



'Govt aims to turn children's passion into profession': Satish Sharma

SKB Football Championship begins at Naidkhai

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 21: Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma on Friday said that the Omar Abdullah-led government is committed to create a robust sporting ecosystem where the children and young people can transform their passion for sports into a viable profession.

Satish Sharma was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the SKB Football Championship at Sports Stadium Naidkhai, organised by Kashmir Hunks and Thundrr FC. He said the government's responsibility is to provide talented youngsters with the right platforms, facilities and opportunities to pursue sports seriously and build a future around their sporting abilities.

"We want to ensure that children's passion for sports does not remain confined to the playground. Our aim is to provide them opportunities so that they can make sports their profession," Sharma said.

The championship commenced amid an enthusiastic response from the public, with a large gathering witnessing the opening encounter. The tournament provided young footballers with an important platform to showcase their talent, gain competitive exposure and interact with



the wider sporting community.

The Minister said grassroots-level sporting events are vital for identifying, nurturing and promoting emerging talent. He emphasised the need to further strengthen sports infrastructure, expand access to quality training and ensure that talented sportspersons from every part of Jammu and Kashmir receive adequate op-

portunities to excel.

Satish Sharma said the government would continue to support initiatives that encourage greater participation of children and youth in sports, adding that sporting activities also contribute significantly towards discipline, teamwork, confidence and overall personality development.

The Minister appreciated the organisers, play-

ers and the local community for their efforts in promoting football at the grassroots level. He expressed hope that the championship would help identify promising footballing talent from the area.

MLA Sonawari Hilal Akbar Lone, MLA Bandipora Nizamuddin Bhat, officials of the Sports Council and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

J&K Sports Council announces football selection trials for national championships

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, AUG 21

The Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council has announced open selection trials for raising the UT's Junior Girls and Sub-Junior Boys football teams for participation in the National Football Championships 2026-27, being conducted under the aegis of the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

According to a notification issued by the J&K Sports Council, divisional trials for Junior Girls will be held on August 23 and 24 from 9 am at the Mini Stadium Synthetic Turf, Parade Ground, Jammu, and the Synthetic Turf Football Stadium, TRC Srinagar. The UT-level trials for shortlisted players will be conducted at TRC Srinagar on August 26 and 27.

Girls born between January 1, 2011, and December

31, 2012, are eligible to participate.

The divisional trials for Sub-Junior Boys will be conducted on September 1, 2 and 3 from 9 am at designated venues in Jammu and Srinagar. The shortlisted players will participate in the UT-level trials at TRC Srinagar on September 7 and 8.

Boys born between January 1, 2013, and December 31, 2014, are eligible to participate. All participants

must be residents of Jammu and Kashmir.

Candidates have been asked to carry their original birth certificate, updated Aadhaar card, two passport-sized photographs and two photocopies of each document. They must also report in complete football playing kits.

For further information, candidates may contact Javed Ahmad Sofi at 7006037351 or Ricky Kumar at 9149887665.

Inter-District Table Tennis Tournament concludes in Shopian

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, AUG 21

The Inter-District Divisional Level Table Tennis Competition for Under-14 Boys concluded successfully today with a grand closing ceremony, showcasing the exceptional talent, discipline and sportsmanship of young athletes from across the division.

District Kupwara secured the top spot by bagging 1st position in the championship, while District Srinagar and District Bandipora achieved 2nd and 3rd positions respectively.

The closing ceremony was graced by the District Youth Services & Sports Officer, Shopian, Mohammad Ayoub Bhat, who distributed trophies among the winning teams and praised all participants for their enthusiastic involvement.

Speaking on the occasion, the DYSSO congratulated the winners and acknowledged the relentless efforts of the participating teams, officials, coaches,



and staff in making the championship a grand success. He emphasized that sports play a vital role in instilling discipline, confi-

dence, teamwork, and a healthy competitive spirit among young athletes.

The event concluded with the final distribution

of trophies and appreciation awards, marking a successful end to the divisional-level sporting competition.

