

# Maha Shivaratri celebrated with religious fervour at JKPS Panjtirthi



Glimpses of Maha Shivaratri celebration with devotion at JK Public School Panjtirthi.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Maha Shivaratri was celebrated with devotion and religious fervour at JK Public School (JKPS) Panjtirthi. The Principal of JKPS Panjtirthi Suman Banbah

chanted the sacred Mantra "Om Namah Shivaya" and expressed, "The festival is a wake-up call to move away from conflicts and move towards truth, beauty, peace, and benevolence - the ethereal qualities of

Shiva. Everyone was swayed away with the chanting of the sacred mantra 'Om'. The Principal further wished, "May Lord Shiva's glorious divine and merciful attributes remind us of

our own abilities and strive to lift ourselves to heights. She wished Happy Maha Shivaratri to one and all. The Celebration Incharge, Surekha Bajji and Kiran Gupta explained the

grandeur of the day to the audience and added, "Lord Shiva got knotted in a nuptial knot with Goddess Parvati in heaven and their marriage is celebrated on the earth every year as "Maha Shivaratri."

This festival celebrated in veneration of Lord Shiva commenced with the Shalok enchantment and followed by Lord Shiva's Stuti by jakiians. The icing on the cake was a beautiful and entic-

ing 'Tandava Nritya' by a jkiian - a vigorous dance, that is the source of the cycle of creation. Jakiians displayed a skit based on mythological story associated with the celebration. Jakiians explained the

role of lord Shiva in natural cycle. They also exhibited the wed-lock scene of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. The matchless performance of Jakiians spiritually enlightened the audience.

## Gharami scores 136 not out as Bengal reach 249 for 5 vs J&K on Day 1

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KALYANI : A determined Sudip Gharami was patience personified as he carried from where he had left off in the quarterfinal with his second successive ton taking Bengal to 249 for 5 against Jammu and Kashmir on the opening day of the Ranji Trophy semi-final here on Sunday. The dismissal of a set Shabbaz Ahmed (42 off 90 balls) at the flag end of the day, an in-cutter from left-arm seamer Sunil Kumar, will give J&K an opportunity to press home the advantage at the start of the second day when the new ball will be due after the last delivery of the 80th over is sent down. Having batted 15-and-a-half hours for his match-winning 299 against Andhra in the quarterfinal, Gharami took fresh guard but seemed to have taken off from the previous game with an unbeaten



136 runs off 227 balls. Gharami came to the crease in the second over after veteran Sudip Chatterjee (0) was dismissed without troubling the scorers. Gharami hit 19 fours and a lofted six in his near six hours of astute batsmanship, which also was a testament to his stamina and defensive technique. He shared 85-run stand for the second wicket with skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran (49), who looked good before a delivery from Anqib Nabi moved a shade

after pitching to knock back his off-stump. Anushtup Majumdar (14) managed a low score but he was involved in a 66-run stand that steadied the innings. However, it was the 94-run stand with Shabbaz that kept to pose real concern for J&K skipper Paras Dogra, especially with the pitch offering little assistance to the bowlers. As far as Gharami is concerned, scoring runs on the big stage - quarterfinal and now semi-final - will certainly make the national selectors notice him as and when they select the next India A squad for a red-ball series. Gharami's ability to wait for the loose balls and respect a good spell was praiseworthy. His six was a lofted shot over extra cover off left-arm seamer Sunil. Gharami stepped out to play that shot. For the national selectors, who look for the 'x' factor before ele-

minating a player, Gharami's strokes against Nabi - on both sides of the wicket - were particularly eye-catching, as he handled the veteran pacer with assurance and authority. He also launched into IPL seamer Yudhvir Singh as 11 of his 19 boundaries came off these two bowlers. When left-arm spinner Abid Mushtaq came in to bowl, unlike Anushtup, who was leg-before after being rooted to his crease, Gharami used his feet to good effect, reaching to the pitch of the

deliveries and nullifying spin. One such push towards deep mid-wicket brought up his century - his eighth in 39 games for Bengal. The 2025-26 Ranji Trophy season has been a breakthrough one for the former Bengal U-23 skipper, whose current tally of runs is 787. He is currently fourth in the list of top run-getters for the season, behind Ayush Doseja (Delhi, 949 runs), Sanat Sangvan (Delhi, 828 runs) and Abhinav Tejrana (Goa, 787 runs).

## One day Cricket Exhibition match organized



DC Doda, Harvinder Singh with other dignitaries and team.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
DODA: A one-day cricket exhibition match was organized under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan at Government Degree College Bhandarwah to spread awareness about a drug-free society and promote healthy activities among youth. The exhibition match was held between District Health Society Doda and Sub District Hospital Bhandarwah. The programme was organized by the District Health Society Doda in collaboration with district administration and other concerned departments as part of the ongoing awareness campaign. District Development Council (DDC) Chairman Doda, Dhananter Singh

Kotwal, DDC Vice Chairperson, Sangeeta Bhagat and Deputy Commissioner, Harvinder Singh attended the programme and encouraged the participants. They highlighted the importance of sports in promoting a healthy lifestyle and keeping youth away from substance abuse. The officials appreciated the efforts of the organizers for conducting such events under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan and emphasized the need for collective action to make society drug-free. The programme witnessed active participation from health officials, players and local youth reflecting strong support for the anti-drug awareness initiative.

