

J&K's rampaging rise: roaring into Ranji finals for historic glory

Stuns formidable Bengal in their own den



STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a thunderous display of grit and glory, Jammu & Kashmir's cricketers have rampaged through the Ranji Trophy elite group like a Himalayan storm unleashed, storming into the finals for the first time in over four decades and etching their name into the annals of Indian domestic cricket history. Defying odds, skepticism, and the biting chill of winter pitches, this ragtag band of warriors-led by unyielding batsmen and fiery pacers from the Valley and beyond-dismantled giants with sheer willpower, scripting a saga that transcends sport to ignite regional pride. Their campaign pulses with the unquenchable spirit of a resurgent J&K, poised on the brink of a trophy that could redefine legacies and

roar their rampage into immortality. Jammu & Kashmir's stunning Ranji Trophy resurgence has electrified India's domestic circuit, transforming a perennial underdog into a knockout-stage powerhouse. Gritty comebacks, match-winning knocks, and unyielding resolve are no longer flukes—they're the hallmarks of a masterful blueprint blending visionary leadership, merit-based selection, and relentless preparation. Spearheading this revolution is Mithun Manhas, former Director of Cricket Operations and Development at the JKCA and now BCCI president-elect. A stalwart of J&K and Delhi Ranji teams with IPL pedigree, Manhas has instilled unwavering continuity, nurturing a stable core of talent from chaos to consistency. This triumph owes much to the JKCA's dedicated team: Administrators Brig. Anil Gupta (Member-Administration) and Vidya Bhaskar (Member, Cricket Operations and Development); CAC Members Abdul Qayoom, Vijay Sharma, and Meem Singh Slathia; Selectors Sarabjeet Singh, Dhruv Mahajan, and Arshad Bhat; Coaching Staff led by Ajay Sharma, P. Krishnakumar, Dishant Yagnik, Sunny Kumar, and Chirag Pandya; and the full management under Hilal Ahmed Zargar and Ravi Sharma, skipper Paras Dogra, supported by the JKCA media team. Salutations to all for scripting this landmark chapter in J&K cricket's ascent. Meanwhile, resuming from overnight score of 43/2, J&K rode on a superb batting dis-

tributing power-packed 30 off 27 balls with one four and 3 massive sixes. Shubham Singh Pudir scored valuable 27 off 58 balls with 5 boundaries. Akash Deep was the most successful bowler for Bengal, who captured 3 wickets by conceding 46 runs in his 15 overs, while Mohammed Shami, who captured 8 wickets in the first innings, also claimed one wicket in J&K second essay.

SCOREBOARD

Bengal 1st Innings	328/10
Jammu & Kashmir 1st Innings	302/10
Bengal 2nd Innings	
Abhimanyu Easwaran (c) lbw b Auqib Nabi	5
Sudip Chatterjee lbw b Auqib Nabi	0
Sudip Kumar Gharami lbw b Kumar Anustup Majumdar lbw b Yudhvir Singh	12
Suraj Sindhu Jaiswal c Pundir b Auqib Nabi	14
Shahbaz Ahmed c fWadhawan b Yudhvir Singh	24
Sumanta Gupta c Abid Mushtaq b Kumar	8
Habib Gandhi f b Auqib Nabi	10
Akash Deep c Yudhvir Singh b Kumar	0
Mohammed Shami c Yudhvir Singh b Kumar	11
Mukesh Kumar not out	6
Extras	9
Total	99/10
Jammu & Kashmir 2nd Innings	
Yawer Hassan c fHabib Gandhi b Akash Deep	6
Shubham Pundir b Mohammed Shami	27
Vanshaj Sharma not out	43
Paras Dogra (c) c fHabib Gandhi b Akash Deep	9
Abdul Samad not out	30
Extras	10
Total	126/4

CLUJ felicitates Shooter Aneesa Sharma



STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Vice Chancellor Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ), Dr KS Chandrasekar today felicitated Aneesa Sharma for her remarkable achievements in the recently held events at his office in the presence of senior faculty members and officials from department of sports. Aneesa brought laurels to the institution and the Nation by securing team Gold and individual Bronze in the Asian Rifle / Pistol Championship. To bring glory to the CLUJ, Aneesa clinched a Silver Medal in the individual category at the All

