

# Satish Sharma attends closing ceremony of Diwali Cup 2025 Golf Tournament

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Minister for Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma on Monday attended the closing ceremony of Diwali Cup 2025 Golf Tournament held at Jammu Tawi Golf Course (JTGC) Sidhra here.

The tournament, organised by JTGC in collaboration with Tourism Department Jammu, was teed off by Director Tourism, Jammu, Vikas Gupta in presence of Secretary JTGC, Manav Gupta.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Sharma said that Golf Tourism should be more boosted in future so that such tournaments and events shall be organized at Jammu Tawi Golf Course on a regular basis. He added that these events bring Jammu & Kashmir on the international



Sports Minister, Satish Sharma being honoured at closing ceremony of Diwali Cup 2025 Golf Tournament.

Golfing map with an opportunity for local talent to showcase their skills.

The Minister also presented trophies and mementoes to the winners, Runner-ups and other players, who were adjudged best in different categories. Secretary JTGC, Manav Gupta informed that several big international level

tournaments like PGTI were conducted in 2022, 2023 & 2024 at JTGC in which many professional Golfers from all over India/South-East participated. As many as 83 players participated during the day-long tournament, who were divided into 21 four-balls.

Sanjay Mahajan and Dr. Anil Slathia/Atharv Rishi

were adjudged as the overall winner and Runner up respectively of the tournament. Gurdeep Singh bagged the award for the straight drive at Hole No.06. The longest drive award went to Col. Amit Gupta, Rajeev Thakur and Vedant Handa. While Closest to the pin went to Sunita Kapoor, Col. J.B Singh and Jaideep Manocha. Winner best net for Senior Citizen Category went to Danesh Chopra and Runner up Col. Vijay Mahajan. Best among Fourball went to Garib Dass, Rakesh Gupta, Ashkoor Wani, Col. Manav Sharma, S.S Pathania, Col. Amit Gupta, Rohit Bhalla, Pankaj Thakur, Col. J.B Singh, Sanjay Mahajan, Faizan Choudhary, Akash Bhola, Sunand Kumar, Col. Yashpal Tora, Varun Raina, Firdous Masoodi, Hemant Kumar Sharma, Col.

Vijay Mahajan, Danesh Chopra, Swarn Singh and Danin Khan

Besides that, Women's putting competition was also conducted at Jammu Tawi Golf Course, in which 13 Womens golfers participated, Shafiq Bano, Karuna Pathania, Simridhi Pathania, Meenakshi, Pratibha Sharma, Farhat-un-Nisa, Arya, Wedhana, Shridha Gupta, Sambhavi Gupta, Tanvi Gupta, Ritu Slathia, Ekta Sharma participated in the Tournament wherein Farhat-un-Nisa was adjudged as winner and Wedhana was adjudged as runner-up and Shaheen Wahid was adjudged as 2nd runner-up.

Joint Director Tourism, Jammu, Ajaz Qaiser; prominent Golfers and other officers of JTGC were also present on the occasion.

# Jammu Sanskriti School students shine at 15th District Jammu Rope Skipping C'ship

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Students of Jammu Sanskriti School, Jammu brought accolades to the school by showcasing exceptional skill and sportsmanship at the 15th District Jammu Rope Skipping Championship held at J.P. World School, Jammu.

In the Under-12 category, Nirya Gupta secured the Bronze Medal, demonstrating remarkable agility and determination.

In the Under-14 category, Vinayak Sharma won the Bronze Medal in Speed Hop, while Syum Sharma claimed the Bronze Medal in Freestyle.

Sarthak Sharma also earned a Bronze Medal in Speed Hop, and Aarav Saini added another Bronze Medal in Freestyle, making the school proud



Winner Jammu Sanskriti School Jammu team with officials.

with their outstanding performances.

The students were guided by mentors Rohit Thakyal and Ravinder Singh, whose dedicated training played a key role in their success.

The Principal cum Vice

Chairperson, Rohini Aima, congratulated the winners and their mentors for their perseverance, discipline, and commitment to excellence, encouraging them to continue excelling in both academics and sports.

# DC Rajouri inaugurates Badminton Court at Sports Stadium Kheora

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma on Monday inaugurated a newly developed badminton court at the Sports Stadium-Kheora, marking another step towards strengthening sports infrastructure in the district.

After the inauguration, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with sportspersons, including boxers, badminton players and other young athletes who regularly practice at the stadium. He appreciated their dedication and encouraged them to continue pursuing excellence in the sports of their interest.

