

## 36th J&K UT Volleyball Championship declares open

# Sports Minister exhorts youth to adopt sports for their overall development

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: 36th JK UT Senior Volleyball Championship for men and women was declared open by the Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Transport, CAPD, Science and Technology, Information Technology, ARI and Training's JKUT, Satish Sharma at MA Stadium, here on Friday.

The 3-day championship organised by Volleyball Association of Jammu and Kashmir in collaboration with J&K Sports Council would showcase the outstanding talents of many J&K UT players who have earned their recognition in National and International events.

As many as 500 players/officials are awfully involved in clinching the Championship trophy where in 20 teams in men and 10 teams in women section all across J&K UT are struggling hard to get the distinction in the championship.

Congratulating the organisers for the championship which coincides with Golden Jubilee celebration of Volleyball Association of J&K, the Chief Guest remembered his late father's love and affection with volleyball veterans.

The Chief Guest assured the organisers for upgradation/renovation of Volleyball courts in MA Stadium Jammu and honoured stalwarts of volleyball with shawl/mementoes for their life time achievements at the occasion.

Interacting with the players, the Chief Guest enquired their welfare and advised them to shun the menace of drug abuse which is spreading fast its tentacles in the



Patron-in-chief VAJK, Raj Daluja honouring Sports Minister, Satish Sharma and Secretary J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul; President VAJK, Sidharth Daluja felicitating Excise Commissioner J&K UT Subash Chander Chhibber; Sports Minister Satish Sharma interacting with participating teams; Volleyball match in progress at 36th JK UT Senior Volleyball Championship at MA Stadium on Friday.

society at large. The Chief Guest declared the Championship opened. The Excise Commissioner J&K UT Subash Chander Chhibber and Secretary J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul graced the function as Guests of Honour.

Among dignitaries Rajiv Sharma member J&K Sports Council, Kuldip Singh Jamwal J&K Rifles Shooting Association, Manmeet Singh President Jammu District Volleyball Association, Mohd Anif Chief Sports Officer, Baljinder Singh Divisional Sports Officer JKSC, Aman Sharma Incharge SAI and Rajeev Dogra senior coach of SAI were present on the

occasion. The Chief Guest and dignitaries were honoured with shawls and mementos by Raj Daluja Patron-in-chief, Sidharth Daluja President, CEO Kuldip Magotra, General Secretary Vijay Kumar Magotra, Executive Vice President H.S Gill, Treasurer R.C Sharma and

other office bearers of Volleyball Association of J&K. Earlier Vijay Kumar Magotra, General Secretary, gave an account of three-day championship in which total 62 matches would be played daily late up to evenings in floodlit courts on league-cum-knockout basis.

The artists of Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansathan added grace to the function by presenting colourful theme based programmes. The Departments of J&K Excise, J&K Bank, Chenab Valley Power Projects Ltd, Yes Bank, LIC, JK Public School management, State Times have supplemented

the efforts of organisers for the successful conduct of the championship. **Today's results** **WOMEN:** Udhampur beat Budgam by 2-0 (25-14, 25-10); Srinagar beat Rajouri by 2-1 (21-25, 25-15, 15-11); Jammu beat Poonch by 2-1 (25-22, 18-25, 15-11); Samba beat Baramulla by 2-

0 (25-6, 25-7). **MEN:** Jammu beat Shopian by 2-0 (25-12, 25-16); Baramulla beat Budgam by 2-0 (29-27, 25-20); Anantnag beat Samba by 2-0 (25-21, 29-27); J&K Police beat Poonch by 2-0 (25-21, 25-21); Udhampur beat Doda by 2-0 (25-22, 25-15).

## Swachh Bharat Big Cricket League 2024: Mulan Club clinches title



Mulan Cricket Club team receiving winner trophy from chief guest at Jammu on Friday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The final day of the Swachh Bharat Big Cricket League 2024 unfolded at Kot Tawa, where Mulan CC emerged as the champions after a thrilling contest against Swachhita Strikers.

The match was an exciting climax to a tournament that skillfully combined cricketing excellence with the mission of cleanliness and community development under the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen Yojana, an initiative by the Department of Rural Sanitation, J&K. This year's league was a perfect blend of competitive spirit and social responsibility, aimed at making villages cleaner and promoting a cleaner environment through the medium of sport.

Swachhita Strikers won the toss and opted to bowl first. Mulan CC, though slow off the mark, gradually accelerated their innings, setting a challenging target of 197 runs. The innings saw brilliant contributions from Lakhan, who top-scored with 49 runs, while Rahul (38) and Rohan (36) also played key roles, taking the total to a competitive figure.

