

# Samba police organize Kabaddi Tournament at GHSS Rajpura

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**SAMBA:** Samba Police has organized a Kabaddi tournament under the Civic Action Programme (CAP) 2025-2026 at Govt. Higher Secondary School Rajpura under the jurisdiction of Police Station Ghagwal.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from four teams across the district and attracted a large number of local spectators. The final match was played between Sujana Kabaddi team and Rajpura Kabaddi team with Sujana Kabaddi team emerged as the champion after defeating its opponent in an exciting contest. The winning and runner up teams were



awarded trophies by the Samba Police. DySP Hqrs Samba, SHO PS Ghagwal, Incharge PP Rajpura and other Police officers were present on the occasion.

# Manoj Konbegi gets Hockey India honour

**RANCHI:** Manoj Konbegi of Simdega has been honoured with the Jannalal Sharma Award at Hockey India's 8th Annual Awards 2025 held in New Delhi for his contribution to promoting hockey at the grassroots and helping the sport gain wider recognition.

The award was presented during the Hockey India centenary celebrations, where Konbegi was also given a cash prize of Rs five lakh. Konbegi has been associated with hockey development in Simdega for nearly two decades and has played a key role in nurturing players from rural areas and supporting them in reaching higher levels of competition.

# Volleyball tournament concludes at Sangwali Mandi Samba

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**SAMBA:** Samba Police has organized a volleyball tournament under the Civic Action Programme (CAP) 2025-2026 at Sangwali Mandi playground under the jurisdiction of Police Station Samba. The event saw enthusiastic participation from eight teams across the district and attracted a large number of local spectators.

The final match was played between team Sanoora Volleyball Club and team Sangwali Mandi Volleyball Club-B. The team Sanoora Volleyball Club emerged as the champion



of the tournament after defeating its opponent in an exciting contest. The winning and runner up teams were awarded trophies by the Samba Police. DySP DAR Samba, SHO PS Samba and other Police officers were present on the occasion.

# Thushara fails fitness test, denied NOC to join RCB in IPL 2026

**NEW DELHI:** After losing Yash Dayal, and with some question marks still swirling around the extent of Josh Hazlewood's participation in IPL 2026, Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) will also be without Nuwan Thushara, at least for the moment if not the entire tournament.

It is understood that Thushara has failed the fitness test made mandatory by Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), and has therefore been denied a no-objection certificate (NOC) by his board.

Ashley de Silva, the chief executive of SLC, confirmed

to ESPNcricinfo on Friday that Thushara had failed to achieve the pass score of 17 out of the 29 points on offer, across five different metrics, in SLC's fitness test.

That means Thushara will not be available for at least RCB's opening game - also the opening game of the season - against Sunrisers Hyderabad in Bengaluru on Saturday, and possibly RCB's second game, against Chennai Super Kings on April 5, also in Bengaluru. In case he fails the test again, he might not be permitted to play any representative cricket for

the foreseeable future. The good news for Thushara, though, is that he is eligible to take another fitness test, but only after a gap of four to five days.

Two other prominent Sri Lanka cricketers, Matheesha Pathirana and Wanindu Hasaranga, are also nursing injuries, and have not yet taken their fitness tests in order to earn the NOCs to play in the IPL.

Hasaranga is a part of Lucknow Super Giants, who had acquired him for INR 2 crore at the last auction, while Pathirana went to Kolkata Knight Riders

(KKR) for INR 18 crore in the same auction.

Pathirana, KKR head coach Abhishek Nayar had said on March 20, would not be available for KKR's initial games, and might link up with the team around the middle of April. Pathirana, who was ruled out of the 2026 T20 World Cup after playing three games because of a calf strain, is currently undergoing rehabilitation.

Hasaranga had also started the T20 World Cup for Sri Lanka before he had to leave the tournament with a hamstring injury.

# India brace for Bangladesh challenge in SAFF U20 C'ship

**MALE:** Buoyed by their commanding win over Pakistan, India will turn their attention to Bangladesh in their final Group B fixture of the SAFF U20 Championship at the National Football Stadium in Malé on Saturday.

