



Minister for Sports, Imran Raza Ansari flagging off cycling expedition in Jammu.

Imran Ansari flags off cycling expedition

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: Minister for Youth Services and Sports and Technical Education, Imran Raza Ansari today flagged off a group of Twelve cyclists hailing from J&K and other States on a cycling expedition to Kanyakumari.

The event is being organized by the Eco-Riders Club and cyclists were hosted by J&K State Sports Council.

These cyclists will spread awareness across the nation regarding the need and significance of environment protection.

IG Jammu Dr SD Singh, Vice

Chairman Sports Council Jammu Ranjeet Kalra, SP South Sandeep Choudhary, Chief Sports Officer Haji Abdul Qayoom and other officers were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister lauded the cyclist and exhorted them to be the messengers of the State and carry the message of peace, brotherhood and significance of environment protection throughout the country.

"Our State has unparalleled sports talent among youth which needs to be recognized and encouraged," he added.

The Minister reiterated that

Government is committed to promote sports culture in the State by ensuring modern sports infrastructure and providing them an appropriate platform to give necessary exposure at national and International levels.

Vice Chairman Sports Council Jammu Ranjeet Kalra informed that this cycling expedition is based on three themes-save the environment, peace and brotherhood and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.

The expedition was flagged off in an impressive, well attended and colourful function.

Mehbooba honours Gaurav

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: Gaurav Gupta, Secretary Chamber of Commerce and Industry called on Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti in her Office at Civil Secretariat here today.

The Chief Minister appreciated his efforts that brought laurels to the State of J&K and honoured him for the same.

Mr. Gupta informed the Chief Minister that he ran 45.09 km from Panjirthi, Jammu to



Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti honouring Gaurav Gupta in Jammu on Friday.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister congratulated Mr. Gaurav on becoming the first barefoot runner from the State of Jammu and Kashmir at Airtel, Delhi Half Marathon earlier in November, 2017.

Katra and dedicated the same for JKP, Para Military Forces and Indian Army martyrs and their families who sacrificed their lives defending the country from outside and within.



J&K Basketball teams posing for a group photograph before leaving for senior nationals.

J&K Basketball teams to leave for senior nationals

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: Jammu and Kashmir men and women teams will leave for the 68th senior national basketball championships scheduled to be held at Chennai from January 17 to January 24, 2018.

The teams were screened by the screening committee J&K State Sports Council the previous day. The men team includes Iqbal Singh (captain) and Shubham Bhardwaj, both J&K Police, Ranbir Singh, Shubham Sharma, Amanjot Singh, Jaskirat Singh,

Rohan Kundal, Salinder Singh, Hritik Khullar, all SAI Training Centre (STC) Jammu, Parminder Jot Singh Indian Army and Aukif Khan Srinagar.

The women's team includes Abhileen Kour Captain, Kanupriya Dubey, Kiran Kaur, Harshita Gupta, Chitreshi Gupta, Pearl Sharma, Komal Chopra, Kashish, Lakshika Jamwal, Roshni Mahajan, Ujala Mahajan and Nandini Gill.

Amarjeet Singh, Aman Sharma and Sushma Jamwal will accompany the teams as coaches while Harpreet Singh shall be referee.

Jammu Rising Stars outplay Vishal Juniors

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: Jammu Rising Stars defeated Vishal Club Juniors in the 7- Match T20 Cricket Series for Under-16 Boys, being organized by Vishal Cricket Club Jammu at Parade Ground, here.

Batting first Jammu Rising Stars scored 157 runs for the loss of 9 wickets in the stipulated 20 overs. Kannav top scored with 70 runs, while Laith contributed 38 runs and Shivansh Sharma chipped in with 15 runs. From bowling side, Sachin Sharma was the wrecker-in-chief, who took 4 important wickets, while Rohan Gill took 2 wickets. Adhishwer Kotwal and Dhruv claimed 1 wicket each.

