

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 Kyrongi 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 Bandy 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 Kaifi 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, Aaarhan Qureshi, Adeeba Qureshi, Vishvas Sudan, Vishnu Raina, Akarshit Sudan, Toseef Tahir, Karan Bhargav, Kanav Bali, Ridhima Sharma, Rabia Sharma, Manpreet Kour.

SILVER:

Prakriti Sharma, Ronika Dutta, Simarn Sadeeq, Upkirat 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 Billiwar in Kathua on Sunday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

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

Billawar, 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

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 SGPI development programme and development of the game at the state and district levels," informed founder member of the game from J&K, Vipan



Vipan Photra of J&K Dueball Association being felicitated during AGM at Delhi on Sunday.

Photra, who attended the AGM.

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

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.

Naresh Vara, 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.

Mission Youth organises mega audition for upcoming Iconic Week festivals

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To provide a platform to the budding artists, Mission Youth J&K on Sunday organised a mega audition for upcoming Iconic festivals in UT of J&K.

Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Chief Executive Officer Mission Youth said that online entries were invited from the budding artists of J&K and shortlisted artists were called at Jammu and Srinagar today for live performance. The artists sent their entries through social media channels of the Mission Youth. The result of the audition held today shall be declared on the JK Youth portal on 20th of October 2021.

CEO Mission Youth said

that this talent show has provided a platform to all such youth so that their talent can be recognised properly and other youngsters will also be encouraged to come forward and showcase their talent to entire music world. National level performers shall be performing at various places across UT of J&K in the upcoming Iconic festivals and the Youth selected by Mission Youth shall also be part of the various events going to be organized during the week.

The audition was conducted by the Mission Youth in collaboration with Atlas Event Management. The winners will get a chance to perform with the national level celebrities during the upcoming

Iconic week festivals. Song of the winner shall be recorded at the Professional studio while a Professional music video of the winner shall also be recorded. The proceedings were conducted by the OSDs Mission Youth Dr. Abdul Khahir and Dr. Murtaza Rashid at Jammu and Srinagar respectively. Certificates were also distributed amongst all the participants.

Mission Youth shall also be organizing more such competitions at district level apart from organizing sports activities across UT of J&K. These activities are being organized in such a manner that it results in theme based and targeted recreational event.

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 Aarzo secured first, second and third place respectively in under-14, Mehnaz Akhter bagged second prize in above 14 category.

Ludhiana-born Jatinder stars in Oman's 10-wkt victory over Papua New Guinea

■ AGENCY

OMAN: Ludhiana-born Jatinder Singh smashed an unbeaten 73 as co-hosts Oman thrashed Papua New Guinea (PNG) by 10 wickets in the opening Group B first round match of the T20 World Cup here on Sunday.

Courtesy Jatinder's 42-ball-knock and his opening partner Aqib Ilyas's 50 not out off 43 balls, Oman chased down a modest 130-run target in only 13.2 overs.

None of the PNG bowlers could create any trouble for Jatinder and Aqib as they went about their business in confident fashion from the onset.

While Jatinder had seven fours and four sixes in his knock, Aqib's innings was laced with five boundaries and one hit over the fence.

Very strong against slow bowlers, Jatinder would rock back and hit them or mid-wicket for sixes as he carried his form from the Qualifying tournament in 2019 where he was the highest run-getter for his adopted country.

Earlier, skipper Asad Vala struck a fine half-century before rival captain Zeeshan Maqsood returned with figures of 4/20 with his slow left-arm orthodox which restricted PNG to 129/9.

"They were batting very well when I got the wickets, because we got the wickets, they couldn't put on a big total. I just try to keep it tight and not give away loose balls. We knew the wicket was playing very well, we needed to make sure we didn't give away loose balls and easy boundaries," Maqsood, who was adjudged 'Player of the Match' said at the post-game presentation ceremony.

