

# UT Govt committed to nurture young talent & promoting Sustainable Development: LG Kavinder

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The Lt Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, on Sunday emphasised the strong commitment of UT Administration in nurturing young talent while simultaneously spreading awareness about the urgent need for climate action and sustainable development. He underlined that Ladakh is emerging as a model region where youth empowerment goes hand in hand with ecological responsibility.

The Lt Governor was speaking as the Chief Guest at the grand finale of the Climate Cup Football Tournament 2025, held at Leh Football Stadium. On the occasion, First Lady Smt. Bindu Gupta was also present.

The event was organised by the Department of Youth Services & Sports, UT Ladakh, and the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh, in collaboration with the Ladakh Football Association and PowerGrid.

The final match was played between Rajasthan FC and Sudeva Delhi FC amid great excitement and enthusiastic support from football lovers of Ladakh. In a thrilling final, Sudeva Delhi FC edged past Rajasthan FC in a penalty shootout after the match ended 1-1 in the regul-



Lt Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta presenting trophy to winner team.

lation period.

The Lt Governor, in his address, said that the youth of Ladakh are the true torch-bearers of change, and their energy, creativity, and determination are vital in shaping a prosperous and sustainable future for the region. He stressed that sports not only foster discipline, teamwork, and leadership but also instill a sense of responsibility towards society and the environment. He called upon the young generation to actively participate in nation-building while keeping ecological balance at the core of their aspirations.

Underscoring the urgency of climate action, Gupta said that Ladakh, with its fragile ecosystem, stands at the frontline of global environmental challenges. He urged all stakeholders, especially

the youth, to adopt sustainable practices in daily life, preserve natural resources, and contribute to a collective movement for protecting the Himalayas for future generations.

Kavinder Gupta lauded the efforts of the organizers for successfully hosting the Climate Cup, which has emerged as a symbol of youth empowerment, sporting excellence, and environmental consciousness. He said the tournament reflects Ladakh's commitment to nurturing talent while spreading awareness about the urgent need for climate action and sustainable development.

"The Climate Cup is not merely a football tournament, it is a celebration of Ladakh's spirit of unity, resilience, and youth power.

Such platforms instill discipline, teamwork, and a sense of responsibility towards both sports and society," the Lt Governor remarked.

This year, the Climate Cup witnessed participation from 9 football teams, including four from outside Ladakh- Sudeva FC Delhi, Rajasthan FC, FIFA AIFF Odisha, and Team Tibet.

The Lt Governor congratulated the teams for their enthusiasm and sportsmanship, especially praising the youth of Ladakh for their growing involvement in competitive sports.

On the occasion, Kavinder Gupta extended his best wishes to all players, coaches, and officials, and expressed gratitude to the Ladakh Football Association and POWERGRID for their valuable support in making the tourna-

ment a grand success.

He further reaffirmed the UT Administration's commitment to strengthening sports infrastructure and providing greater opportunities to the youth of Ladakh.

The Lt Governor handed over the wooden-made Climate Cup and a cheque of Rs 2.5 lakhs to the winning team Sudeva Delhi FC while Rajasthan FC claimed the runners-up trophy and a cheque of Rs 1.5 lakhs.

Bharanyu Bansal from 1 Ladakh FC won the top scorer award with six goals, while Legend from Sudeva Delhi FC bagged the best goalkeeper award. Team ITBP claimed the Best Fair Play award.

Among those present during the 3rd edition of Climate Cup were Deputy Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Tsering Angeluk; Executive Councillors- Ghulam Mehdi and Stanzin Choshpel along with Councillors from LAHDC Leh; DGP Ladakh, Dr SD Singh Jamwal; Administrative Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Bhanu Prabha; Joint Director, YSS, Tahir Hussain; Directors and Head of Departments; political and religious heads; officials from Ladakh Football Association and a large number of spectators were present during the final match.

# State Eligibility Test for Assistant Professors for J&K and Ladakh held



## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The State Eligibility Test for Assistant Professors for the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (JKSET/LASET) was successfully conducted on Sunday, marking a significant milestone in the higher education examination process.

The test was held in 41 subjects with additional two new subjects Anthropology & Women Studies this year. Around 14,500 candidates appeared in the examination.

Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu expressed satisfaction over the elaborate arrangements and commended the seamless coordination, strict adherence to protocols, and the cooperative spirit displayed by both candidates and staff.

To ensure accessibility and convenience, the examination was conducted at 55 centres strategically spread across Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh. This year's SET stood out for its integration of advanced technological systems and robust monitoring mechanisms, underscoring the University's commitment to transparency, integrity, and fairness in the conduct of examinations.

Prof. Pankaj Srivastava, Member Secretary, JKSET/LASET, informed that for the first time live CCTV surveillance was operational at every venue, enabling real-time monitoring by a dedicated command center established for effectively preventing malpractices.

Additionally, biometric attendance was introduced at all centres, ensuring accurate and fool-proof verification of candidates.

The Vice-Chancellor, along with senior University officials including the Dean Research Studies, Dean Planning & Development, Dean Academic Affairs, Registrar, Dean Students Welfare, Finance Officer, Controller of Examinations, and others senior officials inspected multiple centres during the test.

