

Abhyaas Club lifts 37th District Samba Volleyball Championship trophies

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Abhyaas Volleyball Club delivered an outstanding all-round performance by clinching victories in both the men's and women's finals at the 37th District Samba Volleyball Championship (2025-26), held from 22-23 November 2025 at Abhyaas Volleyball Academy, Tarlokpur (Jakh).

The championship was organised by the Volleyball Association of District Samba under the aegis of the Volleyball Association of Jammu and Kashmir (UT) in collaboration with the J&K State Sports Council.

The closing ceremony was graced by Anil Chandan, Excise and Taxation Officer, as the Chief Guest. Kuldeep Magotra, CEO Volleyball Association of J&K, and Shilpa Dubey, DDC Member,



Winner teams receiving trophies from the dignitaries at Samba on Sunday.

attended as Guests of Honour. Awards of honour were presented to Akbar Ali, Excise Inspector Sanjeev

Sharma, and Excise Inspector Paramjeet Singh. Several dignitaries, including Ramesh Kumar Sharma,

President District Volleyball Association Samba; V.S. Jamwal, Secretary; B.S. Jamwal, CEO; and sports

supporters Krishan Singh and Ram Ratan, were also present. Adding significance to the event, the Excise

Dhruv, Kamaksh hit fifties; J&K scores 209 runs against Mumbai

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Half-centuries from skipper Dhruv Sharma and Kamaksh Sharma helped Jammu and Kashmir recover and score 209 against Mumbai in the four-day Cooch Behar Trophy match at JKCA Hostel ground, here.



In reply, Mumbai were 16/1 at stumps on day-1 today. Mumbai captain Aryan Sakpal won the toss and put J&K into bat. Batting first, Jammu and Kashmir lost wickets at regular intervals and managed to score 209 runs in 78.1 overs. Kamaksh Sharma, who led the charge for Jammu and Kashmir, scored 52 runs off 59 balls with 12 fours, while skipper Dhruv Sharma played a magnificent innings of 53 runs off 139 balls with five fours. Arman (33) Faizan Ahmed (29) contributed 29 runs and Abdul Basit Lone (21) were the other contributors.

Harsh bowled brilliantly for Mumbai, taking four wickets for 24 runs in 10 overs. Sarthak and Abhay Patel took two wickets each, while Himanshu Singh and Parsun Singh claimed one wicket each. In reply, Mumbai scored 16 runs for the loss of one wicket in nine overs in the first innings at the end of the first day's play, still trailing Jammu and Kashmir by 193 runs. Raza Mirza remained unbeaten on three runs, while the team lost its only wicket in the form of Abhinav Saha. Abhinav scored 12 runs in 13 balls with the help of three fours. Dhruv Sharma took the lone wicket to fall, trapping Abhinav leg before wicket. K. Manoharan and Srinivas Anup Rai were the umpires, while Chetan Sharma was the match referee.

District Pulwama Volleyball Championship 2025-26 from Nov 27

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PULWAMA: The District Pulwama Volleyball Association, under the banner of the Volleyball Association of Jammu and Kashmir and in collaboration with the J&K State Sports Council, is set to organise the District Volleyball Championship 2025-26 at the Sports Stadium Pulwama from 27th to 28th November, 2025. The championship will be conducted across all age groups with the aim of promoting volleyball in every corner of the district.

Entries have been invited from registered volleyball clubs, teams, departments,

and schools. Interested units must submit their entries to the office of the District Pulwama Volleyball Association between 25th and 26th November, 2025.

Participating teams will be provided with refreshments, along with merit-cum-participation certificates. Notably, outstanding players from the event will be considered for selection in UT-level and national competitions.

Entry forms are available at the Association office and can also be obtained by contacting 9906746602 or 7006722271. Other terms and conditions will remain as per J&K Sports Council norms.

Samyak Jain wins Ist Jammu Open Chess Tourney

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Samyak Jain won the Ist Jammu Open Chess Tournament which held at training facility of the Vivek Chess Academy, here under the aegis of All J&K Chess Association (AJKCA) today.

As a token of encouragement and appreciation, cash prizes worth Rs. 2500 and certificate of merit presented to those modal winners of different age groups and categories.

Samyak Jain won Gold in open category having equal five points along with Pazhany Kohli. To decided the winner, a tie break match between Samyak and Pazhany took place wherein former emerged winner to claim the first prize.



