

## 8th Poonch District Handball Championship begins



Participating teams posing for a photograph with chief guest, Anjum Bashir Khatak, Tehsildar Haveli and other officials at Poonch on Sunday.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**POONCH:** Two days 8th Poonch District Handball Championship kick started by District Handball Association Poonch under the aegis of J&K Handball Association with the collaboration of J&K Sports Council for senior men, here on Sunday.

A total of six teams are taking part in the championship across the district.

This championship is being organized on league-cum-knock out basis.

The championship was

declared open by Anjum Bashir Khatak, Tehsildar Haveli, Poonch.

Other prominent persons who witnessed the opening ceremony include Incharge Sports Stadium Poonch Nirdosh Sharma, Naib Tehsildar Haveli Poonch, Vijay Kumar PEM, Neeraj Sharma PET, D.K Raina PET, Charan Singh, Tarlochan Singh PET, Matinder Pal Singh PET, Pervaiz Ahmed ReK and Sachin Sharma ReK. The Organising Secretary of the

championship, Sorab Sharma, PEM DYSSO Poonch, welcomed all the guest, players, officials, spectators and media persons on the behalf of Poonch District Handball Association.

Today's Results: Stadium A beat GDC Poonch by 19-16 goal; and Poonch Handball Club trounced Power House Club by 20-17 goals.

Today's matches were officiated by technical penal comprising of Intiaz Lone ReK and Pervaiz Ahmed, Ghulam Abbas and Sachin Sharma.

## District Poonch Wushu Championship to begin from Aug 3

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**POONCH:** District Poonch Wushu Championship 2023-24 being organised by District Poonch Wushu Association under the aegis of Wushu Association of J&K under the theme Azadi Ka Amrit Mohotsav supported by Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council to be held at Indoor complex of Sports Stadium Poonch from August 3. It was decided unanimously by all the office bearers of the District Association in a meeting held at Poonch on Sunday under the supervision of President District Poonch Wushu Association, Priyanka Singh. All the interested players of District Poonch asked to confirm their entries by August 2, 2023. Moreover, all players are advised to reach at Indoor Complex Sports Stadium Poonch August 2 at 4:30 PM for weigh-in along with Complete Registration forms signed by parents also attached Date of Birth certificate issued by Municipality Poonch or Concerned Sarpanch of the village.

## India's Gyaneshwari and Koyel win silver medals at Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**GREATER NOIDA:** India's Gyaneshwari Yadav and Koyel Bar secured silver medals in the women's 49kg event at the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships here on Sunday. While Gyaneshwari finished runner up among the juniors, Koyel came second in the youth category on day three of the Championships at the Gautam Buddha University here.

Gyaneshwari lifted a total of 175kg (78kg+97kg). Two failed attempts -- one each in snatch and clean and jerk section -- prevented the Chhattisgarh from matching her gold-winning effort at the Commonwealth Senior Championships held here earlier this

month. Spearheading India's campaign in the absence of Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Mirabai Chanu, the 20-year-old had recorded personal best in the snatch (78kg) as well as the clean and jerk section (98kg).

Philippines' Rosegie Ramos was crowned the Asian Junior Champion for her effort of 182kg (83kg+99kg) while Vietnamese lifter Birch Tram Ngyun 169kg (76kg+93kg) took home the bronze.

In the youth event, Koyel heaved 69kg in snatch and 86 kg in clean and jerk for a total effort of 155kg. Another Philippine lifter Jhodie Peralta won the gold 160kg (73kg+87kg) while Thailand's Phanida Denduang 151kg (67kg+84kg) came third.

## Indian mixed 4x400m relay team may miss upcoming World Athletics Championships

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian mixed 4x400m relay team may miss the upcoming World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary by a whisker as it failed to improve upon its best timing of the season during the Sri Lankan National Championships in Colombo on Sunday.

The Indian team is currently placed at 17th spot in the world rankings with the qualifying period window ending on Sunday. Sixteen teams will compete in the August 17 championships.

After the deadline is over on Sunday midnight, World Athletics will send invites to all the national bodies whose athletes make the cut in their respective event. If any member country decide to pull out any of their qualified athletes or relay teams, the WA will update the final list of qualified athletes on August 2.

"Yes, our mixed 4x400m relay team is at 17th spot in the Road to Budapest list (prepared by WA) out of which 16 to be qualified, we may miss unless a team in the top 16 pulls out," said a coach at the national camp.

