

36th JK UT Senior Volleyball Championship in full swing, QFs stage drawn



President VAJK, Sidharth Daluja felicitating State Times senior reporter Sanjay Sharma and other media persons; Participating women teams posing with officials; Volleyball match in progress on second day of 36th JK UT Senior Volleyball Championship.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 36th JK UT Senior Volleyball Championship for both Men and Women is in full swing, attracting volleyball enthusiasts and sports lovers alike.

The championship, organized by the Volleyball Association of J&K (VAJK) in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council, is being held at the MA Stadium Jammu and the Playfield Shastri Nagar Jammu. After several exciting matches, the quarter-finals (QFs) have now been drawn.

Women's Section: Udhampur defeated Poonch

2-0 with set scores of 25-17 and 25-22; Jammu cruised past Budgam 2-0, winning 25-7 and 25-16; Srinagar triumphed over Baramulla 2-0, with set scores of 25-18 and 25-23; and Samba outclassed Rajouri 2-0, winning 25-19 and 25-19.

Men's Section: Jammu defeated Samba 2-0, with set scores of 25-20 and 25-16; Anantnag beat Udhampur 2-0, securing 25-21 and 26-24 victories; JK Police dominated Baramulla 2-0 with comfortable wins of 25-10 and 25-17; and Poonch triumphed over Kupwara 2-0, winning 25-11 and 25-15.

A total of 30 matches were played on the second day of the championship-20 matches in the men's section and 10 in the women's section-on a league-cum-knockout basis.

The day was filled with exciting rallies, powerful spikes, and well-executed services, keeping the spectators on the edge of their seats.

Many of the players showcased exceptional talent, and several have represented Jammu & Kashmir UT in national and international tournaments.

Among the standout players was Mannat Choudhary,

an international volleyball player who represented India in the AVC Cup held in Thailand. Hailing from the border area of RS Pura, Mannat is playing for the Jammu District Team. Another key player is Mahir Wani, who represented India in the Under-18 Asian Volleyball Championship 2024 in Bahrain. Mahir is playing for the Srinagar District Team in the ongoing championship.

As part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Volleyball Association of J&K, the association honoured Jammu-based elec-

tronic and print media personalities for their valuable contribution to sports journalism.

The President of VAJK, Sidharth Daluja, along with other office bearers, felicitated the media representatives for their continuous support in promoting sports events across the region.

The championship has received full support from various organizations, including the J&K Excise Department, J&K Bank, Chenab Valley Power Project Ltd., Yes Bank, LIC, JK Public School Management and State Times. Their con-

tributions have played a significant role in ensuring the smooth functioning of the championship.

The day-long event was graced by several prominent dignitaries from the sports fraternity. These included Kuldeep Magotra (CEO, Volleyball Association of J&K), HS Gill (Executive Vice President), Raj Guru (Senior Vice President), Abdul Ahad Shah (Vice President), Vijay Kumar Magotra (Honorary General Secretary), R.C. Sharma (Treasurer), Mohd. Tariq (Joint Secretary), Rajiv Dogra (Head Technical Committee), Mulkhraj

(Volleyball Coach), Prateek Kumar (SAI Volleyball Coach), and other office bearers, coaches, and supporters of various teams.

Today's matches were officiated by a panel of recognized national referees, including Neeraj Sharma, Aliyas, Amit Sharma, Sat Pal, Intezar Ali, Ashima, and D.K. Raina. Their expertise ensures fair play and high standards throughout the competition.

The 3-day championship is set to conclude on 15th December 2024 at 4:00 PM at MA Stadium Jammu. The remaining matches will determine the finalists, with the

winners advancing to the semi-finals. The tournament continues to attract large crowds of volleyball enthusiasts, eager to witness top-tier performances from some of the best players in the region.

The 36th JK UT Senior Volleyball Championship has once again proven to be a platform for showcasing local talent and honouring the spirit of volleyball in Jammu & Kashmir.

With the support of the community and organizations, the championship is poised to become one of the region's most significant sporting events.

Senior National Volleyball Championships 2025 JKSC to conduct selection trials of J&K UT volleyball teams from Dec 17 VFI's Ad-hoc Committee nominates observer, selectors

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Ad-hoc Committee of the Volleyball Federation of India announced the nomination of Kuldeep Magotra, Chief Executive Officer of Volleyball Association of Jammu and Kashmir, as one of the two selectors for the open selection trials for the Jammu & Kashmir UT Volleyball Team (Men & Women) for the upcoming Senior National Volleyball Championships 2025.

Besides Kuldeep Adhoc

Committee VFI also nominated Jagir Randhawa as Observer and Javed as Selector for the open selection trial for Jammu & Kashmir Volleyball Team (Men & Women).

