

CM inaugurates 2nd edition of Sher-i-Kashmir Cricket tournament

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today launched the trophy for the 2nd edition of the Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Tournament and unveiled the team jerseys at Maulana Azad Stadium here. At the launch ceremony, Minister for Agriculture Javid Ahmed Dar, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, tournament organizer Tejinder Singh, along with other organizers, participating teams and concerned officials, were present.

The Chief Minister unveiled the trophy for the day-and-night 2nd Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Tournament and also released the official jerseys of the participating teams.



Interacting with the players on the occasion, the Chief Minister wished them the best of luck for the tournament. The 2nd edition of the Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Tournament is being organized as part of a social awareness initiative aimed at promoting a healthy lifestyle.

The tournament un-

derscores the importance of staying away from substance abuse and encourages engagement in constructive activities like sports.

Community leaders, organizers and participants highlighted the role of cricket in fostering unity and inspiring youth to lead healthier and more disciplined lives.

Trusting my game and experience' to come good for GT: Buttler

NEW DELHI: By the high standards he has set as arguably England's first global T20 superstar, Gujarat Titans batter Jos Buttler has had a forgettable 2026. In 11 T20s this year for England, he has averaged 15.27 and had a strike-rate of less than 125.

But Buttler, who has begun IPL 2026 with scores of 38 in 33 balls against Punjab Kings and 26 in 14 balls against Rajasthan Royals, says he is trusting his "game" and "experience" to regain the rhythm that has eluded him of late. He says he wants to go on and make a match-winning contribution for GT, with the franchise still searching for their first win of the season.

Indian Women's Hockey Team set to tour Argentina for four-match series

NEW DELHI: The Indian Senior Women's Hockey Team is set to tour Argentina in April for a four-match series, set to be held at the CeNARD in Buenos Aires from 13 to 17 April. The series promises to be a highly competitive contest, featuring India taking on the formidable South American opponents on their home turf. The matches will be played on 13, 14, 16, and 17 April, all scheduled for 11:00 AM local time (6:30 PM IST).

India and Argentina have enjoyed competitive encounters in recent years, including a thrilling 2-2 draw decided by shootout in the FIH Pro League 2024-25 last June. This upcoming tour will offer valuable match practice



against quality international opposition, perfectly aligning with Hockey India's strategic calendar to build momentum ahead of the FIH Hockey World Cup Belgium and Netherlands 2026 and the Asian Games later this year.

The series will serve as important prepara-

tion for India, offering four high-tempo matches, while also giving the team an opportunity to explore different combinations and tactics as they head into a crucial period on their calendar.

Speaking on the tour, Indian Women's Hockey Team Chief Coach Sjo-

erd Marijine said, "We are travelling to Argentina with a squad of 24 players, and that is a very deliberate choice.

This tour is about giving more players the chance to perform at the highest level.

Argentina is one of the best teams in the world, and that environment will tell us a lot about where each player stands. We want to see who steps up when it matters."

"To earn a place in this team, you need to show everyone that you are a team player first. Individual quality is important, but if you cannot connect with the group and work for each other, it will be very difficult to make this squad", he added.

No fine or sanction for Koneru Humpy for Candidates withdrawal, says FIDE CEO Emil Sutovsky

NEW DELHI: FIDE CEO Emil Sutovsky has said that India's top female chess player Koneru Humpy will not be fined or sanctioned for her last-minute withdrawal from the Candidates chess tournament at Cyprus. Humpy had pulled out of the prestigious tournament just days before the event citing security concerns related to Israel and the USA's war with Iran.

Humpy's concerns were rooted in an incident at the start of the war when a drone hit a British airbase in Cyprus. Humpy was replaced by Ukrainian grandmaster Anna Muzychuk.

The official FIDE regulations noted that any player who withdraws from the Candidates without a valid reason after signing the contract could be fined up to €10,000. Sutovsky said that Humpy would not face any sanctions.

