

Wrestling Competition in Bhaderwah

Aman of Haryana won final bout; over 30,000 people witnessed event

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
BHADERWAH: To inspire youth to divert their energy in a positive way and to further promote age-old communal harmony while focusing on to revive tourism sector which is facing huge losses after Pahalgam terror attack, Old Dangal Committee Bhaderwah in collaboration with District Administration Doda, JK Police and Directorate of Tourism Jammu organised 2 days Dangal (wrestling) competition in Bhaderwah, which concluded here with final bout.

The event was also dedicated to center Government's initiatives like Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan and Fit India Campaign.

The wrestling competition in which famous wrestlers



Dignitaries along with wrestlers during the competition at Bhadarwah.

from across the country participated was inaugurated by DDC Chairman Doda Dhananter Singh Kotwal along with DC Doda Harvinder Singh, DDC Councillor Yudhvir Thakur, ADC Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar(CEO BDA) and others.

On the final day, SDPO

Bhaderwah Shoket Ali was the chief guest, while SHO Bhaderwah Suresh Gautam was the guest of honor.

The event was organized by Old Dangal Committee Bhaderwah members including President Shafqat Hussain Sheikh, Owner SAZ Valley Hotel Shabir Ahmed Zarger, Intikhab Khateeb,

Sammullah Khateeb and Mushtaq Chumna, who thanked everyone for making this event a great success.

While talking to Media, organiser Shabir Ahmed Zarger said that the Dangal is primarily aimed at to promote communal harmony, beside encourage youth to participate in physical sports

especially traditional Indian style wrestling, which is immensely popular among all sections of the society.

"Main aim of the event is to keep our youths away from drugs and to revive tourism sector which is facing huge losses after Pahalgam terror attack," he added.

The wrestlers of repute who participated in the two days wrestling competition include, Baba Fareed, Aman, Nisar and others.

The Badi Maali(Big Bout) was held between Baba Fareed and Aman from Haryana, in which Aman won after very tough fight.

More than 30,000 people from across the district Doda witnessed the high voltage wrestling competition in Sports Ground of PG College Bhaderwah.

Six Asian Championship medallists win selection trials for U17 World Championships

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Indian team picked for U17 World Championship did not have many surprises with as many as six medal winners from the recent Asian Championships aching the selection trials to make the national team here on Monday.

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) had restricted the trials to medal winners at the recent U17 National Championship, thus only the best wrestlers in each of the 10 categories competed, limiting the number of bouts.

Haryana's Rachna Parmar (43kg), Delhi's Moni (57kg), Rajasthan's Ashvini Vaishno (65kg), and Haryana's Manisha (69kg), who won gold medals at the Asian Championships in Vietnam, emerged winners in their respective categories.

Rachna got the better of Cheshta 3-0 in the final.

After losing a point on passivity, Cheshta tried the 'dhoi pachad' at least twice but lost point on counter attack as Rachna managed to take her down on one of the moves to come out a clean winner.

Cheshta had also won a medal at Asian Championship -- a silver in 40kg-- but she chose to compete in 43kg on Monday.

The 65kg and 69kg weight class featured only two wrestlers each.

Ashvini beating Haryana's Taniya 2-0 in 65kg and Manisha pinning Delhi Bharti after taking a comfortable 4-0 lead.

Anshika Yadav from UP missed out on competing in the 69kg as the officials did not allow her weigh-in because her passport is expiring in December this year and a six-month validity is a must for visa application.

"Even if she had won, she

would not have travelled, so what's the point in her competing? It's unfortunate that she could not compete," said an official.

"Today is the last day to send entries through UWW's software and we couldn't have sent her name even if she got her passport renewed through Tatkal."

Uttar Pradesh's Preeti (40kg), Kasish (46kg), Komal (49kg), Yashita (61kg) and Kajal (73kg) were the other trials winners.

Komal defeated Asia Championship bronze winner Anjali after erasing a 0-2 deficit.

Anjali went up 2-0 with a take down and maintained the lead till the break. In the second period, Komal was put on clock and she responded with a quick two-point move. She effected another take down towards to end to earn her spot in the Indian team.

Shri Kailakh Sanskrit Sansthan Trust launches internship programme for Sanskrit students of MAM college



Trust members along with students during the programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In alignment with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020-making education practical, research-oriented, and rooted in Indian traditions-Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, Raipur (Thather), Jammu & Kashmir, has taken a significant step by initiating an internship program for Sanskrit students. This internship officially commenced

on Monday for students of the Sanskrit Department of Maulana Azad Memorial College (MAM College), which operates under Jammu Cluster University.

