

# JKCA presents appreciation certificates, silver coins to members of ‘History Maker’ Ranji Team

Performance outcome of going through a process, providing quality facilities & exposure tours: Administrators

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a goodwill gesture and as a token of love & gratitude, the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) honoured the members of 'History Creator' Ranji Trophy Team with appreciation certificates and silver coins in an impressive, colourful and well-attended function at JKCA Headquarters Jammu on Friday.

For making the 2024-25 season memorable, the Sub-Committee Members (Administrators) of JKCA including Brig Anil Gupta, Member Administration; Mithun Manhas, Member Cricket Operations & Development and Adv. Sunil Sethi, Member Legal Affairs.

While addressing the media fraternity, the JKCA Administrators (Sub Committee Members) said that superb performance during the season was the outcome of going through a process, providing quality facilities to the players and making them hone their



Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association members felicitating J&K Ranji Trophy Team 2025 in Jammu on Friday.

skills during the exposure tours prior to the national tournaments.

"The Association made the team to go through a process and experience a series of steps or actions with a specific goal in mind since we took over the affairs of JKCA in 2021. The process took time to overcome challenges and reach a desired outcome and the result is evident now. Essentially, going through a process signifies being actively engaged in a progression with multiple stages involved. Moreover, JKCA provided SG Kookaburra balls and stan-

dard cricketing gear to the teams even for practice purposes," said Mithun Manhas, Member Cricket Operations and Development.

"The team emerged table topper in the Group A thus qualifying for the knockout stage. The feather in the cap of the team is that they remained undefeated throughout the tournament and the feats of this team will remain embedded in the memory of cricket lovers across the country for times to come. Be it the first innings lead against Maharashtra in the opening match at Srinagar or an

innings defeat over services or conceding the first inning lead to Odisha, the white wash of minos Meghalaya or the thrashing given to Mumbai, victory against Baroda or an unfortunate miss in the Quarter final by 01 run will remain in the memories of the cricket fraternity for some time atleast," maintained Brig Anil Gupta.

"This team has done what many teams couldn't do. There were certain moments of joy and certain unpleasant moments like 01 run first inning lead to Kerala in the Quarter-Finals. But this is part of

the game. What matters is cohesiveness and fighting spirit displayed by the team. Season 2024-25 has announced the arrival of J&K on the big platform," said Adv Sunil Sethi.

Brig Gupta further said that the achievement could not have been possible without the hard work and efforts put in by the players, who have performed under the watchful eyes of Coaching Staff and the Support Staff, adding though the team could not make it to Semifinals yet it can be claimed with pride that it humbled Mumbai and Baroda in their back-

yards when many expected this to be one-sided affairs.

"With this resoluteness, determination and fighting spirit, the entire cricket fraternity of J&K is looking forward to this team being the Ranji Trophy champion and a few players in Team India in near future," added Manhas.

The Sub Committee Members presented the members of team the certificates of appreciation. Each member was presented with certificates and silver coin given by the Rakesh Jewellers.

Paras Dogra, Captain of the team was honoured for leading from the front and taking a fantastic catch to

dismiss rival captain Ajinkya rahane; Shubham Khajuria was honoured for emerging top scorer for J&K and 7th highest scorer in the country; Explosive Abdul Samad for making a record of scoring 2 centuries in each innings of a match; Kanhaiya Wadhawan for making an impactful return to Ranji Trophy; Yawer Hassan for emerging as a dependable opener; Lone Nasir Muzzaffar for his impressive all-round skills; Vivrant Sharma for being a utility player; Sahil Lotra for fast emerging as a good all-rounder; Tabid Mushtaq for being a dependable all-rounder; Umar Nazir for being a pace sensation and a perfect team man; Vanshaj Sharma for being the emerging spinner of the team; Aquib Naabi for being the highest wicket taker among the pace bowlers in the country with six 5-wicket hauls; Yudhvir Singh for his extraordinary fast bowling skills; Sunil Kumar for leaving an indelible remark and Waseem Bashir for being the future of the pace bowling department.

On the occasion, special

performances of a few players were also highlighted and were honoured for their achievements.

Auqib Nabi for emerging as the highest wicket taker among the fast bowlers and took six five wicket-hauls; Yudhvir Singh for taking 7 wickets in the match against Mumbai; Sahil Lotra for taking 11 wickets in the match against Baroda; Kanhaiya Wadhawan for scoring 71 runs in the 1st Innings and 84 runs in 2nd Innings against Baroda; Paras Dogra for scoring a crucial century (132) in the match against Kerala.

The members of Coaching and Support Staff who were felicitated for brilliant work included Ajay Sharma, Head Coach; P Krishna Kumar, Bowling Coach; Dishant Yagnik, Fielding Coach; Hilal Ahmad, Manager; Sunny Kumar, Trainer; Chirag Pandya, Physiotherapist; Sahil Magotra, Video Analyst and Naresh Kumar, Masseur.

