

CM Omar Abdullah inaugurates ₹30.35 Crore sports facility at Gindun Rajbagh



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today inaugurated a ₹30.35-crore package of sports infrastructure at the Sher-i-Kashmir Multi Sports Activity Centre (SKMSAC) at Gindun Rajbagh, marking a significant expansion of facilities for swimming and gymnastics in Jammu & Kashmir.

The newly inaugurated facilities include a 50-metre × 25-metre, 10-lane Olympic-sized swimming pool, an all-weather heated training and toddler swimming pool, and a modern indoor gymnastics hall equipped with state-of-the-art equipment.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said the new facilities would provide young people with opportunities to take up sports beyond traditional disciplines and enable them to train throughout the year.

“Through this facility, we are trying to provide students with new sports milieu. For example, there is an Olympic-sized swimming pool in Kashmir for the first time. Now, there is an arrangement for heating, which will be done through solar energy so

that children can practice and train here for 12 months a year,” he said.

The main swimming pool, constructed at a cost of ₹19.96 crore, is equipped with 10 competition lanes, diving platforms at 1, 3 and 5 metres, modern filtration, circulation and disinfection systems, changing rooms, washrooms, storage lockers and spectator seating for 300 people. The facility has been developed to support competitive swimming, diving and other aquatic sports.

The ₹5.35-crore training and toddler swimming pool facility has been designed for year-round use, with a heating system, indoor lap pool, child-friendly toddler pool, anti-skid pool decking, modern filtration and disinfection systems, and supporting changing and shower facilities. The facility is intended to cater to athletes, students and the wider community, including winter training.

The ₹5.04-crore gymnastics hall, spread over 36 metres × 21 metres with a 10-metre height, has been equipped with modern gymnastics equipment. The facility is expected to provide a dedicated platform for gymnastics training and coaching in

Kashmir, where the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council has been conducting coaching camps and working towards developing a dedicated Gymnastics Academy.

Referring to the new gymnastics facility, the Chief Minister said there was considerable interest among children in Kashmir in taking up the sport, but the lack of dedicated infrastructure had limited opportunities.

“Generally, when we talk about gymnastics in Jammu and Kashmir, we only talk about Jammu. However, our children are interested in it and want to do it in Kashmir. But due to the lack of infrastructure, they could not do it,” he said.

“A magnificent indoor gymnastics hall was inaugurated today. In the same way, we will keep adding more sports so that we can give our children options and alternatives. And they can also develop an interest in new sports,” the Chief Minister added.

During the inauguration, the Chief Minister witnessed live swimming and gymnastics demonstrations by sports persons and trainees at the newly developed facilities.

The new infrastructure is aimed at strengthening grassroots participation, widening access to professional coaching and creating better pathways for young athletes to progress to national and international competitions. The all-weather aquatic facilities will also enable sustained training during the winter months. Minister for Youth Services & Sports Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Lal Chowk Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed, MLA Hazratbal Salman Sagar, MLA Zadibal Tanvir Sadiq, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Secretary J&K Sports Council Tazayun Mukhtar Kawoosa, besides students, sportspersons and other concerned officers, were present on the occasion.



LG's Diary

CM's Diary

A delegation led by Syed Basharat Hussain Moosa, National Advisor, All India Gujar Bakerwal Foundation, today called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and raised various issues of Saakshar Bharat Mission employees, Seasonal Teachers and Sanitation workers engaged in the Health Department.



A delegation of Pashmeena Entrepreneurs Makers and Artisans (PEMA) Foundation led by its President, Shri Tariq Dar called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. The delegation comprised of Shri Imran Rashid, Chairman and Shri Abdul Manan Baba, Secretary, PEMA Foundation expressed gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor for his continued support to the Pashmina Artisan Awards.



Office of Chief Minister, J&K @CM_JnK

Chief Minister today inaugurated world-class sports facilities at the Sher-i-Kashmir Multi-Sports Activity Centre, Gindun, Rajbagh, Srinagar, marking a major boost to sports infrastructure in Jammu & Kashmir.

