

Badminton veteran Som Raj hails BAJK for seniors event



Veteran Badminton player Som Raj Gupta complimenting the winners of the badminton tournament.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Veteran Badminton player and many times J&K champion, Som Raj Gupta on Monday complimented the winners and appreciated the Badminton Association of J&K (BAJK) for holding exclusive event for the seniors.

Som Raj, who started playing Badminton at the age of 40 and then dominated the veteran events for years together while delivering equally good performances in other state and open championships alongside youngsters, was the chief guest.

He later presented winners and runners-up trophies at the closing of two-day long Yonex-Sunrise J&K UT Masters (Veteran) Badminton Championship at J&K Police Badminton Hall, here.

Dr OD Sharma (chairman BAJK) presided while other prominent present were DV Sharma (president BAJK), Dushyant Sharma (treasurer BAJK), Balbir Jamwal, Basanti Bhat, Pawanjit Singh, Sukhdev Singh and Rahul Sharma (chief referee).

The Final Standings:
MEN SINGLES: Above 35: Winner: Akshey Behl and Runners up: Lokesh Sharma. Above 40: Winner: Rohan Slathia and Runners up: Uzair Ahmad (Srinagar). Above 45: Winner: Puran Chand and Runners up: Mohit Jain. Above 50: Winner: Vivek Mehta and Runners up: Sandeep Sanyal (Samba), Above 55: Winner: Sanjeev Arora (Srinagar) and Runners up: Sukhdev Singh. Above 60: Winner: Daljit Singh and Runners up:

Romesh Sharma.
MEN DOUBLES: Above 35: Winner: Abhishek and Sourab.

Runners up: Mudasir and Lokesh. Above 40: Mohit Jain and Vipen Sharma. Runners up: Uzair and Shakoor (Srinagar). Above 45: Winner: Vishal Dogra and Vikash Sharma. Runners up: Sunit and Rajesh (Reasi). Above 50: Winner: Vivek Mehta and Vikas Verma. Runners up: Sandeep and Ajatshatru (Samba). Above 55: Winner: Sukhdev Singh and RK Dubey. Runners up: Nasir Hakim and Sanjeev Arora. Above 60: Winner: Romesh Sharma and Daljit Singh. Runners up: JP Sharma and Vivek Slathia.

WOMEN SINGLES: Above 40: Winner: Shivali Bhat and Runners up: Sunita.

J&K's historic Ranji Trophy triumph: A beacon inspiring young cricketers, says Dhar

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir's exhilarating victory over powerhouse Karnataka in the Ranji Trophy finals has not only crowned the Union Territory as the new champions but also ignited a spark of inspiration among aspiring cricketers statewide. This monumental achievement stands as a powerful tonic, drawing young talents-both boys and girls-toward the sport and fueling their dreams of donning the national colours.



These sentiments were eloquently shared by Kirti Dhar, the pioneering first woman member of the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) since its inception, marking a milestone in the region's cricketing governance. Dhar emphasized that the triumph transcends gender lines, urging young women to embrace cricket with equal fervour alongside their male counterparts.

"This victory will empower our young eyes to step onto the field confidently, fostering a new era of inclusivity in J&K cricket," she remarked.

She showered praise on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for his unwavering support, personally traveling from Srinagar to Hubballi to cheer the J&K heroes as they

clinched the title. His presence, she noted, symbolized the government's commitment to nurturing sporting excellence.

Crediting the success to seamless teamwork, Dhar hailed the leadership of BCCI President Mithun Manhas, JKCA Member Administration Brig. Anil Gupta, the selectors, coaches, and the entire management.

"This is the fruit of collective dedication and strategic vision," she affirmed.

The impact is already palpable: Dhar revealed a surge in calls from enthusiastic youngsters, particularly young women cricketers, eager to enroll in cricket academies and training centers across the region. "We're witnessing a groundswell of passion that promises to reshape J&K's cricketing future," she added.

Reiterating the need for equity, she stressed: "J&K provides robust facilities for all cricketers, men and women alike. Yet, true gender equality demands we accelerate investments in women's cricket infrastructure to match their rising ambitions. This Ranji crown not only etches J&K's name in domestic cricket history but also heralds a brighter, more inclusive tomorrow for the sport in the region".

