

Secy YSS declares National Softball Championship open

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Youth Services and Sports (YSS), Sarmad Hafeez, on Saturday inaugurated the 45th Senior National Softball Championship being hosted at twin venues of Bakshi Stadium and Multiple Sports Complex Gindun, Rajbagh here.

The inaugural ceremony of the national event was held at Bakshi Stadium.

While addressing the participants, Sarmad Hafeez said that the championship is expected to generate an intense competition among the teams, as they strive to be crowned as the national champions. "Over thousand players from twenty seven different states and union territories of the country are participating in the tournament", he added.

Sarmad Hafeez said that such championships not only provide a platform for athletes to showcase their skills

but also serves as an opportunity for them to compete for national honour. The winners of the championship will not only be recognized as the best in the country but will also gain prestige and recognition for their achievements, he added.

Secretary said that this is the series of national events that J&K has been hosting and till now four national level competitions in sports disciplines of Handball, Arm Wrestling, Thang-Ta and the Football during the current year has provided platform to the youth to showcase their talent. This has also immensely helped in sending out a message of changing J&K.

"The efforts at the ground level culminated in massive participation of around fifty three lakh players in various sports events held at Panchayat, Block, District, UT and National level and number is expected to reach

seventy lakh this year with increased base of sports activities in the region," said Sarmad Hafeez.

Secretary J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gull, speaking on the sidelines of the event, said that at a time when Softball is gaining popularity among masses in India, this championship provides an opportunity for local athletes to represent their regions and compete at national level. For Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council, hosting the championship is a proud moment as it shall go along way in further promotion of sports in the region, she added.

Among others present on the occasion included Dr. Zaffar Iqbal CAO Sports Council, Muzzafar Hussain Wani Divisional Sports Officer, Kashmir and office bearers of Softball Association of India including Dr Praveen Anorkar, Director International

tours, LR Moria Secretary General, Shirikant Thorat, Dharmaji Choudankar, Vice President, Tabinder Sahu Vice President from Softball Association of India, Abdul Rehman Shigan and Waseem Ahmad President and General Secretary, J&K Softball Association of J&K.

The tournament will witness matches being played at the Bakshi Stadium and Multi-Purpose Sports Centre Gindun, Rajbagh. These venues have been prepared to host the event, ensuring that all facilities are in top-notch condition.

The championship will consist of matches in both the men's and women's sections. With a total of 27 teams in the men's section and 25 teams in the women's section. There will be a total of 52 teams participating in the tournament. The event will last for five days and conclude on 8th of this month.

Meanwhile, Sarmad Hafeez also inaugurated the 50th UT Badminton Championship at Sheri Kashmir Indoor Sports Complex Srinagar today. The five day event shall witness participation of around two hundred players representing different districts of J&K.

Sarmad Hafeez asked the J&K Badminton Association to pitch up for organizing a national badminton event in J&K and assured full support on this account. He also directed that the camp for national level badminton players should become a regular feature in J&K with boost in game related infrastructure in the region.

On the occasion, Secretary J&K Sports Council Nuzhat Gull highlighted the measures taken for improvement of Badminton and its related infrastructure in J&K.

KC International School hosts inter school junior soccer challenge 2023

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: KC International School, a beacon of academic excellence, took a stride beyond the classroom boundaries by organizing an exhilarating Inter School Junior Soccer Challenge 2023 on 3rd & 4th November 2023.

The event aimed to foster sportsmanship, teamwork, and athleticism among young students from various schools.

Dr. Vinod Kumar, SSP Jammu was the Chief Guest and Narinder Gupta, former President J&K Football Association, Chaitanya Chowdhary, President KCIS and Anupama Sinha, Principal KCIS were the Guests of Honour and Vishal Sood, DySP Jammu and Kunal Singh Jamwal, SHO Domana were the Special Guests on the occasion.

The tournament witnessed enthusiastic participation from 10 leading schools of



SSP Jammu, Dr. Vinod Kumar posing with other dignitaries and participating students.

Jammu namely KC International School, DPS Nagbani, GD Goenka Public School, Doon International School, Jammu Sanskriti, Jammu, APS BD Bari, KC Public School, SGSD International, APS Kaluchak and APS Miran Sahib. In the first semi final match, GD Goenka Public School beat APS BD Bari by 1-0 while in second, Doon International defeated KC International School

by 3-0. In the final match, Doon International School outplayed GD Goenka by 2-0. Hence the Doon International School won the trophy and GD Goenka Public School secured the runner up trophy. Anupama Sinha, the principal of KC International School, gave the vote of thanks. The winners were felicitated by the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour and the principal KCIS.

JU cagers win second tie in NZ meet



University of Jammu team posing with officials after winning the match.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The University of Jammu (JU) men basketball team won their second consecutive tie to strengthen their position in the ongoing North Zone Inter-University Tournament, organized by Amity University, Gurgaon in Haryana.

