

## J&K Veterans Cup T20 Cricket Tournament

# Jammu Veterans defeats Kashmir Veterans by 22 runs

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu Veterans defeated Kashmir Veterans by 22 runs in first J&K Veterans Cup T20 Cricket Tournament being played at Sher-i-Kashmir Cricket Stadium Srinagar.

The tournament is organised by Veterans Cricket Association J&K in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association.

Speaking at the occasion, Vivek Suri, General Secretary of the Veterans Cricket Association J&K said that its first of such tournament between Kashmir & Jammu Veterans with focus on providing a platform to players above 40 years of age. On the basis of this tournament, players will be select-



Winner Jammu Veterans in jubilant mood after winning the match.

ed for the upcoming North Zone Veteran tournament to be held in Haryana in October this year, he added. He also appreciated the support provided by Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association in organizing this tournament in beautiful Sher-i-Kashmir

Cricket Stadium Srinagar. In the first match of the tournament, Jammu Veterans won the toss and elected to bat first. Riding on a brilliant start of 61 runs in just 7 overs, Jameel was out for 30 runs. Saranjeet and Vishav Pratap accelerated the scoring and

Jammu Veterans scored 155 runs in stipulated 20 over. Saranjeet made quick-fire 50 in just 30 balls, Vishav scored 31 & Maninder made 25 runs. For Kashmir Veterans Easha Mohammed was the pick of the bowlers with 5 wickets followed by 2 wick-

ets each by Tahir & Irfaan while Tahseen took 1 wicket.

Chasing 156 runs to win, Kashmir Veterans couldn't capitalize power play and scored 23 runs in 6 overs losing both openers. Jammu Veterans bowlers bowled on nagging line and length and restricted Kashmir Veterans to 133 runs taking 9 wickets thereby winning by 22 runs. Tariq was the lone fighter scoring 67 runs, Rayees scored 18 runs. For Jammu Veterans Vishav took 3 wickets, Saranjeet took 2 while Vivek, Rakesh, Mubashir & Maninder shared 1 wickets each.

Saranjeet of Jammu Veterans was declared Man of the Match for his all round performance.

## CM hopes corporate India to use CSR funds to help develop sports infra in UT

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SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday expressed hope that corporate India will play its part by using their CSR funds to help develop sports infrastructure in the Union Territory.

Abdullah's remarks came as he expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the special mention of sportspersons from J-K in the 125th edition of his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat' on Sunday.

"Thank you for highlighting the keen interest boys and girls of J-K have for all sports @narendramodi ji.

The youth of J-K don't lack talent or enthusiasm; unfortunately, they lack opportunity and exposure," Abdullah said in a post on X, adding that the special mention by Modi will certainly add to the enthusiasm of the youth.

"I hope corporate India to play its part by using their CSR funds to help develop sports infrastructure in J-K," Abdullah said.

In 'Mann Ki Baat', the prime minister singled out Jammu and Kashmir for two special achievements - holding the first Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF) successfully, and

the inaugural day-night cricket tournament in Pulwama.

Modi also spoke to 18-year-old Mohsin Ali from Srinagar, who clinched gold in the 1,000m kayaking event at the inaugural water sports festival on Dal Lake.

"I was thrilled to speak to the prime minister. His words will work as an encouragement not only for me but for the youth in general, who want to represent the country at the highest stage," Ali told PTI.

The prime minister also spoke to another sportsperson -- Odisha's canoeing champion Rashmita Sahu.

## Ahmed Cricket Club wins Chinar Premier League 2025

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BARAMULLA: The 2025 edition of the Chinar Premier League (CPL) concluded with a grand closing ceremony at Gen Bipin Rawat Stadium, Baramulla, organized by the Chinar Corps. This year's tournament saw record participation, featuring 64 teams representing the entire Kashmir Valley, further establishing CPL as one of the region's most competitive and widely followed cricket events.

The thrilling finale witnessed a clash between MLA Gymkhana, Budgam, and Ahmed Cricket Club (Sultan Warrior Summerbugh), Srinagar. In an exciting finish, Ahmed Cricket Club emerged victorious by seven wickets, lifting the coveted CPL 2025 Trophy and claiming a prize of Rs 2,00,000.