## DC XI Kathua scripts emphatic win over DC XI Samba



Winner team posing for a photograph with officials.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATHUA: DC XI Kathua registered a convincing 33-run victory over DC XI Samba in an exciting T20 encounter played Sports Stadium Kathua on Sunday, displaying fine teamwork and match temperament. Bating first after winning the toss, DC XI Kathua put up a competitive total of 161 for 7 in the allotted 20 overs. Amit Sharma stood tall with a magnificent 56 off 42 balls, striking nine boundaries and holding the innings together with a blend of elegance and authority. Karun injected momentum with a brisk 30 off 16 deliveries, while Jimmy added 22. Amit Jasrotia's unbeaten 26 runs towards the end provided the much-needed flourish, helping the side post a challenging target.

In response, DC XI Samba was restricted to 128 all out in 19.1 overs. Robin Singh Rajput top-scored with 37, followed by Surinder Kumar with 24, but the chase never really gathered steam in the face of disciplined bowling and sharp fielding. The bowling attack of DC XI Kathua was spearheaded brilliantly by DC Rajesh Sharma, Vishal and Karun, who maintained tight lines and picked up timely breakthroughs. Adding to the highlights, CPO Ranjeet Thakur executed a superb caught-and-bowled, drawing applause from players and spectators alike. The match was marked by high energy, sportsmanship and camaraderie, with DC XI Kathua ultimately emerging victorious through a collective and spirited team effort.

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## BSF School Jammu bids farewell to Class XII students

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: To bid adieu to the senior-most class of BSF School, Jammu, a grand farewell party was organized in the school. The day turned into a memorable fiesta dedicated to the years spent together, celebrating friendships and reminiscing about the joyful moments shared by the students. The Principal, Dr. S.K. Shukla, was the Chief Guest on the occasion, while Mrs. Aruna Shukla graced the event as the Guest of Honour. The atmosphere was filled with excitement, emotions, and nostalgia as the outgoing Class XII students gathered to celebrate their final days at school. A special cultural programme was organized to make the occasion even more memorable. The students of Class XI put in tremendous effort to host



BSF School Jammu faculty and students at farewell function.

the event and entertained the outgoing batch with foot-tapping dance performances and soulful songs. Their energetic performances filled the auditorium with cheer and applause. Various fun games were also conducted to exhilarate the students and create a lively environment. The winners were given attractive gifts as tokens of love and appreciation. Divya Mahajan, Senior Teacher, addressed the stu-

dents and showered her blessings upon them. The highlight of the occasion was the much-awaited "Mr. and Miss BSF School" pageant show. Each participant was assigned interesting tasks to showcase their talents, intelligence, and confidence. The judges asked thought-provoking questions, and the students responded with remarkable clarity and confidence. The competition consisted of

several rounds that tested their overall personality, communication skills, and presence of mind. After multiple rounds of evaluation, Milanjot Singh was adjudged "Mr. BSF School," while Harshita Sharma was crowned "Miss BSF School." They were selected on the basis of their academic achievements and overall performance throughout the session. Their victory was greeted with loud applause and

## Clinical India beat Australia by 21 runs in rain-hit first Women's T20I

**AGENCY**  
SYDNEY: India were clinical with both bat and ball as they defeated Australia by 21 runs under the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method in the first Women's T20 International to start their tour Down Under on a resounding note here Sunday. Seamer Arundhati Reddy (4/22) led an excellent bowling display as India packed off Australia for 133. Such was the Indian bowlers' performance that Australia were bundled out with two overs to spare. In reply, vice-captain Smriti Mandhana was unbeaten on a 17-ball 16 with Jemimah Rodrigues giving her company, when the heavens opened up to force an interruption. Play could not resume after that and India, who were 50 for one in 5.1 overs, were declared deserving winners. The DLS par score after 5.1 overs was 29. The big-hitting Shafali Verma played her part before being dismissed by Australia's new skipper Sophie Molineux, smashing her way to an 11-ball 21. Asked to bat first, Australia were quick off the blocks and raced to 22 in 2.2

overs when Beth Mooney (5) got a leading edge while trying to loft a Renuka Singh delivery, but only managed to sky the ball for Smriti Mandhana to complete the catch at cover. The other opener, Georgia Voll (18 off 10 balls) followed Mooney to the dressing room soon after as she got a thin edge while attempting to play the cut shot against a wide delivery by Kranti Gaud, and wicketkeeper Richa Ghosh did the rest comfortably. Ellyse Perry (20 off 11 balls) and Phoebe Litchfield (26 off 19 balls) steadied the ship with a brisk 41-run partnership for the third wicket but just when their association was starting to threaten India, Arundhati struck thanks to some great work by skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who ran back to cover a lot of ground and pulled off a brilliant catch diving sideways. It was a big break for India, and they had their tails up as they snared two more wickets in the form of Ashleigh Gardner (4) and Litchfield to reduce hosts Australia to 80 for five at the start of the 10th over.

