

CM Omar tees off India Golf Carnival at Srinagar's Royal Springs Golf Course

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today inaugurated the India Golf Carnival 2026 tournament at the Royal Springs Golf Course here.

The Chief Minister officially inaugurated the tournament by teeing off at the golf course.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister said that Jammu & Kashmir holds immense potential for golf and adventure tourism and that events like the India Golf Carnival provide an important platform to showcase the region's world-class sporting infrastructure.

He observed that such initiatives would further strengthen Jammu & Kashmir's position as a premier tourism destination and contribute significantly to the local economy and hospitality sector. He said that Jammu



and Kashmir boasts of several golf courses in Srinagar, Gulmarg, Pahalgam & Sidra Jammu which not only bring tourists and golfers to this place but also help to make the sport popular. Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA

Zadibal Tanvir Sadiq, MLA Gulmarg, Pirzada Farooq Ahmed Shah, Secretary Royal Springs Golf Course Haris Ahmad Handoo Director Tourism Kashmir Syed Qamar Sajjad, the organizers and golfers from outside as well as J&K were also present on the occasion.

The tournament is being organised by Innovative Sports Leisure in collaboration with the J&K Tourism Department. The event aims to promote golf tourism and further boost the tourism sector in Jammu & Kashmir.

Dr. Shahid Iqbal flags off J&K U-20 Football team for national championship

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, today flagged off the Jammu and Kashmir U-20 Football team from the TRC Football Ground, Srinagar, for participation in the prestigious Swami Vivekananda U-20 National Football Championship.

The ceremony was attended by senior officers of the J&K Sports Council, coaches, players and sports enthusiasts.

Addressing the players on the occasion, Dr. Shahid Iqbal congratulated the team and extended best wishes for the championship. He urged the players to perform with discipline, dedication and sporting spirit and make the Union Territory proud at the national stage.

The participation of the J&K team in the championship marks a significant achievement for Jammu and Kashmir Football after the team was initially omitted from the official fixtures due to administrative issues arising from the absence of an elected football body in the Union Territory.

The issue was resolved following sustained efforts and intervention by Dr.



Shahid Iqbal, who actively pursued the matter with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India. He emphasized that the talented footballers of Jammu and Kashmir should not suffer due to delay in conduct of elections of the Jammu & Kashmir Football Association.

The matter was also deliberated on during the recently concluded Chintan Shivir in Srinagar, where Dr. Shahid Iqbal highlighted the need for uninterrupted participation of J&K players in national competitions.

The Commissioner Secretary urged the AIFF to conduct the elections of JKFA in a limited time frame as per Supreme Court guidelines and as-

sured full support and cooperation from J&K Sports Council.

Secretary, J&K Sports Council Nuzhat Gul reiterated the commitment of the Sports Council towards the promotion and development of football in Jammu and Kashmir. He assured continued support to the players representing the Union Territory at various national platforms.

The U-20 squad has been selected through a transparent and merit-based trial process conducted across different districts of Jammu and Kashmir, while a residential coaching camp for the players had been underway in Srinagar since April 9, 2026.

ISSF World Cup Shotgun: Vivaan Kapoor, Neeru Dhanda win trap mixed team Bronze

NEW DELHI: The pair of Neeru Dhanda and Vivaan Kapoor won bronze in the trap mixed team event on Sunday, helping India conclude the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Shotgun in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on a high. Neeru and Vivaan shot 24 out of the first 30 targets in the final and, despite matching the top Italian pair of Silvana Stanco and Mauro De Filippis, had to miss out on a better medal, having finished second to the silver-winning Italians in qualification. Chinese Taipei's Kun-Pi Yang and Wan-Yu Liu won a second World Cup gold with a world record score of 36 in the final.

Vivaan and Neeru had shot 143 in qualification, finishing just two behind Silvana, a Paris Olympic silver medalist, and Mauro, a former world champion in the event. Both shot perfect third

rounds of 25 each to confirm their final spots, with Vivaan missing two out of his 75 targets.

