

## Daughter of soil sets an example at international scene

# Ankita's journey from Pinglish to Pune---to Indian No-1 Tennis Star

### ‘Tough voyage’ says her father Ravinder

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Originally hailing from village Pinglish, tehsil Tral in district Pulwama (Kashmir), born and brought up in Ahmedabad (Gujarat) and working for sporting excellence in Pune (Maharashtra), sensational Tennis Star Ankita Raina is a familiar name in the world of Tennis and No-1 Tennis player in India.

Ankita, the daughter of the soil, who has carved a space on the national and international scene, is among a very few sporting stars from the Kashmiri Pandit community, who have carved a space on the country's sports map. Indian Cricketer Suresh Raina, Chief Wushu Coach of India Kuldeep Handoo and young footballer Ishan Pandita are a few others to name.

"The journey began with our mass exodus from the valley in early 90's when our family flew to Ahmedabad (Gujarat) where Ankita was born on January 23, 1993



and it was a tough voyage for me being a private employee as I along with my wife Lalita and little son Ankur had to make avenues for survival in exile. However, I managed to cope up with the circumstances and carried on. In the year 1998, I put my 8-year son Ankur in the Tennis Training Centre at Ahmedabad and my daughter 4-year Ankita used to accompany him, which marked the beginning of

Ankita's sporting journey," said Ankita's father Ravinder Krishen Raina.

He added that as a kid Ankita was very much interested in dancing and drawing. She has won a few awards in dance as she used to mesmerise audiences with her bharatnatyam performances.

He further said before shifting Ankita for advanced training to Pune, he had admitted her in a mission

school namely Mount Carmel at Ahmedabad where she studied upto 8th standard. At Pune, she met her guru (Coach) in Hemant Bendrey at Gymkhana Centre, who shaped her sporting career. Then I made her take part in various Tennis tournaments at Pune, Chennai, Vijayawada and so on, where she excelled and did not look back. Rest is history.

"More than myself it has been Lalita (Ankita's mother) who played a key role in her transformative years to climb the ladder of success," said Mr Ravinder.

Ankita (31) 5' 4" tall daughter of the soil, has won one title on the WTA Tour and one WTA 125 tournament (both in doubles), along with 11 singles and 25 doubles titles on the ITF Circuit. In April 2018, she entered the top 200 in the singles rankings for the first time, becoming only the fifth player representing India to achieve this feat. Raina has also won gold medals in the

women's singles and mixed-doubles events at the 2016 South Asian Games, and a bronze medal in singles at the 2018 Asian Games. Raina is one of only two women representing India who have won a WTA Tour-level title.

Playing for the India Fed Cup team, Raina has a win-loss record of 30-24. She has notable wins over 2011 US Open champion Samantha Stosur, Wimbledon finalist Sabine Lisicki former world No. 5 Sara Errani, and multiple doubles grand slam winner Barbora.

For her achievements at the Asian Games and South Asian Games, Ankita was conferred the Arjuna Award in 2021, which was presented to her by the then President of India, Ram Nath Kovind.

Ankita Raina, who tied the knot with her long time beau Milind Sharma in Pune on December 15, 2023 said that it was great to end 2023 with their wedding.

The Ahmedabad based Kashmiri Pandit girl, India's top female tennis player, who is currently at Indore (Madhya Pradesh) in connection with a tennis tournament said balancing personal life with professional life was not everybody's cup of tea, adding that she felt lucky to have married someone who shared the same values.

Sharing her experience of climbing up all the way back after she was twice down with Covid in 2020 and losing almost about six months, Ankita said that she was grateful that she has been able to compete at that level back-to-back after the Covid tragedy. "Lively seasons followed and I have been competing well against top players of the world and beating some of them. God has been kind," maintained Ankita.

Ankita is simply the pride of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in general and the Kashmiri Pandit community in particular.

## J&K Yogasana team leaves for Senior National



J&K Yogasana team posing with dignitaries.

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JAMMU: J&K Yogasana team on Saturday left for Howrah to participate in 48th Senior National Yogasana Sports Championship scheduled to be held at Hooghly, Howrah (West Bengal) from March 19 to 23, 2024.

Patron-in-chief of Yoga Association J&K, Rajyogini B K Sudarshan Didi and President Akhil Kapahi, among Vice President BK Ravender Bali flagged off the Yoga team.

Secretary General of the Association, Vinod Bhatia

highlighted that this time four National Yoga Referees of the J&K UT are also invited for the aforesaid championship by Yoga Federation of India.

Total 15 Yoga players both from men and women are going to represent J&K UT. Team is accompanied by Mukesh Sharma, Aryaaveer Singh, Sabita Sharma.

Team: Sunil Singh, Akarsh Sharma, Tanisha Rajput, Vanshika Arora, Simran, Zoha, Barkat, Tarun Kumar, Anjali Devi, Anjali Bhatti, Satyajeeet Singh, Abdul Sattar, Naina Sharma, Mansi Sharma.

