

# Haryana Cricket Academy enters final in Police Martyrs T-20 Championship

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

KATHUA: The first semi-final of the ongoing 14th Police Martyrs' Memorial North Zone T-20 Cricket Championship 2025-26 was played at Sports Stadium Kathua, drawing a large gathering of cricket lovers and local residents.

In a dominant performance, Haryana Cricket Academy (HCA) defeated Champions Cricket Club Chandigarh by nine wickets to become the first team to qualify for the final.

Champions CC Chandigarh won the toss and elected to bat first. However, the team struggled against disciplined bowling and was bowled out for 131 runs in 19.2 overs. Akshit was the top scorer for



A player receiving Man of the Match award Haryana Cricket Academy enters final in Police Martyrs T-20 Championship.

Chandigarh with 37 runs off 26 balls, including two boundaries and two sixes, while Arya contributed 21 runs off 22 balls, hitting two boundaries and one six.

Chasing a target of 132 runs, Haryana Cricket Academy displayed an outstanding batting performance.

The team comfortably reached the target in just 13.5 overs, losing only one wicket.

Ashwani Chhillar played a match-winning knock, scoring a brilliant 71 runs off 41 balls, which included nine boundaries and four sixes. He was well supported by

Aryan, who scored 44 runs off 32 balls with five boundaries and two sixes. Their aggressive and steady partnership ensured an easy victory for Haryana CA.

With this emphatic win, Haryana Cricket Academy secured a place in the final of the championship.

For his outstanding batting performance, Ashwani Chhillar was declared Man of the Match. He was awarded a cash prize of Rs 5,000 by BJP Mahila Morcha District President Sushma Mahajan.

On the occasion, former President of Municipal Council Kathua, Naresh Sharma, and DySP DAR Ritesh Sambyal were also present and appreciated the high standard of cricket being displayed in the tournament.

The 14th Police Martyrs' Memorial North Zone T-20 Cricket Championship continues to attract strong public interest, showcasing competitive cricket and paying tribute to the brave police martyrs.

# GMC Kathua XI outclass PHE XI by 6 runs in Kathua Admin Cup



Winner GMC Kathua XI posing with officials.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

KATHUA: GMC Kathua XI delivered a dominant all-round performance to register an emphatic 6-run victory over PHE XI in a thrilling encounter of the ongoing Kathua Admin Cup cricket tournament, played at the GDC Kathua ground on Tuesday.

Opting to bat first after winning the toss, GMC Kathua XI put up a competitive total of 135 runs, building their innings steadily against a disciplined bowling attack. Tahir led from the front with a composed knock of 25 runs, anchoring the innings with confidence. He found solid support from

Anshuman, who chipped in with a valuable 24, while Ajay added 14 runs to the tally. Contributions from Akash and Nitin at the top, followed by timely runs from the lower order, ensured GMC Kathua XI reached a defendable total. For PHE XI, Amir Khan, Rohit Kumar and Vinod Kumar bowled with control, picking up wickets at regular intervals to restrict the scoring rate. Chasing the target, PHE XI failed to build momentum and struggled against the disciplined and incisive bowling of GMC Kathua XI. The batting line-up collapsed under pressure and was bundled

out for 129 runs. Simranjeet stood tall amid the collapse with a fighting knock of 43 runs, while Amir Khan contributed 24. However, the lack of sustained partnerships proved costly as GMC bowlers maintained relentless pressure throughout the innings.

With a clinical display in both departments, GMC Kathua XI sealed a convincing 6-run win. Tahir was adjudged Man of the Match for his outstanding all-round performance, making crucial runs with the bat and delivering key breakthroughs with the ball to script his team's commanding victory.

# 11th J&K UT Handball Championship begins



SP Jammu South, Dr. Ajay Sharma posing with participating teams and officials.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The three-day 11th J&K Union Territory Handball Championship for senior men and women

commenced on Wednesday at Shastri Nagar Play Field, Jammu. The championship is being organized by the J&K Handball

Association (JKHA) in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council, and is being conducted on a league-cum-knockout basis.

