

Satish Sharma highlights role of sports in shaping disciplined, confident youth

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 08

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, today underscored the pivotal role of sports in shaping disciplined, resilient and confident youth, terming it essential for building a strong and progressive society.

The Minister, while speaking as the chief guest at the annual sports day of British International School, lauded the school management, teachers and students for organising a vibrant, well-coordinated and enthusiastic sporting event.

Congratulating the entire school fraternity, Satish Sharma said that events like Sports Day reflect the true spirit of education, which goes beyond textbooks and examinations to promote holistic development by nurturing strong bodies, sharp minds and fearless character. "As the Minister for Youth Services and Sports, I have witnessed firsthand how sports can transform lives. Sports instil discipline, teamwork, perseverance and respect for others. They keep our youth physically fit, mentally resilient and positively



engaged," the Minister said.

He reiterated that the government is fully committed towards strengthening the sports ecosystem across Jammu and Kashmir by upgrading infrastructure, enhancing coaching facilities and creating wider opportunities so that every talented boy and girl gets a fair chance to excel.

Addressing the students, the Minister encouraged them to dream big, train hard, play fair and always carry the pride of Jammu and Kashmir with them. He

congratulated the prize winners for their achievements and urged those who could not secure prizes to remain motivated, emphasizing that true victory lies in perseverance and the courage to keep trying.

Satish Sharma also acknowledged the vital role of parents, teachers and coaches, describing them as the silent pillars behind the success of young athletes.

Quoting Mahatma Gandhi, he reminded the students that "the body is the temple of the soul" and

stressed the importance of maintaining physical fitness through sports and discipline. Expressing optimism about the future of youth in Jammu and Kashmir, the Minister wished British International School continued success in nurturing confident, responsible and well-rounded citizens.

The programme concluded with a series of athletic events and cultural performances by the students, showcasing enthusiasm, teamwork and a vibrant sporting spirit.

AIIMS Jammu Ushers in New MBBS Batch with Inspiring Freshers' Day Celebration

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The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu welcomed its newly admitted MBBS students with a grand Freshers' Day ceremony, marking the beginning of their academic and professional journey in medicine.

Presiding over the event, Prof. (Dr.) D.N. Sharma, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu, extended a warm welcome to the students and congratulated them on securing admission to one of the country's premier medical institutions. In his address, he emphasized that medicine is not merely a profession but a lifelong commitment to service, ethics, and continuous learning.

Prof. Sharma urged students to pursue their studies with sincerity, discipline, and humility, stressing that patient welfare must always remain at the core of medical practice. He highlighted the need to balance technical competence with compassion, effective communication, and ethical conduct. Emphasiz-



ing holistic development, he encouraged students to actively engage in academics, clinical training, research, and co-curricular activities to emerge as well-rounded medical professionals.

Calling upon senior students and faculty members, Prof. Sharma underlined their crucial role in mentoring the new batch and fos-

tering a supportive, inclusive, and respectful academic environment.

The ceremony, held in the institute's auditorium, featured cultural performances by senior students, including traditional dances and skits, showcasing the vibrant campus life. A ceremonial lamp-lighting marked the formal induction of the new batch, sym-

bolizing the institute's commitment to knowledge, service, and excellence.

The Freshers' Day celebration reaffirmed AIIMS Jammu's dedication to nurturing competent, compassionate, and socially responsible medical professionals, further strengthening medical education and healthcare delivery in the region.

Satish visits SARAS Aajeevika Mela; lauds SHGs role in women empowerment

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Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Information Technology, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, today visited the SARAS Aajeevika Mela at Kala Kendra, Jammu.

The Minister lauded the significant role of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in empowering the rural women and strengthening grassroots livelihoods.

The Minister toured various stalls at the Mela, exhibiting a wide array of traditional crafts, handloom products and culinary delicacies prepared by the rural women SHGs from across the country. These exhibitions provide an important platform for women entrepreneurs to access wider markets and build sustainable livelihoods, he asserted.

