

➔36th J&K UT Senior Volleyball Championship concludes◀

Jammu declares Champions of 36th J&K UT Senior Volleyball 2024



Glimpses of closing ceremony of 36th J&K UT Senior Volleyball Championship for Men and Women at MA Stadium, Jammu on Sunday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 36th J&K UT Senior Volleyball Championship for Men and Women concluded with thrilling performances at MA Stadium, here on Sunday.

Organized by the Volleyball Association of Jammu & Kashmir (VAJK) in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council, the championship saw Jammu district emerging victorious in both the Men's and Women's categories.

In a highly competitive women's final, the Jammu team defeated Srinagar by 3-1 sets, with scores of 22-25,

25-22, 25-21, and 25-13. In the Men's section, Jammu dominated the JKP team with a clean 3-0 win, securing sets of 25-13, 25-18, and 26-24.

The spectators were treated to a display of exceptional volleyball, with impressive spikes, blocks, and serves, some of which were delivered by international-level players.

The closing ceremony was graced by Sarmad Hafeez, Commissioner Secretary for Youth Services and Sports, J&K UT, who was the Chief Guest. He commended the organizers for the successful

execution of the 3-day championship, which mobilized over 500 players from across Jammu & Kashmir UT.

The Chief Guest assured that the government of J&K would continue to support and promote volleyball, particularly in the remotest regions of the Union Territory, by improving infrastructure. Viewing the potential of volleyball game in today's matches, he expressed optimism that J&K would soon emerge as a force to reckon with in national and international volleyball arenas.

During the ceremony,

Sarmad Hafeez distributed trophies, medals, certificates, and cash prizes to the winner and runner-up teams. In addition to this, both the victorious teams-Jammu Women's and Men's-received cash rewards of Rs. 10,000 from the Jammu District Volleyball Association in recognition of their outstanding performances in the championship.

The Chief Guest was also honoured with a memento by Raj Daluja, Patron-in-chief, Sidharth Daluja, President of the Volleyball Association of Jammu & Kashmir (VAJK), alongside other officials of the association.

Saroj Sethi, Group Senior Manager (HR) at Chenab Valley Power Projects Ltd., Jammu, who was the Guest of Honour at the event was also honoured with a memento.

Rajesh Rathore, Principal of JK Public School Kunjwani Jammu, who had supported the championship, was also felicitated with a memento.

In addition to the winning teams and dignitaries, several officials, referees, and office bearers of the District Volleyball Associations of J&K UT were recognized

with mementos and utility gifts for their contributions to the success of the event.

The championship, which coincided with the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the Volleyball Association of Jammu & Kashmir, concluded after 62 exciting matches. The event was made possible through the support of various organizations, including the J&K Excise Department, J&K Bank, Chenab Valley Power Projects Limited, YES Bank, LIC, JK Public School Management, and State Times. Their combined efforts ensured the championship was both effective

and result-oriented.

Among dignitaries Kuldeep Magotra (CEO), H.S Gill (Executive Vice President), Raj Guru (Senior Vice President), Abdul Ahad Shah (Vice President), Vijay Kumar Magotra (Honorary General Secretary), and R.C Sharma (Treasurer), Mohd Tariq (Joint Secretary), Akbar Ali (Office Secretary) of VAJK, Rajiv Dogra (Head Technical Committee), Mulkhraj Volleyball coach, Prateek Kumar SAI Volleyball coach and other office bearers of various sports Associations/coaches

were present.

The technical officiating panel included recognized national referees such as Neeraj Sharma, Aliyas, Amit Sharma, Sat Pal, Intezar Ali, Ashima, and D.K Raina.

"The 36th JK UT Senior Volleyball Championship has not only showcased the high skill levels of local volleyball players but has also set the stage for the future development of the sport in Jammu & Kashmir, paving the way for even greater success on national and international platforms," said CEO VAJK, Kuldeep Magotra.