Dr. Ajay Sharma, SP Jammu South, graced the opening ceremony as the Chief Guest, while Mohit Sharma, Field Publicity Officer, Department of Information, Jammu, attended as the Guest of Honour.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Ajay Sharma urged the players to focus on honing their skills and maintaining high physical standards to achieve greater success in sports.

He said that the championship provides an excellent platform for players from across the Union Territory to showcase their

talent and compete at the UT level. He also congratulated the office bearers of the J&K Handball Association for successfully organizing the event.

Nearly 300 players from various districts of the Union Territory are participating in the championship. Earlier, Ashwani Kumar Raina, President JKHA, welcomed the guests, players, officials, spectators, and media persons.

In the opening match of the men's section, District Udhampur defeated District Poonch by 23-20 goals. The second match in the women's section saw a convincing 8-2 victory over District Kupwara.

Among others present on the occasion were Rajesh Chandan (General Secretary JKHA), Rajesh Kapoor (Vice President JKHA), Sanjeev Jamwal (Treasurer JKHA), Suresh Khajuria (Executive Member JKHA), Sajjad Ahmed (Executive Member), and Shiv Arora.

# J&K's Umar, Hilal earn spots in India Deaf Cricket Association's T20I Asia Cup squad



**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: In a proud moment for Jammu & Kashmir cricket, wicketkeeper-batter Umar Ashraf and allrounder Hilal Wani have been selected for the India Deaf Cricket Association's (IDCA) 16-member squad for the ADCA T20I Asia Cup.

The tournament is set to unfold from February 18 to 25, 2026, at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack, Odisha.

The squad, selected by the All-IDCA India Men's Selection Committee, features a powerhouse lineup led by skipper Virender Singh (Himachal Pradesh). It includes Abhishek Singh (West Bengal), Umar Ashraf (J&K), Sai Akash (Tamil Nadu), Santosh Kumar Mahapatra (Odisha), Pranil More (Maharashtra), Sibun Nanda (Odisha), Kulddeep Singh (Haryana), Akash Saini (Uttar Pradesh), Hilal Wani (J&K), Yashwan Naidu (Andhra Pradesh), Vaibhav (Delhi), Sanith Shetty (Karnataka), Deepak Lamba (Haryana), Aman Rizvi (Uttar Pradesh), and Jigar Thakur (Gujarat). The Indian team will gear up at a high-intensity coaching camp from February 14 to 18 in Odisha, priming them for continental glory.

Deaf cricketers from Jammu & Kashmir have consistently illuminated the national stage, clinching laurels and elevating the Union Territory's cricketing legacy. It is high time the Government of Jammu & Kashmir recognizes these trailblazers with robust patronage-empowering them to conquer even greater heights and inspire a new generation.

# Dogra Sewa Sambhal Trust to felicitate JK Warriors Ahead of Sidhi Cup



Dogra Sewa Sambhal Trust members with Team JK Warriors at felicitation ceremony.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Dogra Sewa Sambhal Trust (Registered) is organising a felicitation ceremony to honour Team JK Warriors, which is set to participate in the prestigious Sidhi Cricket Cup in Madhya Pradesh under the captaincy of Anil Kumar. The ceremony will be graced by J&K BJP General Secretary and former Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria, as the Chief Guest, while President of the Trust, Rajiv Sharma, will be the Guest of Honour.

During the event, Billawaria will felicitate the players and team management for their dedication and achievements. He will also formally distribute team jerseys to the squad, symbolising encouragement, unity and institutional support as the team prepares for this

important national-level tournament. Speaking ahead of the programme, Billawaria said that the BJP, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given special importance to sports through initiatives such as Khelo India. He stated that these programmes aim to nurture grassroots talent, strengthen sports infrastructure and provide young athletes with national and international exposure.

