

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

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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 (33rd 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 sharp 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.

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, 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.

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 a dragflick.

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Poonch Warriors make it 5-1 against SLHC in Hockey



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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. Nitan 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



Winner players posing with official.

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

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 competition held using Swiss software for pairing.

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).

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, Shalabh 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.

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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.

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

After Commonwealth 2030, India aims to host 2036 Olympics in Gujarat: Jay Shah

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 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 con-

tributing 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.

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