



Satish reviews Sports Calendar 2026-27, sports development across J&K

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 09

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today chaired a review meeting to assess the proposed Sports Calendar 2026-27 and the roadmap for sports development across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports, Shahid Choudhary and Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul and other senior officers.

Reviewing the proposed calendar, Satish Sharma emphasized that sports have emerged as a powerful vehicle for youth empowerment, social transformation and economic development. He stated that the government is committed to create world-class sporting opportunities for the young athletes from every district, ensuring that talent from even the remotest areas receives adequate exposure and support.

The Minister highlighted that the proposed calendar includes a wide spectrum of activities ranging from international and national championships to district-level competitions and community sports programmes. He lauded the efforts being made to strengthen the grassroots sports and create a sustainable sporting ecosystem across Jammu & Kashmir.

Satish Sharma expressed satisfaction over the inclusion of several major events, including the hosting of the South Asian Wushu Championship and the Asian Aerobic Gymnastics Championship in Srinagar, which are expected to place Jammu and Kashmir prominently on the international sporting map. He said such prestigious events will not only promote sports excellence but also showcase



the region's capabilities as a destination for national and international sporting events.

The Minister also reviewed plans for the organization of district leagues in cricket, football and hockey, tribal sports leagues, women's sports leagues, chess and carrom leagues, athletics meets, cycling events and a series of youth-centric programmes under the "My Youth, My Pride" initiative. He stressed the need to ensure broad-based participation of youth, women, tribal communities and specially-abled sportspersons.

Referring to flagship initiatives such as the Women's Super 10 League, Kashmir Super League, Ganderbal Super League, Pro Kabaddi Championship, Jammu Cyclothon and other district and community-based competitions, Satish Sharma said these events will greatly help identify the emerging talent and create a vibrant sporting culture throughout Jammu & Kashmir.

The Minister also underlined the importance of sports as a tool for social awareness and positive behavioural change. He appreciated the proposed integration of the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan through Sports, observing that sports can play a trans-

formative role in steering youth away from substance abuse and towards healthy and productive lifestyles.

Calling for effective coordination among all the stakeholders, Satish Sharma directed officials to ensure timely preparations, robust infrastructure support, transparent selection processes and maximum outreach so that every aspiring athlete gets an opportunity to participate and excel.

He emphasized the role of technology in sports governance and directed the concerned departments to leverage the digital platforms for athlete registration, event management, talent tracking and performance monitoring. He said that the integration of technology with sports development would enhance transparency, efficiency and accessibility.

Reaffirming the government's commitment towards nurturing the sporting talent, the Minister said Jammu and Kashmir possesses immense potential across a range of disciplines and that sustained investment in sports infrastructure, coaching, competitions and scientific training will help produce national and international champions.

Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports, Shahid Choudhary subse-

quently briefed the Minister on the extensive preparations being undertaken for successful implementation of the Sports Calendar. He also apprised the Minister of the activities already conducted under various youth and sports initiatives, including grassroots competitions, community sports programmes, talent identification drives and district-level championships. He informed that coordinated efforts are being made to strengthen sports infrastructure, improve access to training facilities and maximize youth participation across all districts of Jammu & Kashmir.

Earlier, Secretary Sports Council made a comprehensive presentation outlining an extensive calendar of sporting events, championships, leagues, youth engagement programmes and infrastructure initiatives proposed for the coming year. The plan envisages the conduct of more than 426 sporting activities across 50 disciplines, with an expected participation of over 21 lakh youth from across Jammu and Kashmir. She outlined the Council's vision for expanding the sporting opportunities across Jammu & Kashmir through a structured programme of international, national, UT-level, district and grassroots competitions.

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In an inspiring achievement for Jammu & Kashmir and a proud moment for district Shopian, Waseem Ahmad Bakshi, son of a labourer, Mohammad Sadiq Bakshi Cheki Diaroo Drangnar village, who has been selected for the Indian Para Cricket Team recently, met Deputy Commissioner, Shopian Shishir Gupta today at Mini Secretariat.

DC Shopian congratulated Waseem on his achievement and hoped that his remarkable feat will inspire others towards the sports.

Waseem's success is the result of years of hard work, dedication, perseverance, and an unwavering commitment to achieving his goals. Since 2021, Waseem has



consistently represented Jammu & Kashmir in national-level para cricket competitions and has been one of the prominent players from the region.

His outstanding performances over the years have

now earned him a place on the international stage. Waseem will now participate in upcoming international tournaments for India. Apart from cricket, Waseem has also established himself in the field of

athletics. Recently, he represented Jammu & Kashmir in the 24th National Para Athletics Championship 2026, held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, where he was the only participant from the Kashmir.

Earlier, he won two bronze medals at a major sports event held in Uttarakhanda. In 2023, Waseem secured a gold medal in the 100-meter race at the Vyom Apple Fest. Additionally, he has won more than six medals at the inter-college level, showcasing his versatility and sporting excellence.

