

Fencers Shreya, Lakshay to represent India in Asian C'ship

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Young and promising female fencer from J&K, Shreya Gupta along with upcoming Lakshaya Sharma have been selected for the Asian Cadet and Junior Fencing Championship scheduled to be held at Tashkent in Uzbekistan from February 24 to March 2.

Shreya has won individual and team gold medals while Lakshaya secured individual bronze medals in recently held 29th Junior National Fencing Championship at Sonapat in Haryana.

Talented Shreya has also been included in the TOPS Core development group for 2024 and 2028 Olympic Games by the Sports Authority of India (SAI).



Fencers Shreya and Lakshay posing with Secretary JKSC, Nuzhat Gul and other officials.

She is amongst the 12 fencers shortlisted by SAI TOPS development group across the country.

On their selection, both the fencers called on the Secretary J&K Sports Council (JKSC), Nuzhat Gul.

Secretary lauded Shreya Gupta for getting included in the TOPS. She congratulated Shreya and Lakshaya for their selection in the prestigious International event.

The Secretary lauded the fencing coach, Shotu Lal Sharma for training the best fencers of the country, a handout issued here today informed.

Accompanying the fencers, Rashid Ahmed, convenor of the Adhoc Committee of the J&K Fencing Association, congratulated by the Secretary for his dedicated efforts in lifting J&K fencing.

Meanwhile, members of the Adhoc Committee and those senior and veteran players congratulated both the fencers and wished them for the future competitions.

Jammu district lifts trophy of J&K UT Silambam Championship



Participants posing for a photograph with dignitaries.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The J&K UT Silambam Championship 2021-22 concluded at Shastri Memorial Higher Secondary School, Patoli, here.

More than 180 players and officials from all over

J&K participated in the championship which was organized by the Silambam Association of Jammu and Kashmir.

Jammu district was declared overall winner while Doda declared second and Srinagar finished at

third. The medalist players of the championship is going to participate in the coming National Silambam Championship 2021-22 scheduled to be held at Kanyakumari (Tamil Nadu) from March 2 to 5, 2022.

Winter Olympics: Arif Khan fails to finish men's Slalom event

STATE TIMES NEWS

BELJING: India's campaign at the Winter Olympics came to disappointing end on Wednesday after the country's lone participant, alpine skier Arif Khan, logged a 'Did Not Finish' in the men's slalom event here.

The 31-year-old from Baramulla district in Jammu and Kashmir, who had finished 45th in the giant slalom event on Sunday, was unable to complete Run 1 at the Yanqing National Alpine Skiing Centre here.

Since Khan, who was making his Winter Olympics debut, was unable to finish Run 1, he won't be competing in the second run of men's slalom event.

Only 52 of the 88 starters finished the first run and will compete again in Run 2.

Wearing bib no 79, Khan made a decent start, finishing the first intermediate in 14.40s and the second in 34.24s. However, he failed to complete the final section.

Austria's Johannes Strobl was the fastest skier in Run 1 with a time of 53.92s. The Norwegian duo of Henrik Kristoffersen (53.94s) and Sebastian Foss-Silevaag (53.98s) were second and third respectively.

Khan, the first Indian to qualify for two events in a Winter Olympics, had clocked combined time of 2 minute 47.24 seconds in the giant slalom event.

He finished 45th, which is now India's best-ever performance in men's giant slalom event at Winter Olympics.

Polish-born Jeremy Bujakowski, India's first-ever Winter Olympian, had finished 65th at Grenoble 1968.

In giant slalom -- an athletic skiing event -- athletes ski down a slope as they pass between sets of 'gates' which consist of two plastic poles.

Inter-Block Volleyball tournament concludes at Largam

STATE TIMES NEWS

SHOPIAN: The Inter-Block level Sports Tournament organised by DYSSO Shopian, concluded at Largam, Shopian here, on Wednesday.

A total of 17 teams of 9 blocks of the district participated in the tournament, witnessing great competition among the participating teams.

