

# J&K men’s team storms into quarterfinals of 49th Junior National Volleyball Championship

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir junior men's volleyball team put up a spirited and highly commendable performance to storm into the quarterfinals of the 49th Junior National Volleyball Championship being held at Palani, Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan.

As per report reaching here, displaying resilience, teamwork, and fighting spirit throughout the league stage, the J&K side emerged as one of the standout teams of the tournament, earning praise for their consistency against strong opponents from across the country.

Jammu & Kashmir began their campaign with a closely contested match



J&K men's team posing with officials after winning the match.

against Himachal Pradesh on December 16, where they fought till the final set before narrowly losing 3-2 (25-21, 21-25, 20-25, 25-23, 9-15). The team bounced back strongly in the very next encounter, defeating Uttar Pradesh 3-1 (19-25, 25-23, 25-21, 25-

23) with dominant attacking and solid defense. On December 18, J&K continued their winning momentum by edging out Uttarakhand in a thrilling five-set encounter by 3-2 (21-25, 25-19, 25-25, 25-19, 15-12), showcasing remarkable composure

under pressure. They further stamped their authority with emphatic 3-0 (25-9, 25-10, 25-18) straight-set victories over Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, as well as Odisha 3-0 (25-16, 25-23, 25-23), underlining their all-round superiority.

In one of the most exciting matches of the championship, Jammu & Kashmir defeated Kerala 3-2 (23-25, 25-10, 19-25, 25-14, 15-7) in a gripping contest, overcoming an early setback to register a memorable victory. This win sealed their place in the quarterfinals and highlighted the team's fighting spirit and depth.

The impressive performance of the Jammu & Kashmir junior men's team reflects the growing standard of volleyball in the region and stands as a proud moment for the Union Territory, inspiring young athletes back home.

# Heritagean Shreya Gupta wins gold at inter-district Badminton Championship

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shreya Gupta of Class XII D brought laurels to Heritage School by winning the Gold Medal at the Inter-District Badminton Championship organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, held from December 4 to 5, 2025.

Showcasing remarkable skill, agility and composure on court, Shreya emerged victorious against strong competition from across the district. Her consistent performance and strategic play throughout the championship highlighted her dedication and rigorous training.

In recognition of her impressive performance,



Heritage School faculty felicitating winner student.

Shreya has also been selected to represent her school at the School Nationals, scheduled to be held in Delhi in the month of December. This selection marks another significant milestone in

her sporting journey. Heritage family congratulated Shreya Gupta on her achievement and conveys its best wishes for her participation at the national-level championship.

## 19th Christmas Gold Cup Football Tournament Young Hero, Winter Capital clinch victories on day 3



Dignitaries interacting with players.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Young Hero Football Club (FC) and Winter Capital FC emerged winners of the third day of the ongoing 19th Christmas Gold Cup Football Tournament 2025, organized by All J&K Sports & Cultural Welfare Association under the aegis of the J&K Football Association (DFA Jammu) at the Mini Stadium, Parade Ground, here on Friday.

The opening day witnessed enthusiastic participation from teams and an encour-

aging turnout of football lovers.

In the first match, Young Hero FC registered a convincing 4-0 victory over Poonch FC. Mokshan opened the scoring in the 15th minute, followed by Bhanu in the 21st minute and Jayant in the 30th minute, giving Young Hero FC a commanding lead in the first half. Saksham sealed the win with the fourth goal in the 58th minute. The match also saw disciplinary action, with red cards shown to Pranav of

Young Hero FC and Sofian Ahmed Mughal of Poonch FC. Yellow cards were issued to Mohd Sofian (11th minute), Amir Majid, and Sudanshu Sharma of Poonch FC. The match was officiated by referees Aman Sudan, Kartik Sharma, Romesh Kumar, and Satman Singh.

The second match of the day was a closely contested encounter between Young Rover FC and Winter Capital FC, in which Winter Capital FC emerged victorious by 2-1. Zain gave Winter Capital FC an early lead by scoring

in the 13th minute, but Young Rover FC responded quickly with an equaliser by Anmol in the 14th minute. The winning goal was netted by Ashish in the 55th minute, securing full points for Winter Capital FC. A yellow card was shown to Shivam in the 28th minute. The match was officiated by referees Ricky, Bilal, Kartik, and Romesh Kumar.

The match was graced by Chief Guest Ranjit Kanwar, Senior SSP, along with David Masih, Romesh Chander, Yousaf Don, Kamaljeet, Sodagar Mattoo, Peter Sandhu, Sebastian, Nitin Bagga, and Rajesh Sunburiya, who encouraged the players and appreciated the efforts of the organisers.