He further said that the youth of Jammu and Kashmir possess immense sporting talent, and with proper guidance and encouragement, they can excel at the highest levels. "Such felicitation programmes motivate young players and reaffirm the government's commitment to promoting sports as a tool of discipline,

unity and nation-building," he added. Rajiv Sharma said that the initiative reflects the Trust's commitment to promoting sports and encouraging young talent from the region to perform on national platforms. He expressed confidence that Team JK Warriors will make Jammu and Kashmir proud with their performance in the Sidhi Cup.

He added that the ceremony is aimed at boosting the morale of the players while highlighting the values of sportsmanship, dedication and teamwork.

Among those present on the occasion will be Ranjeet Singh, Ajeet Bhadwal, Dr. Kuldip Gupta, Ajay Pratap Singh, Anil Kumar, Rajinder Chib (Poppy), Subhash Choudhary and Punjab Singh, along with other supporters and well-wishers of the team.

# JKCA's young guns have us on top of the world: Support Staff

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The young brigade of the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) Under-16 men's team has lifted the spirits of the entire Union Territory with its stellar performances, culminating in a historic triumph in the Vijay Merchant Trophy (Plate Group). They have us on top of the world. This was stated by the members of the support staff of JKCA's history-creating team, who lavished rich praise on the players for their remarkable performance, discipline and determination on the field. The members of the support staff credited the team's success to the players' sheer hard work and the highly professional manner in which the JKCA administrators have conducted and managed affairs. Here is what the support staff members had to say:

Sameer Khajuria (Head Coach): "We were truly blessed to work with such a gifted group of young cricketers.



Their commitment, discipline and hunger to learn meant they were always ready to execute the plans laid out for them. The way they embraced challenges and delivered under pressure has made us immensely proud. Each member was a team

made this performance truly special. Loved to be part of this team." Amit Bargotra (Strength & Conditioning Coach): "The cornerstone of our team's resounding success lay in the players' unwavering response to our rigorous training regimen. Every triumph on the field was a direct reflection of their infectious zeal and relentless commitment in the gym-their sweat equity turned gruelling sessions into a symphony of strength, propelling us to victory." Karan Nayyar (Physiotherapist): "Emphasized the unparalleled transparency that defined their approach to player welfare. "No member of the team hid anything regarding injuries," he shared, highlighting how this open communication fostered a congenial atmosphere. This trust not only built stronger bonds but also empowered me to serve the players more effectively, ensuring optimal recovery and peak performance. Sheikh Suhail (Performance

Analyst): Highlighted the players' unwavering dedication: "The athletes displayed remarkable enthusiasm while dissecting match videos, meticulously translating insights into on-field strategies in close collaboration with the coaching staff. Clinching this prestigious final stands as a truly unforgettable triumph." Shashi Kumar (Team Manager): "It was an absolute privilege to work with such a dynamic bunch of young cricketers from Jammu and Kashmir. They exemplified true teamwork, operating as a cohesive unit both on the field-chasing every run with relentless energy-and off it, fostering a positive, disciplined environment. I never encountered even a hint of difficulty in managing this talented group; their maturity and dedication made my role effortless and enjoyable. I extend my deepest gratitude to the JKCA administrators for their unwavering support, which made this journey truly memorable."

# 4,134 FIRs registered, 5,122 cases disposed of in 2025: SSP Jammu

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Jammu Joginder Singh, JKPS, on Wednesday chaired a comprehensive Crime and Security Review Meeting at District Police Lines (DPL), Jammu, to assess law and order, crime trends, and policing performance during 2025.

The meeting was attended by Zonal SSPs, SP Operations Jammu, all SDPOs, DySPs, SHOs, Incharge Police Posts, Senior PO DPO Jammu, and Incharge FSL DPL Jammu. At the outset, SSP Jammu extended New Year greetings and lauded officers and jawans for effectively handling major challenges during the past year, including the implementation of New Criminal Laws, Operation Sindoor, flash floods, and maintaining peace and normalcy in the district.

