

Satish participates in virtual meeting with Union Minister form on youth engagement, sports dev

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports (YSS), Satish Sharma on Friday participated in virtual meeting chaired by Union Minister for Youth Affairs to discuss issues related to youth engagement, sports development, and holistic empowerment.

The virtual meeting was also attended by Sports Ministers of other states and UTs.

Commissioner Secretary Youth Services and Sports, Yasha Mudgal; DG Youth Services and Sports, Anuradha Gupta and other senior officers YSS also attended the meeting.

During the interaction, Satish Sharma highlighted the significant transformation taking place in J&K, adding that sports has become a bridge from conflict to aspiration. He also briefed the Union Minister about the impact of the J&K Sports Policy (2022), which



J&K Sports Minister, Satish Sharma participating in virtual meeting chaired by Union Minister for Youth Affairs.

has laid emphasis on talent scouting, infrastructure development and creation of culture of health and fitness across the region.

The Minister underscored the role of flagship programmes like Khelo India and Ab Khelega Jammu & Kashmir, supported by UT Capex funding, which together are training and engaging thousands of young athletes annually.

Citing recent success stories, Minister Sharma drew attention to inspiring youth icons from J&K including Arjuna Awardee and para-archery champion, Sheetal Devi, who brought laurels at

Paralympics, Asian Para Games, and World Championships; Chain Singh, Olympian shooter from Doda, who has represented India in several prestigious international events. He also talked about cricketing talents including Umran Malik, Abdul Samad, Rasik Salam, Vivrant Sharma, who have excelled in the IPL. He also mentioned about Nasir Sofi, a young volleyball player from Baramulla recently selected for the U-15 National Coaching Camp for China.

Speaking on youth engagement, the Minister informed that over 70 lakh youth par-

ticipated in sports and related activities during 2024-25, with the figure expected to rise further this year. He emphasized the department's role in channelling youth energy towards positive pursuits, thereby diverting them from anti-social and anti-national activities.

Satish Sharma also placed before the Union Minister several key suggestions for strengthening youth and sports initiatives in J&K, which include Special funding for Sports Research Centres and Academies, use of AI-powered technology for real-time performance tracking and monitoring of

schemes, enhanced inter-departmental coordination and Public-Private Partnerships to create a robust youth-centric ecosystem, greater emphasis on sports science, psychology, and medicine to enhance athlete performance, besides positioning sports as a career pathway, creating employment opportunities, and encouraging startups in fitness, equipment manufacturing, and adventure tourism.

The Union Minister appreciated the initiatives taken by the Government of Jammu & Kashmir and assured continued support of the Centre in strengthening youth and sports programmes across Jammu and Kashmir

Satish Sharma reaffirmed the J&K Government's commitment to promote holistic youth development, build world-class sports infrastructure, and bring national and international sporting events, making it a hub of sports excellence and youth empowerment.

Muaythai-the Thailand sport makes inroads in J&K

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JAMMU: Muaythai, the National sports of Thailand has quietly made inroads in India by spreading its wings different parts of the country, including J&K, in an organised way.

The ancient martial art of Thailand, Muaythai has been gaining popularity in the Union Territory of J&K under the aegis of Muaythai Association of J&K.

"The Muaythai Association of J&K has introduced the game in as many as six districts in a short span of three years. Soon after getting recognition in 2022, we have introduced the game in districts of Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Reasi, Rajouri and Udhampur by establishing working units. In Jammu, an Muaythai training academy has been established wherein youngsters have started showing keen interest," informed president of the Association, Amit Singh.

With its rich history, cultural significance and physical benefits, Muathai has become favourite among the Indian



martial arts enthusiasts.

Muaythai originated over 2000 years ago as a form of hand-to-hand combat. Over time, Muaythai evolved into a sport, with the first formal rules being established.

In Hindu mythology, Lord Anuman is revered for his extraordinary strength, agility and martial prowess. Lord Hanuman is often depicted as a powerful and agile warrior, possessing extraordinary strength. Lord Hanuman's mastery of Vajra (thunderbolt) can be seen as a parallel to the dynamic movements and powerful strikes found in Muaythai.

Muaythai was first introduced in India in the 1970s

and 1980s, primarily, through Thak cultural exchange programme. It was in 1990 that Muaythai started gaining popularity in India, particularly in cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, North East and Rajasthan. In 2007, United Muaythai Association of India (UMAI) got recognition by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). The UMAI has been instrumental in promoting Muaythai, with 28 states and three Union Territories affiliated to it. Currently, 12 states have recognised Muaythai associations with their respective state Olympic bodies. Further, seven state associations have been recognised by the State Government.