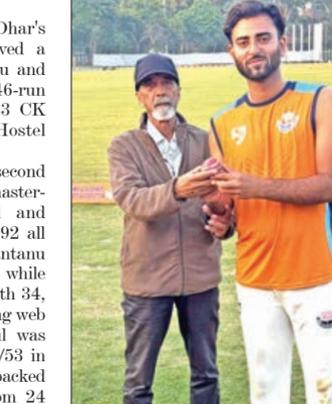
Georgia Wareham (30 off 19 balls) and Nicola Carey (12) added 41 runs for the sixth wicket to halt India's charge for a brief while before the former not just missed out on a poor Arundhati delivery but got out after miscuing a ball that was going down the leg side, leaving Australia at 121 for six in the 14th over. The score remained the same as

Carey was bowled by a quick Shree Charani delivery while the batter tried to play the cut shot. Renuka then had Annabel Sutherland brilliantly stumped by Ghosh who removed the bails in a jiffy. Australia is beginning a new era with Sophie Molineux taking charge of the side after being appointed captain of the T20 team in January.

SCOREBOARD	
<b>Australia Women</b>	
Beth Mooney † c Mandhana b Renuka Singh	5
Georgia Voll c † Ghosh b Gaud	18
Phoebe Litchfield c † Ghosh b Reddy	26
Ellyse Perry c Kaur b Reddy	20
Ashleigh Gardner c Kaur b Sharma	4
Georgia Wareham c Sharma b Reddy	30
Nicola Carey b Shree Charani	12
Annabel Sutherland st † Ghosh b Renuka Singh	3
Sophie Molineux (c) not out	6
Kim Garth c Renuka Singh b Shree Charani	2
Darcie Brown b Reddy	1
<b>Extras</b>	6
<b>Total</b>	133/10
<b>India Women</b>	
(T: 30 runs from 5.1 ovs)	
Smriti Mandhana not out	16
Shafali Verma c Wareham b Molineux	21
Jemimah Rodrigues not out	9
<b>Extras</b>	4
<b>Total</b>	50/1

## Praful's magical 6-wicket haul in vain as J&K crumble to Goa by 146 runs

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Off-spinner Praful Dhar's mesmerizing 6-wicket spell proved a heroic but futile effort as Jammu and Kashmir suffered a crushing 146-run defeat to Goa in the Men's U-23 CK Nayudu Trophy at JKCA Hostel Ground here today. Resuming at 24/0 in their second innings, Goa unravelled under a masterful spin assault from Praful and Sarvashish Singh, slumping to 192 all out. First-innings centurion Shaantanu Nevagi fought valiantly with 64, while Sarthak Madkaikar chipped in with 34, but the spinners spun a suffocating web around the batting lineup. Praful was the destroyer-in-chief, claiming 6/53 in 18 incisive overs. Sarvashish backed him up brilliantly with 3/66 from 24



Praful Dhar in action during the match.

overs, while pacer Basit Bashir snared 1. Tasked with chasing 266, J&K imploded spectacularly for 120. Arnav Gupta's gritty 52 off 73 balls adorned with 7 boundaries-offered fleeting hope, but the chase collapsed. Goa's bowlers ran riot as Manish P. Kakode started with a devastating 5-wicket haul, ably supported by Yash Kasvankar (3 wickets) and Samarth (2). Earlier, Goa had posted 286 in their first innings, powered by Shaantanu Nevagi's brilliant century. J&K's left-arm spinner Vishal Kumar struck back with 6 wickets, but the hosts managed only 212 in reply, highlighted by Udhay Partap's resolute 64. Manish P. Kakode once again shone with the ball for Goa.

## Army organizes volleyball match on National Women's Day at Pangali

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: On the occasion of National Women's Day a volleyball match for girls was organized in Pangali village to celebrate the strength, confidence and empowerment of women in society. The event saw enthusiastic participation from young

girls who showcased remarkable skill, teamwork and sportsmanship on the field. The match not only promoted physical fitness but also encouraged greater involvement of girls in sports and community activities. The villagers, along with local representatives, gathered to cheer for the players, creating an atmosphere of support and pride. This collective effort aimed to inspire young girls and reinforce the importance of women's empowerment.

The initiative was a testament to the community's commitment to promoting gender equality through constructive, community-driven activities. It underscored the vital role that sports play in empowering women and breaking down societal barriers, empowering them to excel in every aspect of life.