Volleyball final match was played between Panchayat Aglar and Panchayat Kanigam and was won by the Aglar Panchayat team.

District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Shopian, Gurmukh Singh Dutta was the Chief Guest at the concluding ceremony.

He witnessed finals from the beginning and encouraged youth.

He interacted with the players individually and being himself a sportsperson, he shared his experiences and advised the players to stay dedicated towards their game.

He also advised them to stay away from bad company, drugs and other things which destroy the career of youth. Later, the DYSSO distributed the medals and trophies among the participants.

Sportspersons optimistic, upbeat over New Sports Policy 2022

Ready to give 100 pc to earn name, fame & good fortune

SANJAY SHARMA

JAMMU: As new Sports Policy announced by the UT administration has so much to offer to outstanding players, there is likelihood that each and every son and daughter of the soil will now try to contradict the famous adage 'Padhoge Likhoge Banoge Nawab, Khelege Kudoge Toh Hoge Khrabb'. Definitely going into nitty-gritty of the New Sports Policy augurs for a bright future of sportspersons with wider scope of getting jobs and other incentives besides good health coming as a bonus.

In this regard, Vansh Mahajan, Ace Fencer, while talking to STATE TIMES, said that the people especially the sportspersons of Jammu and Kashmir are happy with the step taken by the UT Government by bringing New Sports Policy. "It will boost the morale of the players as they are already full of enthusiasm towards improving their game after approval of New Sports Policy", he said, adding that before this, the sportspersons were deprived of Government jobs under SRO 349 and other facilities.

Swetha Thakur, Judo Player (Gold Medalist) expressed gratitude to LG Manoj Sinha for ensuring justice to players through a rightful manner of giving the outstanding players, the much deserving employment opportuni-



ties matching their ability and success level. "In 2015, due to absence of any concrete Sports Policy, I compromised with my sporting career and moved towards Government service due to financial constraints. If there would have been the Sports Policy, I must have continued with my gaming career. New Sports Policy is precisely the right way to woo young people towards sports and give them proper atmosphere to channelize their energy as in absence of such incentives many people having talent and ability had been misguided ruining their future and that of the region", she said adding that J&K Administration deserves kudos for chalking-out a meaningful sports policy. Swetha Thakur further said that if implemented with right perspective, this policy will steer J&K to new heights of supremacy in sports with Olympic medals becoming the new norm for the sportspersons of the Union Territory. She said that soon she will rejoin the game as she is

the lone gold medalist in J&K in Judo.

Meanwhile, Pankaj Malhotra, senior Kho Kho Player of J&K, said that the decision of the government is highly praiseworthy because without incentives of jobs and other benefits, there was nothing which can bring real talent to the sports arena. "It's the need of the hour and government should implement the New Sports Policy in its true spirit so that more and more players from J&K can make a mark in the international arena of sports. Today Haryana tops India's medal tallies and has become the biggest sports-hub. Haryana's contribution in medal tally is significant. Haryana has the most number of individual Olympic medals among Indians and has highest representation at 2020 Tokyo. Around 30 players from Haryana were in the country's Olympics contingent, which is a big thing", he said, adding that it is unfortunate that J&K was lagging in sports edifice so much so that in many games players have to go outside the Union Territory for getting even the basic training. He said that despite playing Kho Kho since 2003, he remained deprived of a government job. He anticipated that the New Sports Policy will do justice with sportspersons of Jammu and Kashmir who are working hard day and night for bringing laurels to Union Territory.

Jammu Archery Championship held



Chief Guest, Paras Ram Angral posing with players and other officials.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: One-day Jammu District Archery Championship held at playing facility of MA Stadium, here involving participants from different age categories.

Paras Ram Angral was the Chief Guest, who gave away medals and certificates to the winners and other participants. The event was organ-

ized by the Jammu District Archery Association under the aegis of Archery Association of J&K (AAJK). The event was sponsored by the J&K Sports Council.

