

Annual Dangal Mela held in Machhedi

Col Mahan stresses for enhancing sports infrastructure in the region

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Machhedi, nestled in the hilly terrain of Distt Kathua, came alive with the vibrant colors of the Pahari tradition during the grand two-day annual Dangal Mela. Over 30,000 enthusiastic attendees, adorned in local attire, congregated at the Mela Ground in Machhedi, creating an atmosphere of festivity, cultural richness, and camaraderie.

The Dangal Mela, a testament to the enduring Pahari culture, featured a delightful array of activities and high-lights, including Pahari cultural programs, colorful stalls, joyful festivities, rhythmic drumbeats, and thrilling Dangal matches.



DDC Chairman Kathua, Col Mahan Singh (Retd.) introducing wrestlers.

On Day 2 of the event, Col Mahan Singh (Retd.), DDC Chairman of Kathua, was the Chief Guest, who declared the event open. Besides, Jeewan Lal Lalhal, Ex MLA; Haider Malik, Ex MLA; Kishor Kumar, DDC Member; Kamal Kumar and Dharam Singh, both BDC

Chairpersons; Sarpanch Machhedi Karim-ul-Deen; Ex Sarpanch Khushi Ram; and numerous other prominent persons of the area were present.

In his address, Col Mahan Singh extended heartfelt congratulations to the management committee and the res-

idents of Machhedi for organizing this magnificent event. He emphasized that Chhij Mela, like this Dangal Mela, are a living testament to the richness of Pahari culture and tradition, preserving the cultural heritage that has been passed down through generations.

Col Mahan also highlighted the importance of enhancing sports infrastructure in the region. He emphasized that investing in sports facilities and promoting physical activities would not only encourage sportsmanship but also foster overall growth and development within the community.

The DDC Chairman's vision for enhanced sports infrastructure aligns with the broader goal of promoting a healthy and active lifestyle among the residents, particularly the youth. By providing the necessary infrastructure and opportunities for sports and physical activities, the community can look forward to a brighter and more prosperous future.

District Budgam Volleyball Championship concludes

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BUDGAM: District Budgam Volleyball Championship-2023 organized by District Budgam Volleyball Association under the aegis of Volleyball Association of Jammu & Kashmir and sponsorship of J&K Sports Council concluded at Sports Stadium Budgam on Sunday.

As per the organizing body, a total 30 teams including 26 boys and three girls participated in the championship.

In the girls final, Alamdar Volleyball Club Chrar-i-Sharief beat Kashmir Elite by 2-0 (25-17, 25-12) while Kashmir Elite Volleyball Club Budgam beat Garind Spartan by 3-1 (25-16, 23-25, 25-9, 25-18) in boys final and listed the respective trophies.

The closing ceremony was



Chief Guest, SI Suhail Ahmad presenting trophy to winner team captain.

started in the presence of Chief Guest, Suhail Ahmad (Sub-Inspector Police Station Budgam), and Guests of Honour, Mohd Shafi Dar (Sarpanch Budgam), Ghulam Qadir (Retd SP), and Irshad

Ahmad Wani (Chairman District Budgam Volleyball Association).

The Chief Guest along with other guests distributed trophies, medals and certificates among the winner and runner-up teams of the sections.

Gill, Rohit score fine fifties as rain forces match into reserve day

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

COLOMBO: Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill gave a masterclass in aggressive batsmanship with sublime half-centuries that took India to 147 for 2 against Pakistan here on Sunday before the skies opened up to force their Asia Cup Super 4 match into the reserve day.

The reserve day's proceedings will start from 3 PM IST onwards, after the rain stopped the proceedings on 4.52 PM this day.

India had played 24.1 overs when the rain came down, and will resume from that point (24.2 overs) on the morrow. The two not out batsmen are Virat Kohli (8) and KL Rahul (17).

This also means that Indian players will have

to take to the field for two more days in succession Monday for the reserve day against Pakistan and on Tuesday for their second Super 4 match against Sri Lanka.

Before nature showed its ugly face, Rohit (56, 49 balls, 6x4, 4x6) and Gill (58, 52 balls, 10x4) were in spectacular touch while adding 121 runs in just 100 balls.

On Saturday, Gill had spoken about the need to be dominant against Pakistan pacers upfront, and that's precisely what the Indian openers did.

Left-arm pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi had troubled Rohit in the past with deliveries that came in to him at a brisk clip. But on this day, the Indian captain was better prepared.

Open Village Level Volleyball Tournament gets underway

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

HIRANAGAR: An open Village Level Volleyball Tournament was organised by Chhanju Ram Sports Club Gurha Mundian, Hiranagar at Volleyball Grounds, Govt High School Gurha Mundian.

A total of 32 teams of different villages of Kathua district participated in the tournament.

Upper Mela, Lower Mela, Bhaiya and Lachhipur teams entered into semi-finals.

Winner team will be given



A volleyball match in progress at Hiranagar.

cash award of Rs 5100

whereas runners-up team

will be awarded Rs 3100, organizers said.

