



Kathua Admin's maiden District Badminton Tournament concludes on a high note

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 02

The Grand Finale of the maiden District Badminton Tournament, organised by the District Administration Kathua under the Nasha Mukht Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan concluded the other day at the Indoor Sports Stadium, Kathua. Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma, presided over the finals and felicitated the winners and runners-up in various categories.

The tournament witnessed an overwhelming response, with over 200 participants competing in Under-14, Under-19, Senior and Veteran categories for both boys and girls. A total of 211 matches were played, providing an excellent platform for shuttlers from across the district to showcase their talent.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner said the District Administration is consistently organising sporting events under the Nasha Mukht Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan to provide quality exposure and competitive opportunities to budding sportspersons. He said the tournament was conceived to engage youth in constructive activities, encourage them to adopt sports as a way of life and make optimum use of the sports infrastructure created in the district.

Highlighting the enthusiastic participation of girls, the Deputy Commissioner observed that they are now matching their male counterparts in every field, in-



cluding sports. He said the tournament reflected the growing sporting culture in the district and reaffirmed the administration's commitment to promoting equal opportunities for all.

Rajesh Sharma said Kathua continues to emerge as a hub of sporting talent and expressed confidence that the facilities at the Indoor Sports Stadium would be further upgraded. He said the necessary projections have already been submitted to the competent authorities.

The Deputy Commissioner appreciated Chief Planning Officer Kathua Ranjeet Thakur, Assistant Director Fisheries Pawan Paul Sharma and their team for organising the maiden

tournament with utmost dedication in a truly sporting atmosphere. He also acknowledged the support extended by Ex-MC Councillor Rahul Dev and the management of Kartar Public School, Kathua.

The finals witnessed keenly contested matches across categories. Priyashi and Sunshine won the Under-19 Girls' Doubles title, Kulbhandu clinched the Men's Singles title, while Akshay and Nitish emerged winners in the Men's Doubles. Manyata won both the Women's Singles and Under-19 Girls' Singles titles. Arun and Sanjeev claimed the Veterans' Doubles title, while Rajat Sudan won the Veterans' Singles. Sunshine won the Under-14 Girls'

Singles title, Saksham Singh emerged champion in the Under-14 Boys' Singles, Aaradhya and Arush won the Under-14 Boys' Doubles, Aniket Sharma clinched the Under-19 Boys' Singles title and Saksham and Daksh won the Under-19 Boys' Doubles championship.

IAS Probationer Nidhi, District Information Officer Gurpreet Singh, officers of the district administration, besides a large number of players, parents and sports enthusiasts were present and witnessed the finals.

The tournament concluded with the presentation of trophies, medals and certificates to the winners, runners-up, officials, support staff and volunteers.

Kathua Cricket League concludes with strong message of Sports against Drugs

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The District Administration Kathua today successfully concluded the first-ever Kathua Premier League organised under the Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan, with GDC Kathua XI lifting the championship trophy after defeating Young Gun XI by eight wickets in the grand finale played at Government Degree College, Kathua.

DC Kathua, Rajesh Sharma, congratulated the winning team, runners-up and all participating players for making the maiden edition of the tournament a grand success. He informed that 24 teams comprising players below the age of 35 years participated in the league, reflecting the immense sporting talent and enthusiasm among the district's youth. Reaffirming the District Administration's commitment to promoting sports as an effective tool for youth engagement, the DC announced that several more sporting events are in the pipeline including a district-level football tournament. He urged the youth to channelise their energy towards sports and other constructive activities, stay away from the menace of drugs and contribute towards building a Nasha Mukht J&K and Nasha Mukht Bharat.

He lauded the efforts of CPO Ranjit Thakur and team members of District Administration for hosting the tournament in its real



spirit. Earlier, after winning the toss, Young Gun XI elected to bat first and posted a competitive 169/9 in 20 overs. Ladda top-scored with a brilliant 73 off 43 balls, while Ritik contributed 29 off 20 balls and Rahul Choudhary added 26 off 18 balls. For GDC Kathua XI, Nanav starred with the ball, claiming 4 wickets for 36 runs, while Rishabh Bhargav picked up three wickets.

Chasing a target of 170, GDC Kathua XI displayed an aggressive batting per-

formance to reach 172/2 in just 15.2 overs, winning the final with 28 balls to spare. Dhruv remained unbeaten on 66 off 39 balls, while Dhanveer scored a fluent 54 off 39 balls. Nanav provided a blistering start with 24 off 12 balls and Rahul Singh remained unbeaten on 13 off 3 balls to guide his team to a comprehensive victory.

At the conclusion of the tournament, Nanav (GDC Kathua XI) was adjudged the Man of the Match for his outstanding all-round performance in the final. Dhruv

(GDC Kathua XI) was declared the Man of the Tournament and also received the Best Batsman of the Tournament award for his exceptional performances throughout the competition. Sahil of Kathua Blasters XI was honoured with the Best Bowler of the Tournament award.