In reply, Vishal Club Juniors managed to score 144 runs for the loss of 5 wickets in the stipulated 20 overs, thus lost the match by 12 runs. Akshit played a brilliant innings of 64 runs, while Rohan Gill contributed 35 runs. Sachin Sharma chipped in with unbeaten 17 runs. Aditya, Shavac and Umar Sadiq took 1 wicket each for Jammu Rising Stars.

Pant fires as Delhi crush J&K by 8 wkts

NEW DELHI, Jan 12:

Former captain Rishabh Pant made short work of a below-par Jammu and Kashmir with a 33-ball-51 as Delhi won their second Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 match by eight wickets.

Delhi outclassed the wooden spoons of North Zone in all departments, never taking their foot off the pedal while chasing a paltry target of 101 in 11.3 overs.

Among the Delhi bowlers, left-arm spinner Pawan Negi (3/27 in 4 overs) was the most successful.

Rishabh hit a couple of straight sixes, including one off opposite number Parvez Rasool, which landed on the top-most tier of the Feroz Shah Kotla stand.

He also pulled the medium pacers with disdain, hitting seven boundaries while adding 84 in nine overs with the controversial Sarthak Ranjan, who got a reprieve before making 31 off 20 balls.

Interestingly, Ranjan was sent to open against the weakest team in the zonal leg, replacing last match's half century Dhruv Shorey, who reportedly had an ankle injury.

Senior opener Gautam Gambhir, for only the sixth time in his 276-match T20 career, did not come to open the innings as Ranjan was given that opportunity.

He did hit three boundaries apart from two sixes. The first of the two sixes was a catch that was taken by the fielder Jatinder Wadhawan at long-on after the bowling of Parvez Rasool, but he crossed the boundary ropes after losing his balance. Rasool scalped Delhi's both the wickets to fall.

Earlier, batting first, J&K managed to score a modest total of 100 runs. Skipper Rasool was the top scorer with 37 runs off 26 balls including 6 boundaries.

Meanwhile, in the other match of the day, Haryana notched up their first win, beating Punjab by five wickets.

Batting first, Punjab scored 134/9 in 20 overs with Mandeep Singh contributing 30 off 18 balls, while Yuvraj Singh was dismissed by India discard Jayant Yadav.

In reply, Haryana reached the target in 17.5 overs despite a tight spell by skipper Harbhajan Singh (2/16 in 4 overs). (PTI)

Khaur Cricket Club outplays YCC Baderwah by 15 runs

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: Khaur Cricket Club defeated Youth Cricket Club Baderwah by a narrow margin of 15 runs in the ongoing KC Sports Club Cricket Cup, being played at KC School Ground, here.

Earlier, after winning the toss and electing to bat, Khaur Cricket Club scored a modest total of 125 runs in the stipulated 20 overs. Arvind top scored

with 40 runs, while Billa contributed 23 runs to the total. From YCC Baderwah, Yasir took 3 wickets, while Mudassar claimed 2 wickets.

While chasing the target Youth Cricket Club Baderwah bundled out for 110 runs, thus lost the match by 15 runs. Yasir and Hinan contributed 29 and 25 runs to the total respectively. From Khaur Cricket Club, Munna took 3 wickets, while Mithu claimed 2 wickets.



Students of 'Healthy India, Stronger India' posing along with former Chief Minister, J&K Ghulam Nabi Azad in Delhi.

Students of 'Healthy India, Stronger India' visit Parliament

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: 'Healthy India Stronger India' a unique foundation managed by its Chairman Hira Lal Abrol took an initiative of taking 40 students and its staff on a 4-day Free Educational Tour (Delhi Darshan).

The students were accompanied by General Secretary of the NGO, Gouvar Abrol and Chairman of NGO along with 5 teachers and members of NGO namely S. Dalbir Singh, Shampal Singh Slathia, Vinod Manhas and Darbar Singh.

It is pertinent to mention here that 'Healthy India, Stronger India' is an NGO, established exclusively for charity; it is located at Raghunathpura, Jammu. The NGO is running a 'Free Training Centre' for skill development of needy and poor children from BPL families.

The students were highly elated to witness the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha from its visitor's galleries and could get

first hand information about its proceedings. They were inside the parliament for an hour during the question answer session.

