

# DIET-J organises seminar on 'Empowering Teachers for Career Guidance in Schools'

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) Jammu successfully organized a One-Day Seminar on "Empowering Teachers for Career Guidance in Schools" on Tuesday at Government Girls Higher Secondary School.

The event brought together educators, counsellors and experts to deliberate on the crucial role of teachers in shaping students' career choices.

A total of 58 faculty (lecturers, teachers) representing cluster head schools of district Jammu attended the program.

The program was inaugurated by Principal DIET Jammu, R.G. Dogra in the presence of Assistant Director Employment, District Employment and counselling Centre Jammu, Mukhlis Ali.

In his opening remarks, R.G. Dogra underlined the need for teachers to act as



Principal DIET Jammu, R.G. Dogra with teachers at a seminar.

guides and mentors in helping students make informed career decisions. He also expressed his wish to work in collaboration with concerned agencies for betterment of the educational and guidance ecosystem in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the Assistant Director, Employment, reiterated the department's commitment to extending career guidance and counselling support to schools, enabling students to explore suitable pathways for their future.

Delivering the keynote

address on "Empowering Teachers as Career Mentors in Schools," Dr. Romesh Kumar, HOD, DIET Jammu, highlighted that career counselling must be viewed as an integral part of student development, not limited to job placement.

Dr. Kumar also proposed creating a structured ecosystem in government schools that integrates scientific career assessments, psychosocial counselling and experiential platforms such as career fairs in collaboration with partner agencies.

The seminar included a Career Talk by Navdeep Kour, Career Counsellor at District Employment and counselling Centre Jammu, where she demonstrated on the government scheme Mission YUVA, elaborating on its objectives and key components and emphasising its relevance for youth empowerment, interactive discussions and Group Presentations, where six groups of lecturers/teachers designed Career Guidance Action Plans for Schools. Presentations were judged on

content, feasibility and communication, and prizes were awarded to the top three groups: 1st Prize - Group Vision, 2nd Prize - Aspiration, 3rd Prize - Passion and three Consolation Prizes were awarded to remaining groups namely: Vocation, Skill and Motivation.

With the spirit of valediction, the participants carry forward a commitment to transform learnings into action. The seminar concluded with the distribution of certificates and prizes marking a meaningful step towards strengthening career guidance in schools.

The programme was coordinated by IPIC wing of DIET Jammu comprising of team Suniya Mehta Lecturer, Tripta Charak Lecturer, Akash Khajuria teacher under the headship of Dr. Romesh Kumar, HOD, Kanwal Preet Kour, Monika Kalsot, Dr. Romesh Kumar, HODs, DIET Jammu acted as Judges for career Guidance plan presentations.

# CM meets public, several delegations



Delegation members calling on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Scores of delegations and individuals called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at Raabita office here on Tuesday to apprise the Chief Minister of various issues of public importance.

A delegation of folk artists and renowned singers of Kashmir including Ustaad Abdul Rashid Hafiz, Waheed Jeelani, Gulzar Ganie and Muneer Mir raised the concerns of the local artists and singers

with the Chief Minister. They sought the Government's intervention to resolve various challenges faced by the community from last several years.

Similarly, other public delegations also met the Chief Minister and apprised him of various developmental issues and concerns of their respective areas.

Apart from these delegations, scores of individuals called on the Chief Minister and apprised him of vari-

ous personal and public concerns.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to all delegations and individuals, assuring them that the issues raised would be appropriately addressed through the concerned departments.

Earlier, the Chief Minister also held a brief interaction with MLA Kulgam, M.Y. Tarigami and discussed developmental activities in Kulgam constituency.

# Eye camp organised for CAT employees



Doctors with CAT employees, Housekeeping Staff and security at a camp.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To nurture employees' health and wellbeing, the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Jammu Bench in collaboration with Department of Ophthalmology, Government Medical College, Jammu successfully organized a comprehensive Eye camp for CAT employees, Housekeeping

Staff and security personnel under the leadership of Prof. & HoD, Department of Ophthalmology, GMC Jammu, Dr. Ashok K Sharma and his dedicated team, here today.

The camp prioritized of regular eye examination crucial for early detection of vision issues and serious eye diseases like glaucoma, cataracts, and macular

degeneration, as well as systemic health conditions like diabetes. The examination included tests for visual acuity, eye pressure, and a detailed examination of the eye's internal structures, etc.

Judicial Member Sanjeev Gupta, Judicial Member Rajinder Singh Dogra and Administrative Member Pragna Saxena appreciated the efforts made by the team

of doctors who examined each and every person thoroughly and provided medicines along with medical advice with full zeal.

Bijay Jha, Deputy Registrar, Indrani Nath, PPS, Arun Kumar, PS, Varun Gupta, SO and Monika Kalsi, SO expressed their gratitude towards the medical team for successful conduct of the eye camp.

