

J&K to face Uttarakhand in Sr Women's T20 practice match at Chandigarh

STATE TIMES NEWS

CHANDIGARH: To prepare the Senior Women's team for the upcoming season, the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) has organised an exposure tour for the players, making them to participate in Senior Women's T20 Practice Matches involving the teams from Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Chandigarh apart from Jammu and Kashmir.

J&K will lockhorns with Uttarakhand in their first match at Baba Balak Nath Cricket Ground Kaimwala in Chandigarh at 1:00 PM tomorrow.

J&K will be playing a total of six matches on the trot with J&K versus Himachal Pradesh on August 12, J&K versus Chandigarh on August 13, J&K versus Uttarakhand on August 14,



J&K team with officials posing for a photograph.

J&K versus Himachal Pradesh on August 15 and J&K versus Chandigarh on August 16, 2025.

It may be recalled that J&K Senior Women's team created history last season by qualifying for the quarterfinals of the Sr Women's One-Day Trophy.

"JKCA is committed to

improve the standard of women cricket, which is on the rise from a few years now. The exposure tours are part of process," asserted Brig Anil Gupta, Member Administration JKCA.

THE TEAM: Jasia Akhtar (Captain), Shivanti Gupta, Chitra Singh Jamwal, Rubia Syed, Rudrakshi Chib (Vice

Captain), Sarla Devi, Sandhya Sayal, Bismah Hassan, Bawandeep Kour, Ruqaya Amin, Lalita (WK), Ananaya Sharma, Sheeraza Banoo, Mariya Noorain, Mahika Rana, Sanjana. Former International cricketer Latika Kumari is accompanying the team as Head Coach.

Two-day District Jammu Taekwondo Championship concludes

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 2-Day District Jammu Taekwondo Championship culminated on a grand note at Kotli Bhawan, Rehari, Jammu, showcasing vibrant talent, discipline, and sportsmanship. Approximately 200 students from various schools and clubs participated, exhibiting commendable skills and competitive spirit.

Organized by the Jammu District Taekwondo Association under the aegis of the Taekwondo Association of Jammu & Kashmir (TAJK), affiliated with India Taekwondo and the J&K Olympic Association, the championship aimed to promote physical fitness, martial arts culture, and sportsmanship among the youth,



Medal winner players posing for a photograph with officials.

while identifying promising athletes for advanced competitions.

The event was honored by the presence of Chief Guest Arun Khanna, Chairman of the Health and Sanitation Committee, Jammu Municipal Corporation. Guests of Honour included Ravinder Sharma (Treasurer, TAJK), Qimti Lal Jain (General Secretary, TAJK), along with other dignitaries such as Mukesh Thakur (Secretary Administration, TAJK)

and Pawan Singh. The championship concluded with great enthusiasm, leaving a lasting impression on participants and spectators alike, and contributing to the growth and promotion of martial arts in the region.

With T20 WC priority, no clarity on Rohit-Kohli future post Australia series

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: It's that time of the year when speculation is rife about the impending ODI future of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, but if one goes by the decision makers in the Indian cricket board, there is no tearing hurry to take an immediate call on the two maestros.

With the Bangladesh series scheduled in August being called off, India's next ODI assignment will be an away series from October 19-25 against Australia. However, whether Rohit and Kohli will be playing ODIs post Australia tour is a thing of conjecture.

Indian cricket runs on narratives and currently it is about whether Kohli and Rohit, with a cumulative 83 ODI hundreds and 25,000-

plus runs, can last till the October 2027 ODI World Cup when they would be 39 and 40-year old respectively.

"Obviously, if they (Rohit and Kohli) have something in mind, they would tell the BCCI brass like they did before the England Test tour. But from an Indian team's perspective, the next big assignment is the T20 World Cup in February and preparations before that. The immediate focus will be on sending the best team for the Asia Cup T20 tournament, hoping all players are fit and available," a BCCI source privy to the developments told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

The BCCI never believes in taking decisions in haste and would always gauge the mood and public perceptions

before taking a call, which is sensitive in nature considering the massive fan following of the two players.

The last tournament that they played was the Champions Trophy in Dubai where Kohli scored a hundred in a successful chase against Pakistan at the group league stage while Rohit starred with a sublime half-century in the chase during the final.

However, both have not played competitive cricket since the conclusion of the Indian Premier League.

Kohli, who is now a resident of London, had recently posted an Instagram story after an indoor nets session, which is an indicator that he has started training.

