



## Satish inaugurates Faavos Taekwondo Cup at Indoor Stadium Budgam

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JUNE 20

Minister for Youth Services & Sports, Transport, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Science & Technology and ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma, today inaugurated the Faavos Taekwondo Cup at the Indoor Stadium, Budgam, amid enthusiastic participation of young taekwondo players from various districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The championship brought together hundreds of budding martial artists, showcasing the growing enthusiasm for taekwondo and the increasing sporting culture among the youth. The event reflects the sustained efforts of the government to promote grassroots sports and provide young athletes with opportunities to compete, excel and prepare for higher-level competitions.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister congratulated the organisers for successfully hosting the championship and appreciated their efforts in promoting martial arts across Jammu and Kashmir. He said that a sporting events such as the Faavos Taekwondo Cup play a vital role in identifying talent, encouraging healthy competition and instilling values of discipline, determination and team-



work among young people.

The Minister emphasized that the present government is working under a well knit strategy to create a vibrant sporting ecosystem by strengthening the infrastructure, expanding training facilities. It is being ensured that talented sportspersons receive every possible opportunity to compete and succeed at national and international platforms, he added.

"Sports are a powerful medium for channelising the energy of our youth in a positive direction. They not only promote physical fitness but also build confidence, resilience, leadership qualities and a spirit of discipline. Our aim is to ensure that every talented athlete,

irrespective of his or her background, gets access to quality infrastructure, coaching and competitive exposure," maintained the Minister.

Satish Sharma urged the participating athletes to remain focused, work hard and uphold the true spirit of sportsmanship. He encouraged them to view every competition as a stepping stone towards greater achievements. He expressed confidence that many of the young players participating in the tournament would go on to represent Jammu and Kashmir and the country with distinction.

The Minister also interacted with the players, coaches and sports officials,

appreciating their dedication towards the development of taekwondo. He assured them that the Youth Services & Sports Department would continue to organise and support more such competitions to strengthen the grassroots sports and identify emerging talent across Jammu and Kashmir.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by senior officers of the Youth Services & Sports Department, sports officials, coaches, athletes and local dignitaries. They appreciated the initiative and expressed confidence that such events would further strengthen the sporting culture and inspire greater youth participation across Jammu and Kashmir.

## DYSS conducts inter-zonal AAG girls tournament 'Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyan'

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JUNE 20

The Department of Youth Services & Sports, Kishtwar, organised the Inter-Zonal District-Level Tournament for AAG Girls under the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukh Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan and Youth Engagement Programme in the disciplines of Volleyball, Kabaddi, Wushu and Kho-Kho at GHSS Boys Kishtwar and Chowgan Ground, Kishtwar.

The tournament saw participation from girls representing various zones of the district, with players displaying skill, teamwork and discipline throughout the day.

The activities were conducted under the direction of Director General Youth Services & Sports J&K Anuradha Gupta, under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma and under the guidance of District Youth Services & Sports Officer Kishtwar Jaffer Haider Sheikh.

The DYSSO said sports help shape the character of



youth and highlighted the role of the Nasha Mukh Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan in steering young minds to-

wards healthy and positive activities. The tournament provided a platform for identifying talented athletes

and promoted fitness, discipline, leadership and social harmony among participants.

## Jaiswal's 100, Rohit's 79 and Prasidh's fifer headline India's 9-wicket win over Afghans in T20

**CHENNAI, JUNE 20:** Yashasvi Jaiswal and Rohit Sharma activated their free-flowing mode while making an unbeaten 110 and 79 respectively, backing up Prasidh Krishna's career-best 5 for 23 as India flayed Afghanistan by nine wickets in the third and final ODI here on Saturday.

The victory helped India sweep the three-match ODI series 3-0.

The target of 219 was never really going to test the Indians, and they completed the chase in a mere 28.4 overs, leaving a valiant 102 by Afghanistan skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi as a mere footnote. India finished with 224 for one, laced by Jaiswal's second ODI hundred.

Realistically, neither Rohit nor Jaiswal, who could not have timed his second ODI hundred no better, have nothing to prove but their immediate situation made it mandatory for them to make this outing count.

Rohit needed a substantial innings to keep the swelling competition for his place at bay for the time being, and Jaiswal needed a big score to keep himself in contention for India's thickly populated top-order.

They merged their personal goals in a stunning exhibition of one-day batting for the team's cause on this night.

Rohit was a tad slow to begin his innings, but soon discovered the kind of shots that earned him the sobriquet-Hitman.

The Mumbai batter took a liking for Afghanistan's premier spinner Rashid Khan, clobbering him for flicked four and a swept six in succession.

The enviable timing of Rohit was on full view when he smashed Rashid inside out over the covers for a six,



eliciting a wistful smile from the bowler.

Jaiswal, on the other hand, was at ease from ball one, careening pacer Azmatullah Omarzai for three boundaries, as a 9-ball first over produced 23 runs, including five penalty runs which India penalised after Shahidi was found guilty of repeatedly running on the danger area.