They interacted with Ghulam Nabi Azad Ji, Leader of Opposition, Rajya Sabha, Government of India and former Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir in the premises of the Parliament.

Mr Azad enquired about the facilities provided by the NGO to the students, and motivated them to work hard to achieve greater success in life.

Ghulam Nabi Azad and his wife Shameen Azad organized a high tea for these students at their residence and distributed gifts among the students of the NGO.

Students visited the monuments and places of religious importance in Delhi during the visit. Some of the places were Birla Temple, Qutub Minar, Gurudwara Bangla Sahib, Lal Quila, Indira Gandhi Memorial Museum, Jamia Masjid, Raj Ghat and India Gate.



Winners posing along with officials at Parade ground in Jammu.

Singh Club seals berth in finals of 1st Road Safety C'ship

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: Thrashing Vishal Cricket Club by 8 wickets in the semifinal, Singh Cricket Club Akhnoor sealed berth in the finals of the ongoing 1st Road Safety T20 Cricket Championship, being jointly organized by Road Safety Department and District Police Jammu under the patronage of Sunil Kumar Sharma, Minister for Transport at Parade ground, here.

SSP RK Bhat and Rajesh Gill are the coordinators of the event.

Earlier, batting first, Vishal Cricket Club scored a modest total of 113 runs in 19.2 overs. Umar Nisar top scored with 41 runs, while Abhinav Puri and Farooq contributed 15 and 13 runs respect-

tively. From Singh CC, Veedu took 4 wickets, while Sunil claimed 2 wickets.

In reply, Singh Cricket Club chased the target in 12 overs by losing 2 wickets, thus won the match by 8 wickets. Amir was the top scorer with 42 runs, while Sumit and Chandan contributed 29 and 25 runs to the total respectively. From Vishal Club, Rajesh Gill and Abhinav Puri claimed 1 wicket each. Veedu was adjudged as the man of the match.

The match was officiated by Ashok, Sanju and Vinod, while RP Singh conducted the proceedings of the post match function.

Road Safety XI will take on Strikers Cricket Club at 1 pm tomorrow.

Jittery India aim to stay afloat against daunting South Africa

CENTURION, Jan 12:

Outplayed in the lung-opener, India will have to resolve a few selection puzzles and respond better to the sharp bounce when they square off against a redoubtable South Africa in the do-or-die second Test, starting here tomorrow.

India's record of nine consecutive series victories will be on the line from tomorrow after the hosts took a 1-0 lead in the three-match series by registering a 72-run win in the first Test in Cape Town.

It is only the second match in India's 12-Test long overseas schedule in 2018-19, and already they are faced with a must-not-lose situation in a bid to keep this series alive.

Surrendering a 2-0 lead to South Africa will not dent their No.1 ICC Test ranking, but that will be of little consolation when the postmortem of the performance is done back home.

In order to get this Test off on

the right foot, the Indian team management will be looking to get their selection on the money.

On Thursday, 48 hours before the first ball is bowled, Team India held an intense practice session at the Supersport Park, which lasted just under four hours.

The usual suspects went about their job in predictable manner. Cheteshwar Pujara practiced catching at first slip; Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma batted in tandem at the nets, while Ajinkya Rahane stood a mute spectator for a major part of this session.

He did face some throw-downs from assistant coach Sanjay Bangar towards the end, as did Shikhar Dhawan, but neither of them faced any real fast bowling.

KL Rahul, Murali Vijay and Pujara batted in adjacent nets, followed by Kohli and Rohit, and then Hardik Pandya and Wriddhiman Saha, pointing to another five-batsmen line-up. (PTI)

India beat Pakistan in Blind Cricket World Cup

DUBAI, Jan 12:

Defending champions India defeated Pakistan by seven wickets in the Blind Cricket World Cup here today.

Sent into bat, Pakistan notched up 282 for eight wickets in the stipulated 40 overs.

For Pakistan Md. Jamil (B3 - blind level 3) and captain Nisar Ali (B3) added 137 runs for the third wicket. Nisar Ali was bowled by Ajay Reddy for 63, while Jamil remained not out on 94.

