

J&K on brink of historic Ranji Trophy semifinal berth

STATE TIMES NEWS

INDORE: 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 against Madhya Pradesh in a thrilling Ranji Trophy quarterfinal at Holkar Stadium today. MP staggered in reply at 87/5, still needing 204 with five wickets intact.

Resuming at 84/5, 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/??, while Venkatesh Iyer and Ramveer Singh Gurgar shared 3 wickets apiece.

Chasing a target of 291 runs, MP were 87/5 at



stumps on day-3 today. Himanshu Mantri (31), Yash Dubey (20), Shubham Sharma (11*) and Venkatesh Iyer (07*) were the main contributors. Auqib Nabi took (3/23) and Abid Mushtaq (2/19) were the successful bowlers for J&K.

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 Auqib Nabi's match-haul of 10 wickets (7/40 in the first innings) and Sunil Kumar's 3.

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

"#RanjiTrophyQuarterFinal A treat for the eyes! Outstanding return catch by Abid Mushtaq-diving left, snaring the ball inches

SCOREBOARD

JAMMU & KASHMIR 1ST INNINGS	194/10
MADHYA PRADESH 1ST INNINGS	152/10
JAMMU & KASHMIR 2ND INNINGS	
Shubham Khajuria c Dubey b Ramveer Gurgar	13
Yawer Hassan c †Mantri b Sen	01
Shubham Pundir b Sen	04
Paras Dogra (c) c †Mantri b Iyer	17
Abdul Samad c †Mantri b Iyer	32
Kanhaiya Wadhawan † c sub (Raghuwanshi) b Gurgar	23
Abid Mushtaq c Jain b Sen	41
Vanshaj Sharma not out	54
Auqib Nabi lbw b Sen	00
Yudhvir Singh c Ramveer Gurgar b Iyer	18
Sunil Kumar c Gawli b Ramveer Gurgar	26
Extras	19
Total	248/10
MADHYA PRADESH 2ND INNINGS	
Yash Dubey c Yudhvir Singh b Auqib Nabi	20
Himanshu Mantri † c Abdul Samad b Abid Mushtaq	31
Harsh Gawli c & b Abid Mushtaq	02
Shubham Sharma not out	11
Rajat Patidar (c) c Yawer Hassan b Auqib Nabi	08
Kumar Kartikeya b Auqib Nabi	00
Venkatesh Iyer not out	07
Extras	08
Total	87/5

above ground while airborne. Catches win matches. Abid's stunner sparked MP's second-innings wobble. Auqib Nabi's 10-wicket match haul is legendary.

Needing 291, MP limp at 87/5 on Day 3 stumps. J&K poised to make history," tweeted Brig Anil Gupta, JKCA Member-Administration.

Satish highlights role of sports in shaping disciplined, confident youth

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, on Sunday underscored the pivotal role of sports in shaping disciplined, resilient and confident youth, terming it essential for building a strong and progressive society.

The Minister, while speaking as the chief guest at the annual sports day of British International School, lauded the school management, teachers and students for organising a vibrant, well-coordinated and enthusiastic sporting event. Congratulating the entire school fraternity, Satish Sharma said that events like Sports Day reflect the true spirit of education, which goes beyond textbooks and examinations to promote holistic development by nurturing strong bodies, sharp minds and fearless character.

"As the Minister for Youth Services and Sports, I have witnessed firsthand how sports can transform lives. Sports instil discipline, teamwork, perseverance and respect for others. They keep our youth physically fit, mentally resilient and positively engaged," the Minister said.



Sports Minister Satish Sharma welcoming in school.

He reiterated that the government is fully committed towards strengthening the sports ecosystem across Jammu and Kashmir by upgrading infrastructure, enhancing coaching facilities and creating wider opportunities so that every talented boy and girl gets a fair chance to excel. Addressing the students, the Minister encouraged them to dream big, train hard, play fair and always carry the pride of Jammu and Kashmir with them. He congratulated the prize winners for their achievements and urged those who could not secure prizes to remain motivated, emphasizing that true victory lies in perseverance and the courage to keep trying.

acknowledged the vital role of parents, teachers and coaches, describing them as the silent pillars behind the success of young athletes.

Quoting Mahatma Gandhi, he reminded the students that "the body is the temple of the soul" and stressed the importance of maintaining physical fitness through sports and discipline.

Expressing optimism about the future of youth in Jammu and Kashmir, the Minister wished British International School continued success in nurturing confident, responsible and well-rounded citizens.

The programme concluded with a series of athletic events and cultural performances by the students, showcasing enthusiasm, teamwork and a vibrant sporting spirit.

