

37th J&K UT Senior Volleyball Championship begins



VAJK Patron-in-Chief Raj Daluja felicitating Dr Ajay Sharma, SP South Jammu, President Sidharth Daluja felicitating Nuzhat Gul, Secretary JKSC at opening ceremony of 37th J&K Union Territory Senior Volleyball Championship in Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 37th Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory Senior Volleyball Championship for men and women was formally inaugurated on Monday at the MA Stadium, Jammu.

The three-day mega sporting event is being organised by the Volleyball Association of Jammu and Kashmir (VAJK) in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council. The championship was inaugurated by Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council, in the presence of senior sports officials, players and volleyball enthusiasts.

More than 500 players and officials from across Jammu and Kashmir are participating in the championship, making it one of the biggest volleyball events in the Union Territory.

In the men's section, a total of 21 teams are competing, including 20 district teams and one team from Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP).

In the women's section, 10 teams are in the fray, with five teams from the Kashmir province - Anantnag, Srinagar, Baramulla, Shopian and Ganderbal - and five teams from the Jammu province - Samba, Rajouri, Poonch, Udhampur and Jammu.

While addressing the gathering, Nuzhat Gul lauded the efforts of the Volleyball Association of J&K, led by Patron-in-Chief Raj Daluja

and President Sidharth Daluja, for their consistent contribution towards promoting volleyball at national and international levels.

She appreciated the association for producing outstanding international volleyball players such as Saqlain Tariq, Mannat Choudhary, Wani Mahir and Nazir Sofi, who have brought laurels to the Union Territory and the country.

She assured full support from the J&K Sports Council for strengthening sports infrastructure, including the development of an indoor stadium at Jammu.

She also urged sports lovers and youth to actively participate in combating social evils, especially drug addiction, and highlighted the "My Youth My Pride" initiative of the J&K Government.

Earlier, General Secretary of the Association, V.K. Magotra, welcomed the dignitaries and presented a detailed account of the association's activities since its inception in 1974.

He informed that the association has achieved several milestones at the national level and recently created history by winning the gold medal for the first time at the Khelo India Youth Volleyball Games held at Patna, Bihar.

He said these achievements reflect the dedication and hard work of players, coaches and officials. Magotra further disclosed that besides players, association officials

including Kuldeep Magotra (CEO) and Romesh Sharma (Treasurer), both Sher-e-Kashmir Award recipients, have represented India in international volleyball championships across more than half the countries of the world in different capacities, contributing significantly to the global promotion of the sport.

He also highlighted the logistical challenge of conducting nearly 25 matches daily on four volleyball courts located at two venues, including floodlight courts for late evening matches. A panel of national and state-level referees is officiating the matches, working tirelessly to ensure smooth and timely conduct of the championship.

Dr Ajay Sharma, JKPS, Superintendent of Police South Jammu, while speaking on the occasion, appealed to the youth to explore their hidden sporting talents and stay away from drug abuse. He emphasized that sports play a vital role in shaping disciplined individuals and in building a peaceful and progressive nation.

Before declaring the championship open, the dignitaries were honoured with mementoes by the organisers. Prominent among those present were H.S. Gill, Executive Vice President, Shakti, SHO City Jammu, office bearers of district volleyball associations affiliated with VAJK, O.P. Sharma, K.S. Arora, Ashok Sharma

and a large number of sports lovers.

Results

MEN: Jammu defeated Kupwara 2-0; Poonch beat Budgam 2-0; Anantnag outplayed Ganderbal 2-0; JKP defeated Srinagar 2-0; Rajouri edged past Kulgam 2-1; Pulwama defeated Udhampur 2-0; Samba beat Shopian 2-0; Baramulla defeated Kathua 2-1; Doda beat Bandipora 2-1; Jammu defeated Rajouri 2-0; Poonch beat Udhampur 2-0; JKP defeated Kathua 2-0; and Kupwara beat Kulgam 2-0.