Prof. Nilofer Khan, Vice - Chancellor, University of Kashmir also inspected the examination centers at Srinagar.

The University had also made special arrangement for all the stranded candidates in Jammu, Srinagar & Chenab Valley due to road blockade.

Three special centers for candidates were established each at Jammu, Bhandarwah & Srinagar said Kuldeep Raj, Assistant Registrar, SET.

The University acknowledges with gratitude the dedicated efforts of Prof. Seema Singh, Centre Coordinator Srinagar; Dr. Jigmat Dachen, Centre Coordinator Leh, along with technical teams, security personnel, and administrative staff, whose commitment and hard work ensured the successful, smooth, and fair conduct of this large-scale examination.

The Vice-Chancellor also acknowledged the support of District Administration for their help in smooth conduct of the examination by providing necessary security arrangements & uninterrupted power supply.

# Shivani wins Silver in National Ranking event

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ace sport climber of J&K, Shivani Charak once again held the J&K flag flying high by winning Silver medal in Speed Climbing and a Bronze medal in Lead Climbing in the Women's category of Uttarakhand Cup, a national ranking sport climbing competition, which concluded yesterday at Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi.

In a tough competition in Lead climbing, the three international climbers, Pratiksha Arun of Bangalore, Ritika Ravat of Delhi and Shivani Charak of J&K entered the final round by topping the wall.

However, in the final, Shivani could reach 28th



hold only against Pratiksha's 32 and Ritika's 29 and bagged the third place.

In Speed climbing final, against Shivpreet of Punjab, an international Speed climber, Shivani generated good speed and gave a good fight to Shivpreet but even-

tually lost the steam against former Asian Youth Champion and could win only a Silver medal. For winning a Silver and a bronze medal, Shivani was presented a cash prize of Rs.12000.

The competition was organized by Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF), New Delhi, the apex body for mountaineering and sport climbing in the country, in association with Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM), Uttarkashi.

Now, Shivani Charak who has the unique distinction of being the first ever and the only female athlete of J&K to participate in Asian Games is again likely to be among the Indian Sport

Climbing Team's probable for the next year's Asian Games at Japan and has been training at Bengaluru for the last over one month.

Meanwhile, Zorawar Singh Jamwal, president; Sumit Khajuria, vice president and Shawetika Khajuria, general secretary of Mountaineering Association of J&K (MAJK) have congratulated Shivani for her yet another achievement in the Uttarakhand Cup and hoped that she would bring more laurels to J&K in the forthcoming international competitions. They promised all possible help to Shivani for her coaching and practice at the international standard climbing walls in the country.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Badminton team today left for participation in the Inter-state North Zone Badminton Championship being held at Una in Himachal Pradesh from September eight to September 11.

The team was given a send off by the office bearers of J&K Badminton Association, including chairman, Dr OD Sharma and general secretary, Balbir Singh Jamwal as also parents of the participants.

Earlier, the team selected on the basis of performance in the just held J&K Ranking Tournament at MA Stadium, here in col-



Jammu and Kashmir Badminton team leaving for NZ meet.

laboration with J&K Sports Council.

The Team: Men: Bhavya Sharma (Kathua), Puranjay Sharma (Udhampur), Bhavdeep Singh, Vipul Saini, Sahil Verma, Abhijit Jasrotia, Kulbandhu Sharma (both

Kathua). Women: Unnati Jaral, Krishika Mahajan, Suhani Sharma, Paavni Gupta, Shreya Gupta, Diamond Rajput, Yashaswini Amit, Shrijus Sharma. Junior Boys: Shivansh Panotra, Akul Mengi (Udhampur),

Samaksh Sameliya (Udhampur). Junior Girls: Gania Singh, Antima Naruka, Zinnia Lone (Srinagar). Manager: Dr. Poonam Sharma. Coach: Touseef Ahmed. Assistant Coach: Sunita Sharma.

# POWERGRID Inter Regional Carrom Tournament 2025 concludes

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AMRITSAR: In the three day POWERGRID Inter - Regional Carrom Tournament 2025 played at Amritsar. Pooja of Corporate Centre clinched Womens' Singles Title by defeating Shweta Gupta of Corporate Centre in the finals held today. Third place was achieved by Devi Priyanka Singh of NR-III.

In the Mens' category, Md. Akhtar Aliof Eastern Region-II clinched the Mens' title by defeating Jagdish Kalita of North Eastern Region in the finals. Kapil Kalambe of Western Region-I achieved third spot by defeating Rakesh Boro of NER in the position match.

In the Men's Doubles event Jagdish and Babul Das of North Eastern Region clinched doubles



Tarun Bajaj, ED POWERGRID, Northern Region-II presenting trophy to winner team.

title by defeatingV K Biswas and Ravi Sakhya of Western Region-II in the finals. Third place was achieved by Deepak Kumar and Uday Narayan of Northern Region-III.

The Team Championships had concluded yesterday with Corporate Centre and

Eastern Region-II Wins Team championship in Women and Men categories respectively in POWERGRID Inter Regional Carrom Tournament -2023.

