

Rainawari Cricket Club celebrates KPL Gurgaon champions in grand ceremony

Brig Anil Gupta presents trophies, mementos

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Rainawari Cricket Club (RCC), an esteemed affiliate of the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA), hosted a vibrant and well-attended felicitation ceremony at the JKCA Hostel Ground today to honour its triumphant team that clinched the KPL Gurgaon title.

Brig Anil Gupta, Member-Administration of JKCA, graced the event as chief guest. Meenu Singh Slathia, Member of the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) JKCA, and Chaman Lal Suri, former President of RCC, served as guests of honour.

Distinguished representatives from JKCA-affiliated clubs, including Rakesh Koul, Rajeev Pandita, Anil



Member-Administration JKCA, Brig Anil Gupta felicitating Rainawari Cricket Club team.

Koul, and Kirti Dhar, added prestige to the occasion.

The spotlight shone on the victorious players felicitated with trophies and mementos: Arzoo Wakhloo, Ayushi Ambardar, Asma Malik, Pragati Roy, Romani, Sania Slathia, Jeevika Koul, Preeti Pandita, Palak Bhandral, Nirvi Jotshi, Neetu Pandita,

Anjana Wakhloo, and Seema Bhat.

The anchor also acknowledged other dedicated RCC members not part of the tournament squad: Chitra Singh Jamwal, Bismah Hassan, Bushraf Ashraf, Bawandeep Kaur, Sheena Saraf, Vitasta Kitchloo, Parul Dhar, and Bhagya

Lakshmi Jamwal.

Special mementos went to Chaman Lal Suri (former President and General Secretary of RCC), Meenu Singh Slathia (CAC Member, JKCA), and commentators Saqlain Mushtaq and Faizan Qayoom.

Brig Gupta personally presented the winners' trophy to

the team amid resounding applause. In a gesture of appreciation, Chaman Lal Suri and Kirti Dhar honored the chief guest with a memento.

Delivering an inspiring address, Brig Gupta motivated the players to aim higher, while they showered praise on Brig Gupta and Kirti Dhar for their tireless efforts in nurturing cricket talent and creating vital opportunities.

The proceedings of the felicitation function were conducted by Rakesh Pandita.

In a thrilling highlight, players and officials seized the sidelines of the event for a memorable interaction with BCCI President and local legend Mithun Manhas, son of the soil.

Kulgam Volleyball District Championship begins



Participating teams posing for a photograph with dignitaries.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KULGAM: The District Kulgam Volleyball Championship commenced at the Sports Ground, Akhran, under the aegis of the Volleyball Association of Jammu and Kashmir. The event is being organised by the District Kulgam Volleyball Association and sponsored by the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council.

A total of 18 teams, including six teams in the girls' section,

are participating in the championship, reflecting growing enthusiasm for volleyball in the district.

The tournament was formally inaugurated by Mehboob Ahmad, SHO Mirbazar, who lauded the efforts of the organisers, particularly District Secretary Nelofer Habib, for promoting sports at the grassroots level.

Prominent dignitaries present on the occasion included

Bashir Ahmed Mir, Manager Kulgam/Anantnag Stadium; Ruby Jan, international netball player and coach; Abid Manzoor Wani; and Aashiq Hussain Dar, Principal CCPS Akhran.

The Results (Preliminary Round): Chowgam Sports Club defeated Jessy Sports Club Bogund 3-1 (25-19, 25-15, 19-25, 25-21); Akhran Sports Club beat Parvaiz Club 3 0 (25-22, 25-18, 26-24).

J&K Bank XI to face J&K Police XI in 19th Christmas Gold Cup Football Tournament Final



Participating teams posing for a photograph with dignitaries.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K Bank XI will lock horns with J&K Police XI in the final of the 19th Christmas Gold Cup Football Tournament 2025, being organised by the All J&K Sports & Cultural Welfare Association under the aegis of the J&K Football Association (DFA Jammu) on January 1, 2026 at 2:00 PM the Mini Stadium, Parade Ground, Jammu.

In the second semifinal played today, J&K Bank XI defeated Star FC Srinagar by 5-2 to secure their place in the title clash. The match witnessed high-quality football and strong attacking play from both sides. Star FC Srinagar took an early lead when Izaan scored in the 30th minute. However, J&K Bank XI made a strong comeback in the second half. Akif equalised in the 49th

minute, followed by Furkaan who gave J&K Bank XI the lead in the 52nd minute.

Star FC Srinagar fought back and scored their second goal through Salim in the 59th minute, but J&K Bank XI dominated the final phase of the game. They added three more goals in the 72nd, 75th and 80th minutes, sealing a convincing victory and a berth in the final.

The match was officiated by

Bilal Ahmed, Satnam Singh, Romesh Kumar and Dheeraj Menia, who ensured fair and smooth conduct of the game.