Presenting crime statistics, SSP Jammu informed that 4,134 FIRs were registered in 2025, marking the lowest figure in the last five years.



SSP Jammu Joginder Singh chairing Crime and Security Review Meeting at DPL Jammu.

During the same period, 5,122 cases were disposed of, including 1,968 old cases and 3,154 new cases, the highest disposal rate in five years. He clarified that the net reduction of 288 cases reflected effective crime prevention measures and not under-reporting. The reduction was attributed to preventive actions, PSA and PIT-NDPS detentions, effective bail contesting, cancellation appeals, proactive policing, 208 preliminary enquiries under Section 173(3) BNSS, and sustained deployments during special operations and disaster duties. SSP Jammu stressed timely-bound investigation and disposal of cases within statutory lim-

its of 60 and 90 days, mandatory utilisation of FSL services under new criminal laws, and quality investigation through scientific evidence. Key focus areas included NDPS and organised crime cases, with SSP Jammu reiterating a zero-tolerance policy against drugs and organised crime. Officers were directed to identify remaining drug peddlers and criminal networks and take strict action. He emphasized citizen-centric policing, including registration of Zero FIRs and e-FIRs, improved use of CCTNS, e-Sakshya, SID, e-smumons, and MedLEaPR, and enhanced surveillance on released organised criminals.

SSP Jammu also directed officers to ensure effective area domination, traffic management during peak hours, tenant verification without harassment, and strict compliance with VDG and Border SOPs. Specific security instructions were issued for Republic Day-2026, focusing on intelligence sharing, social media monitoring, and surveillance of anti-national and anti-social elements. The meeting concluded with SSP Jammu reaffirming zero tolerance to corruption, indiscipline, and crime burking, followed by a "Bada Khana" hosted by Jammu Police to strengthen camaraderie and esprit de corps.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Upholding its commitment to recognising academic merit and student achievement, the University of Jammu organised a special felicitation ceremony to honour meritorious students who had secured gold medals but were unable to attend the Special Convocation held on November 13, 2025, due to unavoidable circumstances. The initiative ensured that every deserving achiever received formal recognition for their academic excellence.

As per the statutory provisions of the University, candidates who are unable to attend the convocation are entitled to receive their gold medals after the event.

Accordingly, based on requests received from gold medalists for the years 2019, 2020, 2022 and 2023, the University handed over the gold medals along with merit certificates in a brief and modest ceremony held at

# VC JU presents gold medals in special award ceremony



VC, JU, Prof. Umesh Rai presenting gold medal to a winner student.

the Vice Chancellor's Secretariat here this afternoon. A total of 20 gold medalists were presented, including one candidate from 2019, nine from 2020, four from 2022, and six from 2023.

The medals were presented by Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, in the presence of Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies; Prof. J. P. Singh Joorel, Dean Academic Affairs; Sanjeev Mahajan Controller of

Examinations; and other officials. Congratulating the awardees, Prof. Umesh Rai said that a gold medal is not merely a symbol of academic achievement, but a reflection of perseverance, integrity and sustained commitment to excellence. He encouraged the students to remain curious learners, responsible citizens and ambassadors of the University's values wherever they go. He further emphasized that true success lies in using knowledge to serve

society, strengthen the nation and inspire future generations.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Neelu Rohmetra congratulated the medallists and said that academic achievement carries with it a responsibility to uphold ethical standards, intellectual honesty and social sensitivity. She encouraged the students to remain grounded, inquisitive and committed to lifelong learning, while contributing positively to the academic and social fabric of the nation.

Prof. J. P. Singh Joorel congratulated the achievers and highlighted the role of strong academic foundations in achieving excellence. He urged the students to remain lifelong learners and to contribute meaningfully to their chosen fields.

The occasion marked a proud and memorable moment for the awardees, celebrating years of dedication and academic discipline.