The DC reviewed the existing sports infrastructure at the stadium and directed officials of the J&K Sports Council to focus on involving more youth in sports activities through outreach and engagement programmes. He emphasized creating accessible and inclusive opportunities in sports to channelize the ener-



gy of young people in the right direction. "The district administration is committed to promote youth engagement through sports and creating more modern facilities to nurture local talent," he added.

The DC was accompanied by Additional SP Bikram Kumar other officers.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Kashmir Adventure Race was organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Mountain Biking Association (JKMBA) in collaboration with JKMAC, Badamwari Athletes, and KMBA.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation and highlighted the growing passion for adventure sports in the Valley.

The race featured a challenging tri-discipline format, Hiking, Cycling, and Running, covering a total distance of around 55 kilometers. The event commenced with a 4.5 km hike at Suliman Teng, followed by a 40 km cycling route from



Participants of Kashmir Adventure Race posing for a photograph.

Sonawar to Duck Park via Dal Lake and Foreshore Road.

The final segment was a 10 km run from Habak to Nishat and back, testing the

stamina and determination of all participants.

Around 50 athletes representing various adventure sports associations and clubs took part in the event,

demonstrating exceptional endurance and sportsmanship. he race was flagged off by Syed Tahir, secretary JKMAC, at UNO Srinagar. Speaking on the occasion, he

# Cristiano Ronaldo unlikely to travel to India for FC Goa clash

■ AGENCY

MARGAO: Saudi Arabia's top club Al-Nassr are arriving in India Monday night for their AFC Champions League 2 away match against FC Goa but marquee player Cristiano Ronaldo is unlikely to accompany the visiting team for the game scheduled on October 22.

According to Saudi Arabia's sports newspaper Al Riyadhiyah, the 40-year-old Ronaldo is not going to be a part of the travelling party despite multiple

requests from the FC Goa management.

Al-Nassr are bracing up for their third game in the continental club tournament after their comfortable league win over Al-Fateh, and their next match is scheduled to take place at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Fatorda.

FC Goa had defeated former AFC Cup winners, Al Seeb, to qualify for ACL 2, and were then drawn alongside Ronaldo's Al Nassr in Group D of the tournament.

Al-Nassr and Indian Super League club FC Goa being drawn in the same group of the continental tournament has raised expectations of the Portuguese superstar making a trip to India for a competitive match.

It is understood that his contract with Al-Nassr has a clause giving him the right to pick and choose matches outside Saudi Arabia.

Al-Nassr will be arriving at the Dabolim international airport.

Ronaldo, who is looking to play in next year's World Cup, is also focussed on managing his workload and give himself a chance to compete in the showpiece.

Moreover, Al-Nassr have won both their group-stage fixtures of Asian AFC Champions League 2 in the absence of Ronaldo, and are poised to advance to the next round.

After their match against FC Goa, Al-Nassr will be taking on rivals Al Ittihad in a round of 16 clash of the Kings Cup on October 28.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Young Ishaan Choudhary won the Diwali Cup Chess title in the week-long sports activities which held at Vivek Chess Academy in Mast Garh in the old city, here on Friday.

Ishaan presented the title trophy and Rs 1000 cash prize by chief guest, retired Lecturer of the Department of School Education, Subash Chander Gupta, who encouraged the young participants amidst sharing his experiences. The first place in women category went to



Winner team posing for a photograph.

Amrita Gupta while Anjali and Avni remained second

and third respectively. Similarly, in under-12 cate-

# Can India find a way to fit in Kuldeep Yadav in remaining two games?

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India's head coach Gautam Gambhir has always been unwavering in his cricketing conviction, and picking multi-skilled players to shore up the batting till number eight is primary among them.

So it becomes doubly difficult for a Kuldeep Yadav, with 181 wickets from 113 games, to fit in the head coach's scheme of things at the moment.

Only three 50-over games in Australia isn't big enough sample size to reach a definitive conclusion on whether Gambhir's punt (not Shubman Gill's) of playing three all-rounders is the way to go forward on those tracks, which offer both bounce and seam movement.

With India scoring only 136 in a game featuring multiple rain stoppages, it would also be unfair to judge the bowling unit, which got very little runs to defend.

But if India play three all-



rounders in Nitish Kumar Reddy, Axar Patel and Washington Sundar, with the last two being specialist finger-spinners, it becomes virtually impossible to fit in the man from Kanpur, who is now 10th in the list of all-time wicket-takers for the country in 50-over cricket.

There is every possibility that India might go into the second ODI in Adelaide on Thursday (October 23) with an unchanged XI but there will remain a question mark whether that is the best combination for the visitors.