The proceedings of the programme were conducted by JKCA Office Assistant Manisha Gupta.

## Legend Masters 2.0 Inter-state Veteran T20 Cricket C'ship begins

VCAJK XI outplays Delhi Veteran in opening tie



Participating teams of opening match posing with dignitaries at Jammu on Friday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Veteran Cricket Association J&K (VCAJK) XI outplayed Delhi Veteran in opening match of the Legend Masters 2.0 Interstate Veteran T20 Cricket Championship, organized by Veteran Cricket Association J&K in collaboration with Excise Department J&K, Batra Group, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspecialty Hospital and

Horizon Group, here on Friday.

In first match, Satish Saraf, Captain of Delhi Veteran, won the toss and elected to bat first but could capitalize on that as wickets kept on tumbling as bowlers of VCAJK XI kept a lid on the scoring. Delhi Veteran scored 112 in 20 overs for the loss of nine wickets. For Delhi Veterans, Sagar, Satish and Subodh scored

32, 17 and 14 respectively. Vivek Suri Captain of VCAJK XI was the wrecker-in-Chief and claimed four wickets while Ratnesh Puri and Nazar claimed two wickets each.

Chasing 113 runs to win, VCAJK XI lost early wicket as Amit was out on 4 but Sunil Sharma and Jameel played attacking game and shared 53 runs partnership before Jameel was out on 26

runs. VCAJK XI chased the target in 15 overs. Sunil Sharma was unbeaten on 46 while Rajeshwar and Vikram scored 14 and 12 runs respectively. From Delhi Veterans, Viren Patel, Subodh and Shekhar Pathak took one wicket each. For his brilliant bowling, Vivek Suri was declared Man of the Match.

Earlier, the Championship was inaugurated by Bisham

Batra, President Pegasus Cricket Club and Director Batra Group Jammu. He was accompanied by Sanjeev Rohmetra, XEN JPDCL Jammu, K.S Jamwal Senior Vice President, Amit Kumar Vice President and Vivek Suri General Secretary of VCAJK.

In this championship, veteran teams from Hyderabad, Delhi, Mumbai and host J&K are participating with players from UK and UAE are part of teams.

Speaking at the occasion, Bisham Batra welcomed the teams to City of Temples Jammu. He appreciated the efforts of VCAJK in organizing such a tournament and giving a platform to veteran players. He also added that such tournaments will motivate young players to grounds away from drugs.

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JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Olympic Association (JKOA) has decided to felicitate all the medal winners, their coaches and the support staff for their performance in the 38th edition of the National Games which ended today at Uttarakhand.

The J&K finished 19th in the medal tally with 25 medals in this 16 discipline prestigious event. However, J&K had better results in the 37th edition of the Games at Goa wherein the UT had won 46 medals to finish 12th in the medals tally.

The event wide medal tally of J&K included two gold, two silver and three bronze in Gymnastics; two gold, one silver and four Bronze in Wushu; one gold in Taekwondo; two silver and three bronze in Fencing; one

silver in Archery; two bronze in Judo; one bronze in Netball and one bronze in Kayaking and Canoeing.

Meanwhile, the JKOA thanked the LG Manoj Sinha; Sports Minister, Satish Sharma, Commissioner Secretary and Secretary Sports Council for their support resulting in achieving desired results.

"The medal winners of all the events will be honoured by the JKOA in a function to be organised by the Association," said general secretary of the JKOA, Ajay Vaid.

The JKOA secretary also thanked Rajesh Dutta, Chief -de-Mission along with supporting staff including Brjesh Bhu, Sahil Sharma and Sahil Raina for their arrangements in taking care of participants during their stay at Uttarakhand.

## Tiny tots extravaganza held at MV International School



Tiny tots of MVIS posing with dignitaries at faculty members.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: The atmosphere at MV International School was brimming with excitement as the Pre-Primary School's Annual event, The Tiny Tots Extravaganza, took place.

This special occasion marked the culmination of a year's worth of hard work, creativity, and learning, as the young children from Pre-Nursery, Nursery, LKG, and UKG showcased their talents to their parents and guests.

The school had the honor of welcoming Chief Guest Rajesh Sharma, Deputy Commissioner Samba, and Guest of Honour Dushyant Sharma, SSP, Principal PTTI Vijaypur.

The event saw a wide range of performances from the students, including delightful dances, cheerful songs, skits, and yoga routines. Each act reflected the dedication of the children and the guidance of their teachers. The little ones danced with energy, sang with harmony, and performed with

enthusiasm, earning rounds of applause from the audience. The UKG students were presented with appreciation certificates by the guests in recognition of their hard work and growth.

In his address, Chief Guest Rajesh Sharma praised the children for their confidence and enthusiasm, commending the school management and staff for their dedication to providing high-quality education and fostering personality development. He encouraged parents to collaborate with the school for better learning outcomes and appreciated MV International School's efforts to combine Indian heritage with 21st-century skills.

