

JKCA U-19 Men’s team to leave for GCA Reliance All India Invitation Tourney



Coaches along with team members posing for photograph before departure.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: As part of prepration for the upcoming season, under the supervision of new Head Coach, Shantanu Ghosh, the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association's (JKCA's) U-19 Men's team will leave for Reliance All India Invitation Tournament from Srinagar tomorrow.

This tournament in which 12 team's from across the country are taking part, is being organised by Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA) at Ahmedabad and Nadiad in Gujarat.

JKCA team has been placed in Group C in the 3-Group Fixture, with Gujarat-2, CSCS and Himachal Pradesh in their Group. J&K will have to

play three group matches from August 29, 2025 and in the first match it will take on Himachal Pradesh at GSP Stadium Nadiad from August 29 to August 31, while in the second match it will lockhorns with Himachal Pradesh at the same venue from September 2 to September 4 and in the third Group match, J&K will face CSCS

at LBS Stadium Anand from September 6 to September 8, 2025.

J&K team today posed for a group photograph along with JKCA Member Cricket Development

Kashmir before leaving for Ahmedabad tomorrow. Member Administration JKCA, Brig Anil Gupta and Member Cricket Operations and

Development JKCA, Mithun Manhas has wished the team good luck.

THE TEAM: Kamaksh Sharma, Salman Ahmed Bakshi, Taskeen Nisar, Asif Muzaffar, Dhruv Sharma, Shiva Thakur, Shaurya Manhas, Jeevesh Gupta, Sidharth Jamwal, Salman Ashraf Dar, Faizan Ahmed Pandit, Abdul Basit Lone, Waqqas Nisar, Owais Gull, Rahil Younis.

The team is being accompanied by Shantanu Ghosh as the Head Coach. He is BCCI Level-B Coach and has the distinction of working with CricKindom Cricket Academy by Rohit Sharma in UAE. The other members of the Support Staff included Suresh Singh (Fielding Coach), Bandeep Singh (Batting Coach), Niyaz Khan (Co-Manager), Rohit Saini (Trainer) and Haseeb Rehman (Physiotherapist).

Civil Defence Srinagar empowers students with life-saving skills

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Civil Defence Srinagar organized a comprehensive one-day awareness programme at Sadaat Valley High Secondary School, Wakura, Ganderbal, aimed at equipping teachers and students with essential life-saving skills.

The programme was conducted under the supervision of the Deputy Controller, Civil Defence Srinagar, and inaugurated by Rahi Riyaz Ahmed, President Medalist and Divisional Warden/TOT Civil Defence Srinagar. The event was attended by Javaid Ahmad Sheikh, Chairman of the school, and Khurshed Ahmad Ganie, Principal.

Participants received expert sessions on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), basic life support, first aid, fire-fighting techniques, and emergency response methods. The hands-on training enabled students and teachers to respond confidently in critical



situations, enhancing preparedness for emergencies.

Special emphasis was placed on educating students about safety measures during airstrikes and natural disasters. Demonstrations offered practical insights into how to respond effectively in challenging situations, ensuring the school community is better equipped to handle crises.

The school administration, including Dr. Geetanjli Andotra and Principal Khurshed Ahmad Ganie, commended the Civil Defence

situations, enhancing preparedness for emergencies.

expressed gratitude for organizing a timely and informative programme.

The initiative concluded with a vote of thanks and a commitment to extend similar awareness drives to more educational institutions. With over 50 students and faculty members participating enthusiastically, the programme highlighted the importance of collaboration between educational institutions and Civil Defence in building a resilient and informed community.

JKBBA announces revised dates for Sub-Junior National selection trials

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Ball Badminton Association (JKBBA) has announced revised dates for the "My Youth My Pride" Selection Trials-cum-21-Day Residential Coaching Camp ahead of the 44th Sub-Junior National Ball B a d m i n t o n

Championships for Boys and Girls 2025-26, scheduled to be held at Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, from September 25 to 28, 2025.

The Selection Trials will now take place on August 29, 2025, at 2:00 PM at Gindun Sports Stadium, Raj Bagh, Srinagar. The 21-Day Residential Coaching Camp will follow from August 30 to September 19, 2025, at the same venue.



The Association revised the trial dates to provide another opportunity for young players, noting that participation during the last trials was comparatively low. This

step aims to ensure that more players get the chance to showcase their talent and compete for national representation.