Today's match was graced by Advocate Zeshan Rana, Spokesperson of the National Conference, as the Chief Guest, while Sandeep Singh, Chairman of NGR Club, was the Guest of Honour. Other distinguished guests present included Charanjeet Singh (International), Ramesh Chander (International), Satnam Singh, General Manager NHPC Jammu, David Masih (Coach), Peter Sodagar, Kamaljeet (International), Amardeep Singh (International), Showkat Khanyari and Mohd Shuja.

With both J&K Bank XI and J&K Police XI in top form, an exciting final is expected as the tournament reaches its grand finale.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two thrilling matches were played on Tuesday in the HexaMed BIG Jammu Kashmir Premier League (BIG JKPL) 2025-26, organised by 92.7 BIG FM at the University of Jammu Ground, where Valley Stars Ganderbal and Sultan Warriors Baramulla registered commanding victories in their respective encounters.

The league is being conducted with HexaMed Diagnostics as the Title Partner, CT University as the Powered By Partner, Kanwal Spices and Oxford Hospital as Associate Partners, JK Sports Time as the Live Streaming Partner, and Pepsi as the Beverage Partner.

In the first match of the



A player receiving Player of the Match award.

day, Valley Stars Ganderbal put up a dominant all-round performance against Power Panthers. After Power Panthers won the toss and elected to bowl, Valley Stars posted a huge total of 211 runs. Nasir Kumar led from the front with a magnificent unbeaten 103, showing excellent timing and control throughout his innings. His knock laid a strong foundation

for a big total.

In reply, Power Panthers collapsed under pressure and were bowled out for just 51 runs. Samardeep delivered a sensational bowling spell, taking 6 wickets for only 3 runs, completely dismantling the opposition batting lineup. He was rightly awarded the Man of the Match for his outstanding performance as Valley Stars won by 158

runs.

The second match saw Sultan Warriors Baramulla face Nice Gems Cricket Club. Winning the toss, Sultan Warriors elected to bat and scored 205 for 8 in 20 overs. Nasir Ganie played a blistering knock of 48 not out off just 15 balls, while Zahid Dar (37) and Waseem Kachur (29) provided valuable support.

Nice Gems were bowled out for 118 in 16.1 overs. Arjun Singh starred with the ball, taking 4 wickets for 3 runs, while Aazim Rather claimed three wickets. Sultan Warriors won by 87 runs, with Nasir Ganie named Man of the Match.

The matches drew large crowds and reflected the growing popularity and competitive spirit of BIG JKPL 2025-26.

KGF XI, Vicky XI Pathankot register wins in Police Martyr's Memorial NZ T-20

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: The 14th Police Martyr's Memorial North Zone T-20 Cricket Championship 2025-26 continued in full swing at the Sports Stadium, Kathua, with two exciting matches played on the ninth day of the tournament. KGF XI and Vicky XI Pathankot emerged victorious, registering convincing wins over JKP XI and Hills View Rajouri respectively.

In the first match of the day, played in the morning session, JKP XI took on KGF XI. After winning the toss, JKP XI opted to bat first and posted a modest total of 131 runs for the loss of nine wickets in their allotted 20 overs. Faisal Dev top-scored for JKP XI with 32



Player receiving Man of the Match award at Kathua.

runs off 27 balls, including two boundaries and two sixes, while G.R. Bhardwaj contributed 24 runs off 31 balls with four boundaries.

Chasing a target of 131, KGF XI displayed an aggressive batting performance and reached the target in just 12.3 overs, losing four wickets. Imtiyaz played a brilliant

knock of 64 runs off 37 balls, smashing 10 boundaries and three sixes, while Sunny supported him well with 31 runs off 20 balls, which included three boundaries and two sixes. KGF XI won the match by six wickets. For his outstanding batting display, Imtiyaz was declared the Man of the Match.

The second match featured Vicky XI Pathankot against Hills View Rajouri. After winning the toss, Vicky XI Pathankot chose to bowl first. Batting first, Hills View Rajouri scored a competitive 168 runs for the loss of nine wickets in 20 overs. Anuj Kumar led the scoring with 50 runs off 42 balls, hitting

five fours and three sixes, while Abdul Wani added a valuable 49 runs off 32 balls with five fours and two sixes.

In reply, Vicky XI Pathankot produced a dominant chase and comfortably overhauled the target, scoring 169 runs for the loss of just three wickets in 18.1 overs. Dipanshu starred with the bat, scoring 68 runs off 56 balls with 10 boundaries, while Navneet Virk played a blistering knock of 54 runs off 29 balls, including three fours and five sixes. Vicky XI Pathankot won the match by seven wickets. Dipanshu was adjudged Man of the Match for his match-winning performance. The tournament continues to witness competitive cricket and strong performances as teams vie for top honours.

Surinder wins 'Welcome 2026' Chess Tourney

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Surinder Gupta won the title trophy of 'Welcome 2026' Chess Tournament which was organised at Vivek Chess Academy (VCA), Mast Garh, here on Tuesday.

The winner was considered on the basis of performance during the month-long competition. Surinder was presented the title trophy and a cash prize of Rs 1000.

Second place went to Amrita Gupta to receive a cash prize of Rs 500 and trophy.

