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IHRSC skaters shine with 12 medals in SGFI



Jammu hosts BRICS, Asian Wushu selection

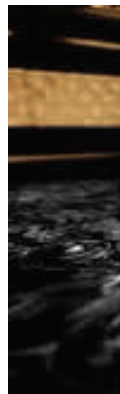
SPORTSLINE NEWS

JAMMU: The two-day final selection trial for the two prestigious events of BRICS Games and open selection trial for the 10th Asian Wushu Championship shall be held at Indoor Hall, Bhagwati Nagar, here.

The BRICS Games are scheduled to be held in Kazan (Russia) from June 11 to June 17 while 10th Asian Wushu Championship shall take place at Macau (China) from September nine to September 16.

The Wushu Association of India will conduct the final selection trial for the BRICS Games and the selection trial for the National Coaching Camp for the 10th Asian Wushu Championship on May three and May four.

Around 200 Wushu athletes from all affiliated units across the country are taking part in the se-



lection trial. Some prominent athletes, Arjuna Awardee and world champions will be seen in action. Current International Wushu Federation athlete of the year 2023, 19th Asian Games Silver Medalist and Arjun Awardee, Roshibina Devi will be seen in action.

It is the first time that the selection trials for the prestigious events are taking part in the city of temples, Jammu. Earlier Wushu Association of India (WAI) had organised National Wushu coaching camp in 2011, 2013 and 2023 at Gulmarg and Srinagar Re-

spectively.

The J&K Sports Council have recently procured the latest Wushu equipment for both centres, resultant J&K is becoming hub for the Wushu events. The deadline for the entry by name for the BRICS games is May 15, the

Sports Authority of India (SAI) will organise the National Wushu coaching camp for the final selected players after the selection trial at any SAI centres or as proposed by WAI. Open selection trial will be held for the 10th Asian Championship in which around 45 to 50 campers will be shortlisted for the National Wushu coaching camp, the final selection trial for the championship will be held on the month of July ending or August one to finalise the Indian Wushu championship for Macau.

The WAI has finalised the selection committee, which is headed by the president of the WAI, Jitender Singh, Suhel Ahmed (Member) Dronacharya Kuldeep Handoo and National Chief Coach of India (Member) as members and observer from SAI.

Final Selection trial for the

at Kazan
9th - 16th June 2024

Selection trial for the

10th Asian Wushu Championship

at Macau
11th -17th September 2024

Organised by : Wushu Association of India
At Indoor Hall Bhagwati Nagar Jammu on 3-4th May 2024



Simriti, Shiv dominate in Doda Chess

SPORTSLINE NEWS

JAMMU: Simriti and Shiv dominated in the District Doda Chess Championship which held at Adarsh Vidya Mandir Bhaderwah under the aegis of All J&K Chess Association (AJKCA).

While Simriti completely dominated in the girls section taking away Under-15, under-17, under-19 and

Open titles, Shiv secured the boys open category title. However, the junior boys trophy went to Shivang Kotwal.

In the valedictory function, Principal of Bhartiya Vidhya Mandir Bhaderwah, Priya Kohli was chief guest, who presented the title trophies and other individual prizes. She lauded the organising team and the district association for the efforts, es-

pecially for active participation of around 25 female players.

In total, 51 boys and girls took part in this three-day event wherein Rajesh Kotwal was observer from J&K Sports Council.

The encouraging part of the event was that the organisers conducted the event without entry fee and event provided six participants to and fro expenses.



Sahib, Alankrita excel in selection Chess meet

SPORTSLINE NEWS

JAMMU: Sahib Singh and Alankrita Sharma won first positions in boys and girls section respectively in the Jammu Division U-17 category selection events which took place under the banner of All J&K Chess Association (AJKCA), here. Tanmay Jamwal and Ashwiina Raina remained runners-up. Gurfateh Singh and Saibhan Singh won in under-seven year category, a handout issue by the Association here today informed. Now, the winners of different age groups shall represent J&K at the National level events. The events took place under the supervision of chairman of organizing committee, SP Sharma. Bindu Pathania was chief Arbiter of the while Arvind Sharma extended technical support. Baldev Raj, president AJKCA and Atul Kumar Gupta, working president AJKCA extended best wishes to participants for forthcoming Nationals.

Sports Foundation seeks medical facilities

SPORTSLINE NEWS

JAMMU: Vansh Sabre Sports Foundation has asked the Government to introduce medical facilities at the major sports hubs of MA Stadium Jammu and Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar so as to assist trainees with emergency aids.

A formal request in this regard

has been forwarded by the secretary of the Foundation, Kuldeep Kumar Gupta to president of the J&K Sports Council (JKSC),

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha. The Foundation observed that at both proposed dispensaries the Medical Department of the UT should made available the services of a Physician and a Nurse on daily basis.

"Since around 1000 young trainees visit these two venues on a regular basis, such emergency medical aid would be a confidence booster for players across different age groups," the letter mentioned secretary as saying.



UP Wrestler Asman wins Dera Kesari Dangal

SPORTSLINE NEWS

KATRA (Reasi): Asman of Mathura in Uttar Pradesh lifted the 31st Annual Dera Kesari Dangal title defeating Bablu of J&K Police and a resident of Basantgarh (Udhampur) in the main bout that took place at holy Shrine Dera Baba Banda Bahadur, here.

Dangal was organized by Dera Baba Bandha Bahadur Prabandhak Committee,

Baba Banda Bahadur Sikh Samardi in association with J&K Indian Style Wrestling Associa-

tion.

Dangal was organized in the memory of the great Saint, warrior and Martyr Baba Banda Bahadur on the eve of Baisakhi Festival under the overall supervision of president J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association Shiv Kumar Sharma and Baba Jatinder Paul Singh Sodhi, Gaddinasheen.

Arvinder Singh Reen, Director AP and FWD, Jammu was the chief guest on

the occasion, who distributed cash prizes among the winners and runners-up

wrestlers. Former joint sec-

retary J&K State Sports Council, Shiv Kumar Sharma was guest of honour.

In all, 36 bouts played in the day-long Kaanta Khushti Dangal. The bouts officiated by the technical penal including Raj Singh, Tulinder Kumar,

Deepak Wazir and Sunny Sharma (Airtel).