For relay races, the top eight teams at the World Championships in the USA last year will get automatic qualification and they will be joined by another eight from the top list -- the best eight timers of the season.

On Sunday, the Indian mixed 4x400m relay quartet

of Amoj Jacob, Aishwarya Mishra, Muhammed Anas and Himanshi Malik failed to improve upon their season's best timing of 3 minute and 14.70 second though they won the race at the Sri Lankan National Championships.

They had gone to Colombo with hope to improve upon the timing but could only clock 3:17.33 to remain at 17th spot in the rankings.

The women's 4x400m relay team is also not in the reckoning for World Championships qualification.

But, the silver lining is that the men's 4x400m relay team is set to qualify for the World Championships as it is placed at 14th out of 16 to make the cut.

Meanwhile, Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, India's newest Diamond League medallist, long jumper Murali Shreshankar and ace 3000m steeplechaser Avinash Sable will headline the country's challenge in the World Championships.

Chopra qualified as reigning Diamond League champion, while Shreshankar and Sable breached the entry standard. Jeswin Aldrin has also qualified in men's long jump through breaching entry standard. Asian record holder shot putter Tjinderpal Thor also qualified via entry standard.

Three Indians -- Praveen Chithravel, Abdulla Aboobacker and Eldhose

Paul -- are set to compete in the men's triple jump competitions.

Chithravel breached the entry standard, while Aboobacker and Paul will make the cut in world ranking quota.

The men's 20km race walk event will also see three Indians in action as Akshdeep Singh, Vikash Singh and Paramjeet Bisht made it through entry standard.

India was set to field three athletes in men's javelin throw, including Chopra, but Rohit Yadav pulled out due to surgery on his throwing elbow. DP Manu will be the second javelin thrower in the fray.

Jyothi Yarraji and Parul Chaudhary have qualified in women's 100m hurdle and 3000m steeplechase as Asian champions. Long jumper Shali Singh and javelin thrower Annu Rani are likely to qualify in the world ranking quota.

In women's 20km walk race, Priyanka Goswami has already qualified by breaching the entry standard, while Bhawna Jat is also likely to make the cut in world ranking quota.

Kishan Kumar (800m), Ajay Knar Saroj (1500m), Sarvesh Anil Kushare and Tejaswin Shankar (high jump) and Ram Baboo (men's 35km race walk) are also set to qualify in the world ranking quota.

Santhosh Kumar is also set to make the cut in men's 400m hurdles.

## Hari Prabhu Sanstha holds its 19th Annual General Meeting



Dy Mayor Jammu, B.S Billawaria and other dignitaries releasing Annual News Reporter of Hari Prabha Sanstha at Jammu on Sunday.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**JAMMU:** Hari Prabha Sanstha (Regd.) held its 19th Annual General Meeting in the auditorium of Indian Institute of Public Administration, here on Sunday.

On this occasion, Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria was the Chief Guest while I.D Soni, Harinder Gupta and S.K Jain was the Guests of Honour, K.B Jandial presided over the function.

The programme started with lighting of lamp and reciting of Gayatri Mantra and Om Dhvani. Before adhering to the Agenda item, two minutes silence was observed to pay condolence/ Shradhanjali to the departed souls/ members who had left for heavenly abode during the year.

S.C Gupta President welcomed the dignitaries, guests and all the partici-

pants. He gave a brief description of the aims, objectives and origin of Sanstha.

Appreciating the work of the organization, Billawaria said that the organization is doing better work in the direction of society building. He also assured to provide all possible help to the organization.

Deputy Mayor and others sitting on the Dias released the Annual News Reporter of Sanstha for the year 2022-23. Billawaria appreciated the activities/initiatives of Sanstha to help the poor and needy people in the rural and remote area. Deputy Mayor Jammu highly appreciated the efforts of Sanstha members to do such social activities for the welfare of the destitute and BPL Beneficiaries.

I.D Soni, Harinder Gupta, SK jain also spoke on the occasion and highly appreci-

ated the efforts of Sanstha.

Likewise, Kuldeep Gupta General Secretary presented Annual Report Containing the activities of the Sanstha during 2022-23.

Subash Gupta, Treasurer presented the Annual Accounts for the financial year 2022-2023, which were passed unanimously by the voice vote.

The culture programme was also presented by Dharmesh Nargotra and Party followed by Bhajan by P. N Jalla and Master Kishori Lal Gupta.