Developed at a cost of over ₹30 crore, the facilities include an Olympic-sized, 10-lane swimming pool measuring 50 × 25 metres, an all-weather training pool catering to beginners and toddlers, and a modern gymnastics hall equipped to international standards.

These facilities will strengthen grassroots participation in aquatic sports and gymnastics, expand access to professional coaching, and nurture young talent to compete at national and international levels.

Sports Minister @satishsharmajnk and Advisor to the Chief Minister @nasirsogami were also present on the occasion.



Office of Chief Minister, J&K @CM_JnK

Chief Minister interacted with young athletes participating in the 21st Junior National Soft Tennis Championship at the Sher-i-Kashmir Multi-Sports Activity Centre in Srinagar.

With participants from more than 24 States across the country, the championship highlights J&K's growing stature and capacity to host major national sporting events.

The Chief Minister commended the enthusiasm and sporting spirit of the young athletes, noting that such competitions provide valuable exposure, promote sportsmanship and inspire local youth to pursue excellence in sports at the highest level.



Meta unveils new AI safeguards against child sexual exploitation

Meta on Wednesday announced a series of new AI-powered measures aimed at strengthening its fight against child sexual exploitation on Facebook and Instagram, as the company revealed that it took action against 5.3 million pieces of child sexual exploitation content in India during the first six months of 2026.

The social media giant said more than 98 per cent of the violative content removed in India between January and June this year was proactively detected by its systems before being reported by users.

“Between January to June 2026, we actioned 5.3 million pieces of child sexual exploitation content on Facebook and Instagram in India, with over 98 per cent found and proactively addressed before anyone reported it,” the tech giant said.



Globally, Meta said it actioned 33.2 million pieces of child sexual exploitation content across Facebook and Instagram during the same period, with over 97 per cent identified proactively.

“Globally between January to June 2026, we actioned 33.2 million pieces of child sexual exploitation content from Facebook and Instagram, over 97 per cent found and proactively addressed before anyone reported it,” it added.

According to the company, on-line predators are increasingly using sophisticated tactics to evade detection, including advertisements that appear harmless but covertly direct users to illegal content hosted outside Meta's platforms.

In response, the company has upgraded its ad review systems and deployed additional artificial intelligence tools to identify such activity more effectively.

Meta said the new safeguards include large language model (LLM)-based detection systems designed to identify “signposting” content that may appear benign but is suspected of directing users to child sexual exploitation material or related harmful activities.

The company has also enhanced its ability to assess the destination of advertisements, enabling it to block links leading to violative content and take action against the accounts responsible. “Once a link is blocked, we search for and then delete other content – such as ads, posts or comments – that contain the link. We take steps to prevent people from posting content containing a blocked link on Facebook, Instagram and Threads, and ads containing blocked links would be rejected at upload,” Meta said in its official statement.

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Gene-Editing, Sleep And Appetite Experts Eye 2026 Nobel Chemistry Prize



Molecules that regulate sleep and appetite or methods for editing genes are some of the research fields commentators say could be contenders for the Nobel Prize in Chemistry announced Wednesday.

The winner or winners of the award are scheduled to be named by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm at 11:45 am (0945 GMT). Last year, the jury honoured Japan's Susumu Kitagawa, UK-born Richard Robson and American-Jordanian Omar Yaghi for developing a method of designing molecular structures.

This year, data analytics firm Clarivate predicted that research into the hunger-regulating hormone glucagon-like peptide 1 (GLP-1) was a contender for the Nobel Prize in Medicine on Monday -- but that award went to neuroscientists. However GLP-1, which is used in weight-loss drugs such as Wegovy and Moun-

jaro, “could receive a chemistry prize”, said David Pendlebury, who heads research analysis at Clarivate.

While many scientists have made significant contributions in the field, three regularly mentioned for the Nobel are Canadian endocrinologist Daniel Drucker, Danish physician Jens Juul Holst and Yugoslav-born American chemist Svetlana Mojsos.

