

Volleyball icon Mannat accorded warm welcome on arrival at Jammu



VAJK office bearers and sportspersons according warm reception to International Volleyball player, Mannat Choudhary on arrival at Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: International Volleyball player, Mannat Choudhary of R S Pura Tehsil of district Jammu, who represented Indian Volleyball team in AVC Cup Volleyball Championship at Thailand, accorded a warm reception on his arrival at Jammu Airport on Friday.

The office bearers of Volleyball Association of Jammu & Kashmir namely Kuldeep Magotra Chief

Executive Officer, Ramesh Sharma Treasurer, Vijay Magotra General Secretary besides Manmeet Singh President and H.S. Gill Secretary of Jammu District Volleyball Association, Rajeev Dogra SAI Volleyball coach, Naresh Sharma Volleyball coach & a large number of sportspersons, volleyball lovers, well wishers & relatives greeted Mannat on his arrival at Jammu.

Mannat expressed his grat-

itude to all his well wishers especially to Prof. Achyuta Samanta President, Ramavtar Singh Jakhar and Anil Choudhary Secretary General Volleyball Federation of India and Raj Daluja Patron-in-Chief, Sidharth Daluja President, Volleyball Association of J&K for promoting and selecting him in Indian under-20 volleyball team in Asia Men's Volleyball Championship at Thailand.

Expressing his views, Mannat disclosed that hard work, dedication and devotion has revolutionized his sports career towards volleyball.

His superb performance in Junior National Volleyball Championship at Burdwan, West Bengal as a captain of J&K UT Volleyball team, has paved the way for his short-listing after two months rigorous coaching camp with Indian volleyball probables at

Bhubaneswar, Orissa.

Hailing from a Gharana village on the international border of R S Pura block of Jammu district, Mannat has left no stone unturned to achieve this distinction of becoming a maiden International volleyball player of Jammu district.

With International exposure of volleyball, Mannat has assured that he would help budding volleyball players of J&K UT for preparing

them to represent at national as well as International levels with the guidance of his mentors in near future. It is worth mentioning here that Kuldeep Magotra CEO, Associate Secretary of Volleyball Federation of India was nominated as Manager of India from J&K UT accompanied this team as Manager.

Mannat was taken to his home town in procession by his nears and dears.

Ex-student of JKPS Kunjwani to represent India in Asian Gymnastics C'ship

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sudipti Khanna, a 2019-2020 batch student of J.K Public School Kunjwani, made the school and her parents proud as she will represent the Indian team in Aerobic Gymnastics 7th Asian Championship.

Sudipti has been selected for the participation in the upcoming Aerobic Gymnastics 7th Asian Championship scheduled to be held at Pattaya in Thailand from September 1 to 5, 2022 to represent team India in the senior category. She was selected during the national selection trials which was held at Chandigarh.

Sudipti's coach SP Singh congratulated her and wished best of luck for her journey.



South Africa completes innings defeat of England in 1st test

■ AGENCY

LONDON: England was given a reality check in its new era under Ben Stokes as the team fell to defeat by South Africa by an innings and 12 runs inside three days in the first test at Lord's on Friday.

After taking a lead of 161 runs into the second innings, the Proteas dismissed England for 149 in 37.4 overs and went 1-0 ahead in the three-test series.

Under new captain Stokes and new coach Brendon McCullum,

England had swept a series 3-0 against New Zealand in June and also beaten India in a Test in July by taking an aggressive approach to its batting.

That didn't work against South Africa and its hostile pace attack. England lost its 20 wickets in the match in a total of 82.4 overs.

The South Africans resumed on 289-7 on Day 3 and were bowled out for 326 after an hour's play.

England didn't even make it to tea.

The second test starts Thursday in Manchester.

Durand Cup: FC Goa bounce back with 1-0 win over Indian Air Force; Sudeva FC, Kerala Blasters draw

■ AGENCY

KOLKATA: Defending Champions FC Goa bounced back from their opening day loss as they eked out a 1-0 win over Indian Air Force at the Durand Cup here on Friday.

Muhammed Nemil was the lone goal scorer at a rainy, blustery Kishore Bharati Krirangan here.

In the other match of the day, Sudeva FC and Kerala Blasters played out a 1-1 draw at the Indira Gandhi Athletic stadium in Guwahati.

