

69th Senior National Volleyball Championship

J&K creates history by beating UP, tops in Pool



J&K men and women teams posing for a photograph with officials after winning matches in the ongoing 9th Senior National Volleyball Championship at Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAIPUR/JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir UT Volleyball (Men) team has been a standout performer in the ongoing 69th Senior National Volleyball Championship, being held at the iconic Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur from January 7 to 13, 2025.

Competing in Pool C, the team has maintained a commanding lead, defeating formidable opponents and earning widespread praise for

their exceptional skills and teamwork.

After registering decisive victories against Gujarat and Tripura, the J&K team triumphed over Bihar in a nail-biting match, winning by 3-2 sets. The scores were 24-26, 25-20, 25-18, 19-25, and 15-10, showcasing their resilience and strategic play.

Later in the evening, the team made history by defeating Uttar Pradesh 3-1, with scores of 17-25, 25-19, 25-18, and 25-21.

The players-Mannat, Shahid, Pankaj, Ayaz Mandi, Shabir, and Musharraf-displayed extraordinary skills, mesmerizing spectators with powerful spikes and impeccable defensive techniques. Their remarkable performance has put J&K in a strong position to advance further in the championship, earning admiration from fans and volleyball enthusiasts alike.

In contrast, the J&K Women's team faced challenges, suffering losses to

Bihar and Gujarat but after coming back strongly J&K women defeated Sikkim by straight 3-0 sets. The scores were 25-11, 25-18 and 25-20.

The seven-day-long championship was inaugurated by Union Minister of Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat as the Chief Guest, with Rajasthan's Minister of Sports Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore presiding over the opening ceremony.

Distinguished dignitaries, including Prem Singh Bajor,

members of the Adhoc Committee of the Volleyball Federation of India, Rohit Rajpal (Chairman of the Adhoc Committee), and Alaknanda Ashok (Member of the Adhoc Committee), graced the event.

The opening ceremony featured a vibrant cultural program showcasing Rajasthan's heritage, followed by an impressive march past of the 63 participating teams-34 in the men's section and 29 in the women's. Over 1,200

players and officials from across India are competing in this prestigious championship, which will conclude on January 13, 2025.

The J&K Men's team's outstanding performance in Jaipur reflects their dedication and hard work. As the championship progresses, hopes are high that they will continue to excel and bring glory to the region. Their achievements serve as an inspiration for aspiring athletes from Jammu and Kashmir, demonstrating

the immense potential and talent in the UT.

Placed in Pool-C, J&K shall now meet Manipur in the next match tomorrow.

In a message sent to team, Patron-In-Chief Volleyball Association of Jammu and Kashmir, Raj Daluja and President Sidharth Daluja congratulated the boys' team and officials for their brilliant display in the national championship and exhorted them to continue their efforts in achieving further success in

the championship.

J&K TEAM: Shahid Majeed, Haroon Rashid, Shabir Ahmed Tantray, Mannat Choudhary, Pankaj Sharma, Viapn Kumar, Musharf Khan, Dilip Sharma, Sumit Singh, Parvinder Singh, Roman Hameed, Aijaz Ahmed Madni, Ayoush Sharma, Amit Singh. Team accompanying with Akbar Ali as Manager and NIS Volleyball Coaches Naresh Kumar and Prateek Kumar and Coaches.

Randhawa felicitates medal winners of National Strength Lifting Championship

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and MLA Bahu Constituency, Vikram Randhawa today felicitated the medal winners of the 34th National Strength Lifting and Inclined Bench Press Championship held recently in Loharu, Haryana.

In his address, Randhawa extended his heartfelt congratulations to the J&K Strength Lifting Association and the winners, praising their dedication, hard work, and discipline that led to their national-level success. He underscored the vital role of physical and mental fitness in personal growth and nation-building, emphasizing that a healthy and active youth is



MLA Bahu, Vikram Randhawa felicitating medal winners of 34th National Strength Lifting and Inclined Bench Press Championship.

key to the country's progress.

Randhawa also highlighted several transformative initiatives undertaken by the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to boost sports infrastructure and opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir. He

elaborated on the establishment of 100 Khelo India Centres across 20 districts, specialized Excellence Centres for Fencing and Water Sports, and the construction of 300 sports fields and indoor stadiums at district and panchayat levels

under the PMDP and Khelo India schemes.

The senior BJP leader also commended the impact of programs like "My Youth My Pride" and "Khelo India", which have significantly engaged the youth and enhanced J&K's sports pro-

file on national and international stages.