In reply, India comfortably chased down the target in 34.5 overs. Haryana's Deepak Malik (B3) top-scored with an unbeaten 79 off 71 balls, striking eight boundaries, while Venkatesh (64 off 55 balls) and skipper Ajay Reddy (47 off 34) shared 106 runs for the fourth wicket.

Pakistan came into the game on the back of two victories over Bangladesh and Nepal. (PTI)



State Tug-of-War teams posing for a group photograph before leaving for Senior Nationals and Federation Cup.

Tug-of-War teams leave for Sr Nationals, Federation Cup

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: The Jammu and Kashmir Tug-Of-War Association selected teams to participate in the 30th Senior National and 15th Sr. Federation Cup Men and Women Tug - of- War Championship being held from January 13 to January 18, 2018 at Anandpur Sahib in Punjab.

The teams were selected by S. Hardeep Singh Anand, President of the Association, Jodh Singh Isher, Secretary, Jasvir Singh, Joint Secretary and S. Rajinder Singh, Secretary Poonch District, under the supervision of J&K Sports Council Screening Committee members including Shiv Kumar Sharma, Joint Secretary J&K Sports Council Jammu, Haji Abdul Qyoom, Chief Sports Officer and Ravi Singh, Divisional Sports Officer Jammu.

The selected players for 30th

Senior National underweight category 640 kg men include Vinish Paul Singh, Islam Ahmad, Owais Gulzar, Pritam, Asif Rafiq, Zahid Bashir, Varun Singh, Aqib Jeelani and Zafar-ul-Islam.

In the 600 kg men include Ishfaq Ahmed, Harkaran Singh, Sahil Sharma, Gurjote Singh, Garg Dev Manhas, Kulwant Singh, Paaras Kotwal, Muktar Raina and Ritesh Anand.

In the 560 kg mix men and women include Sorab Dutta, Ajmal Humayun, Mohd. Shahraz, Shalinder Singh, Sunny Thakur, Mamta Khajuria, Rekha Sharma, Anu Radha Sharma and Neetu Sharma.

Gorav Kumar Dubey, Sourav Dubey, Robin Singh, Ajay Kumar, Sohan Lal and Jaswinder Singh are accompanying the teams as coaches and managers.

The President of the Association distributed Kits among the players before departure. The teams were sponsored by M/s. Trans Asia Hotels Pvt Ltd Unit Cygnett Park Asia, Jammu.

Senior Federation Cup under Weight Category 640 kg men include Shivam Bhardwaj, Akash Bhardwaj, Abhishek Khajuria, Mangat Ram, Kulvinder Singh, Anil Kumar, Rakesh Khajuria, Atul Sharma and Gurpreet Singh.

In the 540 kg mix men and women include Sorab Dutta, Ajmal Humayun, Mohd. Shahraz, Shalinder Singh, Sunny Thakur, Mamta Khajuria, Rekha Sharma, Anu Radha Sharma and Neetu Sharma.

Gorav Kumar Dubey, Sourav Dubey, Robin Singh, Ajay Kumar, Sohan Lal and Jaswinder Singh are accompanying the teams as coaches and managers.

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NZ Inter-University TT Championship Kurukshetra, Kashmir University among winners on Day-2

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: Kurukshetra University and University of Kashmir were among six winners on the 2nd day of the ongoing North Zone Inter-University Table Tennis (M) Tournament 2017-18, being organized by the Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, University of Jammu, here.

Earlier, in the first match, NCU Gurgaon beat CU Mohali by 3-0, while in another match, KU Kurukshetra defeated HPU Shimla by 3-0 and Punjab University Patiala trounced Chitkara University Punjab by 3-0.

KR Manglam University Gurgaon got the better of DCRUST Murthal by 3-1, while University of Kashmir prevailed over GNA Phagwara by 3-2 and Jamia Milia Islamia University outplayed RML Awadh University Faizabad by 3-0.

