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Sport - [Tennis](#)



Jaco, Preethi clinch crowns

By Our Sports Reporter



Kerala's Jaco T. Mathew (left) and S. Preethi of Tamil Nadu, the men's and women's singles champions in the 12th KRL Open all-India tennis tournament at Kochi on Sunday.

KOCHI MAY 4. Former National junior champion, Kerala's Jaco T. Mathew, brushed aside Tamil Nadu's J. Amit 6-2, 6-3 and lifted the men's singles title in the 12th KRL Open all-India tennis tournament which concluded at the Kochi Refineries courts, Ambalamugal, on Sunday evening.

The Chennai-based Jaco, a men's doubles semifinalist at the recent Qatar Futures event, dominated the match with solid forehand top-spinners and shrewd crosscourt play.

The former BAT-trainee took home a winner's prize of Rs. 10,000.

For once, the KRL tournament witnessed some quality players but much of the fare was disappointingly lopsided. Coimbatore's 16-year-old S. Preethi, a student of Stanes' School, picked the women's crown while Mysore's R.K. Praveen and Amulya Chandra had a cakewalk on their way to the under-16 and under-14 boys' crowns.

Stories in this Section

Billiards & Snooker

- [Williams in final](#)

Chess

- [Basque team does marginally better](#)

Cricket

- [It's Tamil Nadu's day at the Wankhede](#)
- [West Indies made to follow on](#)
- [Hussain steps down from selection panel](#)
- [South Africa completes whitewash](#)

Football

- [United closes in on title](#)
- [Subrata Dutta nominated IFA secretary](#)
- [Real struck down by Mallorca](#)

Racing : Motor

- [Ferrari, Schumacher gain in Spain](#)

Sports : General

- [SARS affects world meets in Beijing](#)

Tennis

- [Jaco, Preethi clinch crowns](#)
- [Indians expected to dominate](#)
- [India finishes third](#)
- [Federer wins third title of the year](#)

Weightlifting

- [Malleswari back with a bang](#)
- [Dora takes over as WFI president, vows to clean up the sport](#)

Archery

- [Dola asserts her class](#)

Archives

[Yesterday's Issue](#)
[Datewise](#)

Features:

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[Literary Review](#)
[Metro Plus](#)
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[Book Review](#)
[Business](#)

[SciTech](#)
[Entertainment](#)
[Young World](#)
[Quest](#)
[Folio](#)

N. Nandakumar, Kochi Refineries' GM (Project Mantra), and Prasad Clemence, Manager (Sports), gave away the prizes.

The results (finals):

Men's singles: Jaco T. Mathew (Ker) bt J. Amit (TN) 6-2, 6-3;

Doubles: M.S. Krishnakumar/Binu Mani (Ker) bt Jaco T. Mathew/Sanjo T. Mathew (Ker) 5-7, 6-3, 6-3.

Women's singles: S. Preethi (TN) bt Sukirti Patnaik (Ori) 6-3, 6-1.

Under-16 boys singles: R.K. Praveen (Kar) bt Rynold Timothy (Ker) 6-0, 6-0.

Under-14 boys singles: Amulya Chandra (Kar) bt Gautam Arun (TN) 6-1, 6-1.

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