# Royal Family of Bhutan pays courtesy visit to LG Kavinder, First Lady

## STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Her Majesty Queen Mother Ashi Tshering Pem Wangchuck and Her Royal Highness Princess Ashi Kesang Choden Wangchuck of Bhutan paid a courtesy visit to the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, and First Lady Bindu Gupta at Raj Niwas, Leh.

At the outset, the Queen Mother expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor and the UT Administration for their warm hospitality during their visit. She shared details of the Royal Family's maiden official visit to Ladakh and the various places they explored, praising the region's breathtaking landscapes and the heartfelt warmth of its people.

The Lt Governor welcomed the distinguished guests, highlighting the deep-rooted cultural, spiritual, and economic ties between Ladakh and Bhutan. He expressed appreciation for their visit, emphasizing that such



Royal Family of Bhutan meeting with LG Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta.

exchanges will strengthen the people-to-people bonds between the two regions.

Gupta also underlined the shared Buddhist heritage that unites Ladakh and Bhutan, reaffirming Ladakh's commitment to preserving and promoting this ancient legacy.

Further, the Lt Governor briefed the

guests about various developmental initiatives by the Central Government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and the UT Administration to advance Ladakh's progress.

First Lady Bindu Gupta engaged warmly with the visitors, lauding Bhutan's efforts in balancing cultural preservation with modernization.

## Kuldeep gets Pro Kabaddi League invite

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: General Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir Amateur Kabaddi Association and Technical Director K a b a d d i Federation, Dr. Kuldeep Kumar Gupta has been invited to be part of the Pro Kabaddi League Season-12. Kuldeep, who has been recently nominated Technical Committee member of Pro Kabaddi League shall be among the members of the technical panel in the mega event being held between September 12 and September 27 at Jaipur. Dr. Kuldeep Kumar Gupta has also been appointed Technical Delegate for the 3rd Asian Youth Games to be held in the month of October at Bahrain. He was also Technical Delegate in the 19th Asian Games at Hangzhou in China - 2023, 16th Asian Games at Ghanzhou, China - 2010 and 14th Asian Games at Busan, Korea 2002.

# IGNOU conducts centralised induction for learners of certificate programmes

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indra Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), through its Regional Services Division (RSD) in coordination with the Electronic Media and Production Centre (EMPC), conducted a centralised Induction Meeting for learners enrolled in Certificate Programmes of the July 2025 admission cycle.

The session was broadcast LIVE via Gyan Darshan, SWAYAMPRABHHA

Channel, YouTube, and Facebook Live, ensuring wide accessibility across the country.

The one-hour presentation covered key aspects usually addressed during induction at Regional Centres (RCs) and Learner Support Centres (LSCs). Around 20 students from various certificate programmes were invited to Regional Centre Jammu, where they participated in the session and interacted with faculty members at IGNOU

Headquarters in New Delhi through a two-way audio-video interface.

The initiative aims to provide uniform, customised information to help students complete their programmes effectively and on time. Participants described the session as informative, interactive, and helpful. Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director, RC Jammu, hailed the initiative as path-breaking and said it would significantly reduce student grievances and enhance learning support.

# Kishtwar gears up for Sansad Khel Mahotsav 2025

## STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma on Tuesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the arrangements for the upcoming Sansad Khel Mahotsav 2025, a flagship initiative of the Government of India aimed at fostering sports culture and engaging youth at the grassroots level.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the preparedness and discussed logistics, infrastructure readiness, and other essential aspects to ensure the smooth conduct of the event.

He underscored the importance of providing a vibrant platform for young athletes to showcase their talent and called

for seamless coordination among all stakeholders for the success of the Mahotsav.

The Sansad Khel Mahotsav 2025 is a dynamic national sports festival designed to ignite sporting spirit, discover local talent, and promote community-wide fitness. Starting from 21st September to 25th December 2025, the festival will feature a diverse range of sports including volleyball, kabaddi, athletics, and indigenous games-open to participants across all age groups and abilities.

The DC directed the District Youth Services and Sports Officer, (Nodal Officer, Sansad Khel Mahotsav Kishtwar) to formulate a comprehensive plan of activities and events. He also instructed

all concerned departments to finalize arrangements well in advance, ensuring adequate facilities for participants.

In addition, the Deputy Commissioner directed Lead District Manager (LDM) and Heads of Power Projects (HoPs) to extend sponsorship support for the sports events. The LDM assured that the matter would be taken up with higher authorities, while HoPs of the Power Projects also expressed their willingness to contribute.

The meeting was attended by ADC Pawan Kotwal, PO ICDS Rishi Kumar Sharma, CPO Akhil Thakur, LDM Harsh Rawal, DYSSO, representatives from the Power Projects, Banks and others.

# Shivangi introduces TT among youngsters at Katra

## STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: With the opening of first table tennis academy in the holy town of Katra, a qualified senior player has introduced the specialised coaching in the Olympic discipline among young children of district Reasi.