The match will kick off at 16:15 IST.

Although India have already sealed a semi-final berth, the contest carries significant importance, with the top spot in Group B up for grabs. A draw would be enough for India to finish top of the group, while Bangladesh need a win.

India head coach Mahesh Gawali said, "It was a good match against Pakistan. We played better in the second half and controlled the game. In defence, we

were organised and our goalkeeper was very good. But now we look ahead. Every team is strong. On the day, any team can beat anyone. We don't take any team lightly."

Having secured qualification, India also view the game as an opportunity to fine-tune aspects of their performance before the knockout stage. Despite the convincing scoreline against Pakistan, there were phases, particularly in the first half, where India were tested defensively. Pakistan managed to create openings, and goalkeeper Suraj Singh Aheibam had to produce crucial saves to keep India ahead.

Bangladesh, meanwhile, come into the match with confidence after their win over Pakistan. The side will

also look to avenge their defeat against India in the final of the SAFF U19 Championship 2025.

Bangladesh head coach Mark Cox highlighted the preparation and unity within his squad, while also acknowledging the challenge posed by India. "We have been training for two weeks. The guys have bonded well and have a great understanding. However, we are always cautious because football has a nasty habit of taking you down when you are at an absolute high. India are always going to be a threat. But we will be prepared to face the best sides," Cox said.

Another sub-plot in the match will be the battle between India's forward Omang Dodum and Bangla-

desh's striker Ronan Sullivan. Both have scored two goals each and would like to add to their tally on Saturday before the knockout.

Dodum said that he was happy with his performance and wants to continue his form against Bangladesh. "I am very happy with the way I performed. I am grateful to the coaches and my teammates. Our goal against Bangladesh is simple: win three points and top the group. So, I am waiting for the next match," Dodum said.

Sullivan, on the other hand, also remained positive about beating India. "It was a great win against Pakistan. In the next game, we want to beat India and win all matches in the group," Sullivan said.

# Jammu wins 20th J&K UT Fencing Championship

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**JAMMU:** The 20th J&K UT Fencing Championship 2025-26 concluded successfully at the Indoor Fencing stadium M.A. Stadium, Jammu, with District Jammu emerging as the overall champion in both Men's and Women's categories.

The three-day event, organized by the J&K Fencing Association (JKFA), affiliated with the Fencing Association of India (FAI), in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council, saw participation from over 400 fencers from across 17 districts of the Union Territory including Jammu, Udhampur, Kathua, Samba, Ramban, Doda, Poonch, Rajouri, Reasi, Srinagar, Pulwama, Anantnag, Baramulla, Kupwara, Bandipora and Budgam.

The championship featured competitions in all three fencing disciplines of



Épée, Foil, and Sabre across multiple age categories, including Under-10 (Mini), Under-12 (Child), Under-14 (Sub-Junior), Under-17 (Cadet), Under-20 (Junior) and Senior, providing a competitive platform for the athletes at different stages of development. The event was marked by the participation of several international-level fencers, including Sufyan Waheed Sohail, Harshith Kohli, Ajay Kumar, Kritarthi Kotwal, Riya Bakshi, and Subhanya Sharma, whose presence enhanced the competitive standards and inspired the young athletes. Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports Department, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion, appreciated the efforts of the J&K Fencing Association in successfully organizing the championship on such a large scale. He emphasized the importance of sports in youth development and assured continued support for

strengthening sports infrastructure and nurturing talent in the Union Territory.

Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul, who was the Special Guest, highlighted that the championship witnessed participation from all 17 districts of J&K, reflecting the growing reach of fencing across the UT. She reiterated the commitment of the J&K Sports Council towards promoting sports at the grassroots level and ensuring equal opportunities for athletes.

Rajiv Sharma, Ex-Member, J&K Sports Council, was the Guest of Honour on the occasion.