Big wins for Chardi Kala, Hari Singh XI in SCPL



Participating team posing with dignitaries.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Chardi Kala Strikers and Hari Singh Nalwa XI made it one-sided contests in the league round of the ongoing 2nd Sikh Cricket Premier League at University of Jammu grounds, here today.

In the first match of the morning session, Chardi Kala Strikers made it a one-sided contest beating Nanak Nagar Cricket Club by 167 runs. Batting first, Chardi Kala set a huge target of 200 runs for nine wickets, which, in reply, Nanak Nagar Club could not achieve and bowled out for just 33 runs in 10.1 overs.

Raman Dutta was declared player of the match and also best bowler for taking five wickets in 3.1 overs while Gurdeep

Singh named best batter for his 27-ball 56 runs studded with four six boundaries and three sixes.

The first match of the day was witnessed by chief guest, Member Parliament, Sat Sharma, who was accompanied by special guest, Legislator, Vikram Randhawa.

In other match of the day, Hari Singh Nalwa Club trounced BFN XI Nagar Club by 99 runs. Hari Singh, batting first, made 198 runs losing nine wickets, which, in reply, BFN could not chase and the whole side bundled out for 99 in 17 overs.

Rohan Koul was adjudged player of the match for his all round performance of 60 (off 30 ball, 4x6, 6x4) runs and three wickets. Anchal

Singh named best bowler for three wickets while Jehanveer Singh declared best batter for his 43-ball 67 runs.

In this match, SSP Traffic Jammu, Amit Bhasin was the chief guest, who interacted with the teams. Later player of the match title presented by Irshad Hussain Rather, SP Headquarters.

The event is being organised jointly by All J&K Sikh Coordination Committee and Hari Singh Nalwa Cricket Club with the slogan, "Strike out Drugs: Let's Play Cricket for a Brighter Future."
FIXTURES: Nalwa XI to take on Shaheed Sheetal Singh Cricket Club at 9 am and Shaheed Jasjit XI Tral to face Dashmesh Cricket Club at 1.30 pm tomorrow.

"League of Classics" concludes



Officials with players at sports events.

STATE TIMES NEWS
DODA: The District Youth Services & Sports (DYSS), Doda concluded the prestigious "League of Classics" held amid vibrant participation of the youth from across the district.

The mega sporting championship witnessed thrilling competitions in Cricket, Volleyball and Football, showcasing exceptional talent, electrifying performances and exemplary sportsman-

ship by participating teams. The event turned into a grand celebration of youth engagement and sporting excellence, with players displaying remarkable teamwork, discipline and competitive spirit throughout the tournament.

The energetic atmosphere across all venues reflected the growing passion for organized sports among the youth of District Doda.

The championship was

organized under the guidance of the Director General, Youth Services & Sports J&K, Anuradha Gupta, Joint Director Jammu, Vinakshi Koul and Deputy Director Activities, Megha Baogia.

The competitions were conducted under the overall supervision of District Youth Services & Sports Officer (DYSSO) Doda, Jaffar H. Sheikh, along with all concerned Zonal Physical

Education Officers (ZPEOs), ensuring smooth coordination and maintenance of high standards throughout the event.

Heartiest congratulations were extended to all winners, runners-up and participants for contributing to the grand success of this prestigious sporting event.

Special appreciation was also conveyed to the dedicated organizing team of DYSS Doda for their commendable efforts in promoting sports, fitness and a healthy sporting culture among the youth.

The initiative provided an important platform for budding players to showcase their talent while encouraging discipline, teamwork and healthy lifestyles.

Enthusiastic participation at all venues highlighted the positive impact of such grassroots-level competitions in nurturing sportsmanship and strengthening youth engagement through sports.

Cricket Tournament under CAP begins at GHSS Basohli



Participating teams posing with dignitaries.

STATE TIMES NEWS
BASOHLI: A Cricket Tournament organized under the Civic Action Programme (CAP) commenced today at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS), Basohli. The event is being conducted under the supervision of Zonal Physical Education Officer (ZPEO) Tara Singh and was formally inaugurated by SDPO Basohli, Om Parkash.

The tournament has brought together eight teams from the local area, providing a platform for young players to showcase their talent and competitive spirit. The initiative aims to promote sportsmanship, discipline, teamwork, and constructive engagement among youth. It also seeks to strengthen police-public relations and encourage positive community participation.

The final match of the

tournament is scheduled to be played on March 04, 2026.

