

8 envoys participate in Golf Tourney at Pahalgam

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PAHALGAM: To further promote the golfing circuit in Jammu & Kashmir; a golf tournament was organized here on Saturday at Lidder Valley Golf Course which saw the participation of around 84 golfers from across the country including eight envoys, besides local golfers.

The golf tournament was organized by PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry, New Delhi in collaboration with the Department of Tourism, Union Ministry of Tourism and other agencies.

G Kamala Vardhana Rao, Director General, Union Ministry of Tourism, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion, felicitated all the winners of the tournament.

Dr. Ashraf Shikhaliyev, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan; Ung Sean, Ambassador of Royal Embassy of Cambodia; Willy K. Bett, High Commissioner of Kenya; Moe Kyaw Aung, Ambassador of Myanmar;



Golfers in action during a tourney at Pahalgam.

Fleming Duarte, Ambassador of the Republic of Paraguay; Ramon S. Bagatsing Jr., Ambassador of the Philippines; Pham Sanh Chau, Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; Secretary, Tourism & Culture, Sarmad Hafeez, Director, Tourism, Kashmir; Dr. G N Itoo; Rajan Sehgal, President, India Golf Tourism Association; Saurabh Sanyal, Secretary General, PHDCCI; and Dr. Jatinder Singh, Assistant Secretary General, PHDCCI were present on the occasion.

Yesterday, a Golf Tourism Conclave was held on the theme 'Rejuvenating Tourism & Business through Golf at Pahalgam Club which brought together all the relevant stakeholders to discuss issues and opportunities for the promotion of Golf Tourism.

Delivering the Keynote Address, G Kamala Vardhana Rao said that Golf Tourism is one of the thrust areas of the Ministry of Tourism and the government is willing to extend necessary support to the states to further promote

this niche segment. He emphasized the need to develop more golf destinations to meet the growing demand of the golfers.

Addressing the conclave, Secretary, Tourism & Culture, Sarmad Hafeez said it has been observed that golf-linked tourists possess a higher purchasing power and spend more than the regular visitors. High profile golf events should be organized to attract domestic and international tourists and golf enthusiasts from all over the world. He further said that Jammu and Kashmir has the strength to provide round the year tourism and with Golf becoming a growing sport worldwide, there are immense opportunities for the growth of Golf Tourism in Jammu & Kashmir. Our aim is to become the golfing capital of India, he added.

The Ambassadors and High Commissioners from Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Kenya, Myanmar, Paraguay,

Philippines and Vietnam praised the scenic beauty, picturesque landscape and golf courses of Jammu and Kashmir which they said, is more beautiful as compared to what they have even in their own countries.

It may be recalled here, that the Golfing circuit of Jammu & Kashmir comprising the iconic Royal Springs Golf Course, Pahalgam Golf Course, historic courses like the Gulmarg Golf Course and Kashmir Golf Course besides Jammu-Tawi Golf Course provides a rich and varied world class experience to visiting golfers which is unparalleled in rest of the country. Recently the prestigious PGTI-Pro tournament was held at the picturesque Royal Springs Golf Course, Srinagar which saw the participation of around 126 top golfers of the country and abroad including Jyoti Randhawa, Jeev Milkha Singh, Udayam Mane and others of the same order.

Advisor Khan appreciates reach out programme of Sports Council

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SHOPIAN: Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council's month-long coaching camp in hockey discipline has concluded in Sports Stadium Shopian on Saturday. The aim of the camp was to bring sports coaching to door steps.

Around 30 players had registered for the camp at Sports Stadium Shopian inaugurated by Nuzhat Gull, Secretary J&K Sports Council. Joginder Singh, Hockey Coach of J&K Sports Council was specially deputed in Shopian district for the camp, who was thrilled to find enthusiasm among the players present in the camp and he felt that camp has brought talent to fore.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Sports Council, Nuzhat Gull remarked that the coaching camp in the peripheries of the Union Territory will not only help in unearthing of



A hockey match in progress during a training camp.

hidden talent but also become a mean to add to talent to sports pool of J&K.