Heritage stars make mark at CBSE Badminton Championship

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Heritageans once again made the school proud with their remarkable performance at the CBSE Cluster Badminton Tournament, held at Cambridge Innovative School, Jalandhar, from 19th August to 21st August 2025.

Shreya Gupta, a student of Class 12th D, and Jesal Choudhary, a student of Class 11th D, showcased their exceptional sporting skills and determination by securing the Bronze Medal in the prestigious competition.



Heritage faculty felicitating winner students.

Their dedication, sportsmanship and hard work brought glory to the school. The entire Heritage family

congratulates them on this proud achievement and wishes them continued success in their sporting journey.

J&K girl in Indian Blind team for World Cup Cricket

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Belongs to a far off Tehsil Malhar of district Kathua, Aneka Devi has made it to the Indian team for the First-ever Women's World Cup Cricket for Blind being hosted by three India from November 11 to 25 at twin venues of New Delhi and Bengaluru.

Daughter of Bachiter Singh of Machhedi (Bajohi) Bani Assembly constituency of district Kathua, Aneka represents Delhi, the reason being J&K don't have any women cricket team as such.

"Since we don't have women's team, Aneka, who used to train with J&K men's team in Jammu, shifted to Delhi to pursue her education from Delhi University. She represent Delhi at the National level last year and continued to train there. Considering her improved performance, she has been selected in the Indian team," informed general secretary of Cricket Association for Blind J&K, Ajay Kumar.

In total, eight teams are taking part in the World Cup involving England, Nepal, Australia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, USA and host India.

The competition shall be held at New Delhi and Bengaluru while matches featuring Pakistan have been scheduled at third host city, which is yet to be decided.

Falling in B2 category, Aneka was part of the 56 players selected nationwide, who later attended the training and selection camps. Finally 16-member Indian team was announced for the prestigious event.

The Squad: B1 category: Simu Das (Delhi), P Karuna Kumari (Andhra Pradesh), Anu Kumari (Bihar), Jamuna Rani Tudu (Odisha) and Kavya (Karnataka). B2 category: Aneka Devi (Delhi), Basanti Hansdah (Odisha), Simranjeet Kour (Rajasthan), Sunita Sarathe (Madhya Pradesh), Parbati Marndi (Odisha). B3 category: Deepika T C (Karnataka-Captain), Phula Soren (Odisha), Ganga S Kadam (Maharashtra-Vice Captain), Kavya NR (Karnataka), Sushma Patel (Madhya Pradesh), Durga Yevle (Madhya Pradesh).

The event is being hosted by Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI), the cricketing arm of Samarathanam Trust for Disabled, reflecting India's leadership in creating equitable platforms for athletes with disabilities, especially women.

Earlier, the Indian women's visually impaired team scripted history by winning gold at the 2-23 IBSA World Games, where Cricket for blind made its debut. India defeated Australia in the finals, making a glorious chapter in women's blind cricket.



Jodhamal ranked 33rd Pan-India in C-Fore-Brainfeed Survey

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jodhamal Public School has once again brought laurels to the region by featuring among the top-ranking schools of the country.

The school secured the 33rd rank Pan-India in the India's Best Co-Ed Day Schools category-one of the largest segments, comprising nearly 80% of all schools in India.

Further, Jodhamal achieved Rank 1 in Jammu & Kashmir and Rank 1 in Jammu across all categories in the India School Rankings 2025-26, conducted by C-Fore, a pioneering Indian rating agency, in association with the prestigious education magazine Brainfeed.

For over two decades,



the C-Fore School Rankings have been regarded as the most authentic and reliable in the country, owing to their objectivity and unbiased approach. This year, the survey was conducted across 226 cities in 20 different categories, with inputs from more than 40,000 respondents.

Jodhamal's stellar performance is a testament to its consistent pursuit of excellence and its ability to set new benchmarks across diverse domains of school education.

The school's success was evaluated across 15 parameters, including Teacher Competency and Relationship, Pedagogy

Asif Ali qualifies Ph.D in Agronomy

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Asif Ali, son of Maqsood Hussain and Dilshad Begum, resident of Fatehpur Gurrian, Ward No. 3, District Rajouri, has

been declared qualified for the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Agronomy by the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J).

