

## தேசிய சீனியர் கைப்பந்து

# தொடக்க ஆட்டத்தில் தமிழக அணி வெற்றி

கோழிக்கோடு, பி.ப.22-

கேரள மாநில கைப்பந்து சங்கம் சார்பில் 66-வது தேசிய சீனியர் கைப்பந்து சாம்பியன்ஷிப் போட்டி கேரள மாநிலம் கோழிக்கோட்டில் நேற்று தொடங்கியது. 28-ந் தேதி வரை நடைபெறும் இந்த போட்டியில் ஆண்கள் பிரிவில் 28 அணிகளும், பெண்கள் பிரிவில் 26 அணிகளும் கலந்து கொண்டுள்ளன. பெண்களுக்கான 'ஏ' பிரிவில் இடம் பிடித்துள்ள தமிழக அணி தொடக்க லீக் ஆட்டத்தில் ஆந்திராவை சந்தித்தது. விறுவிறுப்பான இந்த ஆட்டத்தில் தமிழக அணி 25-20, 25-19, 25-21 என்ற நேர்செட்டில் ஆந்திராவை வீழ்த்தி முதல் வெற்றியை ரூசித்தது. தமிழக அணியில் உத்கர்ஷா, ஆர்யா ஆகியோரின் ஆட்டம் அபாரமாக இருந்தது.

## NATL. VOLLEYBALL

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

KOZHIKODE One team the Kerala coach K. Abdul Nazer had been wary of in the preliminary stage of the senior National volleyball championship was Rajasthan.

On Wednesday evening at the Calicut Trade Centre, his men showed their rival in the opening match was no match for them. Kerala won 25-20, 25-13, 25-13 in just 52 minutes.

It was the ideal way for the defending champion to start its campaign. And not surprisingly, there was a large crowd to cheer it on.

### Shots galore

The fans got more than their money's worth. There were some terrific smashes unleashed by their favourite stars, brilliant blocking, deft drops and a serve from a home player that fetched the team seven points in a row.

Setter A. Muthusamy was the man who did that, at the outset of the third set. Kerala went up 7-0 and ensured that Rajasthan didn't even have a semblance of a chance to make a comeback.

The northern Indian State had managed to put up some fight in the opening set, with Sonu Kumar Jhakar coming up with powerful smashes and good work at the net by Sachin Shekawat and Jatin Singh.

But it was always going to be an uphill task for Rajasthan, as it was up against a

## Volleyball league

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOZHIKODE

The Indian Volleyball League (IVL) will kick off next October, according to the Volleyball Federation of India (VFI). VFI secretary Ramavtar Singh Jakhar said the federation has signed an

agreement with branding firm Baseline Ventures and received a cheque of ₹3.5 crore.

Tuhin Mishra, managing director of Baseline Ventures, said the league will have franchises from across the country.

rocity from varied angles. Some of Vibin M. George's smashes were as deadly. As were those from rising star C. Ajith Lal.

With G. Akhin and P. Rohith often proving impenetrable with their blocks, there was little hope for Rajasthan to extend the match beyond the third set.

The day also saw the reigning women's champion Railway beginning its campaign on a bright note, as it made short work of Bengal 25-11, 25-19, 25-6.

**The results (preliminary league):**

**Men:** Pool A: Kerala bt Rajasthan 25-20, 25-13, 25-13. Pool C: Gujarat bt Madhya Pradesh 25-15, 25-23, 23-25, 25-19;

Chandigarh bt Tripura 25-15, 25-12, 25-5. Pool D: Haryana bt Assam 25-12, 25-15, 25-19; Maharashtra bt Puducherry 25-20, 21-25, 25-23, 25-20.

Pool E: Karnataka bt Chhattisgarh 25-23, 25-22, 25-21; Karnataka bt Bihar 25-12, 25-14, 25-17. Chhattisgarh bt Jammu & Kashmir 25-15, 25-20, 25-15; Delhi bt Jammu & Kashmir 25-16, 25-14, 25-16.

Pool F: Uttarakhand bt Goa 25-13, 25-18, 31-29; Bengal bt Jharkhand 25-15, 20-25, 25-9, 30-28.