Chasing the target, Swachhita Strikers faced pressure from the beginning and struggled to build partnerships. Despite a valiant effort by Kavir, who scored a determined 49, the Strikers were bowled out for 163 runs, falling short by 33 runs. Mulan CC's bowlers, backed by solid fielding, kept the pressure on throughout the innings and restricted Swachhita Strikers from crossing the finish line. The Chief Guest, Sham Lal Sharma, expressed his admiration for the players' performances and the tournament's success in

promoting the cause of cleanliness. "The Swachh Bharat Big Cricket League has proven to be a platform for both cricketing talent and the message of cleanliness. Congratulations to Mulan CC for their well-deserved victory and to all the participants for their outstanding performances," he said.

The Player of the Tournament award went to Kapil Deol of Swachhita Strikers for his all-round brilliance, with consistent contributions with both bat and ball throughout the tournament.

Best Bowler honors were awarded to Rahul Singh of Mulan CC, who was the highest wicket-taker of the tournament and a standout performer in crucial matches.

Danish Fayaz, from Chief Secretary XI, was named the Best Batsman for his exceptional run-scoring ability, topping the charts as the highest run-scorer in the tournament.

The Swachh Bharat Big Cricket League 2024 was organized by 92.7 BIG FM, in collaboration with the Department of Rural Sanitation, J&K, and aligned with the vision of the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen Yojana. This initiative seeks to promote cleaner rural spaces, harnessing the power of sports to convey the message of hygiene and cleanliness.

The tournament also had robust support from the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, SMVD Narayana Super Speciality Hospital, Shree Bajrang Bali Contract Company, Jammu Hev's, and My Physio, with Aroma Multicuisine Family Restaurant serving as the refreshment partner.

## GDC Kunjwani excels in Wushu, Archery

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Wushu and Archery teams of Government Degree College (GDC) Kunjwani brought laurels to the institution winning four Gold and one Bronze medals in Inter College (Men and Women) competitions hosted by Directorate of Sports, University of Jammu.

In Wushu, Mantasha Jan, Ritesh Bhan, Vansh Thakyal and Kamaljeet Bhoghal bagged gold while Mohd. Shehzad secured bronze in Wushu. In Archery, Manik Sharma won gold in Archery. Subsequently, these medal winner athletes from the col-



GDC Kunjwani faculty felicitating winner team.

lege have been selected for the Inter University Tournament. Upon their return to the College, medal winners felicitated by Principal, Prof. Manisha Sarup Kohli and other senior faculties. She congratulated the medal winners for their outstanding performance and also blessed them for their future. She also acknowledged Malik Aijaz Iqbal, (Physical Director) and the entire Sports Committee for their strenuous efforts.

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## 30 artists across UT selected for 28th National Youth Festival Provide value education, sky is the limit for J&K's talented youth: Sarmad Hafeez

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Youth of Jammu and Kashmir have tremendous talent and the need is to explore the same at the grass-root level, besides providing value education to teach them moral values, ethical principles and responsible behaviors and train them to blossom at the higher levels and sky is the limit for them.

This was stated by Secretary to Government, Youth Services and Sports Department, J&K, Sarmad Hafeez during the concluding ceremony of the Inter-Division UT Level Competition for 28th National Youth Festival 2024-25.

Hafeez was accompanied by Director General Youth Services and Sports, Rajinder Singh Tara and other officers

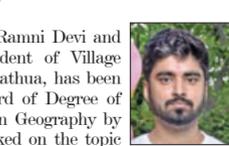


Secretary YSS Deptt J&K, Sarmad Hafeez with other dignitaries at closing ceremony.

of the department. He said the youth of the present era have honesty, integrity and gender sensitivity, besides having dynamism and energy, adding the only need is to channelize their energy in the right direction and guide them not to derail from the mainstream.

## Vasu Siotra qualifies Ph.D

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Vasu Siotra, son of Ramni Devi and Romesh Chander Siotra, resident of Village Kharote, Tehsil and District Kathua, has been declared qualified for the award of Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Geography by University of Jammu. He worked on the topic 'Status of diversified agriculture and sustainable development in Kathua District: A Geographical Analysis' under the supervision of Dr. Shashi Prabha.



