

History in the making: Clinical J&K seals berth in historic Ranji Trophy semis

Aqib Nabi wreaks havoc, demolishes Madhya Pradesh

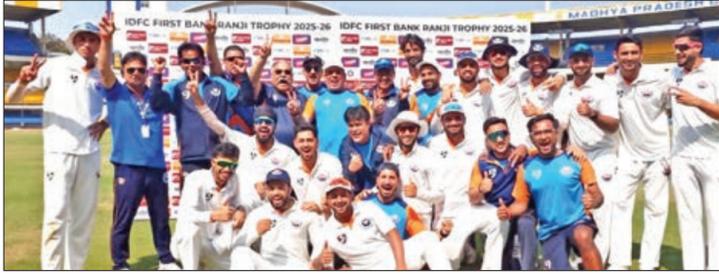
STATE TIMES NEWS

INDORE: It is history in the making as clinical Jammu and Kashmir scripted a convincing 56-run victory over formidable Madhya Pradesh in the quarterfinals to seal berth in the first-ever semifinals of the prestigious Ranji Trophy at Holkar Stadium, Indore on Monday.

Earlier, resuming from 87/5, Madhya Pradesh batters despite making valiant efforts went downfighting to lose the match by a margin of 56 runs, scoring 234 runs.

Saransh Jain top scored with gritty 64 runs off 81 balls, studded with 7 fours and one six, while Shubham Sharma (32), Himanshu Mantri (31), Aryan Pandey (22) and Yash Dubey (20) were the other contributors.

Aqib Nabi, who was wrecker-in-chief in the first innings taking 7 wickets and



J&K team with officials in jubilant mood after winning quarterfinals of Ranji Trophy.

emerged pick of the bowlers to take 5 wickets by conceding 70 runs in his 24 overs, while Abid Mushtaq took 3 wickets and Sunil Kumar claimed one wicket.

Earlier, on day-3, Vanshaj Sharma and Abid Mushtaq's lower-order fireworks, capped by a defiant 65-run last-wicket stand with Sunil Kumar, propelled Jammu & Kashmir to a challenging 291-run target.

J&K battled to 248 in their

second innings-extending their 42-run first-innings lead into a formidable victory equation. Vanshaj Sharma starred unbeaten on 54 off 92 balls (3x4, 1x6), with Abid Mushtaq (41), Abdul Samad (32), Sunil Kumar (26), and Yudhvir Singh (18) providing crucial support.

Madhya Pradesh's Kuldeep Sen claimed 4 wickets, while Venkatesh Iyer and Ramveer Singh Gurgar

shared 3 wickets apiece.

Earlier, J&K's first-innings 194 was anchored by Shubham Khajuria's 60 and Yudhvir Singh's 41. MP crumbled to 152, undone by Aqib Nabi's (7/40 in the first innings) and Sunil Kumar's 3 wickets.

Kuldeep Sen ripped through with 5/66, backed by Kumar Kartikeya Singh (3) and Aryan Pandey (2).

The Jammu and Kashmir team is being accompanied by

former Test cricketer Ajay Sharma as the Head Coach, P. Krishna Kumar as Bowling Coach, Dishant Yagnik as Fielding Coach, Hilal Ahmed Zargar as Manager, Ravi Sharma as Co-Manager, Sunny Kumar as Trainer, Susheel Pajnu as Video Analyst, Chirag Pandya as Physio, Naresh as Masseur and Manoj as Side-Arm Expert.

The JKCA Administrators-Brig Anil Gupta and Vidhya Bhaskar; Ajay Sharma, Head Coach; CAC Members-Abdul Qayoom, Vijay Sharma and Meeun Singh Slathia, and Selectors-Sarabjeet Singh (Chairperson), Dhruv Mahajan and Arshad Bhat deserve salutations for this remarkable achievement.

While describing the win as historic, Member Administration JKCA has congratulated the team members for this great achievement.

Shaheed DySP Manjit Singh Memorial Volleyball Club Poonch clinches Winter Cup trophy



Shaheed DySP Manjit Singh Volleyball Club Poonch team with officials.

STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Surankote witnessed thrilling volleyball action as the Indian Army-organised Winter Cup Volleyball Championship concluded with great enthusiasm and sportsmanship. The championship featured 27 teams in the men's section and 8 teams in the women's section, showcasing immense local talent from the region.

