

# Shrine Board extends grand welcome to Paralympics Bronze Medalists

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATRA: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) on Monday accorded a grand welcome to Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar, the proud bronze medalists in the recently concluded Paralympics-2024, on behalf of Manoj Sinha, Chairman, SMVDSB and Lt. Governor, J&K-UT.

The dynamic duo, Rakesh Kumar and Sheetal Devi nurtured and trained at the SMVD Sports Complex brought laurels to the nation with their exceptional performance. In recognition of their outstanding achievement, the Shrine Board felicitated them at a ceremonial event held at the SMVD Sports Complex, Katra.

Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB, congratulated Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar on their remarkable achievement at the Paris Paralympics, expressing immense pride in the success of these Shrine's para-archers which has brought laurels not only for Jammu and Kashmir but for the entire nation. CEO said that with their bronze medal win in the Mixed Team



Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB congratulating Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar.

Compound Open Archery event, Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar have forever engraved their names in the archives of sporting history by cementing their status as Jammu and Kashmir's pioneering Olympic medalists. He exhorted that success in sports is not an overnight achievement but a culmination of years of dedication, hard work and perseverance and achievement of these medalists is a testament to their unwavering dedication, guidance of their coaches and above all, the divine blessings of Mata Vaishno Devi Ji. Their success is giving a new impetus to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sports Complex by inspiring budding

sportspersons and creating new sporting icons, he added. CEO reaffirmed the Shrine Board's dedication to promoting various sports, particularly Olympic disciplines like shooting, archery and athletics to empower athletes to excel and bring glory to the nation. He highlighted that the Board's consistent annual investment of Rs 2.5 to 3 crore over the past 8-9 years in developing world-class sports infrastructure and nurturing talented athletes at its complex is now yielding remarkable results on international stages. He highlighted the success of two world-class archers, Rakesh Kumar and Sheetal Devi, who have made a mark globally.

As a token of blessings and appreciation, the CEO presented the medalists with sacred gifts including a Chunri and other revered offerings of Mata Vaishno Devi Ji.

Sheetal Devi, a trailblazing para-archer, defied immense health challenges to revolutionize the sport with her innovative foot-shooting technique. Since her debut in 2019, she has accumulated an impressive array of accolades, including winning two gold medals and one silver at the 2023 Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, China, earning a silver medal at the World Archery Para Championships-2023 in the Czech Republic, which secured her a spot in the 2024 Paris Paralympics and being ranked as the world's number one in women's compound para-archery. Her remarkable journey so far is a testament to her unwavering determination and unrelenting passion for the sport. Rakesh Kumar, para archer, who also overcame personal challenges and continues to push the boundaries of para archery, has made significant strides in his career since 2017 by repre-

sending India on the international stage. Some of his key achievements include winning Gold and silver medals at the Asian Para Games-2023 in individual and team events, Gold at the 2023 World Archery Para Championships besides, securing a bronze medal in the Mixed Team Compound Open Archery event at the Paris-2024 Paralympic Games. The medalist's achievements are a testament to the expert guidance and mentorship of their coaches, Kuldeep Vedvan and Abhilasha Chaudhary at the SMVDSB Sports Complex in Katra.

Sheetal and Rakesh Kumar expressed their gratitude to the Shrine Board for the warm welcome and felicitation stating that this recognition motivates them to work harder and bring more laurels to the country.

Among those present on the occasion were Addl. Chief Executive Officer, Jt. Chief Executive Officer SMVDSB, Director Sports, SMVD Sports Complex, other senior officials of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, esteemed coaches and sportspersons.

# Jammu hosts 2-day National seminar on Bukido



Participants posing for a photograph with dignitaries.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Bukido Federation India successfully conducted a two-day National Referee/Coaching seminar on Bukido Sport at KC International School (KCIS), here on Monday. Around 40 technical officials from eight different states of the country including Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Ladakh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and host J&K.

The seminar provided valuable insights into Bukido, a unique sport that blends ancient Indian martial arts with modern techniques. It aims to cultivate well-rounded players by teaching both martial arts techniques and weapon skills with aiming to preserve the culture of India.

Shikha Pathak, a renowned martial artist and resource person from Goa, led the seminar with her extensive knowledge and expertise, offering brilliant guidance to all attendees. The seminar, conducted under the guidance of Tarsem Sharma, secretary general of Bukido Federation India, provided a comprehensive understanding of martial arts discipline that uniquely blends ancient Indian martial traditions with modern techniques. This sport focuses on creating well-rounded athletes proficient in both hand-to-hand combat and weapon skills while also preserving India's rich cultural heritage.