India Inter-University Championship. While felicitating Aneesa, the Vice-Chancellor lauded her dedication and perseverance. "Aneesa Sharma has made the entire University proud through her exceptional achievements at both international and national platforms. Her commitment, discipline, and relentless pursuit of excellence reflect the true spirit of sportsmanship. She is an inspiration to all students of Cluster University of Jammu, and we are confident she will continue to scale greater heights in the years to come," said the VC.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Vinod Bakshi, Director, Physical Education and Sports, CLUJ expressed gratitude to the VC for his continuous encouragement and unwavering support towards sports development in the University. "We sincerely thank the Vice-Chancellor for his visionary leadership and consistent support in strengthening the sports infrastructure and encouraging student-athletes. Aneesa's achievements are a result of her hard work combined with the University's supportive environment," he mentioned.

RBI Jammu becomes Zonal Badminton champion



Winner badminton team of RBI Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Jammu clinched the Badminton trophy of the RBI Inter-office Zonal (North Zone) Sports Meet which held at Chandigarh. The star-studded team of RBI Jammu, included former

J&K champions, Gurvinder Singh and Vipul Saini. Other members of the team were Basu Bhagat and Mandeep Singh. Besides team gold, the RBI Jammu won men's doubles and men's singles titles as also gold in 35 plus category event.

On their return from the Zonal meet, the team was complimented and felicitated by Regional Director of UT of J&K and Ladakh, Chandher Shekhar Azad for bringing laurels for RBI Jammu. "Now, the RBI Jammu shall represent the North Zone in RBI Inter-Zonal Sports Meet. We are prepared to steal the show at the National level too," said Gurvinder Singh, who is also secretary RBI Sports and Cultural Club, Jammu. Meanwhile, RBI Jammu also excelled in the RBI Inter-office zonal Cultural meet held at Dehradun. In solo song female, Pallavi Seotra of J&K bagged first place. In Skit, J&K was runners-up while Himanshu Pandey bagged second position in show your talent contest. Gurinder Singh finished third in best direction contest.

JU's Bhandarwah Campus shines at National Hackathon "Innovathon 1.0"

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a moment of great pride and recognition, the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir and Chancellor, University of Jammu (JU), Manoj Sinha, who graced the National Hackathon "Innovathon 1.0" as the Chief Guest, appreciated the hard work, innovation, and outstanding efforts of the students of Bhandarwah Campus for their remarkable performance at the national platform. SIIEDC, JU organized two days National Hackathon "Innovathon 1.0" under the Patronship of Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor JU. Prof. Alka Sharma and Dr. Jatinder Manhas coordinated the event along with other faculty members and scholars from JU and Bhandarwah Campus. In a remarkable display of innovation and technical excel-



lence, the Bhandarwah Campus brought laurels to the University at the National Hackathon. In a proud moment for the Campus, two teams from Bhandarwah qualified for the final rounds of the national-level competition, which witnessed participation from institutions across the country. Among them, the team "Tech Titans" secured the 3rd position in the highly competitive "Tech Enabled Tourism System" track. The

team's innovative project, titled "RegionX," focused on developing a technology-enabled tourism ecosystem aimed at enhancing regional connectivity, improving visitor experience, and promoting digital integration in the tourism sector. The solution was widely appreciated by the jury for its practicality, scalability, and potential to strengthen sustainable tourism development. The winning team com-

prised BCA 4th Semester students - Shubham Katal, Zeeshan Ahmed, Azhar Mushtaq Batt, and Amit Kumar - whose creativity, teamwork, and technical expertise stood out among competing teams. Their achievement reflects the vibrant academic environment and innovation-driven culture being nurtured at Bhandarwah Campus. Congratulating the students on their outstanding performance, Prof. Rahul Gupta, Rector, Bhandarwah Campus, expressed immense pride in their accomplishment.