**Women:** Pool A: Railway bt Bengal 25-11, 25-19, 25-6; Tamil Nadu bt Andhra 25-20, 25-19, 25-21. Pool E: Haryana bt Tripura 25-2, 25-3, 25-0. Pool F: Himachal Pradesh bt Chhattisgarh 12-25, 25-20, 25-17, 25-21; Delhi bt Jammu & Kashmir 25-3, 25-13, 25-14.





കോഴിക്കോട് ആരംഭിച്ച ദേശീയ സീനിയർ വോളിബോൾ പാസ്യൂൺസീപ്പിൽ പ്രാഥമ്യത്താർട്ട് ഉദ്ഘാടനത്തിൽ കൊള്ളൽത്തിന്റെ ജീഹുസ് അവിഞ്ചേ സ്ഥാപിച്ച തടയാൻ രാജസ്മാൻ താജുഖ്യത്താർട്ട് വിഫല ഗ്രാമ ഏകപ്രക്ഷീഭവാട മുന്ന് എസ്റ്റിന് കൊള്ളു. ജീഹുസ്

ചീഫ് : റണ്ട് സ്റ്റാഫുകൾ • ഇന്ത്യ

## വോളി: കേരളത്തിന് വിജയത്തുടക്കിം

കോഴിക്കോട് • ദേശീയ സീനിയർ വോളിബോൾ പ്രാഥമ്യ, വനിതാ വിഭാഗങ്ങൾ മുൻ്ന് കൊള്ളൽത്തിന്റെ ജീഹുസ് രാജസ്മാന്മാരുടെ തുടക്കം. രാജസ്മാന്മാരുടെ നിലവിലെ പാസ്യൂൺമാരുടെ കൊള്ളൽ പ്രാഥമ്യത്താർട്ട് ആദ്യമായി അവിഞ്ചേ (3-0) തോട്ടപിച്ചു. സ്റ്റേക്കാർ (25-20, 25-13, 25-13). ആദ്യത്തെ ഒന്നുകൾ അനുഭാവാസം, നേടിയ കൊള്ളൽ തീരുമാനാസ്തീസ് ശക്തതയാണും കേൾപ്പാണും. നേടിക്കേണ്ടവിവരം, എസ്റ്റിന് തുടക്കാരാറിൽ കൊള്ളൽ, മുന്നും, നേടിയുടക്കിലും 11-11 ദിന നിലവിലക്കുവന്നു. തുടർന്ന് പലതാം വരുന്ന തൊലക്കാനും ലിഡ് നേടുകയും. ചെത്തിരുന്നു, കൊള്ളൽത്തിന്റെവേണ്ടി അണ്ണം ബാധിപ്പിച്ചാൻ, കൈപി. റാന്റുഗ്രാമി, വീ. മുന്നി

പരകാനുയരാണു കൊള്ളൽ, (3-0) തോട്ടപിച്ചു. താഴെ സ്റ്റേക്കാർ (25-16, 25-13, 25-23). ആദ്യത്തെ ഒന്നുകൾ അനുഭാവാസം, നേടിയ കൊള്ളൽ തീരുമാനാസ്തീസ് ശക്തതയാണും കേൾപ്പാണും. നേടിക്കേണ്ടവിവരം, എസ്റ്റിന് തുടക്കാരാറിൽ കൊള്ളൽ, മുന്നും, നേടിയുടക്കിലും 11-11 ദിന നിലവിലക്കുവന്നു. തുടർന്ന് പലതാം വരുന്ന തൊലക്കാനും ലിഡ് നേടുകയും. ചെത്തിരുന്നു, കൊള്ളൽത്തിന്റെവേണ്ടി അണ്ണം ബാധിപ്പിച്ചാൻ, കൈപി. റാന്റുഗ്രാമി, വീ. മുന്നി

