



Satish calls for stronger digital infrastructure, greater youth engagement through sports



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Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today highlighted government's initiatives towards strengthening the digital infrastructure, promoting technological innovation and encouraging youth participation in sports and recreational activities across Jammu & Kashmir.

The Minister was speaking during a one day seminar organised by the Institution of Engineers (India), Jammu & Kashmir State Centre (IEI-JKSC) in observance of World Telecommunication & Information Society Day 2026 on the theme "Digital Lifelines – Strengthening Resilience in a Connected World."

The seminar was attended by the engineers, policymakers, telecom professionals, experts and public representatives to deliberate upon the grow-

ing importance of resilient digital infrastructure, cybersecurity, broadband connectivity and inclusive technological development in an increasingly interconnected world.

Addressing the gathering, Satish Sharma said that robust digital connectivity has become the backbone of modern governance and socio-economic development. He stated that the Government is focused on ensuring equitable access to digital services and strengthening communication infrastructure across Jammu & Kashmir to bridge the digital divide.

The Minister emphasised the importance of adopting modern technologies and building secure and resilient digital systems capable of meeting future challenges. He appreciated the role of professional institutions like IEI-JKSC in promoting technical awareness, innovation and constructive dialogue on emerging technological issues.

Later, Satish Sharma also

appreciated the successful organisation of an Indoor Games Competition by the Red Team aimed at promoting sportsmanship, youth engagement and healthy recreational activities among youngsters.

The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from youth and sports lovers who took part in various indoor games including carrom, chess, table tennis, badminton and other recreational activities. The participants displayed remarkable talent, discipline and team spirit throughout the event.

The Minister said that sports play a crucial role in shaping the personality of youth by promoting discipline, confidence, leadership and teamwork. He stressed that both indoor and outdoor sports activities provide constructive avenues for youth engagement and contribute towards physical as well as mental well-being.

The Indoor Games Competition concluded with a prize distribution ceremony in which the winners

and outstanding performers were felicitated for their achievements. The organisers thanked all participants, officials and supporters for making the event successful and memorable.

The programme commenced with a formal introduction by Er. Irfan Ahmad Reshi, MIE, Honorary Secretary, IEI-JKSC, who highlighted the significance of the occasion. He emphasised the transformative role of communication technologies in governance, education, healthcare, public service delivery and economic development.

Engineer Ferdous Ahad Bhat, FIE, Chairman, IEI-JKSC, underlined the importance of building resilient and inclusive digital ecosystems capable of supporting societies during emergencies and technological disruptions. He stressed the need for strengthening cybersecurity frameworks and expanding broadband accessibility, particularly in remote and underserved areas.

The technical session featured a keynote presentation by Engineer Feroze Jalali Malla, Data Protection Officer and Senior Expert, who spoke on the importance of data protection, cybersecurity and digital trust in the modern information society.

Engineer Masharib Gul Mufti, FIE, Principal General Manager, BharatNet Project, J&K and Ladakh, deliberated upon the ongoing expansion of digital connectivity infrastructure across rural and remote regions under the BharatNet initiative.

markable sportsmanship, discipline and competitive spirit. A total of 283 students participated in the events, reflecting the growing enthusiasm for sports activities in the district.

Yoga competitions for U/17 boys were organized in Zone Nagseni with BVM HSS as the venue. The event saw participation from 39 students, who performed various yoga asanas and demonstrated awareness regarding physical fitness, mental well-being and healthy living.

Meanwhile, Zone Padder organized competitions for U/17 Girls in the disciplines of Cricket, Yoga, Athletics and Chess. Around 92 girl students from different Higher Secondary and High Schools in the zone actively participated. The competitions encouraged greater involvement of girls in sports while promoting confidence, teamwork and leadership skills among participants.

As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir campaign, extensive IEC awareness programs against drug abuse were also organized at GHS Chingam, GHS Deharna Marwah and GHS Lopara. Hundreds of students and community members participated in these activities, where speakers sensitized them about the harmful effects of drugs and emphasized the importance of adopting healthy and productive lifestyles through sports and education.

The event was graced by the host school Principal Mubashar Hussain Akhoo, as the Chief Guest.

He appreciated the department's efforts in engaging youth in positive and constructive activities through sports. He also highlighted the importance of games in shaping disciplined and healthy lifestyles among students.

Zone Kishtwar organized U/17 and U/19 Boys Kho-Kho and Kabaddi competitions on Chowgan Grounds, where students displayed re-

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The Department of Youth Services & Sports Kishtwar is organizing Inter-School Zonal Level Competitions under the ongoing 100 Days "Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir" Abhiyan Campaign in various sports disciplines across the Drabshalla, Kishtwar, Nagseni and Padder zones at different venues in the district.

The events witnessed enthusiastic student participation and conveyed a strong message promoting a sports

culture while creating awareness against drug abuse among youth.

