

Justice Tashi Rabstan inaugurates Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme at JU

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JAMMU: The University of Jammu (JU) inaugurated the Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme (VBYP) with a vibrant ceremony held at the Brigadier Rajinder Singh Auditorium. The event witnessed participation from students, faculty, and members of civil society. Justice (Retd.) Tashi Rabstan, former Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and an alumnus of JU, was the Chief Guest. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor; Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. Justice Rabstan expressed his deep connection with JU, stating, "It's always a privilege to return and interact with young minds." Emphasizing the importance of engaging youth in India's development journey, he highlighted legal reforms as crucial to achieving the goals of Viksit Bharat@2047. He stressed modern governance,



Justice (Retd.) Tashi Rabstan, former Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh speaking at a programme at JU.

citizen-centric legislation, and digital legal tools like faceless assessments and litigation monitoring, while commending the repeal of colonial laws and the enactment of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam. He concluded by encouraging youth to embrace their role as active nation-builders. Prof. Pragati Kumar emphasized the "psyche of the nation" and called for a broader understanding of youth as anyone

driven by national purpose. He highlighted the disconnect between students and society, urging educators to make learning more purpose-driven. He affirmed confidence in India's trajectory towards development. Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, JU, aligned India's recent emergence as the fourth-largest economy with the Viksit Bharat@2047 vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He called for a transformative ecosystem within educational

institutions to foster innovation, startups, and solution-centric thinking. Stressing a shift from rote learning to experiential and IT-integrated education, he advocated for skilling, creativity, and job creation. He highlighted five key pillars: infrastructure, digital economy, health, agriculture, and education, urging universities to act as incubators of innovation. Quoting Swami Vivekananda, he concluded: "Arise, awake, and stop not till

the goal is achieved." Earlier, Prof. Neelu Rohmetra welcomed dignitaries, while Prof. Prakash C. Antahal, Dean Students Welfare and Co-convenor, outlined the four-day festival covering themes like Nasha Mukti Bharat, emotional wellness, and youth leadership. A cultural play titled "Bharat Ki Baat", directed by Sumeet Sharma, celebrated Indian heritage and was performed by theatre students under SIIEDC.

A multi-department exhibition showcased innovations from eight government departments and university units, focused on digital governance, start-ups, and youth schemes. Prof. Pankaj K. Srivastava delivered the vote of thanks. The session ended with a spirited tug-of-war organized by the Department of Sports. Prominent attendees included senior academic and administrative officials, faculty, students, and civil society members.



Insp Vikram awarded Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in investigation



IGP Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti presenting Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence to SHO Janipur, Inspector Vikram Sharma.

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JAMMU: In a ceremony held at ZPHQ Jammu, Inspector Vikram Sharma, SHO Janipur, was decorated with the Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation. The award, conferred in recognition of his outstanding professional investigation skills, was presented by IGP Jammu Zone, in the presence of DIG J&K Range, SP City North Jammu, and SDPO City

West. The Union Home Minister's Medal is a prestigious national award that recognizes exceptional investigation work conducted by police officers across India. Inspector Vikram Sharma was awarded this honor in 2020 for his exemplary investigation work while serving in the Anti-Corruption Bureau. The ceremony highlighted the officer's dedication, professionalism, and commitment

to upholding the highest standards of investigation. The IGP Jammu Zone and other senior officers praised Inspector Sharma's achievements and reaffirmed the J&K Police's commitment to excellence in law enforcement. The J&K Police congratulated Inspector Vikram Sharma on this distinguished honour and looks forward to his continued contributions to maintaining law and order in the region.

