



## Satish meets Union Minister in Srinagar; Pushes for Strengthening Sports Ecosystem in J&K

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
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Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma today held a detailed meeting with Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, on the sidelines of the upcoming Chintan Shivir being hosted in Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, the Minister warmly welcomed the visiting dignitaries and extended his appreciation for their presence in Jammu and Kashmir for the important deliberations aimed at strengthening the sports landscape across the country.

During the meeting, Satish Sharma discussed in detail a comprehensive roadmap for giving a significant fillip to sports development in Jammu and Kashmir, with particular emphasis on expanding outreach to border and far-flung areas. He underscored that youth residing in remote and underserved regions possess immense untapped potential, which can be channelized effectively through targeted interventions and improved access to sports infrastructure.

The Minister highlighted



the ongoing efforts of the Jammu and Kashmir Government to promote a vibrant sports culture, including the organization of local tournaments, talent identification programmes, and initiatives aimed at engaging youth in constructive and nation-building activities.

He stressed the need for strengthening grassroots-level infrastructure to ensure that aspiring athletes, irrespective of their geographical location, have access to quality training and facilities.

Satish Sharma also sought liberal financial assistance from the Government of India for upgrading existing sports infrastructure and establishing modern, state-of-the-art facilities

across Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized the importance of developing multipurpose indoor stadiums, playfields, and high-performance training centres equipped with advanced coaching support and sports science facilities.

The discussions further focused on enhancing collaboration between the Union Ministry and the Jammu and Kashmir Government in organizing national-level sporting events in Jammu and Kashmir, which would not only provide exposure to local talent but also position the region as a prominent sporting destination.

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya appreciated the proactive initiatives being undertaken by the Jammu and Kashmir

Government and lauded the focused approach towards youth engagement and sports development. He assured full support and cooperation from the Government of India in strengthening the sports ecosystem in the region, particularly in underserved and border areas.

Satish Sharma reiterated the commitment of the Government towards harnessing the energy and potential of youth through sports, innovation, and inclusive development. He expressed confidence that the outcomes of the upcoming Chintan Shivir would pave the way for new strategies and collaborative efforts to further accelerate sports development in Jammu and Kashmir.

## Delhi Pro Volleyball League aims to bring financial stability, recognition for players

NEW DELHI, APRIL 24: Emphasising a player-first vision, the Delhi Pro Volleyball League (DPVL) aims to build a future where athletes are not limited to playing for passion alone, but are also empowered with professional growth, financial stability, and long-term recognition.

Delhi Pro Volleyball League (DPVL) was announced in January this year with the vision of creating a structured, professional, and sustainable platform for volleyball talent in the city. The league has the backing of the Delhi Volleyball Association and the Delhi Olympic Association, according to a press release.

Former volleyball players Neeti Rawat and Jasoda Gulliya are fully immersed in the preparations for DPVL, which is also India's first women-led professional volleyball league, built by athletes, for athletes. Both founders bring a unique blend of on-ground experience and professional expertise to the league.

Neeti Rawat, a former volleyball player, has built extensive experience in sports broadcasting and media, offering deep insight into storytelling, audience engagement, and the commercial dynamics of televised sports. Her understanding of how to position and package sports content is expected to play a pivotal role in amplifying volleyball's reach in India.



Complementing this is Jasoda Gulliya, whose background in finance and strategic planning brings a dynamic foundation in building sustainable business models. With her expertise, DPVL is designed not just as a sporting event but as a scalable sports enterprise that attracts long-term investment, sponsorship, and franchise participation.

Having spent years on the court, both Neeti and Jasoda bring unmatched authenticity and insight into the league's vision.

"DPVL is a movement to redefine how volleyball is perceived and experienced in India. Having lived the journey as athletes ourselves, we don't just understand the sport - we understand its untapped potential.

We know where it stands today, where it rightfully belongs, and we are determined to bridge that gap with purpose and action," said Neeti Rawat.

Adding to this, Jasoda Gulliya stated, "This league is about building a future where players don't just play for passion, but also have access to professional growth, financial stability, and recognition.

For us, it's not just a sport; it's been a way of life. We haven't just played the game, we've lived it. That's why we understand every nuance, every challenge, and what athletes truly need.

DPVL envisions a holistic ecosystem including player

development pathways, professional training environments, competitive exposure, and enhanced visibility through media and broadcast partnerships. The league also seeks to empower women in sports leadership, setting a precedent for more inclusive and diverse governance in Indian sports.

