

Volleyball teams named for Sub-Junior Nationals



Selected volleyball teams posing for a photograph with VAJK officials.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Volleyball Association of Jammu and Kashmir (VAJK) today announced the teams for the 46th Sub-Junior National Volleyball Championship scheduled to be held at Bandel, Hooghly in West Bengal from February 24 to March 1.

Earlier, before the teams finalised, the selected probable attended the 14 days coaching camp, sponsored

by the J&K Sports Council at MA Stadium, here. Soon after the announcement, the teams underwent screening which was conducted by the JKSC Manager, Arshi Nad. Subhash Kumar accompanying the boys team as manager while girls team is being accompanied by Shazia Quareshi and Khushi Sharma as manager and coach respectively. The Teams:

BOYS: Muzamil Ahmad, Budgam; Udhay Raina, Rajouri; Manan Q.K, Pooch; Aftab Ahmad, Shopian; Danish Sharma, Samba; Faisal Amin, Kupwara; Rahil Maqbool, Baramulla; Sarjeel Masroor; Shopian; Naman Sharma, Kathua; Tahir Ahmad, Baramulla; Bhat Afridi, Kulgam; Moheen Qayoom, Poonch; Rehan Parvez, Poonch; 13 Sourav Verma, Jammu.

GIRLS: Sobia Kouser, Poonch; Muntah Manzoor; Shopian; Gantavya Sharma, Jammu; Komal Chib, Jammu; Akriti Sharma, Samba; Manya Bhagat, Jammu; Ananya Sharma, Udhampur; Tamanna Yusuf, Shopian; Reeba Jan, Ganderbal; Hadia Majeed, Baramulla; Bhavya Sharma, Rajouri; Suriya Tariq, Kupwara; Monalika Sharma, Jammu; Anshika Sharma, Rajouri.

HAI appoints handball legend Ranjit Singh to head veteran body

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a proud and inspiring moment for Indian sports, the Handball Association India (HAI) has nominated Mr. Ranjit Singh Chib as the President of the Indian Veteran Handball Association, recognizing a lifetime of dedication, discipline, and distinguished service to the game.

A retired Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) and the current President of the Jammu and Kashmir Masters Games Association, Ranjit Singh Chib is a name synonymous with excellence in Indian handball. His remarkable journey in the sport spans nearly two decades, from 1984 to 2002, during which he proudly represented both the Jammu and Kashmir Handball Team and the Indian National Handball Team.

Chib's achievements on the court are nothing short of legendary. Over the course of his career, he clinched 9 Gold Medals, 10 Silver Medals, and 4 Bronze Medals in National Handball Championships-an extraordinary medal tally that cements his place among the greats of Indian handball. His brilliance was repeatedly recognized as he was named Best Player of the Tournament at the Inter Zonal Championships in Varanasi (1987), Nagpur (1990), Jammu (1989), and Vishakhapatnam (1987). In 2002, the Jammu and Kashmir Handball Association honored him with the prestigious "Best Player of the Decade" award, celebrating his sustained excellence and leadership.

One of the defining moments of his career came in 1993, when he captained the Indian Handball Team at the 7th Asian Handball Championship in Bahrain. His calm leadership, strategic vision, and unyielding determination earned him deep respect from teammates and competitors alike. He further represented India in the 8th Asian Handball Championship in Kuwait (1995), the South Asian Handball Championship

in Jaipur-where India proudly secured the Gold Medal-the International Cup in Narvorosisk, USSR (1990), and the Pajar Cup in Kirman, Iran (1996).

Beyond medals and matches, Chib's contributions have been widely celebrated. In 1987, he received the prestigious "Sher-i-Kashmir" Sports Award from the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir. In 2006, he was honoured with First State Award, receiving a Gold Medal and a cash award of one lakh rupees-testament to the enduring impact of his sporting legacy.

Announcing the nomination, Dr. Tejraj Singh, Secretary General of the Handball Association India, stated in an official letter: "We are pleased to inform you that considering your keen interest and active role in sports and social activities, you have been nominated as the President of the Indian Veteran Handball Association with immediate effect. Your



experience, dedication, and continuous support towards the promotion and development of handball have been highly appreciated. We are confident that under your guidance the association will further strengthen and achieve new milestones. Congratulations and best wishes for a successful tenure."

With his vast experience as an international athlete, decorated champion, and respected administrator; Ranjit Singh Chib now embarks on a new chapter-mentoring veteran players and strengthening the foundation of handball across generations. His journey from a celebrated player to a guiding force in sports administration stands as a powerful reminder that true leadership extends far beyond the field.

As the Indian Veteran Handball Association looks ahead, it does so under the stewardship of a man whose life has been defined by discipline, dedication, and an unwavering love for the sport-an appointment that promises not only progress, but inspiration for athletes across the nation.

Gharda Chemicals Ltd conducts CSR initiative at GMS Rakh Amb Tali



Students, faculty and Gharda Chemicals Limited officials.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: As part of its ongoing commitment to community development and social responsibility, Gharda Chemicals Limited organized a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative at Government Middle School Rakh Amb Tali, Zone Samba.