Kamal Sharma President of District Volleyball Association Kathua along with Mohinder Sharma General Secretary, Ram Lal Sharma Joint Secretary, Rajesh Goswami, Vice President, Keshav Sharma Cashier, Surat Singh Senior Vice President and Madan Lal coach witnessed all the matches and encouraged players and organising club.

Kamal Sharma exhorted the club members to organise such tournaments at reg-

ular intervals to promote volleyball game in the villages.

Patron-in-Chief in of District Volleyball Association, M.L Toofan, Rakesh Sharma, Bihari Lal, veteran player of volleyball of Gurha Mundian were also present and witnessed the matches.

District Volleyball Association Kathua paid rich tributes to late Bishamber Dass, founder of volleyball game in village Gurha Mundian in 1954 who expired three days ago.

PAAJ&K organises dance/singing auditions in Udhampur

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: In order to provide an opportunity to children and youth for exhibiting their talents in the field of dance and singing from various localities of district Udhampur, Performing Arts Association of J&K (PAAJ&K) organized an audition/selection trials of dance and singing for the upcoming event "Udhampur District Dance/ Singing/ Acting Championship 2023" at the premises of Evergreen Model Academy High School, Kallar, here.

Around 90 children and youth from various schools participated and exhibited



Organizers presenting certificate to a participant.

their talents in the field of dance and singing.

The best performers were selected for the upcoming district level competition and

were honoured with certificates by the dignitaries present on the occasion.

Sudershan Sharma, Chairman, Evergreen Model

Academy School was Chief Guest, Principal, Kamlesh Kumari was present as Special Guest and Nikhil Sharma Coordinator, Tajinder Singh, President Harman Cultural and Educational Society Jammu and Rahul were present as Guests of Honour on the occasion.

The judgement was made by Gurvinder Kour, State Secretary, PAA J&K, Isha Jain, renowned dance teacher of Jammu & Kashmir.

The event of audition was arranged by Shahid Salaria, National Gold Medalist in Modelling and International

Silver Medalist. The parents of the participants enjoyed the event and thanked the organizers for organizing such a beautiful event in their locality.

The Chief Guest congratulated the selected participants and wished them good luck for the upcoming event. The team of PAA J&K, run by Harman Cultural And Educational Society, Jammu will be organizing such events in other districts in order to provide an opportunity to those who want to display their talents in dance and singing at the state level, national level as well as international level competitions.

Atul gets important ACF assignment

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Working president of the All J&K Chess Association (AJKCA), Atul Kumar Gupta has been given an important assignment by the Asian Chess Federation (ACF).

As per the details pouring in, Atul has been appointed by Asian Chess Federation as chairman of appeals committee of ongoing Asian Junior Chess Championship at Jamshehpur. Sponsored by TATA Steel, the event is being held at TATA Sports Complex.

"It was a matter of pride for AJKCA that our work-



A chess match in progress.

ing president, Atul Kumar Gupta has been appointed chairman of appeals committee of an important

international event being held at Jamshehpur," informed president of AJKCA, Baldev Raj.

Sports Council 'ultimatum' to Hockey J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Taking serious note of the mass resignations by the top office bearers, the J&K Sports Council (JKSC) has served 'ultimatum' to the Hockey J&K to hold fresh elections by making public the updated voter list.

In a letter served to present general secretary of Hockey J&K, Administrative Officer of the JKSC, Riaz Ahmed said, "In view of mass resignation of office bearers from principal posts, it is evident

from the happenings that Hockey J&K has no legal principal office bearers at present to make the official correspondence."

The letter further read: You are advised to initiate process for conduct of elections and update voter list as per the guidelines of the JKSC and constitutional provisions of Hockey J&K and place the updated voter list in public domain for transparency before the Returning Officer is appointed.

Earlier, the senior JKSC officer wrote, "I am directed to convey that president Hockey J&K, Rajeev Sharma has tendered resignation from the post on August 16 with intimation to the Hockey India president and copy to the JKSC. Prior to this, Dr Taran Singh (General Secretary), Anjali (treasurer), Priyankia Singh, Sanjeev Sharma and Rajni Bala (all executive members) had already resigned from their positions."

Provincial Level Hockey Tournament on synthetic turf inaugurated

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PULWAMA: Deputy Commissioner Pulwama Dr. Basharat Qayoom on Sunday presided over as Chief Guest on the inaugural ceremony of the first Hockey tournament of players U-17 organised by Youth Services and Sports Department.

The tournament is being played on knock out basis and teams from all the Districts of the Kashmir division are participating in this event.

Addressing the occasion



Hockey teams posing for a photograph with dignitaries and officials.

Deputy Commissioner Pulwama extended a warm welcome to all the players and expressing his pleasure

on such participation of the students.

He urged them to make judicious use of the infra-

structure put in place by District Administration.

Deputy Commissioner while addressing the players

asked them to not only represent their Districts but to compete and represent the Nation at International levels.

He appreciated Youth Service and Sports Department for organising such tournaments. At the onset of the tournament, an Anti Drug oath ceremony was also held to put in every effort in place to overcome the Drug menace and every participant and official was asked to return home as Ambassadors of the Anti-Drug campaign.

