# **Dushyant's led India team leaves for** FIVB World U-21 Men's Championship



#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Dushyant Singh's led India men's volleyball team left for FIVB World U-Vollevball Men's Championship to be held at Bahrain from July 7 to 16,

Prof. (Dr.)Achyuta Samanta, Member Parliament & President, Volleyball Federation of India and Founder KHT & KISS

University has provided support for the smooth conduct of the coaching camp for the team and extended his good wishes to the team members for the medal winning performance in the  $\overline{\text{FIVB}}$ Volleyball Men's U-21 World Championship.

The Team: Dushyant Singh (Captain), Bharanidharan. S, Sandeep, Md Razza, Sameer Chaudhary, Tanish Choudhary, Harshit Giri, Aman Kumar, Sachin Dagar, Karthikeyan. K (L), Ajeet Shekho Yougank and Balivan.

Officials: G E Sridharan Coach), (Head Rajesh Kumar ( Assistant Coach). Praveen Kumar Sharma (Assistant Coach), Jayakumar Nadarajan (Manager), Dr. Digvijay Rathore

(Physiotherapist) It is pertinent to mention

here that India qualified for the FIVB Volleyball Men's U21 World Championships after winning a silver at the Asian Men's U20 Volleyball Championship, losing to Iran in the final in Riffa, Bahrain. In addition to the medal, Indian captain Dushyant Singh from Rajasthan was also felicitated with the 'best

blocker' award during the Asian Men's U20 Volleyball Championship.

Meanwhile, Chief Patron Volleyball Association of Jammu and Kashmir, Raj Daluja, President, Sidharth Daluja, CEO besides Kuldip Magotra and other office bearers also congratulated selected team and officials and wished team best of luck for the championship.

#### Junior Wushu trials on July 6 ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Wushu Association of J&K, on a short notice, shall two-day selection trials to pick up probables for the upcoming 22nd Junior National Championship to be held at Patna in Maharashtra from August 6 to 11.

The trials shall take place at Sher-e-Kashmir Sports Complex, Srinagar from tomorrow thus making it a bit difficult for those interested players from Jammu Division to reach the venue

The selection is led by Kuldeep Handoo (chairman) while other members are Maqsood Rather, Faisal Ali, Kamal Kishore, Ajaz Hassan and Abhishek Singh Jamwal.

As per a handout issued here today, the Association claimed participation of athletes from 19 districts of the UT in the selection process

Those interested eligible participants have been advised to bring along Date of Birth Certificate, medical fitness certificate and Aadhaar Card.

DC Doda inaugurates Cricket Tournament; interacts

# Rakshak bags U-19 title in Rajouri Chess



Winner players posing with dignitaries at Rajouri.

Also

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

RAJOURI: Rakshak bagged first place in the under-19 boys event in the one-day District Rajouri Chess Tournament which was organised by Rajouri Chess Association under the aegis of All J&K Chess Association (AJKCA) at Government High School Sawani in Rajouri on Wednesday.

Second place in under-19 category went to Navdeep Singh while Sunny Sharma remained third. Later, the prizes given away by the chief guest, Nirmal Kumar Headmaster of the host

at Village Dhara

Panchayat Sarna by the DC

and the ADC Bhaderwah,

where a large gathering of

demands, the Deputy

Commissioner Doda direct-

ed the concerned officers to

make an estimate for the

link road to connect the vil-

demands and grievances.

Responding to

projected their

Sahil Raina (PET), Katten Sharma and Neha Dutta (district secretary). The event took place under the supervision of Neha Dutta and Rakesh Singh. BOYS: The Results: Under-19: Position Rakshak Kumar, Ist; Navdeep Singh, 2nd and Sunny Sharma, 3rd.

Balvinder Singh (PEM),

Under-17: Krish Khajuria, Ist; Akshay Kumar, 2nd and Sajjad Ahmed, 3rd. Under 17: Pihu Bhardwaj, Ist; Akriti Sharma, 2nd and Kremica Saraf, 3rd. Under-14: Viraj Raina, Ist; Ayush Bakshi, 2nd and Anshu Sharma, 3rd.