പരാജയപ്പെട്ടതിനും സ്റ്റേക്കാർ (25-11, 25-19, 25-06), കുർബാനക പ്രാഥമ്യത്തിനും, (3-0) ഹിന്ദുപട്ടപാദ്ധര് മാനോന്മാധവിനും, (3-1) ഹാരിഷാ റാസ്വിഹുമും, (3-0) തോട്ടപിച്ചു. പ്രാഥമ്യവിഭാഗത്തിൽ ഹാരിഷാ റാസ്വിഹു (3-0), ഉഹാബാഷ്ട് പ്രാഥമ്യത്തിനും, (3-1) ഗുജരാത്ത് ഡയു.പാദ്ധരിനും, (3-1) ചന്ദ്രാഗീവ് റാസ്വിഹു, (3-0) കർണ്ണാടക. ബിഹാരിനും, (3-0) തോട്ടപിച്ചു. പ്രാഥമ്യവിഭാഗത്തിൽ കേരളം, താജുഖ്യത്താർട്ട്, റാജ് റാബർ



ମୁଣ୍ଡାରେ କିମ୍ବା କିମ୍ବା

A color photograph of a man with dark hair, wearing a grey suit jacket over a white collared shirt. He is seated at a dark wooden desk, looking down intently at a document he is holding. The background is a light-colored wall with some vertical streaks of red and yellow paint.

