

Tourism Directorate Jammu hosts New Year Golf Tournament

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Directorate of Tourism Jammu, in collaboration with Jammu Tawi Golf Course (JTGC), on Monday hosted the much-anticipated Golfers' Day Out and New Year 2025 Golf Tournament at the picturesque Jammu Tawi Golf Course, Sidhra. The event aimed to promote golf as a key tourism product and foster a vibrant golfing culture in the region.



Director Tourism Jammu Vikas Gupta; Secretary JTGC Manav Gupta, Jt Director Tourism, Sunaina Sharma Mehta and others at tournament.

Secretary to the Government, Agriculture, Horticulture, Floriculture, Park & Garden Shailendra Kumar, who teed off the first ball alongside Director Tourism Jammu Vikas Gupta; Secretary JTGC Manav Gupta and Joint Director Tourism, Sunaina Sharma Mehta. Shailendra Kumar emphasized the importance of cultivating a golfing culture, particularly among the

youth, and highlighted the tournament's significance in establishing Jammu as a premier destination for golf. He stressed the need to sustain efforts in fostering sports and tourism, underscoring the potential of golf to enhance the region's profile.

Director, Tourism Jammu Vikas Gupta lauded the success of the event, noting that it underscores Jammu's growing promi-

nence as a hub for sports tourism. He reiterated the Department's commitment to supporting initiatives that showcase Jammu as a premier destination for such events, emphasizing the need for regular tournaments to attract both players and enthusiasts.

Secretary Jammu Tawi Golf Course Manav Gupta expressed his determination to position JTGC as a top destination for golfers. He pointed to the overwhelming response from participants as a testament to the growing interest in golf within the region. Such events, he noted, not only highlight the region's sporting potential but also contribute significantly to its tourism appeal.

Joint Director Tourism Jammu Sunaina Sharma Mehta underscored that women's involvement in golf adds a profound layer of inclusivity and dynamism to

the sport. She articulated that such initiatives are instrumental in elevating Jammu's stature as a distinguished golfing destination, amplifying its tourism allure, and exemplifying the Department of Tourism's resolute commitment to fostering golf as a transformative pillar of sports tourism in the region.

Adding a unique touch to the event was the "Golfing Day Out Ladies Putting Competition," designed to encourage women's participation in golf. The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from women golfers, with Widhana Khan emerging as the winner.

The tournament concluded with a grand closing ceremony, where trophies and mementos were presented to the winners and top performers by the distinguished guests.

J&K eves win thriller against Meghalaya



J&K women team posing for a photograph with officials after winning match against Meghalaya.

STATE TIMES NEWS
GUWAHATI: Holding nerves when it mattered the most in the crunch situation, the eves of Jammu and Kashmir clinched a thriller against Meghalaya in the ongoing Women's U-23 T20 Trophy at Icon Cricket Academy Ground, Jagiroad, Guwahati on Monday.

Earlier, J&K scored a fighting total of 95 runs in the stipulated 20 overs, losing 6 wickets in the process. The trio of openers Sheena Saraf, Bawandeep Kaur and skipper

Rudrakshi Chib sparked with the willow and guided the team to a fighting total of 95 runs. Sheena top scored with 31 off 45 balls with 2 boundaries, while Bawandeep contributed 29 runs off 40 balls with 4 fours. Rudrakshi contributed 23 runs off 26 balls with 2 boundaries.

Suriti took 2 wickets for Meghalaya, while Rubi Chetri claimed one wicket.

In reply, J&K bowlers bowled with disciplined line and length and restricted Meghalaya to 93/7 in 20

overs, thus winning the match in an exciting contest by 2 runs. Skipper Rubi Chetri top scored with 28 runs off 59 balls, while Mansi and Ankita contributed 18 and 11 runs to the total respectively.

For J&K, Rudrakshi Chib and Mariya Noorain bagged 2 wickets each, while Madhu Devi, Maroof Anjum and Arveen Riyas claimed one wicket each.

J&K team is playing a well-knit unit under the Head Coach Dr Roopali Slatia and the Supporting Staff.

Shaurya of DPS Jammu wins silver medal at 20th National Taekwondo Championship

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Shaurya Sharma, a student of Class IX-C at Delhi Public School Jammu has brought laurels to the school and his parents by securing the silver medal in the prestigious 20th National Taekwondo Championship. The championship was held in Surat, Gujarat, from 28-30 December 2024, organized by CAN Taekwon-Do and supported by the ITF Taekwon-Do Federation.



