

J&K emerging as Hub of Sporting activities: Satish Felicitates winners, participants of International Kushti Dangal, ‘Rustam-e-Jammu & Kashmir’ championship at Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Minister for Youth, Services and Sports, Satish Sharma on Saturday remarked that Jammu and Kashmir is steadily emerging as hub of sporting activities, owing to sustained government support, improved infrastructure and increasing youth participation.

The Minister made these remarks while addressing the grand closing ceremony of the International Kushti Dangal and "Rustam-e-Jammu & Kashmir" Title Championship, held at M.A. Stadium here.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister said that government is committed to strengthen sports infrastructure, expanding grassroots participation and integrating technology and innovation to promote sports excellence across urban and rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting the Jammu & Kashmir's rising stature on the national and international sports map, the Minister



Sports Minister, Satish Sharma presenting award to winner wrestler.

underlined that the growing frequency of national and international tournaments in the region is a clear indicator of Jammu & Kashmir's evolving sports ecosystem.

While felicitating the winners and participants during the closing ceremony, Satish Sharma congratulated the athletes for their outstanding performances and said that such international-level events reflect the positive transformation of Jammu & Kashmir into a vibrant

sports destination. "Revival and promotion of traditional sports like Kushti not only preserve cultural heritage but also provide meaningful avenues for youth engagement, fitness and discipline," the Minister stated.

Secretary, Sports Council in her address said that the overwhelming response from athletes and spectators reflects a thriving sports culture in the Union Territory. She emphasised that promotion of indigenous sports will

continue to receive focused attention.

President, Indian Style Wrestling Association of J&K, while speaking on the occasion, expressed gratitude to the J&K Government and the Minister for their continued encouragement. He lauded the efforts of officials, referees and volunteers for the successful conduct of the championship.

The championship witnessed participation of Wrestlers from different

parts of India and abroad, who showcased exceptional skill and strength, transforming the event into a spectacular celebration of indigenous sports.

The highlight of the championship was the "Rustam-e-Jammu & Kashmir" Title bout, in which Ishaq Ahmad demonstrated remarkable strength and technique to clinch the coveted title. Aamir Khan secured the runner-up position, followed by Diler Khan and Sadaq Gajansoo.

Among the prominent bouts, Dinesh Dankar defeated Tamarlan of Russia, Balu Bodake of Maharashtra outplayed Khetag from Russia, while Tedo from Georgia registered a victory over Bania Min of Jammu. In other encounters, Hamid from Iran defeated Lucky Kohli of Punjab, Nadeem from Doda (J&K) emerged victorious against Irfan from Iran, and Arjun from Jammu defeated Mohammad from Iran.

Humanity Public School organises Anti-Drug Awareness Programme



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Humanity Public School, Bassi Kalan, Bari Brahmna, in collaboration with the J&K Police, Bari Brahmna, successfully organized an Anti-Drug Awareness Campaign aimed at educating students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of leading a healthy, drug-free life. The programme began with the presentation of bouquets and mementos to the guests by the Principal, Gaurav Charak, along with Akashdeep Raina, Admin In-charge, and Namrta Sharma, High Wing In-charge. In his welcome address, Gaurav Charak highlighted the growing menace of substance abuse among youth and emphasized the combined role of education, family, and society in its prevention. The event was graced by the Chief Guest, Inspector Rajeshwar Singh Salathia, SHO, Police Station Bari Brahmna, who delivered an inspiring and informative address. He spoke in detail about the social, physical, and psychological consequences of drug addiction and urged students to adopt the slogan, "No to Drugs, Yes to Life." Various awareness activities including

speeches, a debate, and an oath-taking ceremony were conducted to sensitize students. Students from different classes actively participated, conveying strong messages on self-discipline, healthy habits, positive peer influence, and a drug-free lifestyle. Abbul Hassan (Class 7th); Parachi Choudhary, Angel, Prachi, Varsha, and Shabnam (Class 9th); Aditi (Class 10th); Afreen and Khushboo (Class 11th); and Manyata Billowria (Class 12th) delivered impactful speeches. Varsha, Angel, and Prachi Choudhary of Class 9th secured first, second, and third positions respectively. Addressing the gathering, Principal Gaurav Charak stressed that awareness and early intervention are the most effective tools to combat drug addiction. He encouraged students to seek help when needed and spread awareness in society.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Reena Kumari, TGT, acknowledging the efforts of all organizers, participants, and guests. The campaign reinforced the school's commitment to building a safe, healthy, and drug-free society.

23rd J&K UT Athletics Championship begins

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two-day 23rd J&K UT Athletics Championship, organised by the J&K Amateur Athletics Association (JKAAA), got underway at Synthetic Athletics arena, University of Jammu, here on Saturday.