Acknowledging over 22 years of dedicated service by the J&K Strength Lifting Association, Randhawa lauded its role in promoting strength lifting and organizing prestigious championships. He expressed optimism that continued efforts, including grassroots competitions, seminars, and educational programs, will further develop young talent and inspire more participation in strength sports.

The event concluded with a warm expression of gratitude to officials, coaches, athletes, and supporters for their collective contribution to the advancement of sports.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a remarkable display of perseverance and skill, Sahil Jain, a class 9 student from JK Public School (JKPS) Panjtirthi, won the gold medal at the North West KI Karate Cup Championship 2025 held at Yog Bhawan, Kurukshetra, Haryana.

Sahil competed in the Under-14 category and emerged victorious, marking a significant achievement in his karate career.

The championship was organized by the Haryana Sports Karate Association, drawing participants from across the region.

Sahil's dedication and hard work in the sport were evident as he overcame fierce competition to secure the top spot in his category. Suman Banbha, Principal of JKPS Panjtirthi, expressed her pride in Sahil's outstanding achievement. She congratulated the jakian and expressed, "Dream big, work hard, and soar higher! Congratulations on your remarkable achievement. May this success be the stepping stone to a brilliant future!"



Principal JKPS Panjtirthi, Suman Banbha felicitating winner Sahil Jain.

ADGP Jammu zone felicitates Manpreet for splendid show at National Strength-Lifting championship



ADGP Jammu zone, Anand Jain felicitating SPO Manpreet.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Jammu zone, Anand Jain, on Thursday felicitated SPO Manpreet of ZPHQ, Jammu, for his out-

standing show in winning the silver medal at the 34th National Strength Lifting and Inclined Bench Press IBP Championship held at Loharu, Haryana. SO to ADGP Jammu zone was

also present on the occasion.

The ADGP presented a memento to SPO Manpreet, encouraging him to continue his pursuit of excellence in sports and other endeavours. He emphasized that such achievements serve as an inspiration to the youth and reflect the commitment of police personnel to excel in diverse fields beyond their call of duty.

He also reiterated the department's commitment to supporting personnel who excel in extracurricular activities and contribute positively to society.

The 34th National Strength Lifting and IBP Championship, organized by the Haryana Strength Lifting Association saw participants from across the country competing in various categories.

Hero FC beats Pegasus FC by 3-0 in Football



Participating teams posing for a photograph with officials.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 18th Christmas Gold Cup Football Tournament 2024-25 witnessed an exciting match on Thursday between Hero FC and Pegasus FC at the Mini Stadium Parade Ground, here. Hero FC emerged victorious with a 3-0 win over Pegasus FC.

The match began with a goalless draw in the first half, with both teams struggling to break the deadlock. However, Hero FC came into their own in the second half, showing exceptional skill and teamwork.

In the 56th minute, T. Robart opened the scoring for Hero FC, giving them a 1-0 lead. Just 6 minutes later, Ishal doubled the advantage with a clinical finish in the 62nd minute. The final blow came in the 64th minute, when

Aryan sealed the victory for Hero FC with a third goal.

The match was graced by Bhupinder Singh (DySP J&K & International Player) as the Chief Guest, along with several notable figures including Ramesh Chander (International Player), Yousaf Don (Organizing Secretary), David Masih (Football Coach), Ashok Singh (Treasurer, Basketball Association), Mohd. Shuja, Charanpreet Singh, Ashok Kumar (Ex-Corporator), and Sebastin.

The match was officiated by Ricky Kumar, Ajay Singh, Aman Banathia, and Rocky.

The tournament continues with the 2nd Quarter Final tomorrow, where Param FC will face Shaheen FC at 3:00 PM.

Vishwa Bharati Athlete shines at 68th National School Games

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Harikesh Dutt Sharma of Class 8th of Vishwa Bharati Higher Secondary School Udhaywala brought laurels to the school and his parents by securing the bronze medals in the prestigious 68th National School Games Soft Tennis Championship 2024.

The championship was held in Madhya Pradesh from 24th December 24 to 28, 2024 organized by Soft Tennis Federation of India.

The President Dr. S.K Koul, Principal Annapurna Koul, staff and sports teacher congratulated Harikesh Dutt Sharma for his outstanding performance in the event.

The school community felt proud of Harikesh Dutt Sharma achievements and wished his continuous success in his future endeavours. Harikesh Dutt Sharma victory is a testament of his hard work, discipline and passion for tennis.