Shaurya competed in the under-17 age group category and showcased exceptional skill and determination, earning

accolades in a competition that witnessed the participation of 38 talented players from Jammu & Kashmir. The esteemed management of DPS Jammu under the leadership of President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC- Dr. Ritu Singh, Director, S.S Sodhi along with Principal-DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chhabra and staff congratulated Shaurya for his outstanding performance in the event. They also expressed their appreciation to his parents for their unwavering support and encouragement.

The school community is immensely proud of Shaurya's achievement and wishes him continued success in his future endeavors. Shaurya's victory is a testament to his hard work, discipline, and passion for Taekwondo.

Manya slams ton, Shambhavi scores fifty as J&K thrashes Sikkim by huge margin

STATE TIMES NEWS
AURANGABAD: Talented batting all-rounder Manya Banotra slammed a cracking century, while skipper Shambhavi Rajput scored a second consecutive half-century and brilliant show with the willow by Bhagyaa Lakshmi Jamwal and bowling display by Sania Slatia powered Jammu and Kashmir to a huge win by 141 runs over Sikkim in the ongoing Women's U-19 One-Day Trophy at Garvare Cricket Ground, Aurangabad, today.

Earlier, winning the toss and batting first, J&K scored a massive total of 280 runs in the stipulated 50 overs, losing 3 wickets in the process.

Showing stellar grit, tenaci-



J&K women team posing for a photograph with officials after winning match against Sikkim.

ty, elegance and grace, Manya Banotra scored magnificent 134 runs off 125 balls studded with 14 delectable boundaries, while skipper Shambhavi Rajput scored 67

runs off 94 deliveries with 7 boundaries and Bhagyaa Lakshmi Jamwal remained unconquered on 48 runs off 56 balls with 5 boundaries. Namreeta took 2 wickets for

Sikkim, while Carol claimed one wicket. In reply, Sikkim bumbled out for 139 runs to lose the match by a huge margin of 141 runs. Niranjana top scored with 48

runs, while Sabita and Diksha contributed 25 and 19 runs respectively.

For J&K, Sania Slatia took 3 wickets by conceding 27 runs in 8.1 overs, while Reyanshu Rani bagged 2 wickets. Ananya Dogra, Manya Banotra and Mahika Singh Rana claimed one wicket each.

The team is performing well under well-knit Support Staff led by Head Coach Ms Lone Sunmayah.

ICC, BCCI, CA, ECB explore possibility of two-tier Test system

STATE TIMES NEWS
SYDNEY/NEW DELHI: The ICC in collaboration with cricket boards of India, Australia and England is exploring the possibility of a two-tier Test system to facilitate more series between big three nations.

The Age reported that Jay Shah, the new ICC chairman, is set to meet Cricket Australia chair Mike Baird and his England counterpart Richard Thompson later this month to discuss the finer points.

"Any plan for a move to two divisions in Test cricket would kick in after the end of the current Future Tours Program in 2027," the Age reported quoting its sources.

The BCCI is currently gearing up for its Special General Meeting on January 12 in Mumbai where interim secretary Devajit Saikia is expected to get a full-time role. Saikia was appointed in the interim role after Shah vacated his post last month to take over as ICC chairman.

A BCCI official indicated that the discussion floated around the ICC corridors in 2016, the first time when a two-tier Test system was seriously considered.

"We don't have any news of any such move as yet. Currently, preparations are being made for SGM and the recent tour to Australia too needs to be discussed.

"There was such a move sometime back, but we haven't heard anything since," a BCCI source told PTI.

The BCCI and cricket bodies of Zimbabwe and Bangladesh opposed the move, citing the possibility of decreasing revenue.

They had also argued that smaller nations would miss out on the opportunity of playing against top teams if such a system comes into existence.

However, nine years down the road the modalities have changed and even some of the reputed experts such as former Indian skipper Ravi Shastri are supporting the division.

UCO Bank opens 22nd Branch in J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The UCO Bank has become first Nationalised financial institution in J&K to open its branch in the rural pocket of Mishriwala area on Jammu-Akhnour Road, here today.

