

Sheetal shines, but recurve concerns linger in Indian Archery 2025

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KOLKATA: Sheetal Devi's trailblazing feats despite being born without arms stood out as she lifted Indian archery to new heights in 2025, but the sport was also pulled back by familiar cracks in recurve inconsistencies and administrative concerns ahead of next year's Asian Games.

Hailing from Jammu's Kishitwar, the 18-year-old Sheetal was a personification of grit through the year with solid performances. Already a Paralympic bronze-medallist from Paris 2024, the 18-year-old reached unprecedented heights by becoming the first female armless world champion in para archery. At the World Para Archery



Championships in Gwangju, South Korea, Sheetal struck gold in the women's compound open event, defeating Paralympic champion Ozgur Cure Girdi of Turkey in the final. She also added a team silver and a mixed team bronze to cap a remarkable campaign. Born without arms due to a

rare congenital condition called phocomelia, Sheetal pushed boundaries further by qualifying for her first able-bodied international competition. Competing against more than 60 able-bodied archers at the national selection trials in Sonapat, Sheetal finished third in the final women's compound rankings

to earn a spot in India's junior team for the Asia Cup Stage 3 in Jeddah, which was later delayed due to scheduling issues. In another significant development, compound archery finally received Olympic recognition in 2025 after decades of waiting. In April, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced that the compound mixed team event will be included in the archery programme of the 2028 Los Angeles Games. It will be the first time since archery's reintroduction to the Olympics in 1972 that a new bow-style has been added. The inclusion brings the total number of Olympic archery medal events to six, alongside the existing five recurve competitions. For India, a nation yet to win an Olympic archery medal but boasting one of the strongest compound line-ups in the world, the decision came as a major boost. Archers like Abhishek Verma, Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Rishabh Yadav now carry realistic medal hopes heading into LA 2028. India enjoyed one of its finest continental outings at the Asian Archery Championships in Dhaka, topping the medal table with 10 medals -- six gold, three silver and one bronze. The performance included several historic moments, highlighted by India dethroning traditional powerhouse South Korea in multiple events.

Dy CM felicitates Rollball World Cup gold medallists

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, on Wednesday felicitated the winners of the 7th Rollball World Cup, held in Dubai from December 14 to 18, 2025, for their outstanding performance at the international level.

Representing India, Hiteswar Singh and Suvridha Sarin, who competed in the Men's and Women's categories respectively clinched gold medals in their respective events, bringing immense pride and laurels to the Jammu and Kashmir. Congratulating the players on their remarkable achievement, the Deputy Chief Minister lauded their dedication, discipline and perseverance. He said that their success reflects the immense sporting potential of the



Dy CM Surinder Choudhary felicitating winners of the 7th Rollball World Cup.

youth of Jammu and Kashmir: "J&K youth possess exceptional talent and the ability to compete at any national and international level. With the right platform, encouragement and institutional support, they can excel and bring glory to the region," the Deputy Chief Minister said. He reiterated the Government's commitment to

promoting sports culture in Jammu and Kashmir and assured all necessary support to budding sportspersons to help them realise their full potential. The Deputy Chief Minister added that achievements like these serve as an inspiration for young athletes and strengthen Jammu and Kashmir's presence on the global sports map.

KNIT celebrates Christmas Eve, welcomes New Year

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Kotwal National Institute of Teaching (KNIT), Bharat Nagar, Talab Tillo celebrated the festival of joy, Christmas with pomp and show. The Knitians organised a special Morning assembly comprising Carol singing, speeches and festive fun. Entire KNIT staff and the students were buzzing with excitement and joy.

KNIT premises was decorated by the students and teachers. Students, in their speeches threw light on the life of Lord Jesus and felt thrilled in welcoming the new year. Coral singing and Poems recitation were quite appreciable.



Teacher also spoke on Lord Jesus life, kindness and compassion, to be followed by all especially students. Haneey Bhat and Sweetie Bhat highlighted the preaching of Lord Jesus Christ and encouraged the students.

The Director, Prof J.L Kotwal and the Principal, Bimla Blawria showered their blessings on the staff and the students. The programme concluded with distribution of sweets by Santa Claus.

Hiver Fest 2025 organised at KC Public School

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The 9th edition of the Annual Hiver Fest 2025 was organised by the Commerce and Economics Departments of KC Public School with great zest and fervour under the mentorship of Pooja Chaturvedi and Dr. Rakesh Verma.

This fundraising event supports various service-related projects undertaken by students under the aegis of the Round Square and the International Award for Young People (IAYP). This year, the event was held on two separate dates, namely, on December 23 for classes 1 to 5 and on December 24 for classes 6



KCPS faculty and students at a programme.

to 12. The first day of the event held on December 23 for the primary school students was filled with excitement as children bustled around

with enthusiasm. Principal, A.K Mishra graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Games such as Roll the Dice, Lollipop Tree and Balti Coin attracted a

large number of students. A variety of food stalls added to the festive atmosphere. The day concluded with a lucky draw. The second day of the event held on December 24 was even more thrilling with senior students participating in large numbers. The inclusion of outsiders this year significantly increased the scale and vitality of the event. Games such as 'Grab the Light' and 'Knock the Glasses' kept students thoroughly engaged. The display of Kawasaki bikes at the venue drew great attention from the students.