In the men's final, Shaheed DySP Manjit Singh Memorial Volleyball Club Poonch faced Habib Volleyball Club Surankote in a high-voltage encounter. Displaying outstanding teamwork and skill, the Poonch side emerged victorious in straight sets 25-20, 26-24, 25-15, clinching the championship title in style.

The winning team's performance was highlighted by the exceptional play of Harshit Raina, Abid Bhatti, Bilal Ahmed, and Mohd

Kafeel, whose extraordinary skills and coordination proved decisive in the final.

In the women's section, Wandmanhasa Girls delivered a confident performance to defeat Khelo India Centre Poonch in straight sets 25-20, 25-18, securing the women's title.

The tournament concluded on a high note, with the people of Surankote appreciating the players of Shaheed DySP Manjit Singh Memorial Volleyball Club Poonch for their disciplined and spirited performance.

Special appreciation was also extended to the club's Chairman, Mohd Tariq, for his continuous efforts in promoting volleyball and nurturing young talent in the region.

The championship not only celebrated sporting excellence but also strengthened the bond between the Indian Army and local youth through the spirit of sports.

Junior Cricket Championship concludes; Chadwal lifts title



STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: The Junior Cricket Championship organised by Excise Department in collaboration with the District Administration Kathua concluded on Monday at the Sports Stadium, Kathua, with Chadwal clinching the championship trophy.

Held to foster sportsman-

ship among the youth and reinforce the message of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, the tournament generated enthusiasm among players and attracted spectators.

In the final, Chadwal won the toss and opted to bat first, scoring 182 runs. Rahat Raina scored 61, while Vansh scored 59 runs and claimed five wickets.

While chasing the target, Billawar were bowled out for 56 runs in the 12th over, sealing victory for Chadwal.

Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma felicitated the winning and runner-up teams and presented a cricket kit to the champions.

Addressing the gathering, the DC underscored the role of sports in channelising the energy of youth. He reiterated the resolve of the district administration to continue organising such activities to build a healthy and drug-free society.

CPO Ranjeet Thakur, ETO Kashish Sharma, DYSSO Sunil Singh Sambyal, CEO MC Kathua Amit Sharma and other officers were present on the occasion.

JU Law School conducts innovative legal outreach on women's safety

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant initiative to bridge the gap between legal knowledge and community empowerment, The Law School, University of Jammu (JU), conducted a two-day Jan Sunwai (Public Hearing) and Speed Mentoring session as part of the 4th Edition of the prestigious Prof. V. S. Mallar Memorial Legal Aid Competition.

This pioneering event, held at Bhour Camp and Mandal Phallian panchayats, focused on the critical theme "Freedom From Violence: Legal Provisions For Safety and Security of Women." It specifically targeted women grassroots leaders, including Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members, ASHA healthcare workers, Self-Help Group representatives, and local activists.



The Law School JU students and faculty at a programme.

The Legal Aid Competition is a joint initiative of J.S.S. Law College, Mysuru, and the CEERA, National Law School of India University, Bengaluru, in collaboration with the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India.

Under the expert guidance of Prof. Manju Jamwal,

Dean, Faculty of Law, and Prof. Seema Rohmetra, Director, The Law School, the sessions were meticulously coordinated by faculty members Dr. Monica Narang, Dr. Nitan Sharma, and Dr. Kartika Bakshi.

The session at Bhour Camp was presided over as Chief Guest by Maleeka Sharma, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA),

Jammu. She was assisted by panel lawyers Adv. Mayank Gupta and Adv. Mamta Kumari, with crucial logistical support from local coordinator Rajat Sharma.

The session at Mandal Phallian witnessed active engagement from Adv. Uma Kapahi, Panel Lawyer DLSA, alongside noted social activists Dr. Swati Sharma and Amarjeet Kour.

The event received steadfast support from Sandeep Gupta, Block Development Officer (BDO), Satwari.

These interactive forums provided a safe space for women to voice their concerns, understand their legal rights, and learn about recourse mechanisms against violence. The Speed Mentoring format allowed for personalized, one-on-one guidance from legal experts, addressing specific queries related to domestic violence, workplace harassment, cyber-crime, and access to justice.

This initiative underscores a powerful collaboration between academia, the judiciary, legal services authorities, and civil society, setting a replicable model for participatory legal empowerment and advancing the constitutional goal of gender justice.

Avni wins VCA Open Smart Girl Chess Tourney

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Avni Sharma won the 3rd Smart Girl Open Khelo Jammu Chess Tournament which held at Vivek Chess Academy (VCA) under the aegis of all J&K Chess Association (AJKCA), here today.

