

Cricket lovers eager to see J&K IPL stars perform this season



STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Cricket lovers across Jammu and Kashmir are waiting in the wings rather eagerly waiting for their five IPL stars to perform in the 17th edition of Indian Premier League which begins with the match of MA Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai, tomorrow.

Umran Malik, Abdul Samad, Yuvraj Singh, Rasikh Salam and Abid Mushtaq will be playing for various IPL teams for 2024 season. While Samad and Umran will be part of Sunrisers Hyderabad, Yuvraj, Rasikh and Abid will be part of Lucknow Super Giants, Delhi Capitals and Rajasthan Royals respectively.

Rasikh Salam's Delhi Capitals will be taking on Kings XI Punjab at 3:30 pm on March 23, while Samad and Umran's SRH will lock horns with Kolkata Knight Riders at 7:30 pm on the same day and Abid Mushtaq's Rajasthan Royals will face Yuvraj Singh's Lucknow Super Giants on March 24, 2024.

All these five players had a reasonably good 2023-24 season, especially, Rasikh and Yuvraj were standout bowlers for J&K in the shortest format of the game. Rasikh took 11 wickets in the 7 matches of Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy with 6/31 as his best, while Yuvraj captured 10 wickets in this tournament with 3/13 as his best. Umran took 6 wickets in Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy and

took 6 wickets with 3/27 as his best, while Abid Mushtaq took just 3 wickets in the T20 format this season but was instrumental with the ball and the willow in Ranji Trophy this season.

The season 2023-24 remained good for explosive Abdul Samad who scored some good runs in all three formats.

Now, it would be interesting to see who among J&K's five stars get the Playing XI in their first outings.

"We are hopeful that our IPL will do better this season because they got a good number of quality matches in all formats, besides their rigorous individual training," said one of the JKCA Managers on the condition of anonymity.

GDC Marh organises SVEEP programme



GDC Marh students and faculty members during a programme on Thursday.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Government Degree College (GDC), Marh on Thursday organized Systematic Voter's Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) awareness programme to create voter awareness and promote voter literacy among students as well as other stakeholders.

Kumar Koul interacted with the students and briefed them about SVEEP, a flagship program of Election Commission of India for Voter's education, spreading voter awareness and promoting voters literacy in India.

SDM Marh, Manu Hansa and SVEEP Nodal Officer, Shalini Gupta also interacted with the

students and faculty and appreciated the efforts of college for organising SVEEP programme.

Speaking on the occasion, SDM Marh said that the vision of SVEEP is to enlighten, enable and empower every citizen to register as a voter and cast his or her vote at every election in an informed and ethical manner.

IGNOU extends last date for online admission, re-registration for Jan 2024 session till March 31

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Indra Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has extended the last date for fresh admission as well as re-registration for the January 2024 session till 31st of March, 2024. The date of re-registration has been extended with a Late Fee of Rs.500 only. The admission date for short term six-month duration and semester-based programmes has not been extended further.

email ID or mobile number. They can apply for IGNOU re-registration January 2024 by visiting the official website of the IGNOU www.ignou.ac.in. The direct link for online re-registration is <https://onlinerr.ignou.ac.in> which can be accessed under the drop-down menu option "Register Online" on IGNOU website.

For filling the admission form online, candidates need to create a User ID and Password on the SAMARTH portal and be ready with a Mobile No., Email ID, properly scanned academic documents, photograph and Bank Debit /Credit/Net Banking for payment of fee. Applicants can access the IGNOU admission portal 2024 at IGNOU website www.ignou.ac.in or by directly following the link <https://ignouadmission.samarth.edu.in>.

To enroll in the next year or semester, candidates must fill and submit the IGNOU re-registration January 2024 form by the submission deadline. The students who

did not attempt the term-end examinations or did not submit their assignment can also apply for re-registration for January 2024 provided the minimum duration is completed and programme validity has not expired. They can apply for IGNOU re-registration January 2024 by visiting the official website of the IGNOU www.ignou.ac.in. The direct link for online re-registration is <https://onlinerr.ignou.ac.in> which can be accessed under the drop-down menu option "Register Online" on IGNOU website.

"The desirous learners who wish to seek admission or re-register themselves for subsequent year/semester must avail this extended opportunity and apply online well before the last date and eligible learners can apply for Government of India Scholarships on the National Scholarship Portal at <https://scholarships.gov.in> after confirmation of admission", said Dr. Jai Prakash Verma, Regional Director.

CUJ launches Short Term Training Programme in Tourism for Women

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: School of Business Studies, Central University of Jammu launched Short Term Upskilling Training Programme for Women candidates in collaboration with Government Degree College Vijaypur, Samba under the guidance and mentorship of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu and Mission Director, Department of Skill Development, UT of J&K.

