

CS for making KIWSF grand showcase of local tourism, art, culture

Around 800 participants from 28 States competing in 5 water sports disciplines at Dal Lake

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting with senior officers from the civil administration and Police to review preparedness for the maiden edition of the Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF) 2025, scheduled to be held on the iconic Dal Lake from 21st to 23rd August.

Calling the event a unique opportunity to project Kashmir's multifaceted charm on a national platform, the Chief Secretary emphasised that the festival must be converted into a grand celebration of local tourism, handicrafts, art and culture. He directed the Handicrafts & Handloom Department to organise top-class exhibitions, highlighting the region's rich craftsmanship to the visitors expected during the event.

The Chief Secretary noted that the timing of the festival coinciding with the peak tourist season in Srinagar has offered an ideal occasion



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing high-level meeting on Tuesday.

to create lasting impressions on visiting the athletes, officials and spectators. He asked the Youth Services & Sports Department to ensure flawless conduct so that the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports considers Srinagar as a regular venue for the festival in the years ahead.

Reviewing arrangements in detail, the Chief Secretary took stock of venue readiness, sports infrastructure, boarding and lodging facilities for athletes, security measures and branding and publicity.

He directed all the con-

cerned departments like that of Tourism, PDD, Jal Shakti, Traffic, Hospitality & Protocol, Civil Aviation, Airports Authority, LCMA, Handicrafts & Handloom, SDRF, Health and Fire & Emergency Services to deliver their responsibilities with the highest standards of efficiency.

Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports, Sarfraz Hafeez, while informing the meeting about this festival said that the department aims to position Srinagar as the "Sports Capital of India" and make it a regular annual affair.

Drawing from the depart-

ment's experience of successfully hosting five editions of the Khelo India Winter Games, he assured that robust arrangements shall be put in place to welcome around 800 athletes and officials from 28 States/UTs, who will compete in five water sports disciplines over the three days of the festival.

He further detailed out that competitive events will be held in Kayaking, Canoeing and Rowing, while Dragon Boat, Water Skiing and a unique Shikara Race will feature as demonstration sports. The festival mascot, the Kashmiri Kingfisher

and its logo featuring a Shikara set against mountain backdrops symbolise the blend of nature, adventure and Kashmiri heritage, he added.

Secretary, Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul, briefed that coordination committees have been formed for different functional areas, with a dedicated State Liaison Officer (SLO) assigned to each team for their information and smooth facilitation.

She also divulged the details about an elaborate opening ceremony, complemented by a drone light show, live traditional folk dances, celebrity performances and food & craft stalls showcasing local street cuisine, art, culture, and SHG products.

Being organised by the J&K Sports Council in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and the Sports Authority of India, the festival is set to be a landmark event, celebrating Kashmir's nature, adventure and cultural spirit in unison.

Poonch District Volleyball Association's office bearers elected



Krishan Lal Sharma

Udesh Pal Sharma

Mohd Tariq

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: The Poonch District Volleyball Association conducted its elections under the supervision of Krishan Lal Sharma, Retired Divisional Sports Officer of the J&K Sports Council and former Secretary of the District Volleyball Association.

The election was held in strict adherence to the latest guidelines outlined in the Model Election Guidelines of the Sports Code-2011, issued by the J&K Sports Council and Volleyball Association of J&K.

A total of 12 affiliated volleyball clubs from across the district participated in the voting process. The

elections were conducted transparently and smoothly, ensuring fair representation for all involved.

The office bearers were unanimously elected for the Poonch District Volleyball Association include Dr. Udesh Pal Sharma as President; Ab Majeed Dar and Intiaz Salaria as Vice-Presidents; Mohd Tariq as Secretary; Nirdosh Kumar Sharma as Treasurer; and Balkrishan Sharma and Deepak Sharma as Joint Secretaries, along with other executive members.

Following the elections, the newly appointed office bearers nominated Shri Krishan Lal Sharma, a senior legend and National

Volleyball player, as the Chairman of the Association, recognizing his vast experience and contribution to the sport.

The newly elected team expressed their commitment to the development and promotion of volleyball in the Poonch district. They assured that with renewed energy and fresh initiatives, they would work towards elevating the sport's stature and providing better opportunities for athletes at the grassroots level.

This election marks a positive step towards revitalizing volleyball activities in Poonch and fostering a vibrant sporting culture in the region.

KCPS students excel in Yoga Competition



KCPS faculty felicitating winner students.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two students of KC Public School (KCPS) put up an excellent performance at the 6th District Jammu Yogasana Sports Championship held on August 10, 2025 at Gurudwara Shri Guru Ravi Dass Ji Maharaj, Sheikh Nagar, Bahu Fort, Jammu.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from numerous leading schools of Jammu including Heritage School, Cambridge Public School and IDPS Jammu.

Under the professional guidance of their Yoga teacher Priyanka Sharma, Nitya Bhat of class 5 won two Silver medals in the Traditional and Artistic categories (Under 10 Cadets) whereas Tarini Jara from the same class secured a Bronze medal in the Artistic category.

Principal AK Mishra and Headmistress Sofia Rana congratulated the young achievers on their remarkable success.

Heritage School inspires young women to pursue STEM Careers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a landmark initiative to encourage young women to explore academic and career opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), Heritage School, in collaboration with FICCI FLO JKL, hosted an engaging seminar for girl students of Classes IX to XII on 12th August 2025. The event aimed to inspire students to take up Mathematics and Science for higher studies, break gender stereotypes and prepare them to lead in a technology-driven future.

The seminar brought together eminent speakers from academia and industry who shared their journeys, insights and practical guidance.