## J&K boxing team leaves for Junior National



Boxing team posing with dignitaries.

tion committee and there

weren't any names that would

Rinku Singh, whose finish-

ing skills at Nos 5 or 6 for

KKR in IPL have impressed

one and all, didn't figure in the

15-member squad but it is

understood that with only a

week's gap between the West

Indies series and Ireland

T20Is, there is a high possibil-

ity that both Rinku and

Vidarbha's Jitesh Sharma will

make that team along with

Jitesh the glovesman lost out

as both Ishan Kishan and

Sanju Samson are ahead in

the pecking order and will

always have an advantage

The two players who have

made international comebacks

are pacer Ayesh Khan and leg-

Bishnoi, who last played for

India in the Asia Cup in

September, will be playing

first-class cricket for Guiarat

The team has three wrist

spinners with Kuldeep Yadav

and Yuzvendra Chahal also

being part of the 15-member

Axar Patel, who going by

current form is a better T20

bet compared to Ravindra

Jadeja, has been picked in the

squad. In Jadeja's case

though, unlike Rohit and

In the pace department,

Avesh has been cranking it up

with the red ball for Central

Zone in the Duleep Trophy

and in the absence of Jasprit

Bumrah, Mohammed Shami

Kohli, he has been rested.

spinner Ravi Bishnoi.

this season.

unless they fail to perform.

Ruturaj Gaikwad.

have surprised anyone.

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Under the banner of J&K Amateur Boxing Association (JKABA), the UT boxing team on Wednesday left for participation in the 5th Junior Boys Championship slated to be held at Itanagar im Arunachal Pradesh from July 8 to 14.

Earlier, the team was screened by the offi-

cials of the J&K Sports Council (JKSC) led by Divisional Sports Officer, Ashok Singh in the presence of general secretary JKABA, Rajan Sharma. The team is accompanied by Naresh Kumar, boxing trainer as coach cum manager. The Team: Vishesh Singh, Ranjeet, Aarif Wani, Keshav Sharma, Vinayak, Momin, Labib, Sourav and Ansh.

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADERWAH: Deputy Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Mahajan, along with ADC Bhaderwah, Chowdhary Dil Mir on Wednesday inaugurated Ghanshyam Memorial Cricket tourna-Village ment here at Chinchora

A large gathering attended the tournament including locals, PRIs and government functionaries. The tournament has been organised as part of the joint endeavour of the civil society and administration to

# with public in Village Sarna

DC Doda, Vishesh Mahajan inaugurating Ghanshyam Sharma Memorial Cricket tournament.

engage the village youth in healthy activities and refine their talent in sports, said DC, while addressing the

gathering at the inaugural

A public outreach/interaction program was also held

lage to take up the construction under MGNREGA or any other relevant scheme.

> He also directed the concerned officers to start the plantation drive by taking the help of the agriculture

and horticulture departments.

The DC also directed PDD to replace all 40 small wooden electric poles by the standard iron poles in the area.

The DC has urged the people to develop homestays in their houses by the help of the Tourism department as the area is bestowed with scenic beauty and has great Tourism potential. The program was attended

by BDC Chairperson Omi Chand, DDC Councillor Thakur Yudhvir and ACD Doda Phulail Singh and

## J&K Sports Council to conduct trials on June 8

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council is going to conduct trials in soft tennis for Khelo India Centre at MA Stadium Jammu in under 18 age group on 8th on July, 2023 from 8 am onwards.

As per a notification issued here today by the Council in this regard, all the desirous soft tennis players have been asked to submit their entries to incharge Manager old indoor sports complex Jammu at 7889560079 or soft tennis mentor. Khelo India Centre Jammu, Indu Bhushan at 7780962714 one day before conduct of the trials. The interested candidates have to bring their age proof certificates, Aadhaar card and two pass-

## Rohit, Virat ignored again for T20Is as Tilak Varma gets his maiden India call-up, Jaiswal also in

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: Two-format skipper Rohit Sharma and the peerless Virat Kohli are unlikely to feature anytime soon in the Indian T20 team as they were once again left out of the 15-member squad led by Hardik Pandva that will take on the West Indies in a fivematch series, starting August

The side led by Hardik has a youthful look to it with the only player above 30 being world No.1 batter and team's vice-captain Suryakumar

The only new face in the team is Hyderabad and Mumbai Indians left-hander Tilak Varma, who had made a strong case for himself during the past two IPL seasons batting in the middle-order and donning the role of a finisher with a strike-rate of 142-plus in 47 IPL and Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy games.