## Kishtwar boy ‘Basharat’ keeps UT’s flag high in prestigious ISPL

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Hailing from tehsil Chatroo in district Kishtwar, left-arm medium fast bowler, Basharat Hussain Wani kept the flag of the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory high with his sterling performances in the recently concluded first edition of the prestigious Indian Street Premier League (ISPL) at Kondev Stadium, Thane, Maharashtra.

Representing legendary actor Amitabh Bachchan owned 'Majhi Mumbai' team, Basharat took 11 wickets in the five matches he played in this league, with 3/17 as his best.

The talented left-arm medium pacer, took 3/17 twice in the tournament against Srinagar Ke Veer and Faleon Riders Hyderabad, besides 1/37 against Chennai Singams, 2/3 against Tigers of Kolkata and 2/17 in the semifinals against Chennai Singams.

Majhi Mumbai lost the low scoring final against the formidable Tigers of Kolkata.

Basharat has the distinction of being part of the U-19 and U-23 Men's Camps of Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA), besides Delhi Capitals Camp held at Srinagar.



"I am highly thankful to the franchisees of Majhi Mumbai team who provided me ample opportunity to showcase my cricketing skill. My ultimate goal is to represent JKCA at the national scene. I will leave no stone unturned to make that happen. My Coach (Indian cricketer Mohit Sharma) guides me well at his Academy in Gurgaon. With sheer-dint of hard-work and dedication, I reckon my dreams would surely be fulfilled," said Basharat.

## Ahmedabad Defenders’ hard-fought win over Delhi Toofans spices up Super 5s stage

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CHANNAI: Ahmedabad Defenders earned a hard-fought victory over the Delhi Toofans in the Super 5s stage of the third season of RuPay Prime Volleyball League powered by A23, winning the match 15-10, 11-15, 10-15, 18-16 win at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, Chennai on Friday to stay alive in the competition. Angamuthu was named the Player of the Match.

Angamuthu began well in attacks, helped on by Muthusamy's clever passing. There were consecutive net touches from Delhi and



Ahmedabad made the most of them. Max Senica's indecisiveness on attack allowed Delhi to gain an easy point while Santhosh's consistent attacks further helped. But it was Shikhar Singh who ensured the Defenders maintained their lead with consecutive monstrous blocks.

Dodie started finding spaces

between Ahmedabad blockers to create chances for Delhi. An untimely injury to Nandhagopal depleted firepower from the Ahmedabad attack and Aponza started making blocks to bring Delhi back into the contest. Santhosh's attacks from the middle kept testing the Defenders, and the momentum began to shift. Angamuthu

kept getting good height on his attacks to earn crucial points, but Dodie's aggressive serves left the Ahmedabad defence vulnerable, and Delhi took a 2-1 lead. Shon T started attacking well to launch Ahmedabad's fightback. Despite Senica's agonising errors, Ahmedabad maintained composure to push the match to fifth set, riding on Angamuthu's attacks.

A couple of missed blocks from Aponza motivated Ahmedabad to launch pipe attacks. Muthusamy began involving his middle blockers in attacks to add force behind their attacks. Angamuthu continued to hit spikes from the outside lines to test Delhi, and helped his side get a crucial super point, and scripted an important win for his side.

## DGP J&K promotes 48 HCs of Telecom cadre to rank of ASI

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JAMMU: Director General of Police (DGP), J&K, R.R Swain has issued promotion order in respect of 48 Head Constables of Telecom cadre to the rank of Assistant Sub Inspector (Tb). A meeting of the Departmental Promotion Committee was convened at Police Headquarters J&K Jammu and after thorough scrutiny of the service records, promotion in respect of these officials has been ordered. Swain has extended his heartfelt congratulations to the newly promoted officers and their families. He has expressed confidence that this elevation will serve as motivation factor for the officers to continue their service with even greater dedication and zeal. Those who have been promoted include Mohd Iqbal Tantray, Rakesh Khajuria, Mohammad Akram, Zahoor Ahmad Dar, Fayaz Ahmad Sheikh, Jan Mohammad Altaf, Arshad

Hussain Bhat, Tariq Ahmad Bhat, Gh Nabi Ganai, Zahoor Ahmad Lone, Mohammad Iqbal Qurashi, Manzoor-Ul Haq, Peerzada Muzafar, Mohammad Yaqoob Malik, Manoj Kumar Koul, Showkat Ahmad Sheikh, Balwinder Singh Bali, Jatinder Sharma, Ashwani Kumar Bhat, Ifikhar Ahmad Khan, Hafiz-Ullah Pandith, Abdul Majeed Hajam, Sunil Kumar, Mohammad Akbar Hajam, Bilal Ahmad Shah, Chemail Singh, Ravi Kant, Firdous Ahmad Bhat, Parshotam Lal, Ravinder Dev Jamwal, Akhtar Hussain Lone, Tarsem Singh, Majid Shafi, Shabir Ahmad Lone, Peerzada Ab Raqeeb, Anil Kumar Sharma, Ravinder Singh, Mohammad Ayoub Bhat, Rajeev Jasrotia, Sanjay Andotra, Javiad Iqbal Sheikh, Arvind Sadotra, Syed Abdul Rashid, Zahid-Ul Hassan, Bilal Ahmad Panzoo, Mohammad Ayub Bhat, Mohammad Shafi Paul and Darshana Sharma.

