

# J&K UT volleyball teams to leave for 49th Junior National Championship today

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council (JKSC) has finalized the Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory (JKUT) Junior Men and Women Volleyball teams for participation in the 49th Junior National Volleyball Championship, scheduled to be held from December 16 to 21, 2025, at Palani, Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan. The selected teams will depart for Rajasthan tomorrow.

The screening and final selection of the teams were conducted today at the MA Stadium, Jammu. The proceedings were carried out by a Screening Committee headed by Areshi Nad, Manager, Indoor MA Stadium Jammu, on behalf of the J&K Sports Council.

The committee included senior officials of JKSC, a physiotherapist, international and national-level volleyball players, experienced coaches, and representatives of the Volleyball



VAIK office bearers posing for a photograph with selected teams and officials.

Association of Jammu & Kashmir (VAJK).

After thorough evaluation, the committee approved a final list of 12 players each in the Junior Men and Junior Women categories to represent JKUT at the national event.

The Junior Men's team comprises Karan Rajput (Reasi), Wani Mahir (Srinagar), Abid Gulzar (Ganderbal), Ganik Sharma (Kathua), Akash

Manhas (Jammu), Mohd Abid Bhatti (Poonch), Anshu Yuvraj (Jammu), Harshul Sharma (Jammu), Shail Shamim (Anantnag), Sandeep Singh (Jammu), Mubrahir Manzoor (Srinagar), and Aryan Manhas (Jammu).

The Junior Women's team includes Nirajala Kumari (Jammu), Khushi (Udhampur), Sania (Kathua), Surbhi Kumari (Jammu), Rehana (Baramulla), Rasiya Reyez

(Srinagar), Tamanna Bhalla (Jammu), Munisa Khurshid (Baramulla), Sanjana Kumari (Jammu), Falak Mushtaq (Baramulla), Saliha Lateef (Baramulla), and Semma Sharma (Udhampur).

Earlier, players from across the Union Territory were shortlisted through selection trials followed by a rigorous 14-day coaching camp held at MA Stadium, Jammu.

The camp was conducted

under the supervision of Prateek Kumar, Volleyball Coach of the Sports Authority of India (SAI), and Inisha Bashir, Volleyball Coach of the J&K Sports Council. The coaches imparted the latest technical and tactical skills of the game to the participants, ensuring their readiness for high-level national competition.

Several senior office bearers and officials were present during the screening

committee meeting, including Kuldip Magotra, Chief Executive Officer of VAJK; H.S Gill, Executive Vice President; V.K Magotra, General Secretary; Romesh Sharma, Treasurer; Mohd Tariq, Joint Secretary; Mudashar, Secretary Pulwama District Volleyball Association; along with executive members Subash Shastri and Suresh Chib. Rajeev Dogra also participated in the proceedings.

The dignitaries and office bearers of the Volleyball Association of J&K extended their heartfelt best wishes to the JKUT Volleyball contingent.

They expressed confidence that the teams would deliver commendable performances at the Junior National Championship and continue to bring laurels to Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory by showcasing excellence in volleyball at the national and international levels.

## Piyush, Prithvi shine on day 2 of U-12 Boys and Girls Lawn Tennis C'ship



Players posing for a group photograph at MA Stadium Tennis Courts, Jammu.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The second day of the U-12 Boys and Girls Lawn Tennis Championship, organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Lawn Tennis Association (JKLTA), delivered a series of electrifying matches at the MA Stadium Tennis Courts today.

The spotlight was firmly on the Under-12 Boys categories, where young talents showcased impressive sportsmanship. Piyush Kumar and Prithvi Sharma emerged as the standout players, each securing victories in their singles and doubles contests.

In the singles, Piyush Kumar defeated Ayank Jaiswal 6-3, while Prithvi Sharma overcame Khushansh Magotra with a tight 6-4 scoreline. The duo then combined effectively in the doubles, beating Arsh Arora and Pranvat Singh 6-2.

The doubles bracket saw more drama, with Aarav Singh and Pavish Gupta winning 6-3 against Aviansh Khajuria and Sharvil Mahajan. However, Ayank Jaiswal and Khushansh Magotra partnered up for a thrilling, closely fought 7-4 victory to edge out Singh and Gupta in the final doubles match of the day. The championship continues, promising more intense action for the aspiring players.

## Vijay Merchant Trophy Bowlers emulate batters' brilliance as J&K hands Meghalaya crushing innings defeat

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SURAT: Emulating their batters, the the bowling duo of Jammu and Kashmir led by Rajveer Singh and Sanil Singh plotted collapse of Meghalaya and handed them a crushing innings defeat in their Vijay Merchant Trophy encounter at Lalbhai Contractor Stadium, Surat today.

After declaring their innings overnight at a commanding 585/7, J&K's bowlers unleashed utter devastation, dismantling Meghalaya for a paltry 75 in their first innings and a modest 126 in the second.

Meghalaya's batters offered scant resistance, with only skipper K. Chaudhary's gritty 40 in the first dig and S. Chettri's resolute 45 in the second providing any semblance of fight.