WOMEN: Jammu beat Anantnag 2-0 (25-15, 25-10), Udhampur beat Shopian 2-0 (25-19, 25-19), Samba beat Baramulla 2-0 (25-13, 25-19), Srinagar beat

Poonch 2-1 (25-23, 17-25, 17-15), and Ganderbal beat Shopian 2-1 (23-25, 26-24, 15-12).

Jammu district has qualified for the quarterfinals in both the men's and women's sections, putting up impressive performances in the ongoing championship. The teams displayed strong coordination, skill and determination to secure their spots among the top contenders. Their qualification in both categories reflects the depth of talent and effective preparation of Jammu district, boosting morale among players and supporters ahead of the crucial knockout stage.

All matches were officiated by qualified referees appointed by the association.

J&K teen Madhavendra Singh shines at National School Games, bags Silver in Soft Tennis

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Seventeen-year-old Madhavendra Singh Sambhal has emerged as a new sporting star from Jammu and Kashmir, clinching a silver medal in the Under-17 Soft Tennis event at the National School Games held in Dewas, Madhya Pradesh.

Displaying immense composure, grit and high-class skill against the country's best young players, Madhavendra made his way into the final, settling for silver after an intense title clash. His performance has placed Jammu and Kashmir on the



national soft tennis map, establishing the Union Territory's growing footprint in competitive sports. The medal comes close on

the heels of his silver at the Senior National Championships in Srinagar, marking a rare and remarkable double achievement and highlighting his rapid rise in the sport despite his young age.

Sporting enthusiasts across J&K in general and Jammu in particular have hailed the feat as a moment of pride and promise, with coaches and officials describing Madhavendra's journey as an indicator of the changing sports ecosystem in the Union Territory and the emergence of disciplined, high-performing youth

from the region.

Expressing gratitude after the win, Madhavendra credited his success to the guidance of his coaches, the Soft Tennis Association, the J&K Sports Council, and the Department of Youth Services and Sports, saying that their support and facilities played a crucial role in his national success.

With this achievement, Madhavendra Singh has become an inspiration for new generation of young athletes in Jammu and Kashmir to dream big and compete fearlessly at the national level.

BCCI not recognised as NSF: Mandaviya

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The BCCI is not a recognised National Sports Federation (NSF), Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya stated in the Lok Sabha on Monday, reiterating a long-held status that is expected to change once the new National Sports Governance Act comes into effect next year.

Mandaviya was responding to a query from Trinamool Congress' Kolkata Dakshin representative Mala Roy.

Roy asked whether the Government intends to take control of big sports bodies such as the BCCI and the cash-strapped All India Football Federation (AIFF) for their "proper and smooth functioning."

Mandaviya reiterated that National Sports Federations (NSFs) are voluntary bodies, which are expected to fol-

low "healthy management practices."

"Further, Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is not recognised as a National Sports Federation (NSF)," Mandaviya said.

The National Sports Governance Act was passed in August this year and its rules are set to be notified soon. Mandaviya has promised full-scale implementation of the act early next year.

It has the provision for a National Sports Board (NSB) to create a stringent system of accountability and all NSFs will have to attain NSB's recognition for access to central government funding.

The BCCI has not been a recognised NSF so far as it is not reliant on government funding.

However, it will have to register itself as an NSF once the new Act comes into effect given that cricket

has become an Olympic sport, which is set for a debut in the 2028 Games in the T20 format.

The Ministry has already provided some relief to the Board when it comes to provisions related to the Right to Information Act that will be applicable on NSFs under the new act.

It has amended the RTI-related provision in the act, placing only those bodies under its ambit which rely on government grants and assistance.

The RTI has been a thorny issue for the BCCI, which has steadfastly opposed coming under it as the Board is not dependent on government funds unlike a majority of other NSFs.

In the Lok Sabha on Monday, the Minister also said that accounts of the NSFs receiving annual grant of more than Rs. one crore are subject to audit by the Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) of India.