Teammates Ahvar Rizvi and Pragati Dubey shot 130 to finish 23rd in the 31-team competition.

After the first 10 targets in the decider, Kun and Wan led the field with a perfect score. Neeru missed her third, to put India in second after Vivaan shot down all five of his targets to extend his qualification form.

Italy and China were fighting for third place, having hit five of their first 10 targets. Italy won that fight by one hit after 20 targets, as Chinese Taipei extended their lead by two over India, as Neeru missed two targets more.

The Italians then showed their class in the third series, missing none, even as Vivaan missed his first of the final on his 13th shot. In the end, both pairs ended up

on the same score, with the Italians surviving because of their qualification performance.

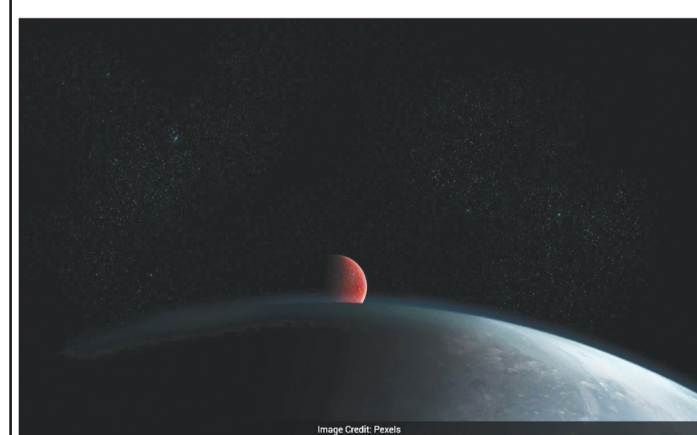
It was still a commendable first ISSF World Cup medal for Neeru and Vivaan in the Olympic event, and India's second since it became an Olympic event last year.

Asian and National champion Neeru Dhanda made the final of the women's trap competition at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Shotgun in Almaty, Kazakhstan, finishing seventh with seven hits after the first elimination stage of 10 shots. The Indian, despite shooting all five targets in the second five-shot series, could not recover from three misses in the first, with all three podium spots going to Olympic medalists. Australian Penny Smith, the Paris Olympics bronze medalist, won gold with a world record 30 out

of 30 hits, while Spain's Tokyo Olympics Mixed Team champion Fatima Galvez won silver with 25. Women's trap legend Zuzana Rehak Stefecekova of Slovakia, a three-time Olympic medalist and former world and Olympic champion, won bronze. Earlier, Neeru had surged up the world-class field, firing rounds of 23 and 25 to finish with a career-best qualification score in ISSF competitions. Her 116 (23,23,22,23,25) and a perfect final round helped her clinch the eighth and final qualification spot, after beginning the day in 21st position. It would be her second World Cup final in two years after finishing fourth in Lonato last year.

Teammates Manisha Keer and Pragati Dubey shot scores of 112 (24,24,21,21,22) and 111 (18,23,24,24,22) to finish 26th and 29th, respectively.

Astronomers find thin atmosphere around distant frozen space object



Other large TNOs, including dwarf planets Eris, Haumea, Makemake and dwarf planet candidate Quaoar, have not shown signs of atmospheres. However, during a rare observation opportunity, astronomers in Japan detected a thin atmospheric layer around a TNO called (612533) 2002 XV93. The finding was detailed in a study published Monday in the journal Nature Astronomy. The unexpected discovery was made by Dr. Ko Arimatsu, associate professor and senior lecturer at the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, along with his colleagues.