Sanil Singh claimed 5

his departure, while Karman exuded sublime grace and unyielding solidity en route to a masterful 182 (214 balls, 31 fours, 2 sixes). Hadi Amin then unleashed fireworks, remaining unbeaten on a power-packed 115 (84 balls, 15 fours, 4 sixes) in another substantial alliance with Karman. Adnan Manzoor (53 off 28 balls) and Rajveer Singh (44) provided stout support, while Jaskaran Singh (21), and skipper Smagey Khajuria (12) offered brief cameos.

Meghalaya's bowlers endured a torrid day: D Marak (3/105) and G Paul (2/108) leaked runs relentlessly, with A Barally and A Chanda snaring one wicket apiece.

"Heartiest congrats to J&K U16 team for a resounding victory over Meghalaya with an innings &

## Inter-Battalion & Inter-Zone Sports Meet concludes: ADGP Armed presents awards



Anand Jain, ADG Armed J&K honouring SSP Manjit Kour and Additional SP, Bikram Kumar for excelling in Inter-Battalion and Inter-Zone Sports Meet at Jammu on Saturday.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Inter-Battalion and Inter-Zone Sports Meet concluded on Saturday at Gulshan Ground, Jammu, with a grand closing ceremony celebrating outstanding performances and competitive spirit across various disciplines.

Among the highlights of the meet was SSP Manjit Kour, who clinched gold medals in both 15m Squatting and 30m Standing Pistol Fire, showcasing

captivating remarkable skill and precision.

Bikram Kumar, Additional SP Rajouri, also delivered a stellar performance at the Inter-Zonal Sports Meet of J&K Police. Demonstrating exceptional skill and versatility, he won a total of six medals across Badminton and Table Tennis, including three golds and three silvers, establishing himself as one of the top performers of the tournament and bringing laurels to his unit.

The week-long event witnessed enthusiastic participation from teams representing different battalions and zones, demonstrating discipline, teamwork, and athletic excellence.

A total of 35 battalions competed in the Inter-Battalion segment, while six zones battled it out in the Inter-Zone events. IRP 14th Battalion emerged as the Overall Champion in the Inter-Battalion category, with IRP

15th Battalion finishing as Runner-up.

In the Inter-Zone segment, the Armed Zone was declared Overall Champion, while the Jammu Zone secured the Runner-up trophy.

The closing ceremony was graced by Anand Jain, ADG Armed J&K, as the Chief Guest, who was accorded a warm welcome by officers led by Vinod Kumar, DIG IR Jammu, along with other members of the organizing

committee.

Addressing the gathering, Jain lauded the organizers and participants for the flawless conduct of the event, emphasizing that sports foster physical endurance, camaraderie, and a healthy competitive spirit among J&K Police personnel.

A medal and prize distribution ceremony was held to felicitate winners and runners-up across various disciplines with medals, trophies, and certificates.

The ceremony was attended by senior officials including B.S. Tuti, IPS, IGP Jammu Zone; Vivek Gupta, IPS, IGP Railways J&K; Suliman Choudhary, IPS, IGP Traffic J&K; Sameer Sharma, IPS, DIG AP Jammu; Hari Prasad KK, IPS, AIG Welfare, and other officers. Commandants of Jammu-based battalions, SSPs, and staff officers were also present to acknowledge the achievements of the participants.



J&K team with officials after winning the match.

wickets in the first innings and one in the second, while Rajveer ripped through with 4 wickets apiece in both. Skipper Smagey Khajuria chipped in with 2 wickets in the second essay.

Earlier, on day-1, in a display of ruthless dominance, J&K batters dismantled Meghalaya's bowling attack, amassing a colossal 585/7.

This thunderous total vaulted J&K into the record books, marking the second-highest single-day score in the tournament's history, trailing only Bihar's 591.

J&K openers Karman Singh and Arsalan Nayak erupted from the outset, forging a blistering 248-run partnership. Arsalan's explosive 140 (151 balls, 16 fours, 7 sixes) set the tone before

384 runs. After the batters domination yesterday, it was the bowlers turn after J&K declared at the record making overnight score of 585/7. Meghalaya could score just 75 runs in the 1st innings and 126 in the 2nd. Excellent bowling by Rajveer with match figures of 8 wickets and Sanil 6 wickets. Kudos to Coaching Staff," Brig Anil Gupta

The squad travels under the guidance of former First-Class cricketer Sameer Khajuria (Head Coach), Muzaffar Mattoo (Coach), Shashi Kumar (Manager, former First-Class cricketer), Amit Bargotra (Strength & Conditioning Coach), Karan Nayyar (Physiotherapist), and Sheikh Suhail (Performance Analyst).

## Jodhamal Juniors celebrate its Sports Day

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Pre-Primary wing of Jodhamal Public School celebrated its Annual Sports Day with great zeal and enthusiasm, with students from Classes Pre-Nursery, LKG, and UKG participating.



Students and faculty with dignitaries posing for a photograph.

