

Jammu Club celebrates Baisakhi festival with great enthusiasm

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu Club celebrated Baisakhi Festival with great enthusiasm in the Club premises here on Thursday.

The celebration attracted a large gathering of members especially in view of diluted intensity of COVID-19 after two years.

The Club premises transformed into festive scenario full of vibrance amid the Dhol beats synchronizing with the traditional Bhangara dance.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Club Management had specially invited a renowned Dholi Group from Delhi and a prominent Bhangara Group from Jalandhar to add further colour to the festive celebration.

Vidhi, Parth sparkle in National Dance Championship

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JAMMU: Securing Gold and Silver medals respectively, Vidhi Dhar, daughter of Deepak Dhar and Parth Pandita, son of Sanjay Kumar Pandita blossomed in the National Dance Sports Championship, organised by Dance Sports Association Bharat at Town Hall, Haridwar in Uttarakhand. Vidhi is 12th Class student of Vishwa Bharti School Jammu, who represented School and UT of Jammu and Kashmir in Hip Hop Freestyle (Solo) in senior category, while Parth is 11th Class student of Government Higher secondary School Camp, Bohri Jammu, who also represented School and the Union Territory in Hip Hop Freestyle (Solo). Both the dancers accredited their success to the teachers, parents and the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.



Bhangra group along with Jammu Club members posing for a photograph.

tion.

Prominent among others who graced the occasion were Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Anshul Garg; Additional Director General Police (ADGP) Mukesh Singh and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) Ramesh Kumar.

Moreover, the maximum members of Jammu Club along with their families marked their presence on the occasion and enjoyed to their full the Baisakhi Festival Evening at the Club.

The main attraction of this year's programme organized at Jammu Club was the 'Village Theme' selected for

the event celebrated with blasting DJ and Modern Bhangara Troupe scintillating performance.

The Dholi Group from Delhi and Bhangara Group from Jhallaandhar displayed marvellous synchronization in creating an atmosphere of a traditional village celebration which was enjoyed by one and

all present on the occasion.

The entire staff of Jammu Club had adorned the Punjabi attire specially designed for the occasion. Some of the visitors to the club on the occasion expressed that amid Dholi and Bhangara beats they felt for a moment as if they were participating in a Baisakhi festival somewhere in Punjab.

Gaurav Gupta, Secretary Jammu Club, in his address, expressed gratitude to the managing committee, Entertainment Sub Committee and Staff Members for their wholehearted support in making today's celebration a grand success.

He also assured that many more such programmes would be organized by the Club in the coming time for the entertainment of the Club Members and their families.

USTA elects Hiranagar Committee, discusses issues

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HIRANGAR: A meeting of J&K United School Teachers Association (USTA) was held on Thursday at Satyam Palace of Haripur village in zone Hiranagar which was attended by large number of teachers working in various government run schools.

During the meeting, teachers deliberate on corrective measures to imbibe the spirit of trade unionism and take the organisation at grassroot level for the benefit of teachers as a whole.

Speaking on the occasion, Provincial President Dr Shashi Pal Singh stressed for the need of responsible trade unionism to address challenges being faced by



USTA members after the meeting at Hiranagar.

teaching community.

While welcoming the teachers in the meeting, Dr. Singh appealed them to work in unison for meeting the aspirations and fostering brotherhood among the teaching fraternity.

The meeting comes in the midst of disquiet among

teaching fraternity over the demand of implementation of uniform pension scheme for all the employees, increase of budgetary support in education sector; holding of DPC of all cadres, repatriation of Headmasters serving in far flung areas, improvement of infrastruc-

ture in the schools, filling up of vacant posts of teachers and non-deployment of teachers for non academic duties. USTA resolved in the meeting to launch the struggle in near future to achieve the goal of better education.

Later in the meeting, an election of Hiranagar zone was held in which Ganesh Kumar (Master) was unanimously elected as President, Manohar Lal and Vinod Kumar Sharma as Senior Vice Presidents, Vishal Sharma as Vice President, Rajinder Singh as Secretary, Ajay Kumar as Joint Secretary, Jagbir Singh as Publicity Secretary, Ram Paul as Cashier, Sanjay Kumar and Ram Dass as Advisors of the organisation.

