

## 20th Martyrs Memorial Football Tournament 2025 begins



ADGP Armed J&K, Anand Jain being felicitated at inaugural ceremony of MMFT-2025 at Srinagar.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The 20th edition of the Martyrs Memorial Football Tournament (MMFT-2025) commenced on Tuesday at the Synthetic Turf Ground, TRC, Srinagar, amid vibrant celebrations and enthusiastic participation from players, officials, and spectators.

Anand Jain, Additional Director General of Police, Armed J&K, graced the inaugural ceremony as the Chief Guest. In his address,

he emphasized the transformative power of sports in steering youth towards positive, purposeful lives.

Urging young people to stay away from drugs, he highlighted how sports nurture discipline, mental and physical well-being, and open avenues for recognition at various levels.

The event was also attended by several senior officers, including Utam Chand, (IGP POS/Hqrs), V.K. Birdi, (IGP Kashmir Zone), Rajiv

Omprakash Panday, (DIG CJKR Srinagar), Shahid Mehraj, (DIG Armed Kashmir), G.V. Sandeep Chakravarthy, (SSP Srinagar), and commandants of Srinagar-based battalions and SSB, alongside senior civil officers and other dignitaries.

The tournament stands as a living tribute to the supreme sacrifices of J&K Police martyrs, honouring their dedication and bravery. Over the years, the

MMFT has grown into a prestigious sporting event, symbolizing courage, unity, and community spirit.

MMFT-2025 is aimed at encouraging active youth participation in football, while promoting discipline, teamwork, and sportsmanship. With passionate teams and committed organizers, this edition promises to be a grand celebration of resilience and sporting excellence in the Kashmir Valley.

## JU organizes public lecture on '100 Years of Coronation of Maharaja Hari Singh'

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Strategic and Regional Studies (DSRS), in collaboration with the Department of History, University of Jammu, and Jammu and Kashmir Study Centre (JKSC), organized a public lecture to commemorate the "100 Years of the Coronation of Maharaja Hari Singh" and his birth anniversary.

The event served as a significant academic and cultural platform for students, scholars, and civil society members to revisit the life, contributions, and legacy of the last Dogra ruler of Jammu and Kashmir. His coronation in 1925 marked the beginning of an era of transformative reforms that continue to influence the region's socio-political landscape.

Prof. Suman Jamwal, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Head, Department of History,



A dignitary lighting ceremonial lamp.

chaired the event, while the keynote address was delivered by Prof. Shyam Narayan Lal, distinguished faculty at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu.

Prof. Lal offered a comprehensive analysis of Maharaja Hari Singh's reign from a strategic and governance perspective, placing his policies within the broader framework of colonial India and the princely states. Emphasising the Maharaja's vision of autonomy, justice, and equality before law,

Prof. Lal stressed that his legacy continues to shape contemporary governance. He noted that such commemorations are crucial not merely to recall history, but to draw inspiration from it for shaping future aspirations. In her presidential address, Prof. Suman Jamwal reflected on the Maharaja's visionary reforms in education, administration, social justice, and women's rights. She underlined that justice was central to his rule and that the 1925 coronation was a turning

point in J&K's modern history.

Earlier, Prof. Virender Koundal, Director, DSRS, welcomed the gathering and introduced the theme, highlighting Maharaja Hari Singh's key role in the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India.

Dr. Mohd Monir Alam delivered the vote of thanks, appreciating the collaborative efforts of DSRS, the Department of History, and JKSC.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from scholars, students, and dignitaries including youth leader Arun Prabhat Jamwal, Brig. (Retd.) Vijay Sagar Dhemani, Dr. Ganesh Malhotra, Dr. Ranjan Sharma, and others. The lecture provided a vital space to reflect on the continued relevance of Maharaja Hari Singh's ideals of justice, reform, and good governance.

## SIIEDC, JU in collaboration with T-Hub launches Entrepreneurship Development Programme

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Skill Innovation Incubation and Entrepreneurship Development Centre (SIIEDC), University of Jammu, in collaboration with T-Hub, Hyderabad - India's premier innovation ecosystem enabler - on Tuesday launched the Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP). Over 400 participants including faculty members, research scholars, students and alumni have registered for this innovative program.

Prof. Alka Sharma, Director SIIEDC in her welcome address said that under the visionary leadership of Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu, SIIEDC is committed to take various novel initiative to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the region. She informed that University of Jammu through the strategic collaboration with T-Hub, Hyderabad - India's premier innovation ecosystem enabler is strengthening the entrepreneurship and start up

culture in the region.