The event is being held under the auspices of the Athletics Federation of India and in support with J&K Sports Council and University of Jammu as also Department of Youth Services and Sports, J&K.

The championship is being conducted in Under-14, Under-16, Under-18,



Under-20, and Open categories in both male and female categories. Around 800 athletes from various districts of the J&K are participating in this two-

day championship in field and track events.

The championship was formally declared open by Dr Ashutosh Sharma, veteran sports administrator

and vice president of Athletics Federation of India.

He appreciated the J&K unit of the Athletics Association for holding the activities on a regular basis thus providing ample of opportunities to the young athletes to perform and excel. Prominent among those who were present in the opening were Sharat Chander Singh, general secretary, JKAAA; Ravinder Singh, senior vice-president, JKAAA; Ajay Sharma, Vinod Bhatia; Rajesh Kumar, Treasurer, JKAAA; Nirmal Singh; Sarabjeet Singh; Pawandeep Kour; and Seema Kharyal.

J&K Master Roller Hockey clinch National championship for 7th time

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In the recently concluded 63rd National Roller Skating championship, held at Vizag, the J&K Masters roller hockey team under the captaincy of veteran player Rajesh Anand proved their mettle again and clinched the title for 7th time, proving they are best masters roller hockey team in India.

For the last six years, the team is winning gold medal and again they proved their superiority with solid performance by winning the championship.

The J&K masters roller hockey team played against



Winner team in jubilant mood after winning the match.

Telengana (4-3), Haryana (16-1) and the match with Chandigarh was under pressure but all the players performed as a team and the

match was resulted in draw (5-5).

J&K have benefitted most from the consistent performance of Krish Gupta who

blew holes in the opponents armour.

Ankush, Atul and Raibrinder's experience keeps everything simple, whereas Arvin and Vikram's contribution was clearly visible during all the matches. Goal keeper Gagan Singh's precious saves motivated the players to score goals against the opponents. Pertinently, the Masters roller hockey team of Jammu did not even lose a single match for the last 7 years in the Nationals. Many veteran players congratulated the team's performance and hoped that they will continue this rhythm of becoming champion at Nationals.

GGM Science College bags first prize in Group Dance Mahotsav-2025

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: GGM Science College, Jammu once again brought laurels to the institution by securing First Prize in the Inter-College Group Dance Competition held under

Mahotsav-2025, organized by the Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir Economic Growth and Development Dialogue (LEAD) at the college football ground. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from various colleges, celebrating youth talent, culture, and creativity.

The award-winning performance by the students of GGM Science College was a perfect blend of



Principal GGM Science College, Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta felicitating winner college team.

rhythm, coordination, and expression, leaving the audience spellbound. The talented team comprised M. Zaigham Salaria,

Manmeet Kour, Anirudh Sodhi and Natasha (Semester V), along with Swastika Sharma, Manvi Jamwal, Meenakshi Devi

and Tanvi Bilowria (Semester I). Their scintillating performance earned them the top position in the competition.

The team was felicitated with mementos by the Chief Guest, Lieutenant Governor of UT of Leh, Kavinder Gupta, in the august presence of distinguished dignitaries and organizers of Mahotsav-2025, adding prestige to the achievement.

The victorious dance team, along with Dr. Yasmeen Mughal, Convener, Cultural Committee, was warmly felicitated by the Principal of the College, Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, in his office chambers.

Congratulating the students, Dr. Gupta lauded their dedication, discipline, and passion, stating that such achievements reflect the holistic educational environment of the college.

In his message, Dr. Gupta emphasized that co-curricular activities like dance and cultural events play a vital role in nurturing confidence, teamwork, and leadership among students. He reaffirmed the college's commitment to encouraging young talent by providing ample opportunities to excel beyond academics.

Dr. Revika Arora and Prof. Muqem Ansari were also joined in appreciating the remarkable accomplishment of the students and the Cultural Committee.

Irham wins Junior Snooker title

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Irham Parvez bagged the Junior Snooker title beating Sourav Santya 3-2 in a closely contested final in the ongoing 29th J&K Billiards and Snooker Championships, organised by J&K Billiards and Snooker Association at Billiards Hall, M A Stadium, here today.

Both the cueists played like champions throughout the five frame title clash this afternoon.

Levelled at 2-2, Irham clinched the decider 52-31 to emerge Junior UT Snooker Champion.

Earlier, in the semifinals, Irham Parvez defeated Mahan Sahney 2-0 (50-18, 38-05) and Sourav trounced Muqram 2-1 (68-16, 27-64, 56-48). Further, 12 matches decided in the ongoing first round of the senior snooker event with all top seed players winning their games.

Meanwhile, the organising team informed that the entries for all three categories of sub-junior, junior and senior in Billiards shall close tomorrow. Those interested participants have



Sourav Santya in action during the final of Junior Snooker at Billiards Hall, MA Stadium in Jammu.

been advised to confirm their entries by tomorrow evening.