President SC Gupta thanked Rakesh Gupta Chartered Accountant for auditing the account of Sanstha free of cost for the last 19 years.

Anil Sharma, Sr. Vice President Conducted the proceedings of this function and programme ended with Shanti Path.

## Rinku Singh credits IPL performance for Asian Games selection

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**NEW DELHI:** Crediting the "special IPL innings" for changing his life, Uttar Pradesh batter Rinku Singh said he was left emotional when he received his maiden India call up for the Asian Games.

Despite a stellar IPL campaign with the Kolkata Knight Riders, Rinku was not included in the squad for the upcoming five-match T20s series against West Indies. He finished as the top run-getter for KKR with 474 runs at an average of 59.25 and 149-plus strike rate.

However, the 25-year-old has made the cut for the Hangzhou Asian Games scheduled from September 23 to October 8.

"When I saw my name I was very emotional, I have been working for this and now I have got it," Rinku Singh said in a video posted by BCCI.

## Anantnag District Squash Championship declared open

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**SRINAGAR:** Dar Siraj Ud Din, Chairman Learn To Play Sports Academy declared Anantnag District Squash Championship open at J&K Sports Council Squash Complex, here on Sunday.

The 2-day Championship under 'My Youth My Pride' initiative of J&K Sports Council, is being organised by Anantnag Squash Rackets Association under the auspices of J&K Squash Rackets Association and is being sponsored by Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council. The chief guest on the opening ceremony while addressing the participating players said that sports serves for delight, for ornament and for agility.

He advised the participants to spare time for sports which he said will be fruitful for them in every respect.

He also congratulated the organizers for organizing tournaments in such royal sport of Squash.

Dar also expressed his sincere thanks to J&K Sports Council for involving youth in large numbers in sports and games in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Meanwhile, 68 players from various Schools of District Anantnag are participating in different categories. 18 matches in boys and 16 matches in girls' section will be played in Sub Junior, Junior and Senior categories in both the sections.



## Wushu selection trial for World C'ship from Aug 1

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**SRINAGAR:** The Wushu Association of India is going to conduct final selection trial on August 1 and 2, 2023 for the 16th World Wushu Championship at SKISC Srinagar.

The 16th World Wushu Championship scheduled to be held in Texas (USA) from November 14 to 21, 2023.

All best athletes of the recently held 32nd Senior National Wushu Championship, International Players/Medalists as per the selection policy of the Wushu Association of India have been invited for the selection trial.

Meanwhile, the National Wushu coaching camp for the 19th Asian Games is already in progress at same venue and will conclude on August 3, 2023. The

Wushu Association of India have already shortlisted 13 athletes, coaches and supporting staff for the 19th Asian Games, which has been further submitted to Indian Olympic Association for the further course of action.

Pertinent to mention here that two players namely Surya Bhanu Partap Singh and Owais Sarwar and National Chief Coach Kuldeep Handoo (Dronacharya Awardee) from UT J&K are in the Indian squad for the Asian Games.

The Wushu Association of India has constituted a selection committee for the shortlisting of the Indian wushu athletes for the 16th World Wushu championship.

The committee will be headed by the president of the Wushu Association of India.

## South Zone beat East Zone by 5 wickets

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**PUDUCHERRY:** Mayank Agarwal and Sai Sudharsan came up with superb half-centuries as South Zone produced an allround show to continue its unbeaten run, coasting to a comfortable five-wicket win over East Zone in a round-robin match of the Deodhar Trophy here on Sunday.

Agarwal (84) and Sudharsan (53) shared an 118-run partnership for the second wicket, studded with 10 fours and two sixes, in South Zone's emphatic 230-run chase in

44.2 overs.

While Agarwal slammed six fours and a six in 88 balls, his partner Sudharsan send the ball four times across the fence and deposited it at the stands once in his 57-ball knock.

Once they were back in the hut, N Jagadeesan (32) and Rohit Rayudu (24) kept their chase on track.

South Zone was atop the points table with four wins in as many games, while East Zone are placed second with 3 wins in 4 matches.

## Nadeem-Jay wins Srinagar Invitational Tennis title

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**JAMMU:** Representing Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on Sunday the duo of Nadeem and Jay lifted the Srinagar Invitational Tennis Championship doubles trophy beating defending champions Moazzam Rashid and Haider Hussain at Gundun Tennis Court, Srinagar.