Prof RD Sharma, Vice Chancellor University of Jammu today visited the Gymnasium

Hall of the Directorate of Sports & Physical Education, the venue of competition and interacted with

Ramesh Magotra, Ravish Vaid, Raj Kr Bakshi, Gagan Kumar, Vikas Karlopia, Jai Bharat, PD



Vice Chancellor JU, Prof RD Sharma interacting with players on Friday.

the players and officials of the participating teams and witnessed the matches along with Prof. Avtar S. Jasrotia, Director Sports & Physical Education.

Prominent among others present on the occasion were Dr. Dharminder Magotra (JR Finance), Prof KA Tarzan, Akhilesh Sharma, Dr Brij Baloria,

Singh and coaches and managers of the participating teams.

The matches were officiated by Deepak, Mahit, Gurvinder, Gurpreet, Monarch Chopra, Sujay, Manisha, Pushp Lata, Meenu Rajesh and Gourav Sharma, under the supervision of VK Gulati and Yatish Kumar from the NSNIS Patiala.

Lohri celebrated with religious fervour

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: Educational Institutions and other organizations celebrated 'Lohri' with religious fervour, here today.

The Child Care Society celebrated 'Lohri' with orphan children at Ved Mandir, Amphalla, here. The Society donated an inverter worth Rs.15,000 to them and distributed eatables among them. Karandeep Singh Lucky, Chairman Child Care Society applauded the people for helping

of fun and fervour.

The celebration started with a general Assembly offering prayers, thought-said by Swami Vivekananda, and speeches on National Youth Day and Lohri festival. The programme was witnessed by the Principal Prof Annapurna Koul and Secretary Dr SK Koul.

Lohri was celebrated in R.M Public School with lots of fun and fervour. The bonding between

school faculty and chair persons really added warmth to the winter chill. The whole staff enjoyed a lot with Rameshwar Mengi (Chairman), Rita Mengi (Trustee) and Ravinder Kour (Principal). Rameshwar Mengi lit the sacred bonfire to initiate the celebration. Dances and songs were presented by the staff members while sweets were distributed among children.

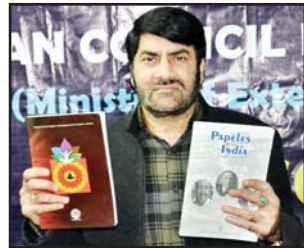
On the auspicious occasion of Lohri and National Youth Day, Vishwa Bharati Higher Secondary School Akalpur Morh, Jammu conducted a special Morning Assembly with lots



School today.

A special assembly was conducted in which students sang melodious songs immersed in rich cultural folklore of Punjab. Director Ruchi Charak and Principal of the School, Anita Bhatia threw light on the significance of the festival.

Chenab College of Education organized a function on the eve of Lohri and celebrated the festival with religious fervour and gaiety in its premises. On the occasion, Principal of the College spoke on the importance of the festival.



Richa Sharma, D/o SN Sharma and Kiran Sharma, W/o Nimish Sharma, who has been declared qualified for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Plant Pathology by Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu. She worked on the topic, "Bioprospecting of Rhizobacterial Strains for Promotion of Palm Growth and Biocontrol of Soil-borne Pathogens of Brinjal (Solanum melongena L.)" under the supervision of Prof Vijay K Razdan.

Works of eminent Indian men of letters, statesmen and philosophers like Mahatma Gandhi, Maulana Azad, Nehru and Tagore, among others, hold pride of place in ICCR's Publication Programme. "The publication programme is

Army organises trekking for students

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 12: Army today organized a trekking program for the students of Chiwa High School towards Chiwa and Dudhnar forests in North Kashmir's Baramulla District.

An Army spokesman said the trekking program was organized in an effort to channelize the minds of children and also to instill confidence, goodwill & adventure spirit in the hearts of budding future of Kashmir.

"A total of 35 students along with two teachers participated in the trek. The students were very elated & excited and participated in the trek with full enthusiasm," he said.

Kumari Nirjilla, W/o Shashi Kant, Lower Sharote, Thathri, Doda, who has qualified National Eligibility Test (NET) in

Hindi, the result of which was declared by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)-UGC recently.