There was a pulled six off pacer Fareed Ahmed and some velvety drives off spinner AM Ghazanfar as he reached his fifty in 38 balls, and his partner went past the milestone in 47 balls.

Together, they amassed 170 runs in just 22.5 overs for the first wicket as India cruised past the target without batting an eyelid.

A minor aberration was the departure of Rohit, who could not impart distance to his pet pull shot off Mohammad Nabi and was caught at deep mid-wicket by substitute Sediqullah Atal.

But that did not stop Jaiswal, as the left-hander fetched a composed hundred in 83 balls, with a six off Nabi, and celebrated the moment with a signature raising of the bat and soon,

fittingly, fetched the winning runs through a six off Nabi. Earlier, pacer Prasidh tore apart Afghanistan's top-order with a wonderful spell before the visitors scampered to 218 all out.

Opting to bat first, Afghanistan were in all sorts of trouble at 36 for four after Prasidh discovered the perfect length at the Chepauk pitch with a four-wicket burst in his opening spell.

But Shahidi, who took 131 balls for his maiden ODI hundred, marshalled the remaining resources well to save Afghanistan some blushes.

The left-hander first milked 105 runs off 117 balls for the fifth wicket with Azmatullah Omarzai (50, 56b) and then a 57 runs off 53 balls for the sixth wicket with Nabi.

Before the Afghans mounted a rescue act, Prasidh hoggied the lime-light with a very fine spell, hitting the fuller length and tempting the batters to drive.

Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Ibrahim Zadran and Rahmat Shah, all attempted drove Prasidh outside the off-stump, giving regula-

tion catches to Rohit at first slip.

Darwish Rasooli tried to pull the pacer, but Shreyas Iyer ran from mid-off to take a fine catch that gave Prasidh his fourth wicket inside the first 10 overs.

The Karnataka man thus joined an elite list of pacers like Jasprit Bumrah, Javagal Srinath and Mohammed Siraj etc to have achieved that feat.

At 36 for four, a capitulation seemed imminent. But Shahidi and Omarzai resisted the Indian bowlers bravely.

Shahidi played the anchor role to perfection, and often used late cuts and little dabs to the gaps to collect runs and raised his fifty in 64 balls.

In contrast, Omarzai was more aggressive and brought up his half-century in 55 balls which contained sixes off left-arm spinner Harsh Dubey and off-spinner Washington Sundar. But a feeble pull off Prince Yadav ended in the hands of Prasidh at long leg.

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JUNE 20

The Directorate of Youth Services & Sports J&K, in collaboration with the Blind Cricket Association Jammu & Kashmir, organised the Bilateral Blind Cricket Series 2026 at Government Degree College, Bhandarwah, from June 20 to 21, 2026.

The two-day event has brought together visually impaired cricketers from Jammu & Kashmir and Haryana, providing a platform to showcase their skills.

The bilateral series aims to promote inclusive sports, encourage active participation of differently-abled athletes and strengthen sporting ties between the



two teams.

The tournament saw participation from players, officials and sports enthusiasts, reflecting the growing popu-

larity of blind cricket in the region. Organisers said the series would inspire more visually impaired youth to take up sports and pursue

excellence at higher levels, adding that such initiatives foster confidence, empowerment and social inclusion.

## Javed Rana inaugurates Dr Masud Memorial Champion League; announces Rs 5 cr indoor stadium for Mendhar

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JUNE 20

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, on Saturday inaugurated the Dr. Masud Choudhary Memorial Champion League 2026, at OP Hill Station Mendhar.

The Memorial Cricket Tournament, an annual regional sporting event, got underway today bringing together 16 teams from across the region. The tournament, featuring 15 matches, will be held from June 20 to June 28, 2026.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister highlighted the immense contribution of Dr. Masud Choudhary towards the welfare and development of the community, describing him as a visionary whose legacy continues to inspire the generations.

Regarding the league, the Minister emphasized that sports serve as an effective platform for channelizing



the energy of young people towards positive and productive pursuits.

He urged the youth to actively participate in sports and other constructive activities, describing them as vital tools for personality development, discipline, teamwork and social cohesion. He said that involvement in sports helps away from social evils while fostering a spirit of healthy

competition and excellence. Rana reiterated the government's commitment towards encouraging sports activities and creating opportunities for the young talent to excel at different levels. He appreciated the organizers for their efforts in providing a platform for budding cricketers and promoting a culture of sports in the region. To boost sports infrastructure in the area, the

Minister announced establishment of an Indoor Stadium in Mendhar to be built at an estimated cost of Rs. 5.00 crore. He also highlighted the ongoing works including the construction of Synthetic Sports Grounds in the area.

The tournament carries a cash prize of ₹1 lakh for the winning team and ₹60,000 for the runners-up besides individual awards for the outstanding performances.