Satish Sharma also

Muay Thai Association of J&K organises Advanced Waikru-Mai Muay Training Seminar

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Muay Thai Association of Jammu and Kashmir (MAJK) on Sunday organised a Muay Thai Advanced Training Waikru / Mai Muay Seminar, witnessing the enthusiastic participation of 80 students from various districts of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The seminar aimed at enhancing technical skills, discipline, and traditional understanding of Muay Thai, with special emphasis on Waikru and Mai Muay, which form the cultural and foundational aspects of the sport. Participants underwent intensive training sessions focusing on advanced techniques, posture, movement, and traditional rituals associated with Muay Thai.

The closing ceremony was graced by Sahil Aggarwal, Chief Patron, MAJK, as



Participants posing with dignitaries.

the Chief Guest, along with prominent dignitaries including Amit Singh, President, MAJK, and Vikas Dhar, Chief Organiser, MAJK. Also present on the occasion were Mohit Singh (National Judge & Coach), Surjeet Dogra (Coach), Abhimanyu Singh (Coach), and Neeraj Singh Manhas (Coach), who played a key role in conducting and supervising the training sessions.

Speaking on the occasion, the officials highlighted the growing popularity of Muay Thai in Jammu and Kashmir and reiterated MAJK's commitment towards nurturing young talent and promoting the sport at grassroots as well as competitive levels. The association emphasized that such advanced training seminars are crucial for preparing athletes for national and international competitions.

JU's Udhampur Campus promotes cultural heritage, experiential learning through trek to Mahamaya Temple

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a meaningful blend of culture, spirituality, and experiential learning, the Udhampur Campus of the University of Jammu organized a one-day trekking expedition to the historic Mahamaya Temple at Garnai Lotta, Udhampur.

The initiative aimed to promote physical well-being, cultural awareness, and a deeper understanding of the Indian Knowledge System while highlighting the region's potential for sustainable tourism.

The trek through the scenic Mahamaya Forest offered participants an immersive experience in nature, showcasing the area's rich biodiversity and ecological significance. The forest landscape demonstrated immense possibilities for eco-friendly tourism initiatives such as nature walks, bird watching, and sustainable trekking routes that preserve the local



JU's Udhampur Campus team at trekking expedition.

ecosystem while supporting community-based economic growth.

Designed as a practical classroom beyond conventional academic spaces, the expedition sought to bridge physical fitness with spiritual learning. It encouraged students to connect with traditional values, spiritual beliefs, and cultural heritage embedded in the region's historical landscape. The Mahamaya Forest and Temple served as a living

example of the harmonious coexistence of nature and spirituality.

More than 50 students, accompanied by faculty members, participated in the trek, finding it both rejuvenating and educational. The experience enabled participants to step away from routine classroom learning and engage directly with the spiritual and cultural significance of local shrines that have shaped the identity of the Udhampur region over

centuries.

Throughout the trek, students actively participated in discussions emphasizing the preservation of ancient traditions, ecological balance viewed through a spiritual perspective, and the importance of fostering resilience, community bonding, and respect for nature. These interactions enriched their understanding of how cultural heritage can inform sustainable living practices.

Sharing his vision for the

initiative, Prof. Yash Pal Sharma, Rector, Udhampur Campus, University of Jammu, stated that education goes beyond academic instruction and must nurture the soul while strengthening connections to cultural roots. He emphasized that the trek symbolized a bridge between the Indian Knowledge System and modern experiential learning, enabling students to internalize traditional values within a contemporary educational framework.

The event was meticulously coordinated by Dr. Ritika Sambyal, Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, Udhampur Campus. The initiative reflects the University of Jammu's commitment to holistic education by integrating intellectual growth, cultural awareness, environmental consciousness, and physical wellness through immersive learning experiences.

Shiksha Niketan Higher Secondary School hosts farewell for Class X, XII students

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A heartfelt farewell ceremony for the outgoing batches of Classes X and XII (2025-26) was organised with great enthusiasm and emotional warmth at the Jeevan Nagar campus of Shiksha Niketan School on Saturday. The celebrations marked the culmination of an important academic journey for the students, filled with memories, achievements, and aspirations for the future.

The farewell for Class XII students was organised by Class IX students, with participation from nearly 1,600 students of Classes XI and XII along with around 500 members of teaching and non-teaching staff. The programme featured vibrant cultural performances, inspiring speeches, and sev-



Shiksha Niketan School faculty and students at farewell ceremony.

eral nostalgic moments that celebrated the accomplishments of the outgoing batch.

Similarly, the farewell ceremony for Class X students, also hosted by Class IX, witnessed the participation of over 800 students and approximately 500 staff members. The event included colourful cultural presentations, expressions of grati-

tude, and best wishes for students stepping into the next phase of their academic lives.