BJP MLAs call on IGP Jammu, raise key concerns on public safety and law & order

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JAMMU: A delegation of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLAs from District Jammu on Thursday called on Inspector General of Police (IGP) Jammu Zone, Bheem Sen Tuti (IPS), to raise several pressing issues related to public safety, security, and effective policing specially in the Jammu region. The delegation comprised Sham Lal Sharma (MLA Jammu North), Prof. Ghauri Ram Bhagat (MLA Suchetgarh), Narinder Singh (MLA RS Pura), Yudhvir Sethi (MLA Jammu East), Surinder Kumar (MLA Marh), Mohan Lal (MLA Akmoor), and Rajeev Bhagat (MLA Bishnah). The BJP MLAs emphasized the need for stronger coordination between the police and the general public to enhance trust and ensure better law enforcement. They recommended regular public meets, the revival of Mohalla Committees, and increased visibility of beat officers. A major point of concern raised was the increasing drug abuse among youth. The MLAs urged the police to intensify operations against drug trafficking, conduct surprise raids in

hotspots, and work in collaboration with educational institutions and NGOs to launch awareness and de-addiction campaigns. The delegation also brought up the persistent problem of bovine smuggling, especially during night hours, which poses a serious threat to peace and communal harmony. They called for more robust night patrolling, the establishment of special checkpoints on highways and other areas, and the use of drone surveillance in vulnerable zones. Another significant issue discussed was the rise in anti-social and criminal elements operating in both urban and rural pockets. The BJP MLAs stressed the importance of proactive intelligence input, cyber monitoring, and swift legal action to curb any activities aimed at disrupting public peace and order. The MLAs expressed serious concern over the widespread use of Gattu/Manjha thread (synthetic kite-flying string), which has caused numerous injuries and fatalities, particularly among two-wheeler riders and birds. They demanded a complete ban on the sale and use of such dangerous material, with strict enforcement through market inspections and punitive

measures against violators. The delegation also highlighted the importance of improving women and senior citizens' safety through dedicated helplines, patrolling units, and a quick response mechanism by the police. The BJP leaders recommended coordinated action between the police, traffic authorities, and municipal bodies to ensure smoother vehicular movement and pedestrian safety. IGP Jammu and DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range, Shiv Kumar Sharma gave a patient hearing to the issues raised and assured the delegation that the Jammu Police is fully committed to maintaining law and order and protecting the safety of all citizens. IGP Jammu appreciated the proactive approach of the legislators and assured them of appropriate and timely action on the concerns raised. He also underlined the importance of public cooperation in ensuring long-term peace and crime prevention across the region. The BJP MLAs reaffirmed their dedication to safeguarding public interest and assured their full cooperation with law enforcement agencies in achieving a peaceful, safe, and progressive society.

Gaurav calls on LG Kavinder Gupta

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Gaurav Gupta, BJP J&K Spokesperson, today called on the newly appointed Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, and extended warm congratulations on his new role. During the interaction, Gaurav Gupta thanked the Central Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for reposing faith in the leadership from Jammu region by appointing a senior leader like Kavinder Gupta as the LG of Ladakh. He described the appointment as a proud moment for the people of Jammu and a symbol of the Centre's inclusive and regionally balanced approach. Congratulating Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Shri Kavinder Gupta, Gaurav Gupta said, "It is a matter of immense pride that a veteran leader from Jammu, known for his administrative capabilities and clean image, has been entrusted with such a key constitutional position. We are confident that under Kavinder Ji's leadership, Ladakh will witness accelerated development and peace." Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta, while acknowledging the visit, said, "I am grateful for the support and good wishes from party leaders and the people of Jammu. I assure the citizens of Ladakh that I will work with full dedication and commitment for the progress of this beautiful region, with a special focus on infrastruc-



BJP J&K Spokesperson, Gaurav Gupta, calling on LG Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta.

ture, connectivity, youth empowerment, and tourism." Gaurav Gupta and the LG Ladakh discussed the immense potential of Ladakh in terms of strategic development, eco-tourism, and sustainable energy. Gupta also highlighted the importance of strengthening the emotional and political integration of Ladakh with the rest of the country.

IIM Jammu signs MoU with NHPC Limited

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, and R.P. Goyal, CMD, NHPC Limited, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Thursday to establish a long-term strategic partnership focused on capacity building, consultancy, research, case development, and academic collaboration. The MoU was signed by Cmdr. Kesavan Baskaran(R), CAO, IIM Jammu, and Rajeev R. Asthana, GM (HRD), NHPC, at the NHPC Corporate Office, Faridabad, in the presence of Uttam Lal, Director (Personnel), NHPC, Prof. Rajesh Sikka, Co-Chairperson, EE&C, IIM Jammu, and other senior officials. The collaboration aims to



leverage IIM Jammu's expertise to enhance NHPC's organizational capabilities through executive education, long-duration academic programs, internships, consultancy, and joint research initiatives. Prof. Sahay emphasized that the MoU reflects IIM Jammu's commitment to nation-building and knowledge exchange, while Uttam Lal highlighted its role in strengthening NHPC's learning ecosystem and leadership development.

