

PM's impetus to sports puts India on Global Canvas: Rana

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Sunday said the big impetus given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to sports has put India on a larger canvas globally with young and talented sportspersons in almost all the disciplines making their mark and winning medals for the nation at premier events including Commonwealth Games.

"The medal tally in recent years at the International level has inspired huge number of sportspersons, which is why Indian participation in various games is second to none", Rana said at the concluding ceremony of the Under 23 J&K UT Wrestling Championship-2022 organized by Wrestling Association of J&K under the auspicious of Wrestling Federation of India, J&K Sports Council and J&K Olympic Association in collaboration with University of Jammu at the campus this evening.

He equally praised the sportspersons from Jammu and Kashmir who too have been doing well in sports, nationally and internationally.

Some of the young sports persons have brought laurels to the Union Territory, he said and referred to the fillip being given to the traditional games across the country in the wake of India registering new landmarks in medal winning in the Olympics. This has certainly encouraged budding sports to make their mark in their chosen games, he said.

He also made a mention of the revival of wrestling, particularly in Jammu, saying the participation of



Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana posing with medal winner wrestlers and other officials.

young wrestlers from the neighbouring states has rekindled hope about this part of the country emerging as a favourite destination for holding various competitions.

He said Jammu has traversed a long way over the years with its youth making big mark in every sphere of activity-art, sports, academics and culture.

Surinder Choudhary, former Legislator and Sr BJP leader, Anil Sharma, Kuldeep Kumar and others were among those present on the occasion.

Dushant Sharma, Sr Superintendent of Police, former International Wrestler, Patron & Chief Wrestling Association of J&K gave an overview about the wrestling competition.

"There is no look back for our young achievers, as sky is the limit for their talent, which they have shown by putting in their best to

the sport or activity they have chosen for themselves", Rana said while wishing all the best to participants in the championship.

He lauded growing enthusiasm about wrestling among youth, saying the presence of eminent wrestlers will prove as a source of inspiration for them in years to come. "I hope they will learn from the veterans in the field", he said and exhorted youth to participate in sports in a big way alongside academics.

Vasudev Sharma, President Wrestling Association, J&K, Jai Bharat, General Secretary, Om Parkash, Treasurer, Vijay Pahalwan, Senior President, Ajay Vaid Senior Vice President, Kuldeep Sharma, Vice President, Swarn Lal, Joint Secretary and others were also present in the event.

Rana said the youth cannot

afford to remain in the shell of academics alone; they have to be versatile in every field of activity. He said the momentum to sports activities is required to be maintained for larger participation of boys and girls in various sports.

The Sr BJP leader complimented the organizers as also the competitors for making the event live and breath-taking by putting in their best in the event. He said the enthusiasm demonstrated by the fans equally deserves commendation, as this will motivate the youth to take this ancient sport to the next level.

The Results:

WOMEN: 50 Kg: Chanda Chib, Gold; Salma Akhter, Silver and Mamta Devi, Bronze. 55 Kg: Upasana, Gold; Sonia Chib, Silver and Shallu Devi, Bronze. 59 Kg: Muskan Rajput, Gold and Kajal Chib, Silver. 76 Kg: Kusum Rani, Gold; Meenakshi, Silver and Rozy Chib, Bronze.

MEN: 57 Kg: Kulvinder Singh, Gold; Mangal Singh; Silver and Keshav Singh, Bronze. 61 Kg: Natter Singh, Gold; Mohd. Sameer, Silver and Arjun Sharma, Bronze. 65 Kg: Harshdev Singh, Gold; Rahul Mehra, Silver and Saleem, Bronze. 70 Kg: Jarnail Singh, Gold; Mohd. Gulam Sawar, Silver and Gafoor Ahmed, Bronze. 92 Kg: Goutam Singh, Gold; Harshdev, Silver and Ravinde Singh, Bronze. 97 Kg: Aman Kumar, Gold; Vireshwar Bhardwaj, Silver and Kshitij Mansotra, Bronze. 125 Kg: Vikram Singh, Gold; Radhey Krishan, Silver and Mohd. Azam, Bronze.

J&K holds Skating India camp

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Roller Skating Association (JKRSA) presently host Indian senior men and junior boys Roller Hockey teams for a coaching camps which started on Sunday at MA Stadium Skating rink, here under the banner of Roller Skating Federation of India (RSFI).

Earlier, during the day, the RSFI technical team selected the senior and junior teams by holding the selection trials at the same venue.