The ceremonies were attended by Principal Rameshwar Mengi, directors of various Shiksha Niketan institutions, headmasters, wing in-charges, staff members, and representatives from sister schools.

Distinguished guests including Inspector Jaipal Singh, Gulzar Singh Jamwal, Aryan Ray, Anam Sharma (MBA, Gold Medalist, Jammu University), and Vibhor Sharma, Senior Lecturer in Artificial Intelligence at Fontys University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands, also graced the occasion and

motivated the students with inspiring messages.

Addressing the gathering, Principal Rameshwar Mengi congratulated the outgoing students on their achievements and wished them success in their future endeavours. The highlight of the ceremonies was the felicitation of students with certificates and mementos in recognition of their contributions to the institution. Jahnvi Paliwal and Sanam Kumar (Class XII), along with Mahi Rajput and Navya Singh (Class X), were honoured with the titles of Ms. SNS and Mr. SNS respectively.

The celebrations concluded with a special lunch hosted by the junior classes, reflecting the spirit of unity, gratitude, and excellence that the institution upholds.

J&K Police lifts volleyball trophy



J&K Police team receiving winner trophy from the chief guest.

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: A volleyball tournament was successfully organized by the Bhaiya Volleyball Club under the aegis of the District Kathua Volleyball Association, witnessing enthusiastic participation from local teams and sports enthusiasts.

The final match was played between JK Police and Bhaiya Volleyball Club, where JK Police delivered an impressive performance to clinch the title with a

convincing 2-0 victory. The match showcased high levels of skill, teamwork, and competitive spirit, drawing loud applause from the spectators.

Advocate Vijay Sharma, MLA Hiranagar, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Sudesh Kumar Sethu attended as the Guest of Honour. Both dignitaries appreciated the efforts of the organizers and encouraged youth to actively participate in sports for physi-

cal fitness and discipline. Pankaj from the JK Police team was declared the Best Player of the Tournament for his outstanding performance throughout the event. He was awarded a bicycle as the Best Player prize in recognition of his contribution to the team's success.

The tournament concluded on a celebratory note, promoting sportsmanship and community engagement in the region.

Student-led conference held at Bhartiya Shiksha Kender HSS Domana

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bhartiya Shiksha Kender Higher Secondary School (BSKHSS), Domana, successfully organized a Student-Led Conference (SLC), providing students with an opportunity to take ownership of their learning journey and actively reflect on their academic progress.

The event was graced by distinguished observers and adjudicators, including Ifra, Delegate from the Lead School; Nriyashree Deepak Dutta, Dance Expert, APS Samba; and Kusum Rakwal, Head of the Department of English, Air Force School. Their presence added value and encouragement to the student-led initiative.



The conference commenced with the lighting of the traditional lamp by the dignitaries, followed by a welcome address by the Principal, Sandhya Raj Pathania. A pledge ceremony was conducted in the presence of Vice Principal Monika Gupta, Supervisor Rekha

Rajput, and Coordinators of the Primary and Secondary Wings, Dipika and Hritika.

Students prepared detailed portfolios highlighting their learning experiences, classroom activities, and achievements throughout the academic year 2025. During the

conference, BSKHSS confidently presented their portfolios, displayed artefacts, and shared hands-on learning experiences with their parents.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from parents, who appreciated the

opportunity to gain deeper insights into classroom learning and actively encouraged their children. A major attraction of the conference was the impressive models and projects prepared by Children With Special Needs (CWSN), including working models such as the water cycle, reflecting inclusivity and creativity.

The conference concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, where certificates and awards were presented to all participating students and teachers by the Principal, Sandhya Raj Pathania. The event reinforced the school's commitment to experiential learning and strong parent-school collaboration.

AJKCA evolves 'Weekend Chess' concept

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The All J&K Chess Association (AJKCA) has come out a pilot project-Weekend Chess to reach out to the maximum number of youth in Jammu and Kashmir. To be replicated in all the 20 districts of J&K, the project shall be launched in Jammu district in near future as part of the multi-year chess promotion plan of the AJKCA.

"In the first year of the Weekend Chess, 40 such day-long competitions, across three formats of Rapid, Blitz and Classical shall be held for which a calendar with dates will be announced on February 14," said newly elect-



ed president of the AJKCA, Meenal Gupta. Through the Weekend Chess programme, the AJKCA has planned to involve 1.5 lakh youth into active chess in the next four years ending 2030.

"It is a meticulously curated to boost and encourage the potential of young chess players and aspirants. It aims to develop a self-reliant chess economy fully equipped and supported by modern, digital and smart technology," said Meenal. She added that the Weekend Chess aspires to generate plethora of opportunities and functional platform for chess players, coaches, arbiters, and all those seeking chess as a career option.