Prof. Sanjeev Pathak, Chairperson, EE&C, IIM Jammu, noted the importance of such partnerships in equipping leaders to navigate emerging challenges. Under the MoU, IIM Jammu will design executive programs, offer consulting solutions, and support NHPC's talent development through initiatives like Executive MBA, Ph.D. for professionals, sponsored research, and conferences-reinforcing both institutions' dedication to excellence and innovation.

Kabaddi level-1 referee course concludes

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SRINAGAR: The Union Territory (UT) level-1 Kabaddi Referee/Umpires Course concluded today at Bakshi Stadium, here with all 90 participants from different parts of the UT expressing their satisfaction over the knowledge they gained during the four-day special activity. The course was conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Amateur Kabaddi Association in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council (JKSC), under the guidance of Dr Kuldeep Kumar Gupta, general secretary and Anil Gupta, president of the Association. In the valedictory function of the event was presided by Secretary JKSC, Nuzhat Gul. Earlier, the penal of resource persons conducted the final examination of the trainees in a strict and professional manner. The highlight of the course was the invaluable contribution of Rana Ranjeet Singh, International Kabaddi Referee, and Dhanashree, AKFI-approved Technical Referee, who deliberated upon technical aspects of the course. "Both these individuals are known for their discipline, dedication, professionalism, and international reputation," informed Dr Kuldeep Kumar Gupta. The Participants: Arshid Rather; Firdous Rather; Umer Ahmad Dar; Nahida, Bilkias, Shahnaz, Aman Singh, Sanjit Kumar, Mir Alam, Mohd Yousif, Liyakat Ali, Kajal Devi, Waseem Rashid, Zahid Fazal, Javaid Iqbal, Vishal, Firdous Ahmad, Fayaz Ahmad, Shahid Shabir; Sunny Kumar; Mohd Akif, Zahid Riyaz, Junaid Guroo, Nazarat Bhatti, Shahid Khan, Mohd Shanaz Khan, Balbir Singh, Mahesh Chandir; Ab Qayoom, Mohd Shabir; Khalil Ahmad, Gulbir; Abdul Rahman, Tanvir; Javaid Rather; Sajad Rather; Gorav, Ram Kumar; Anita Sharma, Kiran, Murifat, Shakir; Koshal Sharma, Muzamil Hussain, Mohd Inuran, Naveen, Sandeep, Vikas, Anikush, Masrat, Shahnaz, Hashim Ali, Riyaz Ali, Skinder Lal, Tanveer Iqbal, Mohd Shokor; Daniyal, Jahingir; Farooq Ahmad Dar; Sumita, Mammeet Kour; Harmeet Singh, Majid Khan, Mohd Shakoor; Bilal Bagat, Gowhar; Bilal Ahmad, Darista Pawan, Rubi Sharma, Rambir Singh, Shakit Ali, Mohd Kabir; Parvaiz Ahmad, Shalu Devi, Mohd Faheem, Mohd Munshi, Agh Rasool, Inamul Hassan, Bandana Sharma, Eas Ahmad, Anikush Singh, Shabir Ahmad, Mohan Lal, Mohd Altaf, Rameez Ahmad Malik, Zahid Fazal, Mohd Ashraf, Vishal Singh, Danish Saleem, Syed Zubair Ahmad, Ishfaq Hussain Mir, and others.

