



## J&K stuns Bengal to reach finals of Ranji Trophy

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
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In a spectacular display of team work, Jammu and Kashmir have made it to the Ranji Trophy elite group finals for the first time ever since first win over Services 44 years back thus etching their name into the annals of Indian domestic cricket history.

J&K defeated star-studded side of Bengal by six wickets on their home ground showcasing the all-round performance with bowlers leading from the front.

Resuming from overnight score of 43 for two, J&K rode on a superb batting display by Vanshaj Sharma and Abdul Samad and achieved the target comfortably for the loss of four wickets.

Vanshaj remained unbeaten on 43 off 83 balls, studded with four boundaries and a winning six. He showed true character, serenity, patience and solidity in his unbeaten innings while Samad, who scored explosive 82 in the first innings, contributed power-packed 30 off 27 balls with a boundary and three sixes. Shubham Singh Pundir scored valuable 27 off 58 balls with five boundaries.

Akash Deep was the most successful bowler for Bengal, who captured three wickets conceding 46 runs in



his 15 overs, while Mohammed Shami, who captured eight wickets in the first innings, claimed the other wicket.

Back home Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah congratulated the team with appreciations for the team management and JKCA Administration. Several prominent cricketers also complimented the team for scripting history.

The J&K's stunning Ranji Trophy resurgence has electrified India's domestic circuit, transforming a perennial underdog into a knockout-stage powerhouse.

Spearheading this revolution was Mithun Manhas,

former Director of Cricket Operations and Development at the JKCA and now BCCI president-elect. A stalwart of J&K and Delhi Ranji teams with IPL pedigree, Manhas has instilled unwavering continuity, nurturing a stable core of talent from chaos to consistency.

The JKCA Administrators, Brig. Anil Gupta and Vidya Bhaskar (Member, Cricket Operations and Development); CAC Members Abdul Qayoom, Vijay Sharma, and Meenu Singh Slathia; Selectors Sarabjeet Singh, Dhruv Mahajan, and Arshad Bhat; Coaching Staff led by Ajay Sharma, P. Krishnakumar, Dishant Yagnik, Sunny Kumar, and Chi-

rag Pandya; and the full management under Hilal Ahmed Zargar, Ravi Sharma and Skipper Paras Dogra.

**BRIEF SCORES:** Bengal 1st Innings: 328: Sudip Kumar Gharami 146, Abhimanyu Easwaran 49; Auqib Nabi 5/87, Sunil Kumar 3/41

J&K 1st Innings: 302: Abdul Samad 82, Paras Dogra 58, Auqib Nabi 42; Mohammed Shami 8/90, Mukesh Kumar 2/78.

Bengal 2nd Innings: 99: Shahbaz Ahmed 24, Sunil Kumar 4/27; Auqib Nabi 4/46, Yudhvir Singh 2/29.

J&K 2nd Innings: 126: Vanshaj Sharma 43\*, Abdul Samad 30\*, Shubham Singh Pundir 27; Akash Deep 3/46, Shami 1/24.

## Div Com Kashmir reviews arrangements for 6th Khelo India Winter Games at Gulmarg

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Following the announcement of dates for the commencement of 2nd leg of the 6th Edition of the Khelo India Winter Games at Gulmarg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg chaired a comprehensive meeting to review preparations for the smooth and successful conduct of the national sporting event.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Commissioner SMC, SSP Traffic Srinagar, SSP Security, SSP Traffic Rural, Secretary, J&K Sports Council, CEO GDA, RTO, and officers from various departments including Information, Health, PHE, KPDC, Transport, Hospitality & Protocol, Tourism, Cable Car Corporation, IMD, ULB, RDD, Rural Sanitation, Doordarshan, and other concerned agencies.

At the outset, Secretary, J&K Sports Council gave a detailed presentation covering the number of participants, expected VIP attendance, scheduled events, accommodation availability, transportation plans, cultural programmes, and promotional activities.

While chairing the meeting, the Divisional Commis-



sioner reviewed a wide range of arrangements, including the arrival of participants at Srinagar Airport, transportation logistics to Gulmarg, accommodation facilities, and essential services such as electricity, drinking water, sanitation, mobile network connectivity, and critical healthcare services. He stressed the need for seamless coordination among all departments.

Emphasizing synergy and accountability, he directed the appointment of nodal officers for specific roles and assignments.

He also ordered the activation of a joint control room to facilitate effective communication among stakeholder departments and ensure timely dissemination of information, further strengthening inter-departmental coordination.

The Divisional Commissioner instructed the Chief Medical Officer to ensure the availability of an ECG machine at Gandola, deployment of medical teams, and placement of a critical care ambulance at the venue.

He also called for main-

taining cleanliness and sanitation at the venues and along the route from Srinagar Airport to Gulmarg.

Highlighting safety measures, he directed an increase in the number of Avalanche Rescue Team members for immediate response to any hazard and emphasized the mandatory use of anti-skid chains by vehicles operating on Gulmarg-Tangmarg road.