Ad-hoc Committee also authorized Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council (JKSC) for selection of J&K UT volleyball (Men & Women) teams for which open selection trials will take place from December 17 to 19, 2024 at the MA Stadium, Jammu.

"This will be a significant opportunity for players to showcase their

skills for the prestigious Senior National Volleyball Championships, which will be held in Jaipur, Rajasthan, from January 7 to 13, 2025," said Kuldeep Magotra, Chief Executive Officer of Volleyball Association of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said, "The Volleyball Federation of India has invited aspiring volleyball players from across Jammu & Kashmir to participate in the trials, where the best talents will be selected to represent the UT at the national level."

Ananaya takes fifer, Bismah wreaks havoc; Chitra, Bawandeep dazzle with willow as J&K thrashes HP



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KOLKATA: Right-arm leg-spinner Ananaya Sharma took a 5-wicket haul and Speedster Bismah Hassan wreaked havoc, making the top-orders face music, while the duo of batting mainstay Chitra Singh Jamwal and stylish Bawandeep Singh dazzled with the willow to power Jammu and Kashmir to a thumping victory by nine wickets over Himachal Pradesh and be in the race of qualifying for the knockout stage in the ongoing Senior Women's One-Day Trophy at Deshbandhu Park Ground, Kolkata, here.

Himachal Pradesh scored a modest total of 101 runs in 24.5 overs as disciplined J&K bowlers hit the right areas from the word go, restricting the opposition to a paltry total. Sonal Thakur (20), Nikita

Chauhan (19) and skipper Sushma Verma (14) were the main contributors.

For Jammu and Kashmir, Ananaya Sharma was the wrecker-in-chief who spun web around the rival batters and captured 5 wickets by conceding 21 runs in her 4.5 overs, while genuinely quick Bismah Hassan plotted collapse of the top-order batters, taking 3 wickets by giving away 20 runs in her 5 overs. Experienced off-spinner claimed one wicket.

In reply, J&K chased the target easily in 28.4 overs by losing one wicket, thus winning the match by 9 wickets.

Chitra Singh Jamwal top scored with 41 runs off 65 balls, studded with 9 delectable boundaries, while Bawandeep Kaur contributed 39 runs off 77 balls with 6 boundaries.

Rudrakshi Chib was the only batter to be dismissed, who contributed 20 runs off 30 balls with 3 fours. Ananaya Sharma was adjudged player of the match for her 5-wicket haul.

With Railways topping the Group Standings, J&K has 5 wins out of the 6 matches played so far in the tournament and will play Andhra in the last league match, which also has 5 victories from 6 outings.

Railways has qualified for the knockout stage, while J&K or Andhra Pradesh will be the other team from Group-A to qualify for the knockout phase.

"#SeniorWomenODTournament2024 Well done J&K Seniors team led by Jasia & trained by Latika on setting a record of scoring 353/6 in today's match. Highest ever total on board by any J&K senior women team since the time JK started participating in Senior Women tournaments. We all are proud of your achievements this season. #JKCA," Brig Anil Gupta, Member-Administration JKCA said.

Jammu hosts POWERGRID inter-regional Cricket tourney

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A five-day Inter-Regional POWERGRID Cricket (Twenty20) Tournament commenced at different venues here on Saturday. Eleven teams from various Regions of POWERGRID shall compete for the top honours during the five-day event, organised by the Northern Region-II.

The participating teams represent Eastern Region-I (ER-I), Eastern Region-II (ER-II), Northern Region-I (NR-I), Northern Region-II (NR-II), Southern Region-I (SR-I), Southern Region-II (SR-II), Western Region-I (WR-I), Western Region-II (WR-II), North Eastern Region (NER), Corporate Centre (CC), and hosts Northern Region-II (NR-II).



Tarun Bajaj, Executive Director POWERGRID, Northern Region-II declaring open Inter-Regional POWERGRID Cricket (Twenty20) Tournament.

The tournament is being played in league cum knockout basis.

Participating 11 teams have divided into three pools where they will clash with each other in league cum knockout basis. Four top teams after league stage shall fight it out in semifinals and then two in finals for the coveted trophy of the tournament.

The matches shall be conducted daily in three prestigious grounds namely MA Stadium, Jammu; University of Jammu ground, and Jammu Sports Club, Tawa in Kot-Bhalwal.

Earlier, the tournament was inaugurated by Tarun Bajaj, Executive Director POWERGRID, Northern Region-II in presence of

Arindham Chakraborty, CGM(Projects), NR-II, Shafat Ahmed Wani, Sr.GM(AM), Vinod P Baxla, GM(HR), senior officials and other guests. Tarun Bajaj impressed upon the players to play the game in true sportsmanship spirit and emphasized on the fact that such events are organized by POWERGRID not only to create a sense of competition among its employees but also to make them appreciate the culture and values of co-workers.