As per the details pouring

in their second outing JU trounced VMS-BUTU 35-31 points. The JU team is accompanied by Rohan Kumar Kundal and Hritik Khullar as coach and manager respectively.

Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba, Director Sports & Physical Education, University of Jammu lauded the efforts of

the team specially Rohan Kumar Kundal and Hritik Khullar who are accompany as Coach/ Manager.

He also congratulated the players of Jammu University Basketball (M) team for showing tremendous performance and wished them to give their best performance in the next match.

Jodhamal students emerge victorious in INTACH Quiz 2023 (City Round)

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Annual City Round of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) Quiz Competition 2023 was organised in Jodhamal Public School, here.

The city rounds of quiz are followed by the State and National rounds which will be held outside Jammu, subsequently.

In the city round, with a total of 23 teams from 12 Schools, a total of 46 participants took part.

The participating schools included Jammu Sanskriti School, KC Public School, K C International School, Army School Akhnoor, Army School Kaluchak, Army Public School B D Bari, Model



JPS faculty and INTACH officials posing with students during a quiz.

Academy, Army Public School, Jammu Cantt, Army School Dazmana, International Delhi Public School, J K Public School and the host Jodhamal Public School.

The programme commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the

dignitaries, S M Sahni, Convener, INTACH (Jammu Chapter), Arvind Kotwal, former JKAS Officer, Nandan Kuthiala, Trustee, Arati Kuthiala, Director, Girish Kumar, Principal and Shefali Senwal, Vice Principal.

The quiz was conducted by the Quizmaster, Namrata

Sharma. Mubeen Butt proposed the vote of thanks. The programme was coordinated by Deepali Sharma, Teacher-in-Charge, INTACH Club.

After an exciting and intense written phase, four teams qualified for the final

stage round.

The five Rounds on the stage comprised questions on Indian Culture, famous Personalities, Your State, Your City and about INTACH.

The Quiz Team of Jodhamal Public School comprising Kushaghar Sambyal and Adit Gupta secured the first position, and qualified for the State level round. The Team Army Public School Akhnoor secured the third place.

The winners were felicitated by the dignitaries from INTACH, Jammu Chapter; S M Sahni, Arvind Kotwal and K K Sharma. All participants received the Certificate of Participation.

Army-backed Sheetal Devi's journey from J-K village to Asian Para Games podium

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Born without arms into a poor family in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, Sheetal Devi's life was more of hardship and less of hope until the Indian Army "adopted" her and helped change its course. And, in a short span of time, she turned into an ace para-archer and secured a record haul of three medals - two gold and one silver - at the just-concluded Asian Para Games in China's Hangzhou.

The 16-year-old returned

home to a rousing welcome this week with her feat drawing applause and admiration from all quarters.

An official said Devi was born into a poor family in Loi Dhar village in the remote forested mountains of Kishtwar district. Despite all their hardships, her parents - Maan Singh and Shakti Devi - took care of their specially-abled child and sent her to a school.

Their hardship turned into hope when the Indian Army spotted her in 2019 and

started helping the family, the official said.

The Dogra Regiment, or 11 Rashtriya Rifles, of the Army adopted her in May 2020 and she started taking part in various "sadbhavana" (good-will) activities organised for the youth.

In May 2021, the Army regiment approached Meghna Girish, the mother of Major Akshay Girish who made the supreme sacrifice for the nation in November 2016, to help Devi get artificial hands, the official said.

He said Meghna Girish was prompt to approach actor Anupam Kher and after a series of discussions among all people involved, Devi got the state-of-the-art bionic arms in October 2021 from Bengaluru, fitted by renowned doctor Srikanth and his team.

During the time she was in Bengaluru, Preeti Rai of NGO The Being You, came into the picture and introduced her to many sports persons to motivate her to take up para sports, the official

said.

He said that after a series of tests, Rai found that para archery was where Devi will make a mark.

She was then introduced to coaches Kuldeep Baidwan and Abhilasha Chaudhary. The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board provided her training and other support.

The Rashtriya Rifle battalion coordinated all her activities and helped her family.

Devi got first international exposure in May this year and won medals for the

country at the world archery event before making Jammu and Kashmir and the country proud at the Asian Para Games.

Devi, who met Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier this week before returning to Jammu and Kashmir, said he "blessed me and motivated me to continue playing better in the days to come." She is now determined to secure gold at the Paralympic Games to be held in Paris next year; the official added.

Afreen wins Taekwondo Silver for J&K in Nation Games

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Talented Afreen Hyder of Kashmir brought laurels to J&K by winning a Silver medal in Taekwondo in the ongoing 37th National Games at Goa.

The lone participant in Taekwondo discipline from the Union Territory, Afreen lost her final bout to opponent from Kerala in a close contest 9-10, 1-3.