With the win, Goa join Mohammedan Sporting and Bengaluru FC with three points in Group A, even though the latter have a game in hand.

Jamshedpur FC is the other team in the group. The top two teams from each Group qualify for the quarter-finals.

The Gaurs got their goal early through Nemil, who struck his second in two games in the tournament.

The move came from the right when Mevan Dias broke through and delivered a minus inside the box finding his classy centre-forward in space. Nemil turned, transferred the ball to his favoured left-foot and found the bottom corner with precision.

sion.

He could have made it three for the tournament 15 minutes later, but this time his curler from just outside the box, missed narrowly.

In the second-half, the Airmen did try and apply some pressure but the organised and well-schooled Gaurs defence held firm.

The Air Force upped the ante in search for an equaliser and in the final 10 minutes got several chances to draw level. Mohd. Aqib first hit the cross-bar and then substitute Prabhjot Singh unleashed a wonderful free-kick, drawing a fantastic save from Goa keeper Hrithik Tiwari.

The Air Force got as many as three corners as well in the last few minutes but couldn't cash in.

Sudeva FC and Kerala Blasters were forced to split points after Md. Ajsal's 42nd minute strike was cancelled out by Mangku Kukli, who scored just three minutes later.

Sudeva coach Chencho Dorji made his attacking intentions clear from get go, opting for a four-man midfield and a three-man forward line while the Blasters' gaffer had no

such illusions going in with a regulation 4-4-2.

Sudeva dominated possession in the first half and had the larger share of attacks but could not press home the advantage.

It was then that the Blasters struck against the run of play with barely three minutes to go for the first half to end.

Ajsal received the ball in front of the box and drove in, shooting from near the penalty spot area to beat keeper Kabir Kohli and put Sudeva ahead.

The response was immediate. Kukli received the ball on the right from a quickly taken throw-in in the attacking third to gracefully curl it into the top corner to draw parity.

Sudeva continued to dominate possession in the second-half and created more chances but there was a period when both teams sat back and wanted to control possession which might have affected the end result.

The Delhi NCR side threw everyone forward in the final minutes of the game but beyond some set-pieces, nothing fruitful materialized and the stalemate remained for the first draw of the tournament after six games.

England tour: Veteran pacer Jhulan back in ODI squad; uncapped Kiran Navgire picked for T20Is

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Veteran pace spearhead Jhulan Goswami made a comeback in the Indian women's ODI squad for the tour of England which also saw hard-hitting Women's T20 Challenge sensation Kiran Navgire receiving a maiden call-up in the shortest format.

India will be in England on a two-week white-ball tour that comprises six white-ball games-three WT20Is and three WODIs.

The T20I matches will be held in Hove (September 10), Derby (September 13) and Bristol (September 15) while the ODIs are scheduled at Hove (September 18), Canetbury (September 21) and the Lord's (September 24).

Goswami, who will be 40 in three months time, had last played for India at the ODI World Cup in New Zealand in March against Bangladesh.

While her contemporary Mithali Raj had retired, the veteran seamer was nursing an injury and wasn't picked for the Sri Lanka tour.

While there were speculations that she could retire but the 201-match seasoned campaigner is ready to add to his tally of 252 wickets, which is highest in the world in 50-over format.

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National Para Athletics C'ships Summit, Yogesh create new world record

■ AGENCY

BENGALURU: Tokyo Paralympics champion Javelin thrower Sumit Antil and silver medallist discus thrower Yogesh Kathuniya created new world records at the ongoing fourth Indian Open National Para Athletics Championships at the Sri Kanteerava stadium here on Friday.

Sumit, picked up from here left off in Tokyo, and created a new world record

after hurling the spear to a record distance of 68.62m in his event. The 24-year-old para athlete's previous world record throw of 68.55m in the F64 category came at the Tokyo Games last year. He also broke the world record thrice during his six attempts.

Yogesh, on the other hand, also created a new world record in the discus throw event with a throw of 48.34m.

Ultimate Kho Kho: Subhasis Santra stars in Odisha Juggernauts' win over Rajasthan Warriors

■ AGENCY

PUNE: Wazir Subhasis Santra showcased his attacking prowess to help Odisha Juggernauts hand Rajasthan Warriors 65-46 defeat in the inaugural edition of Ultimate Kho Kho here on Friday.