The highlight of the inaugural ceremony was the march past of Army band in sync with that of players. The march past mesmerized the audience present on this occasion.

The Results: JU grounds: Hosts NR-II

defeated WR-II by five wickets (WR -II 100 all out, NR-II 101/5 in 12.3 overs. Man of the match: Vinod Atri of NR-II); ER-II defeated ER-I by 24 runs (ER -II 130 /3 in 15 overs , ER-I 106/6 in 15 overs .Man of the match: Sunil Chetri of ER-II).

MA Stadium: NR-I beat SR-I by 130 runs (NR-I 190/8 in 20 overs, SR-I 60 all out in 14.2 overs. Man of the match: Bhavesh of NR-I); CC defeated WR-I by 78 runs (CC 176/6 in 20 overs, WR-I 98/10 in 19.2 overs, Man of the match: Sandeep Panwar of CC).

At Jammu Sports Club ground: Tawa, SR-II defeated NR-III by 27 runs (SR -II 112 /9 in 20 overs. NR-III 85 allout in 16.3 overs. Man of the match: Ashutosh Shrivastava of SR-II).

Sunderbani, Reasi triumph in Brigadier Usman Cricket Tournament



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NOWSHERA: On the sixth day of the Brigadier Usman Cricket Tournament, organized by the Indian Army, two exciting matches took place at the sports ground in Nowshera.

In the first match, Sunderbani won the toss and elected to bat first against Rajouri. Sunderbani scored 116/7 in 18 overs. In reply, Rajouri struggled to build partnerships and were bowled out for 101/9 in 18 overs, handing Sunderbani a 15-run victory. Rahul Sharma from Sunderbani was named Man of the Match, while Yasir Hussain of Rajouri was awarded Best Fielder. Other individual awards went to Sadham Hussain (Best Catch -

Sunderbani), and Bilal Ahmed and Imtaz Manhas of Rajouri for hitting the most sixes.

In the second match, Nowshera won the toss and opted to bat first, but they were dismissed for a modest 102 in 18 overs. Reasi chased down the target in 15.5 overs, scoring 103/4 to win by 6 wickets. Sahil Nana of Reasi was named Man of the Match, and Ankush Sharma (Best Fielder - Nowshera) and Jasbir Singh (Best Catch - Reasi) were also recognized. Sarabjit Singh of Reasi hit the most sixes. Bilal Ahmed of Rajouri (198 runs) and Umesh Kumar of Nowshera (9 wickets) were awarded the Orange Cap and Purple Cap, respectively.

Al Samad Club lifts BPL trophy

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The final match of the Bharat Premier League (BPL) took place on Saturday at MA Stadium, Jammu, featuring a thrilling contest between Al Samad Cricket Club and Mulaan Cricket Club.

The event was graced by Satish Sharma, the Minister of Youth Services and Sports, who attended as the Chief Guest. In a final, Al Samad Cricket Club emerged victorious, claiming the prestigious BPL title.

The match began with Al Samad losing an early collapse in their batting order. Despite the setback, they managed to post a respectable total of 165 runs on the scoreboard. Their bowlers, however, put on a superb show, restricting Mulaan Cricket Club to just 115 runs, winning the match by 50 runs and sealing their spot as the champions.

The Man of the Match award went to S.G. for his exceptional all-round performance, contributing significantly with both bat and ball. Asif Rasool of Pahalgam Gymkhana was



Sport Minister, Satish Sharma and others at a final ceremony.

named the Man of the Series for his outstanding display as a batting all-rounder throughout the tournament.

The tournament also celebrated individual excellence, with Charukesh Zutshi and Asif Rasool jointly winning the title of Best Batters, each scoring 133 runs during the competition. The Best Bowler award was presented to Gowher Leggy, who took an impressive 15 wickets in the tournament.

Among the others present were Colonel Prince from the Achenab Brigade, Sanjay Saraf, Patron of Rising Athletes of J&K, and

Dr. Vinay Thusoo, Chairman of Rising Athletes. Additionally, social activists Sanjay Raina, Bhushan Lal Bhat, former MLC, and Jatin, political and social activist, were also present. Sahil Pandit, President of Rising Athletes of Jammu and Kashmir, express gratitude to the sponsors and media partners who played a key role in the success of the tournament. The event was supported by Landmark Crafts Ltd., Alcobrew, J&K Bank, Asha Bhawan, Horizon, NN Dhar Trust, and Youth for Panun Kashmir.