J&K Wrestler Babba lifts 29th Dera Kesari Dangal 2022 title

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: Pahelwan Babba of Kot Bhalwal Jammu, Akhara Domana lifted 29th Annual Dera Kesari Dangal 2022 Title defeating wrestler Ajay Sharma of Udhampur in the main bout at holy Shrine Dera Baba Banda Bahadur, Reasi.

Dangal was organized by Dera Baba Bandha Bahadur Prabandhak Committee, Baba Banda Bahadur Sikh Samardi in association with J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association under the overall supervision of President JKISWA Shiv Kumar Sharma and Baba Jatinder Paul Singh Sodhi (Gaddinasheen).

Dangal was organized in the memory of the great Saint, warrior and Martyr Baba Banda Singh Bahadur on the eve of Baisakhi Festival.

SSP Reasi Amit Gupta was the Chief Guest on the occasion who distributed cash prizes among the winner and runner-up



SSP Reasi Amit Gupta introducing wrestlers of main bout at Reasi.

wrestlers. Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Reasi Sanjay Badyal was the Guest of Honour. Tehsildar Reasi Munshi Ram and DSP Reasi were the special guests on the occasion.

In all, 26 bouts were played in the one day long Dangal for which Rs. 1,25,000 has been incurred.

Winner Babba was awarded with a cash prize of Rs. 6,000 along with traditional Gurj (Gadda) along with Patta while runner-up wrestler was given

Rs. 5,000.

In the second main bout, Surjeet Singh of Reasi defeated Salman of Chopra Shop, Udhampur. Surjeet was awarded with a cash prize Rs. 5,000 while Salman got Rs. 4,000. Other second main bout was won by Bablu of Basantgarh who defeated Sanjay of J&K Police. Bablu was given a cash prize of Rs. 5,000 while Rs 4,000 was given to Sanjay.

Proceedings of the Dangal were conducted by Ved Parkash Makker and Sunny Sharma, while wel-

come address was presented by Baba Jatinder Paul Singh Sodhi. The vote of thanks was presented by Shiv Kumar Sharma.

Shiv Kumar Sharma appreciated organizers for the arrangements to make the event successful. Sharma said such type of Dangal would boost the morale of wrestlers in the UT.

He said this traditional game of wrestling was very popular in the rural and hilly areas from the old time. He said organizing the traditional Dangal will go a

long way in preserving the games and spirit of sports.

Dera Baba Banda Bahadur Prabandhak Committee members and technical officials who helped for the conduct of this one day long Dangal were Jatinder Paul Singh Sodhi (Gaddinasheen), Malik Ram Lubhya, Paruthi (Chairman) Ved Parkash Makker (General Secretary), Sunny Sharma, Sanjay Kumar, Lucky Chib, Tulinder Kumar, Raj Hussain and Murli Dhar (Munna).

Other Results: Chain singh of Reasi beat Banti of Delhi, Bhushan of Domana beat Karam Bir of Amritsar, Karnail Singh of Batote beat Nisan of Poonch, Sunil of Udhampur beat Vipan of Domana, Ganesh of Reasi beat Shokat of Nargada, Madan Lal of Reasi beat Arjun of Jammu, Rohit of J&K Police beat Rashpaul of Reasi, Ravi of Jammu beat Kaka of Amritsar, and Sher Ali of Jhiri beat Anwar of Nargada.

Secretary JKSC, International players celebrate Baisakhi with Balgran inmates



Secretary JKSC Nuzhat Gul and other players posing with inmates of Balgran.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul along with International players, Dronacharya awardee, office bearers of Association and International and reputed Coaches of JKSC celebrated Baisakhi with students of Balgran-A Charitable Home For Destitute Children, Channi Rama, here on Thursday.

The students of the Balgran were very enthusiastic and performed Bhangra dance on the famous Dol with the international icons of the UT J&K, Coaches of different fields of JKSC on Baisakhi.

During the interaction, Nuzhat Gul asked them to play sports as sports teaches us discipline and make us

physically and mentally fit.

She also insisted sports is the only medium where we can triumph the hearts of millions and make the country and the UT proud.

She gave the examples of Arif Khan Olympian, Asian Games medalist Surya Bhanu Partap singh, Dronacharya awardee Kuldeep Handoo, Chandep Singh international medalist in the Taekwondo, Shweta Thakur Judo international player Meenal Gupta Ace Chess Player of the UT J&K and so many other players who are the pride of the UT J&K.

She assured all the students and the administration of the Balgran that soon she will start wushu and chess classes with all equipment.