Waseem Raza was adjudged Man of the Series for his exceptional performances throughout the tournament. He was also named Man of the Match in the final, receiving Rs 25,000 along with a Pulsar 150CC. Other individual awards included Tajamul Baba of MLA Gymkhana



Ahmed Cricket Club receiving Chinar Premier League 2025 trophy at Baramulla.

as Best Batsman, Assem Wasim of Sultan Warrior Summerbugh as Best Bowler, Abid Pir of Sultan Warrior Summerbugh as Best Fielder, and Mursieen of Sultan Warrior Summerbugh as Emerging Player. Each received Rs 25,000.

The closing ceremony was graced by the GOC, Dagger Division, alongside distinguished guests from the local community. CPL 2025 celebrated cricketing talent from across Kashmir Valley and served as a strategic platform to strengthen bonds between the Indian Army and the local populace.

The tournament provided aspiring players an opportunity to showcase their abilities on a prominent stage, promoting sportsmanship, teamwork, and competitive spirit. Organizers emphasized that such events encourage youth participation in sports and foster community engagement.

CPL 2025 will be remembered for its competitive matches, enthusiastic audiences, and the successful collaboration between the Indian Army and local communities, reinforcing cricket as a unifying and inspiring force throughout the Kashmir Valley.

## PM's words of praise boosts local hero Mohsin Ali who set Dal Lake ablaze during KIWSF

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Eighteen-year-old Mohsin Ali had been earning accolades ever since he set the Dal Lake ablaze by clinching gold in the 1,000m kayaking event at the inaugural Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF) held here recently.

On Sunday, Ali became a local hero after receiving a special mention from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who praised the Srinagar boy for his achievement in the 125th edition of his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat'.

Organised from August 21-23 at the iconic Dal Lake, the KIWSF featured six sporting disciplines - rowing, canoeing, kayaking, water skiing, shikara race, and dragon boat race - in which 28 states and Union territories took part.

Ali now has his sights fixed on the ultimate goal - an Olympic gold.

The 18-year-old's story is proof that greatness can be found anywhere, even on a single-paddled boat across a glinting lake.

"I was thrilled to speak to the prime minister. His words will work as an encouragement not only for me but for the youth in general, who want to represent the country at the highest stage," Ali told PTI.

In 'Mann Ki Baat', the prime minister singled out Jammu and Kashmir

for two special achievements - holding the water sports event successfully, and the inaugural day-night cricket match in Pulwama.

Modi spoke to Ali and another sportsperson - Odisha's canoeing champion Rashmita Sahu.

The KIWSF was a collaborative initiative of the Jammu and Kashmir government and the Sports Authority of India (SAI), which saw more than 800 participants from across the country, with female athletes almost matching their male counterparts.

While Madhya Pradesh bagged the most number of medals, Ali's triumph triggered a renewed interest in water sports in the Union territory. Ali, whose father works as a labourer to support his family of seven, said he was motivated to take up kayaking after seeing shikaras (boats) on Dal Lake. He attributed his achievement to his coach Bilquis Mir, a prominent canoeist and kayaker from Srinagar, who became the first Indian woman to serve as a jury member at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

According to Mir, Ali's triumph is a reflection of the talent present in Jammu and Kashmir. She also said his victory at the KIWSF motivated new athletes, with 80 youths enrolling in the training programme at the end of the festival.

"It was a moment of pride for all of

Jammu and Kashmir that a local boy won gold at the KIWSF. Ali's performance will surely boost water sports in J-K, more so as he won in a field where most of his competitors had a lot of foreign exposure and access to state-of-the-art facilities," Mir said.

Talking to Ali, the prime minister complimented his family and Mir on his success.

After Modi said the youth of Jammu and Kashmir have so much potential, Ali said, "My dream is to win a medal in the Olympics."

The prime minister replied, "Wow! Well done! Look, I got goosebumps just by hearing that from you. When the son of a labourer's family dreams so big, it means the country is going to progress a lot." Modi concluded the four-minute conversation by saying, "Really enjoyed talking to you. Please convey my special thanks to your father, because he made your life by working as a labourer. On your father's words, you worked hard for 10 years without taking any rest. I also congratulate your coach, who worked so hard to train you." On Srinagar successfully hosting the water sports event, Modi said, "What a special place to organise such a festival. The objective was to make water sports more popular in Jammu and Kashmir. More than 800 athletes

from all over India took part in KIWSF. Women athletes were also not far behind... Their participation was almost at par with men."