On the second day of the tournament, Vishabsthal faced Rehan in an exciting contest. Batting first, Team Rehan posted a total of 72 runs.

In response, Vishabsthal successfully chased the target by scoring 73 runs, securing victory with six balls remaining and

three wickets in hand. The match reflected healthy competition and enthusiastic participation from both sides.

The tournament is being efficiently managed by Convenor Devendra Singh. Scoring duties are being handled by Deepak Chang and Balwan Singh. The matches are officiated by the umpires Sushant Mishra,

Rohit Sharma, Guljinder Singh, and Kulbhushan, ensuring fair play and smooth conduct throughout the event. The Civic Action Programme continues to serve as an effective platform for community outreach, fostering trust, unity, and positive engagement through sports and youth-centered initiatives in the region.

Mandate Misused, Governance Faltering: MP Khatana raps admn

STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: Sr. BJP Leader and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha Nominated), Er. Gulam Ali Khatana on Monday mounted a sharp critique of governance during an extensive outreach tour of Rajouri, alleging misuse of public mandate and systemic failure in service delivery. Presiding over a well-attended Janta Darbar at Behrote Mandal, the MP heard grievances directly from residents, with the turnout underscoring mounting public discontent at the grassroots.

Addressing the gathering, MP Khatana accused the present dispensation led by the National Conference of failing to convert promises into outcomes. "Governance must be judged by delivery, not declarations," he said, calling for accountability and responsiveness from the administration.

Speakers reported acute shortages of doctors in several areas. Even where postings exist, poor infrastructure and inadequate facilities were cited, compelling patients to travel long distances for basic treatment.

Parents and community representa-



MP (RS Nominated), Er. Gulam Ali Khatana speaking at a programme.

tives highlighted severe teacher shortages in government schools, warning that learning outcomes and the future of children in rural and far-flung areas are at stake.

Employment & Government Schemes: Participants alleged poor on-ground implementation of schemes, stating that centrally sponsored programmes have failed to translate into meaningful employment. "Schemes exist on paper, but jobs do not," several residents remarked.

Concerns were also raised over

inadequate Animal Husbandry facilities, chronic water shortages under the Jal Shakti Department, and prolonged power cuts-particularly disruptive during Sehri and Iftar in the holy month of Ramadan.

Reiterating the commitment of the Bharatiya Janata Party, MP Khatana said the party has consistently prioritised inclusive development and people-centric governance. "From health and education to infrastructure and employment, our policies are aimed at empowerment and justice for all," he asserted, contrast-

ing BJP's track record with what he termed the NC's unfulfilled promises and mismanagement of public resources in Rajouri and across Jammu & Kashmir.

The Janta Darbar was attended by senior BJP leaders, including District President Dev Raj Sharma, District General Secretary Karnat Malik, Samreen Khan, Yuva Morcha President Azhar Mehmood, ST Morcha Captain Nizam Din, OBC Morcha President Zahid Ahmed, and Mandal Presidents Abbas Sadique and Shafiq Ahmed. Senior administrative officials-among them the SDM, ADC, Tehsildar, BDO, BMO, and representatives from Agriculture, Horticulture, PWD, PDD, Irrigation and Jal Shakti-were also present.

Assuring residents of follow-up action, MP Khatana said all grievances would be taken up with the concerned departments and pressed for time-bound, result-oriented solutions. He reaffirmed BJP's commitment to fairness, transparency and last-mile delivery, pledging that development would reach every village and hamlet of Rajouri.

VAJK to organise 37th Reasi District Volleyball Championship from March 9

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A Volleyball Tournament under Civic Action Programme-2026 was organized on Monday by 76 Bn, CRPF at M. A. Stadium Jammu.

Five local teams participated in the tournament. Volleyball Team - Panjal Club Sanjay Nagar Jammu secured the first position (WINNER) and team of Rathua Panchayat Jammu secured the second position (Runner-up). T-shirts and caps were also distributed among players.



Commandant-76 Bn Vezoto Tinyi graced the occasion and motivated the participants to stay healthy and have a positive attitude for the betterment of society.

STATE TIMES NEWS
KATRA: The Volleyball Association of J&K (VAJK) is set to organise the 37th Reasi District Volleyball Championship for men at the SMVDSB Sports Complex from March 9 to 10, 2026, under the banner of the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council.

The championship, which is the second of its kind in the district, is being organised in collaboration with the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Katra, and will be conducted as per the rules laid down by the Volleyball Federation of India.