The Delhi Pro Volleyball League (DPVL) will feature a dynamic and professional league format comprising six franchise teams competing in a structured, high-quality match environment. Set to make its debut in 2026, DPVL aims to deliver a competitive and commercially viable platform that elevates the standard of volleyball in India. (ANI)

## DYSS Baramulla engages thousands in Multi-Zonal Sports Revolution

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Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) Baramulla engaged thousands of students across 11 educational zones of the district in a vibrant series of inter-school zonal level sports competitions for both boys and girls.

The competitions, organized at respective zonal venues, witnessed enthusiastic participation from students of various government and private institutions, thereby fostering a spirit of sportsmanship and healthy competition among the youth.

In Zone Wagoora, an inter-school zonal level Chess competition for Under-14 and Under-17 boys was conducted at HS Watergam, witnessing the participation of 64 students from different schools.

Similarly, Zone Nehalpora organized a Chess competition for Under-14 boys and girls at BMS Waripora, where 30 students actively took part.

Zone Singpora Pattan conducted inter-school zonal level Volleyball com-



petitions for Under-14 and Under-17 boys under the banner of Nasha Mukta Abhiyan J&K, promoting both sports and social awareness. In another significant event, Zone Dangiwachha hosted inter-school zonal level Badminton competitions for Under-14 and Under-17 girls, attracting participation from 70 students.

Zone Rohama organized inter-school zonal level competitions for Under-14 and Under-17 girls at HS Tragpora under the Nasha Mukta Abhiyan J&K, where 87 students showcased their sporting skills.

Additionally, Zone Pattan conducted a Badminton competition for Under-17 girls at HSS Pattan, with 38

participants demonstrating commendable talent.

Zone Singpora Kalan conducted inter-school zonal level competitions for Under-17 boys and girls at BHS Singpora Kalan, while Zone Dangerpora organized Under-14 Badminton competitions at HSS Dangerpora, witnessing a remarkable participation of 100 students.

Zone Tangmarg conducted inter-school zonal level Badminton competitions for Under-17 boys, with 40 students participating, alongside organizing Kabaddi and Cricket matches under the Nasha Mukta Abhiyan J&K banner. Meanwhile, Zone Uri conducted awareness pro-

grammes for both boys and girls under the campaign, emphasizing the importance of a drug-free and healthy lifestyle.

The Department continues to utilize sports as a powerful medium to channelize the energy of youth towards constructive activities while simultaneously spreading awareness about social issues like drug abuse.

DYSSO Baramulla appreciated the efforts of all Zonal Physical Education Officers, field staff, and participating institutions for the successful conduct of these competitions and reiterated the department's commitment towards holistic youth development through sports and allied activities.

NEW DELHI, APR 24: Prachi Gaikwad struck gold, winning the junior women's 50m rifle 3 positions (3P) event at the ongoing International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun in Cairo, Egypt, firing 354.6 in the final to overcome Individual Neutral Athlete (AIN) Darya Chuprys, who shot 354.4.

Another AIN shooter, Elena Kretinina, won bronze with a score of 343.3, exiting the 35-shot final after the 34th shot. Naraen Pranav also won bronze in the junior men's 10m air rifle with a score of 229.5 in the final, according to a press release.

This was India's second gold of the competition after Shiva Narwal had won the men's 10m air pistol event on the opening day of competitions on Tuesday, and with four silvers and three bronzes also in their kitty, takes them back to the top of the medal tally.

Prachi was the only Indian to qualify for the junior women's 3P final at the Olympic International



City Shooting range. She took sixth spot with a score of 578 and then began the final, placing fifth after the first 10 shots in the kneeling position.

Thereafter, she surged to second after the Prone round and was just 0.6 behind Darya, who was leading at that stage. With a 50+ return on the first five shots of the final Standing position, she shot into the lead for the first time in the match.

But Darya found a second wind and fired a 51.0

over the next five, as Prachi missed the 10-ring four times, going down to third momentarily with the last five shots remaining.

The minor setback did not deter the Indian as she delivered when it mattered most, hitting the 10-ring four times, including two high 10s, to clinch it from Darya by a margin of 0.2.

In the junior men's 10m air rifle, three Indians made the cut with Naraen best placed at third, scoring 630.9. Abhinav Shaw was fourth with 630.0 while Divyanshu Dewangan took the seventh qualifying spot with a score of 626.8.