Prominent among others present were Sunil Sharma (senior vice president of AAJK), Vikas Gupta (General Secretary Jammu District Archery Association).

The technical panel comprised Sarjewan Singh, Darshana Kumari and Ankur Kumar.

The Results: MEN: Seniors: 50 mtrs: Bhawani Jasrotia, Ist; Vinod Singh, 2nd and Amit Bawa, 3rd. 30 mtrs: Bhawani Jasrotia, Ist; Nitish Bawa, 2nd and Vinod Singh, 3rd. Compound: Shubham Sharma, Ist and Nikhil

Sharma, 2nd. Sub Junior Indian Round: 30 mtrs: Nitish Bawa, Ist; Pranav Kumar, 2nd and Arshit Sharma, 3rd. 20 mtrs: Jaiveer Singh, Ist; Nitish Bawa, 2nd and Arshit Sharma, 3rd. Mini: 20 mtrs: Pranav Singh, Ist; Arnav Angral, 2nd and Pankaj Bawa, 3rd. 15 mts: Pranav Singh, Ist; Arnav Angral, 2nd and Aarav Sangal, 3rd.

WOMEN: Seniors: 50 mtrs: Usha Devi, Ist; Simi Sharma, 2nd and Meenu Choudhary, 3rd. 30 mtrs: Usha Devi, Ist; Kajal Verma, 2nd and Simi Sharma, 3rd. Compound: Anu Bhagat, Ist and Munisha Angral, 2nd. Sub Junior Indian Round: 30 mtrs: Harshveen Kour, Ist; Riya Sharma, 2nd and Bhanvi Slatia, 3rd. 20 mts: Harshveen Kour, Ist; Bhanvi Slatia, 2nd and Vanshika, 3rd. Mini: Shivani Sharma, Ist; Suhani Sharma, 2nd.

Councilor ward-69 inaugurates development works



Councilor Ward-69, Gurmeet Kour Randhawa starting deep-drain work at Sainik Colony.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP leader and Councilor, Ward-69 of Sainik Colony, Gurmeet Kour Randhawa on Wednesday started deep-drain work in sector-G of Sainik Colony. Speaking on the occasion, she assured the residents that all works for improvement of colony will be initiated soon. "Works of drains and culverts, worth approximately Rs 35 lakh and street lights on either side of Nallah are in progress while work on cycling track worth Rs 44 lakh will commence within a month. Moreover, macadamisation work of Rs 75 lakh for the area is already in pipeline. Proposal worth Rs 50 crore has also been submitted for embankment of Nallah under AMRUT by UBED and land created after embankment on either sides of Nallah will be utilised for creating walking plaza, having all modern facilities," said BJP leader, urging residents not to dump garbage in Nallah but to utilise services of garbage collection vehicles of JMC." Capt Suresh Bhatti lauded works of Councilor for development of area.

Others present on the occasion included Rana Randeep Singh, Jagjit Singh, Harbhajan Singh, Chatta Bakshi, Prem Singh Jamwal, Aditya Jamwal, R K Verma, Bunty Slatia and Satpal Choudhary.

Skipper Rohit slams 19-ball 40 as India cruise to six-wkt win over WI

AGENCY

KOLKATA: Surjyakumar Yadav played the finisher's role to perfection after skipper Rohit Sharma blazed away at the top as India secured a clinical six-wicket win over the West Indies in the first T20 International here on Wednesday.

At his favourite Eden Gardens, Rohit smashed a 19-ball 40 (6x3, 4x4) to give India the perfect foundation after his bowlers restricted the visitors to 157 for seven.

In the company of Venkatesh Iyer (24 off 13), Surjyakumar then hit a brisk 34 in just 18 deliveries to help India chase down the target of 158 with seven balls to spare and take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Roston Chase (2/14) bowled brilliantly in the middle overs and dismissed the two Indian openers -- Rohit and Ishan Kishan -- before the hosts also lost Virat Kohli and Rishabh Pant to leave them at 114/4 inside 15 overs.