The valedictory function was graced by distinguished guests, including Anupama Sinha, Principal, KCIS, chief guest; Shikha Pathak, Technical Head, Bukido Federation India, guest of honour; Vasu Dev Singh, vice president, Yuva Rajput Sabha and Dr. Pradip Ravindra Sakare, member, Bukido Federation India (Maharashtra), both special guests.

The event turned out to be a successful initiative deepening participants' understanding of Bukido and significantly enhancing their skills. The Bukido Federation India extends its heartfelt gratitude to all attendees, guests, and the host institution for their support in making this seminar a memorable and impactful experience.

# DEA hosts Cricket Match under SVEEP in Poonch



Chief Education Officer Poonch, Lal Hussain posing with teams and officials.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
POONCH: The District Election Authority (DEA), Poonch, under the aegis of District Election Officer (DEO) Poonch, Vikas Kundal, organized an exhibition cricket match under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program at the Sports Stadium, Poonch.

Chief Education Officer, Poonch, Lal Hussain, (Nodal Officer SVEEP)

was the chief guest on the occasion. He interacted with the players, administered the voting pledge, and emphasized the importance of electoral participation. The match aimed to engage youth in the democratic process and promote voter awareness. Lal Hussain said that through the medium of sports, we aim to reach out to the youth and encourage them to exercise their right to vote. Sports and democracy

share a common spirit - fair play, inclusivity and teamwork. The SVEEP program seeks to educate and motivate voters, especially first-time voters, to participate in the electoral process. The exhibition cricket match was an innovative initiative to connect with young voters and promote democratic values.

The match generated enthusiasm among local youth, who were eager to showcase their cricketing skills while learning about their voting rights and responsibilities.

District Sports Officer Mool Raj Uttam, Vijay Kumar ZEPO Poonch, Vijay Kumar Sharma, and Ravinder Singh were also present on the occasion.

# UCMAS celebrates top talent at 14th J&K Abacus & Mental Arithmetic Competition 2024

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The 14th Jammu and Kashmir UCMAS Abacus & Mental Arithmetic Competition reached a grand conclusion with a Prize Distribution Ceremony held at Jammu Club, MA Stadium, Jammu. The event, organized by UCMAS, an internationally recognized organization known for its Mental Arithmetic and Abacus Training, highlighted this year's theme, "Entrepreneurs: Empowering Women & Youth Through Education."

The ceremony, which saw participation from over 400 students across various UCMAS authorized centers in Jammu, was marked by the presence of distinguished guests and inspiring entrepreneurs. These individuals, who have undergone UCMAS training, shared their transformative experiences and achievements, shedding light on the positive impact of education on entrepreneurship and empowerment.

Rupesh Masson, Founder



Winner students posing for a photograph with dignitaries.

Director of One Global Foundation and Regional Director J&K of UCMAS, welcomed attendees and emphasized UCMAS's role in education in the region. "UCMAS has trained over 200 individuals and appointed authorized franchisees to advance abacus education in J&K. This opportunity is available for those interested in starting education franchises in J&K's towns and cities," Masson said.

Champion of Champions: Rajya Vardhan  
Champions: Adheer Mahajan, Ruhaan Khajuria, Manank Gupta, Rudransh Sharma, Reyhan Bhagat,

Vedansh, 1st Prize Winners: Devanshi Mathur, Parth Mahajan, Priyavada, Aaryav Kohli, Vivaan Rana, Aarushi Maurya, Pranish Gupta, Aarav Gupta, Jaahnavi Bhagat, Trisayita Bhat, Piyush Lalotra, Onish Suri, Ayaan Gupta, Ritvik Dogra, Ansh Chadha, Rudhah, Joyeem Singh, Aadhya Gupta

2nd Prize Winners: Garvik Sharma, Anadi Abrol, Rajveer Dayal, Nayanika Katal, Aashish Singh Chib, Rohan Mahajan, Naksh Bangotra, Kavya Jagotra, Shanaya Sharma, Shitij Gupta, Samar Kapoor, Adhyan Basson, Vinayak Narania, Aadvik

Singh, Aarman Chadha, Niyant Gupta, Ryan Mahajan, Ashish Sharma  
3rd Prize Winners: Armaan Sharma, Satvik Singh, Sanvi Singh, Arhaan Singh, Adarsh Chib, Divish Mahajan, Aashvika, Roshni Gupta, Darsh Singh, Aarya Verma, Navya Rajput, Edhayata Gupta, Vanya Gandotra, Sejal Dogra, Bhavyam Verma, Daiwik Sharma, Lakshya Raina.

