

Defending champions Shrachi Bengal Tigers begin HIL campaign with 3-1 win over JSW Soorma

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
CHENNAI: Defending champions Shrachi Bengal Tigers opened their men's Hockey India League (HIL) campaign with a confident 3-1 victory over JSW Soorma Club, while Vedanta Kalinga Lancers beat Ranchi Royals 4-2 here on Friday.

For the Tigers, Sukhjeet Singh (33th minute), Abhishek (45th) and Gursewak Singh (60th) netted the goals while Prabhjot Singh (54th) pulled one back for Soorma.

The opening quarter was evenly balanced with both teams looking to settle into the contest. Soorma tried to stretch the Tigers' defence by switching play and using long passes. The Tigers, on the other hand, relied on quick counter-attacks and aerial



balls into the circle.

Despite a few promising moves from Nicolas Poncelet and Tommy Willems, neither side could create a clear-cut chance in the first 15 minutes.

The Tigers grew stronger in the second quarter and began to control possession.

Abhishek was lively upfront and won multiple penalty corners, but Soorma goalkeeper

Vincent Vanasch kept trouble at bay with several shroul saves, including a crucial double save late in the half. The two teams went into the break with the score still level.

The Tigers finally broke the deadlock early in the third quarter when Tom Grambusch's penalty-corner flick was deftly deflected into the goal by Sukhjeet Singh in the 33rd minute.

The Tigers continued to press and doubled their lead later in the quarter when Abhishek showed great composure, holding off the defender before firing a powerful reverse-stick shot past Vanasch from a tight angle.

Soorma showed intent in the final quarter and they were rewarded when Prabhjot finished off a neat passing move in the 54th minute to reduce the deficit.

However, as Soorma pushed forward and took off their goalkeeper in the closing moments, the Tigers struck again. Abhishek stole possession and set up Gursewak, who scored into an empty net in the final minute to seal the win.

In the other match of the day, Vedanta Kalinga Lancers claimed a 4-2 victory over

Ranchi Royals.

Alexander Hendrickx (7th, 28th) and Gursahibjit Singh (16th, 26th) scored the goals for the Lancers while Tom Boon (1st) and Mandeep Singh (9th) were the goalscorers for the Royals.

The Royals found the opening goal in the first minute as they won a penalty corner and Boon made the most of the opportunity, slotting the ball into the net with a powerful dragflick.

The Lancers won a penalty corner in the seventh minute and Belgian dragflick specialist Hendrickx delivered the equaliser with a flick past the goalkeeper.

Two minutes later, the Royals claimed the lead again as Vishmukant Singh played an incisive first-time pass into the circle for Mandeep who

scored the second goal.

Lancers began the second quarter strong with a crucial field goal. Craig Marias showed great skill inside the circle as his pass set up Gursahibjit perfectly for a diving finish into the goal.

They struck again in the 26th minute as Dilpreet Singh did well to protect the ball inside the circle and play it to Gursahibjit who was in the perfect position to poach the ball.

Two minutes later, Lancers further increased their advantage as Hendrickx converted another penalty corner.

In the 42nd minute, Ranchi Royals won three consecutive penalty corners but the Lancers denied them on all three occasions, eventually winning the contest by a significant margin.

Poonch Warriors make it 5-1 against SLHC in Hockey



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Poonch Warriors today made it a big 5-1 win against Sham Lal Hockey Club (SLHC) in the ongoing District Poonch Hockey Championship at Astro turf Ground of BHSS, here. Jagmeet (23rd), Damandeep Mir (32nd) Gamanpreet Singh (37th) and Kanish (22nd and 49th) were the scorers from the winning side while Karandeep Singh (18th) scored the lone goal for SLHC. In other match of the day, Poonch XI trounced Baba Banda Singh Bahadur (BBSBC) 3-1 to strengthen their position. Zahid (4th), Kavleen (13th) and Parvinder (54th) were the scorers from winning side while Asad netted the lone goal from BBSBC in the 47th minute. Dr. Nitam Sharma, Assistant Professor Department of Law, University of Jammu was the chief guest in today's matches, who was introduced with the teams by Sanjeev Kumar, senior vice president Hockey J&K. Today's matches officiated by the technical panel including Harmik Singh, Vikas Sharma, Sunil Raina, Navjot Singh, Saval Ahmed, Ritika Sharma, Jaspreet Kour, and Sanjana Yadav.