The most expensive IPL buy, Ishan Kishan, who was bought back by the Mumbai Indians for a staggering Rs



15.25 crore, made 35 in 42 balls before becoming Chase's second victim.

Kishan, who opened the batting with the skipper, struggled to get going even as Rohit looked in full flow. Former India skipper Virat Kohli also continued his lean patch and fell cheaply for a 13-ball 17, hitting straight to Kieron Pollard at long-off boundary.

But Rohit's flying start meant that India remained on course before Suryakumar and Iyer produced the finishing act with an unbroken 48-run partnership from 26 balls.

Suryakumar was brilliant all around the wicket and smashed one six and five fours in his unbeaten knock while Iyer, playing with an

STATE TIMES NEWS

KULGAM: Various Snow related activities including Trekking expeditions and games were continued on Wednesday on the 3rd day of Winter Carnival at Aharbal tourist spot, here

During the day, various

Trekking groups went on for trekking along identified routes besides Snow games were also held during which the players expressed happiness for organising such events.

This Winter Carnival is being organized by District

Administration Kulgam in collaboration with the Tourism department, Aharbal Development Authority and Divisional Forest Division to showcase the beauty of Kulgam for all its recreational and adventure potential.

KKR appoints Shreyas Iyer as new captain

AGENCY

KOLKATA: Kolkata Knight Riders on Wednesday appointed India batter Shreyas Iyer as their new captain for the upcoming Indian Premier League after having bought him for a whopping Rs 12.25 crore at the recently-concluded mega auction.

Iyer, who had captained Delhi Capitals to their only IPL final back in 2020, was released after the 2021 season and it was an open secret that KKR, who were supposed to replace Eoin Morgan, were in need of a new captain.

"He (Iyer) has impressed me & all as a quality batsman at the highest level & we are confident that he will excel as a leader of Team KKR," KKR CEO Venky Mysore said in a statement.

Iyer said he is looking forward to fulfilling the role.

"I am extremely honoured to have gotten the opportunity to lead a prestigious team like KKR. The IPL as a tournament brings the best players from different countries and cultures together and I look forward to leading this great group of very talented individuals," Iyer said.

ures of 4-0-14-2.

Earlier, on a high after his hefty IPL buyout, wicket-keeper-batter Nicholas Pooran returned to form with a brisk 61 as West Indies recovered from a mid-innings slump to post a fighting total.

The left-hander, who clinched a fat paycheck of Rs 10.75 crore from Sunrisers Hyderabad in the

IPL mega auction, got back to rhythm in style, scoring his runs in 43 balls with five sixes and four boundaries.

The Windies No. 3, who endured an abysmal last IPL with 85 runs at a poor average of 7.72 and had scores of 18, 9 and 34 in the preceding three ODIs, made his intention clear by smashing Bhuvneshwar Kumar for a big six early on.

SCOREBOARD

| West Indies Innings | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Brandon King c Yadav b Kumar | | 04 |
| Kyle Mayers lbw b Chahal | | 31 |
| Nicholas Pooran † c Kohli b Patel | | 61 |
| Roston Chase lbw b Ravi Bishnoi | | 04 |
| Rovman Powell c Iyer b Ravi Bishnoi | | 02 |
| Akeal Hosein c & b Chahal | | 10 |
| Kieron Pollard (c) not out | | 24 |
| Odean Smith c Sharma b Patel | | 04 |
| Extras | | 17 |
| Total | | 157/7 |
| India Innings | | |
| Rohit Sharma (c) c Smith b Chase | | 40 |
| Ishan Kishan c Allen b Chase | | 35 |
| Virat Kohli c Pollard b Allen | | 17 |
| Rishabh Pant † c Smith b Cottrell | | 08 |
| Suryakumar Yadav not out | | 34 |
| Venkatesh Iyer not out | | 24 |
| Extras | | 04 |
| Total | | 162/4 |