Silver medal went to Mitansh Magotra with 4.5 points while Ishaan Chowdhary with four points finished fourth.

Amrita Gupta won gold in Women category with three points while silver bagged by Nitika with two points. Gunjan finished third.

In Under-13 category, gold won by Pazhany with five points and silver went to Rajdeep Singh with three points. Agastya remained third with two points he earned in six rounds event.

The under-10 category gold secured by Prince while silver went to Prajanya Mahajan

and Deevansh Khanna finished third to be prestened bronze.

Chess enthusiast and a long associate of the host Academy, Anil Chowdhary was the chief guest, who presented the medals, certificates and cash prizes to the winners.

Earlier, International recommended FIDE Swiss software was used for Chess pairing.

Detailed Results: Round 1: Pazhany (walkover); Samyak Jain bt Deevansh Khanna; Surinder bt Keshav; Ishaan Chowdhary drew Mitansh; Lakshya Chowdhary (walkover); Parth bt Upmanyu; Amrita bt Prajanya; Rajdeep bt Ayansh Abrol; Rakshniya (walkover); Rishab Jain bt Aarav Gupta;

Shivaansh bt Agastya Sharma.

Round 2: Pazhany bt Parth; Samyak bt Rajdeep; Surinder bt Rakshniya; Lakshya bt Shivansh; Amrita bt Simardeep; Ishaan bt Rishab; Mitansh bt Upmanyu; Keshav bt Ayansh; Prajanya draw Aarav; Agastya bt Gunjan; Nitika bt Deevansh; Prince (walkover).

Round 3: Pazhany bt Surinder; Samyak bt Lakshya; Ishaan bt Amrita; Mitansh bt Parth; Agastya bt Nitika; Shivansh bt Keshav; Rajdeep bt Prince; Rishabh bt Rakshya; Aarav bt Ayansh; Prajanya bt Gunjan; Upmanyu bt Deevansh.

Round 4: Samyak bt Pazhany; Ishaan bt Lakshya; Mitansh bt Surinder; Amrita bt

Shivansh; Rishab bt Agastya; Aarav bt Rajdeep; Prajanya bt Keshav; Rakshniya bt Upmanyu; Parth bt Prince; Agansh bt Nitika; Gunjan bt Deevansh.

Round 5: Mitansh bt Samyak; Pazhany bt Ishaan; Rishab bt Amrita; Aarav bt Agastya; Rajdeep bt Prajanya; Surinder bt Lakshya; Shivansh bt Parth; Rakshniya bt Nitika; Upmanyu bt Keshav; Ayansh bt Gunjan; Prince bt Deevansh.

Round 6: Pazhany bt Mitansh; Samyak bt Rishab; Ishaan draw Aarav; Surinder bt Rajdeep; Rakshniya bt Amrita; Shivansh bt Prajanya; Lakshya bt Parth; Upmanyu bt Agastya; Prince bt Avaansh; Nitika bt Gunjan; Keshav bt Deevansh.

Super Spikers, GDC Shopian clinch District Shopian Volleyball titles



Winner teams after receiving trophies from the dignitaries at Shopian on Sunday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SHOPIAN: Super Spikers Shopian in the men's category and GDC Shopian Volleyball Club in the women's section emerged champions at the two-day District Shopian Volleyball Championship, organised by the Volleyball Association of Shopian under the banner of the Volleyball Association of Jammu and Kashmir and in collaboration with the J&K State Sports Council at

Sports Stadium Shopian. The event witnessed energetic participation and competitive matches as leading teams from across the district battled for top honours.

In the men's final, Super Spikers Shopian outplayed Mahli Volleyball Club 3-1 in an intense contest. The set scores stood at 25-23, 26-28, 25-21, and 25-20, showcasing strong attacking play and consistent teamwork. Earlier in the semifinals,

Mahii Club registered a dominant 3-0 victory over KIC Shopian A with scores of 25-13, 25-14, 25-21, while Super Spikers Shopian entered the final by defeating KIC Shopian B 3-0, recording set scores of 25-18, 25-17, 25-15.

In the women's category, GDC Shopian Volleyball Club claimed the championship title with a 3-1 win in the final. Their composed performance, including con-

vincing set wins of 25-15 and 25-14, helped them lift the trophy.

The final matches were supervised by technical officials Tawseef Ahmad and Sharik Amin, ensuring smooth and fair conduct of the games.