Among others, Physical Director GDC Boys Sandeep Sharma, CAO Jatinder Khajuria, Prof Goutam Singh, DIO Gurpreet Singh and other officers were also present.

NCC organises cyclothon to commemorate 79th years of India's Independence

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 02

The National Cadet Corps (NCC) organised Cyclothon 2026 on August 02, 2026 in New Delhi to commemorate 79 years of India's Independence. The initiative aimed to inspire the youth to embrace fitness, environmental responsibility, and sustainable living while reinforcing the core values of patriotism, discipline, unity, and national service that form the foundation of the National Cadet Corps.

The Cyclothon was flagged off by the Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, in the presence of the Minister of State for Defence, Shri Sanjay Seth, Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, renowned boxer M C Mary Kom and renowned tennis player Leander Paes.

Director General, NCC, Lieutenant General Virendra Vats led the group of 79 NCC cadets in a symbolic 79 kilometre ride to mark 79 years of India's Independence. The event com-



menced from Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium and concluded at the same venue after successfully covering the designated route through prominent landmarks of the National Capital.

Organised under the theme "Clean India, Green India, Fit India," the Cyclothon reaffirmed NCC's commitment to national missions such as TB Mukht

Bharat, Swachh Bharat, Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam, and Har Ghar Tiranga. The event encouraged participants and the public to adopt cycling as an eco-friendly and sustainable mode of transport while promoting environmental conservation, reducing carbon emissions, and embracing healthy lifestyles.

Beyond being a sporting event, NCC Cyclothon 2026

served as a platform to create awareness about physical fitness, environmental stewardship, road safety, and responsible citizenship. The initiative inspired the youth to become ambassadors of positive social change by embracing discipline, teamwork, resilience, and community service, thereby contributing to the vision of a stronger, healthier, and greener.

Speaker inaugurates Cricket tournament at Tujan; urges youth to embrace sports

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Speaker Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today inaugurated a local cricket tournament at Tujan in which more than 32 teams from various urban and rural areas are participating.

Addressing the participating players local gathering, officials and organisers, the Speaker emphasized that sports play a pivotal role in the holistic development of youth by fostering discipline, teamwork, leadership, perseverance and a spirit of healthy competition. He said that active participation in sports not only promotes physical fitness and mental well-being but also serves as a constructive avenue for nurturing talent and character.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to promote sports as a means of developing a healthy, disciplined and progressive society, he said much impetus is being given to create world class infrastructure in the UT to train our talented youth to compete both at National and International level. He said sports has traveled beyond recreation and is now an honourable



way of earning livelihood and respect. He quoted a number of names of the UT who made a mark at international level bringing repute not only for themselves but for the entire UT.

The Speaker said that various innovative measures are being ensured to promote sports at the grassroots level by strengthening the infrastructure and creating opportunities for the aspiring athletes to excel at district, UT and national

level. He urged the parents, teachers, community leaders and sports organizations to collectively encourage the young people to adopt sports as a way of life.

Expressing concern over the growing menace of drug abuse and other anti-social activities, the Speaker called upon the youth to shun such harmful practices and instead devote their time and energy to sports and other positive pursuits. He said that engaging in sports

keeps young people focused, builds confidence and inspires them to contribute meaningfully to society.

Commending the organizers for providing a platform to local talent, the Speaker expressed hope that the tournament would foster the spirit of sportsmanship, camaraderie and healthy competition among the participants while motivating more youth to embrace sports and lead healthy, drug-free lives.

Jamwal Clinches Jammu Open Chess Title

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Ashutosh Jamwal emerged champion of the G.H. Raisoni Memorial Jammu Open Chess Tournament, outplaying a strong field of 71 participants. The tournament was organised by the Jammu District Chess Association at LA-VEERAZ Chess Hall, Khara Madana.

Senior Vice President, BJP J&K UT, Advocate Rekha Mahajan inaugurated the tournament by making the ceremonial first move along with Atul Kumar Gupta, Chairman, Planning and Development Commission, All India Chess Federation. Address-



ing the gathering, Rekha Mahajan appreciated the organisers for consistently providing a competitive platform to young players and helping channel their energy in a positive and constructive direction.

Pazhany Kohli secured the second position, while Sumit Grover finished third. The fourth to tenth positions were claimed by Ravi Kumar, Paras Sharma, Aarav Gupta, Garv, Sahil Mahajan, Imtiaz Lone and

Mansoor Ahmed Mir. Special category awards were also presented. Amrita Gupta won the Best Woman Award, Manoj Kohli was declared Best Veteran, Ashman Upmanyu received the Best Under-11 Award, while Vaibhav Dwivedi bagged the Best Under-15 prize.

The tournament was conducted under the supervision of AJKCA President Meenal Gupta. Stuti Gupta served as the Chief Arbiter, while Mansha Mahajan officiated as the Deputy Chief Arbiter. Cash prizes worth Rs. 50,000, along with trophies, were distributed among the winners, making the event a grand celebration of chess talent in the region.