Earlier, title winner, Asman awarded with a cash prize of Rs. 6,000 while runners-up Bablu got a cash prize of Rs. 5,000. In the second main bout, Ankit of Delhi beat

Ajay Sharma of Udhampur and the third bout went to Salman of Choprashop, Udhampur who defeated Obey of Akhnoor. The Vote of thanks was presented by Shiv Kumar Sharma. Dera Baba Banda Bahadur Prabandhak Committee members, who helped in smooth conduct of the event included Jatinder Paul Singh Sodhi, Gaddinasheen, Sant Kumar Juneja (vice chairman), Prem Dureja (president) Dr. Shiv Shanker Pahwa (co-ordinator), Ved Parkash Makker (general secretary) and Darshan Rewari (vice president).



Delhi Wrestler Yudhvir lifts Gun Dangal title

SPORTSLINE NEWS

KATRA (Reasi): Wrestler Yudhvir of Delhi lifted the title bout of 31st Gun (Reasi) Dangal defeating Ajay Sharma of Udhampur in a well contested bout that took place at Gun, near here. Yudhvir awarded with a cash prize of Rs. 8,000 while runners-up Ajay received Rs. 5,000 from chief guest, Shiv Kumar Sharma, former Joint Secretary of J&K State Sports Council (JKSC) and president J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association in the presence of former Sarpanch, Goutam Kumar, Rattan Singh and Rafiq, who were guests of

honour. Dangal was organized by Gun Dangal Committee in association with J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association under the overall supervision of Tilak Raj, president Karnail Singh. The bouts were officiated by the technical panel including Prbhat Singh, Pawan Singh, Anil Kumar, Murli Dhar (Munna) and Harbans Lal.

In all, 51 bouts played in this day-long event. The second main bout between Kulbir Singh of Kot Bhalwal in Jammu and Yog Raj of Jammu ended in a draw with the result both wrestlers shared Rs 11,000 cash prize.

Third main bout won by Sunil Kumar of Kot Bhalwal in

Jammu beating

Bunty of Utter Pardesh. Winner Sunil got Rs 6,000 and Bunty presented Rs 4,000 cash prize.

Members of Gun Dangal Committee, who helped in the conduct of dangal

included president Tilak Raj, Karnail Singh, Sarf Singh, Jaswant Singh,

Balwan Singh, Kuldeep Raj, Deya Ram, Karan Singh, Bharat Bhushan, Ashok Singh, Yash Paul, Babu Ram, Mukesh Kumar, Mohd. Hanief, Salinder Kumar and Devinder Singh.

Shahnaz qualifies AFC A Diploma



SPORTSLINE NEWS

JAMMU: Senior footballer of J&K, Shahnaz Iqbal Khan has successfully completed the important AFC A Diploma, the technical sessions for which held at Synthetic Turf TRC, Srinagar under the banner of J&K Football Association (JKFA).

Presently holding an important assignment of team coach of J&K Bank, Shahnaz also patronizes one of the prominent football clubs of the Union Territory (UT).

The AFC A Diploma course held under the guidance of instructors, Vivek Nagul and Sajid Dar.

Important to mention here that in the recent past a lot of senior footballers of J&K have either made to the qualified list of coaches or technical officials.

J&K climbers excel in Delhi meet

SPORTSLINE NEWS

JAMMU: J&K Sport Climbers gave a good account of themselves in the two-day 17th St. Stephen's College Delhi's Open National Sport Climbing Competition held in the college premises from April six.

Two J&K climbers won two medals including Gold and Bronze. As expected Shivani Charak of J&K, the top ranked sport climber of the country, easily won the Gold in Lead climbing in the Women category and was set to bag the top position in Speed climbing also when she generated terrific speed but unfortunately a slip deprived her of a medal. In the Sub Junior girls' category, Ayaana Bhagat, a very talented and determined climber of J&K, had a dream run on the climbing wall. She matched her senior climbers of Delhi in strength and every move.



In fact, the first three climbers achieved the same height and the result had to be determined on the basis of time taken to reach that height in which Ayaana secured the third place. Ayaana excelled in Speed climbing also and reached the semi final round but had to be contend with the fourth place. In the Sub Junior Boys category Aradhya Manhas performed well to qualify the preliminary round but could not do much in the next round in the face of a tough competition among the top climbers of the country. Meanwhile, Patrons of Tawi Trekkers J&K, Ashwani Sharma, former MLA and Rahul Sharma, Chairman, Sprawling Buds ICSE School, Bantalab Jammu alongwith Advisor Ram Khajuria, president Shawetica Khajuria and general secretary Sonam Sidharth have congratulated the climbers for their magnificent achievement in the national level competition and assured them all possible help for future competitions.

J&K Deaf Judokas Mehak, Vishal in World meet

SPORTSLINE NEWS

JAMMU: Two deaf Judokas of J&K, Rakhshinda Mehak and Vishal Khajuria from J&K UT have for the second time been made it to the Indian team for the World Deaf Judo Championship got underway at Turkestan in Kazakhstan. In this five-day event, six deaf judokas, including four women from India shall compete in different weight categories.

Both Mehak and Vishal are trainees of chief Judo coach, Suraj Bhan Singh at Indoor Complex, M A Stadium, here. Earlier, the Indian team



precipitated and congratulated the deaf judokas of J&K.

left for Kazakhstan on April 10 under the banner of Deaf Sports Council of India and sponsored by the Sports Authority of India (SAI). Rakhshinda Mehak has already won Bronze medal in the 1st world Deaf Judo Championship which was held in Paris, France in 2021. Meanwhile, Gulshand Dharbu, general secretary Deaf Sports Association of J&K and Nuzhat Gul, Secretary J&K Sports Council





Awardees of Devi Pindian Trekking Programme with the dignitaries.

Tawi Trekkers felicitates student group leaders

SPORTSLINE NEWS

JAMMU: On achieving resounding success in the ongoing 1-Day Devi Pindian Trekking Programme in which 500 students mostly girls, participated within a month, Tawi Trekkers J&K, the pioneer trekking club of J&K, celebrated the occasion by felicitating the student leaders and teachers who were the spirit behind the grand success of the programme, at Press Club of Jammu, here.

Ashwani Sharma, former MLA and patron of the club was chief guest, who honoured the

awardees with appreciation certificates, sacred Churni, a bouquet and also presented participation certificates in the presence of patron Rahul Sharma, advisors, Prof. Lalit Magotra and Ram Khajuria, president Shawetica Khajuria and general secretary, Sonam Sidharth.

Prominent among others present included Vivek Chauhan, patron; Rakesh Goswami, president of District Mountaineering Association, Jammu; Mridhu Padha, vice president and senior members of Tawi Trekkers including Navneet Gupta, Sunil Chakharia, Amit Khajuria, Anu Sharma and Prerna Charak.