Yashasvi Jaiswal, who is set to make his Test debut next week, is also a part of the T20 squad after a stupendous IPL.

While the emphasis for the next three months is on the 50over World Cup and people privy to development would term it as being rested, it is certainly not a pattern in isolation that two pillars of Indian batting have not been a part of the last three T20 series (Sri Lanka, New Zealand), including this one

As the saying is in Indian cricket circles, the two contemporary doyens "would never be officially dropped" but "phased out" unless some remarkable turnround happens, which would be nothing short of a miracle.

The meeting on Wednesday was also Ajit Agarkar's first as chairman of the national selec-

#### Samba Softball C'ship begins **STATE TIMES NEWS** JAMMU: Two-day District

Softball Championship, organised Samba Softball Association, started on Wednesday at Government Higher Secondary School Birpur.

The competition declared open by Sarpanch Birpur, Veena Jamwal. Among the guests of honour were Munishwar Singh Jamwal Assistant Commandant, SSB); Suraj Verma (Lecturer), Sumitri Devi (Panch Ward five Birpur) and Vinay Kumar



Birpur) Upper Harkesh K Jasrotia, Pawan Kumar and Harvingh Singh were special guests.

The technical panel comprised Ajay Singh, Pradeep Singh Atul Singh Dheeraj

Results: Dragon Fire Club beat Young Bulls 10-02; Heavy Hitters Club beat GCC Gurha Slathia 10-0; Dev Softball Club beat Friends Club (10-04), GIRLS: GCC Softball Club beat Birpur

# Maiden Kishtwar Chess meet held

locals

### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The first ever District Kishtwar Chess Championship held on Wednesday at Mother's SchoolKishtwar under the aegis of All J&K Association Chess (AJKCA).

Chairman of the School, Mohd. Zafar was the Chief Guest, who witnessed the competition and later presented the cash and other prizes to the position holders. Parminder Kumar was organising secretary while president of the Kishtwar



Winners posing for photograph with dignitaries.

Pathania was chief organiz-Hassan Shabir 2nd Mohd Tayeb, 3rd. GIRLS: Soulat

Fatima, 2nd; and Faika er. The Results: UNDER- Farraz, 3rd. OPEN: Saleem 15: BOYS: Abdul Basit, Ist; Raja, Ist and Ahmed Saifullah 2nd Participant: Abrish Sadiqa

# Amarnath Yatra: Local Muslims keep Kashmiriyat, spirit of brotherhood alive

BALTAL: The annual Amarnath Yatra to the holy cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas has been a shining example of Hindu-Muslim bonhomie as the local population has not only welcomed, but assisted the hundreds and thousands of Shiva devotees in their arduous journey of faith.

The support of the local Muslims has been instrumental for a smooth conduct of the pilgrimage year after year, irrespective of the political atmosphere or security scenario in the rest of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Muslims put up tents for the yatris to stay, provide palanquins and pony services for those devotees who cannot undertake the difficult trek to the 3,888-metre-high cave shrine housing a naturally formed ice-lingam -- the edifice of Lord Shiva. And they are also the first responders in case of any emergency.

The services have more to do with keeping the traditional communal harmony alive than the economic aspects. "The necessary arrangements and other things that we need are taken care of by our Muslim brothers. From cleanliness to the 'prasad', pony, palkis -- all the help is rendered by local Muslims. This brotherhood is an example for the world. I have not witnessed a better example of brotherhood than this anywhere else and I travel across India," Sadhu Nagaraj, here for the yatra, said.

A local who works as a caretaker for the belongings of the pilgrims said they provide their services for free because of the age-old brotherhood.

We come here for the yatris. We keep their bags, cameras, mobile phones here and take care of those for free. This is our brotherhood. We are keeping Kashmiriyat alive," he

Expressing satisfaction over the support of the Muslims, a pilgrim said the locals have left no stone unturned to make the yatra successful.

"The locals have provided a huge support. They have left no stone unturned. If we seek one item from them, they provide two," the yatri said.

For the locals, the yatra is

also an opportunity to earn their livelihood.