Royal Enfield Ice Hockey League Season 2

Mushtaq leads Kang Sings to historic 9-0 victory, advance unbeaten to semi-finals

STATE TIMES NEWS

LEII: Defending champions Kang Sings advanced to the semi-finals of the Royal Enfield Ice Hockey League Season 2 with a stunning 9-0 victory over United Nubra. Captain Mushtaq Ahmed's 4 goal-haul helped his team register the biggest win of the season so far. In the women's category, defending champions Maryul Spamo earned a semi-final berth by defeating Sham Eagles 2-0 in their final group stage match. They will be joined in the semi-finals by Changla Lamos, Humas Queens, and Sham Eagles.

Meanwhile, the final semi-finalists in the men's category will be confirmed on the last group stage day.

Day 6 kicked-off with a gripping match as the Changla Blasters battled to a 2-2 draw against Shakar Chiktan Royals. Both teams showcased solid defensive play in the first period, resulting in a goalless first 20 minutes. The action picked up in the second period when Stanzin Namgail of the Blasters scored a clinical wrist shot in the opening min-

utes, assisted by Namgail, giving his side a 1-0 lead.

The Royals responded swiftly, with Ali Akbar scoring the equalizer just six minutes later. By the 29th minute, Asgar Ali, assisted by Iftiqar Hussain, gave the Royals a 2-1 advantage, as they closed out the second period. Despite the Royals' best efforts to secure their first win of the season, Tundup Gyalson of the Blasters struck a crucial equalizer in the final period, ensuring the game ended in a 2-2 draw.

Kargil-based Purig Warriors maintained their strong run in the League by defeating Leh-based Maryul Spawo 2-0 in a closely contested game. Both teams played a cautious game in the first period, effectively nullifying scoring opportunities. Drama unfolded in the 7th minute when Nadeem Sarwar's high-stick goal was disallowed by the referee due to rule violations. The first period ended goalless. The deadlock was finally broken in the 34th minute of the second period when Kunchuk Tharpa struck a brilliant snap shot to give the Warriors a



1-0 lead.

In the final period, the Warriors focused on defense while looking for opportunities to extend their lead on the counter. Sarfaraz Hussain delivered the decisive blow with just 25 seconds remaining on the clock, scoring a stunning running wrist shot to secure the Warriors a 2-0 win, solidifying second-place in Group B standings.

In the final group stage match of the

women's category defending champions Maryul Spamo continued their dominance with a 2-0 win over Sham Eagles. Maryul Spamo got off to a flying start, with skipper Padma Chorol scoring in the second minute. Just three minutes later, Rinchen Dolma doubled their lead, giving the defending champions a comfortable 2-0 advantage by the end of the first period. Period 2 was marked by strong defensive efforts from both sides, with neither

team able to capitalize on scoring opportunities. Heading into the final period, Spamo focused on preserving their lead. Their tactical defensive strategy paid-off, effectively keeping Sham Eagles at bay and ending the game 2-0. With this win, Maryul Spamo finished the group stage at the top of the table and will be facing Humas Queens in tomorrow's semi-final, while Sham Eagles will face Tsewang Chuskit's Changla Lamos in the second semi-final on Saturday.

The final game of Day 6 in the men's category witnessed a stunning performance by defending champions Kang Sings, who delivered a resounding 9-0 victory over United Nubra, marking the season's biggest win margin, thereby securing a place in the semi-finals. The unbeaten Kang Sings took an early lead in the 9th minute, thanks to Deldan Namgyal's sharp snap shot. The first period ended with the Sings leading 1-0. Period 2 saw the defending champions shift gears, as Stanzin Largail scored in the 25th minute, followed by captain Mushtaq Ahmed's quick strike in the

27th minute, extending their lead to 3-0. Mushtaq added another goal before the period ended, taking the score to 4-0. The final period showcased Mushtaq Ahmed's brilliance as he completed his hat-trick with back-to-back goals in the 45th and 49th minutes. The Sings continued their dominance with three more goals from Stanzin Lotos, Stanzin Phuntsog, and Deldan Namgyal, sealing the biggest victory of the league so far at 9-0. With this emphatic win, Kang Sings advance confidently to the semi-finals, showcasing why they are the team to beat this season.

Changthang Shan will take on Sham Wolves, with both teams in with a chance to get to the semis. Changla Warriors will then take on Humas Warriors in a potential knockout encounter.

In the women's category, defending champions Maryul Spamo will face Humas Queens in an action-packed semi-final. The last group game of the season will see Maryul Spawo and Zangskar Chadar Tamers compete in a dead rubber, aiming to finish their campaign with a win.