Dushyant again elected JKOA president



Newly elected office bearers of J&K Olympic Association posing with Returning Officer C S Gupta and observer, Madukant Pathak at Jammu on Sunday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Beating member J&K Sports Council (JKSC), Rajeev Sharma in a one-sided contest, international wrestler, Dushyant Sharma has been elected president of the J&K Olympic Association (JKOA) for a term of four years in an election meeting held here on Sunday. Previously General Secretary of JKO, Dushyant secured 22 votes as against just one voted in favour of former Hockey J&K president and present head of the J&K Archery Association, Rajeev Sharma. Announcing the results, Returning Officer, C S Gupta informed that elections of all other 10 positions of the JKO were unanimous while voting took place for three top positions of president, general secretary and treasurer.

Ajay Vaid (General Secretary) and Yudhvir Singh (Treasurer) got 22

and 21 votes respectively as against just one vote by the opponent candidates. In straight contests, Ajay Sharma lost the contest for the post of general secretary while Kuldeep Gupta lost the election for the post of treasurer to Yudhvir Singh. Other office bearers: Dr Nirmolok Singh (Senior Vice President), Kiran Wattal (Vice President-K), Vikas Gupta (Vice President), B S

Jaggi (Joint Secretary), Rajesh Dutta, Kuljit Singh, Vinod Bhatia, Amit Chib, Tarsem Sharma and Supinder Deep Singh (all Executive Members). Meanwhile, the elected team expressed gratitude outgoing president, Prof. Ashutosh Sharma and assured working of the JKO for the welfare of the sportspersons in a collective manner. Among others present were observer from

Indian Olympic Association (IOA), Madukant Pathak (treasurer) Athletics Federation of India, who witnessed the conduct of elections adhering to the National Sports Code and observation of directions passed by the Supreme Court of India, a separate handout issued by the JKOA informed.

Ajanta Sports Jammu beats Singh Cricket Club Akhnoor in Friendly U-16 Cricket Match

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A thrilling friendly cricket match between Ajanta Sports Club Jammu and Singh Cricket Club Akhnoor (Under-16) was held, showcasing the exceptional talent and sportsmanship of young cricketers.

The match was inaugurated by dignitaries, including Rakesh Malhotra (Managing Director, Shubtilak Hospital and former Councillor), Deepesh Singh (former Municipal Chairman), Atul Sudan, and Sham Singh Langleh (Zonal Head, Divyang Cricket Board of India).

The toss was won by Singh Cricket Club Akhnoor, who elected to bowl first. Ajanta Sports Club set an impressive target of 157 runs, with a stellar performance from Phelaj,



who remained unbeaten at 74, supported by Kanish's contribution of 16 runs. On the bowling side, Singh Cricket Club's Jatin, Smiley, and Goutam each secured a wicket.

In response, Singh Cricket Club Akhnoor struggled to chase the target and could only manage 114 runs. Akash emerged as the top scorer for the team with 42 runs. Ajanta Sports' Rehan played a pivotal role in their

victory, taking 2 crucial wickets.

Ajanta Sports Jammu emerged victorious, winning the match by 42 runs. Phelaj was awarded the Man of the Match for his outstanding knock of 74 not out, which proved to be the game-changer.

The organizers expressed gratitude to the dignitaries and participants for making the match a grand success.

DG Sports felicitates medal winners of 68th National School Games



DG YSS J&K, Rajinder Singh Tara felicitating medal winners of 68th National School Games.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Director General (DG) Youth Services and Sports (YSS) J&K, Rajinder Singh Tara felicitated the medal winners of the 68th National School Games U-19 Boys and Girls Wrestling Championship and U-19 Boys & Girls Weightlifting Championship held at Delhi and U-19 Boys & Girls Judo Championship held at Ludhiana in an impressive function at Youth Hostel Nagrota, here on Sunday.

The Director General Sports was accompanied by Joint Director Youth Services and Sports Central, Jitendra Mishra; Accounts Officer Directorate Sunil Kumar Sharma and District

Youth Services and Sports Officer Jammu, Harvinder Kaur on the occasion. J&K won five medals in Wrestling with one gold, one silver and three bronze medals, besides winning two medals in Weightlifting with one gold and one bronze and one bronze medal in Judo.

The medal winners in Wrestling, who were honoured by Director General Youth Services and Sports included Kaifa Shah from District Srinagar (Gold) 60 kg; Ankush Manhas from District Jammu (Silver) 45 kg; Imran Raja from District Budgam (Bronze) 85 kg; Muntazir from District Budgam (Bronze) 56kg and Abhimanyu from District Jammu (Bronze) 65kg, while in U-19 Boys Judo, Nazia Ratima (Bronze) and in U-19

Boys and Girls Weightlifting, Ahtisham from District Budgam and Anya Rakwal from District Jammu, who clinched Gold and Bronze medals respectively were also felicitated.