Later, Secretary JKSC

presented sports equipments like cricket kits, footballs, volleyball, carrom board etc among the students which was contributed by the employees of the JKSC.

The international players also interacted with the students and educated them the importance of sports and in particular fitness which is the only remedy to overcome all the obstacles of life and also shared their experience with them.

The other dignitaries present were President of the Hockey J&K Rajiv Sharma, Satish Gupta Manager JKSC, Suriender Pal Singh (National Team coach Gymnastic), Atul Gupta Secretary Chess Association of J&K, Anil Wadhwa Boxing Coach and Satpal Singh Football Coach.

Series of activities held in schools to mark Ambedkar Jayanti

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JAMMU: The Directorate of School Education Jammu organised a series of activities across the government schools of the ten districts of Jammu Division to mark the Ambedkar Jayanti.

The schools hosted guest lectures, seminars, debates, declamations, short plays and skits, patriotic song singing competition, drawing competitions, webinars etc. to cherish, acknowledge and propagate the ideas of Dr B R Ambedkar. The students were also familiarised about the role Dr Ambedkar played in the freedom struggle of India and the contributions he made in the making of the Constitution of India.

The events were held under the supervision of Chief Education Officers at district level with the help of the Principals, ZEOs, HOs and the teaching community bringing out various aspects of Dr B R Ambedkar's life to inculcate a spirit of nationalism in the students.

At the divisional level, an online webinar was organized by the Directorate of School Education Jammu (DSEJ) through its Cultural and Educational Cell, to commemorate the day with Dr. Ravi Shankar, Director School Education Jammu as the chief guest for the event which was attended by the Chief Education Officers of various districts, DIET members,

Zonal Education Officers, HOIs of schools of Jammu Province, teaching community along with other staff members and students from different schools of the Jammu province.

Dr. Ravi Shankar, Director DSEJ, deliberated on the importance of the day and the role that Dr B R Ambedkar played in the making of the Constitution of India. He beautifully covered the history of the events that lead to the beginning of the process of formulation of the constitution and finally India getting the world's largest written constitution. He discussed the preamble of the constitution with the students and the guests present and said that every word of the preamble and the constitution must be understood and then followed by us in letter and spirit.

Throwing light on the rights and duties part in the constitution, Dr Ravi Shankar Sharma said that the two are complementary to each other and help the citizens in realising their true self. The resource persons on the occasion, Rajesh Sharma, Ashok Kumar and Kuldeep Kumar also brought out the different characteristics of the constitution and tried to make the students understand the different underlying themes running through the constitution.

The webinar was moderated by Supriya while Ashutosh provided the technical support.

IOA terms exclusion of shooting, wrestling from 2026 CWG as 'injustice' to India

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Indian Olympic Association on Thursday termed the exclusion of shooting, wrestling and archery from the initial programme of 2026 Commonwealth Games as "grave injustice" to the country and said it will protest against the decision after consulting with the sports ministry.

IOA Secretary General Rajeev Mehta said the Olympic body will write a letter to the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) in a day or two to protest against the decision.

"It is a grave injustice to India, leaving out shooting, wrestling and archery. Shooting and wrestling are our major sports in CWG. We protest against the decision and will write a letter to the CGF in a day or two," Mehta told PTL.

"Will discuss the matter with the IOA president and then with the sports ministry regarding the future course of action."

Without shooting and wrestling, India's CWG medal tally is likely to be reduced drastically. Shooting has been India's strongest sport in the Commonwealth Games with 135 medals (63 gold, 44 silver and 28 bronze) till now. Wrestling is in third spot with 102 (43 gold, 37 silver and 22 bronze) medals.

‘My Youth My Pride’ competitions begin at Poonch

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: The "My Pride My Youth" initiative of the Sports Council began at indoor hall of Sports Stadium Poonch where events in the disciplines of Boxing and Taekwondo shall be held.

The main motto of this competition is to connect youth to positivity and provide developmental opportunities in the field of Sports.

The Chief Guest of the opening ceremony was Sohail Malik DDC Surankote B while Sunil Sharma Naib Sarpanch Ajote was the Guest of Honour, and Premprakash Luthra Senior Vice President Poonch District Taekwondo Association and Nirdosh Kumar Incharge Manager Sports Stadium Poonch and Parveen Kour Treasurer PDTA was the Special Guests on the occasion.