It was heart warming to witness the distinguished audience breaking into a resounding applause when Ashpreet Kour Sudan, president; Sanjeevani vice president, Ishika Jandiyal, sports secretary and Saloni Kumari of PS Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu were honoured by the dignitaries. The other awardees included three teachers of St Xavier Senior Secondary School, Barnai namely Meenu Badam, Meenakshi Verma and Anita Kumari and three students of PS Govt College for Women Gandhi Nagar

namely, Diya Chib, Mehak Sharma and Ambika Kesar.

Speaking to the audience, Ashwani Sharma recalled his 25 years association with the club and said that it is because of the unwavering dedication, devotion to duty and selfless spirit of its members that the club has been doing a great service to the nation for the last 41 years. He advised to motivate more and more youth to participate in the forthcoming Dharamshalla Mcleodganj Himalayan Trekking Programme to make Tawi Trekkers J&K the number one trekking club in the country.

4-member team represents J&K in Carrom National



SPORTSLINE NEWS

JAMMU: A four-member team presently represent J&K in the ongoing 51st Senior National Carrom Championship at Lakshmbai National Institute of Physical Education (LNPE) in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh

under the banner of All India Carrom Federation. The J&K team including Shahid Ahmad, Haroon Malik, Arsalan Akbar and Furqan is expected to give tough fight to their opponents.

Earlier, the team was selected by

the Jammu and Kashmir Carrom Association on the basis of performance in the domestic competitions.

Through systematic training and encouragement, J&K Carrom Association aims to present its best athletes at the national level, a handout issued here today mentioned.



Ishaq wins Prem Choudhary Memorial Dangal

SPORTSLINE NEWS

JAMMU: Wrestler Ishaq (Lallu) of Jammu defeated Shadab of Punjab to bag the title bout of Dangal which was organised by Prem Choudhary Memorial Sports and Educational Charitable Trust at historic Dewan Mandir Akhara in heart of the city, here. The event was also supported by Akhara Dewan Mandir and Choudhary Gym with the sole aim to promote the indigenous game of wrestling in the old city. The winner wrestlers felicitated by the chief guest, Sohail Kazmi. Kulbhushan Sharma, a renowned theatre Artist was guest of honour. Earlier, member trustee of Prem Choudhary Memorial Sports and Educational Trust, Kuldeep Sharma highlighted the contributions of Prem Choudhary for sports, especially wrestling. The Dangal took place under the technical guidance of NIS qualified Wrestling coach, Sunil Sharma. Among others present were Bodh raj Gupta, Swarn Lal, Raj Kumar and Shiv Kumar.



Record 26 medals for J&K in Ju-Jitsu

SPORTSLINE NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Ju-Jitsu team returned with record 26 medals (11 Gold , five Silver, 10 Bronze) in the Sub-Junior and Junior National Ju-

Jitsu Championship held at Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh.

As per a handout issued by the Ju-Jitsu Association of J&K, the team gave best ever performance at the National stage.

The team was accompanied

by Tarsem Sharma, Dr. Navneet Gupta, Danish Sharma, Harsh Vardhan Raina , Rohini Chib (Coach) and Rajesh Singh (Coach)

Medal Winners: Gold: Daksh Chib, Rajan Bhardwaj, Adharv

Singh Pawar, Pankaj Kumar, Ashlyn Thappa, Yuvan Gupta, Jaideep Manhas, Aarush Singh, Veer Pratap and Raghav Dutta. Silver: Vihaan Gupta, Akhilesh Sharma, Sierat Verma, Veer Pratap and

Shivam Tickoo. Bronze: Akhileshwar Singh Jamwal, Yuvan Gupta, Daksh Chib, Ashlyn Thappa, Akhilesh Sharma, Shivam Tickoo, Raghav Dutta, Parkash Singh, Yuvraj Singh and Ina Dhar.

J&K Rollball teams named for National

SPORTSLINE NEWS

JAMMU: A 28-member Sub-Junior Rollball team finalised by the Rollball Association of J&K for the 16th Sub-Junior Rollball National Championship being held at Dehradun in Uthtrakhand.

Earlier, the selected team was screened by the officials of the J&K Sports Council (JKSC) at Skating Rink of MA Stadium, here.

Before announcement of the final teams, the Association conducted a coaching cap under the supervision of Madhu Sharma, who was assisted by Sameer Gupta, Manvijay Singh Slathia and Ankush Soni.

The Team:

BOYS: Samuel Khokhar-Captain, Bhavyansh Sharma, Sarthak Dubey, Anant Aadhar Badyal , Zehraan Talib, Medhansh Singh, Tanish Kumar, Arnav Parihar, Aarav Singh, Astitva Choudhary, Mohd. Daiyan Bagdadi , Omaik Showkat Bagdadi, Manvijay



Singh -Coach. Sameer Gupta-Coach.

GIRLS: Ishani Soni-Captain, Ishanvi Soni, Aadhya Singh, Aditi Dogra, Sakshi Sharma,

Dhwani Nanda, Bhumika Dogra, Mannat Sangral, Urwah Sajad, Arushma Mir, Qurat Yaseen, Barira Showkat. Ankush Soni -Coach. Arti Soni-Manager.

Meanwhile, Hiteshwar Singh, International Rollball player motivated and encouraged the team for improved performance in the upcoming event.

Khel Ratna Award of April 13 postponed

SPORTSLINE NEWS

JAMMU: Vansh Sabre Sports Foundation has postponed the April 13 Prof Chaman Lal Gupta Khel Ratna Sports Award in view of the Model Code of Conduct for the ensuing Parliamentary elections in the country.

Finding majority of the awardees, being Government servants, unable to spare themselves for the Award function, the host Vansh Sabre Sports Foundation decided to postpone the event.

Now, it has been reliably learnt that the Award function is being rescheduled post Parliamentary elections in the month of June.

It was for the second time that the organisers of the Award function had to postpone the event at the last stages due to unavoidable reasons.



Medical facilities at Bakshi, M A Stadium

LG Office supports Vansh Trust's demand

SPORTSLINE NEWS

JAMMU: A genuine demand by the Vansh Sabre Sports Foundation to introduce much needed medical facilities within sports hub of MA Stadium in Jammu and Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar, received a positive response from the office of the LG J&K, Manoj Sinha.

The initiative from the sports foundation got LG Secretariat support when the request for establishing a dispensary was forwarded to the Administrative Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department.

Further, the Foundation asked for sparing the services of one Physician and Nurse for



such medical facilities, which too got the LG office endorse-



VANSH SABRE SPORTS FOUNDATION

ment asking the Administrative Secretary for necessary

action.