Amrita wins Smart Girl Open Chess title Avni, Ishanvi, Raesha perform well

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Unbeaten Amrita Gupta emerged winner of the VCA's 2nd Smart Girl Open Chess Tournament which was organised at Vivek Chess Academy (VCA) under the aegis of All J&K Chess Association (AJKCA), here today.

For her title win, Amrita presented a cash prize of Rs 1000 and title trophy. She earned maximum five points out of as many rounds. Second place went to Avni Sharma with four points to be awarded with Rs 700 cash prize.

Ishanvi Soni, with 3.5 points, finished third to receive Rs 500 cash prize and trophy. With three points to her credit, Raesha Thothla was best under-10 contestant. She was presented a cash prize of Rs 500. Raesha remained in limelight for being youngest participant, who



Winner players posing with official.

secured three points out of three wins.

Senior Scientist at Pollution Control Board, Anuradha was the chief guest, who felicitated the winners. She was all praise for the young girls engaged in a competitive sport of Chess and encouraged them to work hard to improve their rankings so as to excel at the National level.

"The event was organised

under Khelo Jammu Mission by VCA on the pattern of ALL India Chess Federations (AICF) Smart Girl Chess Tournaments. To encourage girls in Chess, cash prizes worth Rs 2700

presented to the winners besides title trophies and certificate of merit by the Academy," informed coach of VCA, Vivek Bharti.

The competition held using Swiss software for pairing.

The Detailed Results:

Round-1: Amrita (1) bt Manushree (0); Avni (1) bt Nitika (0); Pearl (1) bt Gunjan (0); Ishani (1) bt Raesha (0); Ishanvi (1) bt Ruby (0).

Round 2: Amrita (2) bt Ishani (1); Avni (2) bt Ishanvi (1); Pearl (2) bt Nitika (0); Gunjan (1) bt Ruby (0); Raesha (1) bt Manushree (0);

Round 3: Amrita (3) bt Pearl (2); Avni (3) bt Gunjan (1); Ishani (1.5) drew Ishanvi (1.5); Raesha (1) bt Ruby (0); Nitika (1) bt Manushree (0). Round 4: Amrita (4) bt Avni (3); Raesha (3) bt Pearl (2); Ishani (2.5) bt Gunjan (1); Ishanvi (2.5) bt Nitika (1); Manushree (1) bt Ruby (0);

Round 5: Amrita (5) bt Raesha (3); Avni (4) bt Ishani (2.5); Ishanvi (3.5) bt Pearl (2); Gunjan (2) bt Manushree (1); Nitika (2) bt Ruby (0).

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AKHNOOR: The NSS Unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Akhnoor organised a Seven Days NSS Winter Camp, featuring a series of meaningful, community-oriented, and awareness-driven activities aimed at social service, environmental protection, and youth development.

The camp was well organised by Dr. Sanjay Kapoor, NSS Programme Officer and Assistant Professor of Chemistry, under the guidance and patronage of Dr. Romilla Malla Bhat, Principal, GDC Akhnoor.

All activities were conducted in accordance with this year's NSS theme, "Service, Discipline and Development through NSS."

The camp commenced with an inaugural programme held in the college conference hall, followed by cleanliness and decoration activities



across the college campus. NSS volunteers actively participated in a winter clothes donation drive in the slum areas of Akhnoor; extending warmth and support to the underprivileged sections of society.

A visit was also organised to Seva Samiti Vridhashram, Harimandir Ghat, Akhnoor, where volunteers donated essential items and interacted with elderly residents.

Demonstrating teamwork and self-reliance, volunteers prepared meals collectively during the camp. As part of environmental conservation

efforts, volunteers also constructed a beautiful flower park within the college campus, promoting greenery and ecological awareness.

Awareness campaigns on road safety, emphasizing the importance of helmets and seat belts, were conducted to educate the public. An educational visit to the historic Akhnoor Fort further enriched the learning experience and cultural awareness of the volunteers.

The Seven Days NSS Winter Camp concluded successfully on January 4, 2026 (Sunday) with an impressive

rally under the "Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan." Volunteers displayed flash cards and raised powerful slogans against drug abuse. The rally, witnessed and appreciated by local residents, delivered a strong message advocating an addiction-free and healthy society.