The competitions were organized under the directions of Director General Youth Services & Sports J&K Anuradha Gupta and under the supervision of District Development Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma with the able guidance of DYSSO Jaffer Haider Sheikh and all ZPEOs.

In Zone Drabshalla, Kho-Kho competitions for U/17 and U/19 boys were successfully conducted at HSS Pat-

Veterans Cricket Association XI edge past Cricket Gladiators by 7 runs in thriller at KCSC Veteran Tournament

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A blistering 53 off just 22 balls by Lalit and a composed 65 from Manish Sharma powered Veterans Cricket Association XI to a formidable 193/9 in 20 overs before their bowlers held nerves to restrict Cricket Gladiators to 186/8 in a high-scoring league encounter.

After an early setback, Lalit changed the momentum with an explosive knock featuring 8 fours and 3 sixes at a strike rate of 240.9, while Manish Sharma anchored the innings with a fluent 65 off 49 balls. Bhanu Gupta chipped in with a quickfire 35, helping Veterans post a challenging total. For Cricket Gladiators,



Namandeep Singh starred with the ball, claiming 4 wickets for 39 runs, while Anil Bhat and Mohd Shafiq picked up a wicket each.

In reply, Cricket Gladiators fought hard through Yogeshwar Saini's 45 and

Anil Bhat's aggressive 43, but regular wickets dented the chase. Raghav Sharma also contributed 24 runs at the top.

Retaish Sharma turned the game in Veterans' favour with a match-winning spell of 3/25, while Ro-

hit grabbed 2 wickets. With 12 runs to win in last over, Munir bowled his heart out and conceded only 5 runs as Cricket Gladiators fell short by 7 runs despite a late fightback.

Retaish was declared Man of the Match.

DYSS Baramulla accelerates Youth Engagement through Multi-Zonal Sporting Events

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District Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) Baramulla, continues to successfully organize Inter-School Zonal Level Competitions across various educational zones of the district under the inspiring banner of Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan, aiming to channelize the energy of youth towards sports, wellness, and a drug-free future.

In a vibrant display of enthusiasm, discipline, and sporting spirit, multiple zones conducted a series of competitions in different disciplines, witnessing active participation from hundreds of young athletes from various government and private educational institutions.

Zone Dangerpora organized the Inter-School Zonal Level Yoga Competition for Under-14 and Under-17 Boys at High School Shiva, where around 80 students participated with great zeal and showcased remarkable flexibility, focus, and dedication. The event highlighted the importance of yoga in promoting physical and mental well-being among students.

Meanwhile, Zone Dangi-



wacha successfully conducted the Inter-School Zonal Level Kho-Kho Competition for Under-14 Girls at two clusters—Cluster Bahrapora and Cluster Dangi-wacha.

The competitions witnessed overwhelming participation, with 156 students competing in Cluster Bahrapora and 120 stu-

dents participating in Cluster Dangi-wacha.

The spirited performances and sportsmanship displayed by the young participants added vibrancy and excitement to the event.

Adding further momentum to the district-wide sporting campaign, Zone Singpora Pattan organized the Inter-School Zonal Level

Kabaddi Competition for Under-14 and Under-17 Boys, where more than 150 students participated enthusiastically.

The event served as a platform for students to demonstrate teamwork, strength, and tactical skills while embracing the values of discipline and healthy competition.

Shahid Iqbal felicitates Asian Boxing Champion Mohammad Yaseer

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Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, today felicitated young boxing sensation 14 year old Mohammad Yaseer of Rajouri for his historic gold medal at the Under-15 Asian Boxing Championship held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Mohammad Yaseer, a 14-year-old boxing prodigy from Rajouri, scripted history by winning the gold medal in the 58-kg category after defeating the host nation Uzbekistan in the final bout. Representing India at the prestigious championship, the young boxer displayed exceptional courage, resilience and determination to bring laurels to the country and Jammu & Kashmir.

During the felicitation ceremony, the Commissioner Secretary along with Secre-



tary J&K Sports Council Nuzhat Gul and other officials from the department congratulated Yaseer for his remarkable achievement and termed his success a proud moment for Jammu & Kashmir and the entire nation.

"Yaseer's journey is truly inspiring. Despite hardships, he has shown extraordinary dedication and commitment towards the sport. His

achievement at the Asian level is a testament to his hard work and the immense sporting talent present in Jammu & Kashmir," Shahid Choudhary said.

He further said that the achievement would motivate the aspiring athletes across the Union Territory to pursue sports with passion and determination.

Dr. Shahid Iqbal reiterated the government's commit-

ment towards strengthening the sports ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir and providing better opportunities, infrastructure and exposure to young athletes so they can excel at national and international platforms.

The felicitation ceremony also acknowledged the contribution of Yaseer's coaches, family members and support staff in shaping his successful journey.

YS&S Kishtwar encourages youth towards sports, stay away from drugs



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