All interested volleyball clubs of Reasi district have been requested to confirm their entries on or before March 7, 2026. For further details regarding participation, teams can contact 9906395143 or 6005179200. Speaking about the event, Hony General Secretary VAJK, Kunal Magotra said that the association remains committed to promoting volleyball at the grassroots level.

"This championship provides a vital platform for local players to showcase their talent and compete in a professional environment. We are confident that the event will further strengthen the sporting culture in Reasi district," he said. He added that the championship aims to highlight emerging talent and promote volleyball as a growing sport in the region, while encouraging youth participation and healthy competition.

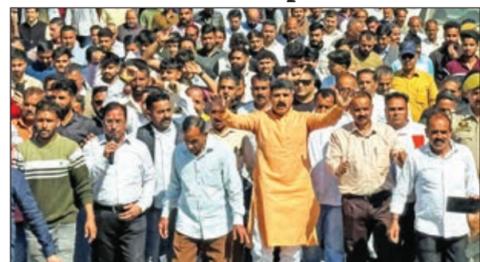
Protest over dilapidated Udhampur-Billawar Road; Pawan demands immediate repairs

STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: A massive protest erupted over the deplorable condition of the Udhampur-Billawar road, particularly the stretch passing through the Udhampur East Assembly constituency. Senior leader Pawan Khajuria expressed serious concern, stating that the road has remained in a dilapidated condition for a long time, with large potholes posing grave risks to commuters.

Locals alleged that the abundance of potholes has made driving extremely difficult and dangerous, especially for two-wheeler riders. According to residents, several lives have already been lost in accidents attributed to the damaged road.

On Monday afternoon, Pawan Khajuria, along with supporters and hundreds of residents, staged a strong protest at Manwal Bus Stand. The demonstrators blocked Dhar Road for some time and raised slogans against the administration and the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), demanding immediate repairs.

During the protest, speakers including Raj Kumar Buecha, Rajesh Sarpanch, Sandeep Gupta, Babu Ram, Master Govind Ram, Master Durga Dass, Makhana Lal, Raju Sarpanch, Balwant Rai, Sonraj, Rakesh Gupta and Bishan Dass highlighted frequent accidents and expressed anguish over public safety. They regretted that despite the local MLA using the same road daily, no concrete action has been taken.



Protesters raising slogans during a protest.

They added that although he lost the election, Khajuria has consistently raised public issues at the tehsil, district and central levels.

Addressing the gathering, Khajuria termed the Udhampur-Billawar road a lifeline for thousands and warned that the agitation would intensify if repairs are not initiated soon. He informed that Union Minister Jitendra Singh has taken cognizance of the issue at the PMO level and reportedly directed BRO officials to begin necessary repair work at the earliest. Khajuria expressed gratitude for the intervention.

He also criticized the implementation of the Central Government's Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), alleging that projects worth thousands of crores exist only on paper, while villagers continue to struggle for drinking water.

Tehsildar Majalta, Kamini Choudhary, present at the protest site, assured the gathering that the matter was already under consideration and that she would take it up with higher authorities to ensure early improvement of the road. Following her

assurance, the protest was called off.

Sarpanch Feroz Din, Sarpanch Mukand Sharma, Sarpanch Keval Kumar, Sarpanch Raju Ji, Sarpanch Sansar Singh, Sarpanch Gautam, Sarpanch Bodh Raj Ji, Master Bodh Raj, Ashok Gupta, Master Govind Ram Ji, Rampal Gupta, Rakesh Sharma, Rahul Gupta, Vijay Kumar, Akhil Parashar, Mohan Gupta, Ratna Chand, Ashok Kumar, Sanjay Kumar, Suresh Kumar, Manik Parashar, Bharat Bhushan, Gurdayal Khajuria, Mahesh Sharma, Sham Lal, Deepak Kumar, Bhushan Singh, Sardari Lal, Gagandeep Singh, Captain Yog Raj, Kuldeep Ji Sunny Kalsotra, Satish Jandial, Rohit Sharma, Rajinder Sharma, Sanjay Verma, Jeet Kumar, Narendra Sharma, Mahesh Ji, Ramesh Ji, Vishal Ji, Vinay Ji and several others also participated in the dharna.

Khajuria reiterated that he will continue to raise his voice for public issues and urged the administration to begin immediate repair work to provide relief to the people.