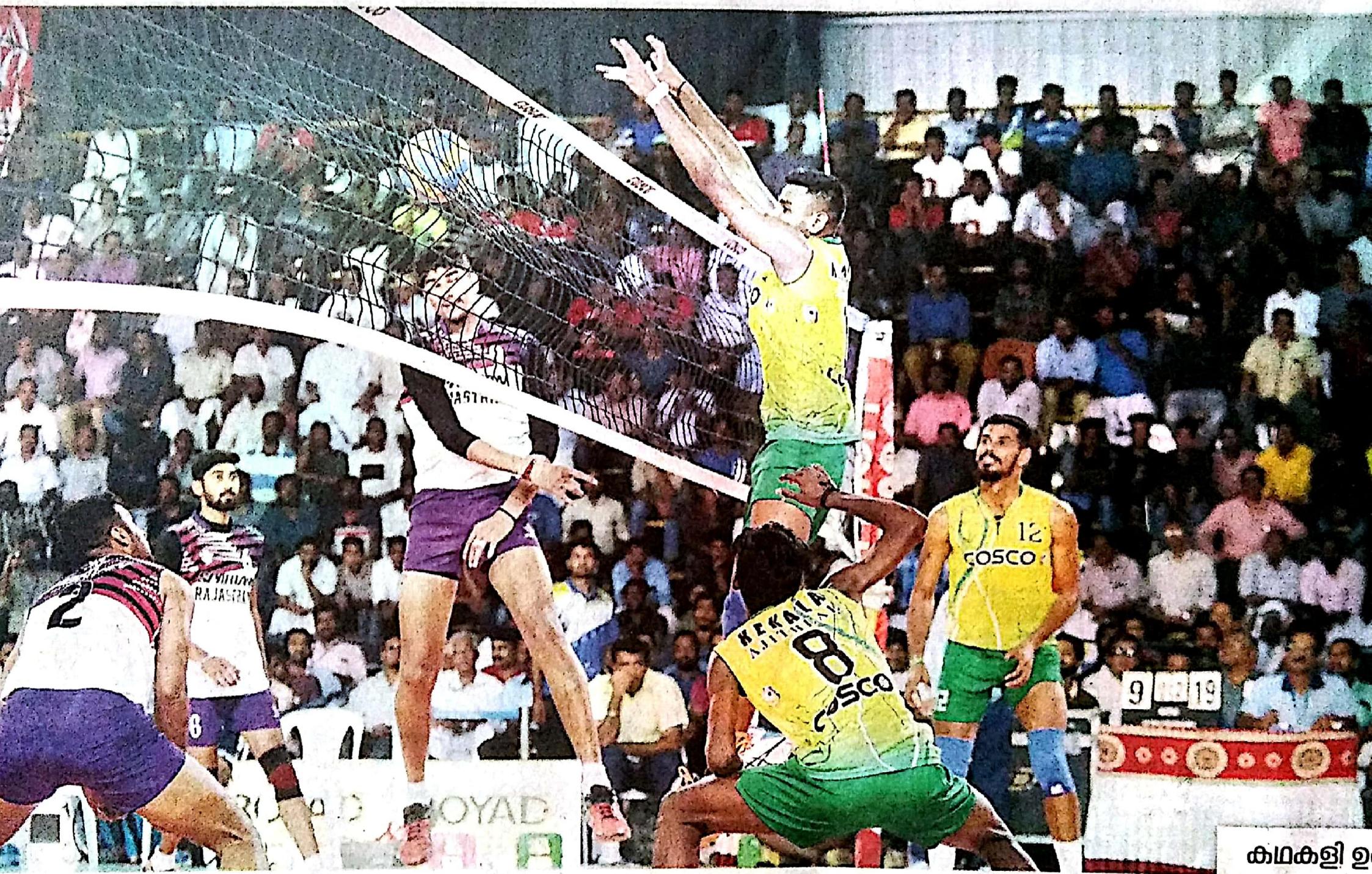


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ചീരിപ്പായും.... കൊഴിക്കോട് ആരംഭിച്ച ദേശീയ സീനിയർ വോളിയിൽ വനിതകളുടെ മണ്ഡലം ആരംഭിച്ചതിനും റൈറ്റുവോയുടെ വനിതാ ടീമിലെ മലയാളി താരം മിനിമോൾ എസ്പെഷാൾ ഫീൽഡ് റൈറ്റുവോയുടെ വനിതാ ടീമിലെ മലയാളി താരം മിനിമോൾ എസ്പെഷാൾ



സുപ്രമाणിക്കേം നടക്കുന്ന ദേശീയ സിനിയർ വോളിബോൾ മാന്യസ്ഥലപ്പിൽ റാജസ്ഥാന്റിനെ കേരളത്തിനെ അവിം പ്രൈസിംഗിലെ ഫോറ്മൻ എന്നുന്നു.  
ഫോറ്മൻ മുന്നു സെറ്റുകൾക്ക് കേരളം ഒഴിപ്പ് | ഫോറ്മൻ: കെ.കെ. സണ്ടോഫ്