For their fabulous show in these prestigious games, the medal winners were garlanded and presented sweets and the medals by Tara and other officers of the Department.

Meanwhile, Secretary to the Government, Youth Services and Sports, J&K, Sarmad Hafeez in his congratulatory messages to the medal winners termed them as the icons of the Union Territory.

He said apart from holding this series of events at the national scene in a most befitting manner recently, the great show by J&K athletes in these

games and 68th National School Games held across the country so far added yet another feather to the colourful departmental cap, besides making the entire sports fraternity of the Union Territory proud.

Hafeez further said that J&K has immense sporting talent and the need is to hone the same at the grass-root level.

Tara said winning a big haul of medals at the national scene portrayed a picture of the commitment of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir towards raising sports infrastructure and promoting sports culture.

"A total of 1024 players in 34 sporting events, out of a total of 223 events, have so far represented the Union Territory in the 68th National School Games 2024-25. J&K has already won a total of 36 medals in five sports disciplines including Judo, Taekwondo, Fencing, Wrestling and Weightlifting with 8 Gold, 13 Silver and 15 Bronze medals," informed Tara.

The DG Sports further said that all the medal winners in the 68th National School Games 2024-25 will be honoured with scholarships in accordance with the departmental norms soon in the month of February-March, 2025.

Anya becomes J&K's 1st ever Weightlifter to win medal in NSG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Making the entire sports fraternity of Jammu and Kashmir proud and keeping the UT's Flag high at the national scene, Anya Rakwal from Air Force School Satwari, District Jammu has clinched the first ever medal in 68th National School Games in U-19 Girls Weightlifting Championship held at New Delhi.

Showing stellar grit, composure, promise and extraordinary skill, Ms Anya sparked while taking part in +87kg weight category.



Secretary to Government Youth Services and Sports Department, Sarmad Hafeez and Director General

Youth Services and Sports, Rajinder Singh Tara congratulated the ace athlete along with her coach, Dhanraj Singh Slathia for clinching historic Bronze medal.

The congratulatory message read "You have made the entire UT proud by scripting history, besides proving that Jammu and Kashmir possessed immense sporting talent. Such performances at the National scene would certainly help Jammu and Kashmir to carve a space on the country's sports map. Hats off to you".

Northern Region-II enters semi-finals of POWERGRID Inter Regional Cricket Tournament 2024

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: It was a day filled with action as ten teams clashed on the second day of the POWERGRID Inter Regional Cricket Tournament 2024, here on Sunday. All the teams performed to best of their abilities to outclass each other. It was a day where players showcased their style and skill to get better off their opponents.

NR-II defeated NER' by three wickets. Batting first NER scored 87/9 in their stipulated 20 overs. In reply NR-II overhauled the score in 15.2 overs. Vinod Atri of NR-II, who took four wickets for 21 runs in 4 overs, was declared Man of the Match. With this victory, NR-II became the first team of the tournament to reach the



A player receiving Man of the Match award.

semifinals.

NR-III defeated WR-I by 37 Runs. Batting first NR-III scored 159/6 in 20 overs and later restricted WR-I to 122/8 in 20 overs. Md Kaif of NR-III, who scored 71 runs and took one wicket for 8 runs in two overs, was declared Man of the Match. CC trounced SR-II by 75 runs. Batting first CC

scored 158 for four wickets in 20 overs and then bundled out SR-II on 83 runs in 18.3 overs. Mukesh Bhakar of CC, who took four wickets, was declared Man of the Match.

NR-I defeated ER-I by 40 runs. Batting first NR-I scored 167/7 in 20 overs. ER-I in return managed only 127/7 in their 20 overs.

Kuldeep Rawat of NR-I, who scored 14 runs in 6 balls and took three wickets, was declared Man of the Match.

ER-II defeated SR-I. Batting first ER-II made 118/9 in 20 overs. Later ER-II bowled out SR-I for 102 runs in 18.3 overs. Pradip Rajak of ER-II was declared Man of the Match for his three wicket haul.