All district units of J&K UT Ball Badminton have been requested to send entries by August 29, 2025, before 11:00 AM. Players may register by contacting the General Secretary at 9682365877 or through SMS/WhatsApp, providing Name, Parentage, Date of Birth, and District.

Mandatory documents for participation include district-level and UT-level Ball Badminton certificates, two passport-size photographs, and original and photocopies of age proof.

GDC Sidhra signs MoU with Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Govt PG College for Women, Gandhi Nagar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant step towards academic collaboration and knowledge exchange, Government Degree College Sidhra signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government PG College for Women, Gandhi Nagar. This collaboration seeks to promote institutional cooperation, innovation and holistic development of students and faculty members of both colleges.

The MoU was formally signed by Prof. Seema Mir, worthy Principal GDC Sidhra and Dr. Geetanjali Andotra, worthy Principal PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar



Faculty members of both the colleges during signing of MoU.

in the presence of coordinators Dr.Shehnaz Qadri and Dr. Aran Sharma and faculty members of both colleges.

Speaking on the occasion, the worthy Principal of GDC Sidhra, P r o f Seema Mir, emphasized

thatthis partnership will go beyond the mere strengthening of academic linkages by creating a platform for interdisciplinary learning, exposure to diverse pedagogical practices, and the sharing of intellectual resources. Through joint

seminars, workshops, research projects, and cultural exchanges, students will gain holistic learning opportunities that integrate academic rigor with real-world perspectives.

The Principal of Padma Shri Padma Sachdev

Government PG College for Women Gandhi Nagar, Dr. Geetanjali Andotra, highlighted that such collaborative efforts are instrumental in fostering a vibrant academic environment.

By bringing together the strengths of both institutions, the partnership will encourage innovation, critical thinking, and a culture of academic excellence that benefits students, faculty, and the broader educational community.

The signing of this MoU marks an important milestone in the journey of both institutions towards creating a vibrant, inclusive and innovation-driven academic ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sindhu, Prannoy make winning start at World Championships

■ AGENCY

PARIS: Star Indian shuttlers PV Sindhu and HS Prannoy advanced to the second round of women's and men's singles competitions respectively with straight-game wins at the BWF World Championships here on Tuesday.

Sindhu, a former champion, looked nery at the start but slowly stepped up the pace and sharpened her attack to outwit world number 69 Bulgaria's Kaloyana Nalbantova 23-21 21-16.

The 2023 bronze winner, Prannoy, who has slipped to world number 34, then prevailed 21-18 21-15 over Finland's world no. 47 Joakim Oldorff in a 47-minute battle.

Sindhu will next meet Thailand's Karupathevan Letshanaa, while Prannoy is likely to take on second seed Anders Antonsen.

Mixed doubles pair of Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde also crossed the opening hurdle, beating Macau's Leong Iok Chong and NG Weng Chi 18-21 21-16 21-18 in 47 minutes.

Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, looked nery at the start to fall 0-4 behind due to a series of misused shots early on.

From 6-2, Nalbantova gave away few freebies as Sindhu narrowed it to 5-7.

The Bulgarian kept the pressure on the Indian to move to 9-5. A well-placed shot followed by another precise return saw Nalbantova grab a 11-7 advantage at the break.

After the break, world number 15 Sindhu unleashed a series of smashes, including her trademark cross-court returns, to claw back at 12-

12. With the Bulgarian finding the net twice, Sindhu took a 14-12 lead.

The Indian's deep clears sailed out thrice as it was 15-15. Nalbantova moved to 19-17 after Sindhu's net shot tumbled inside after kissing the net.

After Sindhu levelled things with a fine net shot, she went long again as the Bulgarian had a game point but Nalbantova sprayed into the net as it was 20-20.

A forehand slice went to net as the Bulgarian grabbed a second game before not only squandering it again but handing her fancied opponent the game point once more. Sindhu sealed it this time.

Sindhu came out all guns blazing after the change of ends, surging to 5-1 lead with some aggressive returns. Nalbantova recovered to 5-6 but was erratic.

Sindhu stepped up the pace with her cross-court attacks and led by six points at the break.

It was a one-way traffic as Sindhu quickly jumped to 17-5 with her opponent making a lot of errors, including judgement calls at the backline.

Sindhu grabbed 15 match points, squandered one before sealing it with a smash.

Prannoy fell behind a bit early on but found his range soon to turn the tables at 8-7 with his round-the-head cross-court smashes.