"The selected teams shall take part in the World Roller



Skaters from all over India posing for group photograph at MA Stadium Skating Rink.

Games to be held in Argentina later this year. And we, the JKRSA feels honoured to host the National teams, including

skaters from all over the country, in the Union Territory," President of JKRSA, G S Khurmi said. During the day, the selec-

tion process was witnessed by Naresh Sharma (general secretary RSFI), GS Khurmi (senior vice president RSFI and chairman of Roller and

Inline Hockey Technical Committee), Parveen Singh (vice chairman Roller and Inline Hockey Technical Committee), Rajesh Anand

Unique Public School hosts 4th J&K UT Tug of War C'ship

Jammu bags Sub Junior, Junior Tug of War titles



Winner teams posing for a photograph with dignitaries at UPHSS, Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Hosts district Jammu bagged the Junior and Sub-junior titles in the two-day 4th J&K UT Tug of War Championship which was organised by Tug of War Association of J&K at Unique Public School grounds, Gadigarh, near here on Sunday.

In the Sub-Junior (Mixed) final, Jammu defeated district Kulgam 2-0. Earlier, in the semifinals, Jammu trounced district Anantnag 2-1 and Kulgam beat Unique Club Jammu 2-0.

Similarly, in the Junior (Mixed, 540 kg) final, Jammu defeated district Kulgam in straight games 2-0. Semifinals: Jammu beat Anantnag 2-0; Kulgam beat Samba 2-0.

In total, 220 young boys and girls representing different teams took part in this event which was offi-

ciated by the technical panel including Gourav Kumar Dubey (chief referee), Kiran Kumari (referee), Jasvinder Singh and Ankit Sharma (both umpires).

In the finals and prize distribution function, President of the Association, Hardeep Singh Anand was the Chief Guest, who along with Kuldeep K Gupta (Vice President), Jodh Singh Isher (General Secretary) and Jasbir Singh (district Jammu President) presented the title trophies and gave away the individual prizes. The prizes were sponsored by Trans Asia Hotel Pvt Ltd.

Speaking to the gather-

ing, chief guest Hardeep Singh Anand appreciated the spirit among the teams, especially those representing districts of Kashmir Division. He wished the young participants success at the National level. Among other distinguished guests present were Sheikh Tanveer Ahmed (Secretary Udhampur), Muzaaffarpur Ahmed Bhat (President Anantnag), Mushtaq Ahmed Bhatt (Secretary Anantnag), Junaid Bin Yakub (Secretary Kulgam), Jagdish Raj (Secretary Samba), Nirmal Singh and Nirlap Kour (Head of the Management of Unique Public Higher Secondary School (UPHSS)).

Lallawmkima's brace guides Army Green to 3-1 win over NorthEast United

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GUWAHATI: Skipper PC Lallawmkima scored a brace as Army Green made a winning start to its Durand Cup campaign by inflicting a 3-1 defeat on NorthEast United FC (NEUFC) here on Sunday. Lallawmkima's twin strikes were accompanied by Somesh Kothari's goal as the Army team dominated NEUFC.

Dipu Mirdha got a consolation for NEUFC in stoppage time.

Both teams began in lively fashion but it was the Army men who were decisive in the middle. They drew first blood in the ninth minute through their

captain, whose run was found perfectly by an overhead pass from Sochin Chhetri.

One of the greatest Services footballers of recent times, Lallawmkima, probably in an attempt to reach out and receive, ended up chipping past keeper Nikhil Deka beautifully from a close range. Army Green stepped up the pressure post the goal with the young NEUFC side finding it difficult to contain the continuous attacks. Chhetri and Roel Lepcha were brilliant in the middle while Gautam Singh was proving to be a menace all across the pitch.

Clean sweep on cards for India against weak Zimbabwe

■ AGENCY

HARARE: A fancied Indian team is a shoo-in to complete a 3-0 ODI series sweep against a Zimbabwe side that has been struggling to put up even a semblance of a fight.

Having done exceedingly well to not just turn up but trump their hapless opponents on all fronts in the preceding two matches, India will enter the third and final ODI knowing well that the script is unlikely to change at the Harare Sports Complex on Monday.

This will translate to the visiting team getting yet another opportunity to carry out experimentation keeping the bigger picture in mind, i.e, next year's ICC World Cup.