The day concluded with the Chief Guest Mamta Sharma, Joint Director, Handicrafts, giving away the lucky draw prizes. The other dignitaries who graced the occasion were: Chairman Raju Chaudhary; Managing Director, Arti Chaudhary; Vice Chairman, Arjun Chaudhary; and Director, Tanvi Chaudhary. Overall, the event was a major success. Teachers, students and visitors thoroughly enjoyed the days. The event not only served as a festive occasion but also as a fun and engaging way to foster marketing and entrepreneurial spirit among students.

14th Police Martyr's Memorial NZ T-20 cricket tournament Haryana CA, Sabhi XI register wins

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: On the third day of the 14th Police Martyrs Memorial North Zone T-20 Cricket Championship 2025-26, two exciting matches were played at the Sports Stadium, Kathua, showcasing competitive cricket and strong individual performances.

In the first match, Haryana CA took on 6 AM Gladiators Hisaar in the morning session. After winning the toss, 6 AM Gladiators elected to bat first.

Their innings, however, struggled against disciplined bowling as the team was bundled out for 128 runs in 19.3 overs.

Babresh Saini top-scored with 28 runs off 24 balls, including four boundaries, while Sandeep contributed



A player receiving Man of the Match award.

27 runs off 27 balls with three boundaries. Chasing a modest target of 129 runs, Haryana CA displayed an aggressive batting approach and comfortably achieved the target in 11.2 overs, losing only four wickets. Vision Panchal played a commanding knock of 50 runs off 29 balls, hitting five boundaries and three sixes. He was well supported by

Ashwani Chiller, who scored a quick 34 runs off 14 balls, smashing two boundaries and four sixes. Haryana CA won the match by six wickets, with Vision Panchal being declared Man of the Match for his match-winning performance.

The second match of the day was played between Verma CC Sahnawal and Sabhi XI Hoshiarpur. Verma

CC won the toss and opted to bowl first. Batting first, Sabhi XI Hoshiarpur posted a competitive total of 162 runs for the loss of six wickets in their allotted 20 overs. Dhruv Singh anchored the innings with a brilliant 67 runs off 48 balls, which included seven boundaries and two sixes. Shivam Bhan added valuable support with 29 runs off 21 balls, hitting

three boundaries and one six. In reply, Verma CC Sahnawal fought hard but fell short of the target, getting bowled out for 147 runs in 18 overs. Shahbaz Tangri was the standout performer for Verma CC, scoring 54 runs off 38 balls with four boundaries and four sixes, while Abhishek contributed 29 runs off 14 balls, including four boundaries and two sixes. Sabhi XI Hoshiarpur clinched the match by 14 runs. For his outstanding batting display, Dhruv Singh was adjudged Man of the Match. The championship continues to witness thrilling contests, reflecting the competitive spirit and high standard of cricket being played in the tournament.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJKOT: Qamran Iqbal and Shubham Khajuria unleashed a batting masterclass, while bowlers led by the incisive Lone Nasir Muzaffar orchestrated a clinical demolition, propelling Jammu & Kashmir to a commanding 10-wicket victory over Chandigarh in the Vijay Hazare One-Day Trophy at Sanosara Cricket Ground B today.

Chasing a gettable 209, J&K openers Qamran and Shubham scripted an unbroken 209-run partnership, romping home in just 42.5 overs. Shubham's gritty masterpiece of 130 off 106 balls-adorned with 20 boundaries-exemplified unyielding tenacity, while Qamran's elegant 72 off 116 (7 fours) blended flair and solidity in a symphony of



dominance. Earlier, electing to bowl first, J&K's attack crumbled Chandigarh for 208 in 39.5 overs. Taranpreet Singh led the resistance with 43 off 51 (6 fours), backed by Tushar Joshi's 42 off 57 (3 boundaries). Arslan Z. Khan chipped in a brisk 27 off 21 (6 fours), with Vishu unbeaten on 22. Lone Nasir Muzaffar spearheaded the bowling

fireworks, claiming 4-44 in 9 overs. Aquib Nabi (2-26 in 8) and Abid Mushtaq (2 wickets) struck crucial blows, while Murugan Ashwin snared one. "The team deserves thunderous applause for this emphatic triumph. Nasir, Aquib, and Abid were lethal with the ball, while Shubham and Qamran wielded the willow like maestros," declared Brig Anil Gupta.

GMS Rattanpur celebrates Christmas Day



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Government Middle School (GMS) Rattanpur, Zone Marh, Jammu celebrated Christmas Day on Wednesday with great enthusiasm and joy on the school premises. The celebration was organized under the guidance of the Head/Incharge, Anjana Khajuria, with the active participation of all staff members. The programme aimed to spread the message of love, peace, and brotherhood among students.