കമകളി ഉ  
നാളേമുത

▶സുരൂ ഫോറ്മാറ്റ്  
കണ്ണാട്ടംപുസ്പിംഗ്

# Win or lose, J&K girls keen to score some points

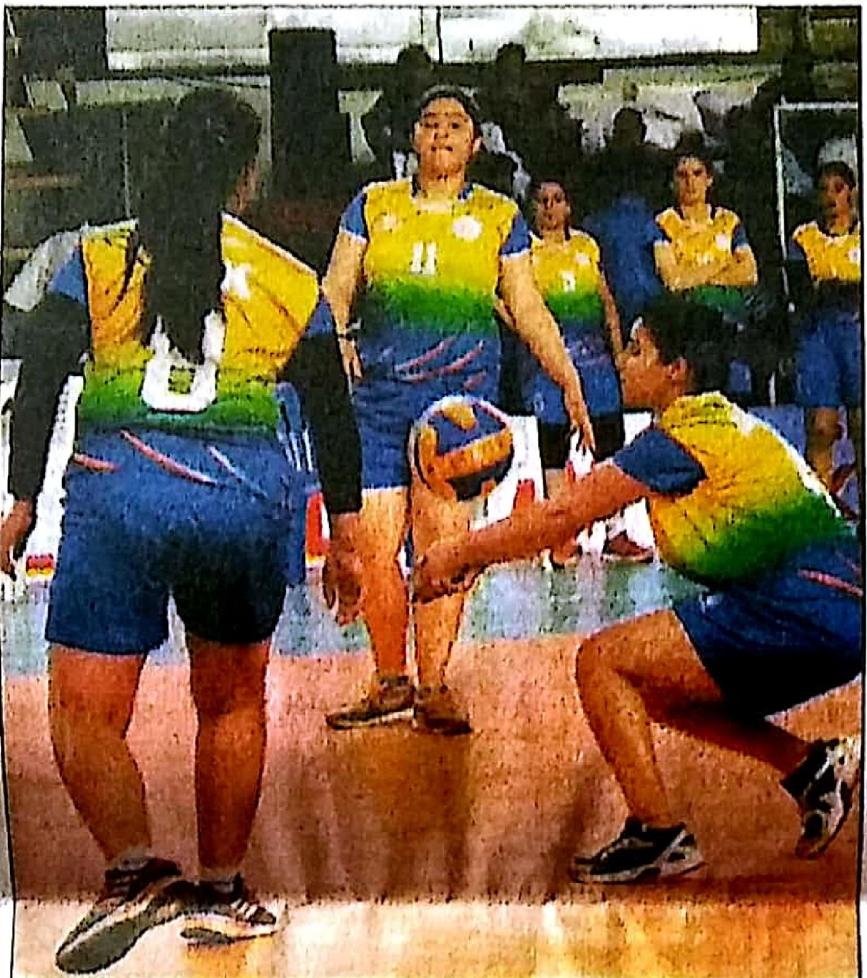
Vijesh.MV@timesgroup.com

Kozhikode: They are shy in nature and some players are still hesitant to play in shorts, they don't mind waiting for their opponents for an eternity, but the girls from Jammu and Kashmir are here to score some points, not just on the court but off it as well.

Ready to play their first game against Delhi, a bunch of excited girls from J&K reached the venue early and even had a small warm-up session only to be told that their opponents hadn't arrived at the venue because of inadequate transport facilities. The organizers requested the J&K girls to play their match after the Railways-West Bengal game to which they agreed.

They didn't complain and took the court sometime later only to offer a meek surrender against highly-fancied Delhi.

They didn't mind losing as the experience of playing in front of a sizeable number of fans in a national volleyball championship after having travelled all the way from the north of



Jammu and Kashmir girls during their game against Delhi in the national volleyball championship at Kozhikode

the country to the south was second to none for them.

"Coaching a women's team in Jammu and Kashmir is not an easy task at all. We had to address a lot of hurd-

les before preparing this team for this championship. I know my players are not the best in this tournament but I am happy that they are getting a lot of exposure," J&K coach Muneer Alam told

TOI on Wednesday.

Against Delhi, J&K struggled in all departments. Their reception was poor; defence was below-par and attack lacked power. But according to Alam, this tournament is not just about performance for his girls.

"Yeah, it's easy to blame the performance. Most of my girls are from conservative families and we even arrange sessions with players' parents when their kids start training in volleyball. Taking a girl out of Kashmir is like taking their heart for many of them. If these girls continue training, they can improve their game in the coming years," Alam added.

Political unrest in some parts of his state and cultural differences between provinces play a big role in developing the mindset of people in Jammu and Kashmir, says the coach.

"All my players are students. Some are under-graduates and some are doing post-graduation. They have great physique and they are very aggressive in nature. I just want to channelize their aggression in a more po-

sitive way. That helps them everywhere," the coach added. Urwah Hinan, one of the senior players in the side, says volleyball has helped her mould herself.

A PG student in law in Kashmir University, Urwah hopes to reach more heights through her game.

"I am now the vice-captain of this side. Many girls have been showing interest to play volleyball. But the number of matches and tournaments are very less in our place. If we get more exposure, we can produce decent results," said Urwah.

Sadiya Hussain, who gave up badminton for volleyball, says it was not easy in the beginning. "Though my parents gave me the support to give it a try in volleyball, it was tough in the beginning. But after I started training under Alam sir, volleyball

has turned out to be the biggest passion in life," said Sadiya. Alam knows his team may not be able to beat their more formidable opponents in the tournament for him and his bunch of girls playing in the tournament is like winning it in itself.