Yudhvir holds public Darbar

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JAMMU: MLA from Jammu East Constituency and senior BJP leader Yudhvir Sethi today conducted a public grievance redressal camp at Pt. Prem Nath Dogra B h a w a n, Kacchi Chawri, where he listened to and addressed the concerns of residents from across the Jammu city. The camp witnessed a huge turnout as people from various parts of the city gathered to raise issues related to essential services and developmental matters. Yudhvir Sethi was accompanied by Swati Sharma, President of BJP Amphalla Mandal, and Shiv Sharma, President of BJP Bajalta Mandal, along with other party workers, who supported the smooth conduct of the camp. Throughout the day, various deputations and individual citizens presented their concerns regarding issues such as ration card irregularities, pension delays, education facility gaps, drinking water problems, unscheduled power cuts, road repair demands, PHE and PDD-related complaints, revenue matters, and other civic concerns. Many individuals also approached the MLA with personal grievances seeking help and guidance. Demonstrating proactive leadership, Yudhvir Sethi personally called up officials of the concerned departments to resolve several issues on the spot. He directed them to take swift action and provide necessary relief to the people at the earliest. He assured the public that unresolved matters would be followed up and resolved in a time-bound manner.

Heritage School skaters dominate District Roller Skating Championship with 48 medals

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The talented skaters of Heritage School showcased exceptional skill and determination at the District Jammu 3rd Ranking Roller Skating Championship, organized by the Jammu & Kashmir Roller Skating Association, held at MA Stadium from 25th to 27th July 2025. Competing across a variety of events and age categories, the students delivered a spectacular performance, winning a whopping number of 48 medals - 19 Gold, 13 Silver, and 16 Bronze. In the Loose Bearing Event, Hareem Fatima (Class UKG C) clinched a Gold medal, while Kritanya Soni (Class 2C) secured Silver in the U-8 Girls 500m Rink Race. The Jonex Quads Event saw Sayesha Sharma (Class UKG A) win Silver and Jaisvi Kaur Sarkaria (Class 1D) earn a Bronze. In the Inline Speed Event, Adhyansh Verma (Class 2F) bagged two Bronze medals in the U-8 Boys 500m and 1000m races. Devansh Bajaj (Class 5A) secured a Bronze in the U-12 Boys 500m race, while Puneesh Puri (Class 9D) dominated the U-15 category with two Gold medals. In the Cadet Boys Event, Gold



Heritage School faculty felicitating winner students

The Roller Hockey - Tiny Tots Category brought home four Golds and one Silver: Bhumik Singh Salathia (Class 3D), Prehaan Tripathi (Class 2E), Aadriti Sharma (Class 3F), and Adhyansh Abrol (Class 3D) won Gold, while Yashaavin Singh Reen (Class 3F) received Silver. In the Cadet Boys Event, Gold

medals were secured by Agastya Shivpuri (Class 4D), Tej Pratap Sehgal (Class 4D), Sidharth Singh (Class 4A), Kiaan Charak (Class 4C), Raghav Dhiman (Class 4E), and Samarthyia Singh (Class 6D). Bronze medals went to Abheek Digr (Class 5D), Parmarth Bral (Class 5D), and Adhrit Suri (Class 5E).

In the Cadet Girls Event, Aujasvi Bral (Class 3F) won Silver, while Bronze medals were claimed by Veeha Sharma (Class 4A), Prashasti Sharma (Class 4B), Kamaakshi Mahajan (Class 5E), Neyonika Slathia (Class 5F), and Tvisha Sharma (Class 5F). In the Sub Junior Boys & Girls category, Navdeep Kour (Class 8C)

and Kumar Vanishree N Verma (Class 8A) earned Gold medals, while Vihaan Sharma (Class 7A) secured Bronze. The school also performed strongly in the Cadet Mix Event, where Silver medals were won by Agastya Shivpuri (Class 4D), Sidharth Singh (Class 4A), Kiaan Charak (Class 4C), Raghav Dhiman (Class 4E), Samarthyia Singh (Class 6D), Veeha Sharma (Class 4A), Prashasti Sharma (Class 4B), Kamaakshi Mahajan (Class 5E), Neyonika Slathia (Class 5F), and Tvisha Sharma (Class 5F). In the Sub Junior Boys & Girls category, Navdeep Kour (Class 8C)

Heritage School takes immense pride in the accomplishments of its young skaters whose consistent performances brought glory with 48 medals - a testament to their dedication, discipline, and love for the sport. These achievements reflect the school's commitment to fostering all-round excellence in both academics and extracurricular domains.