MD JKRLM Dr. Shubra Sharma and other senior officers of NRLM were present on the occasion.

Interacting with the SHG members, Satish Sharma appreciated their entrepreneurial spirit and craftsmanship. He said that initiatives like SARAS Aajeevika Mela reflect government's commitment towards inclusive develop-



ment and women-led economic growth. He emphasized that empowering women through skill development and market access is key to building a self-reliant and resilient economy.

The Minister said that participation of SHGs from different States and Union Territories adds to the cultural richness of the event while fostering national integration.

He noted that such platforms not only promote traditional arts and crafts but also help preserve India's diverse cultural her-

itage.

Satish Sharma also highlighted the importance of leveraging technology and digital platforms to enhance the reach of SHG products. He said that IT-enabled solutions can play a crucial role in expanding market access and improving income generation for rural women.

The SARAS Aajeevika Mela features 81 stalls, including 70 product stalls and 11 food stalls, with participation from 18 States and Union Territories besides SHGs from all districts of Jammu & Kashmir

and Ladakh UT. Over 200 rural women artisans are participating in the event.

Live demonstrations of traditional crafts such as pottery, grass handicrafts, Basohli art, papier-mâché and intricate Crewel and Sozni embroidery have emerged as major attractions, drawing large public interest.

The Mela also celebrates India's diverse culinary traditions, offering visitors a vibrant Pan-India experience while reinforcing the role of SHGs in nation-building and rural prosperity.

NIT Srinagar's MSME design awareness program concludes successfully in Jammu-Katra cluster

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 08

The two-day MSME Design Awareness Program, organised by the Department of Mechanical Engineering, National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, concluded successfully in the Jammu-Katra cluster.

The programme was held in collaboration with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, and Model Institute of Engineering and Technology (MIET), Jammu. Sponsored by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, the initiative aimed to sensitise MSME stakeholders in the Jammu and Katra regions.

Nearly 120 participants, including MSME unit holders, young entrepreneurs, startups, and students, attended the programme. The sessions provided in-depth insights into the MSME Design Scheme, available funding avenues, design-led innovation, and strategies for business development and market expansion.

Prof. Binodh Kumar Kanaujia, Director, NIT Srinagar, was the Chief Patron of the programme. Prof. Mohammad Hanief, Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, served as Chairperson,



while Prof. Nazir Ahmed Sheikh was Co-Chairperson and Dr. Sheikh Shahid Saleem acted as Convenor. Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran was the Nodal Officer for the MSME Design Scheme.

In her message, Incharge Director Prof. Roohie Naaz highlighted the vital role of MSMEs in the national economy.

"Under the national MSME scheme, such programmes underline the fact that MSMEs contribute nearly 30 per cent to India's GDP, driving employment generation and exports. In Jammu's unique industrial landscape, design innovation is crucial for scaling MSMEs and transforming local ideas into globally competitive products," she said.

Registrar NIT Srinagar, Prof. Atikur Rehman, em-

phasised the strategic importance of resilient and sustainable design solutions in the region.

"Given Jammu's border proximity, MSMEs must focus on robust and sustainable technologies. With the right support, MSMEs can contribute to an annual GDP growth of 8-10 per cent. The growing participation of women entrepreneurs reflects the positive impact of such awareness programmes," he said.

Head Department of Mechanical Engineering, Prof. Mohammad Hanief said the institute's technical expertise could significantly enhance local industries.

"Our mechanical engineering capabilities can help modernise traditional sectors such as willow crafts and herbal processing, adding substantial value to the regional econ-

omy. While MSMEs in Jammu excel in handicrafts, tourism products, and agro-processing, challenges remain in technology adoption and market access," he said.

Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran presented an overview of the MSME Design Scheme, with a focus on technology-driven entrepreneurship. He announced that two similar programmes would be organised in Kashmir and one in Ladakh during February-March.

Dr. Dinesh also informed that a one-day MSME National Workshop is scheduled to be held at NIT Srinagar on February 17, 2026.