The event was graced by the Chief Guest, Honorable District Sports Officer Mohd Quasim; Guest of Honour Intiaz Bandy, HOD DIET Poonch; and other distinguished guests including ZEPO Vijay Sharma, Neetu Sharma, Yasmin Akhter, and Senior Lecturer Altaf from DIET Poonch. The guests were welcomed by the Principal, staff, and students. The programme commenced with a disciplined march-past by the four houses of the school. Before the competitions began, the names of the partic-

JKSC screens Sub-Junior Volleyball Teams for National Championship

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Sub-Junior Boys and Girls Volleyball teams of Jammu and Kashmir were screened today by the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council ahead of their participation in the 46th Sub-Junior National Volleyball Championship for Boys and Girls. The prestigious championship is scheduled to be held at Bandel, Hooghly, West Bengal, from 24th February to 1st March 2026. The screening process was conducted to assess the performance, fitness, and preparedness of the selected players who will represent the Union Territory at the national level. Officials of the Sports Council interacted with the players and coaching staff, encouraging them to maintain discipline, teamwork, and high standards of sportsmanship. The Council extended its best wishes to the teams for a successful campaign in the upcoming championship. The participation of J&K teams in the national event reflects the continuous efforts of the Sports Council to promote volleyball and nurture young sporting talent across the region.



VAJK officials with players.

R3A Karate Academy organizes Belt Promotion Test



R3A Karate Academy officials with participants at Belt Promotion Test.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: R3A Karate Academy organised a Belt Promotion Test under the banner of Universal Karate Do Federation of J&K, affiliated with Amateur Karate Do Association of J&K. The examination was conducted under the guid-

ance of Instructor Sensei Priya Sharma, Black Belt and National Player, and Examiner Shihan Rajan Jamwal, 5th Dan Black Belt, National Referee and President of Jammu District Karate Do Association. Students promoted were: Rashi Kumari to Brown

Belt; Prisha, Aahaeli and Omaha to Purple Belt; Ustat and Sandhika to Blue Belt; Dhanvi to Green Belt; Bhagya to Orange Belt; and Viansh, Ashmita, Kiyara and Lakshya to Yellow Belt. The Academy congratulated all students and wishes them success in upcoming tournaments.

Hari Memorial Public Academy celebrates Annual Sports Day

STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: Hari Memorial Public Academy celebrated its Annual Sports Day on 16th and 17th February with great enthusiasm and excitement on the school campus. The entire school wore a festive look as students, teachers, parents, and visitors gathered to witness the much-awaited event. A large number of parents and well-wishers attended the programme and cheered wholeheartedly for the participants.



The event was graced by the Chief Guest, Honorable District Sports Officer Mohd Quasim; Guest of Honour Intiaz Bandy, HOD DIET Poonch; and other distinguished guests including ZEPO Vijay Sharma, Neetu Sharma, Yasmin Akhter, and Senior Lecturer Altaf from DIET Poonch. The guests were welcomed by the Principal, staff, and students. The programme commenced with a disciplined march-past by the four houses of the school. Before the competitions began, the names of the partic-

ipants were announced, and students lined up house-wise. The sports events included high jump, long jump, pole vault, 100-metre race, lemon race, sack race, relay race, and several other exciting competitions. Students displayed remarkable sportsmanship and determination. Many participants excelled in events like the long jump and 100-metre race, winning prizes for their outstanding performances. The guests appreciated the efforts of the students and emphasized the importance of regular participation in sports

for physical fitness, teamwork, and character building. After the conclusion of events, Vice Principal Rasmeeet Singh announced the names of the winners. Prizes and certificates were distributed by the Chief Guest. The school expressed gratitude to the School Director, Adv. Sanjeev Sharma, and thanked Mohd Quasim and Intiaz Bandy for their gracious presence. The event concluded with speech by Principal Manju Sharma, who appreciated the dedication of teachers and students.