## Nodal Officers briefed about electoral process



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JAMMU: District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya on Saturday convened a crucial meeting of Nodal Officers and Assistant Returning Officers to discuss the action plan in anticipation of Parliamentary elections.

The meeting witnessed the presence of SSP Dr. Vinod Kumar, ADDC Sher Singh, ADMS, DIO, ACD as well as SDMS, Tehsildars and other officials. The key officials including nodal Officers were briefed about their role and responsibilities.

The primary objective of the orientation session was to provide a comprehensive understanding of the scope and critical components of the electoral process. Participants were briefed about the role of stakeholder departments and Nodal Officers regarding training, Standard

Operating Procedures (SOPs), transportation and contingency plans.

During the meeting, emphasis was laid on studying the guidelines meticulously to ensure effective implementation during the elections. The significance of the eVIGIL mobile application was highlighted, with detailed instructions provided on its essential functions.

Decisions regarding further strengthening of the electoral process and the role of functionaries were also deliberated upon during the meeting.

The importance of adherence to guidelines and protocols of the Election Commission of India were underlined as of utmost importance.

## Workshop on ‘GST Appeals and Litigation Handling’ organised

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K Branch (NIRC) of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) under the aegis of GST & Indirect Taxes Committee ICAI on Saturday organized an informative workshop on GST Appeals and Litigation Handling at ICAI Bhawan, here.

The workshop aimed to provide valuable insights into managing GST appeals



Additional Commissioner Admin. and Enforcement, STD Jammu, Namrita Dogra with other dignitaries.

and effective strategies for

litigation, including the process of filing writs in the High Court.

The event was graced by the presence of Chief Guest Namrita Dogra, Additional Commissioner Admin. and Enforcement, State Taxes Department Jammu, who delivered a keynote address emphasizing the significance of collaborative efforts in addressing challenges within the taxation system.

Dogra highlighted the recently established Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the GST & Indirect Taxes Committee of ICAI and the State Taxes

Department of Jammu & Kashmir, aimed at strengthening training initiatives for government officers.

CA Vineet Kohli, Chairman of the J&K Branch, delivered the welcome address and emphasized the importance of the workshop in addressing the evolving landscape of taxation laws.

He underscored the complexities surrounding GST interpretation and implementation, leading to a surge in legal disputes and appeals.

He appraised the members about the largest accounting body of the world i.e ICAI.

CA Priya Seht, Secretary, and CA Ayush Sawhney, Executive Member J&K Branch then took jointly the stage, conducted the proceedings and guided participants through the key aspects of the subject.

The workshop focused on providing attendees with practical insights into handling GST appeals and navigating through the intricacies of litigation, particular-

ly in filing writs in the High Court. Guest speaker CA Vishal Poddar, hailing from Nasik and possessing extensive experience in GST Appeals and Litigation, imparted valuable expertise and strategic considerations.

He emphasized key areas where Writs can be filed in the High Court, thereby empowering participants with the knowledge and tools required to effectively tackle GST challenges.

Participants actively engaged in discussions, leveraging the wealth of knowledge and experience shared during the workshop. The event emphasized the broader implications of collaborative efforts in fostering a robust and transparent taxation system, upholding the principles of justice and fairness.

CA Sourav Pargal, Vice Chairman, presented the formal vote of thanks. CA Nakul Saraf, Past Chairman along with many senior members and several Chartered Accountants were also present at the event.



Participating teams posing for a photograph with dignitaries.

close contest.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest advised the players to work hard to achieve the desired results and be as the messengers of this campaign.

He assured all support from the department for the promotion of sports culture in the district.

The chief guest applauded the coaches for providing budding talent a platform to perform.

Prominent among others present on the occasion were Nirdosh Kumar, Manager Sports Stadium Poonch,

Narinder Singh (ZPEO Poonch), Narjeet Singh Retd (ZPEO), Kewal Krishan, Ravinder Singh, Laxmikant, Rajinder Singh, Gurmeet Singh, Harmik Singh, Imran Shah, Gurvinder Singh, and the employees of DSW Department, Poonch.

The match was officiated by Navjot Singh KI Hockey Coach, Harmik Singh, Vishu Sharma and Jagmeet Singh, while the match was conducted under the supervision of Pawan Kumar (PEL), Hockey Coach and Navjot Singh Khelo India Coach.