

4th Poonch District Taekwondo C'ship concludes



Young players posing with officials after winning medals at 4th Poonch District Taekwondo championship.

STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Fourth Kyroogi and first Poomsae Poonch District Taekwondo Championship organized by Poonch District Taekwondo Association under the aegis of J&K Taekwondo Association concluded at Sports Stadium Poonch, on Sunday.

A total of 250 players from all regions of district including five clubs of Taekwondo took part in the mega event supported by Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council and held at

Indoor Hall of Sports Stadium Poonch.

In the closing ceremony, Zaheer Ahmed Kafi, ACR Poonch was the Chief Guest while Nazia Ghani DDC Member and Jahangir Mir Ex-MLC was the Guests of Honour and Er Saleem Bandey General Secretary District TT Association, Prof Jasbir Singh Principal GDC Surankote, Premparkash Luthra Senior Vice President PDTA and Nirdosh Kumar I/c Manager Sports Stadium Poonch were the

Special Guests.

All the dignitaries were welcomed by Rajinder Singh, Taekwondo coach from DYSS.

Speaking on the occasion, Zaheer Ahmed Kafi congratulated District Taekwondo Association for organising this event of martial art for youth of Poonch.

He assured that District Administration will help PDTA for the development of Taekwondo and upliftment of youth in future by providing every possible help.

Later, players presented

demonstrations of self defence in front of dignitaries.

The chief Guest and other dignitaries distributed medals, mementos and certificates to all the participants and winners.

All the bouts were held under the technical supervision of Rajinder Singh NS NIS Coach and Technical Chairman of this Championship.

The technical team consist of Sandeep Kumar ReK, Ashaq Hussain District Referee PDTA, Pawandeep Singh ReK, Amit Kumar

ReK and Mohd Waqar ReK.

Results

GOLD: Garvin Gupta, Manmeet Singh, Khalida Jabeen, Aarhan Qureshi, Adeeba Qureshi, Vishwas Sudhan, Vishnu Raina, Akashit Sudhan, Tosif Tahir, Karan Bhargav, Kanav Bali, Ridhima Sharma, Rabia Sharma, Manpreet Kour.

SILVER: Prakriti

Sharma, Ronika Dutta, Simarn Sadeeq, Upkiran Kour and Vanshika Sharma.

Prominent persons present were Narinder Singh PEM, Rajinder Singh PEM Joint Secretary PDTA, Amit Sharma Joint Secretary PDTA, Parveen Kour Treasurer PDTA, Sanjay Raina PET, Neeraj Sharma PET, DK Raina PET and Sanjeev Gupta media pharmacist. Vijay Kumar PEM acted as stage secretary.

Vote of thanks was presented by Amit Sharma, Joint Secretary PDTA.

Ruchi, Nikhil excel in Kathua Fencing C'ship



Medal winners of Kathua Fencing Championship posing with Chief Guest at Billiawar in Kathua on Sunday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

BILLIWAR: Two-day 13th District Kathua Fencing Championship, organised by Kathua District Fencing Association, concluded at Mother Tserera Khelo India Fencing Club Dharmani in

Billiawar, on Sunday.

In this two-day event, around 110 fencers of the district contested for top honours in various events and age group. Considering their performance, Ruchi Sharma and Nikhil Spolia

were adjudged best women and men fencer respectively. Mayank Sharma was awarded for winning a medal at the National level. All three fencers were also suitably awarded with cash prizes.

Nareesh Varu, Naib Tehsildhar was the Chief Guest while Rajinder Sharma (SHO) was Guest of Honour.

The event was managed by the Organising Committee comprising, Dr Yash Paul (president), Charan Dass (vice president), Lal Chand (general secretary), Sanjeev Sharma (organising secretary), Makhan Sharma (treasure) and Kaka Ram (joint secretary) of the Kathua Association.

Dueball Senior Nationals to be held next month in MP

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 8th Senior Dueball Senior National (men and women) Championship shall be organised in the end of November in Madhya Pradesh under the aegis of Dueball Federation of India (DFI).

This was decided during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the DFI that took place at New Delhi today.

"Besides the senior national competition, the AGM also took other important decisions including SGFI development programme and development of the game at the state and district levels," informed founder member of the game from J&K, Vipan

Photra, who attended the AGM.

Among other agenda points were holding of allotted international events, inclusion of Dueball in the University Games.