The distribution program was led by Mr. Rajesh Khajuria, General Manager of Gharda Chemicals Limited, along with company staff, in the presence of the school's teachers. Under this initiative, the 90 Track Suits; 90 Pairs of Shoes; 150-Litre Electric Water Cooler; Two HDPE

Water Tanks (1000-litre capacity each) were distributed for the benefit of 90 students. The initiative aims to enhance student welfare by supporting their basic needs and improving access to safe drinking water within the school premises. The provision of track suits and shoes will encourage active participation in sports and regular attendance, while the installation of water storage and cooling facilities will contribute to better hygiene and health standards.

Speaking on the occasion, Rajesh Khajuria reaffirmed the company's dedication to supporting educational institutions and uplifting local communities through meaningful CSR interventions.

Students of GDC Kunjwani excel in Athletics

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Government Degree College (GDC) Kunjwani excelled with three medals, including a gold in the just concluded 48th Inter-college Athletics meet of the University of Jammu, here. Gulnaz Kour and Ravinder Lakhotra secured a gold and two silver medals in field and track events held during the meet thus brought laurels to the institution.

Gulnaz Kour delivered an exceptional performance and won gold in 200 meters race and silver in 100 meters. Ravinder Lakhotra clinched silver in 400 meters event. On their return, the athletes were felicitated by Dr. Manisha Sarup Kohli, Principal, GDC Kunjwani. She congratulated the students on their outstanding success and conveyed her best wishes for their future endeavors.

Dr. Kohli also applauded the sincere efforts of Malik Aijaz Iqbal, Physical Director, along with the entire Sports Committee of the college, for their support and commitment towards nurturing sporting talent.



Display Your Talent program held at Govt Boys' Model HSS Rajouri

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: One Day Display Your Talent program held at Government Boys' Model Hr Sec School Rajouri in connection with selection of students for the flagship PRERANA Program under the overall supervision of CEO Rajouri Mohd.Hafiz who also remained as the Chief Guest and shared the valuable words of wisdom with the students from different zones of district Rajouri.

Pertinent to mention, Prerana is a week-long residential experiential learning program by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, aimed at students in grades IX to XII to foster



CEO Rajouri Mohd.Hafiz with others at a programme.

leadership, core values, and 21st-century skills, it blends Indian Knowledge Systems with modern technology. Its objective is to provide an inspiring, value-based educational experience that aligns with the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020). The program takes place

at a historic vernacular school in Vадnagar, Gujarat. Participants: Each weekly batch consists of 20 students (10 boys and 10 girls) from 10 different states/UTs, ensuring diverse representation. The event was conducted by Umesh Kumar and Vikrant Sharma.

GGM Science College shines at Inter-College Powerlifting Tournament

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Inter-College Powerlifting Tournament (Men & Women) was successfully conducted at A-3 Gym under the supervision of Government G.G.M. Science College and organized by Cluster University of Jammu.

Prof. Davinder Sharma, Incharge Physical Director, Sports, G.G.M. Science College, provided excellent infrastructure and facilities for the smooth conduct of the competition, ensuring a professional and well-organized sporting environment. Dr. Vinod Bakshi, Director Physical Education & Sports, CLUJ graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Prof. Davinder Sharma attended as the Guest of Honour. In his remarks, Dr.Bakshi appreciated the efforts of



Winner students posing with faculty members.

the organizers and stated that under the guidance of the Vice Chancellor, CLUJ and Prof.Daljeet Singh Manhas, Dean Students Welfare, CLUJ, sports activities and coaching camps are running smoothly and reaching new heights of excellence.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from various affiliated colleges, showcasing remark-

able strength, sportsmanship, and competitive spirit among the participants.

In the Men's Section, Government G.G.M. Science College emerged as the Champion by securing 24 points. S.P.M.R College of Commerce secured the second position with 17 points, while M.A.M College claimed the third position with 13 points.

Government G.G.M. Science College, Government College of Education, and G.C.W. Gandhi Nagar shared the first position with 5 points each. S.P.M.R College of Commerce was declared the Runner-Up with 3 points.

The event was attended by Kajal Premi, Physical Director, GCW Gandhi Nagar; Ravi Kumar, Physical Director, S.P.M.R College of Commerce; Neelam Chalotra, Assistant Physical Director; and Neelam Sharma. The tournament was officiated by Kanya Sharma, Avichal Rampal, and Eklavya Partab Singh.

The tournament concluded on a successful note with appreciation from the dignitaries for the outstanding performances and disciplined conduct of the participants.

Legend Master 3.0 Inter-State National T20 Cricket C'ship commence

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The much-awaited Legend Master 3.0 Inter-State National T20 Cricket Championship commenced with great enthusiasm and grandeur at the iconic M. A. Stadium on Friday.

The championship was formally inaugurated by former Deputy Chief Minister Dr. Nirmal Singh in the presence of K.S. Jamwal, Senior Vice President, and Vivek Suri, General Secretary of the Veterans Cricket Association J&K, along with other dignitaries and sports enthusiasts.