The Indian controlled the rallies, making his opponent twist and turn to set up the points and finishing with his smashes. Prannoy moved to 10-8 with a forehand cross before taking a two-point lead with a straight smash.

The duo engaged in some

energy-sapping rallies thereafter as Oldorff clawed back at 16-16.

But Prannoy always had his repertoire of strokes to fall back on and a razor-sharp smash followed by his opponent's two unforced errors gave the Indian three game points.

Prannoy squandered one before Oldorff sprayed one wide.

After the change of ends, the Indian led 7-4. Prannoy didn't want to rush things. He used his block, lift, made his opponent run and waited for his chances. The result was he had a three-point cushion at the break.

Prannoy continued to dominate the rallies with his opponent faltering. Soon, he led 17-11. Another around-the-head smash took him to 19-13. He grabbed five points and converted after Oldorff sailed long.

FIDE World Cup to be held in Goa from October 30 to November 27

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: Goa will host the FIDE World Cup from October 30-November 27, a tournament offering three coveted berths for next year's Candidates and a prize purse of USD 2 million.

The 206-member field features world champion D Gukesh, Magnus Carlsen, Fabiano Caruana and R Praggnanandhaa among others.

But the reigning world champion, Gukesh is not part of the Candidates qualification race so it remains to be seen if competes for prize money and rating points.

Hosts India have 21 players in the entry list including reigning five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand, who has made the cut via the June 2025 FIDE rating list.

But given that Anand has not played classical chess for a while his participation also remains uncertain.

The tournament returns to India after 23 years, the last being in Hyderabad in 2002 when Anand lifted the trophy.

The Indian chess has grown manifold since then as the hosts will have a far stronger base this time with the likes of Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi, Nihal Sarin featuring in the list

of qualified players.

The tournament will be played in a two-game knockout format over eight rounds. There will be two classical games with rapid and blitz play-offs if tied.

The top-50 seeds will enter from round two as they will receive byes in the first, while the players ranked from 51 to 206 will compete on pairings based on principle of the top half against the bottom.

"Every round is win-or-go-home, making the World Cup one of the most dramatic tournaments on the calendar," FIDE said on its website on Tuesday.

FIDE president Arkady Dvorkovich said, "India has become one of the strongest chess nations, with outstanding players and passionate fans. After the success of the FIDE Women's World Cup held in Georgia earlier this year, we are proud to bring the FIDE World Cup to Goa."

"It will be a celebration of chess, and a unique experience for players and spectators from around the world. The representatives of 90+ countries are expected to take part, and it will be one of the most followed events in chess history," he added.

It was an opportunity to return to best version of myself, feeling well: Suryakumar on injury and rehab

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India's T20 skipper Suryakumar Yadav has opened up about his recent injury setback, which needed surgery and a six-week rehab, saying that the forced break was an opportunity to return to his "best version" ahead of next month's Asia Cup.

The 34-year-old underwent a sports hernia surgery in Munich after being diagnosed with a problem in his lower right abdomen towards the end of the IPL in June. After that, he underwent a rehab at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru.

He is back to full fitness and will be leading the side in the continental showpiece beginning September 9 in the UAE. "I'm feeling good right now. It's been five to six weeks. A good process, good routines for last six weeks and fingers crossed, feeling really well," Suryakumar said in a

video posted by the BCCI on Tuesday.

"...most important thing during a rehab phase is to have good people around you who will guide you really well and that's what I did from last two-three years whenever I was in rehab. I saw it as an opportunity to come back as the best version of myself.

"If I was here for six weeks, eight weeks or 12 weeks, I could take that one week at a time, prepare myself mentally that way and just use the facility and stay in that moment and move in the right direction."

Recalling the time when he first understood the gravity of his injury, Suryakumar said it was a problem quite similar to the one he had experienced in the past.

"It actually got diagnosed close to the end of IPL. I felt it because I had the similar kind of injury last year as well and that's how I got to

know. So a few checklists were there," said Suryakumar, who had an ankle surgery in 2023 and underwent another sports hernia procedure in early 2024.

"I tried those things and then I realised that it's time to go and do a small MRI. When I did it, it was very clear in that. I did it post IPL, went to Germany.

"It went really well how it went last year and I knew how the recovery is going to be step by step. So I was prepared for everything. So we took one week at a time and we are here and I'm feeling good."

Talking about his structured rehabilitation and the support at CoE, Suryakumar said: "I think the most important thing for me is when you come here at CoE or when I was here at NCA last year as well, they understood how my body reacts to certain situations.