Avni secured 5.5 points out of the six round to emerge new champion of the event. The second place went to Amrita Gupta with five points while Nitika Nishad (4.5 pts) finished third. Gunjan Nishad (3 pts) and Peral Thothla (3 pts) remained fourth and fifth respectively.



Manushree Nischal bagged the under-10 category prize, securing two points. The competition held with 10 minutes plus 10 seconds time control under Chess Rapid Game Rule whereas the FIDE

Swiss software was used for pairing.

President AJKCA, Meenal Gupta, former J&K Chess champion and a trainee of the VCA for seven years was the chief guest. She presented the

cash prizes worth Rs 3200 and title trophies to the winners in the presence of owner of the VCA, Vivek Bharti.

The Detailed Results: Round-1: Amrita (1) bt Manushree (0); Nitika (1) bt Amina (0); Pearl (1) bt Anjali (0); Avni (1) bt Raesha (0); Gunjan (1) bt Ruby (0). Round-2: Amrita (2) bt Pearl (1); Avni (2) bt Gunjan (1); Nitika (2) bt Manushree (0); Amina (1) bt Raesha (0); Anjali (1) bt Ruby (0). Round-3: Avni (2.5) drew Nitika (2.5); Amrita (3) bt Amina (1); Gunjan (2) bt Pearl (1);

Anjali (2) bt Manushree (0); Ruby (1) bt Raesha (0).

Round-4: Avni (3.5) bt Amrita (3); Nitika (3.5) bt Anjali (2); Amina (2) bt Gunjan (2); Pearl (2) bt Ruby (1); Manushree (1) bt Raesha (0).

Round-5: Amrita (4) bt Nitika (3.5); Avni (4.5) bt Amina (2); Gunjan (3) bt Anjali (2); Pearl (3) bt Raesha (0); Manushree (2) bt Ruby (1).

Round-6: Avni (5.5) bt Pearl (3); Amrita (5) bt Gunjan (3); Nitika (4.5) bt Ruby (1); Amina (3) bt Manushree (2); Raesha (1) bt Anjali (2).

Surinder contributes to Utrakhand's semis berth

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: International cricketer from Jammu and Kashmir, Surinder Singh Bagal has contributed to the Utrakhand's rise of making maiden entry into the semifinals of the Ranji Trophy Elite.

Surinder has been associated with the Utrakhand Cricket Association for the last four years as a selector and made valuable contributions in raising a competitive side.

In the quarterfinals, decided on the third-day of the play yesterday, Utrakhand defeated champion side of Jharkhand. "It took us time to build a competitive side for the Utrakhand. There was steady progress in the performance of the team in the first class cricket.



I'm happy that the team has created history by making it to the semifinals for the first time," said Surinder. A former selector of Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA), Surinder had played a key role in identifying the talent in Umran Malik, Abdul Samad and other young cricketers, who are part of the present J&K team. Former India cricketer with 33 first class matches, Surinder has the distinction of representing Rest of India in 2002 and Board President XI against Australia and England in 2001-2002. Presently, Surinder serves with Department of Excise and Taxation, J&K Government.

Karate belt grading test held

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Eight students of Wazir Janki Nath Higher Secondary School appeared in the Yellow belt test which was conducted by Renmei Gojuryu Karate Do Federation of India, here.

The test successful conducted by the Federation under the supervision Sanjeev Dewan RGKFI 6th degree Black belt.

Those qualified the test



were Hartegvee Singh, Chatna Kumari, Marif Ansari, Kushal

Kumar, Bavnoor Kour, Himanshu Sanil, Rizwa and Suryansh Verma.

KIIT continues strong placement performance for 2025 Batch; NVIDIA, Microsoft among top recruiters

STATE TIMES NEWS

BHUBANESWAR: KIIT Deemed to be University (KIIT-DU) has once again demonstrated its strong standing among India's leading universities with an impressive on-campus placement performance for the 2025 batch. Despite a challenging job market globally, KIIT recorded an overall placement conversion of around 92.5 per cent, reaffirming why it is consistently regarded as one of the best institutions for campus placements in the country.

During the 2025 placement season, over 757 companies visited the KIIT campus to recruit from around 5,000 eligible students, resulting in approximately 4,621 job offers across various schools and disciplines.

The KIIT School of Technology (KSOT) led the placement drive, with more than 3,800 job offers made by 451 companies. The average CTC stood at Rs 8.5 lakh per annum, while 739 students secured multiple offers, reflecting the strong industry demand for KIIT graduates. Notably, over 1,500 offers were classified as "Dream Offers", and 59 companies offered packages of Rs 10 LPA and above.