Important to mention here that J&K has already started holding of district and state level activities in Dueball and two of UT players have also played at the international level.

Photra, who attended the AGM.

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National Ranking TT: Sharath adds teeth to North Zone

STATE TIMES NEWS

PANCHKULA: After a year of a lull with the pandemic taking center stage, the UTT National Ranking Table Tennis Championships get underway with the North Zone events beginning at the Tau Devi Lal Multipurpose Stadium from tomorrow.

However, the North Zone legs, divided into two parts, will see only two events in the first-Men and Women, Youth Under-19 Boys and Girls-with Haryana playing the hosts. In the second, we will witness the Youth Under-17, Under 15, and Under-13 for both Boys and Girls moving over to Mohali with Punjab staging them.

The 'Youth' nomenclature associated with events other than the seniors is in tune with the structural changes the international federation has effected in recent times.

With reigning national champions, G. Sathiyam and Manika Batra opting out of the zonal event, A. Sharath Kamal, who finished a runner-up last year at the Nationals held here, will get the pride of place in seeding.

Similarly, it will be Sreeja Akula, who will be the top seed in the women's section.

The head coach will be responsible for reviewing, maintaining, and enforcing the disciplinary codes within the Indian men's team.

Ghosh, and Sanil Shetty will

follow Sharath. Harmeet Desai, Amalraj, Ronit Bhanja and Sushmit Sriram have been placed in the 5-8 brackets of the seeding list. Sutirtha Mukherjee, Aylika Mukherjee and Reethi Rishya are seeded in that order behind Sreeja, while Takeme Sarkar, Anusha Kutumbale, Krittika Sinha Roy and Prapti Sen come in the 5-8 seeding brackets.

The National Ranking events, a regular feature until 2019, could not be held last year with Covid-19 affecting all activities, including sports. These are events that not only prepare players for the National Championships but also provide them with valuable points, the basis for selection into the national squad along the world ranking points obtained by the individuals.

However, for the players competing here, the attraction will be the presence of Sharath Kamal, the top-ranked Indian in the world at No. 32, who is most likely to make his appearance on Day 2 evening. It will be interesting to see the 39-year-old nine-time national champion motivating himself to stay in the thick of the action.

He will, undoubtedly, be the spearhead at the November 21-29 World Championships in Houston. The championships here is just a precursor for Sharath, the kind of practice session he would look forward to before the WTT Contenders that he will compete in Slovenia as preparation for the Houston Worlds.

As for the entries for the North Zone, there are 253 and 161 in the men's and women's categories, respectively. Apart from the top 16 men paddlers, the rest divided into 64 groups, will play the qualifiers. Similarly, leaving aside the eight seeded women players, the remaining players will compete in 40 groups to book their slots in the main draw.

As usual, Stag will provide the equipment-from flooring to tables-for the events here. However, the DHS balls will be in use to help players get accustomed to them as they are most likely to see the use of this brand in Slovenia and Houston.

According to competition manager N. Ganeshan, veteran A. S. Kler returns to action and he will have the support of a deputy in Atul Dubey. Both will have the assistance of 45 Blue Badge and international umpires.

Hockey players excel in Poonch Marathon



Players of Sham Lal Hockey Club posing with coaches after winning prizes in Poonch Marathon.

STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Players of Sham Lal Hockey Club excelled in the Marathon which was organised by Indian Army to support the Fit India movement with the aim to shift the focus of youth towards physical fitness and sports.

The Club clinched three positions in under-14 category and another in above 14 age group. While Sadia, Shabina Parveen and Aarzoo secured first, second and third place respectively in under-14, Mehnaz Akhter bagged second prize in above 14 category.

Mere formality but BCCI invites application for head coach's post

AGENCY

NEW DELHI: A couple of days after convincing former India captain Rahul Dravid to take up the responsibility, the BCCI on Sunday issued advertisement for the post of head coach and three support staff as per Lodha Committee mandated constitution.

It is a foregone conclusion that Dravid, who is currently heading the NCA and has been the guiding force behind the India A and U-19 programmes, is set to take over unless something miraculous happens.

Dravid has already informally agreed during his discussion with top BCCI officials in Dubai on the sidelines of IPL final.

However, a Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) in place and they will have to make a formal recommendation to

the BCCI apex council, if one goes by the book. The last date of application for all posts is October 26.

That is the reason the BCCI has now issued the advertisement for the head coach's post for a period of two years till 2023 ODI World Cup, along with positions for batting, bowling and fielding coaches.