Astronomers have discovered a thin atmosphere around a small celestial body in the outer solar system for the first time, surprising scientists who earlier believed such tiny objects could not support an atmosphere, reported CNN. Thousands of frozen and rocky objects, known as trans-Neptunian objects (TNOs), are located in the Kuiper Belt at the edge of the solar system. These objects are considered remnants from the formation of the solar system around 4.5 billion years ago. Among these TNOs, the dwarf planet Pluto is the largest and is known to have a thin atmosphere. Scientists had long believed that the extremely cold temperatures and weak surface gravity of smaller bodies made it difficult for them to retain atmospheres. Dense atmospheres are usually found around large planets or moons, such as Titan, Saturn's largest moon.



LG's Diary



Lieutenant Governor Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha Sunday handed over appointment letters to newly recruited Constables at Zewan, Srinagar.

LETTER OF APPOINTMENT TO J&K POLICE



Lok Bhavan Jammu & Kashmir @LokBhavanJandK

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that the battlefield has expanded beyond physical borders. He warned that modern threats such as cybercrime, narco-terrorism, digital fraud and narrative warfare are increasingly being driven by technology rather than traditional weaponry.

"Today, the world's most dangerous criminals and terrorists do not always carry weapons; instead, they exploit code, data and encrypted networks to operate across borders. Cybercrime, narco-terrorism, digital fraud and narrative warfare are no longer threats of the distant future; they are the stark realities of the present. They are claiming lives, destroying livelihoods and eroding the trust upon which the stability of every system ultimately rests," the Lieutenant Governor said.



Overton, Urvil power CSK to fifth spot with third straight win

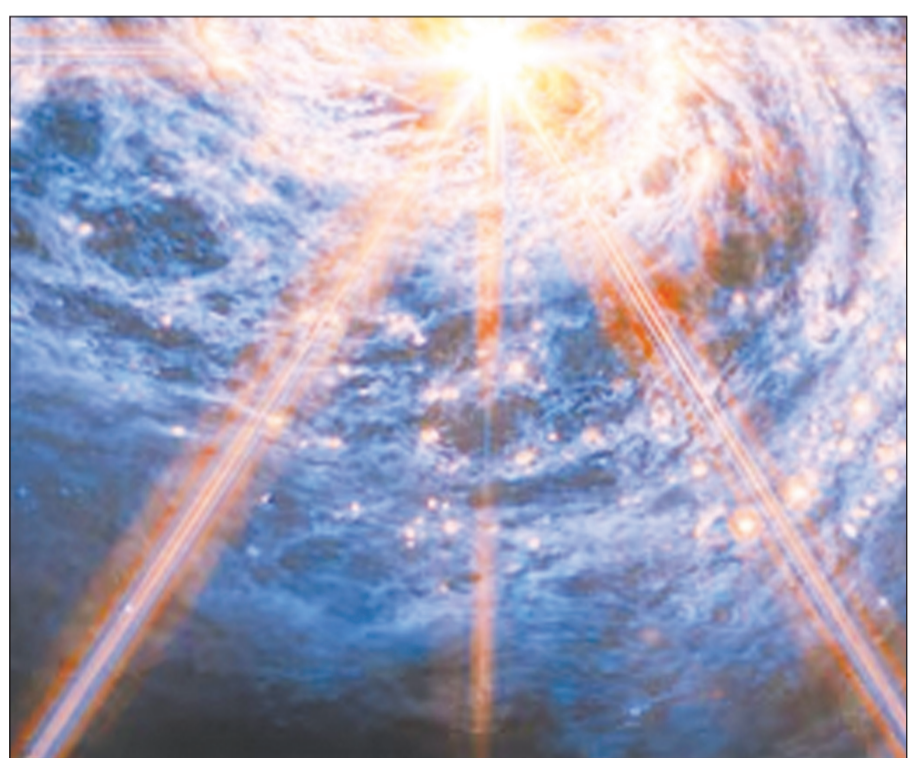
CHENNAI:Urvil Patel played the kind of innings that erased a bit of history and created a bit of history. In 2025, team after team came to Chepauk and breached it and the crowd got used to leaving early. On Sunday evening, 32,825 people - some of whom might have seen the morning show where one of Tamil Nadu's most popular actors took charge as the chief minister - were given double delight as Chennai Super Kings (CSK) chased down their first 200-plus target since 2018 and one of their future stars announced himself with the IPL's joint-fastest half-century. Urvil got there in 13 balls. When he walked into the middle, CSK's chances of winning were 38.13%. When he walked out, to a standing ovation from the crowd and his coaching staff, CSK's chances of winning were 93.02%. He single-handedly changed the game and powered CSK to fifth spot. Mitchell Marsh had taken first strike in eight out of 11 Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) matches.