4th Prize Winners: Tamsh Behl, Taksham Gotra, Subhaan Raza, Aarav Gupta, Amog Jain, Shubham, Gurveen Singh, Saatvik Gupta, Aaradhya Jagdev

5th Prize Winners: Joanna Thappa, Krishy, Kaira Dhar, Aadvik Singh, Varchsav, Ronisha Gupta, Mehul Sarmal, Ruhan Gupta, Sanatan. The ceremony featured Rohit Khajuria, General Secretary Red Cross and Former DC Samba, Kathua, as the Chief Guest. Special guests included Vinay Kumar, Kshetriya Sangathak of Swadeshi Jagran Manch, Madam Neeta Rawal, Principal APS B.D. Badi, Ajay Singh Chandel, Swadeshi Jagran Manch Prant Sampark Pramukh Jammu Kashmir Ladakh, Pardeep Dutta, Bureau Chief of Times Now, eminent journalists Sohail Kazami and Ravinder Singh, and Inderjeet Raina, Founder of Sampark North PR Agency.

UCMAS J&K's Academic Director Sonia Masson, along with other distinguished figures, was present to celebrate the students' achievements. Rupesh Masson concluded the event with a vote of thanks, acknowledging the support of parents and guests.

# KPCL Season-4 commencing from Oct 20



**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Kashmiri Pandit Cricket League (KPCL) Season-4, will be organised by Safran Cricket Club from October 20 to October 27, 2024 at Country Cricket Stadium Gharota, Jammu.

Twelve teams will take part in this cricketing extravaganza to vie for the top honours.

The teams have been divided into three pools with Milchar Chargers, Shankara Club, Royal Strikers and Shailputri Cricket Club in Pool (A); 777 Masters, Satisar CC, RSCC and Yest We Can Club in Pool (B) and Titans, Shiva Bhagwati Vanquisher, Alpine Avengers and Royal Challengers in

Pool (C). "To make the matches exciting and the league more advanced, we are introducing the new rules like Impact Player and Power Serge for the first time in Jammu. After 'all play all pattern' at the league stage, eight teams will qualify for the knockout stage to lock horns in the quarterfinals," said Sarthak Khoda, Chief Organiser of the tournament.

It is pertinent to mention here that the league has been a great success in all three seasons so far and it has a distinction of having the participating teams from Delhi, Chandigarh and Pune also apart from the teams from J&K.

# Abhay's ton overwhelms Shivansh's century as PCA Colts drubs J&K by 6 wkts

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

MOHALI: Skipper Abhay Choudhary's unbeaten century overpowered Shivansh Sharma's unbeaten ton as PCA Colts defeated J&K by 6 wickets in the ongoing 29th All India JP Atray Memorial Cricket Tournament at PCA I S Bindra Cricket Stadium, Mohali today.

With this loss, J&K are almost certainly out of contention in this tournament.

Meanwhile, chasing a total of 243 runs to win, PCA Colts rode on an extraordinary century by skipper Abhay Choudhary and chased the target in 39.3 overs by losing 5 wickets, thus winning the match by 5 wickets.

Abhay scored 138 runs off 125 balls, studded with 20 fours and 3 sixes, while Sahil Sharma and Shabaz Singh contributed 41 and 25 runs to the total respectively. For J&K, Lone Nasir bagged 2 wickets while Irfan Ul Haq, Mujtaba Yousef and Kanhaiya Wadhawan claimed one wicket each. Earlier, winning the toss and opting first, J&K scored a decent total of 242 runs in the stipulated 50 overs, losing 9 wickets in the process.



Shivansh Sharma and Kanhaiya Wadhawan sparked with the willow, making a huge partnership to take Jammu and Kashmir to a respectable total.

Shivansh showed stellar grit and tenacity to notch up a magnificent century, scoring 111 runs off 112 balls studded with 7 fours and 4 sixes, while Kanhaiya contributed 69 off 99 balls with 6 boundaries and one six. Qamran Iqbal chipped in with 13-ball 14 runs.

Sukhdeep Bajwa and Kunwar Kukreja captured 3 wickets each for PCA Colts, while Manish Sheoran bagged 2 wickets and Harjas Singh Tandon claimed one wicket.

# Ritu Singh condemns Rahul Gandhi's derogatory remarks against Maharaja Hari Singh

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: As the granddaughter-in-law of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji and a proud daughter of this soil, I vehemently condemn and take strong exception to the defamatory remarks made by Rahul Gandhi against our revered Dogra ruler. His baseless attack is not just an affront to the legacy of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji, but an insult to the entire Dogra community and the people of Jammu and Kashmir, whom Maharaja Hari Singh Ji served with unparalleled dedication and selflessness. I thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji for exposing Rahul Gandhi's distorted narrative at his recent rally in Doda and for setting the historical record straight, which had been manipulated

for decades. Maharaja Hari Singh Ji was a visionary leader; a champion of social justice, and a pioneer of progressive reforms in Jammu and Kashmir. He abolished untouchability, worked tirelessly to provide education to all, regardless of caste or creed, and introduced land reforms that empowered the farm workers. His bold decision to make primary education free and compulsory and his efforts to establish hospitals and ensure better healthcare for the people marked him as a ruler ahead of his time. He stood firm for equality and justice, advocating for the rights of all his subjects, and his commitment to these values is part of his enduring legacy.

