

District Kathua Athletics meet held

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Organised by the Kathua District Athletics Association under the aegis of J&K Amateur Athletics Association, the two-day district championship concluded on Sunday at Government Degree College (GDC) ground, here.

The event was organized in collaboration with Department of Sports, GDC Kathua and sponsored by J&K Sports Council. Around 150 boys and girls participated in various age groups in this event, a handout issued by the Association informed.

The DDC Nagri, Sandeep Majotra was Chief Guest, who along with Sharat Chander Singh, General Secretary of J&K Amateur Athletics Association; Dr. J S Soodan, PTI GDC Kathua, Joginder Kumar, Manager



Winner athletes posing with dignitaries after receiving certificates.

Sports Stadium Kathua and Sanjeev Singh, General Secretary Kathua District Athletics Association presented medals and certificates to those winner athletes.

The Results: BOYS: Open: 200 mtrs: Bharat Bushan, Ist; Paramdeep Singh, 2nd and Dinesh Kumar, 3rd. Under-20: Akshat Jasrotia, Ist;

Aman Singh, 2nd and Manik Sharma, 3rd. Under-18: Sunny Sharma, Ist; Ravinder Singh, 2nd and Raghuvir Sharma, 3rd. 800 mts Open: Brij Bushan, Ist; Suraj Kumar, 2nd and Yograj Singh, 3rd. 400 mts Open: Paramdeep Singh, Ist; Bhag Hussain, 2nd and Sawarn Singh, 3rd. 400 mts Under-20: Saqib Ali, Ist; Lakhveer Singh, 2nd and

Naresh Kumar, 3rd. 400 mts Under-18: Shakti Chandal, Ist; Raghuveer Singh, 2nd and Mohit Kanethia, 3rd. 600 mts Under-16: Danish Kumar Sharma, Ist; Vansh Sharma, 2nd and Sunil Kumar, 3rd. 600 mts Under-14: Gourav Kumar, Ist; Kartik Sharma, 2nd and Daljeet Kumar, 3rd. 1500 mts Open: Brij Bushan, Ist; Bag Hussain, 2nd and Yograj Singh, 3rd. 1500 mts Under-20: Shiv Kumar, Ist; Maseem Hussain, 2nd and Rajbir Singh, 3rd. 1000 mts Under-18: Sunny Sharma, Ist; Sonu, 2nd and Ravinder Singh, 3rd. Shot Put Under-14: Arlove, Ist; Daljit Kumar, 2nd and Sarthak Dubey, 3rd. Shot Put Under-18: Mohit, Ist; Jatin, 2nd and Varun, 3rd. Shot Put Under-16: Samar, Ist; Sunil, 2nd and Gokul Sharma, 3rd.

Shot Put Under-20: Shiv Kumar, Ist; Naresh Kumar, 2nd and Rajbir Singh, 3rd. 60 mts Under-14: Gourav Kumar, Ist; Lalit Khajuria, 2nd and Kartik Sharma, 3rd. 100 mts Under-18: Shuvam Kumar, Ist; Kanav Kumar, 2nd and Sonu, 3rd. GIRLS: 1500 mts Open: Mamta Sharma, Ist; Skeeana Bibi, 2nd and Tania Bhadwal, 3rd. 600 mts Under-16: Kasol, Ist; Himakshi, 2nd and Sehaj, 3rd. 200 mts Under-18: Isha Sharma, Ist; Diksha Devi, 2nd and Shivatu Devi, 3rd. Shot Put Under-18: Payal Kumari, Ist and Sunami, 2nd. Shot Put Open: Amita Dhanwal, Ist; Sakina, 2nd and Sunami, 3rd. 100 mts Under-18: Isha Sharma, Ist; Shivatu Devi, 2nd and Diksha Devi, 3rd.

Singh Cricket Club Akhnoor wins in New Year Cup

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AKHNOOR: Singh Cricket Club Akhnoor outplayed Rebellz Cricket Club Jammu by five wickets in the New Year Cup, organized by Singh Cricket Club Akhnoor under the overall Supervision of its President Sham Singh Langheh at Government Higher Secondary School Akhnoor ground here on Sunday.