Santra scored 14 points in the attack by dismissing five Rajasthan Warriors defenders, all of them with brilliant dives.

Nilesh Jadhav and Aditya Kudale supported Santra by scoring nine and eight points respectively.

Skipper Majahar Jamadar stood tall for Rajasthan Warriors as he scored an impressive 23 points with nine wickets but his heroics couldn't save his side from suffering a third successive defeat.

Besides Jamadar, Hrushikesh Murchavade also claimed 10 points in the attack.

In-form Jamadar provided the first three points for Rajasthan Warriors by dismissing Vishal with a brilliant sky dive in 39th second of the match before the opening batch was out in one minute and 47 seconds.

AIFF Polls: Bhutia files nomination; candidates with political affiliation heat up Football turf war

■ AGENCY

NEW DELHI: The legendary Bhiaichung Bhutia on Friday filed his nomination for the president's post in the upcoming AIFF elections but getting through won't be easy for the former footballer as several candidates with political affiliations have also thrown their hats in the ring.

There are ex-footballers turned politicians and politicians who aspire to enter sports administration in the fray along with long-time sports administrator, who want to grab the top job in All India Football Federation (AIFF).

The deadline to file nominations for the post expired on Friday. The much-delayed elections are scheduled for August 28.

Bhutia's name has been proposed by his former national team colleague Deepak Mondal and seconded by 'eminent woman player' Madhu Kumari.

However for him to succeed it is imperative that electoral college is not without former players. As of now FIFA statutes do not allow their presence. A clear picture will emerge when Supreme court resumes its hearing on the issue on Monday.

Former Mohun Bagan and East Bengal goalkeeper Kalyan Chaubey, a BJP leader from West Bengal, who has unsuccessfully fought one general and one state assembly elections, will be the biggest threat to Bhutia.

Chaubey as a footballer is no match to Bhutia but a look at the former custodian's proposer (Gujarat Football Association) and seconder (Arnachal Pradesh) explains the impact his presence could make to the outcome of these elections.

Gujarat is the state of two of India's biggest political leaders (PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah) while Arnachal Pradesh is former sports minister and current Law Minister Kiren

Rijiju's home state.

There Ajit Banerjee, who is IFA (West Bengal) president but his primary identity is him being the elder brother to West Bengal CM and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee.

He wouldn't have entered the fray had he not had the go-ahead from the party leadership.

The third footballer in the list and youngest candidate is 36-year-old former India midfielder Eugeneeson Lyngdoh, who is now an MLA. He represents regional heavyweight United Democratic Party in Meghalaya.

Lyngdoh, who played for India alongside Sunil Chhetri, entered active politics when his father passed away and won the election from Mawphlang constituency.

There is NA Haris from Karnataka State Football Association, who is a local Congress MLA and a very active participant in AIFF politics.

There is a second Congress member and a surprise nominee in Rajasthan's Manavendra Singh, who was formerly with BJP.

He has been a member of Parliament in Lok Sabha and also happens to be former defence minister Late Jaswant Singh's son.

There is Valanka Alemoa, the only woman candidate and a very influential administrator from Goa with support from Bhutia's state Sikkim and Daman. Valanka happens to be former Goa CM and one of strongmen from the state Churchill Alemoa's daughter.

Football Delhi president Shaji Prabhakaran, who has worked in FIFA has also filed the nomination papers for president's post but even he knows that it would be an uphill task to seek votes in case of an election.

It is often witnessed that when prominent name emerges, a lot of candidates withdraw their nomination.

While Bhutia has filed his

nomination as an "eminent player", the inclusion of which is debatable, he could turn out to be a unifying figure if right-minded people come together to break the impasse.

"I have filed my nominations as representative of eminent players. In the wake of the SC decision to allow players I hope the players can have a chance to serve Indian football. We want to show we can be good not only as players but also as administrators," Bhutia told PTI.

Bhutia had contested the state assembly elections in Bengal for Trinamool Congress and in 2019 formed his own party 'Humro Sikkim'.

Hours before the FIFA ban on AIFF earlier this week the Committee of Administrators (CoA) running football in India had agreed to hold the sports body's elections without giving voting rights to 'eminent' players as per the world body's wish.

Chaubey had been a petitioner in the case to remove Praful Patel for overstaying his tenure and not someone who has filed papers for the heck of it.