Prof. Anil Gupta, Coordinator, Entrepreneurship Development Vertical informed that participants from diverse disciplines have shown keen interest in the EDP. He further informed that the 45 hours long program spread over 15 weeks will provide an opportunity to equip participants with the knowledge and skills essential for startup ideation, incubation, business scaling, and entrepreneurial leadership.

Dr. Gaurav Gupta, Manager, AIC, T-Hub, shared insightful perspectives on the design and objectives of the programme. He further outlined how the EDP will empower participants to think innovatively, design sustainable business models, and engage with entrepreneurial opportunities at both local and national levels.

Prof. Rachna Mahajan, Member, Entrepreneurship Vertical conducted the proceedings of the event. The program was also joined by Swarupa Gorrepati, Head of Academic Innovation, T-Hub.

## Slathia pays glowing tribute to Maharaja Hari Singh Ji



BJP J&K MLA, Surjeet Singh Slathia addressing the gathering.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: BJP J&K MLA, Surjeet Singh Slathia, today paid glowing tribute to His Highness Maharaja Bahadur Sh. Hari Singh Ji on the occasion of his 131st Birth Anniversary.

The commemorative function was organized at Samba by Shri Amar Kashtriyia Rajput Samba and witnessed the participation of a large number of prominent citizens, community elders, and admirers of the late Maharaja.

Speaking on the occasion, Slathia, Chief Guest, dwelt in detail on the life, vision and contribution of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji, describing him as one of the most benevolent, far-sighted and reformist rulers of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the Maharaja was not only a great son of the soil but also a towering statesman whose legacy continues to inspire generations.

Slathia recalled that Maharaja Hari Singh Ji had ushered in a new era of social reforms, education and justice, ensuring equal opportunities for all sections of society. He highlighted the Maharaja's visionary steps in expanding educational facilities, establishing institutions, and introducing progressive measures that laid the foundation for a modern Jammu and Kashmir.

"Maharaja Hari Singh Ji believed that justice must be accessible to all, irrespective of caste, creed or religion. His reign was not only about governance but about fairness, inclusivity and compassion," Slathia observed.

While describing him as a people's ruler, Slathia said the Maharaja's reign was marked by empathy, compassion, and administrative foresight. His contribution towards infrastructural development, promotion of health services, and empowerment of marginalized communities continues to be remembered with reverence across the region.

"The youth of today must draw inspiration from the life and principles of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji. By following his ideals of unity, equality and service, we can truly strengthen the fabric of Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

Earlier, the function began with floral tributes to the Maharaja, followed by recitations that highlighted his unparalleled service to society. The gathering observed moments of remembrance, paying homage to a leader who carved an indelible place in the history of Jammu and Kashmir.

Prominent among those present on the occasion included Inder Singh Sambyal President Rajput Sabha Samba Karan Singh General Secretary Rajput Samba Mohan Singh Asha Rani President BJP Samba and others.

## CUJ conducts induction programme "Prajnarambh" for new entrants

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Educational Studies, Central University of Jammu (CUJ), organized an Orientation-cum-Induction Programme titled "Prajnarambh: A New Beginning for True Knowledge..." at Malviya Shiksha Bhavan to welcome the new batch of students enrolled in the M.Ed. and Four-Year Integrated B.A., B.Ed. programmes.

The event commenced with an introductory address by Dr. Ravi Vanguri, the programme coordinator, who warmly welcomed the students and emphasized the nobility and responsibility of the teaching profession.

Prof. Asit K. Mantry, Head of the Department, elaborated on academic values and the essence of "Prajnarambh," expressing gratitude to Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain for his continued support. Prof. Yashwant Singh extended his best wishes to the new students through a message of encouragement.

Prof. J.N. Baliya provided a detailed overview of the course structures and motivated students to strive for excellence. Prof. Ritu, Dean of Students'



CUJ faculty and students at an Orientation-cum-Induction Programme.

Welfare, stressed the importance of co-curricular activities and introduced students to various welfare schemes available on campus. Dr. Ashish Suri discussed the university's assessment system, credit structure, and the significance of the Samarth Portal. Dr. R. Sudhakar highlighted the diverse sports facilities, including indigenous and inter-university games at IIT Jammu.

Prof. Uday Pratap Singh,

Associate Dean (Academics), shared valuable academic insights, while Prof. Rakesh Jha, Chief Warden, briefed students about the hostel amenities. Romesh Chander, Assistant Librarian, guided students on the effective use of library resources. Viraj Magotra, Placement Officer, introduced the placement cell and its upcoming initiatives.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Mridu Sharma.