The camp highlighted the commitment, discipline, and social responsibility of NSS volunteers and reaffirmed the dedication of Government Degree College Akhnoor towards nation-building and community service.

Shweta, Vitasta's batting brilliance; Adeeqa, Janvi's bowling firepower fashion J&K's thrilling win over Gujarat

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NAGPUR: Shweta Rana and Vitasta Kitchloo dazzled with the willow, while Adeeqa Tariq and Janvi Rajput shone with the ball as Jammu and Kashmir scripted a thrilling 6-run victory over formidable Gujarat in Women's U-15 One-Day Trophy at Lady Amrithbai Daga College Ground, Nagpur.

Chasing a target of 175 runs, Gujarat fell short of 6 runs, scoring 168/9 in the stipulated 35 overs. Nityay Brahmakshtriya top scored with 61 runs off 84 balls with 9 boundaries, while Frenny Chaudhari contributed 47 runs off 63 balls with 9 boundaries.

Adeeqa Tariq was the pick of the bowlers, who took 4 wickets by conceding 26 runs in her 7 overs, while



Janvi Rajput bagged 2 wickets by giving away 39 runs in her 7 overs.

Earlier, J&K scored a good total of 174 runs in the stipulated 35 overs. Skipper Shweta Rana showed stellar grit and tenacity to notch up brilliant half-century, top scoring with 78 runs

off 74 balls, studded with 9 fours and one six, while Vitasta Kitchloo contributed 35 runs off 61 balls with 2 fours. Mokshita Kotwal (19) and Dhanya Sharma (16) were the other contributors.

Prachi Parmar, Nitya and Faina

Parikh claimed one wicket each for Gujarat.

Member Administration JKCA, Brig Anil Gupta and Member Cricket Operations JKCA, Vidhya Bhaskar lauded the efforts of the team for this resounding victory.

"You have made all of us proud by clinching a thrilling victory over a strong opposition. You deserve appreciation for this second straight win," said Brig Gupta in a congratulatory message.

The team is being accompanied by Amit Pal Singh as Coach, Shalbu Bala as Assistant Coach, Nishant Sharma as Trainer, Qazi Anosha as Physio, Sahil Magotra as Performance Analyst, Sapna Jamwal as Manager and Rehana Bano as Assistant Manager.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SURAT: International Cricket Council chairman Jay Shah on Sunday said that after hosting the Commonwealth Games in 2030, India aims to bring the Olympic Games to Gujarat in 2036 and set a target of winning 100 medals.

Addressing the 'Run for Girl Child' marathon organised by Dr Hedgewar Seva Smruti Seva Samiti in Surat, Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had played a key role in bringing the Commonwealth Games to Gujarat.

"After Commonwealth 2030, we are aiming to host



the Olympics in 2036 here," he said.

Referring to India's performance at the Paris Olympics 2024, where the country won eight medals, Shah said the target for 2036 should be at least 100 medals, with Gujarat contributing 10 of them.

He expressed confidence that women athletes would win at least two of those medals.

Shah also praised the Indian men's cricket team for their success in the 2024 T20 World Cup in Barbados and the 2025 Champions Trophy.

Highlighting the growing impact of women's sports, he said that earlier parents often expressed a desire for their sons to become like Virat Kohli, but now many aspire for their daughters to emulate cricketers such as Smriti Mandhana and Harmanpreet Kaur.

Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Club registers 72-run victory over Mechanical Engineer XI at Satwari



Winner team posing for a photograph.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Club (SKCC) produced a commanding all-round performance to secure an emphatic 72-run victory over Mechanical Engineer XI (MCXI) in a friendly cricket match played at Satwari Ground here. The match was organised under the social awareness slogan "Say Yes to Future, No to Drugs," highlighting the role of sports in guiding youth towards a healthy and drug-free lifestyle.

After winning the toss, SKCC captain Surpreet Singh elected to bat first-a decision that proved fruitful as SKCC posted a formidable total of 181 for 4 in their allotted 20 overs.