The valedictory ceremony was graced by Showkat Ahmad, Major, 14 BN CRPF Shopian, and Shabir Ahmad Malik, District President, Wushu Association Shopian, who presented trophies and medals to the winners and runners-up.

Guests of Honour included Ghulam Rasool Khanday, Incharge Sports Stadium Shopian; Hadutallah, Secretary Penack Silat Association Shopian; and Mohd Sayaf, Coach at Khelo India Centre Shopian, who appreciated the players for their outstanding performances.

Ranvijay Singh felicitates World Champion Shooter Ravinder Singh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ranvijay Singh, Dogra Royal Family hosted a felicitation ceremony in Hari Niwas Palace for Ravinder Singh, who clinched gold at the ISSF World Championships 2025 in Egypt.

Ranvijay Singh, accompanied by Adishree Singh, Smiriti Singh and Faradh, said, "Ravinder's gold has made every Indian proud. As a proud Dogra, his dedication exemplifies the spirit of 'All Indian' and sets a shining example for our youth."

He also highlighted Ravinder's service in the Indian Army's JAK RIF battalion, a unit raised by his ancestor, the great Dogra Maharaja Gulab Singh. "Ravinder hails from the remote village of



Ranvijay Singh felicitating Ravinder Singh for winning gold at the ISSF World Championships 2025.

Dabber Bishnah, a place with limited facilities, yet he has risen to become a world champion," the Ranvijay Singh added.

Ravinder Singh, while expressing thank to Ranvijay Singh, said, "I owe this triumph to my family, the Army, and the

people of Dabber Bishnah. This recognition from the Dogra Royal Family motivates me to strive higher."

Ajit Singh Charak, former sarpanch of Dabber Bishnah, also thanked the Royal Family: "We are humbled by this honour.

Ravinder's success inspires the youth of our village and beyond."

The ceremony underscored perseverance and service, urging young Indians to emulate Ravinder's journey from a modest village to the world stage.

Raheel scores all-important goal as India beat Korea in Azlan Shah Cup opener

■ AGENCY

IPOH (MALAYSIA): A solitary strike from Mohammed Raheel in the opening quarter saw a second-string Indian side defeat three-time champions South Korea 1-0 in the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup hockey tournament opener here on Sunday.

India, competing in the prestigious tournament after a gap of six years, scored the goal in the 15th minute when the hard-working Dilpreet Singh set it up for Raheel following a fine buildup by the men in blue, who enjoyed midfield dominance thanks largely to Abhishek and captain Sanjay, who was part of the Paris Olympic bronze-winning side.

The Koreans in fact had to do a lot of defending as India attacked from both flanks and even earned a penalty corner as early as in the fourth minute with Sanjay stepping up to take the set-piece.

However, the defender's shot was saved by the rival goalkeeper.

The five-time champions, who have entered the prestigious tournament after six years -- India last played

here in 2019 and finished runners-up to Korea -- were in a spot of bother in the second quarter when the Koreans were making a desperate bid for the equaliser.

Korea had a chance in the 27th minute when one of their forwards made a full-hearted attempt to reach a passing ball in front of the goalmouth but could not connect despite a sliding effort.

India went into half-time leading 1-0.

India were back in dominant form in the third quarter and kept charging upfront regularly. They earned a penalty corner through Abhishek but the shot was way off target.

With India leaving hardly any pockets of space for the Koreans to attack, the story of dominance continued in the final quarter.

The match, which was scheduled to commence at 1:30pm IST got delayed by more than six hours due to incessant rains.

India will take on Belgium on Monday. Each side plays the other five teams once in a round-robin format with the winner earning three points and a draw fetching one point.

Rahul to lead India in ODI series against SA; Jadeja back in mix, Bumrah, Siraj rested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Senior batter KL Rahul was on Sunday named India's captain for the upcoming three-match ODI series against South Africa, while veteran all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja returned to white-ball set-up after an eight-month hiatus.

Rahul was handed the reins of the team after regular skipper Shubman Gill was ruled out of the series due to a neck injury that he sustained during the first Test against South Africa in Kolkata.

Rahul has been given the captaincy with the short-term goal of the South Africa series in mind. "Rahul's captaincy is one off and should be seen in isolation. Rishabh (Pant) wasn't considered as he has played only one ODI game in the last one year. The selectors expect that Shubman Gill's neck injury will heal and he will be back against New Zealand (3 ODIs in January 2026)," a BCCI source told PTI on condition of anonymity.