North Delhi Strikers begin Women's DPL-2026 campaign with 9-wicket win over East Delhi Riders

NEW DELHI AUG 26: North Delhi Strikers began their Women's Delhi Premier League (DPL) 2026 campaign on a winning note, defeating East Delhi Riders by nine wickets with more than five overs to spare.

Batting first, East Delhi Riders struggled against a disciplined North Delhi bowling attack and were restricted to 101/8 in 20 overs, according to a release.

The Riders lost two early wickets and were reduced to 17/2. Vanshika Lila and Sonakshi then tried to rebuild the innings and added 30 runs for the third wicket. However, Lila's dismissal in the 10th over for 26 off 24 balls triggered another collapse.

East Delhi continued to lose wickets at regular intervals and failed to build any strong partnership towards the end of the innings.

Nazma was the pick of the North Delhi bowlers, claiming 2/15 in four overs, while Reshika Beni-



wal also picked up two wickets for 25 runs. Apeksha Anand impressed with an economical spell, finishing with 1/10 in three overs.

Chasing just 102, North Delhi Strikers lost Upasana Yadav early but quickly took control of the chase. Shivi Sharma and

Archana then joined hands and played with confidence to put their team firmly ahead.

The duo produced an unbeaten 92-run partnership for the second wicket, completely taking the game away from East Delhi Riders. Shivi Sharma brought up a well-de-

served half-century, while Archana provided excellent support with an unbeaten 38 off 32 balls.

North Delhi eventually completed the chase comfortably, securing a convincing nine-wicket victory and making a strong start to their DPL 2026 campaign.

DYSS Baramulla continues Inter-Zonal District-Level competitions in district

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, AUG 21

The Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS), District Baramulla, continues its vibrant calendar of Inter-Zonal District-Level competitions and selection trials, providing young sportspersons with a dynamic platform to showcase their talent, competitive spirit and sporting excellence.

The ongoing sporting action unfolded simultaneously at the Indoor Stadium, Khawaja Bagh, Baramulla and Bipin Rawat Indoor Stadium, Baramulla, with enthusiastic participation of students from various Educational Zones of the district.

The Inter-Zonal District-Level Kabaddi Competition for Under-17 Boys formally kicked off at the Indoor Stadium, Khawaja Bagh, with 13 Educational Zonal teams competing for honours. The young kabaddi players displayed remarkable energy, tactical awareness, discipline and determination, turning the arena into a vibrant spectacle of competitive sport.



Meanwhile, the Inter-Zonal District-Level Badminton Competition for Girls across all age groups commenced at the Bipin Rawat Indoor Stadium.

On the opening day, competitions in the Under-14 Girls category were conducted with impressive participation. Around 15 Educational Zonal teams are taking part in the badminton competition, reflecting the growing enthu-

siasm among girl students towards organised sports.

At the Indoor Stadium, Khawaja Bagh, the Table Tennis Selection Trials for Under-14 Girls were also conducted, witnessing the participation of more than 20 young paddlers. The aspiring players demonstrated agility, concentration, technical skills and competitive temperament during the trials.

Addressing the partici-

pants, Mohammad Arif Bhat, PEL, Convenor and Overall In-charge of the Kabaddi Competition, and Shahnawaz Sarwar, PEL, appreciated the enthusiasm and discipline displayed by the young athletes. They encouraged the participants to compete with confidence, uphold sportsmanship and utilise every opportunity to develop their sporting abilities.

DC Budgam witnesses Volleyball Tournament Final at Aarath

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, AUG 21

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today witnessed the final match of a volleyball tournament organised by the local youth at Aarath, Budgam.

The final was played between Safapora Ganderbal Club and Outlaw Anantnag. A total of 16 teams from different areas participated in the tournament.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the organisers for providing a platform to young sportspersons. He said sports promote discipline, teamwork, leadership and a healthy lifestyle, while



providing youth with a positive avenue to channel their

energy and talent. The Deputy Commis-

sioner said that the District Administration is commit-