Jay Kumar and Nadeem Sandani had a poor start to the final match, losing the first set 3-6. However, the experienced duo came back strongly in the second set to win 6-3 and enforced a decider.

Moazzam and Haider, who have won the Srinagar doubles tournament for the past three years, went down easily in the last set to lose 2-6.

Both the teams had easy semifinal outings, winning in straight sets. Eight teams took part in the doubles tournament while the single's edi-



Winners Nadeem and Jay with runner-up team and official.

tion likely to be held in second week or August.

President of Jammu and Kashmir Lawn Tennis Association, Captain Murti Gupta congratulated the winners of the tournament.

He also appreciated the Kashmir wing of the association for successful conduct of the event.

"I hope that the tennis activities in both provinces of the union territory will continue to grow so that more and more young talent is

attracted to the game," the president said.

General secretary of the Association, B S Jaggi said there was huge potential for tennis promotion is Jammu and Kashmir and the youngsters need to take benefit from the facilities.

Joint secretary, Gurmit Singh Patel thanked the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council for its sport in the promotion of the game of tennis in Jammu and Kashmir.

## Brij Bhushan claims 22 state units attended his meeting, candidates for various WFI posts to be known on Monday

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**NEW DELHI:** Outgoing Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh claimed that 22 out of 25 state units attended a meeting hosted by him on Sunday, adding that "his candidates" for various posts for the federation elections on August 12 will be announced on Monday.

Monday is the last date for filing nominations.

"Twenty-two of the 25 states units associated with the WFI attended the meeting. (Our) candidates will be announced on Monday," said BJP MP Brij Bhushan, who hosted the meeting at a five-star hotel here.

Brij Bhushan, against whom the country's six top wrestlers including Olympic medallists Bajranj Punia and Sakshi Malik and Asian Games gold medallist Vinesh Phogat had levelled allegations of sexual harassment and sat in protest at Jantar



Mantar, is ineligible to contest as he has completed 12 years as head of the federation -- the maximum period allowed as per the National Sports Code.

A state unit member, who attended the meeting said on the condition of anonymity, that the BJP leader's son-in-law Vishal Singh (President, Bihar Wrestling Federation), who was widely being touted as Brij Bhushan's successor for the top WFI post, will not contest the August 12 election for any top position.

"He (Vishal) declared his inability to contest the elections because he is very busy

and said he will not be able to do justice to his job if he gets elected," said a state unit member secretary.

"He will, however, cast his vote," the secretary of the state body added.

Brij Bhushan's son Karan is also not part of the electoral college for the elections as Sports Minister Anurag Thakur had promised to the protesting wrestlers at Jantar Mantar that none from the BJP leader's family would contest the elections.

However, Brij Bhushan's candidates could face challenge from rivals, who reportedly had a parallel meeting of their own at a different location in the national capital.

The meeting was reportedly attended by the state units of Assam, Odisha and Himachal Pradesh, though it could not be independently verified.

Assam was recently given voting rights by the IOA ad-

hoc panel. Among those who could be in the fray from the rival faction are Railways Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) secretary Prem Chand Lochab (Gujarat representative) and Anita Sheoran, one of the witnesses in the sexual harassment case against Brij Bhushan, who has been named in the list as Odisha representative for the polls.

A Brij Bhushan camp insider said the BJP leader will have another meeting on Monday before the filing of nominations.

"There will be another meeting on Monday before the filing of nominations at the Olympic Bhawan, which will be chaired by Brij Bhushan," added the insider.

"Brij Bhushan spoke to every state unit chief individually to get a consensus on the candidates. We are all in favour of a unanimous candidate, who can take the sport forward," said Ranbir Kundu, the Punjab associa-

tion secretary, adding that neither he nor his president, Asian Games gold medallist wrestler Kartar Singh, want to stand for key posts.

Kartar has previously served as WFI secretary.

Another source privy to the discussion said that most of the state units who came were in favour of "someone of stature" being nominated for the top posts.

"The names of J&K wrestling body chief Dushyant Sharma, Kartar Singh (Punjab body chief) and Jai Prakash (Delhi association) also came up," said the source, adding, "the names of UP's state unit officials, Prem Kumar Mishra and Sanjay Singh, were also discussed for key posts."

The day-to-day activities of the WFI are being managed by the Indian Olympic Association-constituted ad-hoc committee, led by Wushu Association of India chief Bhpender Singh Bajwa.