Stand-in skipper KL Rahul has done quite well to keep the players motivated enough to go out in the middle, grab the chances with both hands, and cement their places in the side that is gearing up for big battles in the coming times.

There is no doubt that they have not faced the kind of examination that would have helped them develop further as cricketers, but those who are looking to get a longer run at the top level would certainly not mind the experience.

CSA T20 League: Du Plessis' experience will be invaluable, says CSK-owned franchise

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

CHENNAI: The Chennai Super Kings-owned Johannesburg franchise on Sunday lauded former South African captain Faf du Plessis and said that the former CSK star will play a pivotal role as one of its marquee players in the inaugural edition of the CSA T20 league.

Du Plessis, who was also part of CSK in the Indian Premier League (IPL) from 2011 to 2021, except for 2016 and 2017, when the team was suspended, was recently roped in by the Johannesburg franchise.

Du Plessis, however, played for the Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) in the last edition of the IPL.

"Faf (Du Plessis) has been a backbone of Chennai Super Kings in the IPL for the last 10 years. He has been one of the most consistent players for our team. We were not fortunate to pick him during the last auction in the IPL. We were looking for an oppor-

tunity and that came up in the CSA T20 League," said CSK CEO KS Viswanathan in a press release.

"We are happy that we got Faf back with the Super Kings family. It will be a very good opportunity for Faf to come back and do as well as he did for the Chennai Super Kings.

His experience as South African player and captain, knowing the conditions, will be invaluable. I'm sure that with his entry into the team, we should have a good future," he added.

Apart from Du Plessis, the franchise also roped in England all-rounder Moeen Ali, Sri Lankan spinner Maheesh Theekshana, West Indies all-rounder Romario Shepherd, and South African fast bowler Gerald Coetzee.

"As per the rules of CSA, we are eligible to take four players from the contracted list of players who are available... one marquee player from South Africa. From the bal-

ance three, not more than two can be from one country," Viswanathan said.

"We have decided to pick Faf, Moeen, Maheesh and Romario as the four players who have been contracted by Cricket South Africa. We are also allowed to take one development player from South Africa. We have decided on Gerald, as recommended by Faf," he added.

The franchise also praised Ali and said that the latter's experience in white-ball cricket will come handy for the side during the tournament.

"Everybody is aware of his potential as an all-rounder and his skills in white-ball cricket. We are very happy to have retained Moeen," Viswanathan said.

The franchise also backed the signing of 22-year-old Theekshana and said that the Sri Lankan's recent performances in limited overs cricket was the reason behind his inclusion into the team.

Media Club Jammu beats Sharika Club in exhibition cricket match

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Media Cricket Club Jammu defeated Sharika Cricket Club by 6 wickets in an exhibition match played at Forest Ground Sidhra.

Vinay Koul Captain of Sharika CC won the toss and elected to bat first but they started on a disastrous note as they were 13 runs for the loss of 5 wickets. But Deepak Raina & Vinay played sensibly and took score to 60 before Vinay was out. Sharika CC was allout for 130 runs. Deepak scored 35, Sumit



Winner Media Cricket Club Jammu posing for a photograph at Jammu on Sunday.

21 and Rohit score 20 for SCC.

For Media Cricket Club, Shubham and skipper Vivek Suri took three wickets each while Rahul

Khatri took two wickets.

Chasing a modest total of 131 runs, Media Cricket Club openers played their shorts from the very first ball. Amit Kumar played a

good knock & was out at his individual score of 30 runs before giving a solid first wicket partnership of 48 runs. Pawan Parihar gave a good support to

Vishal Khajuria before he Vishal was out on 22 runs. Raghav played a cameo of 29 runs in just 11 balls and dashed all hope of Sharika CC. Pawan scored 18 runs for the team.

Media Cricket Club achieved the target in 14.4 overs with 6 wickets in hand. For SCC Rakesh Bhat took 2 wickets whereas Vinay Koul & Rohit Bhat shared 1 wicket each.

Shubham was declared Man of the Match for his match winning figures of 3 wickets for just conceding 11 runs.

Weightlifting: Mirabai, Jeremy, Achinta to skip Asian C'ship; to have S&C camp in US for World Meet

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Olympic silver medalist Mirabai Chanu and seven other top Indian weightlifters will fly to the USA on Tuesday for a three and half week strength and conditioning (S&C) training camp in St. Louis.