The programme was inaugurated in presence of Prof. Vandana Gupta, Principal, GDC Vijaypur, Prof. Jaya Bhasin, Dr. Neelika Arora and Dr. Shahid Mushtaq from School of Business Studies, Central University of Jammu and faculty members of college. Speaking on the occasion Prof. Vandana Gupta, chief guest of the inaugural session appreciated the efforts of Central University of Jammu under the dynamic and visionary leadership of its Vice Chancellor for organizing an upskilling outreach Programme in the College for the benefit of female



CUJ students and faculty at a short term training programme.

candidates. She talked about Nari Shakti as India jumps significantly on gender inequality Index as an outcome of the decisive agenda set by the Government for ensuring women's empowerment through policy initiatives spanned across women's lifecycle including large scale initiatives for girls' education, skill development, entrepreneurship facilitation and safety in the workplace aimed at their long-term socio-economic and development.

Prof. Jaya Bhasin, Dean, School of Business Studies in her address said that for realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047 there is a need to focus on gender equality along with gender

equity for overall economic independence and participation of women in decision making. She stated that the women-led development should make the women logical, expressive, rational and the progress of a society is dependent on the progress of women. She pointed out that in the fast-changing technological world there is a need to learn, unlearn and relearn skills to become job creators rather than job seekers.

Dr. Neelika Arora, Associate Professor while speaking in the inaugural function highlighted the need for women to have more financial dependence along with a change in the mindset to become an entrepreneur. She further spoke

about the primary role of women towards parents, society and nation besides giving tips to participants to choose the courses carefully depending on the available opportunities. She stressed on knowledge, skills and attitude as key to become successful in life and also elaborated the concept of Kaushal Bharat - Kusal Bharat.

Earlier Dr. Shahid Mushtaq, Assistant Professor in her welcome address briefed the participants about the short-term upskilling initiative being launched by the University to empower the youth of Jammu and Kashmir UT to learn employable skills. He further pointed out that the University is hand-holding

youth to promote self-entrepreneurship for income and employment generation. Speaking on the occasion he further said that the Tourism sector generates maximum employment with minimum investment and is the backbone of J&K economy. He introduced the trainer for the Programme S. Gupta having diverse industry experience of working in reputed corporate houses.

S. Gupta, Trainer for the upskilling programme illuminated the path for aspiring Multipurpose Associates (Tourism), setting the tone for the enriching journey ahead. The inaugural ceremony witnessed the presence of HoDs, and faculty members of the College. The entire program was coordinated by Dr. Neelika Arora, and Dr. Shahid Mushtaq under the supervision of Prof. Jaya Bhasin, Project Director, DHE Project on Employability Training and Dr. Vandana Gupta, Principal, GDC Vijaypur. S. Gupta proposed a formal vote of thanks expressing gratitude to all the contributors and supporters of this initiative.

Pant training hard to get trust back in body following comeback after accident: Ponting

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Delhi Capitals head coach Ricky Ponting on Thursday said skipper Rishabh Pant is putting in extra effort to get the "trust back" in his body for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) following the horrific accident that sidelined him for 14 months.



India wicketkeeper-batter Pant suffered a near-fatal accident in December 2022, which resulted in a year-long recovery phase and forced him to skip last year's IPL.

"He (Pant) has probably batted more in the last week than he has ever batted leading into most of the IPLs. I think from his point of view, he wants to get a bit of trust back in his body again," said Ponting

on the skipper's approach at the pre-season camp. "He has been putting himself through a few different paces and playing all the shots that he plays. He has been great, and more importantly, he has got a smile on his face, which is what all we love to see."

Ponting added that Pant has the kind of energy that is infectious and makes teammates follow him. "We all love his infectious attitude and smile around the group. Although he is still young, he has actually played a lot of cricket. He sets an example, he has a lot of energy and that's why other people tend to follow."

DC director of cricket

and former India skipper Sourav Ganguly indicated that Pant's unconventional style of batting reflected in his captaincy as well.

"He is not the conservative type of batter, so you expect that character in his captaincy. Nobody comes as a ready-made captain. You learn as you go and I think captaincy is by instinct. I'm looking forward to watching him during the tournament," said Ganguly. He added that the cricketer had gone through an emotional roller-coaster during his recovery phase.

"I'm surprised with the improvements he has made. Hopefully, it's a good season for him because he has gone through a lot emotionally. It's never easy when you go through that sort of injury," Ganguly said.

"It will be great to see him back not just for the Delhi Capitals, but for the Delhi Ranji team and for India as well because he is a special talent, a special player," added Ganguly. Delhi Capitals will begin their campaign in the IPL against Punjab Kings here on March 23.

CUJ releases Social Work Camp Report on 'Contours and Social Realities of Rural Punjab'



CUJ faculty releasing social work camp report.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Department of Social Work at Central University of Jammu releases a Social Work Camp report on "Contours and Social Realities of Rural Punjab."