These branches have been opened as part of the expansion plan on the occasion of 83rd Foundation Day of the UCO Bank.

Developed on modern lines, the Branch was inaugurated by DGM UCO Bank, Rahul Ranjan in the presence of Branch Head, Nitin Sharma and Assistant Branch Head, Narinder Choudhary.

The opening function was attended by the prominent citizens of the area besides those leading business owners and service providers. A good number of accounts (savings/current) also opened by the locals of Mishriwala.



DGM UCO Bank, Rahul Ranjan inaugurating a new Branch.

Speaking to the prominent citizens of the area, visiting guest, Rahul Ranjan promised best services so as to meet the expectations of the people.

Earlier, during the day, another branch was opened at Vijaypur in district Samba.

The UCO Bank, formerly United Commercial Bank, is an Indian public sector bank, and financial

services government owned body headquartered in Kolkata. It is a medium sized public sector bank in India and ranked 1948 in Forbes Global 2000 list of year 2018 and ranked 80 on the Fortune India 500 list in 2020. During FY 2023-24, its total business was Rs 4.50 lakh crore. The market capitalisation of bank is Rs 71,078 crore (2024).

Harmanpreet, Renuka rested; Mandhana to lead India women in home ODIs against Ireland

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Prolific opener Smriti Mandhana was on Monday named captain of the Indian women's cricket team for this month's three-match home ODI series against Ireland after regular skipper Harmanpreet Kaur was rested.

Also being named as pacer Renuka Singh Thakur, the BCCI announced in a press release.

The short series against Ireland will begin on January 10 at Rajkot and all three games will be played at the same venue.

Harmanpreet had injured her knee during the home series against the West Indies last month, forcing her to sit out of the last two T20Is before returning to play three ODIs.

Before that, the 35-year-old had sustained a neck injury during the match against Pakistan in the Women's T20 World Cup in October last year.

Lead pacer Renuka was the player of the series in the ODIs against the West Indies after

taking 10 wickets from three matches. In the past, a stress fracture of the back had troubled her. The move to rest her for the series against Ireland could be to ease her workload.

It then went on to blank the travelling side 3-0 in the ODIs that followed. The 28-year-old Mandhana was in scintillating form during the assignment, nothing up three consecutive half centuries in the T20 Internationals. She also scored two fifties during the ODIs.

India squad: Smriti Mandhana (C), Deepti Sharma (VC), Pratika Rawal, Harleen Deol, Jemimah Rodrigues, Uma Chetry (wk), Richa Ghosh (wk), Tejal Hasabnis, Raghvi Bist, Minnu Mani, Priya Mishra, Tanuja Kanwer, Titas Sadhu, Saima Thakor, Sayali Satghare.

Schedule (All matches in Rajkot, starts at 11 AM)
1st ODI: January 10
2nd ODI: January 12
3rd ODI: January 15.

Namhail Nangmo records fastest goal in Royal Enfield Ice Hockey League history

Maryul Spamo registers victory in season opener of Women's category
Humas Warriors, Kang Sings, Changthan Shan secure wins in Men's category

STATE TIMES NEWS
LEH: Namhail Nangmo created history today by scoring the fastest goal ever recorded in the Royal Enfield Ice Hockey League. Day 3 of Season 2 saw Maryul Spamo begin their campaign with a dominant 4-0 victory over Shakar Chiktan Queens. In the Men's category, Humas Warriors set the tone earlier in the day, securing a commanding 6-1 win in the opening match. The defending champions, Kang Sings and Changthan Shans, continued their strong performances, triumphing 4-1 and 6-2, respectively. The third day of the league delivered intense action and high-energy performances, with goals flowing throughout the matches, leaving fans exhilarated. The Royal Enfield Ice Hockey League Season 2, is being organized in partnership with the UT Administration of Ladakh and Ice Hockey Association of Ladakh at the Nawang Dorjay Stobdan (NDS) Stadium, Leh.

With both the teams battling hard to break the deadlock, the game unfolded cautiously in the opening minutes. However, Humas Warriors' Zahit Ali found a breakthrough with a precise wrist shot just two minutes before the end of the first period. Moments later, Issa Mohd doubled the lead with a last-second strike, leaving the Warriors

ahead 2-0 at the break. The second period saw the Warriors take full control of the game. Zahit Ali scored again in the 22nd minute, securing his brace and extending the lead to 3-0. The momentum continued with Nasoor-ud-din and Issa Mohd each adding a goal in the 28th and 35th minutes, respectively. The Warriors' offense was relentless, and their defense remained impenetrable, ending the second period with an imposing 5-0 lead.

