

# Annual inter-college football tourney kicks off at KU



**Srinagar, August 12 :** The annual Inter-College Football Tournament kicked off at the University of Kashmir (KU), amid great enthusiasm and energy here Friday.

The much anticipated event brings together over 26 affiliated colleges under the university's banner, offering students a platform to showcase their football talent and competitive spirit.

Organised by the Directorate of Physical Education & Sports (DPES), KU, the tournament is a cornerstone of the university's vibrant sports calendar.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, Director, DPES, Prof Tariq Ahmad Chishti, emphasised the vital role of sports in the holistic development of students.

"Participation in sports not only nurtures physical well-being but also instills discipline, teamwork and resilience in our students," Prof Chisti said, adding that the varsity is committed to providing the best facilities and opportunities for youth to excel in sports and bring laurels to their institutions.

The inaugural match of the tournament saw an exciting contest between GDC Pampore and IITM Hyderpora, with GDC Pampore securing a decisive victory by 4 goals to 1. The match set the tone for what promises to be a thrilling series of games, as colleges compete for the championship title.

Prof Chishti further highlighted the significance of the tournament as a preparatory event for the upcoming All India and North Zone Inter-University Championships.

"The players who shine in these inter-college competitions will have the opportunity to represent the University of Kashmir on larger platforms. Our goal is to encourage a

strong sports culture and prepare our teams for national-level competitions,” he maintained.

The tournament is also being held as part of the university’s celebrations leading up to the 78th Independence Day, adding a sense of national pride to the event.

“Sports events like this are not just about competition; they are about celebrating our unity, our spirit, and our shared commitment to excellence as a nation,” Prof Chishti said.

Assistant Director, Dr Surjit Bali; Assistant Director, Dr Basharat Ali; Football Coach, Tausif Bhat; PTI, Sajid Yousuf Dar; and In-charge Sports IITM Hyderpora, Sakeena Bashir were present at the inaugural ceremony.

According to the organisers, the tournament promises to be a showcase of emerging talent and sportsmanship, reflecting KU’s dedication to nurturing well-rounded individuals who excel both in academics and athletics.