In the final, Divyanshu was the first to be eliminated in eighth place with his score reading 122.4 after 12 shots of the 24-shot final. Abhinav and Naraen were in the fight for third place at that point with Uzbek Javohir Sokhibov and Cypriot Achilles Sophocleous in first and second, respectively.

Naraen then fired a 10.7 followed by a perfect 10.9, to now challenge Sophocleous for silver as Abhinav faded away. Sokhibov seemed out of reach.

Abhinav had 0.6 to make up on Naraen going into the 20th, but a 9.9 put paid to his hopes, as Naraen clinched bronze, falling short of the Greek by 0.4 after the 22nd shot. Sokhibov romped to gold, finishing with 251.2, a whole point ahead of Sophocleous.

Vanshika Chaudhary, Sejal Kamble and Kanak have also made the junior women's 10m air pistol final, with scores of 579, 577 and 576, giving them the top three spots on the leaderboard.

## Delhi Capitals face uphill task against unbeaten Punjab Kings

NEW DELHI, APR 24: Delhi Capitals will have to play out of their skins to get their stuttering campaign back on track when they face high-flying Punjab Kings in the Indian Premier League here on Saturday.

It will be a daunting task for the struggling Delhi outfit—smarting from a comprehensive 47-run defeat to Sunrisers Hyderabad—to stand up to a Punjab side that has been firing on all cylinders this season.

With three wins and as many losses from six matches, the Capitals find themselves pushed down the bottom half of the table in sixth place.

In contrast, Punjab Kings remain the

only unbeaten team in the competition so far, sitting pretty at the top of the standings with 11 points from six outings. The sole point they lost was due to their game being washed out against Kolkata Knight Riders at Eden Gardens.

Delhi's biggest concern has been their inconsistent batting. While the likes of KL Rahul, David Miller, Tristan Stubbs and Sameer Rizvi have all contributed in patches, the unit has failed to click collectively.

Opener Pathum Nissanka, despite getting starts, has been unable to convert them into substantial scores, leaving the middle order with too much to do.

Captain Axar Patel, too, would want

to shoulder greater responsibility with the bat. The all-rounder is also under scrutiny for some questionable tactical calls in the previous game.

Against a rampaging Abhishek Sharma, Axar persisted with part-time off-spinner Nitish Rana, who proved ineffective, while frontline options such as himself and Kuldeep Yadav were not utilised enough.

The absence of a clear Plan B highlighted Delhi's lack of adaptability under pressure.

Fielding lapses have further compounded their struggles. Missed stumpings, botched run-out opportunities, and a few dropped catches have cost

them dear in crucial moments, preventing them from seizing control of games.

Although the bowling unit has performed better than the batting, it has lacked the aggression and incisiveness needed to dominate opposition line-ups.

Against a formidable Punjab batting order, the Capitals' bowlers will need to be far more disciplined and proactive.

Punjab Kings, on the other hand, have looked like a well-oiled machine. They have displayed both consistency and confidence, underlined by their recent 254 for 7 against Lucknow Super Giants—the highest total of the season.

Opener Prabhsimran Singh has been in outstanding form, accumulating 211 runs and providing explosive starts, while skipper Shreyas Iyer has been equally impressive with 208 runs scored at a brisk strike rate of 182.45.

The duo has been complemented effectively by Priyansh Arya (211) and Cooper Connolly (223), adding depth and firepower to the batting line-up.

Punjab's bowlers too have performed as a cohesive unit. Despite the absence of a single dominant wicket-taker at the top of the charts, the likes of Arshdeep Singh, Yuzvendra Chahal, Marco Jansen, Vijaykumar Vyshak and Xavier Bartlett have delivered consistently.

With momentum firmly on their side, Punjab will start as favourites, while Delhi will need a near-perfect performance to halt the table-toppers' march and get their own campaign back on track.

Teams (from):  
Delhi Capitals: Axar Patel ©, K.L. Rahul, Karun Nair, David Miller, Pathum Nissanka, Sahil Parakh, Prithvi Shaw, Abhishek Porel, Tristan Stubbs, Sameer Rizvi, Ashutosh Sharma, Vipraj Nigam, Ajay Mandal, Tripurana Vijay, Madhav Tiwari, Auqib Dar, Nitish Rana, T. Natarajan, Mukesh Kumar, Dushmantha Chameera, Lungisani Ngidi, Kyle Jamieson, Kuldeep Yadav.