Chanu will be accompanied by 2022 Commonwealth Games medallists Jeremy Lahrimunga, Achinta Sheuli, Sanket Sargar, Bindyarani Devi, Gurdeep Singh and former 2018 CWG champion R V Rahul and Asian Championship gold medallist Jhilli Dalabehra to St. Louis, USA for a three-and-half-week-long camp.

"We will be in USA for 23-24 days. It is the off season so we will have a strength program there," Sharma told PTI.

Sargar, who went under the knife for the elbow injury he suffered during his event at the CWG, will go through rehab.

"All these lifters have small niggles like Gurdeep has some issue in his wrist. Sanket will go through proper rehab. We want that everyone is perfectly fit for the World Championships," he added.

The lifters will work with Dr Aaron Horschig, a former

weightlifter-turned-physical therapist and strength and conditioning coach.

Chanu has been consulting Horschig since 2020. He has been instrumental in sorting out her imbalance issue which affected her snatch technique.

She had a month-long training stint with Horschig in March, ahead of the CWG. "Mira currently doesn't have any issue but since we are going there she will also do some strength training," Sharma said.

Senior weightlifters will miss this year's Asian Championships opting to focus on the World meet instead, which is a qualifying event for the Paris Olympics.

The Asian Championships are scheduled to take place in Manama, Bahrain from October 6 to 16. India will be fielding its 'B' team, comprising junior lifters.

"The lifters who have returned from the CWG will not compete in the Asian Championships. We will be sending our B team," Sharma said.

"The focus is on the World Championship which is a qualifying event for the Paris Olympics," the head coach added.

NZ A Series: Panchal likely to lead in 'Tests', Rahane to play Duleep Trophy

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Gujarat opener Priyank Panchal is likely to lead India A in three four-day 'Tests' against New Zealand A, beginning in Bengaluru from September 1.

While the national selection committee chaired by Chetan Sharma will be meeting on Monday to announce the red and white ball 'A' teams for the New Zealand series, it is learnt that former India captain Ajinkya Rahane's comeback to competitive cricket will happen in Duleep Trophy.

Rahane sustained a groin injury during last IPL and had undergone intense rehabilitation with his international career at cross roads after being overlooked in the 'Test' squad.

"Rahane hasn't played any cricket of late and hence straightaway the selectors won't put him in India A with lot of performers waiting. I think he will play for West Zone in Duleep Trophy and take it from thereon," a senior BCCI official privy to developments told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

It is understood that Rahane is not in the scheme of things for the Bangladesh tour in December but a good Ranji Trophy season might just

bring him back in the mix for the big home series against Australia.

It has also been learnt that Rahane has committed to play full season for Mumbai in the domestic season and will lead the side.

Panchal, who led India A in South Africa, is likely to be entrusted with the duty again. "Panchal is currently playing for Chemplast in Chennai in some friendly games as he needed practice and it is currently monsoon in Gujarat," a senior GCA official confirmed the development.

Since he led the team well, there is little chance of him being changed although Hanuma Vihari is also likely to be picked and will be the senior-most player in the pack.

The likes of Abhimanyu Easwaran, Baba Aparajith, Upendra Yadav, Saurabh Kumar and KS Bharat are all set to be a part of the red ball squad.

Opener Mayank Agarwal could just get another chance to resurrect his international career.

Prasidh Krishna, who is now a part of the Test squad and Navdeep Saini, are all set to be picked for the A games. Shivam Mavi and Kamlesh Nagarkoti, two injury prone

juniors on whom BCCI and NCA have heavily invested, could also get a look-in.

Jammu and Kashmir's pace sensation Unuran Malik, one of the finest raw fast bowling talents, could also be given a platform.

Sarfraz Khan (982 runs), who was in South Africa and had a stellar Ranji Trophy season, is a sure-shot pick for all three 'Tests'.

Rajat Patidar, after a fine IPL and 600 plus runs in Ranji Trophy, also is an automatic choice.

While Mumbai man Shams Mulani with 45 wickets and 321 would consider himself a contender but an Indian set-up where fitness is given a lot of importance, his portly frame and slow coach fielding might be an impediment.

Also Saurabh Kumar and Bengal's Shahbaz Ahmed, who scored nearly 500 runs and took 20 wickets this season and is currently in Zimbabwe, could be ahead in the race.

Delhi's U-19 World Cup winning skipper Yash Dhill and Bengal's fast medium swing bowler Mukesh Kumar could also be in the mix for the red ball format.

Mohammed Siraj and Shubman Gill will not be considered for the series.