that the



government is focused on delivering quality infrastructure and public services for people to improve their lives.

She also raised serious concern over the growing drug menace, terming it as a grave issue that poses a threat to the fabric of society.

Highlighting the development journey over the past months, the Minister also shared various works and initiatives undertaken across sectors including education, social welfare and public infrastructure.

Sakeena said that commissioning of this vital infrastructure is expected to significantly improve the drinking water supply to the beneficiary areas and strengthen the region's water management network.

On the occasion, several locals and public delegations interacted with the Minister and apprised her of several issues and problems of public importance. Sakeena Itoo assured them that their genuine issues and problems will be addressed promptly.

# DC reviews performance of banks in implementation of Govt sponsored schemes

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A meeting of District Level Review Committee/District Consultative Committee (DLRC/DCC) was on Saturday held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, here to review the performance of the Banks and sponsoring Departments under various Government initiatives and flagship schemes for financial year 2024-25.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner/Chairman DLRC/DCC took a detailed review and sector wise performance of the Banks in implementation of different Government schemes. He also reviewed the achieve-



ments of Banks in lending to Priority/Non Priority sectors under Annual Credit Plan.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC urged Banks and sponsoring agencies to prioritize achieving targets under Priority Sector Lending. He

also impressed upon the banks to improve the ease of availing banking facilities in favour of general public.

The DC stressed all the line Departments and Banks operating in the District to ensure effective implementa-

tion of self employment schemes viz Mission YUVA, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), etc with proper hand holding of the beneficiaries to further improve the credit facilities.

The DC asked Banks operating in the District to ensure self employment cases approved by DLIC including Mission YUVA are swiftly scrutinized and sanctioned with timely disbursement of the loan to beneficiaries. He also urged upon speedy processing of HADP cases so that the target population is benefitted under the scheme without any hindrance.

The DC emphasized utmost coordination between Banks and sponsoring agencies for better implementation of self-employment schemes so that

beneficiaries set up their income generating units in a seamless manner.

It was apprised that Banks operating in Srinagar have provided a total credit of Rs 10505 crore among 157616 beneficiaries of District under different schemes achieving 213% of the target during financial year 2024-25.

Besides, Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, General Manager DIC, Hamida Akhtar, Lead District Manager(Banks), Nilofer Jan, LDO RBI, DDM NABARD, all District Officers, Cluster Heads of J&K Bank, representatives of Banks and financial institutions operating in Srinagar.

# Rana asks for upgrades in GB Hostels; reviews facilities



Minister for Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana inspecting GB Hostel at Srinagar.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Minister for Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, on Saturday called for upgrading the Gujjar-Bakerval hostels with provision of all modern facilities to address the existing gaps and foster a conducive environment that supports both academic and personal growth of the students.

He underscored the commitment of government to enhance the living conditions and educational environment for the tribal students.

He made these observations during his visit to Gujjar-Bakerval hostels in Benina and Talsi Bagh where he conducted a thorough inspection of the facilities and had an in-

depth interaction with the students.

In line with this vision for enhancing the quality of facilities for the students, Rana instructed the Director Tribal Affairs to take concrete steps to improve hostels' management and implement upgrades to the hostel facilities.

"These upgrades are expected to address the existing shortcomings and provide students with a nurturing environment that supports their overall development," Rana said.

He also undertook a comprehensive review of DPR of the under construction buildings and directed for expedited completion by PWD.

During the visit, Rana evaluated the quality of facilities being provided to the inmates, assessing the infrastructure to identify areas that require improvement.

The Minister's inspection of the hostel's infrastructure was comprehensive, covering key areas such as classrooms, mess facilities, library services and recreational spaces.

He had a first-hand understanding of the challenges faced by the students and the scope for improvement in the existing facilities.

Rana also engaged with the students, gathering valuable feedback on hostel management and facilities.

The Minister's emphasis on creating a supportive environment highlights the importance of enabling the students to excel academically and reach their full potential.