Rohit, who was also in the UK on a break post IPL, is

recently back in Mumbai and would certainly be expected to start training in a few days.

While there are some media reports about BCCI offering the duo a farewell game at Sydney on October 25, the BCCI source in the know of things said that as of now, no such discussions have taken place.

As far as playing the Vijay Hazare Trophy is concerned, the source said that the national One-Day Championship starts on December 24, 2025 and even before that, there is another three-match ODI series at home against South Africa starting November 30.

"Even if they play Vijay Hazare, before that there would already be six ODIs that will be played. In

between the Australia ODIs and the South Africa ODIs, there is an India A series against South Africa A where three List A games (50 overs) will be held at Rajkot on November 13, 16 and 19 respectively.

"Now, will the duo want to play those three A games, or possibly two, before the South Africa series is the question. Even more important is whether Ajit Agarkar and his colleagues would want that," he said.

"Overlapping the Vijay Hazare Trophy (December 24, 2025 - January 18, 2025) will be the three ODIs between India and New Zealand (January 11, 14, 18). So even if they play the Vijay Hazare Trophy, it can't be for more than two to three games," he added.

India qualifies for AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup for first time in two decades

AGENCY

YANGON: India qualified for the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup football for the first time in two decades after edging past Myanmar 1-0 in their final Group D qualifying match here on Sunday. Pooja scored the decisive goal in the 27th minute at the Thuwunna Stadium as India finished on top of the group with seven points to make it to the 2026 edition of the main tournament in Thailand. India dominated the first half while Myanmar controlled the proceedings in the second.

Neha and Sibani Devi Nongmeikapam combined in the third minute to threaten the Myanmar goal but it did not lead to a goal. The hosts launched a few counter-attacks, and forward Su Su Khin came close to scoring in the ninth minute. Pooja gave India the lead before the half-hour mark. She herself initiated the counter attack before crossing it in from the right. The ball evaded one and all, but Neha, at the opposite flank, managed to get onto the end of it and sent it looping back in.

Pooja, who had made her way to the goal-mouth by then, barely had enough time to react, and plonked it over the line with her torso. That calmed the nerves in the Indian camp,

and the Young Tigresses kept the ball and took their slender lead into the break. The second half was a completely different affair. Buoyed by the home support, Myanmar came all guns blazing, and India goalkeeper Monalisha Devi had to make a smart 48th-minute save to keep Su Su Khin out. India dug deep, as they absorbed wave after wave of Myanmar attacks.

Monalisha, who had not conceded a single goal in the previous two matches, was called into action with 10 minutes left on the clock, when Myanmar substitute Moe Pwint Phyu struck a headed cross sent by Ei Thet Phyo on to the upright.

The ball kept rolling tantalisingly on the line, before the India goalkeeper leapt across and swiped it away to safety.

Phyu hit the woodwork once again, this time in the 90th minute, when her shot took a deflection off Shubhangi, only to bounce out of play.

Seconds later, India broke on the counter as Sibani sent a cross to Sulanjana Raul, who also hit the woodwork, her header crashing into the cross-bar.

Despite all the pressure from the hosts, India clung on to their lead, and secured qualification for the first time since 2006.

A7 Sports Management hosts grassroots Football Tournament at The Kings Land



Participating teams posing for a photograph with officials.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A7 Sports Management concluded a thrilling grassroots-level football tournament at The Kings Land, an event that brought together budding football talent and vibrant community spirit. The tournament was initiated by Abhay Samnotra, Nikhil Kumar, Ansh, Imran, and Ishan - all passionate advocates for youth sports development in the region.

The competition featured exciting matches across two age categories - Under-13 and

Under-15 Boys - and drew enthusiastic participation from local teams and spectators.

in Under-13 Boys Champions; RS Pura Light King clinched the title with a dominating performance in the final match, netting three goals and showcasing remarkable energy and tactical prowess. Their teamwork and determination made them well-deserved champions of the U13 category.

Under-15 final saw A7 Football Academy rise to the

occasion with a stunning display of football skills. Key players-Samson, Rehan, Sahir, Satvik, Gunveer, and Adil** - delivered standout performances, combining flair and teamwork to seal a memorable victory.

The event was not only a celebration of young athletic talent but also a testament to the power of grassroots sports in building character, unity, and community involvement.

