

11th J&K UT Handball Championship concludes

JKP clinches men's title, District Jammu triumphs in women's final

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The three-day 11th Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory Handball Championship for senior men and women concluded successfully today at the Shastri Nagar Play Field, Jammu. The championship was organized by the J&K Handball Association (JKHA) in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council and was played on a League-cum-Knockout basis.

Around 300 players from 12 affiliated units of JKHA participated in the championship, displaying high levels of skill, discipline and sportsmanship.

The closing ceremony was graced by Nuzhat Gul, Secretary J&K Sports Council, who was the Chief Guest, while K.D. Bhagat, DySP HQ IR 14th Battalion, attended as Guest of Honour. The Chief Guest distributed trophies to winners and runners-up along with individual prizes.

Addressing the gathering, Nuzhat Gul said that Jammu and Kashmir is



Winner JKP team receiving trophy from the chief guest.

rich in sporting talent and its sportspersons have consistently proved their excellence at national and international levels. She emphasized that proper nurturing and structured training by associations like JKHA will help promote talent at grassroots and elite levels. She

added that such championships provide an important platform for players from different districts to compete and showcase their abilities at the U.T. level.

Earlier, Ashwani Kumar Raina, President JKHA, welcomed the guests, players, officials, spectators

and media persons. He highlighted the achievements and activities of the association and expressed gratitude to the officers of the J&K Sports Council. He also extended thanks to Dr. Jasbir Kour and Dr. Harbinder Kour, Chairperson and Managing Director of National Hospital, Gadhigarh, Jammu, for their support.

In the men's final, a closely contested match was played between District Jammu and Jammu & Kashmir Police (JKP), in which JKP emerged victorious by 23-21 goals. The women's final was played between District Jammu and District Udhampur, where District Jammu defeated Udhampur by 10-5 goals.

Among others present were Rajesh Chandan (General Secretary JKHA), Rajesh Kapoor (Vice President JKHA), Sanjeev Jamwal (Treasurer JKHA), Sajjad Ahmed (Executive Member JKHA) and Sudhir Singh, former international handball player.

LOC Cricket Club Poonch gets new team outfit



Tariq Khan, chairman Shaheed Manjit Singh Memorial Volleyball Club presenting new team uniform to LOC Cricket Club.

STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: One of the fast growing cricket identity of Poonch, LOC Cricket Club on Friday got its new team uniform for the upcoming cricketing season.

The playing outfit has been sponsored by prominent sports promoter of the district, Tariq Khan, chairman Shaheed Manjit Singh Memorial Volleyball Club and international coach.

The uniform presented to each Club player in a function attended besides others by players, management and supporters of the club over a luncheon.

Owner of the Club, Ali Asgar, captain Zaffar Hussain Shah, and vice captain, Pervaiz Malik Afridi expressed their gratitude to Tariq Khan for the encouragement. The occasion was also mark the launch of the

new uniform of the Club thereby strengthening cricket culture in Poonch.

Speaking to the gathering, Tariq, who recently elected treasurer of the Volleyball Association of J&K, said, "Shaheed Manjit Club is dedicated to the promotion of Volleyball in J&K and it was for the first time that a helping hand has been extended to Cricket, another emerging sport of Poonch.

Gurah Mundian wins opening match in Volleyball Tournament



Participating teams posing with dignitaries.

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: A Volleyball Tournament was organised by Chhaju Ram Sports Club, Gurah Mundian, creating great enthusiasm among sports lovers of the area.

A total of eight teams participated in the tournament, showcasing impressive skill and teamwork.

The Volleyball

Tournament was inaugurated by Swami Nityananda Ji Maharaj and Sudesh Kumar Sethu as the chief guests, who encouraged the players and appreciated the efforts of the organisers.

The opening match of the tournament was played between BSF and Gurah Mundian, in which the host team Gurah Mundian registered a con-

vincing 2-0 victory.

Prominent sports officials including Ganju Pant, Kamal Sharma (President, Volleyball Association Kathua and Joint Secretary, J&K Volleyball Association), Mohinder Sharma (General Secretary) and Ram Lal (Joint Secretary) were also present, adding prestige to the tournament.

IIM Jammu concludes Mid-Career Leadership Development Programme (Batch-I) for SAIL officials

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu concluded the Mid-Career Leadership Development Programme (Batch-I) for officials of the Maharatna company, Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL), with a grand valedictory ceremony held on Friday, at the Dharmia Classroom, Vedanta MDP Centre, Academic Block, Jagti Campus.

The valedictory ceremony was presided over by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu. Atanu Mukherjee, General Manager (Academics & Central HRD) and Senior Faculty Member, Management Training Institute (MTI), SAIL, graced the occasion in online mode along with other senior SAIL officials. Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Faculty and Research, IIM Jammu, was



also present.