This workshop will serve as a platform to connect MSMEs, startups, and entrepreneurs across the Valley, he added.

Uniform Civil Code Should Be Framed With Consensus, Shouldn't Create Divisions: Bhagwat

MUMBAI, FEB 8: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday said the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) should be framed by taking everyone into confidence and must not lead to divisions.

Asked whether "achche din" (good days) for the RSS came after the BJP came to power, Bhagwat said it was the "other way round", noting the Sangh had remained committed to the construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya and those who supported it benefitted.

On the long-pending demand for Bharat Ratna for Hindutva ideologue V D Savarkar, Bhagwat said the award's prestige will rise if conferred on him.

He was speaking during an interaction at a programme to mark the RSS's centenary.

Several prominent personalities were present at the event, including actors Raveena Tandon, Vicky Kaushal, Ananya Panday, filmmakers Karan Johar, Madhur Bhandarkar, Ramesh Taurani and musician Pandit Hridaynath Mangeshkar.

Bhagwat said the Uniform Civil Code should be formed by taking everyone into confidence.

"It shouldn't create divisions. In Uttarakhand, three lakh suggestions were made and after talking to all stakeholders, the act was passed," he said.

To another question, he said there is no majority or minority (community), "we are all one society".

He stressed the need for trust, friendship and a dialogue with Muslim and Christian communities.

"Islam is called the religion of peace, but peace is

not seen. If there is no spirituality in religion, it becomes dominating and aggressive. What is seen in Islam and Christianity today is not as per the teachings of Jesus Christ and Prophet Muhammad. We need the practice of true Islam and Christianity," he said. On the recent India-US trade pact, Bhagwat said he hasn't gone into the details. "It is true that we can't remain in isolation. In deals, there is give and take. It should be win-win...we have to ensure we are not at a loss," he maintained.

TENTH DAY, KRIYA & UTHALA

With heavy heart and deep sorrow within all of us, we regretfully inform the sad passing away of our beloved **SMT SANTOSH SHARMA**, Ex Head Mistress and W/o Late Shri Baldev Sharma, Ex MLAR/o 28-C, C/D, Green Belt Park, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, J&K on 31.01.2026 morning.

In her fond memory and as a part of her spiritual journey, following rituals shall be observed as per given details:

TENTH DAY at Residence on **09.02.2026 (Monday)** at **11 am**
NARAYANBLI & KRIYA KARAM at Residence on 10.02.2026 (Tuesday)

UTHALA Prayers / Rasam PAGRI at **Panch Mandir (Mangleshwar Mandir)** B/D Block, Green Belt Park, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu on 11.02.2026 (Wednesday) from 4 pm to 5 pm

IN GRIEF:

SON - Amit Sharma, IAS, Government of India, MHA Director
Census Operations, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh

BHABHI & JETH - Lt Smt Mahalaxmi and Lt Shri Hari Ram Sharma, IAS

BHABHI & JETH - Lt Smt Raj and Lt Shri Inder Dev Sharma, IAS

BHABHI & DEVAR - Smt Veena and Shri Surendra Kumar Sharma, Retd Chief Engineer

BHABHI & BROTHER - Lt Mrs Rukmani and Lt Shri Madan Lal Sharma, Sadar Treasury Officer

BHABHI & BROTHER - Smt Kanta and Lt Shri Sat Pal Sharma (State Motor Garages)

BHABHI & BROTHER - Smt Rani and Lt Dr Krishan Lal Sharma, Joint Director, Animal & Sheep Husbandry Department

BHABHI & BROTHER - Lt Smt Prem and Lt Shri Shiv Kumar Sharma, Dy Director Agriculture Department

BHABHI & BROTHER - Smt Chanchal Sharma and Shri Vijay Kumar Sharma, Ex Indian Air Force Officer

ALL NEARS, DEARS & LOVED ONES

RSVP: 9419102220, 7006514723



Smt Santosh Sharma