"We come here when the

yatra starts. We earn our livelihood for the month by carrying the bags of the yatris up to the holy cave and back. The yatris cannot carry the heavy bags, so we carry those for them," a man who carries the pilgrims' bags on his shoulders for a to-and-fro mountainous journey of about 25 kilometres said.

"We carry the pilgrims, especially the older ones, on palkis. We carry them on our shoulders. It also provides us an

opportunity to earn our livelihood," another local service provider who carries the yatris on palanquins said.

For many locals, the yatra

symbolises Hindu-Muslim

"We Muslims help the Hindu community members. It symbolises our unity," one of them

Another appealed to Hindus across the country to come for the yatra, saying there is no

danger or trouble in Kashmir. "We are ready to welcome you and lend you every help,

## Team India meets West Indian legend Sobers in Barbados ahead of Test series

### AGENCY

BARBADOS: Members of the Indian cricket team, currently touring the West Indies, met the legendary Sir Garfield Sobers and shared pleasantries with one of the all-time greats of the sport here.

The India team, led by Rohit Caribbean in three ODIs and five T20Is.

The BCCI shared a video of the meeting with the former West Indies captain, captioning it, "In Barbados & in the company of greatness. Team India meets one of the greatest of the game -- Sir Garfield

Sobers, 86, arguably one of the finest all-rounders to have played the game, scored 8,032

runs in 93 Tests besides taking 235 wickets with his leftarm bowling. Among those to greet

#### Sobers, who was accompanied by his wife, were Rohit, Virat Kohli, Shubman Ravichandran Ashwin and India head coach Rahul

Dravid. Kohli was, in fact, awarded the Sir Garfield Sobers Award for 'male cricketer of the decade' in 2020.

During the brief interaction, Dravid introduced Gill as "one of our most young exciting batsmen."

India, following the disappointment of losing the World Test Championship final to Australia recently at The Oval, will begin their next WTC cycle by playing a two-Test series against the West

Indies.

#### and Mohammed Siraj, the pace department will be han-Rohit (10th) are the other is followed by Australia has lifted him four places to dled by Avesh and Umran skipper Pat Cummins, who two Indian batters in the second position. Malik along with left-arm has moved two spots to sectop 10. Mohammed Siraj is seamers from Arshdeep ond with 826 points. the lone Indian in the top Singh Another Indian who has 10 in the bowling chart at

## India, R Ashwin continue to be No1 in Test rankings; Kane Williamson topples Root remained static on number

### STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Team India and off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin remained number one in the latest ICC Test Rankings even as New Zealand skip-Kane Williamson replaced Joe Root as the top-ranked batter.

The Indian team, which lost the World Test Championship final to Australia last month, continues to hold on to its top spot.

Ashwin also held on to his world No 1 spot among bowlers. The senior offspinner has 860 points and

one is Ravindra Jadeja, who leads the all-rounders' list with 434 points. While Ashwin too remains on the

all-rounders. Rishabh Pant, who has been out of action since his car accident in December last year, is the top-ranked Indian batter at number

second spot, Akshar Patel

has dropped to fifth among

10. Skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli occupy the 12th and 14th spots respectively. Shubman Gill is ranked fifth in the ODI rankings while Kohli (eighth) and

Former England Test skipper Root has slipped to fifth position, allowing Williamson to regain the top spot. This is the sixth stint at

the top for Williamson, who first attained number one position in November 2015 and was last at the top in August 2021. Australia batter Steve Smith has made rapid

progress towards the top of the Test rankings after the second England-Australia Test at Lord's. Smith's 'player of the match' effort of 110 and 34

Smith was last at the top in June 2021, when he had replaced Williamson for a

couple of weeks before being overtaken again by the New Zealand batter.

The race for the top positions in the list is bound to remain interesting in the coming days as Smith is just one point behind Williamson's 883 rating points after the latest weekly update, while third-Marnus placed Labuschagne (873) and

Travis Head are also separated by just one point. England batter Ben Duckett has shot up 24 places to reach the top 20 for the first time in his career after scores of 98 and 83 in the second Ashes Test while his captain Ben

Stokes is up nine places to

23rd after a valiant 155 in

the second innings.

Sharma, will play two Tests in Dominica and Port of Spain beginning July 12, following which the side will take on the

Sobers."