Rahul Gandhi's statement echoes the malice that his ancestors, including Pandit Nehru, perpetuated against Maharaja Hari Singh Ji in their attempts to defame him.

The intrigue they played to undermine and erase the rich legacy of the Dogra community is once again evident. The people of Jammu can clearly see through this malice and its high time they understand their indifference towards the Dogras. This malicious campaign against a ruler who always stood for the unity, integrity, and welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir will not be tolerated. The Dogra legacy of pride, valor, and service to the nation is untouchable and will remain intact despite such attacks.

# Ex-CPMF personnel ask Govt to redress their issues before Assembly election

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Ex-Central Paramilitary Forces Welfare Association J&K UT highlighted the ongoing issues faced by Ex-CPMF personnel and the lack of satisfactory responses from government representatives. In a press conference held at Miran Sahib here today, D.K. Chauhan, said, "A delegation of Ex-CPMF members had previously met with prominent Members of Parliament, Jugal Kishore Sharma and Dr. Jitendra Singh. Despite their repeated efforts in 2014 and 2024 to communicate their essential and genuine demands, the delegation's concerns have largely been ignored. This persistent neglect has left a significant segment of society feeling disenfranchised and unaddressed." He discussed the government orders related to the benefits



Ex-Central Paramilitary Forces Welfare Association member talking to reporters.

for Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel. "The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), as per GOI Order No-23-11-2012, had approved a proposal from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to extend benefits similar to those granted to Ex-Servicemen of the Defence Forces to personnel from BSF, CRPF, CISF, and ITBP," he said adding that despite this

directive, there has been a lack of effective implementation by the State Government/UT, leaving many of the promised benefits unfulfilled.

He also addressed the delays related to the 7th Pay Commission recommendations. "There has been significant frustration over the slow implementation of these recommendations, particularly

concerning the 2.57 new advisory, 3.68 adjustments, and the 18 months of Dearness Allowance (DA) arrears that are still pending," he said. He warned that the Ex-CPMF are deeply concerned that if these issues are not resolved promptly, the 65 lakh Central Employees may resort to boycotting the upcoming 2024 assembly elections in the UT as a form of protest. The press conference was attended by Harvinder Mahajan Chief Advisor, Ashok Kumar Chairman, Kuldeep Singh President, Harbans Lal Sharma Vice President, Yash Pal, Jagannath, Gurdeep Singh Manjeet Singh and Bishno Devi Members, Noor Mummad President District Samba. The primary objective of the press conference is to spotlight these critical issues and urge government officials to address them urgently.

# Modi Govt transformed J&K in just one decade: Dr. Parneesh

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Dr. Parneesh Mahajan, Convenor of the Department of Training, BJP, J&K, lauded the unprecedented transformation of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir under the ten-year rule of the Modi Government. He stated that the developmental strides achieved under BJP's leadership are unparalleled, contrasting sharply with the previous regimes led by the National Conference (NC) and Congress, which miserably failed to deliver on their promises. "What the Modi Government has done in the past decade for J&K, the successive governments of NC and Congress could not accomplish in their decades of rule," said Dr. Mahajan. Speaking about BJP's contesting candidate for Jammu West, Arvind Mahajan, Dr.



Dr. Parneesh Mahajan, Convenor of the Department of Training and other leaders at a programme.

Parneesh Mahajan hailed him as a youth icon and a deserving candidate for the constituency. "The youth have high hopes from Arvind Mahajan, and he has proven himself to be a dynamic and capable leader. His candidacy symbolizes a new era of leadership for Jammu West, and I am confident that he will serve the constituency with dedication and integrity," said Dr. Mahajan. Dr. Parneesh Mahajan also took the opportunity to felicitate

Sat Sharma on his recent nomination as the Working President of BJP, J&K. He expressed optimism that under Sharma's leadership, the party would continue to strengthen its base and work for the betterment of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "Sat Sharma's extensive experience and vision will undoubtedly guide the party to new heights," he added. Sat Sharma and Arvind Mahajan thanked Dr.

Dr. Parneesh Mahajan appealed to the people of Jammu West to vote and support Arvind Mahajan in the upcoming Assembly polls, urging them to ensure his victory. "The future of Jammu West lies in the hands of its people, and I strongly encourage everyone to come forward and vote for a better tomorrow under the leadership of Arvind Mahajan," he said.