The tournament will continue tomorrow with two exciting fixtures. SCFA will take on Samba FC at 12:00 Noon, followed by Churchill Brothers versus Hero FC at 1:30 PM, promising another thrilling day of football action for sports enthusiasts in Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SURAT: History unfolds in spectacular fashion as Jammu & Kashmir's U-16 squad demolished Mizoram by an innings and 275 runs in the Vijay Merchant Trophy at Lalbhai Contractor Stadium today, storming into the finals poised to claim the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)'s first-ever championship trophy.

Resuming from an overnight 264/4, J&K captain Smagey Khajuria anchored the innings with a gritty marathon century-100 off 213 balls, laced with 5 fours and 2 sixes-before declaring at 390/9 for a commanding first-innings lead of 353 runs. Jaskaran Singh remained unbeaten on 53, while Adnan Manzoor's explosive 73 off 71 balls (8 fours, 3 sixes) provided early fireworks. Karman Singh (47) and Arsalan Niyak (42) chipped in with vital contributions. For Mizoram, Vanrem Sanga (4/??) and Samuel V (2/??) fought back



J&K team in jubilant mood after winning the match.

stoutly.

J&K's bowlers, spearheaded by Sanil Singh, then unleashed carnage in Mizoram's second innings, skitting them for a paltry 68. Joel top-scored with 29, Johan adding 14. Sanil was the destroyer-in-chief, ripping through with 5/14 in 6 overs; Jaskaran Singh (3/24) and the duo of Tariq Nabi (1/04) and Hammad Firdous (1/09) sealed the rout. Earlier, electing to bat first after winning the toss, Mizoram collapsed to 47 all out. Only skipper Lawma

(13) and Duhsaka (10) reached double figures. Rajveer Singh starred with a lethal 5/18 in 8 overs, Hammad Firdous (3 wkts), Tariq Nabi (1 wkt), and Atharav Sharma (1 wkt) mopping up the rest.

This marks Jammu & Kashmir's third consecutive innings victory-a resounding testament to the surging dominance of cricket in the region.

"Heartiest congratulations to the J&K U-16 team for this resounding innings and 275 runs demolition of

Mizoram. Stellar show by Smagey and Adnan with the willow, Sanil and Rajveer with the ball. Keep up the good work!" - Brig Anil Gupta.

The triumphant squad travels under the expert guidance of head coach Sameer Khajuria (former First-Class cricketer), coach Muzaffar Mattoo, manager Shashi Kumar (former First-Class cricketer), strength & conditioning coach Amit Bargotra, physiotherapist Karan Nayyar, and performance analyst Sheikh Suhail.

# Indian Hawks Skaters wins 11 medals at 63rd National Roller Skating Championship

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

VISAKHAPATNAM: Skaters of Indian Hawks Sports Academy delivered a commanding performance by winning 11 medals at the 63rd National Roller Skating Championship, held at Visakhapatnam from December 5 to 15, 2025.

Tamanna Saini was the standout performer, securing two gold, one silver and one bronze medal. She also won the prestigious 42 km Marathon race, contested in a combined age group of junior girls and senior women, showcasing her exceptional endurance and competitive excellence.

Puneesh Puri clinched two



Medal winner skaters posing for a photograph.

gold medals, marking a remarkable achievement as he successfully transitioned from quad to inline skating. Competing in the inline category for the first time, he maintained his winning leg-

cy with dominant performances.

Udhay Narayan claimed one gold and one bronze medal and displayed remarkable resilience. Despite suffering a fall in one of his

aces, he recovered strongly and finished competitively, underlining his determination and fighting spirit.

Kartikaya Puri, who won one gold and one bronze medal, continues to be a strong force in senior competition. He is regarded as the ice-breaker who initiated gold-winning performances in the Senior Men's Quad category and continues to maintain his dominance at the national level.

Samarjot Singh added one silver medal, a performance that reflected his never-give-up attitude and fighting spirit.

Ashok Gandotra (Retd. Chief Engineer), Chief

Patron of Indian Hawks Sports Academy, congratulated the skaters for maintaining their supremacy at the national level. He also thanked the J&K Sports Council and the Jammu & Kashmir Roller Skating Association (JKRSA) for providing opportunities and support to the young skaters, and encouraged the athletes to continue upgrading their performance standards to secure a berth in the Indian National Team.

The sustained success of Indian Hawks Sports Academy highlights its commitment to nurturing elite athletes and promoting excellence in roller sports.

## CLUJ organises two-day workshop on ‘Preserving the Past: Cultural Artefacts and Their Conservation in Museums’

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Museum & Art Gallery and the Museology & Heritage Conservation Lab, Department of History, School of Social Sciences, Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ), successfully organised a two-day workshop titled "Preserving the Past: Cultural Artefacts and Their Conservation in Museums" with the aim of sensitising students towards the importance of cultural heritage and its preservation. The workshop was conducted under the patronage of the Dean, School of Social Sciences, CLUJ, Dr. Vishal Sharma, and witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty.

