

LG Ladakh inaugurates third edition of Mahotsav – Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh 2025

Says Mahotsav promotes local heritage, youth talent & unity

GY CORRESPONDENT
JAMMU, DEC 19

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Shri Kavinder Gupta today inaugurated the three-day Third Edition of Mahotsav – Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, a flagship annual initiative of LEAD (LJK – Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir Economic Growth and Development Dialogue), aimed at celebrating the rich cultural heritage, entrepreneurial spirit and collective identity of the region.

Mahotsav – Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh is a vibrant platform deeply rooted in the ideals of Swadeshi, self-reliance (Swavlamban) and cultural heritage (Sanskriti). The event brings together artisans, performers, entrepreneurs and community groups to showcase local products, traditional knowledge,



handicrafts, folk arts and innovation from across Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir. The previous editions held in 2023 and 2024 received an overwhelming public response and wide appreciation. On the occasion, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Shri Ramesh Kumar, and noted film personality Ms. Preeti Sapru Walla were the guests of Honour. Also present on the occasion were DIG Jammu-Kathua

Ranjeet Shri Shiv Kumar Sharma, Harinder Gupta (Convener, LEAD), and LEAD members Sunil Shah, Surinder Mohan Gupta, Rajesh Gupta, Rajeev Gupta and Sanjeev Sharma, along with artists, youth, students, entrepreneurs and citizens from across the region.

Addressing the gathering, Lt Governor Kavinder Gupta, who was the chief guest, said that LEAD is not merely an event or a dialogue, but a strong

movement towards a self-reliant future, reflecting the shared culture, aspirations and identity of Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir. He said the Mahotsav provides a common platform for promoting local heritage, youth talent and entrepreneurship, while strengthening cultural unity and social harmony. Highlighting the significance of the 2025 edition, the Lt Governor said this is the first time the Mahotsav is being

organised as a three-day event, with each day dedicated respectively to Ladakh, Kashmir and Jammu, offering a unique opportunity to understand the region's diversity and foster deeper people-to-people connect.

He informed that the central theme of this year's Mahotsav is "Panch Parivartan", encompassing self-awareness, citizen duty, environmental protection, social harmony and family values, which together form the foundation of holistic and sustainable development. Speaking on Ladakh's development journey, the Lt Governor said the Union Territory is receiving special focus from Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, with unprecedented commitment towards people-centric and transformative development.

Delegation of prominent citizens from JMC Wards met with Baldev Singh Billawaria



GY CORRESPONDENT
JAMMU, DEC 19

A delegation of prominent citizens from Jammu Municipal Corporation Ward Nos. 57, 22, 23 & Babliana Panahayat met today with Baldev Singh Billawaria, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu-Kashmir General Secretary and former Deputy Mayor of Jammu. The delegation urged for expediting long-pending and essential civic infrastructure works in their respective areas.

The delegation highlighted that during the rainy season, recurring waterlogging, dilapidated lanes and drains, weak connecting roads, and inadequate sanitation arrangements adversely affecting the daily lives and public health of local residents. They demanded an immediate action plan, regular maintenance, and implementation to resolve these issues so that the general public, traders, and school-going children can get relief.

Baldev Singh Billawaria

listened attentively to the concerns raised by the delegation and acknowledged the urgency of the problems. He assured them that he would take up these issues with the Jammu Municipal Corporation and the concerned departments and would press for priority-based financial provisions and time-bound repair works. He emphasized that sustainable solutions are possible only through coordination among elected representatives, municipal engineers, and the local community. Billawaria further stated that the concerns of residents regarding basic civic amenities are fully understood. Safe roads, effective drainage, and reliable sanitation systems are essential for health and dignity. The delegation also demanded that clear timelines be fixed for the execution of works and that regular follow-up meetings be held to monitor progress. They additionally suggested ensuring community participation in the planning of projects so

that the works align with actual local needs. Agreeing with these suggestions, Billawaria assured that municipal engineers would be asked to conduct inspections at the earliest and prepare detailed proposals for lane repairs, reconstruction of drains, enhancement of drainage capacity, and improvement of sanitation facilities. He stated that the Bharatiya Janata Party in Jammu-Kashmir continues to work as the voice of local communities for the improvement of civic amenities. He further said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, priority has been given to the welfare of the poor, youth, and marginalized sections, which has strengthened public trust in the government. Billawaria reiterated that BJP leaders are committed to coordinating with citizens, the municipal corporation, and various government departments to advance infrastructure development and public welfare initiatives.