Earlier, batting first after winning the toss, Rebellz Cricket Club scored 152 runs for the loss of four wickets in 20 overs. Rohit Singh was the top scorer with 46 runs while Sachin made 25 runs and Vicky and Sunny scored 28 runs each. For Singh Cricket Club Akhnoor, Sham Singh Langheh and Pankaj Kumar claimed two wickets



Winner team posing for a photograph at Akhnoor.

each.

In reply, Singh Cricket Club Akhnoor chased the target making 154 runs for the loss of five wickets in 14.3 overs. Binay Partap Singh scored unbeaten 38 runs followed by Sonu Manhas, while made 37 runs.

Gagandeep Singh scored 22 runs while Bishan Kumar remained not out at 17 runs. For Rebellz Cricket Club, Abhishek Salathia and Sachi grabbed two wickets each and Vicky got one wicket. Sunny was declared as Man of the Match.

Physics Wallah launches tech-enabled offline Vidyapeeth Centre in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Physics Wallah (PW), India's leading edtech platform, is extending its presence in Jammu with the inauguration of an offline PW Vidyapeeth center, emphasizing its commitment to establishing educational hubs across the country and making education more accessible to students.

PW Vidyapeeth Jammu boasts state-of-the-art infrastructure with 22 tech-enabled classrooms offering a conducive learning environment. The center also provides a library facility/self-study space, fostering a productive study atmosphere. For the next academic year's enrollment, the centre will be offering an additional discount of 20% to students. Additionally, PW



A dignitary inaugurating tech-enabled offline Vidyapeeth Centre in Jammu.

Vidyapeeth has the Student Welfare Scheme (SWS), providing support for hostels, and transportation facilities, and offering 24/7 assistance to students in case of emergencies.

Furthermore, PW Vidyapeeth Jammu will also be organizing a mega event called 'Aagaz' at the offline centre with students on January 21, where some of its top faculties will be present.

Ankit Gupta, CEO of PW Vidyapeeth Offline, said, "With the launch of every center in India, we move closer to our commitment to providing access to quality education for students. We aim to bring education closer to their homes, alleviating the financial burden often associated with traveling to distant cities in search of the right educational platform. We believe that every student deserves the best education and the most effective means of learning."

PW offline Vidyapeeth centres offer the facilities of recorded lectures, assistance with NCERT materials, offline doubt-solving, Daily Practice Problems (DPPs) with video solutions, specialized modules, Previous Year Questions (PYQs), and PW-AITS (fortnightly Tests). The offline centers also have a dedicated desk for the Student Success Team (SST), making PW the only one to provide quick and personalized resolutions to student concerns. There is also a system of parent-teacher dashboard, which offers real-time updates on student progress.

J&K UT team wins overall winner prize in National Singing/ Dance Championship

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Twenty four children and youth from various localities of Jammu and Kashmir participated in the national competition "National Singing/ Dance Championship 2023-24" organized by Dance Sports Association (Bharat) at Khandwal, Madhya Pradesh, on January 6, 2024.

These children were selected on the basis of their performance at district level and state level competitions organized by Dance Sports Council, J&K.

The children and youth performed brilliantly at the national competition and won medals in various categories on the basis of their performance.

The J&KUT team participants were accompanied by Tajinder Singh, President, Dance Sports Council of J&K, Curvinder Kour, Technical Secretary, Dance Sports Association (Bharat) and Poonam Honda, renowned choreographer of J&K.

Tavishi Anand from District Doda and Aradhya Raina from Reasi district won gold medal in Solo Category. Ishmeet Kour, Priyanshu and Prince won gold



J&K winner team posing for a photograph with dignitaries.

medal in Trio Dance category.

The Bhangra Group of Harman Dance Institute, Upper Gadgarh, Jammu won silver medal in group dance category. Alia Thapa from district Reasi and Hemshikha Sharma from district Udhampur won silver medal in junior category. The participants of J&K UT were declared the overall winners and were felicitated with winner's cheque presented by Rajnikant Thakur,

National Secretary, Dance Sports Association (Bharat).

The best performers were honoured and felicitated by Management of Harman Cultural and Educational Society, Jammu for their jubilant performances at national level competition. These jubilant performers have been selected for participation in South Association Championship 2024 to be held in Sri Lanka.

