

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Satish inaugurates YSS-JKSC Cricket League; hails Ranji Triumph, calls for statehood restoration

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 06

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, IT, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, today inaugurated the YSS-JKSC Cricket League at the M.A. Stadium, Jammu.

The Minister formally inaugurated the tournament by unveiling the trophy and distributing team jerseys among the participating teams, signalling the commencement of the much-awaited cricket league which has drawn participation from 18 teams. The league is being organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council under the aegis of the Department of Youth Services and Sports, J&K.

The matches of the tournament will be played under floodlights at M.A. Stadium, adding to the excitement for the spectators. All the games would also be live-streamed on YouTube, enabling the cricket enthusiasts from across Jammu and Kashmir and beyond to ent the tournament.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul, senior officers of the Department of Youth Services and Sports, representatives of sports associations, renowned sportspersons and a large gathering



of cricket lovers who thronged the stadium to witness the launch of the league. Speaking on the occasion, Satish Sharma said that sports have the power to shape character, promote discipline and foster unity among youth. He said that the government is committed towards strengthening sports infrastructure and creating greater opportunities for young sportspersons across Jammu and Kashmir. He said the YSS-JKSC Cricket League will serve as an important platform for young cricketers to showcase their talent and gain exposure, while also nurturing the vibrant sports culture emerging across the region.

The Minister also lauded

the historic achievement of the Jammu and Kashmir cricket team in winning the prestigious Ranji Trophy, describing it as a moment of immense pride and inspiration for the entire region.

“Jammu and Kashmir has immense sporting talent and the Ranji Trophy victory has proved that when provided with opportunities and the right platform, our youth can shine at the national level,” the Minister said.

Satish Sharma further reiterated the long-standing demand of the people for restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, stating that the aspirations and democratic rights of the people must be respected. “The people of

Jammu and Kashmir have always believed in democratic values and development. Restoration of statehood will further strengthen the governance, empower institutions and accelerate progress in the region,” he said.

The Minister also announced a series of major upcoming sporting events in Jammu, aimed at expanding the sports calendar and providing additional opportunities for athletes across disciplines. These included a Football Premier League at Mini Stadium Parade Ground, followed by a National-level Cyclothon and a Volleyball League, which are expected to witness participation from players across the region.

Expressing happiness over the enthusiastic participation of local players, the Minister said that the government is determined to promote grassroots sports and identify young talent from every corner of Jammu and Kashmir.

The YSS-JKSC Cricket League carries attractive prize money, with the winning team set to receive ₹3 lakh while the runner-up team will be awarded ₹1.5 lakh. Several individual awards will also be presented, including ₹20,000 for the Man of the Series along with other recognitions for outstanding performances.

Pharmacists, Paramedics vital for strengthening healthcare delivery across J&K: Itoo

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 06

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today emphasized that pharmacists and paramedics play a crucial role in strengthening the healthcare delivery system across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister made these remarks while delivering the keynote address at the National Pharmacy Education Day celebrations held at Madr-e-Meharban Campus of Health Sciences (MM-CHS), Chak Bhalwal, here today.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister highlighted that pharmacists and paramedics constitute an indispensable pillar of the healthcare ecosystem, ensuring safe, effective and rational treatment of patients. She noted that with rapid advancements in medical science and pharmaceutical technologies, the role of paramedics has evolved far beyond dispensing medicines and now extends to patient counselling, clinical research, drug safety monitoring and promotion of public health.

Sakeena Itoo reiterated the Government's commitment to strengthening educational infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir, adding that skilled paramedic professionals are vital for achieving universal health coverage and improving healthcare accessibility, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

“Paramedics and pharmacists act as bridge between doctors and patients. Their expertise ensures that



medicines are used safely and effectively, thereby safeguarding patient health,” the Minister said. She added that the Government is regularly filling vacancies in the paramedical sector, recognizing their significant role in healthcare service delivery in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister also advised students to uphold the values of compassion and patient care after entering the professional field. She emphasized that empathy and dedication remain the most essential traits of successful healthcare professionals.

While referring to the growing menace of drug abuse in Jammu and Kashmir, Sakeena Itoo called upon all stakeholders to join hands with the Government to eradicate this social evil. She also stressed the need for greater public awareness regarding the

proper use of medicines and the dangers of self-medication. “Pharmacists and paramedics have a key responsibility in guiding patients about correct medication practices and preventing misuse of drugs,” she added.

The Minister lauded the Madr-e-Meharban institution for nurturing competent professionals who contribute significantly to the healthcare sector. She appreciated the efforts of the College in training and upskilling the students of the College in terms of the New Education Policy to improve their employability potential.

The Minister encouraged students to pursue innovation, research and ethical practices in pharmaceutical sciences, stating that the future of healthcare largely depends on the dedication and professionalism of

young pharmacists.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Director of the college, Dr. R.K. Raina, elaborated on the role of the institution in strengthening pharmacy education, promoting responsible healthcare practices and improving the overall quality of healthcare services in Jammu and Kashmir.

Later, the Minister distributed certificates and prizes to winners of Poster Making and Essay Writing competitions. She also felicitated meritorious students from the passed-out batch and students who had excelled in various sports competitions.