After the matches the closing ceremony was held in which prizes and trophies were distributed among the

players and match officials and medical team . The closing ceremony was chaired by Tarun Bajaj, Executive Director POW-ERGRID, Northern Region-II. Jagat Ram, GM(Punjab), POWERGRID, Ashutosh K Sharma, Sr. Deputy

General Manager(HR) and senior officials of POWERGRID, members and office bearers of Carrom Association, Chandigarh were present on this occasion.

Tarun Bajaj and distinguished guests distributed the prizes among the winners. In his brief address Tarun Bajaj congratulated the Winners and encouraged other players to perform better in future to attain success. He complimented the players for displaying professional expertise and sportsmanship during the tournament.

He highlighted the importance of sports in our daily lives and praised the efforts POWERGRID takes in arranging various sports events to keep its employees mentally and physically fit.

# South Zone advance to Duleep Trophy final after draw with North Zone

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BENGALURU: N Jagadeesan struck an unbeaten 52 to extend South Zone's dominance as they advanced to the final of the Duleep Trophy after taking a 175-run first-innings lead against North Zone here on Sunday.

South Zone will take on Central Zone in the summit clash of the tournament here from September 11.

South Zone reached 95 for one when the game was called off with Jagadeesan, who had struck a brilliant 197 in the first innings, reaching 52 not out off 69 balls with six fours to carry on with his red-hot form.

At the other end was Devdutt Padikkal on 16 not out.

North Zone, under pressure

after their opponents piled up 536 in the first innings, had resumed the play on Sunday at 278 for five with 258 runs in arrears.

Shubham Khajuria, who struck a gritty century on the third day of the contest to reach 128, failed to add to his overnight score as he was cleaned up by Vasuki Koushik for the first wicket on the final day's second over.

Khajuria's innings ended on 128 off 252 balls with 20 fours and a six. Sahil Lotra (19) and Mayank Dagar (31) tried to delay the inevitable but their partnership of 47 runs for the seventh wicket did not trouble the South Zone much. The South Zone bowlers kept striking at regular intervals to bowl North Zone out for 361 from 100.1 overs, taking a huge

lead in the first innings.

Gurjapneet Singh was the pick among the bowlers for South Zone as he returned figures of 4/96, while MD Nidheesh claimed 3/82 off his 19 overs. Koushik and Tanay Thyagarajan took one wicket apiece.

With a massive lead and only one result possible, South Zone batters took a measured approach to reach 95 for one in the 24.4 overs that they faced before the draw was enforced.

Brief scores: South Zone 536 & 95/1 in 24.4 overs (N Jagadeesan 52 not out; Anqib Nabi 1/23) drew with North Zone 361 in 100.1 overs (Shubham Khajuria 128, Ayush Badoni 40, Nishant Sidhu 82; MD Nidheesh 3/82, Gurjapneet Singh 4/96).

# National Chess Seminar concludes



## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A two-day Senior National Chess Seminar, organized by the All India Chess Federation in collaboration with the All J&K Chess Association, concluded on Sunday at Nek Hotel, here.

The seminar, held from September 6-7, was conducted by International Arbiter Nitin Shenvi from Maharashtra, who trained participants from six states on the latest FIDE laws of chess.

Successful candidates will now be eligible to officiate in national-level events.

Baldev Raj, President of AJKCA, was the Chief Guest at the concluding ceremony and appreciated the efforts to promote technical expertise in chess officiating.

# Lolab's Inter District Cricket Tournament to begin today

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KUPWARA: Indian Army's Kilo North Kashmir Premier League 2025 is set to kick off tomorrow at Chandigam Cricket Ground.

The inaugural tournament has been the talk of North Kashmir for the last two months. The first phase of the tournament saw 98 teams from all over North Kashmir, from Lolab, Ganderbal, Manasbal, Pattan, Sopore, Handwara & Baramulla battle against each other for the top eight spots. Tomorrow onwards these top eight teams will go head to head against each other for the ultimate glory, to be crowned the Champions of North Kashmir.

This tournament has been

a great platform for players to showcase their talents & etch their names in local folklore. From village teams to big clubs, everyone had an opportunity to shine and bring glory to their villages.

Young players like Hajim & Ammir Lefty became the talk of the town on the back of their stupendous performances in the league matches. Social media too has been abuzz with excitement over this new league with fans flooding the internet with shorts from the tournament.

Starting tomorrow till 18th Sep, Chandigam Cricket ground will witness breath-taking cricketing action from the best eight teams from North Kashmir.

The winner of the tournament will get a cash prize of

Rs 1.5 lacs while the runner up will take home Rs 75,000.

Besides the teams & players, there will also be a raffle draw for the spectators at Chandigam Cricket ground.

This tournament will not only go a long way in promoting cricket in Lolab, but also place our beautiful valley on the national sports map. With winters just around the corner, there can be no better way to invite tourists back to Wadi-e-Lolab.

The Indian Army has given a new catchphrase to Lolab, :Khelega Kashmir; Jeetega India" & the tournament perfectly encapsulates this vision and will go a long way in nurturing & promoting raw talent from North Kashmir.