For chemistry, Clarivate this year also spotlighted the development of “self-assembled monolayers (SAMs)” -- molecular-scale coatings that allow scientists and engineers to tailor a surface's properties.

US chemists David Allara and Ralph Nuzzo along with Israel's Jacob Sagiv would then be favourites.

The firm also mentioned US scientists Harry Gray and Jay Winkler for advancing understanding of how electrons move in proteins. Pendlebury also told AFP he felt that research on solar cells was “overdue” for

a prize, with German-born Swiss chemist Michael Gratzel named as a top contender.

The firm also pointed to US chemist and biologist David Liu for developing “precision gene editing technologies that directly edit DNA in living systems”.

“The ability to change a DNA sequence of our choosing into a new sequence of our choosing is a fundamentally very powerful capability,” Liu told AFP in an interview in 2025.

Lars Brostrom, science editor for public broadcaster Sveriges Radio, also judged Liu to be a favourite and told AFP that others working with DNA could receive the nod.

British chemists Shankar Balasubramanian and David Klenerman, for their contribution to next-generation DNA sequencing, could be honoured, according to the science journalist.

Other favourites for Brostrom were French-born

sleep researcher Emmanuel Mignot and Japanese-American biologist Masashi Yanagisawa for work on the neurotransmitter orexin which stops you from falling asleep.

In the past, France's Jean-Marie Tarascon has been mentioned for his contributions to battery technology. Another name often cited among commentators is Taiwanese-American biochemist Chi-Huey Wong for pioneering synthesis methods for complex carbohydrates and glycoproteins.

US chemical engineer Robert Langer, known for work in drug delivery systems and tissue engineering, also often features in Nobel speculation.

The chemistry prize follows the physics prize, which on Tuesday honoured Belgian physicist Francis Halzen. He was given the nod for launching the IceCube Neutrino Observatory in Antarctica and the discovery of high-energy neutrinos from outer space. On Thursday, the literature laureate will be revealed, and perhaps the most keenly anticipated award -- the peace prize -- is due on Friday. The economics prize wraps up the Nobel season on October 12. The Nobel consists of a diploma, a gold medal and a 12-million-kronor (\$1.2-million) prize sum, which is shared if there is more than one winner in a discipline.

Baramulla clinches all six IDPL Kho-Kho Championship Titles

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA: Baramulla scripted a remarkable sporting achievement by winning all six Inter-District Provincial Level (IDPL) Kho-Kho championship titles across different age categories, completing a historic clean sweep.

The 18-day championship, organised by the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, J&K, under the supervision of Director General Anuradha Gupta, concluded today at HSS Doabgah. The Under-14 Girls final saw Baramulla defeat Budgam to complete the unprecedented six-title sweep.

Around 720 boys and girls from different districts of Kashmir Province participated in the championship. The closing ceremony was attended by the Principal, HSS Doabgah, who congratulated the players, coaches, officials and organising teams for the successful conduct of the event.

DYSSO Baramulla, Mushtaq Ahmad Pam-pori appreciated the dedicated efforts of the organising committees, officials, volunteers and staff of HSS Doabgah for ensuring the smooth conduct of the championship.

ADC Bandipora inaugurates UT-Level AAG Boys Rugby Competition at S.K Stadium

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 07: Department of Youth Services and Sports, District Bandipora, successfully commenced the Inter-District UT Level Rugby AAG Boys Competition at S.K. Stadium Bandipora with an energetic opening ceremony. Additional Deputy Commissioner



Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and interacted with the young participants, sharing inspiring words and encouraging them to play with discipline, confidence and true sportsmanship. DYSSO Bandipora Ab Majeed Rather was also present on the occasion. The opening matches witnessed

exciting action. In the U14 Boys category, Bandipora defeated Jammu in the opening match. In the U17 Boys category, Jammu secured victory over Bandipora in the first game. The competition continues with young athletes from across the UT showcasing their talent, determination and sporting spirit at S.K. Stadium Bandipora.