Otherwise rich in resources, the Katra town hardly pay attention towards taking active part in sports activities despite the fact that the place has got a Stadium in the heart of the town.

After completing her Diploma in Sports from National Institute of Sports (NIS) Kolkata in West Bengal, Shivangi Jamwal preferred to stay back to her home town of Katra to look into the possibilities to start training classes on a regular basis.

However, her efforts went in vain after her proposals for the training classes with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB)



administration at Sports Stadium Katra and management of Delhi Public School (DPS) Kakria as also J&K Sports Council remained unheard.

Undeterred with dejections from all quarters, Shivangi, who was firm in her resolve to promote the game in Katra, managed to convince her family to spare some space for her training classes.

After family's approval, finally, Shivangi has been able to start her coaching

classes with five young trainees from her home, courtesy the much needed help extended by the J&K Table Tennis Association.

"Failing in my efforts with the resourceful organisations, I approached Ajay Sharma of the J&K Table Tennis Association, who was kind enough to provide me the Table. It was due to the Association help that I am able to start my coaching classes and pursue my ambition to produce champions from Katra."

# CS chairs 1st UTLSMC meeting of PMAY-U 2.0

## Approves 1,558 new housing units

### STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Tuesday chaired the maiden meeting of the Union Territory Level Sanctioning & Monitoring Committee (UTLSMC) of the Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) to review progress under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) and assess implementation of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-Jammu and Kashmir Shehri (D-JAY Shehri) scheme aimed at livelihood generation for the urban poor.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur; Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA; Commissioner Secretary, Forests; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Commissioners of Jammu and Srinagar Municipal Corporations; MD, J&K Housing Board, Shahbaz Mirza; MD, NULM, Mridhu Salathia besides other senior officers.

During the meeting, the Committee approved the construction of 1,254 housing units under the Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC) vertical of PMAY-

U 2.0 across districts of the UT and 304 additional dwelling units under the Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP) vertical to be taken up in Udhampur district. The Committee also cleared the Annual Capacity Building Plan for 2025-26 for onward submission to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

The Chief Secretary underscored the importance of identifying eligible beneficiaries to ensure timely commencement of Affordable Housing projects. He directed the Department to expedite completion of household surveys under PMAY-U 2.0 in all districts so that registration of beneficiaries under different verticals could be enhanced.

Stressing the need for transparency, he instructed that verification of all applicants be completed expeditiously to ensure genuine households receive the intended benefits.

Reviewing the pace of construction, he directed for completion of housing units being undertaken by the beneficiaries within stipulated timelines. He emphasized accelerating ongoing works under Phase-I of PMAY-U, which is nearing



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing the maiden meeting of UTLSMC.

its sunset date, while simultaneously focusing on effective implementation of PMAY-U Phase-II.

Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur informed that December 2025 marks the sunset date of PMAY-U Phase-I, while Phase-II is already under implementation across the country. She highlighted that the scheme comprises

four verticals-Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC), Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP), Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS), and Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC) aimed at providing all-weather pucca houses to urban poor families.

She explained that Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) are entrusted with

demand assessment, verification/validation of applications, and submission of monthly beneficiary lists to District Level Committees (DLCs) headed by Deputy Commissioners. The DLCs in turn review implementation and forward Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to the UT Level Appraisal Committee (UTLAC) chaired by the Administrative Secretary, H&UDD, which then submits recommendations to the UTLSMC chaired by the Chief Secretary.

MD, J&K Housing Board, Shahbaz Mirza, while giving an overview of progress achieved under PMAY-U, informed that 32,803 dwelling units have been created across J&K under BLC (29,371 units) and Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (3,432 units).

Under PMAY-U 2.0, 18,489 applications have been received under BLC vertical and 4,753 under AHP vertical. Of these, 8,798 BLC applications and 1,093 AHP applications have been verified by ULBs, while 2,057 applicants under BLC and 53 under AHP have been found eligible.

Presenting the results of the household survey, Mirza informed that

3,27,630 households have been surveyed in J&K, identifying 64,097 households eligible under BLC, 13,999 under ISS, 5,321 under AHP, and 1,999 under ARHC verticals.

Later, MD NULM, Mridhu Salathia briefed the Committee about implementation of D-JAY Shehri, which focuses on socio-economic upliftment of the urban poor. She explained that the scheme's profiling exercise will be conducted through a door-to-door household survey and help desks at fixed locations.

For the exercise, she added that around 150 teams each in Jammu and Srinagar are being constituted, comprising Mission Managers, Community Organizers, Municipal Officials, Anganwadi/ASHA workers, and Fair Price Shop dealers.

The Chief Secretary emphasized that both housing and livelihood initiatives must be implemented in a time-bound, transparent, and beneficiary-oriented manner to ensure that urban poor families across the UT derive maximum benefit from these flagship schemes.