Also, Principal Secretary Youth Services & Sports had applauded the role of J&K Sports Council in bringing professional coaching to the door step. He said, "this methodology of customizing the coaching programmes in peripheral areas with minimum or no reach to advance coaching will go a long way in fetching remarkable results.

Advisor to Lieutenant

Governor, Farooq Khan, who is also Vice-President of Sports Council, had appreciated the idea of reach out programme in sports and directed that such programmes should become a regular feature in other districts of the Union Territory.

Secretary Hockey Association for district Shopian applauded the role of J&K Sports Council staff associated with the camp in general and Secretary Sports Council in particular for their cooperation in organising the camp.

Inter-zonal U-17 boys' Cricket Tourney of Jammu begins



Teams playing in the opening match posing with officials at Khel Gaon, Nagrota in Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS), annual inter-zonal district level under-17 boys' cricket tournament of district Jammu got underway at upcoming Khel Gaon in Nagrota,

near here today.

In two scheduled matches of the opening day, Satwari zone defeated March zone by eight wickets and Dansal zone trounced Chowki Choura by a big margin of 57 runs.

"Teams from 14 zones of

district Jammu are taking part in this knock-out competition thus extending an opportunity to the school going cricket enthusiasts of the far off places to perform and excel," informed district (DYSS) officer, Sukhdev Raj Sharma.

Vigyan Parishad to conduct science competition 'Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan (VVM) is an initiative of Vijnana Bharti (VIBHA) in collaboration with Vigyan Prasar and NCERT for tailoring the young minds towards scientific temperament by conducting a three level science competition among students of Classes VI to XI.

For the next Level 1 selection using online mode, the registrations are open and can be done through <http://vvm.org.in> with a registration fee of Rs. 100, till October 31, 2021.

The online test will be

held on November 30 and December 5, 2021 in 12 different languages including Hindi and English from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

The National level winner will get a cash prize of Rs 25,000 besides there will be a Bhaskar scholarship of Rs 2,000 per month to National winner for one year.

National and Zonal level winners will be provided an opportunity to participate in training for 1 to 3 weeks in National labs or Research institutes like DRDO. Merit certificates will be given to all level winners.

Pritam Trust distributes uniforms among BBSBHC players



Pritam Spiritual Foundation members and others posing with players during a programme.

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POONCH: Pritam Spiritual Foundation (Regd.) on Saturday distributed fifty uniforms kits to Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Hockey Club (BBSBHC) Poonch running under the aegis of Hockey Jammu and Kashmir in an impressive function held at Govt Boys

Higher Secondary Model School Poonch.

President, Pritam Trust Poonch, Prof Jagbir Singh distributed fifty uniforms kits in the presence of Priyanka Singh Resident Secretary Hockey Jammu and Kashmir.

Prof. Jagbir Singh congratulate newly elected body

of Hockey Jammu and Kashmir including President Rajeev Sharma, Vice President Rajinder singh Kuku, General Secretary Dr Taran Singh and Treasurer Anjali Sharma.

Other dignitaries present in function were Monty Singh Hockey Coach,

Ranvir Singh Hockey Coach, Ruchika Sharma Hockey coach, Zafar Shah President JKCA, Jasbir Kaur Trustee Pritam Trust, Er Rydhampreet Singh, Mannohan Singh contractor, Kewal Krishan PEM, Shoket Hussain, Rukhsar Mughal, Imran Kohli, Mohd Moheen and Jessica Singh.