His research, titled "Effect of Tillage Methods, Irrigation and Nitrogen Management in Wheat Crop under Sub-Tropical Conditions of Jammu", was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Mahender Singh, Professor & Chief Scientist

Incharge, Agrometeorology, Division of Agronomy, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu, SKUAST-Jammu.



President of India interacts with students of J&K as part of National Integration Tour conducted by Army



J&K students along with President of India, Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As part of the National Integration Tour organized by the Indian Army, a group of students from Jammu & Kashmir had the rare privilege of interacting with the President of India, Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The interaction offered the young participants a unique opportunity to

engage with the highest constitutional authority of the nation and gain valuable insights into India's leadership, governance and democratic ethos.

During the interaction, the President encouraged the students to pursue excellence, uphold the values of unity and contribute positively to the nation's progress.

The experience left the

students deeply inspired, instilling in them a greater sense of responsibility, patriotism and national pride. Following this memorable interaction, the students visited the National War Memorial and the iconic India Gate, where they paid solemn tribute to the courage and sacrifices of the armed forces.

These visits provided moments of reflection and

reinforced their understanding of the dedication and bravery of those who protect India's sovereignty. The National Integration Tour remains a significant initiative of the Indian Army, fostering national unity, resilience and a shared sense of purpose among the youth, while strengthening their emotional bond with India's heritage and aspirations.

CUJ in collaboration with SKUAST-J distributes saplings of tissue culture Citrus plants to farmers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant step towards strengthening advanced horticulture practices and empowering farmers, Central University of Jammu (CUJ), in collaboration with the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-Jammu), successfully distributed Baramasi citrus saplings to farmers of Samba district under the guidance of Dr. B N Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Jammu.

The initiative was undertaken under the project entitled "Development of Quality Planting Material through Plant Tissue Culture for the Farmers of Samba District", sponsored by the Jammu and Kashmir Science, Technology and Innovation Council (JKSTIC).

Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central

University of Jammu, the chief guest of the event emphasised on the significance of advanced agricultural techniques for the economic growth of the farmers. He appreciated the collaborative efforts of the participating institutes in rendering benefits of research to the society, and welcomed the participation of the farmers in the research efforts in Central University of Jammu. He also gave valuable suggestions of a few significant crops to the farmers. Dr. S K Gupta, Director Research, SKUAST Jammu and Guest of Honour, acknowledged the efforts of scientists from SKUASTJammu and CU Jammu in developing tissue culture plants of citrus and strawberry. He also welcomed the farming community of samba district and requested them to visit KVKs and SKUAST Jammu



Vice Chancellor CUJ, Prof. Sanjeev Jain along with others during a programme.

related to all the farming problems.

The distribution programme marked a milestone in enhancing the availability of high-quality planting material for citrus cultivation. The Baramasi variety, known for its ability to produce fruit throughout the

year, is expected to not only improve crop productivity but also provide farmers with a steady source of income.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Vinod Gupta, Professor and Head, Division of Agricultural Extension Education, SKUAST-Jammu, and PI of the proj-

ect, highlighted the role of plant tissue culture in ensuring disease-free, uniform, and vigorous planting material.

Dr. Shelly Sehgal, Associate Professor (CMB), Central University of Jammu, and CO-PI of the project, emphasized the

importance of science-led interventions in addressing local agricultural challenges and enhancing farmer livelihoods. Dr. Neerja Sharma, Scientist, KVK Samba, CO-PI, underlined the significance of promoting citrus cultivation in Samba as a means to diversify and

strengthen the district's horticulture-based economy.

The project also aims to create awareness and train farmers in adopting improved cultivation practices to maximize the benefits of citrus farming. The distributed saplings are expected to serve as a model for demonstrating the potential of biotechnology-based interventions in boosting the horticulture sector of Jammu and Kashmir.

In addition, another significant achievement was the launch of OSClncDB web page, a first-of-its-kind database dedicated to long non-coding RNAs (lncRNAs) linked to Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma (OSCC). It is developed and maintained under the supervision of Dr. Shelly Sehgal by the Manish Kumar Mishra, Ph.D research scholar. This

resource provides easy access to curated information on lncRNAs-their biological roles, clinical associations, molecular targets, and links to original studies. Supported by CUJ and JKSTIC, the platform aims to accelerate discoveries and contribute to new strategies in the fight against oral cancer.

The organizers expressed their sincere gratitude to Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu, for his constant encouragement and support in fostering collaborative initiatives aimed at the welfare of farmers.

This collaborative effort reflects the commitment of academic institutions and government agencies in promoting agricultural innovation and cutting-edge biomedical research for human welfare.