"We are not going to find

her or take her under any sanctions because quitting the tournament was not based just on nothing, it was based on some real concerns. But I think it was just taken out of proportion," Sutovsky told Chessbase India in an interview.

He then said while no other players besides Humpy had raised safety concerns about playing in Cyprus, he had tried to convince Humpy before she made the decision.

"I spoke to Humpy herself when she raised concerns. We are old-time friends, and I'm full of admiration for her. Humpy is a legend. But I think her call here was her right," said Sutovsky before adding: "I feel sorry for her decision, but if we were taking a decision to shift every time when a player exhibits even a motivated concern about this or that matter, then we wouldn't be able to ever pull big events one af-

ter another. No other player exhibited the concern. We have no cancellation not only from players but also from media or members of the FIDE council. The entire FIDE team was here. It's not like FIDE said, 'okay guys you come there and we will rest at our homes.' Everybody was here. Humpy decided what she decided. It doesn't make me think of her any less. But I think this call objectively was not motivated by sufficient grounds due to how the situation is."

He then lashed out at people on social media who were raising concerns about player safety. He clarified that the comments were not aimed at Humpy, but at social media warriors.

"I don't like this narrative where people in comments come, 'safety is first.' Why is safety first? Maybe freedom is first in your life. Maybe your dreams are first in your life. Maybe something that

drives you is first in your life. If safety is first, lock yourself at home. I don't just accept that safety first is a priority because it's not clear what is first in this life. In this case, I think the concerns were not in correspondence with reality. If we speak about the likelihood of the venue being damaged by something, it comes from so many possibilities. The likelihood of a drone arriving three or four weeks before you take a decision — and it's a drone, once again, not like ballistic rockets that attacked Cyprus. Everybody is living a normal life here... We also took precautions; all the players were informed about what kind of precautions we took.

Scientists Just Rewrote the Timeline of Complex Life on Earth

A newly identified fossil site in southwest China is reshaping scientists' understanding of how complex animal life first emerged on Earth. The discovery shows that many major animal groups had already evolved before the Cambrian Period began. The research, led by scientists from Oxford University's Museum of Natural History and Department of Earth Sciences along with Yunnan University in China, was published today (April 2) in Science. For decades, scientists believed that the rapid rise in animal diversity and complexity, known as the Cambrian explosion, began around 535 million years ago. This event marked a turning point when simple organisms gave way to more complex forms. However, the new findings push that timeline back by at least 4 million years, placing the emergence of many complex animals in the late Ediacaran period.

Lead author Dr. Gaorong Li (Yunnan University at the time of the study, now Museum of Natural History, Oxford University) said, "Our discovery closes a major gap in the earliest phases of animal diversification. For the first time, we demonstrate that many complex animals, normally only found in the Cambrian, were present in the Ediacaran period, meaning that they evolved much earlier than previously demonstrated by fossil evidence." The fossils come from the Jiangchuan[1] Biota in Yunnan Province, where researchers uncovered more than 700 specimens dating from 554 to 539 million years ago. The site contains a rich mix of Ediacaran life, including entirely new species as well as organisms previously thought to appear only in the Cambrian.

One of the most important discoveries is evidence of early deuterostomes, a major group that includes modern

vertebrates such as humans and fish. These fossils represent the oldest known relatives of this group, extending their fossil record back into the Ediacaran Period for the first time.

Among the specimens are early relatives of starfish and their close kin, the acorn worms (the Ambulacraria[2]). These creatures had U-shaped bodies and were anchored to the seafloor by a stalk. They used tentacles near their heads to capture food.

Co-author Dr. Frankie Dunn (Museum of Natural History, Oxford University) said: "The presence of these ambulacrarians in the Ediacaran period is really exciting. We have already found fossils which are distant relatives of starfish and sea cucumbers and are looking for more. The discovery of ambulacrarian fossils in the Jiangchuan biota also means that the chordates — animals with a backbone — must also have existed at this time."