Parth finished third to be presented Rs 500 and trophy.

Nitika Nishad was declared best in women category to receive Rs 500 cash prize. She defeated Gunjan in final. In under-10 category,



Winner players posing with officials.

Prajanya Mahajan emerged winner beating Prince to be awarded Rs 500 prize and title trophy.

The Results: Semifinals: Open: Surinder bt Parth and Amrita bt Avni. Under-10: Prajanya bt Raesha and Prince bt Devansh.

Poonam Gupta, senior citizen of the old city area of Mast Garh was chief

guest, who presented the title trophies.

Before felicitation of the winners, the chief guest encouraged the participants, especially those youngsters asking them to work hard to maintain a balance between sports and academics. She was all praise for the VCA for being the guiding force to the youth.

Tanika qualifies Ph.D

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Tanika Mahajan, daughter of Sushil Kumar and Sumita, resident of Ward No 10, near Baba Surgal Mandir Kathua, has been declared qualified for the award of Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Microbiology by Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Jammu vide Notification No. 155ACAD of 2025 dated December 30, 2025. She worked on the topic, "Development of probiotic yogurt fortified with vitamin D at Division of Microbiology, Faculty of Basic Sciences, SKUAST-Jammu Main Campus Chatha under the supervision of Dr. Upma Dutta.



Madhuri Rajput awarded Ph.D

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Madhuri Rajput, wife of Sunil Kumar Parihar, working as Medical Social Worker, GMC Doda, has been awarded the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Sociology by the University of Jammu. She worked on the topic "Social Media and Society: A Study of Internet Users in Jammu Division," under the supervision of Prof. (Dr.) Vishav Raksha, Head, Department of Sociology, University of Jammu.



Dr. Artti Devi completes Ph.D

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dr. Artti Devi has been completed Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in History at Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University. She worked on the topic "The forts and palaces of Jammu during the Dogra rule (1800-1950)" under the supervision of Dr. Ravi Sharan Dixit. A postgraduate in History and a qualified JK-SET and NTA-NET scholar, Dr. Artti Devi has participated in numerous national and international conferences, seminars, and workshops, where she presented research papers on Dogra history, heritage, and culture.



CLUJ conducts selection trials for women's cricket team

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ) organised Open Selection Trials for its Women's Cricket Team to select talented players for participation in the upcoming North Zone Inter-University Cricket Tournament. The prestigious tournament is scheduled to be held at Maharshi Dayanand University (MDU), Rohtak, in January 2026. The trials took place at Government College for Women (GCW), Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, and witnessed enthusiastic participation from women cricketers representing various constituent colleges of the university.

Prof. D.S. Manhas, Dean Students Welfare, CLUJ, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. He was accorded a warm welcome by Dr. Vinod Bakshi, Director, Physical Education and Sports, CLUJ, who presented him with a bouquet. Addressing the partici-



CLUJ faculty with players at selection trials.

pants, Prof. Manhas lauded the Sports Department for its consistent efforts in promoting women's participation in sports. He emphasized that such selection platforms play a vital role in nurturing talent, building self-confidence, and inculcating teamwork, discipline, and leadership qualities among students. He further assured full support from the university administration for the holistic development of sports activities.

Dr. Vinod Bakshi, while speaking on the occasion, reiterated the university's

commitment towards strengthening sports culture and providing equal opportunities to student athletes. He stated that the trials were conducted in a fair, transparent, and merit-based manner to identify the best talent capable of bringing laurels to the university at the zonal level. He also advised the selected players to maintain high standards of fitness, discipline, and dedication during the forthcoming coaching camp.

Prof. Sharadha Anand, Convener, Sports

Committee, GCW Gandhi Nagar, formally welcomed the Dean Students Welfare, Director Physical Education and Sports, and members of the Selection Committee.

The selection trials were conducted by an experienced panel comprising Dr. Roopali Slathia, Physical Director, GDC R.S. Pura; Kajal Premi, Physical Director, GCW Gandhi Nagar; and Ramandeep Karalia, Physical Director, GCOE.

Based on their performance, players selected include Neemami Slathia, Reetika Sharma, Preetika Sharma, Kangna Manchanda, Suhanni Puri, Radhika Sharma, Mandep Kour, Saba Khatoun, Simran Charak, Kiran Katoch, Deepshikha Sharma, Akriti Sharma, and Akshara Rajput, while Charu Bhagat and Bindu Salgotra were named as standby players. These players will now undergo a coaching camp in preparation for the tournament.

Heritagean Shiva Gupta represents J&K UT at 69th NSG Football C'ship



Heritage School faculty felicitating a student.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shiva Gupta of Class VIII C, brought laurels to Heritage School by representing the Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory at the 69th National School Games (NSG) in the Under-14 Boys Football Championship. The prestigious national-level event was held at Umariya, Madhya Pradesh, from December 1 to 10, 2025.

The championship was organized by the School National Games Federation of India and witnessed the participation of talented young footballers from across the country.

Heritage family congratulates Shiva Gupta on this notable achievement and wishes him continued success in his future sporting endeavours.