"I have got Gujarat and Arnachal backing my nomination and I have been a former player myself," Chaubey, who was a reserve goalkeeper of national team, told PTI.

For Banerjee, the mere mention of his younger sister invoked a sharp response.

"People may say whatever but I've no political connection. For over 50 years I've been serving football and she (Mamata Banerjee) has never interfered," Banerjee told PTI when asked how much active support she will receive from the CM.

"Obviously I've filed the nomination to win and I'm 100 per cent hopeful. I know there are some strong candidates there but I'm hopeful.

"FIFA has clearly mentioned that they would not allow third party intervention. So we will have to abide by their guidelines and go for elections."

You can't apply domestic coaching module in IPL: KKR Coach Pandit on handling Russells & Narines

■ AGENCY

NEW DELHI: Chandrakant Pandit has a reputation of being a no-nonsense, strict disciplinarian but the doyen of domestic coaches knows that he has to change his methods when the likes of Andre Russell, Sunil Narine and Pat Cummins come calling during the next season of IPL.

The 60-year-old former India stumper is also ready to mould himself within permissible limits when he dons the hat of Kolkata Knight Riders' head coach in the 16th edition of the league.

"You don't have to use the same method everywhere. One has to be a little flexible while trying to understand the psyche of each player, which is very important," Pandit told PTI during an interview post his appointment as the first Indian head coach of KKR.

"I always do that (study players) and accordingly we can strike a reasonable understanding and move forward," Pandit hammered home the point that he doesn't use a "One Size Fits All" approach to coaching.

He has no hesitation in admitting that some of the top players like Russell and Cummins have a lot of experience and he will never use his Ranji Trophy methodologies

at the IPL level.

"These are experienced players. They are playing all these years at highest level and of course same method can't be used at every level. You have to understand and study their methods and ensure that all the cricketing demands are fulfilled more than anything else," he added.

At the domestic level, state associations approaching Pandit have always known that if you want his services, you have to give him full freedom to operate and run the show alone.

But will it be possible at the IPL level, where the demands are different and people who are monitoring your performance are more business-oriented in their approach?

"I don't know what has been made of my image. But I understand that in a job of a head coach, things need to be taken forward in such a way that they are result-oriented. "I don't know how people look at my methods but with an opportunity given to me, I will try and fulfil that to the best of my abilities."

And when it comes to instant result in the IPL universe, which is so distant from the Ranji Trophy, the 'Khadoos' Mumbaikar said that it is the same for all the coaches.

"I just look at the game and believe that the requirement of a particular format needs to be fulfilled at that particular time. This is the process and it's not only with me but everyone going through."

"Every format in cricket has a different set of demands. When you play first class, you have enough time to try out things."

"The process that one needs to work out in IPL is ability to take instant decisions. It's fast-paced but at the end of the day, you are playing a form of cricket."

Abhishek Nayar, the former Mumbai stalwart is one of the key members of the KKR think-tank and skipper Shreyas Iyer is also from Mumbai.

Incidentally, Pandit at different times in his career has coached both of them and that is an advantage for him to quickly get adjusted to the new environment.

"It is always an advantage to have players in the set-up with whom you have spent time and of course the rapport which we have maintained over the years."

"KKR has Umesh Yadav, who has played in my coaching at Vidarbha and Venkatesh Iyer who is an important member of Madhya Pradesh side. I know all these

boys personally," added the man with six Ranji Trophy titles as a coach.

"And then you have Abhishek (Nayar) and Onkar Salvi (support staff) who have played under my coaching. It is a terrific advantage to understand the whole thing from them."

But his biggest advantage is being an encyclopedia of domestic cricket and someone with a sharp eye for talent having coached teams for nearly two decades.

"Being an Indian coach and having spent enough time in domestic cricket, I know most players, whether they have played under my coaching or against teams coached by me. I am aware of everyone's skills and that's my greatest advantage," he said.

Pandit had revealed that he had once met YKR's owner Shah Rukh Khan during the initial years of the IPL but things didn't work out back then.

This time when KKR CEO Venky Mysore offered the head coach's job, he didn't have to think twice.

"Yes, I got the offer after the Ranji Trophy final. It didn't work out last time. It's not that people must have misunderstood that and more than anything else, it's an honour to be part of that franchise."