LG's Diary

Office of LG J&K @OfficeOfLGJandK

Greetings on World Health Day. I express my deep appreciation to our doctors, nurses, healthcare & frontline personnel for their tireless service & dedication to keep nation healthy while serving humanity with compassion & commitment. May everyone be blessed with wonderful health.

Post

Office of LG J&K @OfficeOfLGJandK

Greetings to all on the auspicious occasion of Parkash Purab of 'Hind Ki Chadar', Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. May the timeless teachings and ideals of Guru Ji guide us on the path of truth, courage, and humanity, and inspire us to build a more inclusive and harmonious society.

Office of LG J&K @OfficeOfLGJandK - 4h

Inaugurated J&K Bank's Regional Business Centre at Jammu, earlier today. The facility will serve as a key operational and administrative hub for J&K Bank, marking a significant milestone in Bank's infrastructure and business expansion strategy.



Adam Lyth's 97 keeps Yorkshire safe at Sophia Gardens

NEW DELHI: A bold declaration before lunch in a first game as permanent first-class captain from Kiran Carlson set Yorkshire 295 from 68 overs. Yorkshire's strong start turned to defence as 125 for 1 turned to 174 for 5 with 21 overs left to force a result. The visitors finished 56 short of the target on 239 for 7 leaving Glamorgan to rue the 61 overs lost in the game on day one and two.

Adam Lyth scored a commanding 97 to continue his form from 1000-run seasons in the last three seasons. Mason Crane starred once again with 3 for 99 to follow his 5 for 55 and 51 with the bat earlier in the match along with overseas debutant Ryan Hadley who gave Glamorgan late hope with 3 for 35.

Colin Ingram and Carlson scored half-centuries to secure Glamorgan's position in the morning session which saw stand-in Yorkshire captain Dom Bess return 4 for 87 in an unchanged spell which brought a 300th first-class wicket.

Glamorgan began day four at 111 for 3, leading by 187 with an opportunity to beat Yorkshire, in first-class cricket, for the first time in 15 attempts - dating back to 1997.

It was Carlson who came

out the positive in his natural busy state at the crease, skipping down to hit Jack White over mid-on and scurrying a quick two to reach 50.

Ingram returned a second milestone knock of the game, to go with a first innings century, as he also passed 50 in a swift half-century partnership with Ben Kellaway who took over Carlson's role of playing inventively. Bess had earlier bowled Carlson as a part of his 13-over spell, continued from 17 overs the evening before, with an off-spinner turning venomously through the gate.

The departure of Ingram hauling out to long-off saw a bizarrely timed, and bravely intended, declaration just six minutes before the scheduled lunch break.

Lyth and Finley Bean got off to a racing start against the minimal threat of seam. The left-handed pair took full advantage of loose deliveries from Timm van der Gugten and Ryan Hadley, even Crane's first two deliveries costing 10 runs, initially making light of the required run rate at 52 for zero after 10 overs.

A second half-century partnership followed with Sam Whiteman taking Yorkshire into tea at 125 for 1, needing a further 170 from 34 overs.

CM's Diary

Office of Chief Minister, J&K @CM_JnK

Chief Minister today chaired a review meeting on the progress of construction of new High Court infrastructure projects at Jammu and Srinagar. He stressed on timely completion and quality execution of the works.

Advisor to CM @nasirrogami and senior officers attended the meeting.



Office of Chief Minister, J&K @CM_JnK - 3h

Mr. Ashok Kumar Saroha, Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, North West Region, Chandigarh, called on the Chief Minister today at Civil Secretariat, Jammu, along with senior officers.



Office of Chief Minister, J&K @CM_JnK - 2h

Hon'ble Member of Parliament @HaneelaJan, along-with a delegation, called on the Chief Minister today at Civil Secretariat, Jammu, and discussed common issues concerning J&K and Ladakh.