This pattern of making Kuldeep the disposable guy isn't something that is only prevalent in the Gambhir era. It has happened when Ravi Shastri has been the head coach and repeated when Rahul Dravid was in charge. Formats changed, but the pattern remained identical.

And none other than Ravichandran Ashwin feels that is something that can actually hurt Kuldeep's psyche where self doubts start to invariably creep in.

"Am I the reason team will lose? Kuldeep might think, I am bowling so well, even

after that I am not playing, then am I the problem in this team? It is a crushing feeling and not everyone can handle it. Lot of people lose courage to fight," Ashwin said on his Hindi YouTube channel after India lost the rain-curtailed opening game by seven wickets.

Ashwin says if there is a seam bowling all-rounder in Reddy, then there is no reason not to include Kuldeep in the set-up.

"Having Nitish in the side, if you can't play your best spinner, I don't know," said Ashwin, who doesn't subscribe to the theory that No. 8 batter will act as a protection to the top-order.

Since Kuldeep's debut in 2017, India have played six ODIs Down Under (7 if Perth ODI on Sunday is also counted), and the wily spinner has featured in two of them during the 2018-19 series, grabbing 2 for 54 off 10 overs in one of the games.

While batting is a primary reason that Washington Sundar has been picked,

being a finger spinner means that over-spin on the deliveries (in simple terms forward rotation) will help him extract more bounce.

But Washington is a restrictive bowler and not the wicket-taking one. He believes in choking the run-flow and then get wickets.

On the other hand, Kuldeep being a left-arm wrist spinner is naturally a difficult proposition when it comes to batters reading him from the hand. Also with flight and dip being his main weapons, he is always on the attack.

But wrist spinners do come with their baggage of issues and playing Kuldeep at Adelaide is fraught with risks, one of them being the smaller side boundaries where he can be pulled or cut with ease.

The choices aren't easy but Gambhir and Shubman Gill will have to decide what they want to opt for -- a safer option with limited rewards like Washington or a high-risk high-reward player like Kuldeep.

# Salt, Brook go large as England beats New Zealand by 65 runs in the 2nd T20 international

■ AGENCY

CHRISTCHURCH: Phil Salt hit 85 from 56 balls and Harry Brook 78 from 35, sharing a 129-run partnership which propelled England to a 65 run win over New Zealand in the second Twenty20 international.

Salt and Brook reached a century partnership from only 54 balls and provided the momentum as England made 236-4 after being sent in, the

highest-ever T20 international score on Hagley Oval.

Tom Banton rounded off the England innings with an unbeaten 29 from 12 balls.

Adil Rashid then took 4-32 as New Zealand was bowled out for 171 in 18 overs, attempting the highest successful run chase in the history of T20 internationals.

It was Rashid's fourth four-wicket bags in T20s

and marked the 21st consecutive T20 innings in which he has taken at least one wicket.

Tim Seifert made 39 and Mitchell Santner 36 as New Zealand lost all 10 wickets to catches.

"It's always nice to contribute and to do it alongside Salty who has been very successful for us in this era," said Brook who was Player of the Match. "The other night the pitch had a little more live grass

on it.

"The sun has probably helped us out and made the pitch a little bit flatter and easier for the batters."

The match took place on the same pitch on which the first of the three-game series was intended to be played but was rained-out on Saturday. England also was asked to bat first in that match and made on 133-5 before rain stopped play.

The ball seamed and gripped on Saturday and pace-off deliveries were effective. But after two days exposed to warm weather and strong winds, the pitch had dried and nothing the New Zealand bowlers tried could stem the flow of Salt and Brook.

Salt hit the second ball of the match from Matt Henry over mid-wicket for six in an early declaration of his intentions. Though

Jos Buttler (4) and Jacob Bethell (24) fell inside the first six overs, England was already 68-2 when the first power play ended.

Bethell hit two consecutive sixes off Michael Bracewell before holing out in the sixth over. Then Brook came to the crease and the onslaught against the New Zealand attack intensified. Neither pace nor spin was effective against the England pair. Brook was powerful on the

leg side. He had a Major League Baseball sticker on the back of his bat and showed baseball prowess, hitting two sixes out of the ground over mid-wicket. Salt used superb placement, particularly on the leg side, and had his half century by the 10th over, from 33 balls. Brook followed him to that milestone from only 22 deliveries with four fours and three sixes, his first T20 international 50 as cap-

tain.

At the end of the 10th over, England was 110-2 and Brook surpassed 1,000 runs in T20 internationals when he was 66.

He finally was out in the 18th over after hitting six fours and five sixes and Salt followed two balls later, having hit 11 fours and one six. While Salt lacked the pure belligerence of Brook, his placement and timing was superb.