# KERALA START IN STYLE

## Men Brush Aside The Challenge From Rajasthan While Women Ease Past Telangana

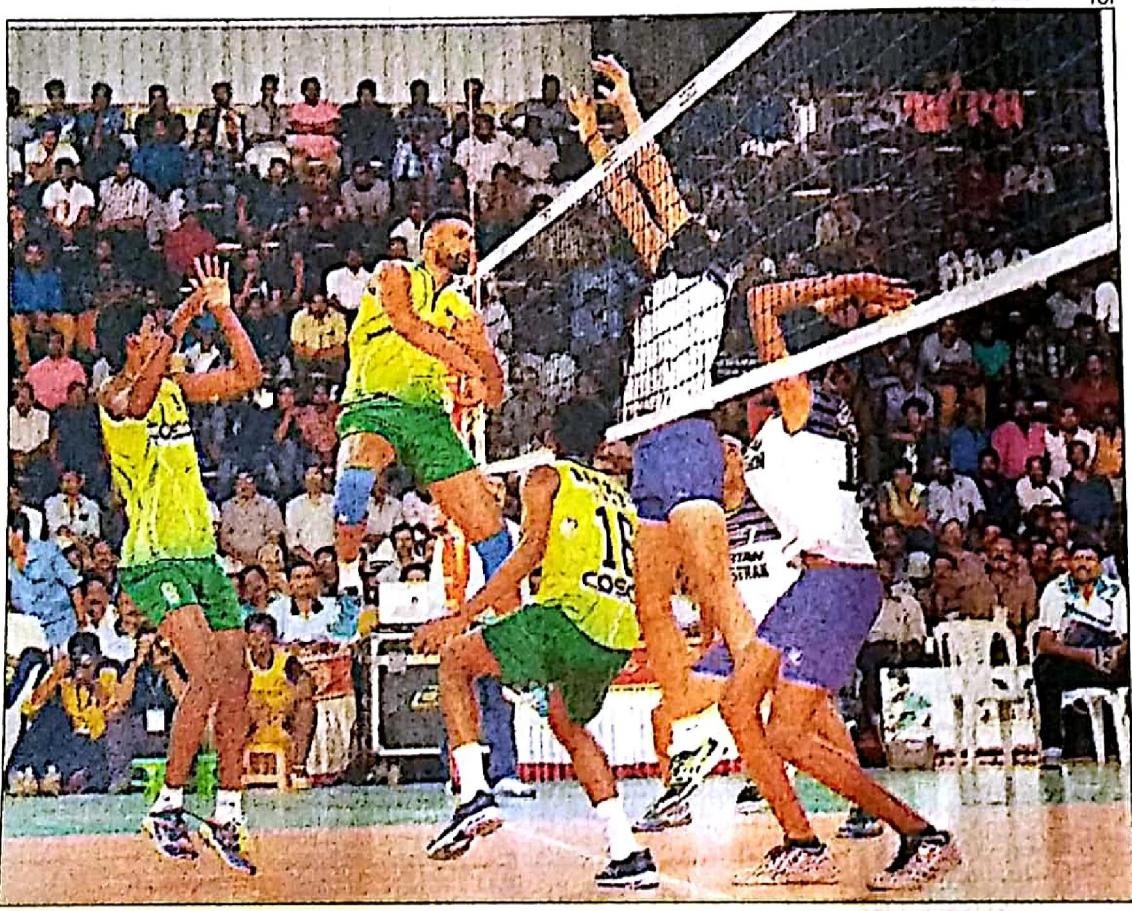
Vijesh MV@timesgroup.com

**ozhikode:** Kerala men and women began their campaign in the 66th Senior National Volleyball Championship for Men and Women at Kallicut Trade Centre Indoor Stadium with highly impressive wins over their opponents on Wednesday. Jerome with C and GS Akhin stole the first day's show for Kerala men as they thrashed Rajasthan in straight sets 25-20, 25-13, 25-13.

### NATIONAL VOLLEYBALL

Kerala women too faced problem in their opening match as they eased past Telangana 16-25, 14-25, 23-25. The Telangana girls stretched Kerala in the final set, pulling the scores many a tie in the set, but the experience of Kerala girls saw them through. For Kerala, captain G Anjumol led from the front with a fine all-round show.

Karnataka men too notched up two impressive wins over their opponents in the other matches to be played on the opening day.



Kerala's P Rohit (centre wearing yellow jersey) unleashing a powerful smash against Rajasthan

First, they accounted for Bihar in straight sets with Anup D'Costa playing a stellar role in their win. They won 25-12, 25-14, 25-17. Later

in the afternoon, Karnataka brushed aside the challenge from Chhattisgarh in Group B with a 25-23, 25-22, 25-21 win.

In the men's match against Rajasthan, Kerala dominated right from the start. Though they allowed Rajasthan to pick some points in

**Karnataka men too notched up two impressive wins over their opponents in the other matches to be played on the opening day**

the opening set, Kerala never allowed their opponents an opportunity for a comeback. Kerala, with two talented setters in the side in N Jithin and Muthu Sami, used the second and final sets to try different combinations replacing even the in-form captain Jerome in the third set. Muthu Sami was at his best in the first two sets but with Jithin taking the role of setter in the third, Kerala shifted gears and finished off the proceedings in just an hour.

