

Royal Goodwill CC crowned BIG JKPL Champions

# Satish applauds BIG JKPL for promoting youth, sports

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The HexaMed BIG Jammu Kashmir Premier League (BIG JKPL) 2025-26, organised by 92.7 BIG FM, concluded in spectacular fashion at the University of Jammu Ground, where Royal Goodwill Cricket Club clinched the championship title with a sensational 5-wicket victory over Valley Stars Ganderbal.

Over 10,000 spectators witnessed the grand finale, creating a charged, festival-like atmosphere for what turned out to be one of the most memorable finals in the league's history.

The league was conducted with the support of HexaMed Diagnostics as the Title Partner, followed by the Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment, J&K as the Presenting Partner, CT University as the Powered By Partner, Oxford Hospital as the Associate Partner, Kanwal Spices as the Associate Partner, Jammu & Kashmir Excise Department as the Associate Partner, and Jammu & Kashmir Bank as the Banking Partner, along with JK Sports Time as the Live Streaming Partner and



Sports Minister, Satish Sharma presenting trophy to winner team.

Pepsi as the Beverage Partner, whose collective association added scale, professionalism and institutional strength to the tournament.

Chasing a daunting target of 237 runs in the pressure-packed final, Royal Goodwill Cricket Club showcased nerves of steel and fearless intent, reaching 241/5 in just 19 overs, completing one of the most remarkable run chases in BIG JKPL history.

The final belonged to Jehangir Lone, who delivered a rare 'golden all-round' performance. He picked up three crucial wickets and then produced a breathtaking batting assault, smashing 57 runs off just 20 balls,

including seven towering sixes, earning him the Player of the Match award.

If Lone ignited the chase, Aasif Manzoor ensured a flawless finish. Playing one of the finest knocks in league history, Manzoor remained unbeaten on 84 off 33 balls, striking at a staggering rate and clearing the boundary ropes nine times. Earlier, Aadil Reshi (46 off 28 balls) provided vital support to set the platform for the record-breaking pursuit.

Earlier in the evening, Valley Stars Ganderbal had posted a formidable 236/6, led by skipper Nadeem Dar, who played a sensational knock of 58 off 21 balls, while Ravi Thakur added a

stylish 57. Despite their aggressive batting display, the Valley Stars bowlers struggled to contain Royal Goodwill's relentless power-hitting, which saw the champions smash 20 sixes in just 19 overs.

Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, who was chief guest at the closing ceremony, lauded the organisers of the BIG Jammu & Kashmir Premier League (BIG JKPL) 2025-26 for creating a vibrant and professional sporting platform for the youth of Jammu & Kashmir.

Satish Sharma felicitated the winning and runner-up teams and congratulated the players for displaying excep-

tional sportsmanship, discipline and competitive spirit.

Addressing the gathering, Satish Sharma said that the Omar Abdullah-led government is committed towards strengthening the sports infrastructure, encouraging youth participation and nurturing grassroots talent across Jammu & Kashmir. He emphasized that tournaments like BIG JKPL provide local players an opportunity to showcase their talent on a big platform and open pathways for professional careers in sports.

The Minister also appreciated 92.7 BIG FM and its partners for organising a high-quality league that attracted massive public participation and brought together young cricketers from different parts of the Union Territory. He said that such events not only promote physical fitness but also instil values of teamwork, discipline and unity among the youth.

Satish Sharma further said that his department will continue to support initiatives that promote sports and youth engagement. He added that the government aims to make Jammu & Kashmir a hub of sporting excellence.

## J&K registers strong start in 72nd Senior National Volleyball Championship



J&K Volleyball team with officials after winning match at 72nd Senior National Volleyball Championship.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir made an impressive beginning in the 72nd Senior National Volleyball Championship, currently underway at Dr Sampurnanand Sports Stadium, Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), with the men's team registering two convincing victories in their opening pool matches.

As per report reaching here, placed in Pool E, alongside West Bengal, Daman & Diu, Himachal Pradesh, and Kerala, the J&K senior men's team showcased strong form and determination.

In their first match, J&K defeated West Bengal by 3-1 sets in a closely contested encounter. After dropping the opening set 17-25, the team staged a remarkable comeback to win the next three sets 25-23, 25-22, and 25-23, displaying composure and resilience under pressure.

Continuing their winning momentum, the J&K men's team delivered a dominant performance against Daman & Diu, securing a straight sets victory (3-0). The set scores of 25-19, 25-10, and 25-11 reflected the team's superiority in all departments of the game.

Players Mushraf, Haroon, Pankaj, Shabir, Vipin, and Danish were outstanding in both matches. Haroon and Danish impressed with their powerful and effective spikes, while Pankaj

and Shabir played a crucial role at the net with solid blocking. Vipin's defensive skills further strengthened the team's overall performance, helping J&K maintain control during critical phases of the matches.

The J&K men's team is now set to face Himachal Pradesh and Nagaland today, followed by a crucial encounter against Kerala on January 7, 2026, as the pool matches continue in the championship.