Important to mention here

that Vansh Sabre Sports Foundation, through its secretary, Kuldeep Kumar Gupta approached the LG J&K, Manoj Sinha asking for opening of Dispensary and allied facilities so as to facilitate thousands of sportspersons visiting the sports hub on daily basis.

"It was felt in the recent past that players getting injured during training sessions could not get the much needed first aid, so each time such incidents are reported to the GMC Hospital Jammu and Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar. Our submission for basic medical facilities at twin venues shall go a long way in building confidence among the players," said secretary of the Foundation.

'Isse achchi team Ajit Agarkar nahi bana sakte the': Former India cricketer gives a big thumbs up to T20 World Cup squad

NEW DELHI:

Former cricketer Mohammad Kaif has lauded the Indian cricket team's composition for the upcoming T20 World Cup made by chief selector Ajit Agarkar and his team. Kaif's remarks came following the announcement of the provisional squad, which witnessed the inclusion of some promising talents and the omission of a few established names.

"Isse achchi team Ajit Agarkar nahi bana sakte the [Ajit Agarkar could not have made a better team than this]," declared Kaif, emphasizing his confidence in the squad's strength and balance.

He particularly highlighted the assortment of bowlers, noting the presence of four fast bowlers and four spinners, creating a formidable bowling unit.

"A very strong team has been selected. It is very balanced - 4 fast bowlers, 4 spinners. Among the 8 bowlers there are three all-rounders - Axar Patel, Ravindra Jadeja and Hardik Pandya. There is also Shivam Dube who bowls, but I am not mentioning his name," Kaif said on Star Sports. Kaif's analysis



delved into the batting order, spotlighting the opening pair of Yashasvi Jaiswal and Rohit Sharma. "Jaiswal always gives a start, plays aggressive cricket. You will play day matches in the US and West Indies, there will be no dew factor there, you have to attack in the powerplay, play aggressively. Jaiswal always play aggressive cricket, Rohit Sharma also gives ag-

gressive start," he remarked, underlining the necessity of assertive batting, especially in matches without the dew factor.

Addressing the middle order, Kaif deliberated on the choice between Rishabh Pant and Sanju Samson, leaning towards Samson due to his impressive record in West Indies conditions. He also commended the selection of all-rounders Axar Patel, Ravindra Jadeja, and Hardik Pandya for their versatility and ability to float in the batting order.

Furthermore, Kaif applauded the inclusion of Shivam Dube over Rinku Singh, citing Dube's capability to contribute with both bat and ball. "You can also give an over or two to Dube, so they have taken him, it's a good choice," he remarked, highlighting the strategic aspect of Dube's inclusion.

Kaif reiterated his confidence in the squad's potential and expressed satisfaction with Agarkar's selections. His endorsement adds weight to the anticipation surrounding India's campaign in the T20 World Cup, scheduled to commence in June.

CWC felicitates promising J&K shuttler Shaurya



Shaurya Pratham receives the award of appreciation from Chairman CWC at New Delhi.

SPORTSLINE NEWS

JAMMU: Promote sports culture among wards of the staffers countrywide, the Central Water Commissioner (CWC) felicitated and encouraged promising badminton player from J&K, Shaurya Pratham.

The Chairman CWC, ex-Officio Secretary to Government of India presented the award to Shaurya during the 79th Foundation Day of CWC at New Delhi.

Shaurya, son of Executive Engineering CWC, Rishi Kumar, has excelled in the most competitive game of Badminton at the National level.

Shaurya has been All India Rank-13 in Boys Singles (Under-15) in 2023 and All India Rank- IV in Boys Doubles (Under-15) in 2022. He has started playing badminton from the age of six years at MA Stadium, Jammu and now he has established his name in top players of the country in both under-15 and under-17 age categories.

Shaurya is a trainee of Divum Gupta, Khelo India Mentor and former J&K champion at MA Stadium Jammu.

Rohit Paudel to lead Nepal in T20 World Cup

NEW DELHI:

Nepal, participating in the tournament for the second time, announced their squad to be led by all-rounder Rohit Paudel.

Their campaign will kick off against the Netherlands on June 4 in Dallas, where they will compete in Group D alongside South Africa, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and the Netherlands. The squad

selection is largely based on players' performances in the ACC Premier Cup and the ongoing home series against West Indies A.

In addition to Paudel, standout players to watch include Dipendra Singh Airee, who recently made history as the third T20 International batter to hit six sixes in an over, along with Kushal Bhurtel and Aasif Sheikh. Lalit Rajbanshi

will be a threat with his spin bowling.

Nepal squad for T20 World Cup: Rohit Paudel (c), Aasif Sheikh, Anil Kumar Sah, Kushal Bhurtel, Kushal Malla, Dipendra Singh Airee, Lalit Rajbanshi, Karan KC, Gulshan Jha, Sompal Kami, Pratis GC, Sundeep Jora, Abinash Bohara, Sagar Dhakal and Kamal Singh Airee.

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INDIA'S T20 WORLD CUP SQUAD:

Pant, Dube and Samson make the cut

Legspinner Yuzvendra Chahal made a comeback in the 15-man squad led by Rohit Sharma

Rishabh Pant, Shivam Dube and Sanju Samson have all been selected in India's 15-man squad for the 2024 T20 World Cup starting on June 1 in the USA and the West Indies. The squad, announced on Tuesday afternoon, will be led by Rohit Sharma and has Hardik Pandya as the vice-captain.

Yuzvendra Chahal, who was not part of India's recent T20I squads for the series in South Africa and at home against Afghanistan in January, has been picked on the back of his IPL form and is one of four spin options, along with left-arm wristspinner Kuldeep Yadav, and left-arm spin-bowling allrounders Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel.

The pace attack comprises only three specialists - Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj and Arshdeep Singh - along with Hardik and Dube as seam-bowling options.

Yashasvi Jaiswal was preferred as Rohit's opening partner, while Shubman Gill was named as a reserve player along with lower-order batter Rinku Singh and fast bowlers Khaleel Ahmed and Avesh Khan.

Pant hasn't played a T20I since his car accident in December 2022, and has worked his way back into the squad through his performances in IPL 2024. His 398 runs in 11 innings have come at a strike rate of 158.56. Over the course of the season, he has also allayed any doubts there may have been over his wicketkeeping.

This is Samson's first selection in a World Cup squad, after he missed out to Dinesh Karthik in 2022. Like Pant, Samson has been in prolific form as captain of Rajasthan Royals, who are on top of the IPL 2024 league table with eight wins in nine games. He has scored 385 runs in nine innings at a strike rate of 161.08 so far. The inclusion of Pant and Samson left no room for KL Rahul or Jitesh Sharma. While Rahul has not played a T20I since the previous World Cup, Jitesh had been part of India's recent T20I squads, but he's been in poor form this IPL.