## Dy CM reviews progress of works on vital road projects, bridges

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, along-with Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, on Tuesday conducted an extensive tour to inspect the development works related to roads and bridges in Srinagar and Ganderbal districts.

During the tour, the Deputy CM visited Nehru Park to review the preparedness regarding widening of Boulevard road from Nehru

Park to Kralasangri.

Interacting with the officers of executing agency, the Deputy CM said that this significant project will substantially augment road connectivity and ensure long-term public convenience. He further said that it will also provide a major boost to connectivity and economic activity for the residents of Srinagar.

While visiting Ganderbal, the Deputy CM assessed the progress on Hospital Road and

Gozhama Bridge.

He inspected the works related to road from Bus Stand to District Hospital approved under NABARD for the cost of Rs. 7.51 crore. He directed the XEN to ensure early execution of the work so that hassle free connectivity is given to the hospital.

On his inspection of Gozhama bridge at Shilwat Ganderbal, the Deputy CM was informed that this bridge is double lane with 208 mtr span and the department has submitted the DPR for 44.25 crore for administrative approval. He was also informed that the project consists of main bridge and approach roads, with main bridge approved at a cost of of Rs 12.77 Crs and approach



road for 5.74 Cr.

The Deputy Chief Minister directed the officers to ensure that any process related to formalities of project is expedited so that the project can be completed at an earliest.

Later, the Deputy CM also inspected the ongoing construction works at Noor Jahan

Bridge at Qamarwari.

During the inspection, the Deputy CM was informed that on completion, this 127-metre span bridge will serve as a vital alternate link across the river Jhelum, significantly decongesting traffic on Srinagar's busy routes and easing the movement between Noorbagh,

Qamarwari, Khanyar, Nallahmar Road, and adjoining areas.

Interacting with the officers of executing agency, the Deputy CM emphasized on timely completion of this important project without further delay, adding that the government is determined to ensure time-bound completion of all critical infrastructure works across J&K.

The Deputy CM reiterated the Government's commitment to ensure time-bound completion of all vital infrastructure projects in Jammu & Kashmir. He directed the concerned authorities to closely monitor the finishing works and ensure that the bridge is dedicated to the public within the announced timeline.

## Tennis Ball Cricket selection trials on Sept 26, 27

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir Tennis Ball Cricket Association (JKTBCA) will conduct two-day selection trials on 26th and 27th September 2025 at Gindun Stadium, Rajbagh, Srinagar, to select the Sub Junior (Under-17 Boys & Girls) teams. These teams will represent Jammu & Kashmir in the 30th Sub Junior National Tennis Ball Cricket Championship, scheduled to be held in Dausa, Rajasthan from 14th to 17th Oct 2025. Interested players who wish to participate in the trials are required to report at Gindun Stadium in proper cricket kit by 10:00 AM on the scheduled dates. Participants must carry six recent passport-size photographs, along with Xerox copies of their Date of Birth certificate, domicile certificate, and a physical fitness certificate issued by a registered physician. Only players born after 20th October 2008 are eligible to participate in the trials. All participants must report to Ab. Rashid, Incharge of the Selection Trials, on arrival at the venue. He can be contacted at 7006763920 for information. The players will have to bear nominal travel expenses from Srinagar to Dausa and back, as the event is not fully sponsored by the J&K Sports Council. The screening of the selected teams will be conducted by the J&K Sports Council at the same venue on 27th September 2025 at 2:30 PM. The selected players will then undergo a 15-day coaching camp in Srinagar from 28th September to 12th October 2025. The teams will leave for Rajasthan on 13th October 2025 to participate in the national-level tournament.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: The three-day inter-division UT level Under-19 Boys Football competition commenced today with great enthusiasm at Showkat Ali Stadium, Khawaja Bagh Baramulla.

The mega event is being organised by the Youth Services & Sports department J&K under the chairmanship of Anuradha Gupta, Director General, Youth Services & Sports



Participating teams posing for a photograph with dignitaries.

J&K, and the supervision of Rashid Kohli, Joint Director Youth Services &

Sports, Kashmir Province, with DYSSO Baramulla as the host.

Two strong teams viz. Jammu division and Kashmir division are featuring in the championship and will compete in six thrilling matches over the course of three days.

The competition serves as a platform for talented footballers to prove their mettle, with the best performers earning the honour of representing J&K at

the national level.

In the opening clash between the two divisions, Kashmir division took an early lead, scoring 2-0. The tournament will run its full course and culminate on 25th September 2025.

The event reflects the department's continued commitment towards nurturing young sporting talent and promoting football culture across the Union Territory.



Glimpses of celebrations of 130th birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh at Jammu on Tuesday.