Ravi Shastri, along with bowling coach Bharat Arun and fielding coach R Sridhar, will complete tenure at the end of India's T20 World Cup campaign next month.

Batting coach Vikram Rathour, though he doesn't have any performance to show during his two-year tenure from 2019 till date, is expected to get an extension if he applies.

For the bowling coach's position, the long-standing India A and U-19 coach Paras Mhambre, a trusted ally of

Dravid, is expected to get the job.

For the head coach's post, the incumbent will have to play either 30 Tests or 50 ODIs, along with experience of either coaching a national team for two years or any IPL team for three years.

He will be in charge of team of support staff ranging between 14 to 16 people.

The successful candidate will be responsible for developing a world class Indian cricket team which delivers sustained success in all conditions and formats, inspiring current and future generations of cricketers and stakeholders with their approach to the game," the advertisement stated.

The head coach will be responsible for reviewing, maintaining, and enforcing the disciplinary codes within the Indian men's team.

The 'Youth' nomenclature associated with events other than the seniors is in tune with the structural changes the international federation has effected in recent times.

With reigning national champions, G. Sathiyam and Manika Batra opting out of the zonal event, A. Sharath Kamal, who finished a runner-up last year at the Nationals held here, will get the pride of place in seeding.

Similarly, it will be Sreeja Akula, who will be the top seed in the women's section.

Among the other seeds, Manav Thakkar, Soumyajit

Ghosh, and Sanil Shetty will follow Sharath. Harmeet Desai, Amalraj, Ronit Bhanja and Sushmit Sriram have been placed in the 5-8 brackets of the seeding list. Sutirtha Mukherjee, Aylika Mukherjee and Reethi Rishya are seeded in that order behind Sreeja, while Takeme Sarkar, Anusha Kutumbale, Krittika Sinha Roy and Prapti Sen come in the 5-8 seeding brackets.

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Among the other seeds, Manav Thakkar, Soumyajit

Roy and another senior batter in Jonny Bairstow.

If the IPL is any indicator, on the slow tracks some of the English players like Liam Livingstone and Dawid Malan seemed to struggle when the ball didn't come on to the bat. Skipper Eoin Morgan was brilliant as a leader at KKR but he would also like to score a few runs going into tournament proper.

Squads:

India: Virat Kohli (capt), Rohit Sharma (vc), KL Rahul, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (wk), Ishan Kishan (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Varun Chakravarthy, Rahul Chahar, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Hardik Pandya.

England: Eoin Morgan (capt), Jason Roy, Sam Billings, Liam Livingstone, Dawid Malan, Jos Buttler (wk), Jonny Bairstow (wk), Moeen Ali, Tom Curran, Chris Jordan, David Willey, Chris Woakes, Tymal Mills, Adil Rashid, Mark Wood.

Match Starts at 7:30 PM.

India's warm-up worries Kishan or Rahul as second opener Hardik's batting position

AGENCY

DUBAI: All-rounder Hardik Pandya's form and few batting slots will be foremost on captain Virat Kohli's mind as India look to make the most of two T20 World Cup warm-up matches starting with a game against England on Monday.

With all the Indian players coming straight from the recently-concluded IPL, match practice isn't a problem for Kohli and his men but getting the perfect combination on the park before the high-profile opening game against England on Monday.

Against England and the Wednesday's game versus Australia, the Indian team management would look to give the players who are still not automatic choices in the playing XI, more overs to bat or bowl to get a better idea about their current form.

Vice-captain Rohit Sharma is a certainty at the top but it would be a tough choice between Ishan Kishan and KL Rahul as his opening partner.

Otherwise, he has not exactly got the move-on in power play overs and has only been

able to accelerate towards the end in other games.

Kishan was brilliant as Rohit's opening partner in the last two games as he nearly took Mumbai Indians into the play-offs with two blazing fifties.

If Rahul is the team's preferred choice, Kishan might just force Hardik into the No. 6 slot in the batting order, which is ideal for a finisher. For MI, both Hardik and Kishan had underwhelming returns in the UAE leg.

Hardik is another big factor in this line-up as chances of him bowling full tilt or for that matter bowling at all are very less.

For England, a rejuvenated Jos Buttler with his pyrotechnics will hold the key along with the flamboyant Jason

in better touch.

Rahul will be the favourite

considering that he has the

experience of playing pressure