The first day of the workshop featured a lecture-cum-technical session held at the Department of History, SOSS, CLUJ. The session was conducted by the distinguished resource person, Kirpal Dev Singh, Retired Curator, Dogra Art Museum, Jammu. He delivered an insightful lecture on the significance of cultural artefacts, their historical



A dignitary felicitating at a programme.

value, and the scientific as well as ethical principles involved in museum conservation. The lecture covered various aspects such as preservation techniques, challenges in safeguarding artefacts, and the crucial role museums play in protecting tangible cultural heritage. The interactive nature of the session enabled students to gain both theoretical understanding and practical perspectives.

The second day was devoted to a fieldwork session conducted at Ramji Mandir, Tandon Khoo, Jammu. This hands-on experience allowed students to observe conservation practices in a real-world heritage setting. Under the

guidance of Mr. Kirpal Dev Singh, students learned about identification, documentation and preservation of artefacts at the site.

A total of 28 students from the Department of History actively participated in the workshop. The programme was further strengthened by the academic support of faculty members Dr. Nitin Chandel, Dr. Arvind Singh Jamwal and Dr. Roshni Charak. The experiential learning approach enhanced students' analytical skills, observational abilities and awareness of conservation challenges, instilling a deeper sense of responsibility towards preserving cultural heritage.

# Srinagar clinches overall title as Inter-District UT Level U-19 Girls Judo Tournament concludes



Winner team receiving trophy.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: The Inter-District UT Level Judo Tournament for Under-19 girls concluded successfully today at the Sports Stadium, Kathua, showcasing impressive performances by young judokas from across the Union Territory. The event reflected high standards of skill, discipline and sportsmanship, highlighting the growing strength of judo at the grassroots level.

Judokas from Jammu, Kathua, Srinagar, Reasi, Samba, Udhampur and Ganderbal competed in various weight categories, making the tournament highly competitive. In the -40 kg category, Prachi of Jammu secured the gold medal, while Isha of Samba won silver.

In the -44 kg category,

Sunakshi Devi of Kathua clinched gold, followed by Lakshita of Jammu with silver. Bronze medals were shared by Sumriti Katoch of Udhampur and Pooja Devi of Reasi. The -48 kg category saw ADN Arshid of Srinagar winning gold, Diksha Devi of Reasi taking silver, and Shivanshi of Jammu along with Sonam Sharma of Kathua securing bronze medals.

Srinagar continued its strong showing in the -52 kg category, where Nazia Fatima won gold and Kashu Devi of Reasi claimed silver. Khushi Sharma of Kathua and Kashavi of Jammu won bronze medals. In the -57 kg category, Sapaf Khatoun of Srinagar emerged victorious with gold, while Marzina of Kathua earned silver. Bronze

medals went to Kakshita Sharma of Udhampur and Mariyam Shabir of Ganderbal.

Based on the overall medal tally and performances, District Srinagar lifted the overall winners' trophy, while District Kathua finished as the runner-up. The trophies were presented by the District Youth Services and Sports Officer Kathua, Shri Sunil Singh Sambyal, who congratulated the players for their dedication and encouraged them to continue striving for excellence in sports.

The tournament was organised under the overall supervision of the District Youth Services and Sports Officer Kathua as part of continued efforts to promote sports culture and nurture young talent across the Union Territory.

# Sansad Khel Mahotsav organised at Block Basohli, Bhoond

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: The Sansad Khel Mahotsav was successfully organized today at Zone Basohli, covering Block Basohli and Block Bhoond, under the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Kumar, and under the supervision of the District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Kathua, Sunil Singh Sambyal. The event aimed at promoting sports culture and encouraging active participation of youth at the grassroots level.

The Mahotsav was conducted under the supervision of In-charge ZPEO Zone Basohli, Tara Singh. The Chief Guest on the occasion was Pankaj Bhagotra, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Basohli, who interacted with the players, met them personally, and boosted their morale by encouraging them to pursue sports with dedication and discipline.

Other dignitaries present included the

Principal, Model HSS Basohli (Block Basohli), Brij Bhushan Padha, and the Principal (Block Bhoond), Satish Kumar Chandel, who appreciated the efforts of the organizers and motivated the youth to actively participate in sports for their physical and overall development.

Several sporting disciplines including Volleyball, Athletics, Kabaddi, Tug of War, Wrestling, and Badminton were organized during the event, witnessing enthusiastic participation from young sportspersons across the zone.

The total participation from Block Basohli and Block Bhoond was 121 players, reflecting the growing interest of youth in sports activities.

The successful execution of the Sansad Khel Mahotsav highlighted strong coordination among the organizing team and officials. The programme concluded on a positive note, with appreciation extended to the players and staff for their commitment, discipline, and cooperation.