On Monday, the sessions were conducted by scholars of Sanskrit and Jyotish, Rajeshwar Shastri Ji and Dr. Purushottam Das Shastri. On this occasion, Rajeshwar Shastri stated, "Providing practical knowledge to Sanskrit students is the need

of the hour, and this internship is a strong step in that direction."

Speaking about this important academic initiative, the President of the Trust, Jyotishacharya Mahant Rohit Shastri, a State Awardee, shared that a few days ago, the Trust received an official letter from Dr. Archana Kaul, Principal of MAM College, requesting the organization of this internship program. Under this internship, students

are being provided with in-depth knowledge not only of Sanskrit language and literature but also with practical training in subjects like Jyotish Shastra, the Vedas, Samhitas, and modern research trends in Sanskrit. Students are also being introduced to manuscript studies, Panchang preparation, planetary analysis, and the procedures of Vedic rituals.

Dr. Purushottam Dass Shastri, Head of the Sanskrit Department and Assistant Professor, stated, "In present times, the role of Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust in the promotion of Devavani Sanskrit in Jammu & Kashmir is highly commendable. Under the leadership of Mahant Rohit Shastri Ji, this initiative is a truly inspiring effort to connect the youth with the roots of Indian culture."

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATRA: Three judokas from the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sports Complex - Varun Sharma, Rajat Singh Chib and Akshay Sharma have earned the distinction of representing India in the esteemed World University Games and Asia Cup, events governed by the International Judo Federation.

Varun Sharma will compete in the 81 kg category Judo competition at the World University Games in Berlin, Germany from July 16-27, 2025. Meanwhile, Rajat Singh Chib and Akshay Sharma will represent India in the 90 kg and 73 kg categories respectively at the Senior and Junior Asia Cup Judo competition in Taiwan scheduled from July 12-17, 2025.

Anshul Garg, Chief



CEO SMVDSB Anshul Garg presenting internationally approved judo kits to judokas.

Executive Officer, SMVDSB presented internationally approved judo kits to the judokas in the presence of Satish Sharma, Jt. Chief Executive Officer, Dhruv Gupta, Director (Sports), SMVD Sports Complex and Danish Sharma, Judo Coach at Central Office, Katra with the gesture to support the athletes in their international endeavors,

enabling them to perform at their best while representing India. On the occasion, he also extended his best wishes to athletes on behalf of the Chairman, SMVDSB (Lt. Governor, JK-U'T) for their upcoming events.

Noteworthy that the SMVD Sports Complex has played a pivotal role in nurturing the judokas' talents by offering state-of-the-art

facilities and expert guidance under the mentorship of coach Danish Sharma. The SMVD Sports Complex is currently nurturing the talents of over 150 aspiring athletes across various sports disciplines, who have been consistently delivering promising results in national and international competitions.

Indian archers eye World Championship preparation at Madrid World Cup

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
MADRID: India will have four debutants joining the likes of veterans Tarundeep Rai and Deepika Kumari competing in the fourth and final stage of the archery World Cup from Monday, as they start preparations for the World Championships later this year.

The same Indian squad competing here will also face

ture in the World Archery Championships to be held in Gwangju, Korea from September 5-12.

India will aim to defend the three titles they had won at the 2023 Berlin World Championships, but this time without reigning champions Ojas Deotale and Aditi Swami, who failed to make the cut in the trials.

Star compound archer Abhishek Verma and Antalya 2025 World Cup stage winner Madhura Dhamangaonkar, who made a remarkable comeback after three years, also missed out.

In another surprise, three-time Olympian Atanu Das too failed to qualify for the squad. In their place, four

debutants -- including three teenagers -- have earned spots across the recurve and compound teams.

Maharashtra archers Gatha Khadake, 15, and Sharvari Shende, 16, secured places in the recurve women's team alongside Deepika Kumari, who topped the trials, and the experienced Ankita Bhakat.

This tournament will offer to the 336 competing archers from around the world the last few tickets for the Nanjing World Cup Final to be held in October.

This will also mark a new chapter for former Commonwealth Games gold medallist Rahul Banerjee, who will make his debut as a

coach, having been picked to lead the women's team. Two of his wards -- Deepika and Ankita -- have made the cut.

"It will be a new start for me and we will try our best. But mostly we are looking at this as a final preparation for the World Championships in Gwangju (September 5-12)," Banerjee told PTI.

Sharvari and Gatha will also represent India at the upcoming 2025 World Archery Youth Championships.