The series will begin on November 30 in Ranchi followed by matches in Raipur (December 3) and Visakhapatnam (December 6).

Jadeja, whose last ODI appearance came against New

Zealand in the Champions Trophy final in Dubai earlier in March, returned to the mix, primarily because left-arm spin all-rounder Axar Patel has been rested for this series.

Axar, who was a part of India's recent white ball tour to Australia, was rested from the ODIs against the Proteas.

The 31-year-old is currently playing in the Test series against South Africa and has been accorded a rest as per his workload management plan.

Bumrah, though, played in the five-match T20I series against Australia, and he was also a part of the national team that participated in the Asia Cup in Dubai, the two-match home Test series against the West Indies.

Siraj, who played against Australia in the away ODI series, was also given rest after playing two Tests against the Proteas in Kolkata and Guwahati.

Yashasvi Jaiswal might just get a chance to add to his lone one-day appearance in the upcoming series, while partnering former captain Rohit Sharma.

Jaiswal was a part of the ODI squad against Australia but did not get a chance to play as Gill opened with Rohit.

Virat Kohli, who has retired from Tests and T20Is, too has been named in the squad and the home fans can once again witness outings from the fabled RoKo combine.

Ruturaj Gaikwad too got the selectors' nod after a couple of impressive outings for India A against South Africa A in the recent unofficial ODI series in Rajkot.

In three matches, the 28-year-old made 117, 68 not out and 25. He has been drafted in as both Gill and original vice-captain Shreyas Iyer are recovering from their respective injuries.

Gaikwad has so far played six ODIs, and the last of them came against South Africa at Gqeberha in 2023.

The pace department will be manned by Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna and all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy.

India's ODI squad: Rohit Sharma, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Tilak Varma, KL Rahul (C) (wk), Rishabh Pant (wk), Washington Sundar, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Harshit Rana, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Prasidh Krishna, Arshdeep Singh, and Dhruv Jurel.

69th National School Games-2025 (Table Tennis) Tamil Nadu girls, West Bengal boys clinch gold

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a dazzling display of skill and determination, Tamil Nadu edged past West Bengal 3-2 in a gripping final to secure the Team Gold in the girls' category, while the West Bengal boys' team outclassed Delhi 3-2 to capture the top honours in the ongoing 69th National School Games-2025 U-19 Boys and Girls Table Tennis Championship being held at the Gymnasium Hall, University of Jammu.

Organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, Jammu and Kashmir, the championship has drawn participation from 34 States, Union Territories, and affiliated sports organisations across India, making it one of the most competitive editions in recent years.

The prestigious event is being conducted under the aegis of the School Games Federation of India (SGFI), under the leadership of Anuradha Gupta, Director General, Youth Services and Sports J&K. Vinakshi Koul, Joint Director, Youth Services and Sports Jammu, serves as the Organising Secretary of the tournament.

In the boys' category, Karnataka finished third, followed by Tamil Nadu in fourth place. In the girls' section, Maharashtra and Rajasthan claimed the third and fourth positions respectively. Earlier, the finals witnessed intense and high-quality rallies, showcasing the players' immense talent and composure under pressure. Each match drew loud applause from the spectators, highlighting the spirit of competition and sportsmanship that defines school-level sport in the country.

The championship continues to promise more enthralling contests as the event progresses, inspiring young paddlers to strive for excellence.



Indian women win blind T20 Cricket World Cup

■ AGENCY

COLOMBO: India on Sunday won the inaugural T20 blind women's world cup after defeating Nepal by seven wickets in the final played at the P Sara oval here.

India restricted Nepal to 114 for 5 after opting to bowl and then coasted to 117 for 3 in just 12 overs to win the title.

Such was India's domination that their rivals managed just a single boundary in their innings.

Phula Saren top-scored for India in the run chase with 44 not out.

India had beaten Australia in the first semi-final, while Nepal had won against Pakistan in the second semifinal on Saturday.

Co-hosts Sri Lanka could win only one game -- against the USA -- out of the five preliminary round games.

Pakistan's Mehreen Ali, a B3 or partially sighted player, was the star batter in the six-team tournament, scoring over 600 runs, including a 78-ball 230 against Sri Lanka. She also scored 133 against Australia.