The highest package of Rs 51 LPA was offered by Microsoft, while mass recruiters such as TCS (530 offers) and Wipro (342 offers) hired in large numbers. In addition, 1,209 paid internship opportunities were generated, providing valuable industry exposure to students even before graduation.

One of the key highlights of the 2025 placement season was the recruitment by NVIDIA, which offered a CTC of Rs 36.28 LPA, placing it among the top-paying companies at KIIT. NVIDIA's participation reflects KIIT's growing reputation among global technology leaders and its strong focus on future-ready skills in areas such as artificial intelligence, computing, and advanced engineering. Other companies offering packages above Rs 30 LPA included Human Resocia,

Rs 8 LPA.

The KIIT School of Law (KSOL) attracted 52 law firms and corporate organisations, including leading names such as Wadia Ghandy & Co., Athena Law, and Bajaj Allianz. The highest package of Rs 9.6 LPA was offered by Wadia Ghandy & Co. with an average of Rs 4.5 LPA.

The placement season saw strong interest from global and high-end recruiters. The top 10 highest-paying companies were Microsoft (Rs 51.00 LPA), Human Resocia (Rs 44.52 LPA), Hike (Rs 41.70 LPA), PayPal (Rs 36.50 LPA), NVIDIA (Rs 36.28 LPA), ITAGAKI Corporation (Rs 28.98 LPA), Juspay Technologies (Rs 27.00 LPA), Cisco (Rs 24.73 LPA), D. E. Shaw India (Rs 24.30 LPA). Even as placements for the 2025 graduating batch concluded on a high note, KIIT has already gained strong traction in the ongoing campus recruitment for the 2026 graduating students.

The Founder of KIIT and KISS Dr Achyuta Samanta said the consistent placement performance reflects KIIT's long-standing focus on quality education and industry relevance. "At KIIT, our effort has always been to prepare students for sustainable careers, not just their first job. The continued trust of leading global companies, including high-technology and innovation-driven organisations, shows that our students are industry-ready. Even in a challenging job market, KIIT students have performed exceptionally well, which makes us proud," he said. The KIIT School of

Technology has led the 2026 placement drive, with over 3,000 offers made by more than 175 companies to date. This includes over 1,200 dream offers of Rs 10 LPA and above extended by 44 companies. Large-scale hiring by companies such as Infosys and Accenture has further strengthened the season. Other schools, including Rural Management, Biotechnology and Law, have also reported encouraging early placement outcomes, signalling another strong year ahead for KIIT's graduating students.

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U-23 Men's CK Nayudu Trophy Aakash, Mousub, Rydham's tons; Praful's 5-for seal draw

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Aakash Ayoub Bhat, Mousub Mohd Bhat, and Rydham Sharma unleashed magnificent centuries, while Praful Dhar claimed a superb five-wicket haul, as the U-23 Men's CK Nayudu Trophy clash between Jammu and Kashmir and Baroda ended in a draw on the batting-friendly surface of JKCA Hostel ground here on Monday.

Resuming from 443/7, Jammu & Kashmir's overnight unbeaten pair of Rydham Sharma and Praful Dhar showcased rock-solid defence laced with sublime strokeplay. Their gritty 62-run stand over 30 overs averted the follow-on and propelled the score to a respectable 498 all out. Sharma blazed an elegant 114 off 184 balls (16 fours), while Dhar anchored with a vital 21 off 104 balls (4 fours). Earlier centuries Aakash Ayoub (134) and Mousub Mohd (114) laid the foundation, with Basit Nazir

adding a composed 62.

Baroda's Vaibhav HB starred with a five-wicket haul, Priyanshu Moliya chipping in with 2 wickets.

In reply, Baroda reached 192/4 in their second innings when situation forced an early draw before the scheduled time. Skipper Priyanshu Moliya smashed unbeaten 101-his second ton of the match-while Harsh Desai contributed 66. For J&K, Sarvashish Singh snared 2 wickets, with Manit and Atif Bin Mushtaq claiming one apiece.

Earlier, Baroda had declared their first innings at a colossal 606/6. Dhruv N Patel's masterful double-century (214) powered the total, backed by Priyanshu Moliya's 120 and Nitya N Pandya's gritty 94. Off-spinner Praful Dhar emerged as J&K's bowling hero with 5 wickets, Sarvashish Singh grabbing one.

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