The prime minister also mentioned the Royal Premier League cricket tournament in Pulwama, in which 12 teams from Jammu and Kashmir are taking part.

"Thousands of enthusiasts, especially youth, are enjoying cricket at night in Pulwama... It is truly a sight to behold," Modi said.

Royal Premier League organiser Irfan Ahmad thanked the prime minister for appreciating their efforts, and invited him to the last match of the tournament to be held in September.

Ahmad said the event aims to serve as a healthy outlet for the young people amid increasing unemployment and drug use in the area.

"I am really thankful to the prime minister for taking note of this event. The whole of Kashmir, especially Pulwama, is happy that he talked about it in 'Mann Ki Baat'.

"The youth are depressed amid growing unemployment, which needs to be addressed. We organised the league to encourage the youth and keep them away from drugs," Ahmad said, adding that he rented lights from Delhi to facilitate day-night cricket in Pulwama.

## J&K witnessed new era of Sports under Modi Regime: Dr Parneesh

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir has entered a new era of sports under the dynamic and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, where unprecedented opportunities, national-level tournaments, and world-class sporting events are inspiring the youth, fostering unity, and placing the Union Territory firmly on the country's sports map.

This was stated by Dr. Parneesh Mahajan, senior BJP leader, in a statement issued here on Sunday.

Dr. Parneesh said that the unprecedented initiatives in the field of sports are not



only empowering the youth but also strengthening the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

He applauded Prime Minister Modi for highlighting two landmark sporting achievements of J&K in his Mann Ki Baat

episode today.

He referred to the record-breaking day-night cricket match held at Pulwama Stadium under the Royal Premier League and the historic Khelo India Water Sports Festival held at Dal Lake, Srinagar, where over 800 athletes from across the country participated.

"These events have placed Jammu and Kashmir firmly on the national sports map, reflecting the confidence and enthusiasm of our youth," he said.

The BJP leader further observed that Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a huge transformation since the BJP took over the reins

of the Central Government.

Equitable development across regions, empowerment of youth, and creation of new opportunities in education, sports, and infrastructure have changed the socio-economic landscape of the Union Territory. He stressed that the abrogation of Article 370 paved the way for real integration of J&K with the rest of the country, ensuring justice and equal opportunities for all sections of society.

Reiterating his commitment, Dr. Parneesh said that sustained efforts will be made to encourage and support initiatives that empower youth, foster unity, and make Jammu and Kashmir a hub of sporting excellence in the years to come.

## Surya Bhanu Partap selected for 17th World Wushu Championship

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Surya Bhanu Partap Singh, the lone athlete from Jammu & Kashmir, has been selected as part of the 20-member Indian Wushu team to participate in the 17th World Wushu Championship being held in Brazil from 30th August to 8th September 2025.

This is the third time Bhanu Partap will be representing the country at the prestigious World Wushu Championship. In the previous two editions, he brought laurels to the nation by winning bronze medals. This year, he will compete in the below 65 kg weight category and aims to change the color of the medal for India and J&K.

Bhanu Partap underwent an intensive 45-day national Wushu coaching camp at NS NIS, Patiala, and has also been shortlisted among the best eight probables in his weight category for the 20th Asian Games in Japan next year. Notably, he is the first-ever medalist



from J&K in the Asian Games. Over the years, he has added several prestigious medals to his name, including podium finishes at the World Cup, Moscow Wushu Stars, PARS Cup, and most recently a Gold Medal at the National Games in Uttarakhand.

The Indian Wushu team left early this morning for Brazil, with the determination to improve upon the country's

previous performance. Anand Jain, ADGP Armed, is accompanying the team as the Chief Delegate for the championship.

The office bearers of Wushu Association of India-President Vijay Saraf, Vice President Ranjeet Kalra, General Secretary Bhavneet, and Treasurer Sohni Sharma - congratulated Bhanu Partap on his selection and extended their best wishes.