Eight of the 15 players selected, including captain Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, featured in India's 2022 T20 World Cup campaign. After their semi-final defeat to England then, the BCCI made sweeping changes in a bid to experiment with younger players. However, Rohit and Kohli returned to the T20I squad after more than a year's absence ahead of the Afghanistan series at home in January.

That series also marked an international return for Dube, who top-scored with 124 runs in three innings. His ability to take down spin in the middle overs for Chennai Super Kings over the past two IPL seasons, and his improvement against fast bowling in 2024, made him a compelling selection. Dube's inclusion meant Rinku, India's designated T20I finisher over the last eight months, couldn't make the 15.

Prior to Rohit's return to the T20I team in January, India had mostly been captained by Hardik since the 2022 T20 World Cup, while Suryakumar Yadav stood in after Hardik injured his ankle during the ODI World Cup last October-November. Suryakumar led India in the five-match T20I series at home against Australia in November and in the three games in South Africa in December. The upcoming World Cup will be his first T20I since then, following his comeback in the IPL from an ankle injury and sports hernia.

INDIA SQUAD

ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP 2024



Rohit Sharma (c)	Sanju Samson (wk)	Kuldeep Yadav
Yashasvi Jaiswal	Hardik Pandya (vc)	Yuzvendra Chahal
Virat Kohli	Shivam Dube	Arshdeep Singh
Suryakumar Yadav	Ravindra Jadeja	Jasprit Bumrah
Rishabh Pant (wk)	Axar Patel	Mohammed Siraj

RESERVES: Shubman Gill, Rinku Singh, Khaleel Ahmed, Avesh Khan

Chahal also played his most recent T20I eight months ago and could finally get to play his first T20 World Cup match after playing 80 T20Is over the years. Rahul Chahal was preferred over him in 2021, and in 2022, R Ashwin and Axar Patel featured in India's XI regularly even as Chahal sat out. He has so far picked up 13 wickets in nine games in IPL 2024, with an economy of 9.00 despite bowling in the death overs.

The squad will leave India for the USA in batches, with the first one leaving on May 21. This travelling group will have head coach Rahul Dravid and other members of the coaching staff, and squad members from the IPL 2024 teams that are out of the playoffs. The last day of league-stage matches in IPL 2024 is May 19, and the playoffs begin on May 21 before the tournament finishes on May 26.

India begin their World Cup campaign against Ireland on June 5 in New York, and

then play Pakistan, USA and Canada on June 9, 12 and 15.

India squad for 2024 T20 World Cup (With player's IPL 2024 stats as of April 30)

- 1 Rohit Sharma (capt) (311 runs, strike rate 160.30)
- 2 Yashasvi Jaiswal (249 runs, strike rate 154.65)
- 3 Virat Kohli (500 runs, strike rate 147.49)
- 4 Suryakumar Yadav (166 runs, strike rate 171.13)
- 5 Rishabh Pant (398 runs, strike rate 158.56)
- 6 Sanju Samson (385 runs, strike rate 161.08)
- 7 Hardik Pandya (197 runs, strike rate 151.53, 4 wickets, economy rate 11.94)
- 8 Shivam Dube (350 runs, strike rate 172.41)
- 9 Ravindra Jadeja (157 runs, strike rate

- 131.93, 5 wickets, economy rate 7.54)
 - 10 Axar Patel (149 runs, strike rate 124.16, 9 wickets, economy rate 7.24)
 - 11 Kuldeep Yadav (12 wickets, economy rate 12.45)
 - 12 Yuzvendra Chahal (13 wickets, economy rate 9.00)
 - 13 Arshdeep Singh (12 wickets, economy rate 9.63)
 - 14 Jasprit Bumrah (14 wickets, economy rate 6.63)
 - 15 Mohammed Siraj (6 wickets, economy rate 9.50)
- Reserve players
- Shubman Gill (320 runs, strike rate 140.96)
 - Rinku Singh (123 runs, strike rate 150)
 - Khaleel Ahmed (12 wickets, economy rate 9.47)
 - Avesh Khan (9 wickets, economy rate 9.54)

India Handball captain meets trainees of Arun Academy

SPORTSLINE NEWS

JAMMU: Former India Handball captain, Balwinder Singh visited the fast growing Arun Sharma Handball Academy to interact and guide young trainees. He spent quality time with players advising them to work hard to attain success.

Moved to the United States after seeking voluntary retirement from the J&K Police with his last rank being Superintendent of Police (SP), Balwinder is a frequent visitor to his home town of Jammu.

An outstanding cricketer and Basketball player as well, Balwinder led the Indian Handball team in first appearance in the 2nd Asian Games at China in 1978. Later, he represented the country in 1982 Asian Games at Delhi.

The interesting story of Balwinder turned out to be something encouraging for the target boys and girls, who patiently listened to the hero of the past.



Former India player, Akshay Khajuria (DySP) was also present.

"We never missed a chance to invite celebrity Handball players of the past to the ground for inter-

action with young trainees. Such meetings certainly encourage the youngsters to do well," said member trustee of Arun Sharma Sports and Social Welfare Trust, Ashutosh Sharma.

Reasi gets Weightlifting equipment



SPORTSLINE NEWS

REASI: Jammu and Kashmir Weightlifting Association formally opened the training facility within the Indoor Complex of J&K Sports Council at Sports Stadium, here.

The complete training facility was handed over to the manager of the Indoor Complex by the J&K Association in the presence of District Reasi Association president, Gurmaz Singh.

Earlier, president J&K Weightlifting Association J&K, Harbajan Singh and general secretary, Yudhvir Singh declared open the training centre with the sole aim to promote the game in district Reasi.

Besides Manager Sports Stadium, Reasi, Dalbir Mehta, coaching and ground staff was also present.

Important to mention here that to promote the game of weightlifting in left out pockets of the country, the Weightlifting Association of India provides equipment through State/UT Associations to such places so as to boost the prospects of the game.



Kreeda Bharati celebrates Foundation Day

SPORTSLINE NEWS

JAMMU: Likewise other parts of the country, Kreeda Bharati Jammu and Kashmir celebrated Foundation Day by holding many activities, including Hanuman Mahotsav (Jayanti) at different places.

At Jammu, two functions organised at as many venues. In one such activity District Jammu involved young trainees of Handball Academy in performing puja at S D Sabha School campus, here in active support with Arun Sharma Sports and Social Welfare Trust.