Advocate Supriya Chouhan, Secretary General, J&K Fencing Association, in her welcome address, emphasized the importance of adopting sports as a way of life for the youth and highlighted the positive role of sports in personality development and combating social challenges.

# McSweeney's 52 keeps SA afloat in knife-edge Shield final

**NEW DELHI:** A fighting 52 from Nathan McSweeney and two strikes from Nathan McAndrew have kept South Australia alive in a knife-edge Sheffield Shield final after Will Sutherland's four-wicket haul put Victoria on top on day two at Junction Oval.

Sutherland took 4 for 54, while Fergus O'Neill and Scott Boland took five wickets between them to bowl SA out for 198 on another rain-affected day in Mel-

bourne when two stoppages cost an hour of play in total.

McSweeney's half-century and Liam Scott's vital 37 held SA together before McAndrew took the key wickets of Sam Harper and Peter Handscomb as Victoria slumped to 48 for 3 in reply. That became 83 for 4 when Henry Thornton removed Campbell Kellaway for a well-made 29. Victoria should have been five down shortly after when Henry Hunt dropped a sitter

in the gully off Ollie Peake. Marcus Harris and Peake survived a difficult final hour before bad light stopped play with Victoria 110 for 4 and in position to take a bonus-point lead with three days to play.

Sutherland felt the morning session on the third day would be crucial given Victoria's batters will restart a 35-over-old ball.

"We saw the first 30-40 overs in our innings the ball did plenty, and I'm sure it's

going to keep doing a bit tomorrow," Sutherland said after the day's play. "So I think if we can have as many wickets in hand for when a little bit of air comes out of the ball, then hopefully we can get a score a decent way ahead of them."

Earlier, McSweeney's half-century was crucial in the context of the game with SA failing to register any first innings batting bonus points.

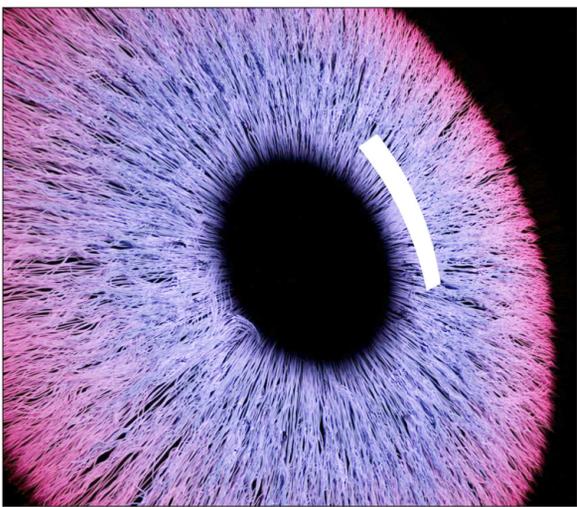
# Ocorian: Family offices turn to AI for financial data insights

To gain financial data insights, the majority of family offices now turn to AI, according to new research from Ocorian. The global study reveals 86 percent of these private wealth groups are utilizing AI to improve their daily operations and data analysis.

Representing a combined wealth of \$119.37 billion, these organizations want machine learning to modernise their workflows. The technology offers practical benefits for institutions handling complex portfolios, particularly in detecting anomalies, streamlining reporting, and navigating strict regulatory frameworks.

Implementing these tools requires careful alignment with existing enterprise architectures. Financial institutions frequently rely on major cloud ecosystems, such as Microsoft Azure or Google Cloud, to provide the necessary computing power and security protocols for advanced data processing. By using these platforms, operations teams can deploy machine learning models that identify potential fraud patterns or compliance breaches much faster than manual reviews allow.

While 26 percent of surveyed wealth executives strongly agree that AI will reshape administration and boost performance within the next year, 72 percent expect the



broader effects to materialise over a two to five-year horizon.

This cautious timeline reflects the reality of integrating complex algorithms into highly-regulated environments. Integrating new systems without disrupting daily client services presents a major challenge. Legacy data architectures often require heavy re-engineering before they can fully support predictive an-

alytics.