In the women's section, Jammu and Kashmir faced tough competition. Maharashtra defeated J&K women by 3-0 sets with scores of 25-8, 25-6, and 25-4. Tamil Nadu also registered a straight-sets win over J&K, 25-6, 25-6, and 25-4. In another match, Jharkhand overcame J&K women by 3-0 sets, with scores of 25-16, 25-18, and 25-19. Despite the results in the women's category, the championship continues to provide valuable exposure and competitive experience to the teams, as Jammu and Kashmir aim to build on their performances in the ongoing national event. In a message sent to team, Patron-In-Chief Volleyball Association of Jammu and Kashmir, Raj Daluja and President Sidharth Daluja congratulated the men's team and officials for their brilliant display in the championship and exhorted them to continue their efforts in achieving further success in the championship.

## Sabhi CC Hoshiyarpur enter semifinals of Police Martyr's Memorial T-20



STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Continuing the excitement of the 14th Police Martyr's Memorial North Zone T-20 Cricket Championship 2025-26, the fourth quarterfinal match was played on a knockout basis at the Sports Stadium, Kathua, attracting a large gathering of cricket enthusiasts and general public. The fourth quarterfinal was contested between Vicky XI Pathankot and Sabhi Cricket Club (CC) Hoshiyarpur. After winning the toss, Sabhi CC elected to bat first and put up an impressive performance. Batting confidently, Sabhi CC posted a massive total of 211 runs in their allotted 20 overs, losing only four wickets. Dhruv Singh emerged as the standout performer, scoring a brilliant 73 runs off 38 balls, including six boundaries and five towering sixes.

He was well supported by Sidharth, who scored a quick 37 runs off 21 balls with three boundaries and three sixes.

Chasing a challenging target of 212 runs, Vicky XI Pathankot struggled against disciplined bowling and fielding by Sabhi CC. The Pathankot side was bowled out for 136 runs in 18.3 overs. Deepak was the top scorer for Vicky XI with 39 runs off 27 balls, hitting three boundaries and four sixes, while Manish contributed 24 runs off 18 balls with one boundary and one six.

Sabhi CC Hoshiyarpur won the match convincingly by 75 runs and became the fourth team to qualify for the semifinals. For his outstanding batting performance, Dhruv Singh was declared the Man of the Match.

## Records shattered as J&K U-16 Men's Team clinches Vijay Merchant Trophy Plate Group Title

### Smagey slams ton, Atharav makes 92; bowlers Sanil, Jaskaran dazzle

STATE TIMES NEWS

SURAT: Igniting glory Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association's (JKCA's) young guns secured first-ever BCCI Trophy triumph and shattered records as J&K U-16 Men's team clinched Vijay Merchant Trophy Plate Group Title thrashing Mizoram by an innings and 182 runs at Lalbhai Contractor Stadium Surat today.

Jammu and Kashmir scripted history with a sixth consecutive innings victory, underscoring their unrivaled supremacy. Skipper Smagey Khajuria sipped a brilliant 102, Atharav Sharma contributed with an unbeaten 92, and Adnan Manzoor unleashed a punishing 74, while Sanil Singh and Jaskaran Singh dismantled



JKCA's young team receiving first-ever BCCI Trophy.

the opposition with incisive bowling-all pivotal architects of this monumental triumph.

Earlier, on the penultimate day yesterday, resuming from 223/4, J&K scored 400 runs to gain a huge first innings lead of 300 runs. Skipper Smagey, who was unbeaten on 74 overnight, scored masterclass 102 off 174 balls, studded with

15 fours and one six, Atharav Sharma (92\*), Adnan Manzoor (74), Sanil Singh (29) and Jaskaran Singh (19) were the other major contributors.

Henry and Joel took 3 wickets each, while Hruaizela claimed 2 wickets for Mizoram. Mizoram were bundled out

for 118 runs in their second innings, thus losing the match by an innings and 182 runs. KC Peka (31), Joel (27), skipper Lawna (24) and Henry (23) were the main contributors.

For J&K, Sanil Singh took 3 wickets, while Jaskaran Singh and Hamaad Firdous bagged 2 wickets each and Rajveer

Singh claimed one.

Earlier, in a dominant display in the first innings of the match, J&K's bowlers orchestrated a stunning collapse of Mizoram, bundling them out for a paltry 100 in their first innings. Skipper Lawna top-scored with a gritty 36, while Johan managed 14. No other batsman reached double figures, underscoring the bowlers' mastery.

Promising left-arm spinner Sanil Singh and pace ace Jaskaran Singh spearheaded the attack with 3 wickets each. Rajveer Singh and Hamaad Firdous chipped in with one scalp apiece.

## Shopian Taekwondo meet to begin today

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Taekwondo Association of District Shopian shall organise two-day District Championship under the aegis of the J&K Taekwondo Association and in collaboration with J&K Sports Council.

The championship will be held at the Batapora Stadium, Shopian from January seven under 'My Youth My Pride' programme of the J&K Government.

The event will feature exciting competitions across Sub-Junior, Cadet, Junior, and Senior categories, a handout issued here today informed.

For further information, interested eligible participants may feel free to contact the organising secretary (+91 9149679770).