Office of Chief Minister, J&K @CM_JnK - 1h

Chief Minister today inaugurated the Centre for Excellence for Entrepreneurship in Precision Vegetables & Floriculture Farming at Talab Tillo, Jammu. The foundation stone of the Project was laid by the Chief Minister on 4 August 2025. The Centre aims to promote precision farming.



Office of Chief Minister, J&K @CM_JnK - 8h

#Highlights - Budget 2026-27: Enhanced support for J&K's handloom and handicrafts sector to expand market access, strengthen branding and improve incomes of artisans.



Anthropic's refusal to arm AI is exactly why the UK wants it

The Anthropic UK expansion story is less about diplomatic courtship and more about what happens when a government punishes a company for having principles. In late February, US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth gave Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei a stark ultimatum: remove guardrails preventing Claude from being used for fully autonomous weapons and domestic mass surveillance, or face consequences. Amodei didn't budge. He wrote that Anthropic could not "in good conscience" grant the Pentagon's request, arguing that some uses of AI "can undermine rather than defend democratic values." Washington's response was swift. Trump directed every federal agency to immediately cease all use of Anthropic's technology, and the Pentagon designated the company a supply chain risk, a label ordinarily reserved for adversarial foreign entities like Huawei. The US\$200 million Pentagon contract was pulled. Defence tech companies instructed employees to stop using Claude and switch to alternatives. London, watching all of this unfold, saw something different.

Staff at the UK's Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) have drawn up proposals for the US\$380 billion company, ranging from a dual stock listing on the London Stock Exchange to an office expansion in the capital, according to multiple people with knowledge of the plans. Prime Minister Keir Starmer's office has backed the effort, which will be put to Amodei when he visits in late May. Anthropic already has around 200 employees in Britain and appointed former prime minister Rishi Sunak as a senior adviser last year. The infrastructure for a meaningful UK presence is already there. What the British government is now offering is an explicit signal that Anthropic's approach to AI—built on embedded ethical constraints—is an asset, not an obstacle. A dual listing in London, if it materialised, would give Anthropic access to European institutional investors at a moment when its domestic regulatory standing remains under active legal challenge. The Pentagon's appeal of the court-ordered injunction blocking the supply chain designation is still before the Ninth Circuit, and the outcome

remains uncertain. The dispute has been framed largely as a legal and political fight. But its implications for global AI governance run deeper. Anthropic's lawyers argued in court filings that Claude was not developed to be used for lethal autonomous weapons without human oversight, nor deployed to spy on US citizens, and that using the tools in these ways would represent an abuse of its technology. US District Judge Rita Lin, who granted a preliminary injunction blocking the blacklist in March, found the government's actions "troubling" and concluded they likely violated the law. That judicial finding matters in the UK context. Britain is positioning itself as a regulatory environment sitting between Washington's current posture, which demands unrestricted military access, and Brussels, where the EU AI Act imposes its own constraints. The UK government presents itself as offering a less constrained environment for AI companies than either the US or the European Union. Crucially, that pitch doesn't ask Anthropic to abandon the guardrails it went to court to defend. The court-

ship also sits alongside broader UK efforts to build domestic AI capability, including a recently announced £40 million state-backed research lab, after officials acknowledged the absence of a homegrown competitor to the leading US frontier labs. The UK's play for Anthropic is not happening in a vacuum. OpenAI has already committed to making London its biggest research hub outside the US. Google has anchored itself in King's Cross since acquiring DeepMind in 2014. The race to secure frontier AI in London is already competitive, and Anthropic's current circumstances make it the most consequential target yet. Anthropic has been expanding internationally regardless of its domestic legal battles, including opening a Sydney office as its fourth Asia-Pacific location. The global growth strategy is already in motion. What remains to be seen is how much of it London gets to claim. The company Washington blacklisted for having an AI ethics policy is now being actively courted by another G7 government that wants exactly that. The late May meetings with Amodei will be telling.