48th Inter-Collegiate Annual Athletic Meet 2025-26 continues with high energy at JU

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The second day of the 48th Inter-Collegiate Annual Athletic Meet (Men & Women) Championship 2025-26 witnessed remarkable enthusiasm and spirited participation at the University Synthetic Track, organised by the University of Jammu through its Directorate of Sports & Physical Education. Athletes from various affiliated colleges showcased dedication, discipline, and sportsmanship, turning the event into a vibrant celebration of collegiate athletics. The event is being conducted under the direct supervision of Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba, Director, Directorate of Sports & Physical Education, whose leadership and guidance have ensured disciplined and smooth execution of the championship. The organising committee, along with technical officials



and support staff, has maintained high standards of fairness, coordination, and transparency. The technical panel overseeing the events includes Dr. Mandeep Singh, Dr. Vimal Kishore, Raj Kumar Bakshi, Ravish Vaid, Gagan Kumar, Padam Dev Singh, Bharat, Nirmal Singh, Gurucharan Singh, Chamel Singh, Harvinder Singh, Gurbachan Singh, Amit Sharma, Parveen Singh, Harinderpal Singh, Dr. Inderjeet Singh, Dr. Mahak, Rishiv Sharma, and Richa Mandla. With active support from students of the Directorate, their meticulous planning and teamwork ensured the successful conduct of all competitions. The results of the Events are as under:
MEN (Javelin Throw): Adnan Farooq (GDC Doda) gold, Rajeev Chandan (GDC Nowshera) silver, and Rizvan Javaid (GDC Surankote) bronze. Shot-Put: Manjeet Singh (GDC Udhampur) Gold, Faheem Akram (GDC Mendher) Silver, and Kamalpreet Singh (PG Deptt) Bronze. 10,000 Meter: Shivam Sharma (GDC Kathua) Gold, Bhushan Singh (PG Deptt.) Silver, and Rohit (GDC Udhampur) Bronze. 800 Meter: Ansh Dubey (PG Deptt.) Gold, Amit Singh (GDC Samba) Silver, and Anish Sharma (GDC Khour) Bronze. Long Jump: Anish Sharma (GDC Udhampur) Gold, Arun Parihar (GDC Bhandarwah) Silver, and Rajinder Singh (GDC Ramkote) Bronze. Triple Jump: Qammar (GDC Mendher) Gold, Uttkarsh Barnwal (GDC Udhampur) Silver, and Arjun Khokar (GDC Nowshera) Bronze. 400 Meter: Ajay Kumar (GDC Akhnoor) Gold, Ravinder

Lakhotra (GDC Kunjwani) Silver, and Manish Kumar (GDC Samba) Bronze. 1500 Meter: Ansh Dubey (PG Deptt.) Gold, Sumit Chibber (GDC Akhnoor) Silver, and Sumit Chand (GDC Billawar) Bronze. Discus Throw: Navdeep (PG Deptt.) Gold, Sarabjeet (GDC RS Pura) Silver, and Adnan (GDC Doda) Bronze. WOMEN Javelin Throw: Preeti Sharma (GCW Udhampur), Gold, Anisha (GDC Pouni) Silver, and Survi (PG Deptt.) Bronze. Shot-Put: Meena Devi (PG Deptt.) Gold, Palvi (GDC Pouni) Silver, and Qujeed Bano (GDC Nowshera) Bronze. 800 Meter: Taniya Devi (GDC Billawar) Gold, Anisha (GDC Udhampur) Silver, and Janhavi Devi (GDC Hiranagar) Bronze. Long Jump: Anjali Devi (GDC Billawar) Gold, Nitu

Jhaker (GDC Kathua) Silver, and Kashish Sharma (GDC Ramnagar) Bronze. Triple Jump: Taniya Devi (GDC Billawar) Gold, Mumta Devi (GDC Ramkote) Silver, and Varsha Devi (GDC Billawar) Bronze. 400 Meter: Khushi Verma (PG Deptt.) Gold, Anshika Sharma (GDC Udhampur) Silver, and Anjali Devi (GDC Billawar) Bronze. 1500 Meter: Sanjana Yadav (GDC Poonch) Gold, Jhanvi Devi (GDC Hiranagar) Silver, and Priya Sharma (GDC Ramnagar) Bronze. Discus Throw: Preeti Sharma (GCW Udhampur) Gold, Qufeeda Bano (GDC Nowshera) Silver, and Raksha Devi (GDC Paloura) Bronze. 3000 Meter: Isha Devi (GDC Jourian) Gold, Taniya Devi (GDC Billawar) Silver, and Diksha Bhagat (GCW Udhampur) Bronze.