"Contesting in 67 kg weight category, Afreen won her opening bout against Assam, followed by the second win against Andhra Pradesh. However, she lost to her



Afreen Hyder of Kashmir after winning silver medal.

opponent from Kerala 9-10, 1-3 in the final to contain with a Silver," informed her

coach, accompanying in the prestigious event, Atul Pangotra.

Power shutdown

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Lakad Mandi, Patoli, Janipur Colony, Pamposh Colony, Ambredhar Nagar, High Court, Daily Excelsior, Statistical Office and adjoining areas will remain affected on November 05 from 8 am to 10 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Chakroi, Pindi, Hansa, Satraiyan, Flora, BOP, Tanda, Kirpind, Seed Farm, Ward No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 (R S Pura), Paper Mill, Dablehar, Badyal, Chowalla & its adjoining areas will remain

affected on November 05 and 07 from 8 am to 12 noon.

Likewise, the power supply to Martha, Nagrota and adjoining will remain affected on November 07 from 9 am to 12 noon.

Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Palli & Barnoti local will remain affected on November 5 and 7 from 6 am to 10 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Kanhal-2, Industry-land adjoining areas will remain affected on November 5 from 7 am to 11 am.

Shiksha Niketan School conducts Career Counselling Programme



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shiksha Niketan Senior Secondary School, Jeevan Nagar, Jammu on Saturday conducted Career Counselling Programme for the Students of Class 12th. The function commenced

with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by Chief Guest, Dr. Kuldeep Walia and Rameshwar Mengi, Principal.

Dr. Kuldeep spoke about different career options after Class 12th. She incul-

cated important information which would be helpful in their career.

Principal expressed his gratitude to her for the golden information shared with the students of Class 12th.

Cultural unit DIPR Jammu campaigns for corruption free India



DIPR artists performing during a cultural programme at GMS Domana.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A cultural programme was organised on Saturday by the Cultural Unit of Department of Information and Public Relations Jammu on the theme Corruption free India at Government Middle School Domana, Jammu. On the occasion, artists of Cultural Wing presented folk songs, theme songs and patriotic songs. Students of the school also presented a colourful Cultural programme.

While speaking on the occasion, the Chief

Guest and Headmaster of the school Rajni Bala shared her views on the topic and appreciated the Cultural Unit of Department of Information and Public Relations for organizing such a meaningful program to aware the future of the nation. Cultural Officer Mukesh Kumar Sharma was the guest of honour on the occasion. Among others, staff members of the school, officials of the Information Department and a large number of the audience witnessed the program.

Govt Polytechnic Jammu inks MOU with DAV University Jalandhar for up-skilling of students

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Government Polytechnic College Jammu on Saturday inked Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with DAV University Jalandhar, Punjab for upskilling of engineering students to latest technologies at Center for Invention, Innovation, Incubation and Training (CIIT) Jammu established at Government Polytechnic Jammu for enhancing their employability.

The MoU was signed between Er Arun Bangotra Principal and Dr. Manoj Kumar, Vice Chancellor DAV University Jalandhar; Punjab and Dr. Sharanjit Singh, in presence of Sudershan Kumar, Director Skill Development, HOD



Mechanical Engineering and Er Ved Raj Khullar, Asstt Prof DAV University.

The Director Skill Development, J&K congratulated the twin institutions for collaborating with each other to benefit and enhance the skills and knowledge of the engineering and polytechnic

students for better employability. He said that purpose of this MoU was to enhance the competency of the Engineering & Technical students of DAV University Jalandhar; Punjab by imparting skill training in latest technologies at CIIT Jammu by faculty from Tata Technologies. The same would

help to bridge the gap between Industry and Academia and to enhance the employability of students.

Er Arun Bangotra, Principal informed that Government Polytechnic Jammu has established a Center for Invention, Innovation, incubation & Training to impart training to students in latest trends of Manufacturing Technology, Automobile Engineering conforming to Industry 4.0 with the help of Tata Technologies Ltd Pune.

The DAV University Jalandhar; Punjab also agreed to offer facilities for up-skilling of Polytechnic Staff and students to new technologies at their campus.

Dr. Manoj Kumar, Vice Chancellor informed that DAV

University Jalandhar; Punjab shall conduct the seminars, conferences and workshops at Government Polytechnic Jammu to promote the start-ups and entrepreneurship ecosystem in J&K.

Er. Inderjeet Singh, Workshop Superintendent; Er. Sukhdeep Singh, HOD Civil Engg; Er.Raj Kumar, HOD Mechanical Engg; Er Jasdeep Kour; HOD I&C; Er. Manjeet Singh, HOD Electrical Engg; Er. Sanjay Koul, HOD Computer Engg; Er. Ajay Thapa, Training & Placement Officers, Sandeep Nimballkar, Programme Director; Tusher SMEs of TATA technologies Ltd, Er Nazir Ahmed, Media Coordinator and other officers of Skill Development were present.