## North India Karate Championship gets underway

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Ist North India Karate-Do Championship, organized by Yudansha Ryu, Ashi-te Karate-Do Association, an affiliated unit of the Traditional Karate-Do association Jammu and Kashmir under the aegis of Karate Association of India at Bhagwati Nagar Indoor Sports Stadium, here. Besides hosts Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh and Himachal are participating in this event. The organising committee for the event included Shihan Naresh Chander, Shihan Umesh Rekhii, Shashi Jalotra and Aaftab. Earlier, event declared open by chief guest, DIG Jammu-Kathua Range, Shiv Kumar Sharma in the presence of Guest of Honour, Rajinder Digra, CEO MC/ DIO Udhampur and Sumeet Sharma, MD JK Digital Network. Among special guests were Pankaj Saraf, Tajinder Singh, Deputy Commandant 84 Battalion; Dr. Suresh Ajay Magotra and Ritika Jamwal, senior Judo coach. Around 380 participants shall compete in this event in various age and weight categories. National observer, Kuldeep Singh was also present.



Narendra Modi would be a dream come true for them. Secretary Youth Services and Sports further said through such competitions, the Government aims to empower youth with the skills, knowledge and confidence to become leaders and change-makers in their communities. "We believe by celebrating our diversity and promoting national integration, we can build a brighter future for India," maintained Sarmad Hafeez.

Sarmad Hafeez further said that such festive activities apart from helping the youth not to fall prey to social evils, helps them to exchange culture, make friends and learn new languages. Earlier, Deputy Director Youth Services and Sports Central, Jitendra Mishra presented the welcome address and threw light on the significance of the day. He said the Festival aims to identify and

nurture young talent, providing a platform to share their ideas for Viksit Bharat. Meanwhile, 30 artists/students who enthralled the audience with their beautiful presentations, have been selected for taking part in the 28th National Youth Festival to be held at New Delhi on January 11 and January 12, 2025, with 10 in FolkSong, 10 in Folk Dance and 2 each in Painting, Poetry, Thematic, Story Writing and Declaration.

Prominent among others present on the occasion were Ved Prakash, Joint Director Youth Services and Sports Jammu; Sunil Kumar Sharma, Accounts Officer Directorate of Youth Services and Sports J&K and an expert panel of adjudicators. The proceedings of the programme were beautifully conducted by Mohd Yousef Dar from Activities Section of the Directorate.

## CS reviews preparations for maiden Jammu Half & Ultra Marathon-2025

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Friday chaired a meeting of Tourism Department to take review of the Jammu Half Marathon and Ultra Marathon-2025 here proposed to be held here in the month of February next year.

Besides the Commissioner Secretary, Tourism Department the meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Jammu, Kathua, Samba, Udhampur; Director Tourism, Jammu; Traffic Police authorities and other concerned officers and officials of the Department. During this meeting the Chief Secretary took note of the preparations finalized by the Department till now. He impressed upon them to make the registration portal live soon for creating awareness among the fitness enthusiasts besides giving ample time to the desiring runners for their registration.

He also directed for running the sustained social media campaigns by creating short videos, jingles and other creatives to popularize this event. He called for taking bytes from the popular national icons promoting this maiden marathon here in the city. Dulloo asked for making the teaser ready by the end of this month. He also advised for creating 40-50 videos that could be run over different media platforms to create the necessary buzz about this first such event to be held here. He also suggested to rope in different sponsors from Hospitality, Travel, Tourism and Corporate sectors for making this multi disciplinary marathon a grand success here for the overall promotion of tourism in Jammu region. The Commissioner Secretary, Tourism, Yasha Mudgal informed the meeting about the status of arrangements made so far to successfully hold this Marathon in Jammu. She informed that the Portal is being developed by BISAG-N and would be ready for launch till 25th of December. She further informed that the requisite certification and measurement for 109 kms Ultra Marathon Jammu is currently under

progress to give the event a final shape. Regarding other formats of the race to be organised here, it was added that a half marathon of 21kms, Fitness-gauge Marathon of 10 kms and a Fun Run of 5 Kms distance would also be organised simultaneously for both male and female runners. Exciting prizes for both Men and Women would be given. These includes a first prize of Rs 15 lakhs, 2nd Prize of 12 Lakhs, 3rd Prize of Rs 9 lakhs, 4th Rs 5 lakhs and 5th prize of Rs 3 lakhs would be given to the winners of Half Marathon. Similarly prizes of Rs3 lakhs would be given to the winner of Fitness-gauge runner and Rs 1 lakh to Fun Running event winner followed by others up to the 5th rank in each category for both men and women taking the total award money of Rs 1.33 Cr for all the formats. It was further revealed that all these races would be held possibly on 23rd of February (Sunday) for the weather in this month remains pleasant for holding such an outdoor sporting event.