The five-day programme, conducted from January 5 to 9, 2026, was curated under the leadership of Prof. Sanjay Gupta, Dr. Sarbjit Singh, and Dr. Chinmaya K. Swain as Programme Directors. The programme aimed to enhance leadership effectiveness, managerial competencies, and strategic decision-making skills among mid-career professionals.

Addressing the participants, Prof. B.S. Sahay emphasized the importance of building meaningful pro-

fessional relationships, nurturing senior-junior bonding, and fostering institutional belonging.

He highlighted the role of structured training in strengthening individual capabilities and contributing to organizational growth. He also referred to the national vision for skill development under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and stressed the significance of innovation, continuous learning, and alignment with NEP 2020 for expanding access and impact

in higher education. Atanu Mukherjee appreciated IIM Jammu for hosting the programme at an emerging location like Jammu, enhancing outreach and scalability. He described the programme as a phased, journey-based initiative with continued learning over the next three months. He stressed the importance of evaluating training outcomes through measurable business impact, structured projects, and behavioral development, and informed that Phase II would include faculty handholding

support from IIM Jammu.

Prof. Jabir Ali highlighted the richness of discussions arising from participants across diverse functional domains and emphasized continuous innovation for sustained development. He acknowledged the support of senior SAIL leadership and encouraged participants to create meaningful organizational impact.

Reflecting on the programme journey, Dr. Sarbjit Singh shared insights into the three-phase structure, with Phase I focusing on engagement, Phase II on online learning, and Phase III on strengthening decision-making capabilities. The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. Sanjay Gupta, followed by the National Anthem, marking the successful completion of the first phase of the programme.

ZEOs, Headmasters delegation felicitates CEO, Dy CEO and DEPO Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A joint delegation of Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs) and Headmasters of Jammu district, led by Nasib Singh, Headmaster, and Surinder Dogra, ZEO Vijaypur, called on Chief Education Officer (CEO) Jammu, Ajit Sharma, Deputy CEO Jammu, Pardeep Singh Rakwal, District Education Planning Officer (DEPO) Jammu, B.D. Sharma, and Junior Assistant, Sumit Sharma.

The delegation comprised several senior educationists including Ch. Rashid Alam, Romesh Khajuria (Headmaster), Narinder Singh Jamwal (Headmaster), Varinder Sharma (Headmaster), Vijay Gupta (Headmaster), Udjhog Shastri (Ex-Headmaster), Jasbir Singh



Bhau (Ex-ZEPO), Rajesh Sharma (Headmaster), besides other masters and teachers from different zones of the district.

During the meeting, the delegation felicitated Deputy CEO Jammu, Pardeep Singh Rakwal, in the presence of the CEO Jammu and DEPO Jammu, appreciating his contribution towards strengthening the education system in the district.

Addressing the gathering, CEO Jammu Ajit Sharma urged the ZEOs and Headmasters to focus on providing quality education and ensure that academic standards are not compromised. He emphasized the need to implement the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in letter and spirit. The Dy CEO and DEPO Jammu also stressed strict compliance with all

orders issued by the CEO's office and timely submission of required information.

The delegation assured the officers of their full cooperation and commitment to achieving the set educational targets. The meeting concluded on a positive note, reflecting mutual understanding and dedication towards improving the educational scenario in Jammu district.

Shweta, Adeeba power J&K to 4-wkt win over Saurashtra

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Skipper Shweta Rana and pace sensation Adeeba Tariq helped J&K register four-wicket win against Saurashtra in the Women's (U-15) One-Day Trophy at the Lady Amritbai Daga College Ground in Nagpur.

Chasing a competitive total of 160 runs, J&K's young batters played confident innings guide the side to achieve the target in 26.3 overs losing six wickets.

Skipper led from the front with an unbeaten innings of 68 coming off 75 balls, including 12 boundaries. Vital contributions came from Vitasta Kitchlu (20), Dhanya Sharma (15), Sonakshi Sharma (15), and Mokshita Kotwal (12),



J&K women team with officials after winning the match.

ensuring a smooth sail.

From Saurashtra Bhavya Nagvadiya claimed two wickets while Jiya Jadav and Khushi Dhapa took one each.

Earlier, after winning the toss and opted to bowl, J&K restricted Saurashtra at 160 in 35 overs. Riti Parekh remained top scorer with 53 off 74 balls. Bhavya Nagvadiya (23) and Khushi Dhapa (20)

were other main contributors to the total.