Principal of the college, Dr. Syed Assadullah; principals of other institutions; representatives of the Pharmacy Council; faculty members; and a large number of students were also present on the occasion.

CM inaugurates new Secretariat block in Jammu to augment office infrastructure

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 06

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today inaugurated a newly constructed block at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu, aimed at augmenting office infrastructure and improving the working facilities for employees. The new block is expected to significantly add to the available workspace, further strengthening administrative efficiency and overall functioning at the Secretariat.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam



Wani, MLA Bani Rameshwar Singh, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary Estates

Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Director Estates Jammu

Ashwani Khajuria and other concerned officers were also present on the occasion.

SCERT celebrates International Women's Day

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 06

The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) J&K, Divisional Office Jammu, organised a one-day Interaction Conference at Kisan Kendra, Talab Tillo to celebrate International Women's Day.

The programme was held under the mentorship of Director School Education Jammu and Director SCERT J&K, Dr. Naseem Javaid Chowdhary and the guidance of Joint Director SCERT Jammu Division, Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu Kapoor.

The event commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, followed by a welcome address by Associate Coordinator of the programme Monica Sharma. She highlighted the significance of celebrating women's achievements and their role in shaping society.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu Kapoor underscored the crucial role of women in educational transforma-



tion and nation-building, emphasizing that the true progress of society lies in ensuring dignity, opportunities and leadership for women.

A special highlight of the event was the presentation of the SHE Portal, reflecting SCERT's commitment towards gender equity and empowerment. The programme also featured a reflective poem by Dr. Jyoti Sudan, Academic Officer and a documentary showcasing inspiring journeys of women who have made significant contributions to society.

The conference was graced by several eminent

personalities including Prof. Veena Gupta, Former Head, Department of Dogri, University of Jammu; Prof. Geetanjali Andotra Rana, young entrepreneur and others.

The dignitaries were felicitated for their exemplary contributions in their respective fields. An interactive activity titled “Heart of Emotion” encouraged participants to collectively reflect on women's empowerment and leadership.

A plenary session led by Arti Gupta, Paawan Vivek and Vivek Jandial highlighted issues of gender sensitization, inclusive

growth and capacity building initiatives undertaken by SCERT J&K.

The programme also featured a cultural segment which added vibrancy to the celebration including a dance performance by Ruchi Mohan and a musical presentation by Principal Shamim Nazki.

The event was coordinated by Manu Vasudeva, Academic Officer. The technical arrangements were managed by Rakesh Chobber and Vivek Jandial. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Dr. Sanjeevani, Assistant Professor.

Secretary IT reviews progress of key IT initiatives at Civil Secretariat

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 06S

Secretary, Information Technology, Dr. Piyush Singla, today chaired a review meeting at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu to assess the progress on various digital initiatives being implemented by the department.

The meeting was attended by CEO JaKeGA Mahima Madan, Additional Secretary IT Devinder Singh Bhau, Senior Director NIC Anil Kumar Sharma along with other officers and officials of the Information Technology Department and JaKeGA.

During the meeting, a detailed review was undertaken regarding several important projects including upgradation of the LAN network at the Civil Secretariat,



strengthening of Wi-Fi connectivity across government offices and implementation of the Chief Minister's Internship Scheme.

Dr. Singla emphasized the need for robust digital infrastructure to support efficient governance and seamless communication within government departments. He directed the concerned officers to ensure timely completion of the ongoing works related to net-

work upgradation and to further strengthen connectivity infrastructure in the Secretariat.

The Secretary also reviewed the progress and implementation framework of the Chief Minister's Internship Scheme. He highlighted the importance of the initiative in providing valuable exposure and skill development opportunities to the youth of the Union Territory.

The officers present in the meeting briefed the chair regarding the status of the projects and the timelines for completion of the remaining works.

Dr. Singla stressed the importance of coordinated efforts among all implementing agencies to ensure effective execution of the initiatives and further strengthen the digital governance ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir.

DC Kishtwar chairs DTC meeting

KISHTWAR, MARCH 06:

A meeting of the District Telecom Committee (DTC) was held here today. Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma (Chairman DTC) chaired the meeting and reviewed telecom infrastructure, associated issues in the district and action taken on directions issued in the previous meeting.

The Deputy Commissioner took a comprehensive review of the status of 4G saturation works in the district. He directed the concerned agencies to ensure timely completion of pending sites to meet connectivity standards in all uncovered areas.

While reviewing the progress on 5G street furni-



ture mapping, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Chief Planning Officer (CPO) to clear log in issues of PM Gati Shakti portal, check the targets assigned to the district and initiate the verification process at the earliest.

The meeting also discussed issues pertaining to State land transfer for installation of telecom towers. It

was informed that a communication has been received from BSNL identifying new locations for installation of towers in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to expedite necessary formalities to facilitate the process.

While reviewing network-related grievances, the

Deputy Commissioner took stock of complaints from AD Rural, License and Service Area (LSA). He sought a detailed report on the issues raised along with recommendations/ action for early and prompt resolution of the same.

The Deputy Commissioner also reiterated the importance of strict usage of the “Call Before You Dig (CBuD)” App to prevent damage to underground telecom infrastructure. He directed the Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) to follow up with Chief Engineer's office and ensure early functioning of district authority IDs, enabling use of the facility to protect the telecom infrastructure in the district.