Chhtri credits youngsters in Indian team for SAFF C'ships triumph

■ AGENCY

MALÉ: Talismanic skipper Sunil Chhetri played a pivotal role in India's eighth SAFF Championships title triumph by striking five goals but he credited the young brigade for team's victory.

The 37-year-old Chhetri, Indian football's torch bearer for the last 10 years, went past legendary Pele and equalled Lionel Messi when he scored the team's opener -- and his 80th goal -- against Nepal in the summit clash on Saturday.

"Look at the youngsters -- it feels good for all of them. It's all due to their hard work. We were here for 20 days till the final, staying on an island, riding the waves every day for practice sessions, and matches," Chhetri said in a release from All India Football Federation.

"We made it special as we were not so good in the first two games. It was tough from there to come up and play the way we did," added Chhetri after his third triumph in the SAFF Championship as a player.

Chhetri, who has won the regional tournament in 2011 and 2015 also, was referring to the draws against Bangladesh (1-1) and Sri Lanka (0-0) in the first two matches which had attracted criticism.

"Didn't start like we should have, but ended exactly how we wanted to. Proud of this bunch and the way we got things on track," he later said in a tweet.

Chhetri, who scored five out of India's eight goals, was all praise of the other two Indian goal getters on Saturday -- Suresh Singh and Sahal Abdul Samad.

"I enjoyed watching that, Sahal. Suresh, of all the things you copy from me, this is up there. Make it a habit," said the captain.

Sahal, on his part, said it was an "unbelievable" moment and "a miracle". "I don't know what happened inside the box. I came in for the last 4-5 minutes. My teammates have been working hard - it all goes to them," he said.

"But I just don't remember

what happened inside the box. I got it and went in. This is an amazing feeling."

Head coach Igor Stimac, who was banned from the dugout in the summit clash after being red carded in the earlier league match against Maldives, let the players take centrestage.

"The boys have done it," he quipped.

Stimac became the third foreign coach after Jiri Pesek (1993) and Stephen Constantine (2015) to clinch the title with the Indian team.

The Blue Tigers dedicated the trophy to their two injured teammates -- Farukh Choudhary, and Brandon Fernandes, who weren't able to travel to the ground.

While Mandar Rao Dessai and Glan Martins carried Brandon's jersey with them, Rahul Bheke preferred to wear Farukh's jersey even at the victory podium.

"Farukh and Brandon are very much here, and a part of this triumph. Their contribution in this Championship will never go unnoticed," Bheke said.

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 Bharath 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 Mhambrey, 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.

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 Pakistan on October 24 is a priority.

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.

It could well be a case where both are given a fair go at the top of the order to see who is



in better touch.

Rahul will be the favourite considering that he has the experience of playing pressure matches and is in good form having amassed 626 runs (including 30 sixes) at a strike-rate of 138.80 in 14 IPL games.

Such numbers make him the favourite to pip Kishan but it is worth mentioning that Rahul's statistic improved substantially during an inconsequential game for Punjab Kings against Chennai Super Kings, in which he scored 98 not out off 42 balls with eight sixes and seven fours.

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.

In this situation if the team punts on him, expecting that

his 'MS Dhoni-esque' helicopter shots will come off, they would have to decide which is a better slot for him. Is it above Rishabh Pant at No. 5, or at No. 6, where he may get only 15 balls at the max to show his prowess.

Similarly, in the spin bowling department, Ravindra Jadeja may have two spinners playing with him and Varun Chakravathy is all but confirmed if he remains fit. The third spinner's choice is between Rahul Chahar's leg-breaks and R Ashwin's off-breaks.

During the captain's meet, skipper Virat Kohli praised Chahar junior for extracting good pace off the slow UAE wickets, which has enabled him to keep the more seasoned Yizvendra Chahal out of the team.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah are expected to be the two pacers but if the team plays a spinner less, then Shardul Thakur's inclusion will provide the depth required.

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

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, Ravichandran Ashwin, Varun Chakravathy, 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.