Kuldeep Handoo (Dronacharya Awardee) also conveyed his best wishes to Bhanu Partap and the entire Indian Wushu team. He expressed confidence that the Indian contingent will better its position at the championship, noting that India had secured 4th place in the medal tally in the last edition.

Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council, congratulated Bhanu Partap for this remarkable achievement and wished him success in bringing further glory to the nation and Jammu & Kashmir.

## North Zone seals berth in semis of Duleep Trophy as Nabi gets Player of Match award

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BENGALURU: By virtue of the first innings lead over East Zone, North Zone has sealed a spot in the semifinals of the prestigious Duleep Trophy as JKCA's Auqib Nabi bags Player of the match award for his superb bowling show in the quarterfinals at BCCI's CoE, Bengaluru.

Earlier, led by Ayush Badoni's unbeaten 204\*, North Zone batters continued to pile misery on East Zone bowlers on the final day of the Duleep Trophy encounter, the result for which was obvious heading into Day 5.

Resuming Saturday's play on 388 for 2, with a mammoth 563-run lead in hand, North Zone decided to bat on till the end and accept a draw after piling on 658 for 4 in the second innings. Ankit Kumar, who resumed his innings on 168, added 30 runs to his overnight score before falling two runs short of his maiden first-class double century,



JKCA's player Auqib Nabi receiving Player of the Match award.

to Mukhtar Hussain.

However, that wasn't to deter North's charge. With little aid for the bowlers, as has been through the first days of play, Nishant Sindhu and Badoni put on a 157-run stand before the former became Utkarsh Singh's first victim of the match. Utkarsh took the bulk of the bowling workload in the innings and was taken apart for 191 runs. Manishi, who had picked six scalps in the first

innings, went wicketless.

For his all-round brilliance (5/28 and 44 runs) Auqib Nabi was declared as the Player of the match.

North Zone, who have advanced to the semifinals, will now face South Zone on September 4, 2025.

Brief scores: North Zone 405 & 658/4 (Ayush Badoni 204\*, Ankit Kumar 198) drew with East Zone 230 (Virat Singh 69; Auqib Nabi 5-28, Harshit Rana 2-56).

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UDHAMPUR: The District Udhampur unit of the J&K Cycling Association celebrated National Sports Day with great enthusiasm today by organizing a cycle rally aimed at spreading awareness about the importance of sports and the dangers of drug abuse.

The rally was flagged off from Domail Chowk by Rajesh Sharma, Joint Secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir Cycling Association. A large number of enthusiastic cyclists, including both boys and girls from across the district, participated in the event.

With the theme "Say No to Drugs", the rally aimed to inspire the youth to adopt a healthy lifestyle and stay away from drug addiction.

The route of the rally



District Cycling Association members with participating cyclists.

passed through Slathia Chowk, Main Bazaar, Ramnagar Chowk, Mukherjee Bazaar, and culminated at Gole Market Chowk.

While addressing the participants, Rajesh Sharma emphasized the need to promote cycling as an alternative mode of transport. He highlighted its benefits for physical health, environmental

conservation, and economic savings. "Using bicycles for short distances is not only good for our health but also helps reduce fuel consumption and pollution," Sharma stated. He further urged the youth to stay away from drugs, emphasizing that addiction destroys both physical and mental health.

"To stay fit and mentally

strong, it is essential to remain engaged in sports and keep away from any kind of drug menace," he added. The event also saw the participation of several prominent individuals, including Advocate Milindarjun Singh Slathia, Rajinder Magotra, Akshat Bakshi, Sahil Dogra, and Tony Singh, who lent their support to the noble cause.

## Sports activities for CCI children conclude

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANDIPORA: A three-day sports event for children of Palaash and Pareesha Child Care Institutions (CCI) concluded on Sunday in Bandipora.

Organized by the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) under Mission Vatsalya, the programme aimed at promoting the well-being and holistic development of children in CCIs.

The event served as a platform for these children to engage in healthy competitions and build confidence. The children enthusiastically took part in various games, showcasing skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Trophies were distributed among participants to encourage and recognize their efforts.

Protection Officer, Gowhar Mehmood said the initiative is part of DCPU's ongoing efforts to foster the physical, mental, and social growth of children in CCIs.