The innings was anchored by a splendid knock from

Akshit, who scored 52 runs off 34 balls, showcasing fine stroke play and composure. He received solid support from Aneesh, who chipped in with 40 runs off 37 balls. Middle-order contributions from Sumit Kumar (30 runs) and Anil Langeh (26 runs) further strengthened the SKCC total. For Mechanical Engineer XI, Mukesh and Sonu were the pick of the bowlers, claiming two wickets each.

Chasing a challenging target of 182 runs, Mechanical Engineer XI struggled against SKCC's disciplined bowling attack and were bowled out for 110 runs, falling short by 72 runs. Mukesh top-scored for MCXI with a quick 42 runs off 20 balls, while Vipan added 30 runs off 32 balls.

SKCC's bowlers kept constant pressure on the opposition, with skipper Surpreet Singh leading from the front by picking up three crucial wickets. Continuing their excellent all-round performance, Akshit and Aneesh bagged two wickets each, while Vinod and Tony contributed with one wicket apiece.

For his outstanding all-round display with both bat and ball, Akshit was deservedly adjudged Man of the Match.

The match successfully blended competitive cricket with a powerful social message, reaffirming Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Club's commitment to promoting sports as a catalyst for a positive, disciplined, and drug-free future.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) on Sunday staged the acclaimed Dogri play "Pension" here at Abhinav Theatre as part of its weekly theatre series "Saptahik Rangdharma".

Written by Padma Shri Awardee, Mohan Singh and directed by eminent theatre personality Usha Slathia, the play received an enthusiastic response from the audience.

The play presents a sensitive and thought-provoking portrayal of a middle-class family through its central character Mohan Lal Choudhary, who is on the brink of retirement.

As he approaches this significant transition, his family members-including his wife, two sons, two daughters-in-law, a married elder sister, and a close friend-become increasingly focused on the pensionary benefits he is expected to receive.

Dogri Play 'Pension' enthralls audience



nificant transition, his family members-including his wife, two sons, two daughters-in-law, a married elder sister, and a close friend-become increasingly focused on the pensionary benefits he is expected to receive.

Through realistic situations, nuanced dialogues and a blend of humour and emotional depth, the play effectively highlights the

changing dynamics of family relationships.

While the sons are depicted as frequently at odds with each other, the daughters-in-law emerge as mature and understanding figures who strive to preserve harmony within the household. The narrative takes an engaging turn when a distressed Mohan Lal shares his concerns with his friend

Chandu Lal Choudhary, even contemplating an escape from family pressures. Ultimately, emotional bonding and mutual understanding prevail, reinforcing the play's core message of family values, patience and unity.

The cast delivered commendable performances with Ravikant Sharma as Mohan Lal Choudhary, Usha

Slathia as Lazya Devi, Ajit Singh as Chandu Lal Choudhary, Bhupinder Singh Jamwal, Vikas Sharma, Sunita Atri, Meenu Slathia and Preeti Rajput in key roles.

The technical team, including Pranav Bagal (set design), Meenu Slathia (make-up), Chavi Rajput (costumes), Shashi Bhushan Sharma (light and sound), Ishu and Ishan Dogra (music), played a vital role in the production's success.

At the conclusion, Additional Secretary JKAACL, Lal Chand felicitated the theatre group with a memento in presence of the Assistant Cultural Officer, Anil Tiekoo, who lauded the artists and backstage team for their dedicated efforts.

Registration process for allied, healthcare professionals under NCAHP to commence shortly

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Profession (NCAHP), Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, is in the process of operationalizing online portals for seamless and efficient registration of Allied and Healthcare

Professionals and Institutions, as mandated under the NCAHP Act, 2021.

In this regard, State Allied and Healthcare Council (SAHC), J&K informs that the NCAHP has communicated with all Allied and Healthcare State / UT Councils regarding NCAHP portal operationalization and

accordingly, all eligible Allied and Healthcare Professionals in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir are hereby informed that the registration process shall commence very soon.

The SAHC also informs that the draft regulations governing the registration of Allied and Healthcare Professionals

are available on the official website of the Commission and are currently in the stage of finalization by the Commission, to be notified shortly.

All eligible professionals / stakeholders are advised to keep their relevant documents and details ready for registration as soon as the portal

becomes operational. The updates regarding the launch date and registration procedure will be duly communicated.

For any queries, the concerned stakeholders are advised to contact office of the State Allied and Healthcare Council, J&K at Srinagar or Jammu.