"So all the strength and

conditioning coach and the physios, they understood how my body works and accordingly they planned all the workouts. As soon as I used to hit the gym and I came here, they would plan the sessions and that's how we took one week at a time and slowly but steadily we are here."

The India skipper also gave a big thumbs up to the facilities at the CoE.

"I think firstly it's very massive. The place is huge. Let me talk about the gym first. I think more than 30-35 people can train here together," he said.

"I actually used most of the equipment here. Some new equipment which are actually very useful from athletes point of view. Not only for a rehab but if someone, any contracted player or a targeted player wants to come here for few weeks, train, use the ground and everything."

"Unbelievable facility and it's the best which I've seen for a really long time."

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SIHYMKENT (KAZAKHSTAN): Olympian Sift Kaur Samra pulled off an incredible show, clinching the individual women's 50m rifle 3 positions gold and helping the country to the team title as well in the Asian Shooting Championships here on Tuesday.

The 23-year-old world record holder fired a superb 459.2 in the final to beat China's Yang Yujie (458.8) for gold, and the trio of Samra, stalwart Anjum Moudgil and Ashi Chouksey also bagged the top podium in the team event with an aggregate of 1753 points.

India are placed second on the charts with 20 medals, nine of them gold. China are leading the table with 24 medals, including 13 gold.

This was Samra's fourth Asian Championships gold, and she was in a different zone altogether in the event as she qualified for the eight-shooter final placed No.1 with a score of 589.

Another Indian, Shriyanka Sadandi, who had topped the qualification round was not eligible for the final as she was

competing for 'Ranking Points Only' (RPO).

RPO shooters cannot compete for medals.

Samra, who had the highest world ranking of No.5 among the eight finalists, had scores of 151.0, 156.2 in the kneeling and prone positions. In the standing-elimination round, she was simply unbeatable and led till the end despite a late fightback by her Chinese rival, who finished just 0.4 points behind the Indian.

Japan's Nobata Misaki (448.2) took the bronze.

Chouksey, who had entered the final placed fourth, ended up seventh with 402.8 points.

Senior pro and two-time Olympian Anjum finished 22nd in a high-class field of 41 shooters.

Samra led from the front in the team event as well as she guided India to the gold medal along with Anjum and Ashi.

While Samra fired a superb 589, Ashi shot 586, and Anjum managed 578 as the trio clinched the top spot ahead of Japan, who totalled 1750 and South Korea (1745).

Indian teenager shooter

Anushka Thokur bagged her maiden international medal in style, clinching gold in the junior women's 50m rifle 3 positions event. She, along with Prachi Gaikwad and Mahit Sandhu, made it a grand double by winning the team gold.

A national championships and Khelo India Youth Games medallist, the 18-year-old Anushka fired a brilliant 460.7 in the final to win by a huge margin of five points. South Korea's Oh Sehee 455.7 claimed silver, while compatriot Sim Yoejin (443.9) took the bronze.

Two other Indians who made it to the eight-shooter final, Sandhu and Gaikwad, finished fifth and sixth respectively.

In the team category, Anushka (583), Gaikwad (588) and Sandhu (587) aggregated 1758 to win gold, while South Korea (1740) and Kazakhstan (1706) took the silver and bronze respectively in a competition where four teams participated.

Sameer from India bagged the junior men's 25m rapid-fire bronze, notching a score of 21 in the six-shooter final. The

other two Indians, Suraj Sharma and Abhinav Choudhary, finished fifth and sixth respectively.

The trio of Sameer (576), Suraj (577) and Abhinav (571) aggregated 1724 to finish on top of the podium in the team section on Monday.

India's Haris Sabeera and Addya Katyal took the junior women's trap gold and silver, shooting 39 and 38 in the final. The trio of Sabeera (105), Addya (110) and Bhavya Tripathi (109) also took the trap team gold, aggregating 324 in an event where their only competitor was Kazakhstan (323).

India also won the junior men's trap team gold after the trio of Arya Vansh Tyagi (112), Arjun (110) and Udhav Rathore (106) totalled 328. Arya Vansh also bagged the individual junior trap silver after a tense shoot-off with Kazakhstan's Nikita Moissev. Both Arya Vansh and Nikita were tied at the top spot, shooting 40 birds each. But Nikita won the gold on the first tie-shoot after Arya Vansh missed the target.