Doda administration boosts adventure tourism with rafting event

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: In a significant move to promote adventure sports and tourism, the district administration Doda has organized a thrilling rafting event at the popular Shibnote rafting spot, near Premnagar.

Supervised by Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh, the event marks a continued effort to highlight the district's potential as a hub for adventure activities.

The rafting activity, held on the white waters of the Chenab River, was expertly conducted by the members of Extreme Adventure Group, known for their experience and skill in adventure sports.



Rafting team with officers at popular Shibnote rafting spot near Premnagar.

The Deputy Commissioner himself participated in the event, donning the necessary safety gear and experiencing the exhilarating sport under the watchful eyes of rafting professionals.

Alongside him was the Chief Executive Officer of the Bhaderwah Development Authority, further underscoring the event's significance.

Addressing the media, DC Harvinder Singh shared his

enthusiasm for such events, noting their vital role in boosting tourism, especially in adventure sports. He expressed optimism about the potential impact of these activities on the district's

tourism, particularly attracting tourists from Bhaderwah to explore Shibnote's adventure destinations.

The 15 Day rafting event has already garnered attention from tourists across the district. The success of this and previous events at Shibnote is seen as a milestone in the promotion of tourism in Doda, particularly the adventure sports.

The administration plans to introduce more diverse adventure activities, like trekking, paragliding, and mountain biking to showcase Doda an attractive destination for adventure enthusiasts.

EPICs distributed among Kashmiri migrants at Jagti camp

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In continuation to the series of Special Camps being held at Jagti Migrant camp, Electoral Photo Identity Cards (EPICs) were on Sunday distributed among the Kashmiri Migrants in respect of 47 Assembly Constituencies of Kashmir Province. The special camps for the distribution of the Election Cards are being held from January 5 to 12, 2024. The Migrants whose EPICs have been received by the office of AERO(M) Jammu and the details of which are available on the official web-



site i.e [www.https://www.jkni-grantrelief.nic.in](https://www.jkni-grantrelief.nic.in) have collected their EPIC Cards. This is for the first time the voter cards are being given to the migrants at their doorsteps. Approximately 2400 EPICs

have been distributed at Jagti in past three days.

People at large praised the efforts of Election Commission, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) and AERO(M) Jammu.

Pistol and rifle shooters renew quest for Paris quota

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAKARTA: The Indian rifle and pistol shooters will renew their quest for Paris Olympic quota places when the Asian Olympic Qualification begins here from Monday.

A total of 16 Paris quota places are available at the continental showpiece and the Indian pistol shooters will be in contention for as many as five possible berths.

The 10m air pistol events for men and women, which have four quotas on offer with a maximum of three for the Indian shooters, begin on the first day of competition with three Indians in contention in each of the two Olympic events.

The men go first with Arjun Singh Cheema, Varun Tomar and Ujjwal Malik gunning for podium finishes and the one quota place that they can win in the event.

Sarabjot Singh has already won the other for the country last year. Esha Singh, Rhythm Sangwan and Surbhi Rao then shoulder Indian hopes in the women's 10m air pistol, where India has still to win a Paris quota.

National Pistol coach Samaresh Jung was positive about India's chances.

Sharing his thoughts during pre-event training on Sunday, he said, "They have all been shooting well in training. The scores are good, now they have to just execute tomorrow. We are very positive."

As many as 385 athletes from 26 countries will take aim

at the Senayan Shooting Range in Jakarta for 256 medals (84 gold, 84 silver and 88 bronze medals), besides the Paris quotas.

"It's an old school range and our shooters have settled down pretty comfortably. It's a competitive field as the stakes are high, but we expect some success," said team High Performance Director, Pierre Beauchamp.

In both the events, world powerhouse China are not in contention as they have secured the maximum possible two quotas per event.

Korea, another strong shooting nation, too is not in contention in the women's event while they can win only one in the men's event.

However, they can expect stiff competition from shooters from Iran, Japan, Vietnam, Thailand, Chinese Taipei and Malaysia to name a few. Among those in contention for a Paris quota will be the Iranian reigning Olympic champion Javad Foroughi.

India have already won 13 Paris Olympic quota places in shooting across rifle, pistol and shotgun disciplines.

While all quota places in rifle have been secured, a total of three quotas have been won in pistol.