Michael Harman, Commercial Director for the UK and Channel Islands at Ocorian, said: "Family offices are gradually adopting AI and technology as part of their operations and are particularly using it for data insights ... there is a realisation that it will have a major impact and family offices need to start exploring the sector and will need support in

making the transition."

Despite high operational adoption rates, direct capital allocation into the AI sector remains low. Only seven percent of respondents across 16 territories - including the UK, US, UAE, and Singapore - are currently seeking direct investment opportunities in such technology firms.

This current hesitation highlights a preference for using proven enterprise solutions rather than absorbing the venture-style risks associated with emerging startups. Leaders are focused on immediate operational stability and verifiable returns on investment.

However, this dynamic is likely to change rapidly over the next three years, as 74 percent of these organisations expect to increase their investments in digital assets. Within that group, 20 percent plan to increase their financial commitment to the sector dramatically.

Outsourcing the technical burden to established service providers allows institutions to benefit from enhanced fraud detection and compliance monitoring without directly managing the algorithmic infrastructure. Success will depend on establishing clean data pipelines and ensuring cross-functional teams understand how to interpret algorithmic outputs for risk assessment.

# Scientists 'bottle the sun' with revolutionary liquid battery

Solar energy has one persistent weakness: it disappears at sunset. Finding a reliable way to store that energy for later use remains one of the biggest obstacles to expanding renewable power. A research team at UC Santa Barbara may have found an unexpected workaround. Instead of relying on conventional batteries, they created a small organic molecule that captures sunlight, locks that energy into its structure, and releases it later as heat. The work, published in Science, introduces a new version of Molecular Solar Thermal (MOST) storage using a compound called pyrimidone.

"The concept is reusable and recyclable," said lead author Han Nguyen, a doctoral student in the Han Group. To understand the idea, Nguyen points to a familiar example. "Think of photochromic sunglasses. When you're inside, they're just clear lenses. You walk out into the sun, and they darken on their own. Come back inside, and the lenses become clear again," Nguyen said. "That kind of reversible change is what we're interested in. Only instead of changing color, we want to use the same idea to store energy, release it when we need it, and then reuse

the material over and over."

To build this molecule, the researchers turned to DNA for inspiration. The pyrimidone structure resembles a DNA component that can reversibly change its form when exposed to UV light. By creating a synthetic version, the team designed a molecule capable of repeatedly storing and releasing energy. They worked with Ken Houk, a distinguished research professor at UCLA, using computational modeling to understand how the molecule can hold energy while remaining stable for years. "We prioritized a lightweight, compact molecule design," Nguyen said. "For this project, we cut everything we didn't need. Anything that was unnecessary, we removed to make the molecule as compact as possible."

Unlike solar panels that generate electricity, this system stores solar energy in chemical form. The molecule behaves like a coiled spring. When exposed to sunlight, it shifts into a strained, high energy configuration. It remains in that state until triggered by heat or a catalyst, which allows it to return to its original form and release the stored energy as heat. "We typically describe

it as a rechargeable solar battery," Nguyen said. "It stores sunlight, and it can be recharged." The material shows strong performance, with an energy density exceeding 1.6 megajoules per kilogram (MJ/kg) (about 0.69 British thermal units per pound). This is roughly twice that of a typical lithium ion battery, which is around 0.9 MJ/kg, and higher than earlier optical switching materials. The critical breakthrough for Han's group was translating high energy density into a tangible result. In the study, the researchers demonstrated that the heat released from the material was intense enough to boil water - a feat previously difficult to achieve in this field.

"Boiling water is an energy-intensive process," Nguyen said. "The fact that we can boil water under ambient conditions is a big achievement."

This capability opens the door for practical applications ranging from off-grid heating for camping to residential water heating. Because the material is soluble in water, it could potentially be pumped through roof-mounted solar collectors to charge during the day and stored in tanks to provide heat at night.