Councillor Narotam starts lanes and drains work in Ward 3

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In continuation of developmental activities in every nook and corner of his ward, Narotam Sharma Councillor Ward 3, Old city Jammu on Sunday started lane drain works in Peepal Wali Gali area near link road.

Peepal Wali Gali is a famous place of Temple of Shani Dev and hundreds of people visit this temple every day. During the inauguration, senior leader of the BJP including State Vice President BJP Yudhvir Sethi, Jammu District president Parmod Kapahi, Kuldeep Khandari, Vidya Devi, Sarooj Gupta, Vijay Pandoh, Kuldeep Sharma were also present and appreciated the councillor for his untiring effort to provide basic facilities to people of his ward.

Other prominent people present include Subash, Rajinder, Rajesh Mengi and Booth President Sanjay Abrol.



Narotam Sharma Councillor Ward 3 starting development work.

CISF Fire Wing rescues 21 persons from building collapse site



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JHARKHAND: The Fire Wing of CISF Unit BSL Bokaro saved the lives of 21 people, including women, who were trapped in the debris after a residential house collapsed in Bokaro city of Jharkhand CISF officials said on Sunday.

A senior CISF official said that at around 5:10 AM on Sunday morning, the Fire Wing of CISF Unit BSL Bokaro received a call about the collapse of a residential building and some civilians trapped in the debris of the building near Lal Chowk of Sector E.

On getting information, official said, CISF Fire Wing personnel promptly responded to the spot and started rescue operation and promptly removed the debris and evacuated the trapped persons.

In the said rescue operations, precious lives of total 21 persons including ladies and children were saved by CISF Fire Wing personnel.

Drugs-a gateway to destruction: Swami Rajeshwaranand

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jai Deva Mission Founder Swami Shri Rajeshwaranand Ji Maharaj and Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir Unit President Manish Sahni expressed deep concern over the increasing drug trade and growing number of youth getting trapped in drug addiction in the city of temples, Jammu. They sent a message to the youth to stay away from drugs and demanded the enforcement of prohibition in Jammu and Kashmir. During a program organized at the Shiv Sena state office in Jammu, Swami Rajeshwaranand addressed the youth, stating that "Nasha Naash ka Dvara Hai" (Drugs are the gateway to destruction). He emphasized that the more drugs penetrate into their lives, the more they get immersed in the clutches of destruction. Similarly highlighted the growing attraction of youth towards Western culture and hookah, which is proving to be the cause of the destruction of our cultural identity. Out of the total population of 13 million in Jammu and Kashmir, approximately 10 lakhs people have fallen prey to the addiction to drugs.

Swami Rajeshwaranand Ji Maharaj and Manish Sahni have requested the youth to stay away from drugs and urged the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to enforce strict prohibition of drugs in Jammu and Kashmir and take stern action against the elements involved in the drug trafficking.



Jai Deva Mission Founder Swami Shri Rajeshwaranand Ji talking to reporters.

T N Dhar's Urdu book on Bhagavat Gita released



Dignitaries releasing T N Dhar's Urdu book on Bhagavat Gita at Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An Urdu book titled "Gita Ji Se Bhaint" authored by Triloki Nath Dhar and published by his daughter Prof. Raj Shree Dhar, Principal GDC Purnmandal was released in an impressive function at K L Saigal Hall, Writer's Club, Jammu, here this evening.

The event was organized by Jammu and Kashmir Rashtra Bhasha Prachar Samiti Jammu with the collaboration of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages.

Noted Urdu writer Pritpal Singh 'Betab', Retd. IAS, was the chief guest on the occasion while Prof. B L Zutshi was the guest of honor.

Prof. Raj Shree Dhar while introducing the author stated that his father has written a dozen books over the span of several decades. She stated that the book is an invaluable compendium of the lectures delivered by the author in the early 1970s atn Vidya Bhawan Bhatyar, Srinagar on Sunday evenings in front of a gamut of intellectuals, poets, and writers and later published in the Urdu newspaper Martand. She added that it is a moral and spiritual allegory, written in Urdu

but with words borrowed from Hindi, Sanskrit, Kashmiri, Punjabi, and English as well, which shows the way to tackle the introspective war being waged inside every individual to gain mastery of the self.

Prof. B L Zutshi said the book renders complex philosophical, mystical, and metaphysical concepts in a language that is easy to grasp and internalize. Pritpal Singh 'Betab' complimented Prof. Dhar for compiling and publishing this brilliant anthology of her father's works and asked her to publish it in Devnagari -Hindi Script as well. He said the book consists of the author's reflections on leading a mindful existence in a world of constant change and continuous challenges, an idea that holds perennial significance. Earlier Dr. Bharat Bhushan Sharma, Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Rashtra Bhasha Prachar Samiti Jammu extended a formal welcome followed by the release of the book.

Dr. Ashaugh Hussain deliberated on the contents while reviving the book.

Apoorva S, the author's granddaughter, paid a heartfelt tribute to Triloki Nath Dhar.