## Kathua Admin Cup: GDC Kathua outclasses PWD by 29 runs



Winner GDC Kathua XI team posing with dignitaries at Kathua.

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: GDC Kathua XI delivered a clinical all-round performance to register a convincing 29-run victory over PWD XI in a match of the ongoing Kathua Admin Cup cricket tournament, played here on Tuesday.

After winning the toss, GDC Kathua XI elected to bat first and built their innings with a composed and disciplined approach. Goutam Singh anchored the innings with a fluent 29, displaying confidence and control at the crease. He

received solid support from Zaid, who struck a brisk 27, while Pankaj contributed 16 runs. Arvind also added 12 runs as GDC Kathua posted a competitive total of 105 runs. For PWD XI, Arun, Surinder and Mukesh bowled with persistence,

pieking up wickets at regular intervals.

In reply, PWD XI found it difficult to gain momentum against a tight and well-organised bowling attack from GDC Kathua. Although Pankaj Singh (14), Surinder (13) and Amit (16) tried to steady the innings, the lack of partnerships hurt the chase and the side was eventually bowled out for 76 runs.

With a dominant display of both bat and ball, GDC Kathua XI sealed the match by 29 runs. For his crucial knock of 29 runs, Goutam Singh was adjudged Man of the Match, reflecting GDC Kathua's growing confidence and strong form in the tournament.

## J&K Shooting Ball team leaves for National



STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Shooting Ball team under the banner of Shooting Ball Association of Jammu and Kashmir today left for participation in the 44th Senior National Shooting Ball Championship, scheduled to be held at Sholapur in Maharashtra, from January nine to January 11.

The team was accorded send off by Dr. Puneet Gupta, general secretary of the Association in the presence of Manjeet Singh,

social activist, and TP Singh, veteran athlete of J&K.

The Team: WOMEN: Kanika Sharma, Vishali Devi, Nirdosh Kumari, Aastha Sharma, Lavanya Mahajan, Survi Devi, Parul Gupta, Rushali Rajput, Nazish Akhter, Sheekha Thakur, and Shalini Chaudhary. MEN: Abhay Raina, Waqar Younis, Mehrose Ahmed, Abhishek Singh, Ishant Sharma, Danish Sharma, Parkash Singh, Rudrakshit Gupta and Gourav Chibber.

## CM launches skiing courses, website; unveils calendars



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah inaugurating Integrated Skiing Course at Gulmarg and Sonamarg.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday unveiled the 2026 calendars of the Tourism Department and the Jammu & Kashmir Cable Car Corporation at the Civil Secretariat.

The calendars highlight prominent tourist destinations and tourism-related infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister observed that such initiatives would contribute significantly to the promotion and wider publicity of Jammu and Kashmir's tourism potential.

"These calendars are not merely annual publications; they are visual narratives of Jammu and Kashmir's natural beauty and evolving tourism infrastructure," he observed.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister

also launched the official website of the Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir. The portal has been designed to publicise tourism events and destinations, maintain digital archives, and provide comprehensive information related to tourism in Jammu and Kashmir. The website also integrates useful links to Jammu Tourism, JKTDC, J&K Cable Car Corporation and other allied organisations, offering all relevant informa-

tion on a single platform.

The Chief Minister said a modern, dynamic digital presence is crucial for effective outreach.

"The new Tourism Kashmir website would be informative and will serve as a comprehensive, single-window platform for tourists and stakeholders alike," he said.

Also, the Chief Minister inaugurated the Integrated Skiing Course at Gulmarg and Sonamarg, comprising two batches of 32 and 25 trainees respectively. He was informed that the basic skiing course has duration of 14 days and is aimed for trainees in the age group of 12 to 18 years.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Zaidil Tanvir Sadiq, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary Tourism Ashish Chandra Verma, Director Tourism Kashmir Syed Qamar Sajad, who is also MD JKCC, Director Tourism Jammu Dr Vikas Gupta, Managing Director J&K Tourism Development Corporation Shreya Singhal, and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

## Snow Shoe Race held at Gulmarg



Participants of Snow Shoe Race with officials at Gulmarg.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As part of the Winter Carnival, the Department of Tourism, Kashmir organized a Snow Shoe Race at Kangleori, Gulmarg in collaboration with the J&K Snow Shoe Association.

In the closing function, Dr. Altaf-ul-Rehman and Riyaz Wani distributed prizes among the position holders of both Junior and Senior cate-

gories.

In Junior category, Adil Rehman secured first place and Shakir bagged second, while third place went to Inam-ul-Haq. Similarly, in the Senior category, Asif Teli was first, Muzamil second and Arif Hamid finished third.

Earlier, the event was formally flagged off by Tahir Wani, Assistant Director of Tourism, Gulmarg.

Speaking on the occasion, Tahir Wani stated that the Department of Tourism will continue to organize more such events in the future, in addition to promoting other snow-related adventure activities in the region.

Among others present were Dr. Altaf-ul-Rehman, general secretary, J&K Snow Shoe Association (JKMBA); Riyaz Wani, president, JKMBA; and Rouf Ahmad.