United Nubra came into the final period determined to fight back and managed an early consolation goal in the 43rd minute, courtesy of Padma Minger. However, Humas Warriors maintained their composure and defensive organization to deny further goals. In a dramatic finish, team captain Waseem Bilal capped off the game with a spectacular wrist shot in the dying seconds, sealing a resounding 6-1 victory for the Warriors.

Building on their momentum from the opening day, defending champions Kang Sings delivered another commanding performance in the second game of the Royal Enfield Ice Hockey League, defeating Changla Blasters 4-1. The Kang Sings started aggressively, with Stanzin Lotos netting the first goal in the 6th minute, assisted by Stanzin Angechok. In the 13th minute,



Tashi Tsewang doubled the lead with a clinical finish, thanks to a brilliant assist by Lotos.

The second period shifted into a defensive battle, with both teams missing opportunities to score. The only notable incidents were two penalties-Ghulam Nabi for elbowing and Stanzin for tripping in the 22nd minute. Despite the heightened intensity, the score remained unchanged at 2-0 as the period ended.

The final period saw a surge in intensity as both teams adopted an aggressive approach. Changla Blasters sparked hope for a comeback in the 52nd minute when Tunstup scored a precise wrist shot from the left corner.

However, the Kang Sings quickly regained control, with Mushtaq Ahmed and Tashi Tsewang scoring back-to-back goals in the 54th and 55th minutes, effectively sealing the game. With the game slipping out of Blasters' control, the defending champions showcased their all-around dominance, cruising to a 4-1 victory, while maintaining their perfect start to the season.

The women's category of the Royal Enfield Ice Hockey League Season 2 kicked off with an impressive performance by reigning champions Maryul Spamo, who secured a 4-0 victory over Shakar Chiktan Queens. The match began with a historic moment as Namhail Nangmo scored just 15 sec-

onds into play, setting a new league record for the fastest goal across both men's and women's categories. Nangmo struck again later in the first period with a sharp snap shot, giving the defending champions a solid 2-0 lead at the end of the opening period.

The second period saw heightened defensive efforts from both teams. Despite numerous scoring opportunities, exceptional goaltending on both sides kept the score unchanged, with Maryul Spamo maintaining their 2-0 advantage.

In the final period, Maryul Spamo reasserted their dominance. Rinchen Dolma capitalized on a loose puck near the net in the 45th minute, followed shortly by Padma Chorol's precision snap shot in the 48th. Despite several offensive surges from Shakar Chiktan Queens, their attempts were consistently thwarted by Dorjey Dolma, the Indian national team goalkeeper, who delivered a stellar performance. The defending champions wrapped up the match with a resounding 4-0 victory.

The final match of Day 3 featured a determined Changthan Shans side facing off against Maryul Spamo. Their offensive tactics paid off with two quick goals, first by Konchok Namgyal in the 12th minute and then by Phuntsog Namgyal in the 15th. A penalty for Urgan Samstan added some drama, but

the Shans remained in control, finishing the period with a 2-0 lead.

Period 2 began with Changthan Shans capitalizing on their momentum. Rigen Namgyal netted a goal in the 24th minute, followed by Tsewang Dorjey's quick-fire strike just 13 seconds later. Dorjey showcased his skills once again with a flawless wrist shot in the 26th minute, completing his double and widening the gap in the scoresheet. Spawo finally responded in the 32nd minute through Sonam Paldan, assisted by Rigzin N. However, their celebrations were short-lived as Stanzin Jambal immediately retaliated for the Shans. By the end of the period, the score stood at 6-1 in Changthan Shans' favor.

Entering the final period with a solid 6-1 lead, Changthan Shans played a cautious game. Spawo's Rigzin N managed to find the net in the dying minutes, reducing the deficit slightly but it was too late for a comeback. However, the Shans' defensive game plan held firm, and they wrapped up the match with a dominant 6-2 victory, keeping their momentum intact in the league.

Match schedules, results, and behind-the-scenes updates will be available on the official website and social media channels. Follow @royalenfieldsocialmission on Instagram for exclusive content and updates.