Gatha posted a 686 -- the highest recurve qualification score across men's and women's sections -- before Deepika edged her in the eliminations to lead the final standings with 16.5

points.

"She is very talented. This wasn't just a fluke -- she has excelled in pressure situations many times, including at the National Games, where she beat Olympians Deepika Kumari and Bhajan Kaur in mixed and doubles events," Gatha's coach Ranjeet Chamlie said.

The recurve men's team will miss Das, who lost out by just 0.5 points to 41-year-old Tarundeep Rai, a four-time Olympian.

Dhiraj Bommadevara topped the trials, with Neeraj Chauhan and Rai completing the line-up.

Rookie Rahul Singh, 20, has also earned his first senior call-up.

"I've dreamed about play-

ing World Cups and senior World Championships since I started archery," said Singh, who won team gold and mixed silver at the 2024 Asian Youth Championships.

In the compound men's section, Aman Saini made a strong comeback, topping the trials to earn his first World Cup appearance since Paris 2022.

Rising stars Prathamesh Fuge, Rishabh Yadav and Priyansh complete the compound men's squad.

In compound women's competition, 16-year-old Prithika joins Asian Games champion Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Parneet Kaur, adding another young name to India's new-look teams.

JKCA appoints selectors for 2025-26 season; Sarabjeet to chair Sr Men's Selection Committee

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Pursuant to the recommendations of the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) including Abdul Qayoom, Vidhya Bhaskar and Meenu Singh Slathia, the Sub Committee of Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) has approved the appointment of Selectors for the season 2025-26 with immediate effect. Hugely experienced First Class Cricketer, Sarabjeet Singh has been appointed as the Chairperson of Senior Men's Selection Committee. Sarabjeet has the distinction of representing J&K and Services in 91Ranji Trophy, 72 List A and 7 T20 matches as wicketkeeper batsman. Experienced campaigners Dhruv Mahajan and Arshad Bhat are the other two members of Senior Men's Selection Committee. The Junior Men's Selection Committee includes Arun Sharma as the Chairperson, while Samiullah Beigh, Jagtar Singh and Vikrant Taggar are the members. Ankita Jalla has been appointed as the Chairperson of Senior Women's Selection Committee, while Anuradha Sharma and Masrat Ahad are the other two members. Pratibha Bhasin has been appointed as the Chairperson of Junior Women's Selection Committee, with Payal Chaudhary, Nusrat Jan and Hinar Maqbool as the members.



Judo camp held at CRPF camp

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Held under the banner of Judo Association of J&K, a two-week long coaching camp for CRPF personnel wards, concluded at CRPF Group Centre Bantalab, here.

With an aim to engage those young talented boys and girls in the basic training in the Olympic discipline of Judo, the Association agreed to request from the CRPF sports department and deputed a trained instructor.

"It was a successful activity of the Association which held in active support with the CRPF Sports wing. We always extend a helping hand as and when approached for such activities," informed Vikas Gupta of the Association.

The camp was taken by Judo instructor, Manish Chatalwal.

Those young Judokas, who actively attended the camp included Vertika, Shilpa, Monika, Ikshita, Maddata, Akshita, Suhan, Ridhi, Shreya, Ridhan, Sans Kriti, Rihyan, Mansi, Radhika, Rudra, Rashi,

Tributes to Kargil Martyr Gurdeep Singh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SUNDERBANI: Rich tributes were paid to Kargil war martyr S. Gurdeep Singh in a function held at his home village Kanara in Nowshera sector today.

Besides some Army personnels, locals of the area and family members of the martyr attended the function and paid floral tributes to Shaheed Gurdeep Singh. Martyr's brother Mohan Singh alleges that today first time no any honour (slaami) by army has been given only offered Reet on memorial place.

Family members of martyr's urged to GOC Rajouri & Northern commander J&K for intervenes that matter & initiate enquire why avoiding honour to martyrs. They said ten days ago we have given invitation letter to commander of Nowshera Brigade.

Hailing from Kanara village in Nowshera sector of Rajouri district, Sepoy Gurdeep Singh from 8th Sikh Regiment laid on down own his life for motherland on 06 July 1999 during Kargil war.

The programme commenced with 'Akhand Path'

on July 4, 2019 and today was the Bhog. A large number of people attended the programme.

The three youths from Nowshera sector were martyred during Kargil war. This conflict first on July 6, 1999 Gurdeep Singh resident of Kanara, second on July 7, 1999 Hardeep Singh, resident of Rajpur Bhatta and third on July 25, 1999 Joginder Singh, resident of Qila Darhal. No one from District of Sub Divisional Administrators or political field reached on this day to pay tributes to Kargil Martyr.