"We are taking proactive steps to address the students' concerns and improve hostel facilities", the Minister said.

He further assured that Government aims to bridge the gaps in the existing system and promote an environment that fosters growth and development.

# DC inspects Transit Camp Shadipora for Amarnath Yatris



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANDIPORA: As the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2025 continues in full swing, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Saturday visited the Transit Camp Shadipora at Sumbal to take stock of arrangements for the pilgrims.

During the visit, DC interacted with officers on duty and reviewed the facilities being provided to the pilgrims, including accommodation, sanitation, drinking water, and medical services. Officers briefed the DC that all arrangements were functioning smoothly and pilgrims were being provided with every necessary facility.

Meanwhile, DC also visited adjoining areas of Shadipora to address local issues. Responding to concerns raised by residents regarding irrigation problems affecting their agricultural activities, DC assured that the administration is actively working to resolve issues flagged-off, especially in the Shadipora belt.

DC was accompanied by SDM Sumbal and other concerned officers during the visit.

# Vice Chancellor KU inaugurates SOCACON-2025 at GMC Srinagar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar today witnessed the grand inauguration of the 13th International Conference of the Society of Clinical Anatomists (SOCACON 2025). The conference, being held in hybrid mode from July 10-12, 2025, has attracted over 300 delegates from across India and abroad. The inaugural session was graced by Prof. (Dr.) Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir; who in her inaugural address, said that today, we gather to celebrate the confluence of visionary leadership, innovation, and global collaboration in clinical anatomy. The 13th International Conference of the SOCACON 2025 is a testament to the unwavering commitment of our medical fraternity towards excellence in anatomical sciences. "I commend the organizing team led by Prof. (Dr.) Ifat Hassan Shah, Principal of GMC Srinagar, for orchestrating an event of such national and international significance. I wish the conference all success and hope it will provide a platform for meaningful dialogue and collaboration among participants," added the Vice Chancellor. Prof. (Dr.) Ifat Hassan Shah, Patron of SOCACON-2025 and Principal/Dean Government Medical College Srinagar, delivered the welcome address, stating "It is my privilege to welcome all to SOCACON 2025. This conference is a celebration of anatomical excellence, collaborative spirit, and the rich academic tradition of Kashmir. I praise the department's efforts in hosting a global academic platform in Srinagar and look forward to fruitful deliberations and outcomes." Prof. (Dr.) Ghulam Mohammad Bhat, Head, Department of Anatomy, GMC Srinagar, stated that the department of Anatomy is committed to

academic excellence and interdisciplinary research in anatomical sciences. "SOCACON-2025 is a significant milestone in our journey, and I am confident that it will foster meaningful dialogue and collaboration among participants," he added. The 13th International Conference of the Society of Clinical Anatomists (SOCACON 2025) is a premier academic event that brings together leading anatomists, clinicians, and researchers from across the globe to discuss the latest advancements in anatomical sciences. The conference aims to foster collaboration, innovation, and excellence in the field of anatomy. The conference features keynote speakers from renowned institutions, including- Prof. (Dr.) Ghulam Nabi (University of Dundee, UK); Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Ashraf Ganie (SKIMS, Srinagar); Dr. Mohammad Sultan Khuroo; Prof. (Dr.) P. Vatsala Swamy (D.Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune); Prof. (Dr.) Bashir Ahmad Shah, Organizing Secretary; Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Saleem Itoo, Co-Organizing Secretary; Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, Administrator; Associated Hospitals, GMC Srinagar.

Dr. Kumar Satish Ravi, Vice Principal of NIMS Jaipur, added, "SOCACON-2025 has raised the bar with its intellectual rigor, scientific innovation, and emotional resonance. It has set a benchmark for future anatomical conferences." The event culminated with a valedictory ceremony, where the Head of the Department extended heartfelt thanks to all national and international delegates, faculty members, administrative staff, senior residents, postgraduate and undergraduate students, and technical teams. Their dedicated efforts and collective spirit played a crucial role in making SOCACON-2025 a resounding success.