Organised by the Veterans Cricket Association J&K in collaboration with the Excise Department J&K and Sree Toyota, the tournament brings together seasoned cricketers talent from across the country.

Teams representing Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Bengaluru, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and the host team Jammu & Kashmir are participating in this prestigious inter-state national T20 championship, promising thrilling contests and high-quality cricket.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Nirmal Singh lauded the efforts of the organisers for promoting veteran cricket and



Participating teams posing for a photograph.

providing a competitive platform to experienced players. He emphasized that such sporting events not only foster unity and sportsmanship but also strengthen the sporting culture in Jammu & Kashmir.

Vivek Suri, General Secretary of the Veterans Cricket Association J&K, presented the vote of thanks, expressing heartfelt gratitude to the chief guest, participating teams, sponsors, collaborating departments, and supporters for making the event a grand success. He

highlighted that the initiative aims to revive and promote veteran cricket in J&K, offering experienced cricketers a dignified platform to showcase their talent while inspiring the younger generation to stay connected with the sport.

The championship is expected to witness intense competition over the coming days, celebrating the spirit of cricket, camaraderie, and the growing prominence of veteran cricket in the region.

JU contractual faculty mark World Social Justice Day with black ribbons, demand decent work and pay parity



STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the occasion of World Social Justice Day, Contractual Assistant Professors of the University of Jammu showed solidarity by tying black ribbons on their arms. The symbolic action serves as a solemn reminder to the University administration of their prolonged neglect and the urgent need to address the deep-seated issues plaguing a significant section of its academic workforce.

Drawing attention to this year's sub-

theme, "Decent Work for All," the faculty members highlighted the stark contradiction between the global ideal and their daily reality. Despite possessing the same UGC-mandated qualifications, undergoing a rigorous selection process, and performing duties identical to their permanently appointed counterparts including teaching, research, and examination duties, they continue to be paid a stagnant, abysmal salary, far below the statutory UGC pay scale.

"When an institution denies 'Equal Pay for Equal Work,' it not only violates the law laid down by the Supreme Court but also undermines the very foundation of an inclusive society," the faculty members stated in a memorandum submitted to the Vice Chancellor two days ago.

The members also condemned a recent Academic Council recommendation to change their conditions of employment and nomenclature from 'Contractual Assistant Professor' to 'Guest Faculty (Contractual),' calling it a "regressive step" designed to further marginalize them and circumvent legal claims for parity. Their

other pressing demands include the issuance of proper experience certificates acknowledging their years of service.

"An inclusive society begins with dignity at the workplace. By denying us decent wages and professional respect, the University is failing its

FICCI FLO JKL welcomes dev of Shankaracharya Temple in Katra

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: FICCI FLO Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh Chapter has welcomed the inauguration and development of the Shankaracharya Temple in Katra, calling it a major step in strengthening the region's spiritual and cultural identity. Chairperson Aarti Chowdhary congratulated Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for his visionary leadership and continued efforts to enhance spiritual infrastructure in Jammu & Kashmir.

She also appreciated the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board for successfully conceptualizing and exe-

cuting the project, blending faith with development. According to her, the temple will emerge as a prominent spiritual landmark in Katra and Jammu, reinforcing the region's status as a leading pilgrimage hub.

With revered shrines like Vaishno Devi Temple and Amarnath Temple attracting millions annually, the addition of the Shankaracharya Temple is expected to further boost religious tourism. FLO JKL believes the initiative will also create economic opportunities in trade, hospitality, and transport, contributing to sustainable growth in the Union Territory.

DLSA-J observes World Social Justice Day

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: District Legal Services Authority Jammu under the guidance of Chairman, District Legal Services Authority Jammu, R. N. Watal, (Pr. Distt. & Sessions Judge) Jammu and overall supervision of Secretary, District Legal Services Authority Jammu, Maleeka Sharma observed the World Social Justice Day.

The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Jammu marked World Social Justice Day with an inspiring awareness programme at International Delhi Public School (IDPS), Ghou Manhasa, Jammu. The event, themed "Social Protection and Decent Work for All," engaged students, teachers and staff in promoting equality, fairness and legal awareness.

Secretary, DLSA Jammu, graced the occasion as chief guest, delivering a compelling speech. She emphasized social justice as ensuring



Secretary, DLSA Jammu with others at a programme.

"everyone gets a fair chance," drawing parallels to sharing resources and standing against bullying. Highlighting Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's legacy and India's Constitution-"All are equal before the law"-she urged the young audience: "Be fair, be kind, be just."

Her message resonated deeply, inspiring students to pledge action for a just society. The programme featured two resource persons from DLSA Jammu Adv. Uma Kapahi, Panel Lawyer of DLSA Jammu shared

insights on legal aid and rights protection. Another resource person, Dr. Nitan Sharma, Assistant Professor Law School, University of Jammu, discussed constitutional safeguards and decent work initiatives.

Students actively participated through interactive sessions, pledges and cultural performances. The event concluded with refreshments distributed among the IDPS school children, adding a joyful note to the day's learnings and fostering community spirit.