Only a Captain and soldiers of 8th Sikh Regiment visited the place, people of the area gathered on the memorial and paid tributes at the statue of Shaheed Gurdeep Singh. During Kargil war, 527 brave souls laid down their lives for India.

On this occasion Capt Gurdev Singh, Sub Ranjeet Singh, Capt Daljeet Singh, Gurjeet Singh, Dara Singh and others were present. Martyrdom Day of another Shaheed Hardeep Singh will be observed at village Rajpur Bhatta tomorrow.

Legendary former India captain MS Dhoni turns 44

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
MUMBAI: Legendary Indian wicketkeeper-batter Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who is the only captain in the history of international cricket to have won the ODI World Cup, the T20 World Cup and the Champions Trophy, turned 44 on Monday.

Under Dhoni's captaincy, the Indian Test side also held the No.1 spot for a period of 18 months. Last month, Dhoni was inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame for the class of 2025.

While he retired from international cricket nearly five years ago, Dhoni continues to feature in the Indian Premier League for Chennai Super Kings despite a nagging knee injury. Dhoni stood in for regular CSK skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad for the majority of this year's IPL after the latter suffered an elbow injury, and led their faltering and imbalanced side with resilience to notch up a few impressive victories towards the end of the season.

The knee injury aside, the years that have passed by have also taken some sting



away from Dhoni's aggressive batting.

Dhoni batted as low as at No.8 in a few games but despite the fading powers, the superstar continues to draw full-houses during two months of IPL wherever he plays across the country. Each of CSK's five title wins in the IPL have come under Dhoni and the franchise continues to expect their 'Thala' to return once again for the 2026 edition.

Dhoni, however, made no such promise.

"It depends. Again, I would say the same thing (that) I have four-five months to decide, there's no hurry to decide what needs to be done," Dhoni said. "Every year, it's 15

per cent more effort to keep the body fit - not to forget this is top-level cricket.

"It's professional cricket, you have to be at your best and it's not always performance that you can count, because if cricketers start retiring because of performance then a few of them will retire when they're 22."

For now, he is enjoying his time away from spotlight in Ranchi, his hometown.

"What is important to see is how much hunger you have, what kind of fitness you have, and how much you can contribute to the team, and whether the team needs you or not," he had said.

Aryaveer and Aaryavir: The Kohli, Sehwal connection at this year's DPL

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Delhi Premier League's second edition is set to feature two high-profile players in Virat Kohli's nephew Aryaveer Kohli and Virender Sehwal's son Aaryavir Sehwal, both picked up by different franchises during the auctions held on Sunday.

Budding leg-spinner Aryaveer Kohli, son of Virat's elder brother Vikas, was bought by South Delhi Superstarz which boasts of one of league's highest paid players -- leg-spinner Digvesh Rathni (Rs 38 lakh) in its ranks.

Aaryavir Sehwal, a right-handed U-19 batter, who didn't get a team last time, was picked by Central Delhi Kings after a few rounds of bidding for Rs 8 lakh.

Aaryavir's father Virender Sehwal, who is also Brand Ambassador for the tournament said: "I am really looking forward to this season. It's a great opportunity for players to shine on a big stage."

"With selectors and fans watching closely-not just from India, but internationally as well-this league gives a chance to the players to make a mark. We saw some incredible cricket last year, and I'm sure this

season will be even more exciting."

As many 520 players went under the hammer, with top picks including Simarjeet Singh (Rs 39 lakh to Central Delhi Kings), Nitish Rana (Rs 34 lakh to West Delhi Lions), and Prince Yadav (Rs 33 lakh to New Delhi Tigers).

Speaking on the occasion, Rohan Jaitley, DDCA President said, "This year, we've gone a step further -- revisiting our auction system, broadening the player base, and elevating domestic cricket to ensure the best talent emerges."

"We've also added two new men's franchises, continuing our mission to offer top-quality competitive cricket."

Central Delhi Kings had already retained Jonty Sidhu ahead of the auction and strengthened their squad further by adding key players like Simarjeet Singh, former India U19 captain Yash Dhull, and Pranshu Vijayan, building a well-rounded unit for the season ahead.

Aaryavir Sehwal was a later addition to the Kings' lineup.

East Delhi Riders bolstered their squad by signing experienced pacer Navdeep Saini, bringing both pace and experience to their bowling attack.