In other event which held at Kreeda Kendra, established at MSS Vidya

Mandir Public School, Reshamghar Colony, here. General secretary of Kreeda Bharati, J&K, Rajesh Chander Vaid was special invitee, who told the young gathering of middle standard students about the life and valour of Bhagwan Hanuman.

Later, all the students were offered sweets and other eatables by the Kreeda Bharati team. Management of the School was kind enough to support the activity.

Similar functions held at district Reasi wherein president of Kreeda Bharati J&K, Shiv Kumar Sharma was special guest, who laid stress on promotion and practice of indigenous local games.





Abhishek of J&K in World Cup qualifying event

SPORTSLINE NEWS

JAMMU: Abhishek Jamwal, a National Games Wushu gold medal winner has been selected in the Indian squad for participation in the World Cup qualifying event in Jiangshu (China) slated from April 21.

Wushu Association of India (WAI) conducted selection trial for the finalisation of the Indian Wushu team for the sent event at Haridwar, wherein he (Abhishek) defeated his opponents and impressed the selection committee. The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has cleared the Indian Wushu team for the said

event at cost to the government. Abhishek Jamwal has a number of medals to his credit.

The WAI shall conduct selection trials in the month of May for the BRICS Games scheduled to be held in Kazan (Russia) and 10th Asian Wushu Championship to be held at Macau in the month of September.

Meanwhile, Kuldeep Handoo (Dronacharya Awardee) congratulated Abhishek and wished all the very best to him. He thanked J&K Sports Council for the support. Vijay Saraf (president) and Bhavneet (general secretary) of the Association also complimented Abhishek Jamwal for selection.



Chennai Blitz sponsors uniform, balls for Poonch Club



SPORTSLINE NEWS

POONCH: In a goodwill gesture to promote sports in rural pockets of the country, Chennai Blitz sponsored uniform for entire lot of trainees and 24 balls for Shaheed DySP Manjit Singh Memorial Volleyball Club, here.

This was disclosed by chairman of the Club, Mohd Tariq, on receiving the articles today, in a thanks giving statement.

Soon the sports uniform presented to the young trainees amidst gratitude to the owners of one of the top volleyball clubs of the country, Chennai Blitz, Vikranth Reddy, Hanimi Reddy and Tulsi Reddy.

"The gesture of the Chennai based Club would go a long way in encouraging volleyball in district Poonch. The young trainees were in a happy mood on getting the fresh playing kit and balls for the practice session," said Mohd Tariq.

IHRSC skaters shine with 12 medals in SGFI

SPORTSLINE NEWS

JAMMU: Young skaters of Indian Hawks Roller Skating Club (IHRSC) excelled with 12 medals won in the 67th National School Games in under different age groups in the School Games Federation of India (SGFI) held at Satna, Madhya Pradesh.

The IHRSC players clinched five gold, two silver and five bronze medals in speed skating. President of the Club, Ashok Gandotra praised the skaters for their performance and dedication.

The medal winners included Samarjot Singh (gold, silver) in under 19 years boys category; Udhay Narayan (gold, bronze) in under 17 boys; Prageet Kour (bronze) in Under 17 girls category; Puneesh Puri (gold) in under 14 boys; Tamanna Saini (two gold, bronze) and Saanvi Grover (silver) in under 14 girls category and Tabish Haider (bronze) and Adwait Sharma (bronze) in under 11 boys category.





Young talents, perfect planning script Mohammedan Sporting's I-League fairytale

NEW DELHI:

The I-League 2023-24 was no Punic War for Mohammedan Sporting; it was a simple ball game that demanded remarkable consistency in a 24-match streak. Yet for the 133-year-old iconic Kolkata club, winning the title was like Hannibal Barca and his Carthaginian army's improbable five-month journey across the snow-ridden Alps.

The long whistle at the end of the match against Shillong Lajong FC at the SSA Stadium in Shillong on Saturday, April six, was much more than the curtain coming down on a 90-minute affair for Mohammedan Sporting. It was the watershed moment of a seemingly endless wait, 27 years to be exact, to wear a crown that they longed dearly for but remained elusive over the years.

Ever since the National Football League (NFL) kicked off in the 1996-97 season and was renamed the I-League in 2007-2008, Mohammedan Sporting, the winners of every major domestic title multiple times, continued to exist more like outsiders in this pan-India league.

Only 1 defeat

This season, the Black and White Brigade were certainly no gatecrashers. They stormed the finish line with a wonderful degree of steadiness, leaving their other 12 rivals behind by a lengthy distance. They have bagged the trophy with a round to spare; 15 wins, seven draws and only one defeat against their name in the points table so far is a testimony of the Kolkata side's dominance.

"Yes, it is the end of a long wait," said Dipak Singh, the Chairperson of the Mohammedan Sporting Board of Directors. "I feel proud because we planned to raise a team with young and talented Indian footballers, along with capable and effective foreign recruits.

"We didn't believe in having an exorbitant budget or going on an expensive buying spree in the transfer market. We looked for a balanced side with solid bench strength. The result is in front of you," said the Gurgaon-based Chairperson of the historic club, who also runs a top-class taekwondo academy and a cricket club in the capital.

Dipak Singh isn't far from the truth. This I-League has

seen Mohammedan Sporting introduce a bunch of Indian players, who were hardly

owe many of their points to Chettri.

Not far behind are players



known beyond a restricted circle, but now, at the end of the season, are looked upon with respect in the Indian football fraternity.

Padam—the trump card No one cared much when Padam Chettri switched over from Kenkre FC, the team, who twice finished at the bottom of the I-League. But under the tutelage of Andrey Chernyshov, the custodian has become one of the trump cards of Mohammedan Sporting, who

like forward David Lalhansanga, midfielder S Bikash Singh or Lalremsanga Fanai. They came from Aizawl FC, TRAU FC or Rajasthan United, rather unnoticed, only to play major roles in Mohammedan Sporting's maiden I-League triumph.

Mohammedan Sporting didn't go for fashionable foreign recruits either. Argentine forward Alexis Gomez and Uzbek midfielder Mirjajol Kasimov were earlier plying

their trade at Sudeva FC and NEROCA FC, respectively. In the end, it has been proven beyond doubt that they are no mean operators; their contributions to Mohammedan Sporting's triumph will be written in golden letters.

United dressing "A united dressing remained our biggest strength," said Swagato Bhattacharya, the CEO of the club. "Our players are hungry for success, the coach is tactically strong and a fine man manager, and the management is focussed. Together, we could reach our target," he added.