Kerala were far better than Rajasthan in all departments of the game but what stood out was their defensive excellence. Rajasthan's Sonu Kumar Jakhar and Suresh Khoiwal tried their best to break the Kerala defence but their efforts went in vain as Akhin, Jerome and C Ajith Lal stood firm.

Kerala captain Jerome was a happy man after the first match. "It was a good game. We expected a tough match but everything worked out well for us in the end," Jerome said after the match. In the women's division, defending champion Railways too had a walk in the park over West Bengal 21, 25-19, 25-6.

**Results: Men:** Karnataka 3 bt Bihar 25-12, 25-14, 25-17; Chhattisgarh bt Jammu & Kashmir 0: 25-15, 25-25/15; Uttarakhand 3 bt Goa 0: 25-25-18, 31-29; West Bengal 3 bt Jharkhand 1: 25-15, 20-25, 25-09, 30-25; Gujarat beat Madhya Pradesh (3) 25-15, 25-23, 23-25, 25-19; Haryana beat Assam (3-0) 25-12, 25-15, 19; Chandigarh beat Tripura (3-0) 15, 25-12, 25-5; Maharashtra beat Pondicherry (3-1) 25-20, 21-25, 23, 25-20.

**Women:** Himachal Pradesh 3 bt Chhattisgarh 1: 12-25, 25-20, 25-25/21; Haryana 3 bt Tripura 0: 25-25-03, 25-0; Delhi 3 bt Jammu & Kashmir 0: 25-03, 25-13, 25-14; Haryana 3 bt West Bengal 0: 25-11, 19, 25-6; Gujarat beat Uttarakhand (3-0) 25-7, 25-6, 25-10; Punjab beat Bihar (3-0) 25-9, 25-13, 25-13; Karnataka beat Pondicherry (3-0) 25-10, 25-17; Odisha beat Mizoram (3-0) 25-16, 25-19, 25-18; Chhattisgarh beat Jharkhand (3-0) 25-16, 25-19.

players acknowledge fans after their 5-0 win over Besiktas in their Champions League round of 16 first leg match in

Rajasthan a sorry blank

will help us help of these can set the match, acco needs," said Abdul Nazar, the coach w with the per was a good v should be m ness among

Akhin said. "I am happy with balance and want come up with got really close the third stage there would fight but it happen," he said.

## RESULTS

Kerala bt. R  
25-13, 25-13  
Karnataka b  
25-14, 25-17  
Chhattisgarh  
Kashmir, 25-15  
Uttarakhand  
25-18, 31-29  
West Bengal  
25-15, 20-25, 2



Action from the match between Kerala and Rajasthan in the 3rd Semifinal National  
Volleyball Championship in Kozhikode - VENUGOPAL

Kerala bt R

5-13, 25-13

Karnataka	B 25-14, 25-17
Chhattisgarh	C Kashmir, 25-14
Uttarakhand	D 25-18, 31-29
West Bengal	E 25-15, 20-25, 2

Women  
Himachal  
Pradesh

Chhattisgarh	17, 25-21
Haryana	bt
	25-03, 25-00
Delhi	bt Jam
	25-03, 25-13, 2
Railways	bt
	25-11, 25-19, 2

# I to start Indian Volley Leag

SPONDENT  
FEB. 21

Federat.

Baseline United, a sports company, will Indian League this season will have six men and women category and is planned to start in September. Bidding of the teams are expected to

cancelled Inc  
bership.  
“FIVB will  
cancellation w  
There will  
players in th  
they are also k  
the league  
Ramavat.

with the same company but the league remained as a non-starter. Last year when the VFL planned to start the league, the president and secretary formed their own associations and FIVB (the international volleyball body)

be held in April and the agreement with the VFI is worth Rs 3.5 crore, said Tuhil Mishra, the managing director of Baseline Private Limited.

Two years ago, VFI had struck an agreement

There will have six to eight teams in both men and women category and is planned to start in September. Bidding of the teams are expected to