NASA's James Webb Telescope captures dazzling new image of Spiral Galaxy

NASA's James Webb Space Telescope has captured a striking new image of Messier 77, offering astronomers a closer look at one of the most studied galaxies in space. Also known as M77, the barred spiral galaxy is located around 45 million light-years away in the constellation Cetus. It highlights the galaxy's spiral arms, glowing dust and bright central core using Webb's Mid-Infrared Instrument (MIRI), reported NASA.

At the centre of M77 is an active galactic nucleus (AGN), a compact region filled with hot gas that shines brighter than the rest of the galaxy combined. Scientists said the AGN is powered by the galaxy's central supermassive black hole, which is eight million times more massive than the Sun. Gas near the centre is pulled into a fast orbit around the black hole, where it crashes together, heats up and releases huge amounts of radiation.

The image also shows bright orange lines extending from the galaxy's centre. However, these are not part of the galaxy itself. The lines are diffraction spikes created because the intense light from the AGN bends slightly around the edges of Webb's mirror panels and one of the telescope's support structures. Scientists said this six-plus-two-pointed pattern appears in Webb images when a light source is extremely bright and concentrated. M77 is also known as a star-forming galaxy. The near-infrared image reveals a bar structure across the galaxy's central region, which is not visible in normal light images. Around this bar is a bright "starburst ring" formed by the inner ends of the galaxy's spiral arms. The starburst ring stretches more than 6,000 light-



years across and contains intense star-forming activity. In the image, this activity appears as densely packed orange bubbles spread around the ring. Because M77 is relatively close to Earth, astronomers consider it one of the best examples for studying starburst regions. The galaxy's disc is filled with gas and dust that help create future stars. Webb's MIRI instrument captures the glow of interstellar dust in blue shades, showing swirling smoky filaments and empty cavities between them. Bright orange bubbles created by newly formed star clusters are also visible along the spiral arms. Beyond the telescope's main view, the spiral arms connect to a faint outer ring of hydrogen gas where more star formation is taking place. Thin filaments of hydrogen gas stretch from this ring into intergalactic space, forming the outermost layer around the galaxy. Due to the tentacle-like appearance of these filaments, M77 is also known as the Squid Galaxy.

CM's Diary



Office of Chief Minister, J&K @CM_JK

Chief Minister today inaugurated a Bone DEXA Scan Machine and a Fibro Scan Machine at District Hospital Ganderbal, procured under CSR support from HDFC Bank. The newly added facilities are expected to significantly enhance the hospital's diagnostic capabilities and strengthen healthcare services for the people of the district.

The Chief Minister also undertook a tour of the hospital and reviewed patient care facilities and healthcare services being provided to the public.

@Sunderch55 @sakinaftoo @tanviradiq



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday inaugurated and laid foundation stones/e-foundations for several major development projects in Ganderbal aimed at improving infrastructure, connectivity, heritage conservation and public amenities.



Office of Chief Minister, J&K @CM_JK

Chief Minister today laid the foundation stone for construction of a Youth Hostel at Government College of Physical Education, Gadoora, Ganderbal at a cost of ₹15.27 crore.

The project will provide improved accommodation and sports infrastructure facilities for students and youth, besides enabling the hosting of major sporting events in Ganderbal.

@Sunderch55, @satishsharmajnk and @nasirsohami were also present on the occasion.