School Director Gourav Abrol expressed his admiration for the teachers' dedication, the parents' support, and the children's efforts in making the event memorable. He thanked the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour for their presence and expressed his excitement

for future celebrations. The event was a wonderful reflection of the close-knit community that supports the students, reminding everyone how, with love and care, children grow into confident, expressive individuals.

## Kashmir winter games attract global athletes to pristine slopes of Gulmarg

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GULMARG: Amidst the crystalline air of Gulmarg, where Himalayas jut into the heavens, an unlikely assembly is taking shape.

The 2025 Khelo India Winter Games, to be held from February 22 to 25, has drawn an interesting cross-section of international players and fans, turning this premier skiing destination into a melting pot of cultures bound together by their passion for winter sports.

"The beauty here is overwhelming," says Melania Anderson, a yoga instructor from the United Kingdom based in Hong Kong.

Anderson, who works with the Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) through her charity 'Yama', is enchanted by the double appeal of Kashmir as both a sporting challenge and cultural treasure.

"The Kashmiri cuisine



alone would have made the journey worthwhile," she says.

Maybe nobody better illustrates this meeting's surprise demographics than Ben Hurst, an Australian commercial prawn fisherman who has swapped the spray of the Pacific for the powder of the Himalayas.

"Standing in the mountains of Kashmir is safer than walking across the streets of Sydney," he says with the sort of assurance that comes from direct

knowledge.

Hurst, who is from the small village of Iuka midway between Brisbane and Sydney, waves aside travel warnings.

"What we have experienced is just gorgeous and beautiful. It's unlike most skiing resorts around the world," he says and praises hospitality & friendliness of the locals.

The French team brings its own view to these games. Jean Marc Ange, who grew up in the French Alps, talks of the Himalayas with holy

reverence.

"This is different," he says, sweeping his hand across the expanse before him and added "Altogether different".

His fellow-countryman Nabil El, who is now resident in Australia, nods assent.

The locals, the athletes, see more in the games than sport.

Firdous Ahmad Sheikh from Tangmarg, Yasmeen Sajad from Sopore, Mehak Mushtaq from Palhalan Pattan, and Aalima Zainab

from Tangmarg are in awe about meeting international ski and snowboarding experts.

"It's an out of this world experience," they say, with their enthusiasm clearly evident.

Others like Virginia Winstone, a New Zealander; Laura Thonton, from Wisconsin, USA; and Australian ski guide and patroller Bill Barker, too have been attracted to the games.

Their numbers have turned Gulmarg into an instant global village, where the snow is the lingua franca.

As preparations for the games enter the last leg, the air in Gulmarg is alive with expectation.

The untouched slopes look for their moment to shine, prepared to present not only athletic prowess but also Kashmir's hospitality.

## Ladakh celebrates Shahnaz's selection for World University Games

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KARGIL: Ladakh Taekwondo Association is thrilled to announce and celebrate the historic achievement of Shahnaz Parveen, who has been selected to represent India at the World University Games in Germany.

Hailing from Sankoo, Kargil, Shahnaz has etched her name in history as the first female athlete from Ladakh to qualify for this prestigious global event for the second time, showcasing her exceptional talent and determination.

Shahnaz is currently pursuing her post-graduation in B.P.Ed (1st year) at Maharishi Dayanand University (MDU), Rohtak,



under the guidance of Head Coach, Dr. Ashok Kumar.

Her academic and athletic journey reflects her unwavering commitment to excelling both in sports and education.

Gulzar Hussain Munshi, president of the Ladakh Taekwondo Association, lauded Shahnaz's dedication

and perseverance.

"Shahnaz Parveen's selection is a monumental moment not just for Ladakh but for the entire Nation. Her relentless hard work, discipline, and passion for Taekwondo have made her a beacon of inspiration, especially for young girls in our

region. She has demonstrated that with the right support and opportunities, talent from even the most remote areas can shine on the world stage. We are confident she will make India and Ladakh proud once again," Gulzar Hussain Munshi, president of the Ladakh

Taekwondo Association said.

Munshi also expressed heartfelt appreciation to Maharishi Dayanand University (MDU), Rohtak, and Head Coach Dr. Ashok Kumar for their continuous guidance and support in shaping Shahnaz into an international-level athlete

from where she participated in All India University Games.

Shahnaz has consistently been a trailblazer in Ladakh's sports arena. She was awarded the State Award in Sports (UT Ladakh 2023) and has previously represented India at the World University Games in Chengdu, China. She also secured an impressive 8th place in the finals of the Group Women Under-30 category at the 8th Asian Taekwondo Poomsae Championship in Vietnam. These achievements have not only elevated her stature but have also inspired countless young athletes in the region to dream big and pursue excellence.