Prema, Radha grab three wickets each but India A lose final T20 to Australia A

AGENCY

MACKAY (AUSTRALIA): Poor execution with the bat undid India A's superb bowling performance as Australia A made a clean sweep of three-match unofficial Women's T20 series, defeating the visitors by four runs in a thrilling match here on Sunday.

Chasing a gettable 144/8 set by the hosts, India's middle and lower-order batters failed miserably to be restricted to 140/8 after leg spinner Prema Rawat and left-armers Radha Yadav gave their team the best chance in the series by grabbing three wickets apiece.

This was Rawat's second three-wicket haul in the multi-format series and it prepared the platform for the batters, led by Shafali Verma, to make a match of it.

Shafali finally fired after successive single-digit scores in the previous two games at the same venue but her 41-run contribution (25 balls) was not good enough on the day as she perished to young Brisbane Heat



pace Sianna Ginger, who emerged the wrecker-in-chief for the home team by taking four wickets for just 18 runs.

India shuffled its top order a bit by sending Dinesh Vrinoda to open with Shafali, instead of keeper-batter Uma Chetry, who came in at one-down.

However, the experiment failed as Vrinoda perished for just four runs and Chetry followed her back into

the dressing room soon after as India A were reduced to 16/2.

Shafali and Raghvi Bist (25) forged a 43-run stand for the third wicket before the former departed, bringing in India A's spin-bowling all-rounder Minnu Mani at the crease. The 48-run stand between Bist and Mani saw India A get past the 100-run mark, raising hopes of a consolation win.

But those hopes were dashed when the Bist was also consumed by Ginger, leaving the visitors at 107/4. Her dismissal, it seemed, took the fight out of the India A side as it lost wickets in a heap, with the likes of national team stalwart Radha Yadav (12), Tanuj Kanwar (1), all-rounder Sajeevan Sajana (3) going in quick succession as the visitors lost the plot in the last over, when they had to score 15 runs.

In fact, Ginger took two wickets, that of Radha and Sajana, in the 19th over to make things virtually impossible for India A.

Australia A, following their 114-

run win in the previous game, were challenged by the Indian spinners, who opened up a window of opportunity by bowling impeccable line and length.

Batting stalwart Alyssa Healy departed for 27 after a dazzling 70-run innings in the last game before Prema and Radha ran through the top and middle-order.

Prema, who had taken three wickets in the opener, was the most destructive, getting rid of prolific young run-getter Anika Learoyd (22) early besides Courtney Webb (1) and the dangerous Madeline Penna (39) as Australia A were restricted to a below-par score.

The three-match unofficial one-day series will commence in Brisbane on Wednesday.

Brief Scores: Australia A: 144/8 in 20 overs (Madeline Penna 39; Radha Yadav 3/31, Prema Rawat 3/24) India A: 140/8 in 20 overs (Shafali Verma 41, Minnu Mani 30; Sianna Ginger 4/16).

Khatana hails PM Modi for Historic Katra-Amritsar Vande Bharat, tears into NC for 'Decades of Betrayal'

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Gulam Ali Khatana on Sunday joined virtually in the inauguration of the Amrit Sar Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Amritsar Vande Bharat Express, flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi through video conferencing. He described the occasion as a "historic day" for Jammu & Kashmir, saying the new service would strengthen connectivity between Katra and Amritsar while boosting pilgrimage, tourism, and economic activity in the region.

Khatana said the launch reflected how development has become "synonymous with Prime Minister Modi's leadership." He emphasised that India is firmly advancing towards its Amrit Kaal vision, remarking, "By 2047, as envisioned by the Prime Minister, India will stand as a fully developed nation-Viksit Bharat-with Jammu & Kashmir playing its rightful role in that journey." The BJP MP launched a sharp attack on the National Conference (NC), accusing the party of "betraying the trust of the people while clinging to power on false promises." He alleged that NC's politics "turned women into widows, children into orphans, and youth into stone-pelters," keeping the population away from education, prosperity, and national integration.

According to Khatana, the BJP-led government has brought a decisive change in J&K. "Orchards are thriving, entrepreneurs are emerging, infrastructure is expanding, and more people are joining the mainstream," he said, adding that political awareness among the people is growing and that "they will soon hold NC accountable for decades of neglect."

On the NC's renewed demand for statehood, Khatana was dismissive, calling it "political theatre meant to keep the pot boiling." He urged the party to focus on delivering development instead of "resorting to slogans and distractions that no longer fool the people."



STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: As part of the mass Parent-Teacher meeting initiative being organised throughout the Kashmir Valley, the Chief Education Officer Srinagar, Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Bhat, carried out an extensive tour of District Srinagar to review overall arrangements.

CEO visited several schools, including BHSS Mujungud, HS Lawaypora, and MS Lawaypora, to review arrangements for the parent teacher meetings and to interact with parents, community members, school heads, teachers, and students.

During the visit, he inspected facilities related to infrastructure, classrooms, teaching staff adequacy, and other student support services.

Speaking on the occasion, he said "We can only ensure quality education when teachers, heads of institutions, parents, community members, and students work jointly."

He reaffirmed the department's commitment to

CEO Sgr reviews Mass PTM arrangements across District Calls for Collective Efforts to Ensure Quality Education

enhancing educational outcomes through active collaboration between schools and communities across Srinagar district.

GANDERBAL: As part of the mass Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM) initiative spearheaded by Dr. G.N. Itoo, Director School Education Kashmir, a vibrant PTM was organised at Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS) Kullam, Sonamarg, witnessing enthusiastic participation from parents, teachers, and students.

The event was attended by Rifat Jabeen, Additional Secretary Legal, DSEK, as the chief guest. She interacted extensively with parents and students, listening attentively to their feedback, suggestions, and grievances. Rifat Jabeen highlighted the importance of regular communication between schools and parents, noting that such interactions not only address academic matters but also contribute to shaping responsible and confident young citizens.

BANDIPORA: As part of

the ongoing Mass Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM) initiative, a programme was organised at Cluster Government Higher Secondary School Mantrigam.

The event witnessed a large gathering of parents, teachers, students, School Management and Development Committee (SMDC) members, and other dignitaries, making it a landmark community-school interaction in the district.

Shabir Ahmad Wani, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Chief Education Officer Bandipora Altaf Hussain Tara, G.H. Reshi (OSD to Director School Education Kashmir), Mohammad Rafiq Parray (Ex-Deputy CEO Bandipora), and Zonal Education Officer Quilmuqam attended as Guests of Honour.

The dignitaries were warmly received by Masood Ul Hassan Reshi, Principal of the host institution, along with staff members.

Highlight of the programme was the installation of thematic stalls, attracting keen interest from guests and parents alike.

BARAMULLA: A Mass Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM) program was successfully held on Sunday at Cluster HISS Salamabad and GHSS Uri.

The event brought together parents, teachers, and students for a focused dialogue on enhancing the quality of education.

The meeting was attended by Joint Director North, Tanveer Ahmad Hakim, who engaged with parents and addressed their concerns candidly.

Parents raised important issues including the shortage of teaching staff and inadequate infrastructure and accommodation facilities in schools.

Joint Director North assured all stakeholders that these concerns would be addressed on a priority basis. He emphasized that providing a conducive and quality learning environment for students remains the department's foremost

goal. KUPWARA: A Mass Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM) was organised on Sunday at Boys Higher Secondary School Teetwal, Karnah, Kupwara.

The event was graced by Deputy Commissioner Kupwara Shrikant Balasaheb Suse, Joint Director (Elementary Education) DSEK Muhammad Mushtaq, Chief Education Officer Kupwara Mehraj-ud-Din Shah, the concerned Cluster Head, and Zonal Education Officer, along with a large gathering of parents, teachers, and community members.

Speaking on the occasion, Joint Director (EE) Muhammad Mushtaq highlighted that the new evaluation system under NEP 2020 places special emphasis on sophisticated assessment framework incorporating peer evaluation, parental feedback, and teacher assessment to create a comprehensive understanding of a student's development and learning needs.

JKPCC seizes 3.50 MT of prohibited polythene

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In a significant step towards curbing plastic pollution, the District Office of the Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC), Srinagar, conducted an enforcement raid leading to the seizure of 3.50 metric tons of prohibited polythene material.

The enforcement team of JKPCC Srinagar, in coordination with local authorities, carried out a surprise inspection at Tengpora area.

During the operation, a substantial quantity of polythene banned under the provisions of the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 was detected and confiscated for safe disposal as per the prescribed environmental norms.

Speaking on the occasion, the District Officer, JKPCC Srinagar, reiterated that the use, storage, and distribution of prohibited polythene carry serious environmental consequences and violate the existing ban orders. He urged traders, shopkeepers, and the general public to adopt eco-friendly alternatives and contribute to the fight against plastic pollution.