The Shotgun Asian qualifiers come up on January 10 in Kuwait City, following which Indian shooters will have one more qualifying event in Rio to win quotas, before world ranking slots are considered.

Rohit, Kohli back in T20 squad for Afghanistan series

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

CAPE TOWN: Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli on Sunday made a high-profile comeback to India's T20 squad for the three homes against Afghanistan with the former also named captain for the series beginning in Mohali on January 11.

Rohit and Kohli last appeared in a T20 for India in the World Cup semifinal against England in November 2022.

Back then, the two veterans along with KL Rahul were seen to be playing archaic cricket in the powerplay and

the team needed to move on from that approach with Hardik Pandya earmarked as the new T20 skipper.

However, Pandya's own injury in the ODI World Cup along and more recently, Suryakumar Yadav's ligament tear, resulted in a lot of inexperience at the top of the order.

PTI had reported last week that the Ajit Agarkar-led selection panel was set to pick the celebrated duo for the Afghanistan series.

"Decisions on Rohit and Virat can't solely be taken by the selection committee.

Distt Admin Bandipora hosts farewell function for outgoing DC, Dr Owais

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANDIPORA: A celebratory atmosphere filled the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat, Bandipora, as the district administration and local community came together to bid farewell to Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Owais Ahmad following his transfer.

The occasion marked the culmination of an impactful tenure of Dr Owais Ahmad, a 2014 Batch IAS Officer, with a valedictory function that resonated with appreciation and well wishes.

Notably, the function also witnessed farewell to recently transferred senior officers including Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, ADDC/ PO ICDS, and Imtiyaz Ahmad, Joint Director, Planning.

Members from the District Development Council, BDCs, and PRIs besides officials from Police and district administration



District administration according farewell to DC Bandipora Dr. Owais Ahmad.

were present on the occasion. People from all walks of life also joined the function in regard to the outgoing Deputy Commissioner.

The Conference Hall buzzed with expressions of appreciation as speakers recounted the transformative initiatives of Dr. Owais

besides his tireless efforts in addressing the challenges faced by the people of Bandipora. His commitment to transparency, efficiency, and inclusive governance was lauded, setting a benchmark for public service.

Speakers, including ADC Bandipora, Umar Shafi Pandit,

team certainties, have been rested and Raturaj Gaikwad isn't fit to play yet.

All-rounder Shivam Dube has also been named in the squad in Hardik's absence.

The Afghanistan series will be India's last before the World Cup, which takes place right after the IPL.

Former South Africa captain Graeme Smith reckons leaving out the likes of Rohit and Kohli from any team is extremely tough.

"I wouldn't want to be a selector. It's a very tough decision to leave out two players who have been incredible.

Virat always comes back incredibly well. With the amount of talent that India has now, it is a difficult choice to make," said Smith on the sidelines of an interaction organised ahead of SA20.

India's Squad for 3 T20Is against Afghanistan: Rohit Sharma (Captain), Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Shivam Dube, Washington Sundar, Axar Patel, Ravi Bishnoi, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Avesh Khan, Mukesh Kumar.

Former JD planning Bandipora Imtiyaz Ahmad and other prominent officials and community representatives, hailed the commitment of Dr. Owais to public service, his administrative acumen, and his genuine connection with the people of Bandipora. His ability to navigate challenges, collaborate effectively, and inspire positive change was a recurring theme throughout the event.

DDC members, BDC members, and PRIs besides others present on the occasion thanked the outgoing Deputy Commissioner for always supporting their cause and helping them to build an even stronger and developed Bandipora. While responding to the affection of the gathering, Dr. Owais said that leaving Bandipora is bittersweet. He said, "The faces before me-my colleagues, the people I have

served- are the reason I came to work each day with a renewed sense of purpose." Adding, he said "Trust, resilience, and spirit are the things which I will carry with me." Dr. Owais said this farewell is not an ending but a new beginning. He said that he may be moving on, but his heart remains forever tied to this beautiful land of Alim, Adab, Aab, and its incredible people. Later in the evening, a vibrant function was held in the cultural hall of NHPC to bid farewell to the outgoing Deputy Commissioner. Officers from the Civil Administration, Police and Army gathered to express their appreciation for the outgoing DC's exemplary service and leadership. The farewell function culminated in the presentation of mementos to the outgoing DC as a token of appreciation for his dedication and service.