Adeeba Tariq emerged as the standout performer taking away four wickets for 40 runs in six overs. Sonakshi Sharma took two, while Manvi Sharma, Shweta Rana, and Dhanya Sharma shared apiece each.

The J&K team is accompanied by Head Coach, Amit Pal Singh. Now, in

their final league outing, J&K face Odisha tomorrow. A win in this match will take J&K to the knockout stages.

"This victory underscores the rising talent and unbreakable spirit of J&K's U-15 girls, poised to make waves in women's cricket," said Member Administration JKCA, Brig Anil Gupta while lauding the efforts of the team.

J&K children, youth shine at National Singing and Dance Sports Championship 2026

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Children and youth from Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory delivered an outstanding performance at the National Singing and Dance Sports Championship 2025-26, bringing home multiple medals and making the Jammu and Kashmir UT proud.

The prestigious national-level event was held on 6th and 7th January 2026 at Ravinder Bhawan, Asansol, West Bengal, and was organized by the Dance Sports Association Bharat under the guidance of renowned choreographer Prakash Sinha.

The championship witnessed participation from across the country and was graced by eminent personalities. Kamlesh Patel, Oscar Awardee and President of Dance Sports Association Bharat, was the Chief Guest, while Rajnikant Thakur,



J&K team with dignitaries at prize distribution ceremony.

General Secretary of the Association and a well-known national figure, attended as Guest of Honour, along with several distinguished guests and dignitaries.

Around 18 to 20 talented participants from different districts of J&K UT represented the Union Territory in various age groups and categories of singing and dance.

The team was led by Tajinder Singh, President, HCES, and Gurbinder Kour,

State Secretary, Dance Sports Association Bharat. They were joined by Suhani Sharma, a renowned singer of J&K UT, who served as a singing judge, and Isha Jain, owner of Star World Dance Academy and District Secretary, Dance Sports Council J&K.

The young performers of J&K delivered remarkable performances and secured top honours. The Junior Dance Group won a Silver

Medal in the traditional dance category, while the Junior Trio Group and Duet Group both clinched Gold Medals in their respective open categories. In junior dance forms, Namisha, Aadhya, Soumili, Mahira Tandon, Sayuri Gupta, and Harliv Kour from Poonch district all won Gold Medals.

In the senior category, Amanpreet Singh bagged Gold in Folk Dance, while Divyansh Sudan from

Rajouri secured Gold in the Singing Category. Kavya Khajuria won Bronze in folk dance, and Pravika Bhandari earned Silver in the junior folk and western dance category. Tamanna Manhas of Jammu also claimed a Silver Medal in folk dance. From Ladakh UT, Ostal Namdan won Gold in the open dance category, adding further pride to the regional contingent.

The team was coached by Rishi from Reasi district, while Adit Kumar from Udhampur served as the Team Manager. Their guidance and coordination played a key role in the team's successful performance.

The outstanding achievements of these young artists once again highlighted the rich cultural talent and artistic excellence of Jammu and Kashmir, proving that the youth of the region are capable of excelling on national platforms with confidence and dedication.

Ishaan, Rajyawardhan lead with 3 pts in U-11 Chess

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Promising Ishaan Choudhary and Rajyawardhan Singh were leading with three points each at the end of round-three on opening day of the two-day under-11 Chess Open Khelo Jamamu Chess Tournament, being organised at Vivek Chess Academy (VCA), here on Friday.

Being held under the aegis of All J&K Chess Association (AJKCA), the event shall conclude with remaining two rounds taking place tomorrow. Earlier, the Swiss software was used for pairing.

Besides Ishaan and Rajyawardhan, four other young participants were in the race for the top three positions with two points each. They were Prince, Vihaan, Manushree and



Open under-11 Chess competition in progress at VCA in Jammu on Friday.

Keshav. The Results: Round-1: Ishaan (1) beat Prince (0); Rajyawardhan (1) beat Raesha (0); Amina (1) got walkover; Divyansh (1) beat Ruby (0); Vatsal (1) beat Gunjan (0); Keshav (1) beat Aaradhya (0); Manushree (1) beat vihaan (0). Round-2: Ishaan (2) beat Divyansh (2); Rajyawardhan (2) beat Manushree (1); Keshav (2)

beat Amina (1); Vatsal (2) beat Raesha (0); Vihaan (1) beat Gunjan (0); Prince (1) beat Ruby (0); Aaradhya (1) got Bye point. Round-3: Ishaan (3) beat Keshav (2); Rajyawardhan (3) beat Vatsal (2); Prince (2) beat Amina (1); Vihaan (2) beat Divyansh (1); Manushree (2) beat Aaradhya (1); Gunjan (1) beat Raesha (0); Ruby (1) got bye point.