Opening the seminar, Varuna Anand, Past Chairperson of FICCI FLO JKL and Founder of The Splendor of Kashmir, introduced FICCI FLO's work in empowering women across diverse fields. She highlighted how STEM can be a catalyst for innovation,



FICCI FLO JKL members with Heritage School faculty and students at a programme.

entrepreneurship and social change, encouraging students to see these disciplines as tools for shaping both careers and communities.

Representing Collegify, a leading global education consultancy, Ms. Ilakshie Nath (Senior Admission Specialist) spoke about aligning academic choices with personal aspirations. She examined why many girls study STEM subjects but hesitate to pursue them as careers, discussed the value of liberal sciences, highlighted women trailblazers and emphasized the

importance of male allies. She also shared strategies for profile building, leveraging LinkedIn and expanding women's participation in STEM.

Taarika Kakkar (Senior Admissions Specialist - Career & Programs) spoke on the importance of connecting with the right people, building impactful profiles and using science and technology to enter creative fields. She inspired students with stories of Indian women in STEM who have made a global impact.

From the scientific sphere, Dr. Tuhina Dey, Professor

and Head of the Division of Plant Breeding and Genetics at SKUAST-Jammu, delivered a powerful address on 'Empowering Women in STEM - Unlock Your Potential.' She outlined diverse career opportunities in STEM, discussed the Prime Minister's initiatives for promoting girls in science and introduced government schemes like Vigyan Jyoti, GATI and KIRAN. Drawing from her pioneering research in developing three rust-resistant wheat varieties, Dr. Dey urged students to 'Go, Explore, Lead the

Change.'

The event was also attended by Nandita Bajaj, Executive Secretary, FICCI FLO JKL, Sonu Mehta, Treasurer, FICCI FLO JKL and Richa Taneja, Regional Manager & Head of Enrollments, Collegify, who extended their encouragement to the students.

A lively panel discussion and interactive Q&A session gave students the opportunity to clarify doubts, explore global higher education options, and learn about the many paths available in STEM careers.

Principal Akash Pradhan expressed heartfelt gratitude to all speakers and dignitaries for their invaluable contributions. As a token of appreciation, he presented school mementoes to the guests, acknowledging their role in motivating the next generation of women leaders in STEM.

Through such initiatives, Heritage School continues to inspire and empower girl students-broadening their horizons, nurturing curiosity and equipping them with the confidence to excel in diverse and impactful fields of science and technology.

LG Ladakh kicks-off 7-A Side Football Tournament organised by ABVP

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) sports forum Khelo Bharat is organising a 10 days 7-A Side football tournament at Ladakh on the 90th birth anniversary of his holiness under the theme Drugs Free Ladakh.

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Kavinder Gupta was the Chief Guest in the inaugural of the tournament organised at Spituk Ground, Leh.

Along with this Prof. Saket Kushwah (Vice-Chancellor, University of Ladakh), Gaurav Attri (North Zone Organising Secretary, ABVP) and Dr. Padma Gurmet (Director, SOWA RIGPA) grace the



LG Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta interacting with players.

event as Guest of Honour.

While inaugurating the tournament LG Ladakh Kavinder Gupta called upon the youth to embrace sports as a means to good health, discipline and a life free from drugs. LG Ladakh commended ABVP Ladakh initiative to foster sports-

manship, teamwork and healthy lifestyle among the youth of a region.

Gaurav Attri highlighted the importance of sports in personality development and community bonding. They also reaffirmed ABVP's commitment to nurturing young talent in

remote areas like Ladakh where opportunities for organised sports events are limited but enthusiasm is boundless.

This tournament will run from 11th to 20th August 2025 featuring teams from across Ladakh competing for this championship.

District Convener, ABVP Leh Dorjay Namgyal expressed gratitude to local authorities, volunteers and supporters who made the inaugural event of this tournament a grand success.

Tsering Tashi, Tilak Thakur, Abhishek Khadey and many others were present in this inaugural event along with other dignitaries and prominent citizens of Leh.

IIM Jammu welcomes MVIS for an Immersive Learning and Academic Exposure

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, welcomed students from MV International School (MVIS), Samba, for an inspiring educational visit to its Jagti Campus.

The initiative was designed to offer young learners an immersive glimpse into the academic excellence, world-class infrastructure, and vibrant learning culture of one of India's premier management institutions.

A delegation of 58 students, accompanied by three faculty members, was warmly received by the IIM Jammu



MVIS students posing for a photograph during visit to IIM Jammu.

Media and Publication team.

The visit commenced with a guided campus tour, acquainting students with the institute's state-of-the-art facilities - from the smart

classrooms and the knowledge-rich Nalanda Library to the Vedanta-MDP Block, Mandapam-Auditorium and the open-air Rangmanch Amphitheatre, which stands

as a creative space for dialogue and expression.

An engaging audio-visual on IIM Jammu brought alive the inspiring journey of the Institute, giving students a

glimpse into its remarkable growth and achievements.

Prof. Sahay emphasized that early exposure to premier higher education institutions such as IIMs and IITs

plays a pivotal role in broadening the horizons of young minds.

He noted that such visits not only ignite curiosity and ambition but also help stu-

dents visualize the pathways to achieving their dreams.

He encouraged the students to cultivate a strong academic foundation, develop critical thinking skills, and remain

committed to continuous learning, enabling them to confidently navigate future academic and professional challenges.

An engaging interactive session followed, where students explored IIM Jammu's academic programmes, admission process, and unique learning ecosystem. The discussion also reflected the institute's vision of nurturing socially responsible leaders in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The session culminated in a lively Q&A, with students posing insightful questions and expressing their excitement at experiencing the vibrant learning atmosphere at IIM Jammu.