

# KU's strong sports infra, coaching supporting athletes bring laurels: VC

*Varsity hosts U-17 Indian national football team*



**Srinagar, Oct 09:** In a remarkable display of sportsmanship and as part of its commitment to encouraging athletic talent, the University of Kashmir (KU) Wednesday hosted the U-17 Indian National Football team for an exhibition-cum-friendly match at the varsity's Ground 'B'.

The event marked a significant moment for KU, which continues to lead in promoting sports culture across its campuses and affiliated colleges.

The Indian U-17 team, fresh off their SAFF Championship victory, has been undergoing intermediate high-altitude training at the university in preparation for upcoming international competitions.

The exhibition match between the KU's football team and the U-17 team resulted in a competitive draw, with both sides displaying impressive footballing skills.

KU Vice Chancellor, Prof Nilofar Khan, who presided over the event, expressed her admiration for the talent displayed by both teams.

"It was thrilling to witness such a high level of competitive football, which remained goalless yet captivating. I congratulate the U-17 Indian Football team for their recent triumph at the SAFF Championship and wish them continued success as they prepare for the AFC Qualifiers," she said.

Prof Khan further highlighted KU's strong sports infrastructure and the dedication of its coaching staff, emphasising the varsity's role in supporting student athletes to bring laurels not only to the institution but to the country as well.

Dean, Academic Affairs, Prof Shariefuddin Pirzada praised the U-17 team's influence on aspiring footballers in Jammu & Kashmir.

"The presence of professional players is crucial in inspiring and grooming our local talent. The exhibition match serves as a boost to the sports culture at KU and will undoubtedly motivate many of our young athletes," he noted.

Registrar, Prof Naseer Iqbal spoke about the KU's commitment to enhancing sports facilities and creating opportunities for student athletes.

"We are working tirelessly to provide the best possible environment for our players to showcase their talents across various competitions. KU's sports programmes are designed to help students achieve excellence both on and off the field," he added.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Director, Directorate of Physical Education and Sports, Prof Tariq Ahmad Chesti, reiterated the directorate's dedication to expanding the KU's sports landscape through innovative policies and approaches.

Dean, School of Arts, Languages and Literatures, Prof Salahudin Tak; Head, Department of Political Science, Prof Irshad Ahmad Peerzada; Special Secretary to Vice Chancellor, Dr Ashfaq Ahmad Zarri and officials from the Directorate of Physical Education and Sports were present on the occasion.

International Football Coach and Coach Educator, Sajid Yousuf Dar, coordinated the event organised by KU's Directorate of Physical Education and Sports.

Head Coach, National Football Team, Ishfaq Ahmed, proposed the formal vote of thanks.