BJP Transport Cell Co-convenor meets Party Working President Nitin Naveen



GY CORRESPONDENT
JAMMU, DEC 19

Dr. Kamalpreet Singh, Co-convenor of the J&K UT BJP Transport Cell, met with BJP National Working President Nitin Naveen in New Delhi today. He congratulated him on his appointment as the National Working President of the BJP and also held detailed discussions with him regarding the current situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Other party leaders were also present on this occasion. After meeting with BJP National Working President Nitin Naveen, Kamalpreet Singh, Co-convenor of the Jammu and Kashmir Transport Cell, said that he had a long meeting with the BJP National Working President and discussed the current situation in Jammu and Kashmir in detail. He said that BJP's National Working President Nitin Naveen is a grassroots leader and understands politics very well. It is worth mentioning that BJP Transport Cell Co-convenor Kamalpreet Singh has been in Delhi for the past few days and has also met with other party leaders.

FWS commends India's Under-19 Cricket Team for stellar performance in Asia Cup semi-final

GY CORRESPONDENT
JAMMU, DEC 19

The Friends Welfare Society (FWS) today lauded the outstanding performance of India's Under-19 Cricket Team in the Asia Cup 2025 semi-final against Sri Lanka.

The electrifying match, watched by FWS members in its entirety, showcased India's exceptional skill, determination, and teamwork. The team's resounding victory has earned them a coveted spot in the Asia Cup final, scheduled to take place on December 21, 2025.

"FWS is thrilled to see India's Under-19 team in such impressive form. Their dedication, perseverance, and sportsmanship have brought them to the pinnacle of achievement in Asian Under-19 cricket. We have no doubt that they will continue to shine brightly on the world stage," said spokesperson for the organization: R.L. Kaith.

FWS members extended their heartfelt wishes to the Indian team, expressing confidence in their ability to clinch the Asia Cup title. "We stand firmly behind Team India and eagerly await their triumphant victory in the final," the spokesperson added.

Divisional Railway Manager, Jammu conducts intensive inspection of Rail Bridges No. 17 and 137



GY CORRESPONDENT
ROHIT SHARMA

JAMMU, DEC 19: The Divisional Railway Manager of Jammu Division, Shri Vivek Kumar, regularly conducts detailed inspections of stations and railway sections to assess passenger safety, facilities, and the status of ongoing development works. Recently, the Divisional Railway Manager conducted a surprise inspection of the railway section between Jammu and Pathankot Cantt. During this inspection, a thorough examination was conducted of Railway Bridge No. 17, located between Kathua and Madhopur, and Railway Bridge No. 137, located between Ghagwal and Hiranagar. Other senior officers of the division were also present during the inspection.

The main objective of the inspection was to review the progress of repair and restoration work on the bridges damaged by recent rains, so that train operations could be fully restored as soon as possible. Prioritizing passenger safety, the railway administration had already initiated the repair work, which is currently progressing smoothly.

YSS Cup Cricket Trials Conclude Successfully in Poonch; Over 430 Young Cricketers Showcase Talent

GY CORRESPONDENT
POONCH, DEC 19

The Department of Youth Services & Sports (DYSS), District Poonch, today successfully concluded the YSS Cup Open Cricket Trials for Under-17 and Under-19 Boys and Girls at the Sports Stadium, Poonch. The multi-day talent hunt, which commenced on 17 December 2025, witnessed overwhelming participation and enthusiasm from young cricketers across the district. The trials were conducted under the able guidance and visionary leadership of Ms. Anuradha Gupta, JKAS, Director General, Youth Services & Sports, J&K, with constant support from Ms. Venakshi Koul, Joint Director, Youth Services & Sports, Jammu, and Ms. Megha Baogia, Deputy Director (Activities).