The Results: Senior Snooker (First Round): Rameshwar Sambyal bt Anil 2-0; Vishal Abrol bt Ranveer 2-1; Karan Singh bt anan Obroi 2-0; Kamran bt Gurjeev Singh 2-0; Rajat Sharma bt Vishal Mehra 2-1; Sahil Gupta bt Subham Parbhakar 2-0; Dileep Singh bt Akash Gupta 2-0; Jatendrya Vaid bt Varun Sharma 2-0; Abhishek Gupta bt Adnan Saini 2-1; Aman Sharma bt Ankit Anand 2-0; Sourav Santya bt Basit 2-1.

Junior Kabaddi team leaves for Kolkata

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Junior Kabaddi team of J&K on Saturday left for participation in the 51st Junior Girls National Kabaddi Championship scheduled to be held at Kolkata from December 25 to December 28.

The team was flagged off by Dr Kuldeep Kumar Gupta, general secretary J&K Amateur Kabaddi Association from Kabaddi arena, MA Stadium, here today.

The team is sponsored by the J&K Sports Council



Junior Kabaddi team posing with dignitaries at flagging off ceremony.

(JKSC). Before team's departure, the selected girls underwent screening, conducted by the JKSC officials,

including Divisional Sports Officer (Jammu), Iqbal Singh.

The team also presented

the sports kit in the presence of Vikas Jandial (co-convenor, Sports Cell, BJP), Surinder Mohan (ex-

general secretary), Sangram Singh, Ajay Gupta (chief coach), Anil Sharma (chief coach), Rakesh Sharma (international player), Nisha Devi and Sikander Lal.

The Team: Divya Chouhan (Captain), Naysa Singh, Ishika, Vaibhavi Sharma, Mehak, Tabassum, Saniya Jan, Rashi Sadhyal, Samiksha Anand, Sunaina, Ritika Bhagat, Karitika Verma, Marifa Bilal and Sonakshi Khajuria. Nisha Devi (Coach) and Sikander Lal (Manager).

Samba FC, Hero FC register wins in football

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Samba FC registered an emphatic 5-0 win over SCFA and Hero FC edged past Churchill Brothers in tie-breaker on the fourth day of the 19th Christmas Gold Cup Football Tournament 2025. The tournament is being organized by the 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 today.

In first match of the day, Samba FC got off to a flying start with Gagandeep opening the scoring in the



very first minute and adding another goal in the 26th minute. Rahul Katal further strengthened the lead with goals in the 20th and 50th minutes, while Nitin sealed the rout by scoring in the 60th minute.

Samba FC players Nikhil Sambyal and Rohit were shown yellow cards, with Rohit later receiving a red card. Gurpreet Singh and Krishan Kalsi of SCFA were also shown yellow cards. The match was offi-

ciated by referee Satnam Singh, assisted by Kartik Sharma, Bilal Ahmed and Dilbahadur.

In another match, Hero FC emerged victorious against Churchill Brothers after winning the tie-breaker 3-2 following a goalless draw at full time. The tightly contested match saw both teams creating chances but failing to break the deadlock. Hero FC players Steve (6th minute), Manveer (21st minute) and Rakib (27th minute) received yellow cards during the match. Churchill Brothers suffered a setback when Himanshu was shown a red card in the

33rd minute. The match was refereed by Ricky Kumar, with Ramesh Kumar, Aman Sudan and Satnam Singh as assistant referees.

Several guests including Ramesh Chander, David Masih, Sodagar Mattoo, Yousaf Don, Grifan Gill, Nitin Bagga, Rajesh Sumbria, Kamaljeet, Shujah, Moon Stephan, Sebastian and others witnessed the matches.

Tomorrow's fixtures will see Jammu Sports Association take on Nagrota FC, while Pegasus FC will face Jammu FC Paloura.

Heritagean gymnast Shrenya Sharma selected for 69th School National Games

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Heritagean Shrenya Sharma, delivered an exceptional performance at the Divisional/UT Level Gymnastics Tournament and brought laurels to the school. The event was organised by Youth Services and Sports from 3rd November to 5th November 2025 at M.A. Stadium. Demonstrating remarkable skill, discipline and versatility across multiple formats of gymnastics, Shrenya secured the third position in Floor Exercise (Artistic Gymnastics) and clinched the second position in All-Round Artistic Gymnastics. Adding to her impressive tally, she also earned the Third Position in All-Round Rhythmic Gymnastics, showcasing her all-round excellence and adaptability across disciplines. Her consistent and commendable performance has further earned her selection for the 69th School National



Heritage family extended its heartfelt congratulations to Shrenya Sharma and wishes her the very best for the upcoming National Games.