SSP PCR Jammu felicitates personnel for outstanding performance in Inter-Zone Police Sports Meet 2025

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dr. Koshal Kumar Sharma, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), PCR Jammu, on Monday felicitated officers and officials of PCR Jammu for their outstanding performance in the Inter-Zone Police Sports Meet-2025, held from December 11 to 13 at Gulshan Ground, Jammu. The PCR Jammu team secured an impressive total of 17 medals, bringing laurels to the unit through exceptional sporting achievements.

A total of six officers and officials from PCR Jammu participated in the prestigious competition, showcasing exemplary talent, discipline and sportsmanship across various sporting events. DySP Sharat Chander Singh, who was nominated as the Team Manager of Jammu Zone, participated in the 100-meter relay event and clinched a Gold Medal.

ASI (M) Rakesh Kumar of PCR Jammu won two medals, including a Gold Medal in the 4x400-meter relay and a Bronze Medal in the 400-meter



SSP PCR Jammu Dr. Koshal Kumar Sharma felicitating officers and officials of PCR Jammu.

race. HC (M) Sahil Sharma delivered an outstanding all-round performance by securing four medals - a Gold Medal in Archery, two Silver Medals in Penack Silat and Basketball, and a Bronze Medal in Weightlifting. In the closely fought Basketball final, Jammu Zone narrowly lost to Armed Zone by just one

point (66-67). Notably, HC (M) Sahil Sharma emerged as the highest scorer of the match with 23 points.

SgCt Avinash Anthal also won four medals, comprising a Gold Medal in Bodybuilding, a Silver Medal in Weightlifting, and two Bronze Medals in Boxing and Powerlifting. SgCt Sumit

Sharma achieved another impressive feat by securing four medals, including a Gold Medal in Boxing and three Silver Medals in Bodybuilding, Weightlifting and Powerlifting.

Constable Sunny Bhadwal of PCR Jammu added to the medal tally by winning two Gold Medals in Powerlifting and Kabaddi, further highlighting the unit's strong sporting presence.

While congratulating the medal winners, SSP PCR Jammu Dr. Koshal Kumar Sharma lauded their dedication, perseverance and exemplary sportsmanship. He encouraged them to continue working with the same zeal, discipline and commitment, both in sports and in their professional duties, and extended his best wishes for their future endeavors.

The felicitation ceremony was also attended by Deepak Digra, Additional SP, PCR Jammu, along with other senior officers and officials of PCR Jammu, who congratulated the achievers for their remarkable success.

Ridhima sparkles as J&K lose to Mumbai in U-19

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a display of grit and brilliance, J&K's rising star Ridhima Rajput claimed a mesmerizing five-wicket haul and chipped in with 15 crucial runs to be declared man of the match but could not lead her side to victory against Mumbai in Under-19 Women's One-day Tournament at Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh today.

As per the reports reaching here, J&K fought valiantly but fell 33 runs short in their pursuit of 223, ending at 189 for nine. Electing to bowl first, J&K struck early blows, but Mumbai rallied to post a formidable 222 for six in 50 overs.

Jeeya Mandrawadkar led the charge with a explosive 50 off 45 balls remained top scorer. Ira Jadhav (41) and captain Dhruvi Trivedi (39) were other main contributors to the total. Ridhima Rajput stole the show for J&K, ripping through Mumbai's lineup with five for 32 in her 10 overs. Bhagya Lakshmi Jamwal provided stout support, taking one wicket.

Chasing the target, J&K openers Kayinat Bakshi and Aleeza Jan forged a solid 39-run stand in 9.4 overs before Aleeza departed for 19. Kayinat anchored with a patient 39 off 71 balls, and Mehak Rukwal's resolute 36 off 74 kept



hopes alive. Mahika Singh Rana (18), Janvi Rajput (unbeaten 18), and Ridhima (15) fought hard, but J&K managed only 189 for nine in their 50 overs. Mumbai's bowlers, Jeeya Mandrawadkar and Ritika Yadav shared three wickets each while Siddhi Kamthe, Trisha, and Siddhi Pawar took one each.