This insightful report sheds light on the multifaceted dynamics of rural life in Punjab, offering a comprehensive analysis curated by esteemed faculty and students in the field. This report is edited by Dr. Ranvir Singh then Director of Fieldwork Unit at the Department of Social Work, Central University of Jammu, under whose supervision a team of 50 social work students, research scholars and faculty members visited Youth Football Club at Rurka Kalan, Punjab for a week-long

Social Work Camp. The report delves deep into the intricacies of rural communities, highlighting their challenges, strengths, and social structures. Dr. Singh's expertise and dedication have played a pivotal role in compiling this invaluable resource.

The release event took place on International Social Work Day, commemorating the dedication and contributions of social workers worldwide. The Report was released by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain, along with Prof. Jaya Bhasin, Dean of the Business School, Dr. Nancy Mengi, Head, Department of Social Work, and Dr. Bhat Iqbal Majeed, Director of Fieldwork Unit (2023-24), Dr. Ranvir Singh, Sr. Assistant Professor and Mr.

Fateh Lal, Assistant Professor at the Department of Social Work, Central University of Jammu.

During the release ceremony, Dr. Ranvir Singh provided a brief overview of the report, acknowledging the invaluable contributions of all the contributors. He expressed gratitude to the faculty, students, and collaborators whose dedication and hard work made this endeavour possible.

The "Contours and Social Realities of Rural Punjab" report stands as a testament to the Department of Social Work's commitment to academic excellence and social responsibility. It is poised to serve as a valuable resource for researchers, policymakers, and practitioners alike, aiming to effect positive change in rural communities.

Heritage School organises Orientation Sessions for parents



Parents and faculty at orientation session.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Orientation Programmes for parents of new students for the academic session 2024-25 were convened in two sessions, at Heritage School, to facilitate smooth transition for students and parents of classes I-V, into the forthcoming academic year.

The events began with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp and chanting of shlokas, followed by the Headmistress Vandana Jasrotia graciously welcoming attendees, underscoring the pivotal role of parental involvement in fostering their children's educational journey.

She elucidated pertinent changes in educational policy and emphasized the imperative of robust communication between parents and educators, in

order to collaborate and create a positive environment essential for the comprehensive development of every child.

Ranjana Jamwal, Incharge Classes I & II and Hemneet Kour, Incharge Classes III to V, shared insights on school regulations, curriculum and assessment methods, emphasizing parental engagement.

The School Counsellor, Karishma Pathania, provided valuable insights and guidance for adapting to the new educational environment.

The sessions concluded with gratitude expressed by Akash Pradhan, Principal, for parents' participation, reaffirming the school's dedication to holistic development of students.

Heritage School eagerly awaits students' return for another year of growth.

CSK eye positive start against RCB as teams try to find early answers to vexed questions

STATE TIMES NEWS
CHENNAI: A high-stakes match between cross-city rivals Chennai Super Kings and Royal Challengers Bengaluru here on Friday will usher in IPL 2024, but, beyond the grandeur around it, the two protagonists will have to find early answers to some deep questions as they attempt to enter a rarefied territory.

The Super Kings are five-time and defending champions, and a sixth title will put them in a space where no team has entered so far, not even Mumbai Indians, who also have five IPL trophies.

Dhoni 'hands over' CSK captaincy to Gaikwad day before IPL opener

CHENNAI: The legendary Mahendra Singh Dhoni on Thursday "handed" over the Chennai Super Kings captaincy to opener Ruturaj Gaikwad on the eve of the IPL opener here, a stunning decision that is bound to send speculation swirling on his playing future with the franchise. In a post on X, the Indian Premier League made the announcement a day before CSK take on Royal Challengers Bengaluru. The five-time champions issued a brief statement soon after: "MS Dhoni has handed over Chennai Super Kings' captaincy to Ruturaj Gaikwad ahead of the start of TATA IPL 2024. Ruturaj has been an integral part of Chennai Super Kings since 2019 and has played 52 matches in IPL during this period. The team looks forward to the upcoming season," said CSK. There is speculation that Dhoni will retire at the end of the season and therefore the franchise felt the need for a smooth transition in the stalwart's presence as a player: Gaikwad, who has played six ODIs and 19 T20s for India, made his CSK debut in 2020 and has gone on to represent the team in 52 games.

On the other hand, the Royal Challengers, who recently grabbed their maiden title through Women's Premier League, will be eager to add a first IPL title to their shelf.

However, they have their own challenges to master.

The Super Kings have been the torch-bearers of success in the IPL under MS Dhoni, who has shown no sign of slowing down even at 42.

While his cricketing brain is still immune to advancing years, the passing summers have caught up with his reflexes as a batsman.

So, the younger names will

have to step up. The CSK have placed enormous faith in new recruit Rachin Ravindra in the absence of Devon Conway, who will miss the initial part of IPL due to a thumb injury.

The CSK have more Kiwi flavour in Daryl Mitchell, a hard-hitting middle-order batter and a handy seamer.

In batting, they can also look to bank on the experience of Ajinkya Rahane and youthful exuberance of opener Ruturaj Gaikwad, who is entering the IPL after top-scoring for Maharashtra in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.