Students took part in activities highlighting the significance of Christmas and the teachings of Lord Jesus Christ. Teachers guided the students about moral values such as kindness, compassion, and unity. Anjana Khajuria appreciated the efforts of staff and students and emphasized the importance of celebrating festivals together to promote harmony and mutual respect. The programme concluded on a cheerful and memorable note.

Heritageans visit Swadeshi Mela to support indigenous livelihoods

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Students of Heritage School, accompanied by their teachers, visited the Swadeshi Mela at Bahu Plaza on Wednesday to express solidarity with the initiative promoting Swadeshi products and indigenous industries. The visit aimed to educate students about local handicrafts, traditional skills and the importance of supporting indigenous livelihoods, echoing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call of 'Make in India', along with his long-standing advocacy of Swadeshi, Atmanirbhar Bharat and the vision of Viksit Bharat.



The Swadeshi Mela, announced by BJP J&K leadership, features award-winning local products and dedicated stalls reviving Jammu & Kashmir's dying cuisines, providing artisans, craftsmen and traditional food makers a platform to showcase their work and reach wider audiences.

The initiative encourages public participation to strengthen local economies and preserve cultural heritage. During the visit, students interacted with artisans and stallholders, gaining first-hand exposure to traditional

crafts and indigenous products. The experience fostered awareness among students about conscious consumption, self-reliance and the role of youth in sustaining local craftsmanship and traditional livelihoods. The visit reinforced Heritage School's

commitment to experiential learning and social responsibility, while fostering awareness among students about preserving cultural heritage and contributing to the vision of a self-reliant and developed India through informed and responsible choices.

Karman's ton, Athrav's 8-wicket haul put J&K on brink of 4th straight innings win

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SURAT: Karman Singh unfurled a masterful century, backed by sparkling fifties from Hadi Amin and Hammad Firdous, before Athrav Sharma's mesmerising leg-spin ripped through Sikkim to position Jammu & Kashmir for a fourth consecutive innings victory in the U-16 Men's Vijay Merchant Trophy at CK Pitawala Ground here today.

Opting to bat first, J&K racked up a commanding 405/9 declared in 85 overs. Karman Singh anchored the innings with a superb 142 off 258 balls, laced



with 17 boundaries, while Hadi Amin (54) and Hammad Firdous (50) provided vital support. Arslan Nayyar chipped in with a brisk 43 as J&K's young batters dominated. Sikkim's Biswash snared 3 wickets, with Ladip, Towel, and Sahil Rai pick-

ing up one wicket apiece. In reply, Sikkim crumbled for a meager 120 all out. Athrav Sharma was the architect of their downfall, claiming a sensational 8/24 in 19 overs. Sanil Singh (2/39 in 21.3 overs) provided excellent support. Raunak (17), skipper

Yoowel (13), and Bishwash (11) were Sikkim's top scorers. Forced to follow on, Sikkim staggered to 30/3 in their second innings-trailing by 255 runs with seven wickets remaining. Chopal (5) and Ladip (0) at the crease. Abhinav top-scored with

16. Earlier in Sikkim's first innings, Sanil Singh had grabbed 2 wickets, with Hammad Firdous claiming one. JKCA Member-Administration lauded the "young brigade" for showcasing their talent yet again. "In our fourth match, Karman's third ton (142), Hadi Amin's 54, and Hammad's 50 propelled us to 405/9 declared. Athrav then spun a web with 8/24. Sikkim, trailing by 285 in the first dig, are 30/3 now. Poised for another innings triumph - immensely proud!" Brig Gupta.

Pegasus FC, Samba FC register wins in 19th Christmas Gold Cup Football

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The 19th Christmas Gold Cup Football Tournament 2025, organised by the All J&K Sports & Cultural Welfare Association under the aegis of the J&K Football Association (DFA Jammu), witnessed exciting football action at the Mini Stadium, Parade Ground, Jammu, as Pegasus FC and Samba FC emerged as the winning teams on Wednesday. Pegasus FC defeated United FC Kathua by 2-0 in a well-contested match. Pegasus took an early lead when Musabok scored in the 15th minute of the first half. The team maintained control over the game and added a second goal in the 40th minute of the second half, scored by Zeeshan, securing a comfortable victory. The match was officiated by referees Ajay Singh, Kartik, Bilal and Dheeraj. In another exciting match, Samba FC registered a commanding 4-1

win over Katra FC. Katra FC initially went ahead when Abhay scored in the 11th minute, but Samba FC quickly responded with an equaliser by Rahul in the 14th minute. Samba FC then dominated the match with Devinder scoring in the 39th minute, followed by Ashvini in the 48th minute and Davinder in the 50th minute, sealing a comprehensive victory. The referees for this match were Vijay Kumar, Kartik, Dheeraj and Aman. The tournament is drawing large crowds and strong participation from football teams across Jammu and Kashmir, reflecting the growing popularity of the sport in the region. The Tournament will continue tomorrow with two important matches. The first match will be played between Sanik Colony FC and Samba FC at 12:30 PM, followed by the first quarterfinal between JK Police and Young Hero at 2:30 PM.