Earlier, the gathering was welcomed by Rajinder Singh, Taekwondo Coach from Department of Youth Services and Sports.

Speaking on the occasion, Sohail Malik congratulated Nuzhat Gul,

Secretary Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council for this initiative.

He also congratulated Rajinder Singh Taekwondo Coach for providing excellent platform to the youth of Poonch by imparting their training in Olympic Martial Art 'Taekwondo'.

He also applauded the efforts of Musthaq Ahmed, boxing coach.

Later, the Chief Guest interacted with the participants and motivated the youth to participate in sports to chennalize their energy in positive manner.

Rajinder Singh Taekwondo Coach briefed the audience about the benefits encompassing the new sports policy and appealed to the parents to send their wards for active participation in games and sports.

Few demonstration of Taekwondo were also present in front of the Chief Guest.

A total of 90 young taekwondo players in both boys and girls category and 46 boxing players took part actively in today's event held under the Direction



Youth posing with officials during My Youth My Pride competitions at Sports Stadium Poonch.

of Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council.

Prominent others were present are Abhinav Dabour Junior Engineer PDD, Sabar Hussain Bitta Sr Teacher, Rajinder Singh PEM, Kewal Krishan PEM, Matinderpal Singh Hockey coach, Sanjay Raina PET, Ravinder Kumar Bitta President Pahari Cell, Amit Sharma Joint Secretary PDTA, Ashaq Hussain Organising Secretary PDTA, Sourav Sharma PEM and all the employees of JKSC District Unit.

Meanwhile, Secretary Sports Council, Nuzhat

Gul while divulging the details of the sports initiative said that government is keen to identify and build a talent pool of players in the region.

"J&K abounds for multi-talented youth and as an apex sports body, we are here to explore that talent and provide them the right platform to showcase their skills", she added.

"This is just the beginning and I am sure through the medium of this programme much talent will come to the fore", said Secretary Sports Council.

For participants from a remote area, this is one of

the unique experiences when game-specific events are being held for the first time in a very organized manner.

Some of them feel, that similar events in other games shall also be held in their native villages, however, were quick to add, the initiative is appreciable for which Sports Council and the government of J&K deserve all applauses.

Like a common demand from other areas, participants here also feel that such events should become a regular feature in the future.

In Sher-i- Khass's Gani

Memorial Stadium, Sports Council Football Academy, Bandipora will clash with Etihad Football Academy in the ongoing Youth Football League later in the evening.

Meanwhile, the much-awaited game between the arch-rivals J&K Bank Academy, and Lonestar KFC played yesterday evening turned out to be high voltage drama as both teams sprinted on the field with a high tempo, right from the first whistle.

An early breakthrough for Bank Academy came in the 8th minute of the match and by the end of

the first half, the lead was doubled. Though Lonestar made many unsuccessful attempts, they eventually succeeded in netting one in the initial minutes of the second half. However, their euphoria was short-lived as they conceded two more goals soon after that and handed over the game to J&K Bank Academy with a scoreboard reading 4-1.

With this win, J&K Bank Academy earned all the 3 points from the match and secured their place in the final round of the League. Tazeem of J&K Bank Academy was awarded player of the match for scoring two important goals for the team.

A large crowd of football enthusiasts had thronged the stadium and it is expected that the audience will only swell up as the league progress.

In Nanil Cricket field Anantnag, Super Star Mattan defeated their opponents KCC Mattan. Riding on some brilliant performances of Sahil and Asif with bat and ball Super Star Mattan trounced their opponents

by 28 runs. While former contributed with a personal score of 33 runs and later grabbed 4 crucial wickets to take his team home. Asif for his brilliant bowling spell was adjudged man of the match.

In an another match of 2nd Round, GSM Mattan got better off their opponents Seer Royals and won the match by 32 runs.GSM Mattan after winning the toss aggregated 136 runs for the loss of 9 wickets and in response, Salia Royals could pile up only 104 in their allotted quota of 20 overs.

Tawseef with 65 runs and 4 wickets was top performer in the winning cause while Junaid was the pick of the bowlers for the Salia Royals claiming 4 wickets.

Tawseef for his brilliant performance with both bat and ball was awarded man of the match.

Meanwhile, another match of the Spring Shield T-20 Cricket Tournament between Hutmurha Sports and Wonder Boys was in progress when the report was being filed.