KCPS students win top positions in All India Art Fest

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Adhiraj Jamwal and Aakarsh Roshan Sharma of KC Public School did the school proud by winning the first and the second positions respectively at the 28th Jindal All India online Art Festival hosted by Vidya Devi Jindal School, Hissar. The theme for this year's celebration was 'Kintsugi' built on the idea that in embracing flaws and imperfections, one can create a stronger and more beautiful art. In all, 27 emi-



nent schools took part in the festival. The students displayed their skills in bringing out the message of Kintsugi through art, dance, music, and literary

expression. In the category of Literary Expression, Aakarsh Roshan Sharma wrote the story of the Mubarak Mandi titled 'Magnificence in Ruins' which was narrated by Adhiraj Jamwal in his inimitable style. The Management and Principal applauded the extraordinary talent of the students who not only showed exemplary zeal in the collaboration but also made it a great success story by winning the coveted top positions.

J&K Police's water sports event Jashn-e-Dal concludes

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: As a part of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav, Jammu and Kashmir Police's mega sports event Jashn-e-Dal concluded on Saturday with the overwhelming participation of water sports athletes.

The Chief Secretary J&K, Arun Kumar Mehra who was the Chief Guest at the closing ceremony who distributed cash prizes and trophies among the winners.

DGP J&K, Dilbag Singh, Spl DGP Crime J&K, A. K Chaudhary, ADGSP S. J. M. Gillani, Dr. S. D. Singh Jamwal, M. K Sinha, Sunil Kumar, Danesh Rana, Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development, Dheeraj Gupta, IGsP Garib Dass, Alok Kumar, Mayor Srinagar Junaid Azim Mattoo, water sports athletes, Commandants of Kashmir Based Battalions and large number of spectators was present at the closing ceremony.



DGP J&K, Dilbag Singh presenting memento to Chief Secretary J&K, Arun Kumar Mehra.

DGP J&K thanked all senior officers of Police, CRPF, Civil administration, Water Sports J&K, participant athletes, and spectators for attending the closing ceremony.

He also congratulated the winners and appreciated the overwhelming participation of water sport athletes in the event.

He said that it was this year's third big event organized by Jammu and

Kashmir and added that more events are being organized in future also.

He said the Jammu and Kashmir police have been regularly organizing sports events as an effort to engage our youth in positive activities.

The DGP said that enemies of peace are time and again making attempts to cause damage to the peaceful atmosphere here and added that strict action will be taken against such elements.

He said that people are very happy with the efforts of police, security forces and civil administration for peace and tranquility in Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, ADGP Armed J&K, S. J. M. Gillani said that the event was first organized by Jammu and Kashmir Police in 1999 and now is considered as a prestigious event in J&K and added that a number of international and national level athletes took part in the event.

This year around 560 participants including Men/Women, Boys & Girls regularly organizing sports events as an effort to engage our youth in positive activities.

On the closing ceremony, Individual medals, Certificates and cash prizes amounting around Rs 3.5 lakh have been distributed among the winners including Shikara owners.

The athletes who achieved first three positions in swim-

ming (100 Mtrs. Men) were

Yawar Abbas, Suhail Dar and Irfan Ahmad respectively and in swimming 50 mtrs men category, Yawar Abbas, Saif Illahi and Irfan Ahmad achieved first three positions respectively.

In Swimming 50 mtrs junior category Mohd Abbas, Ashiq Hussain and Anis Bhat achieved first three positions respectively and in Swimming 100 Mtrs Junior Boy category, Mohd Abass, Ashiq Hussain and Mehruz Ahmad achieved first three positions in Swimming 50 Mtrs in Sub Junior category, Villayat Hussain, Ahsan Ali and Mohd Yaseen achieved first three positions in Domb Baot Race 500 Mtrs. Men.

In Long Distance Swimming (Men) Waseem Raja, Khalid Majeed and Yawar Hussain achieved first three positions respectively. In Shikara Race Waseem Raja, Parvaiz and Mohd Altaf achieved first three positions respectively.



Prof. Raj Kiran, Principal GDC Kathua presenting bouquet to guest speaker Dr. Rajesh Chandel.

GDC Kathua organises lecture session on World Mental Health Day

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: With the idea of increasing awareness among college students about various mental health issues, Psychological Counseling Cell and Drug De-addiction and Rehabilitation Cell of Government Degree College (GDC) Kathua, on Friday organised a lecture-cum-interactive session on the occasion of World Mental Health Day which is observed on 10th October every year; with the objective to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and to mobilize efforts in support of better mental health.