Waseem's remarkable journey from a remote village in Shopian to representing India at the international level stands as a symbol of determination, resilience, and inspiration for the youth, especially persons with disabilities.

District-Level Basketball Tournament 2026 concludes at Kulgam

KULGAM, JUNE 09:

District-Level Basketball Tournament organized by the District Administration Kulgam under the banner of Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan, concluded with an exciting grand finale held today here at Manzgam.

The tournament witnessed enthusiastic participation from 14 teams representing various blocks of the district, along with 4 teams from Municipal Committees (MCs), reflecting the growing interest among youth in sports and healthy recreational activities.

The grand final was played between Block Manzgam and Block Kund, with Block Manzgam emerging victorious after a spirited contest and lifting the championship trophy.

The winning team was honoured by Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, who congratulated the players for their outstanding performance and sportsmanship. He emphasized the importance of sports in channelizing the energy of youth towards constructive activities and away from social evils, particularly drug abuse.



Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner

highlighted that sports play a vital role in promoting discipline, teamwork, physical fitness, and a healthy lifestyle. He reiterated the District Administration's commitment to encouraging sporting activities as part of

the ongoing efforts under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan.

The tournament served as a platform for young athletes to showcase their talent while spreading the message of a drug-free society.

Iran football federation claims ticket allocation withdrawn ahead of FIFA World Cup 2026

TIJUANA [MEXICO], JUNE 9 (ANI): The Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) on Tuesday stated that its share of FIFA World Cup 2026 tickets was withdrawn shortly before the tournament, leaving supporters who had already booked trips without access to their team's matches, reported Reuters.

According to the Iranian football federation, it had already begun selling tickets allocated to it for World Cup fixtures, but the distribution was later revoked. The federation said that as a result, several Iranian fans who had relied on the official ticketing process and completed travel bookings are now unable to attend the matches.

The FIFA World Cup is set to begin on June 12 (Friday) as per Indian Standard Time (IST), with Iran scheduled to face New Zealand in Los Angeles on June 16, Belgium on June 22 and Egypt in Seattle on June 27.

"Depriving Iranian supporters of access to their lawful and official allocation of tickets is an action contrary to the spirit governing international competitions and the principle of equality



among participating countries," the FFIRI said in a statement as per Reuters.

"This development raises serious questions about the interference of non-sporting and political considerations in the organization of the world's biggest football event," they said further.

"This is despite the fact that many Iranian football fans, relying on the officially announced process, had already made the necessary plans to attend the matches," the statement further said.

Under FIFA regulations,

each participating federation receives around 8 per cent of tickets for its matches, which are then distributed at its discretion among fans.

While the FFIRI did not specify who decided to withhold the tickets, it urged FIFA to act in line with its "principles of neutrality, fairness, and established regulations" and prevent external issues from affecting the showpiece event.

Notably, this comes amid Iran's World Cup campaign being marred by uncertainty due to the ongoing

political tensions involving the United States and Israel.

The FFIRI negotiated a last-minute shift of the team's base camp from Arizona to Mexico amid uncertainty over US visa approvals and a growing sentiment in Iran that the squad should minimise its time on American soil.

After weeks of uncertainty, the United States granted visas to all Iranian players last week, just over a week before their opening match, although several team staff members were denied entry. (ANI)

DC Ramban inaugurates inter-zonal district-level competition at DPL Ground

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Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alias Khan today inaugurated the Inter-Zonal District-Level Competition at the DPL Ground Ramban, in presence of SSP Arun Gupta.

As many as 343 students representing six zones of the district participated in the event.

Addressing the participants, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of sports in shaping a healthy and productive society. He highlighted the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan, being promoted under the guidance of the Lieutenant Governor and urged the youth to stay away from drug abuse and engage themselves in sports and other constructive activities. He further stated that the district administration is committed to promoting sports at the grassroots level and providing young athletes the best possible platform to showcase and develop their abilities.

SSP Arun Gupta interacted with the participants



and appreciated the efforts of the Department of Youth Services and Sports in providing a competitive platform for budding athletes. He assured that the district police would continue to extend support for sports activities wherever facilities and grounds are available.

The programme was organised under the direction of Director General (Youth Services and Sports) Anuradha Gupta and held under

the overall supervision of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Nazir Husain. Among those present were Zonal Physical Education Officers Mohammad Sadullah Mir (Banihal), Fayaz Ahmed Mir (Khari), Mohammad Haroon Bhat (Ukhral), Joginder Paul Gupta (Gool) and Omkar Singh (Ramban), Activity In-charge Arun Kumar Sharma, physical education teachers, resource and ex-

tension workers, National Youth Corps members and ground staff.

The DYSSO expressed gratitude to the Deputy Commissioner for his support in organising the event. The competition will continue over the coming days, giving young players from across the district an opportunity to showcase their talent and promote the spirit of healthy competition, teamwork and sportsmanship.