The head coach, Andrey Chernyshov, a Russian, was undoubtedly a key factor behind the club's title-winning performance. A reputed centre-back of his time, his second stint with the Maidan outfit has proved fruitful; he has achieved something that many of his celebrated predecessors could not. He has helped one of India's most popular clubs get promoted to the Indian Super League; a few million more fans will, for sure, join Indian football's super show next season.

Andrey Chernyshov has done an unforgettable favour to Indian football.



Dignitaries with teams sharing the title trophy of Poonch Volleyball League at Poonch.

Level of Poonch Volleyball League to go up: VAJK

SPORTSLINE NEWS

POONCH: The Volleyball Association of J&K (VAJK) has decided to raise the level of just concluded Shaheed DySP Manjit Singh Memorial Volleyball League at Government Degree College grounds, here.

From prize money to participating teams and the infrastructure, the VAJK shall extend a helping hand to the organisers, Shaheed DySP Manjit Singh Memorial Volleyball Club (SMSMVC).

This was stated by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the VAJK and veteran in volleyball administration of J&K, Kuldeep Magotra talking to SAN on the valedictory of the first of its kind event in the Union Territory.

"I have been there in Poonch for the whole event and the competition has scope to become a National event. The Association shall extend every possible help to the organisers to raise the level of the League," said Magotra.

In the rain interrupted title clash, Makhdoomi Club Poonch and Budgam Warriors declared joint winner. When the rains halted the game the final was levelled at 1-1. The joint winner teams presented with a cash prize of Rs 75,000 and trophy.

Third place went to Lamberi Panthers after they trounced

Haveli Chaos 3-2 (25-22, 21-25, 25-23, 24-26, 15-13). Lamberi got Rs 10,000. Semifinals: Makhdoomi Club Poonch bt Haveli Chaos 3-1 (19-25, 25-23, 25-22, 25-23); Budgam Warrior bt Lamberi Panthers 3-1 (25-15, 22-25, 19-25, 21-25).

Mannat Choudhary declared best attacker while Ankush named best blocker and Haroon Rashid adjudged best universal. Amit Singh was best Libero and Saqlain Tariq declared as best setter. All these individual performers presented cash prize of Rs 5,000 each.

In the closing function, SSP Poonch could not make it to the venue and on his behalf Ajaz Choudhary (DySP) along with guest of honour, Kuldeep Magotra (CEO VAJK) in the presence of R C Sharma (treasurer VAJK), Akber Ali (office secretary VAJK) and Pardeep Khanna.

The visiting dignitaries were all praise for Mohd Tariq (chairman Shaheed DySP Manjit Singh Memorial Volleyball Club) for the idea of a League in the district. In the meantime, organisers felicitated international spiker, Amrinderpal Singh (Love). The technical penal included Neeraj Sharma, Intazar, Shafqat, Ajaz Chandak, Davinder Kumar, Davinder Singh, Sidarat Hussain, Waseem, Muzamil, Shabir, Amir Shah, Jitendra and Mohd Alyas.



Tedo of Georgia lifts famous Kambal Danga title

SPORTSLINE NEWS

JAMMU: International wrestler, Tedo of Georgia lifted title trophy of the 58th Kambal Danga Dangal outplaying Kamaljeet of Doomchhari (Ropar) in Punjab in the main bout.

Tedo presented with Rs 71,000 cash prize while runners-up, Kamaljeet received Rs 50,000 from chief guest, Shiv Kumar Sharma, Advocate Pawan Dev Singh and ex Sarpanch Parshotam Singh, both guests of honour.

Dangal was organized by Jai Peer Baba Dangal Committee Mari Kambal

Danga (Reasi) in support with Indian Style Wrestling Association under the supervision of Dalip Singh, Balvir Singh, Pawan Kumar and Uttam Singh.

The organisers presented cash prizes worth Rs 4.75 lakh among wrestlers contesting for different bouts in this day-long dangal.

Prominent among those present were Maheshwar Singh (ex Sarpanch),

Gurbachan Singh (retired Accounts Officer), Hukam Chand (ex Panch), Gandarb Singh, Ravi Kumar (ex-Sarpanch), Sanjeev Singh and Rattan Singh.

In total, 62 bouts played in this Dangal. The second main bout went to Rashid (Rs 15,000) of Domana Akhara Jammu, who beat Palwinder of Akhara Jakheval (Rs 9,000) of Mathura in UP.

Third main bout won by Nadeem (Rs 12,000) of J&K Police who defeated

Kapil Dhamma (Rs 9,000) of Guru Hanuman Akhara Delhi.

Proceeding of the dangal conducted by Anil Kumar while Pawan Dev Singh welcomed the participants and distinguished guests. The vote of thanks presented by ex Sarpanch Parshotam Singh.

The bouts officiated by the technical penal including Pawan Singh, Raj Singh, Om Parkash Verma, Tulinder Kumar and Deepak Wazir.

Jai Peer Baba Dangal Committee members who helped for the conduct of this Dangal were Dalip Singh, Balvir Singh, Pawan Kumar, Uttam Singh, Arif Choudhary, Bittu Singh, Ajay Singh, Sahil Kumar and



Rinku Rasyal. Shiv Kumar Sharma who is also President Senior Citizens Welfare Forum Katra (Regd.)

Later, organisers felicitated the senior most resident of village Mari, Nandi Lal (92 years old).

Arun Trust acknowledges Handoo's contributions



SPORTSLINE NEWS

JAMMU: Arun Sharma Sports and Social Welfare Trust acknowledged the unmatched contributions of Dronacharya Awardee Kuldeep Handoo in J&K sports.

Handoo, who is Sports Officer with J&K Police, was special guest in a function organised by the Trust in connection with festival of Baisakhi at Handball Academy within the campus of S D Sabha School, here.

Accompanied by another star of J&K, former International footballer, Arun Malhotra, Handoo interacted with the young trainees at the Academy and was all praise the Trust for the unique initiative of 'giving back to the game'.

The visiting guests witnessed an exhibition match played between the two teams of

the Academy. Handoo, who heads the J&K entire lot of J&K Police Central teams, wanted the promoters of other games also to set up training facilities on similar lines so as to reduce the ever growing burden on the Government infrastructure.

Earlier, managing trustee of the Arun Sharma Sports and Social Welfare Trust, Ashutosh Sharma introduced both the visiting sports stars, Kuldeep Handoo and Arun Malhotra with the Handball players of the Academy.

Former India player and DySP with J&K Police, Sukhdev Singh Jamwal also shared his experiences while welcoming the guests. Another India player, Vivek Sharma and host of other present and former Handball players of National repute as also parents of players and coaches were part of the event.