The programme was conducted under the guidance and supervision of Prof. Raj Kiran, Principal GDC Kathua.

The programme was organised by Dr. Rachna Devi (Coordinator Psychological Counselling Cell GDC Kathua), Dr. Kamini Kapoor (Coordinator Drug De-addiction and Rehabilitation Cell GDC Kathua), Dr. Kamaldeep Singh (HOD Punjabi) and Prof Nisha Bhagat (AP Botany) Prof Jaswinder Singh (HOD Physics), Prof Rakesh Singh

(HOD chemistry) Dr. Rachna Devi (HOD Education), Dr. Jogbinder singh Soodan (Physical Director) and Prof Mannohan Singh (HOD history). The guest speaker was Dr. Rajesh Chandel, who is currently working as AP in the Department of Psychiatry GMC Kathua. He emphasized on promoting positive mental health, changing people's attitude towards mental illness to reduce the burden and stigma associated with mental illness.

He further discussed the importance of sleep hygiene and mindfulness based meditation.

More than 120 students and faculty members attended this session. Principal appreciated the efforts of whole team of psychological counseling cell GDC Kathua. She said that mental disorders affect the functioning of the individual, resulting in not only enormous emotional suffering and a diminished quality of life, but also alienation, stigma and discrimination so it's important to organize awareness programmes especially for youths being more vulnerable to psychological problems.

SKK hails Advisor Farooq Khan for helping to two Judokas

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir Samaj Kalyan Kendra (SKK), Jammu, a reputed 40 years' old NGO dedicated to the welfare of the deaf & dumb students, has hailed the Advisor to Lt Governor, Farooq Khan and the Union Minister of State for Social Justice, Dr. Virender Kumar for extending support and encouraging two deaf & dumb Judo players (Judokas) selected for the 6-member Indian national Team for first World Deaf Judo Championship at Versailles, France. Both the players-Rakshshinda Mehak and Vishal Khajuria, selected for the national team from J&K are the alumni of the School for Hearing & Speaking Handicapped run by the Samaj Kalyan Kendra, Jammu.

The SKK has decided to honour these both alumni on return from France.

In a statement, the President of the SKK, K B Jandial said that the entire SKK family conveys their best wishes to both the players of Jammu and other members of the Indian Deaf Judo team for their first ever performance at the international level and hoped that they would make Jammu & rest of India proud by their medal winning performance at the international event for this category of para-athletic sports.

Samaj Kalyan Kendrais a fertile nursery for producing professional Judokas who, in the past, had lifted many national championships for J&K.

Since 2012, SKK school students and alumni of our school had contributed in lifting six national championships and three runner-up trophies.

On individual performance, the School Judokas had won 87 medals including 34 Gold medals. This has been possible due to the training imparted by the able coach Suraj Bhan Singh of J&K Sports Council who has been selected the national coach accompanying the 6-member Indian team for France. Saying that this talent had escaped attention of the Govt in the past, Jandial said that the way the Advisor Farooq Khan have responded to our SOS for arranging funds for purchase of Judo dress of international specifications to both these players, a hope has kindled that para- sports in future would get increased focus from the Govt.

He hoped that the UT and Central Govt would wholeheartedly support and encourage this category of para sports both in terms of infrastructure and financial help. The Advisor took keen interest in the matter and arranged a meeting with the Union Minister. He hoped that both Rakshshinda Mehak and Vishal Khajuria along with other four selected Judokas of Indian team would get opportunity to call on PM Modi and seek his blessings for medal winning performance as promised by the Union Minister for Social Justice. The SKK President also requested the Advisor Farooq Khan and the Social Welfare Deptt to consider separate reservation for deaf & dumb youth in Govt service as almost all the youth even after acquiring higher education like BCA are without jobs. Even there are no opportunities in private sector in Jammu where they seek absorption for livelihood.