The event was graced by the presence of the Trustee, Nandan Kuthiala, the Director, Arati Kuthiala, the Principal, Dr. Deep Khare, the Vice Principal, Amita Arora, and the Headmistress Neetu Johri.

The event began with the ceremonial release of tricolour balloons by the dignitaries and teachers of the pre-primary wing, symbolizing unity and celebration. This was followed by a torch-bearing display, where a group of young students confidently carried the torch, reflecting the spirit of sportsmanship and teamwork.

Adding to the excitement, Aadya Malhotra of LKG Daffodils enthralled the audience with an impressive martial arts tile-breaking performance, showcasing strength, focus, and discipline at such a young age. A

captivating hula hoop demonstration by a group of LKG and UKG girls added charm to the event, showcasing their agility and coordination. The UKG toddlers further mesmerized everyone with their synchronized drill performance, displaying discipline, coordination, and team spirit.

The day witnessed a series of competitive events with innovative themes designed for every level, from playgroups to UKG. Highlights of the day included the Mickey and Minnie Race, Army Race, Hurdle Race, Giraffe Race, Carrot and Bunny Race, Umbrella race, Prince and Princess Race and Balloon Race. The tiny tots demonstrated immense enthusiasm, competitiveness,

and sportsmanship throughout the events.

The Principal, Dr. Deep Khare applauded the hard work and meticulous planning of the pre-primary team, including Neetu Johri (Headmistress), Dolly Chandhoke, Amita Charak, Priyanka Salgotra, Priyanka Verma, Gagandeep Kour, Kritima Sharma, Anjali Gupta, Shriya Sharma, Ashi

Gupta, Kiran Singh, and Akriti Mahajan. He also acknowledged the efforts of the sports department teachers in making the event a grand success.

The sports day was thoughtfully organized to test and nurture the physical and mental abilities of the students while instilling the importance of sportsmanship and teamwork.

## Kyra Thakyal wins Gold at UT Karate-Do Championship

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Young karateka Kyra Thakyal brought laurels by winning the gold medal at the UT Karate-Do Championship, organized by the Traditional Karate-Do Association of Jammu & Kashmir.

She secured first place in the 18-20 kg weight category of the 6-8 years age group.

The championship was held at Bhagwati Nagar Indoor Stadium, Jammu, from 9 to 10 December 2025. Kyra's impressive performance showcased her dedication and skill at a young age. She has been trained under the guidance of Coach Suresh Kumar, whose coaching played a vital role in her success.



## Satish Sharma inaugurates Indoor Stadium at Khour



Sports Minister, Satish Sharma inaugurating Indoor Stadium at Khour.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Transport, Information Technology, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, on Saturday inaugurated the Rs 3 crore Indoor Stadium with multi-sports facility at Khour, Jammu, marking a significant milestone in strengthening the sports infrastructure in border areas of the Union Territory.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that the government is working earnestly towards providing modern, accessible and inclusive sports facilities to the youth. The focus is being accorded to the rural and border belts, to promote sports culture, discipline and healthy lifestyle. He emphasized that quality infrastructure at the grassroots

level plays a crucial role in identifying and nurturing the sporting talent.

The multipurpose indoor hall has been designed to host multiple sports disciplines, including Badminton (3 courts at a time), 6 table Tennis courts, Volleyball court, 2 Judo courts besides 2 Wrestling and Kabaddi courts. Satish Sharma also interacted with the local youth and sportspersons

and urged them to make optimal use of the facility. He assured that the government will continue to focus on sports infrastructure development, youth engagement and talent promotion across Jammu & Kashmir.

The inauguration of this indoor stadium is expected to provide a major boost to sports activities in the Khour area and surrounding regions, offering young

athletes access to world-class facilities at their doorstep.

The Minister also inaugurated 5 Kilo Watt hybrid solar power plant at Thakur Dwara Mandir. The plant has been installed by Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency.

Later, Satish Sharma also inaugurated black topping at Salinwali in the area.

## Kupwara District Kabaddi Association hosts Kabaddi Competition

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KUPWARA: The Kupwara District Kabaddi Association, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Amateur Kabaddi Association, is hosting the Kreedha Bharati Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory Kabaddi Sports Competition, aimed at promoting talent for future Olympic participation.

The district-level event features 26 teams competing across sub-junior, junior, and senior categories for boys and girls.

In the sub-juniors category, Haron Chogal emerged victorious against KIC Handwara in the finals, showcasing remark-



Participating teams posing with officials.

able skill and teamwork. In the juniors category, Haripora KC defeated BHS Guloor and is set to face KIC Handwara tomorrow, December 13, 2025, in a highly anticipated clash.

In the seniors category, the final match will see KIC Handwara take on United

North Kashmir at the Char Chain Sports Ground (Maidan Chogal Handwara). The competition highlights the growing standard of kabaddi in the region and serves as a platform for young athletes to demonstrate their talent and aspire for national and international

recognition.

The tournament has drawn enthusiastic support from local sports authorities and fans, emphasizing the importance of grassroots sports development in Jammu & Kashmir and fostering a competitive spirit among young kabaddi players.