Also, he instructed the Director Tourism to leverage the event to promote tourism activities and boost tourist footfall in the region.

## RBI Jammu is Zonal Badminton champion

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The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Jammu clinched the Badminton trophy of the RBI Inter-office Zonal (North Zone) Sports Meet which held at Chandigarh.

The star-studded team of RBI Jammu, included former J&K champions, Gurvinder Singh and Vipul Saini. Other members of the team were Basu Bhagat and Mandeep Singh.

Besides team gold, the RBI Jammu won men's doubles and men's singles titles as also gold in 35 plus category event.

On their return from the Zonal meet, the team was complimented and felicitated by Regional Director of UT of J&K and Ladakh, Chander Shekhar Azad for bringing laurels for RBI Jammu.

"Now, the RBI Jammu



shall represent the North Zone in RBI Inter-Zonal Sports Meet. We are prepared to steal the show at the National level too," said Gurvinder Singh, who is also secretary RBI Sports

and Cultural Club, Jammu. Meanwhile, RBI Jammu also excelled in the RBI Inter-office zonal Cultural meet held at Dehradun. In solo song female, Pallavi Seotra of J&K bagged first

place. In Skit, J&K was runners-up while Himanshu Pandey bagged second position in show your talent contest. Gurinder Singh finished third in best direction contest.

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District Youth Services & Sports (DYSS) Baramulla, continued the League of Classics Block-Level selection trials for Football, Volleyball, and Cricket (Under-17 & Under-19 Boys) on the third consecutive day under the banner of the Youth Engagement Programme 2026, reaffirming its commitment to strengthening grassroots sports and nurturing young talent across the district.

The selection trials were organised at multiple venues including Block Wagoora, Block Tujjer, Block Zangeer, Block Dangi-wacha, Block Narwaj, Block Nadihal, and Block Tangmarg, where a large number of young athletes



participated with great zeal and competitive spirit. At Block Wagoora, Volleyball trials for Under-17 and Under-19 Boys witnessed the participation of 83 players. Block Zangeer hosted Cricket selection trials for the same age categories with an impressive turnout of 250 participants.

Meanwhile, Block Dangi-

wacha conducted Volleyball trials with 27 participants, and Block Narwaj recorded the participation of 30 players in Volleyball trials.

The enthusiastic response from the youth reflects the growing momentum of sports culture in Baramulla and the success of sustained initiatives undertaken by the department

to engage young people in constructive and healthy activities.

The trials will continue in other blocks in the coming days, after which the short-listed players will compete in Inter-Block District-Level Competitions, providing a strong platform for further talent identification and development.

## CLUJ felicitates Shooter Aneesha Sharma

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Vice Chancellor Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ), Dr KS Chandrasekar today felicitated Aneesha Sharma for her remarkable achievements in the recently held events at his

office in the presence of senior faculty members and officials from department of sports.

Aneesha brought laurels to the institution and the Nation by securing team Gold and individual Bronze in the Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship.

To bring glory to the CLUJ, Aneesha clinched a Silver Medal in the individual category at the All India Inter-University Championship.

While felicitating Ane-



sha, the Vice-Chancellor lauded her dedication and perseverance. "Aneesha Sharma has made the entire University proud through her exceptional achievements at both international and national platforms. Her commitment, discipline, and relentless pursuit of excellence reflect the true spirit of sportsmanship. She is an inspiration to all stu-

dents of Cluster University of Jammu, and we are confident she will continue to scale greater heights in the years to come," said the VC.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Vinod Bakshi, Director, Physical Education and Sports, CLUJ expressed gratitude to the VC for his continuous encouragement and unwavering support towards sports development

in the University.

"We sincerely thank the Vice-Chancellor for his visionary leadership and consistent support in strengthening the sports infrastructure and encouraging student-athletes. Aneesha's achievements are a result of her hard work combined with the University's supportive environment," he mentioned.

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Top Indian Volleyball stars were in Poonch town of the border district in Jammu and Kashmir to attend the marriage ceremony of international spiker, Saqlain Tariq.

Legendary Ranjit Rana and other prominent volleyball players of the country and referees, during their stay in the town, visited the playing facilities where youngsters had the golden opportunity to interact and spend time with their role models.

"It was a lifetime experience for the young and upcoming volleyball players of district Poonch to meet their role models. These top players, most of them professionals, spend quality time with the youngsters and shared their thoughts in regard to the game," in-



formed father of Saqlain Tariq and international coach, Mohd Tariq.

Prominent among these India players were Shikhar Singh, Ayush Kasnia and Vikram. Also part of the vis-

iting guests, from volleyball fraternity, were international referees, Parveen Khokhar, Nishant Kumar and Ajay Verma.

"Most of these players and referees visited district

Poonch for the first time and were happy to find Poonch emerging as volleyball hub in J&K where youngsters follow the footprints of Saqlain," further said Tariq.