Weightlifting body establishes Training facility in Samba



SPORTSLINE NEWS

SAMBA: After district Reasi, the Jammu and Kashmir Weightlifting Association has started an exclusive training centre in district Samba by making the equipment available on the campus of Smart Shishu Nikatan Higher Secondary School, here. "An effort has been made by the Indian Weightlifting Association to take the game to the district level by sponsoring the equipment for J&K also. The aim is to cultivate a culture of fitness and athleticism among the youth with focus on Olympic event of weightlifting," said general secretary of the Association, Yudhvir Singh.

The equipment included barbell sets (190kg), prototype for beginners, squat stands, jerk stands and benches (all prod-

ucts with mark of Nelco Company).

The inauguration ceremony, overseen by Jangveer Singh, Principal of Smart Shishu Nikatan Higher Secondary School, Samba and secretary J&K Weightlifting Association, Samba district in the presence of Ashok Singh (retired Divisional Sports Officer of J&K Sports Council), Harbhajan Singh (president J&K Weightlifting Association), Yudhvir Singh, Captain Kulbir Singh (president, Samba District Weightlifting Association) and Abhishek (Weightlifting coach).

Meanwhile, the youth of Samba expressed gratitude to the Indian Weightlifting Federation, J&K Weightlifting Association and District Samba Weightlifting Association pledging to uphold the sports integrity and strive for excellence.

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INSIDE

Masters TT: Time to show character and mastery acts | Tawi Trekkers announces cash incentive for medal winners

JKSC AO Reyaz retires
JAMMU: The Administrative Officer of the JKSC Sports Council (JKSC), Reyaz Ahmed, after serving the organisation for 36 years this rose to the second top position of Administrative Officer in the hierarchy after Secretary JKSC.

Inspirational runner title for Katra doctor
First time participant in the home UT of J&K, a lady doctor, Shalini Sharma, who hails from the holy town of Katra in district Reasi emerged 'inspirational runner' in the just concluded SMTVI Katra Half Marathon.

Jammu gets Pickleball infra
After two years of getting people out of their enclosures and back on the field for cricket and football, Isle of Ball (IOB) is all set to launch a new game in the city of temples Pickleball.

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Dharamshala Himalayan trekking begins

SPORTSLINE NEWS

JAMMU: Dharamshala Himalayan Trekking Programme, a flagship event of Tawi Trekkers J&K, commenced with 75 students of Padma Sachdev Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, here leaving for Dharamshala.

The group is being led by general secretary of Tawi Trekkers, Sonam Sidharth and Sourav Deep Singh, both seasoned trekkers and mountaineers. The group leaders include Suksham Verma and Vikas Singh, both senior members as also Sanjeevani Bhardwaj, a student leader and an executive member of Tawi Trekkers J&K.

During their sojourn in Dharamshala area, the trekkers would visit Mcleodganj,

Chamunda, Dalai Lama Temple, the headquarters of Tibetan Government in exile; Bhagshunag, Water fall, Dharamkot, popularly called mini Israel; Gallu temple, the beautiful



The group of trekkers from GCW Gandhi Nagar being flagged off by Prof Lalit Magotra, president Dogri Sanstha Jammu.

Dharamshala stadium, Norbulinga Monastery and Tapovan besides Nagini Devi enroute their return journey to Jammu, a hand-out issued here today informed.

However, the special attraction of the programme remains a visit to a sprawling tea garden and a tea manufacturing company where the students shall learn the complete process of production of tea.

Students taking part in this Trekking Programme besides being explained the benefits of such venture in the personality development of a person shall also be taught to respect nature and environment and not create a clutter of left over in the jungles enroute.

Earlier, the group was flagged off by Prof. Lalit Magotra, a prominent scientist and president Dogri Sanstha, Jammu in the presence of Ram Khajuria, Advisor, Shawetika Khajuria, president of the Club and parents of participating students.

India fall to China in Uber Cup

NEW DELHI

India lost 0-5 to China and finished second in Group A of the Uber Cup in Chengdu, China, on Tuesday. India and China qualified for the quarter-finals from this group.

None of the Indians could win a game against the dominant Chinese. To add to India's woes, Anmol Kharb twisted her right ankle and retired hurt while trailing 1-4 in the second after losing the first game 9-21 to Han Yue.

By then, India were down 0-2 as Isharani Baruah lost to Chen Yu Fei 12-21, 10-21 and national champions Priya Konjengbam and Shruti Mishra went down 13-21, 12-21 to Chen Qing Chen and Jia Yi Fan.

Simran Singhi and Ritikia Thaker also lost to Liu Sheng Shu and Tang Ning 9-21, 10-21; and Tanvi Sharma was routed 7-21, 16-21 by Wang Zhi Yi. The quarterfinals draw will be released on Wednesday.

Isharani said that she made several mistakes. "This is first time I played a top player. The tempo was high but I am unhappy with the number of mistakes I made," she said.

The men's team play Indonesia in their last Group C Thomas Cup match on Wednesday. India and Indonesia have already qualified for the quarterfinals from Group C.

Guwahati to host Junior Worlds

The world junior badminton championships will be held in Guwahati in 2025, the Badminton World Federation (BWF) said in a release on Tuesday.

India will host both the team and individual events.

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Shooting sport enters Udhampur

SPORTSLINE NEWS

UDHAMPUR: The initiative of the Udhampur City Shooting Club to hold Talent Hunt Contest turned out to be a resounding success with the identification of promising marksmen.

The multi-day event, spearheaded by the newly established Academy, in collaboration with the Udhampur District Rifle Association, aims to foster the growth of shooting sport within the Udhampur district and unearth hidden talent.

"The opening of the shooting academy in the district shall go a long way in promoting the game in the rural district of Udhampur. The Association has extended all possible help to the initiative taken by a young athlete from the district and shall continue to do so in future too," said president of Udhampur Shooting Association, Ashok Kumar.

100 students' target

Over the coming days, approximately 100 students from both genders in the age group between 14 years and 18 years shall participate in the contest from various schools of Udhampur town.

Following the conclusion of the talent hunt, the most proficient shooters will be granted the opportunity to qualify for the upcoming inter-school



competition to be organized by the Udhampur City Sports Academy in collaboration with the Udhampur District Rifle Association.

16 boys, girls learn basics

As many as 16 Shooters (beginners) taught basic skills, safety rules, handling of weapon and use of ammunition for .177 calibre Pistol and Rifle events. All these young shooters belong to Happy Model Higher Secondary School and AO Convent Udhampur.