The entire process was supervised and coordinated by Mr. Mohd Qasim, District Youth Services & Sports Officer (DYSSO), Poonch. An impressive total of 430 players participated in the trials, reflecting the growing sports culture in the region. In the Boys' Under-17 and Under-19 categories, 340 players displayed their cricketing



skills, while 90 girls participated across the Under-17 and Under-19 age groups, marking a significant rise in female participation and interest in cricket. The trials were conducted in a fair, transparent, and systematic manner by a duly constituted selection committee. Players were evaluated on the basis of technical proficiency, physical fitness, discipline, teamwork, and overall match temperament, ensuring merit-based selection. The successful conclusion of the YSS Cup Trials underscores the department's commitment to grassroots talent identification,

youth engagement, and inclusive sports development. By providing a structured platform to young athletes, the Department of Youth Services & Sports continues to play a pivotal role in nurturing sporting excellence, promoting healthy lifestyles, and empowering youth through sports, especially in border and remote districts like Poonch. Such initiatives reaffirm DYSS's vision of creating pathways for aspiring sportspersons to progress to higher competitive levels, while fostering discipline, confidence, and national sporting spirit among the youth.

Srinagar Clinches Overall Title as Inter-District UT Level U-19 Girls Judo Tournament Concludes in Kathua



GY CORRESPONDENT
KATHUA, DEC 19

The Inter-District UT Level Judo Tournament for Under-19 girls concluded successfully today at the Sports Stadium, Kathua, witnessing impressive performances by young judokas from across the Union Territory. The tournament highlighted exceptional skill, discipline, and sportsmanship among the participants. Judokas from Jammu, Kathua, Srinagar, Reasi, Samba, Udhampur, and Ganderbal competed across various weight categories, making the event highly competitive and engaging. Final Results:

–40 kg: Gold: Prachi (Jammu) Silver: Isha (Samba)

–44 kg: Gold: Sunakshi Devi (Kathua) Silver: Lakshita (Jammu) Bronze: Sumriti Katoch (Udhampur), Pooja Devi (Reasi)

–48 kg: Gold: ADN Arshid (Srinagar) Silver: Diksha Devi (Reasi) Bronze: Shivanshi (Jammu), Sonam Sharma (Kathua)

–52 kg: Gold: Nazia Fatima (Srinagar) Silver: Kashu Devi (Reasi) Bronze: Khushi Sharma (Kathua), Kashavi (Jammu)

–57 kg: Gold: Sapaf Khatoun (Srinagar) Silver: Marzina (Kathua) Bronze: Kakshita Sharma (Udhampur), Mariyam

Shabir (Ganderbal) Based on the overall performance, District Srinagar lifted the winners' trophy, while District Kathua emerged as the runner-up. The trophies were presented by the District Youth Services and Sports Officer Kathua, Shri Shri Singh Sambhal, who congratulated the players for their dedication and encouraged them to continue striving for excellence in sports. The tournament was organized under the overall supervision of the District Youth Services and Sports Officer Kathua, Shri Sunil Singh Sambhal, as part of ongoing efforts to promote sports culture and nurture young talent at the grassroots level.

Rashid Shafi's Golden Triumph Brings Pride to Vilgam, Kupwara

GY CORRESPONDENT
KUPWARA, DEC 19

Vilgam village in Kupwara district erupted in celebration on Thursday as local Wushu athlete Rashid Shafi was felicitated by residents following his exceptional victory at the 7th Nordic Open Wushu Championship held in Sweden. Rashid clinched a gold medal for India, bringing immense pride to his native village and the entire region.

During the felicitation ceremony, Rashid's coach, Mr. Ajaz, extended heartfelt gratitude to the Indian Army's Vilgam Camp for providing crucial support during the athlete's early training period. He noted that the encouragement and sports facilities offered by the Army played a pivotal role in shaping Rashid's talent, alongside many other young athletes from the region. Speakers at the event



described Rashid's accomplishment as a source of tremendous inspiration for the youth. They stressed that his success on the international stage reflects his unwavering dedication, discipline, and resilience, adding that limitations in resources should never deter young people from

pursuing their goals. The people of Vilgam expressed joy and pride over Rashid's achievement, celebrating the milestone as a collective honour for the community. They said his triumph stands as a testament to the potential of local youth and a beacon of motivation for future generations.