

# Efforts afloat for augmentation of infra Sports in J&K on path of progression: Kalra

Rajesh Dhar

JAMMU, Mar 19: Ranjeet Kalra is a familiar name in the sports fraternity of Jammu and Kashmir. Apart from being an ace Sports Administrator, he has the honour of being the Vice Chairman Sports Council Jammu, Member Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the first person from Jammu and Kashmir to be appointed as the Advisor of Sports and Youth Affairs of any State/UT.

In an exclusive interview with EXCELSIOR, he talked about the initiatives being taken by the State Sports Council with regard to promotion of sports & games and development of sports infrastructure.

Excerpts:

Q: You have recently been appointed as the Advisor for Sports and Youth Affairs, Lakshadweep Government. Tell us about the initiatives you have taken there?

A: It is a great honour for me to be appointed as the Advisor for Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of Lakshadweep. We are focusing on catching the players young in Football, Volleyball and Water Sports. In this regard, team of Water Sports Federation of India led by J&K's ace coach Bilquis Mir and Asian Games Medallist Vaga Ram Bishnoi from Port Blair, visited Lakshadweep and surveyed and oriented number of budding sportspersons. A Football Camp was also held under the supervision of International footballer

\* Watch video on [www.excelnews.com](http://www.excelnews.com)

of the State, Arun Malhotra. Cricket is our priority number two and in this connection we have talked to Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) through its Joint Secretary Abhishek Dalmiya. The Administrator of Lakshadweep Farooq Khan is very keen to promote sports in the Union Territory. Sports Authority of India (SAI) Centres have also been sanctioned there, but it is still early days.

Q: Jammu and Kashmir is creating a niche in the field of sports from a few years now. What is your 'mantra' of further patting and promoting sportspersons?

A: Yes, there is no doubt in it that the State of Jammu and Kashmir is carving a space on the Country's Sports Map. We possess some outstanding sportspersons in medal winning disciplines including Wushu, Fencing, Gymnastics, Judo, Football and Basketball etc, who keep State's Flag high at the National and International scene. In my humble opinion, the State is on the right track with regard to enhancing standard of sports and games in the State. From last three to four years, with the initiative of J&K State Sports Council, under Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra, around 150 sportspersons had diplomas from NIS Patiala. Players were sent to Uzbekistan for training and courses and the focus is on next National Games to be held at Goa. The office of the Chief Minister, who is also the president of the Sports Council is very supportive of the submitted proposals and projects. J&K, under the dynamic leadership of Moulvi Imran Raza Ansari, organized Khelo India Games, wherein 1, 60,000 sportspersons participated and the State has kept record of all the data entries. Lot many sports events for specially-abled children are also being organized in the State to help them showcase their skill at the higher levels. Apart from the Department of Youth Services and Sports, J&K State Sports Council, J&K Police under the patronage of DGP Dr SP Vaid, J&K Olympic Association, Indian Army and SSB are also doing fabulous job by organizing sporting events to improve the standard of sports in the State.

Providing better infrastructural facilities to outstanding sportspersons is the only 'mantra' to help them blossom at the International scene.

Q: You also have the good fortune to serve on the Governing Council of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) Sports Complex.

What are the initiatives being taken there?

A: SMVDSB Sports Complex is a visionary initiative of Governor NN Vohra, who has himself been a cricketer of great repute. The Governing Council led by Dr Ashok Bhan is doing a fabulous job in catering to the needs of a big number of sportspersons. The Complex is primarily identifying talent in four sports disciplines including Archery, Shooting, Athletics and Basketball.

Q: Sports in J&K is on the path of progression. Is the time ripe to provide international facilities to the ace sportspersons?

A: There is no doubt that from a few years now, the sports in Jammu and Kashmir is on the path of progression and the reasons for that are the collective efforts by the elite sports agencies of the State in raising the infrastructural facilities. For example, on the request of Sports Minister Imran Raza Ansari, CM has sanctioned Rs 10 crore project of lighting the Stadium at Kashmir and Jammu, which will help the budding sportspersons to have practice sessions in the evenings and fine-tune their skills to be ready for the mega events at the higher levels. The time is ripe to provide quality sportspersons international standard facilities in the State and efforts are afloat for augmentation of the same.

Q: J&K has a galaxy of rising sports stars. Would you like to name a few and comment on them?

A: Of course, we have the stars in Manzoor Pandav, Palak Kour, Parvez Rasool, Shubham Pundir, Surya Bhanu Partap, Rajinder, Abhishek, Saqlain, Tajamul and Meenal etc. They, time and again, have brought laurels for the State at the higher levels.

Q: At the time of inaugural ceremony of CM's Women T20 Championship in Jammu earlier, the Sports Minister had said that it is an initiative to translate gender equality into reality. Do you think that women sportspersons are at par with men in J&K?

A: There is no doubt in it that Jammu and Kashmir has the honour of producing a good number of women sports stars in various disciplines. Palak Kour, Krupali Patel, Bavleen Kour, Bilquis Mir, Roopali Slathia, Shweta Thakur and Tajamul are a few to name. CM herself is taking initiatives with regard to women empowerment and a focus is being given to Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji's 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padoo and Beti Khilao' campaign.

Q: J&K is striving hard to carve a space on the Country's Sports Map? What should the State Govt do to make ace sportspersons blossom at the National scene?

A: There is immediate need to raise more and more sports infrastructure in the State. The Govt has already taken major initiatives with regard to development and renovation of sports infra. To make the facilities standard and fantastic at Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar and MA Stadium in Jammu, the refurbishing process has started. Moreover, new Indoor Stadium in Jammu is nearly to its completion.

Q: You are Sports Administrator, Man Manager and Sports Advisor. Any message for budding sportspersons?

A: There is no dearth of talent in our State. The budding sportspersons should make full use of the available sports facilities in the State and should marry the sport they play. The Sports Council has established State Cricket Academy and State Football Academy to nurture the talent at the bud and have done a commendable job in organizing series of events throughout the year. The players have the District Sports Councils available in almost all the districts and they need to take full advantage of these Councils. Moreover, the Sports Council, DYSS, the Associations, the Federations, the Schools and the parents need to work collectively and the young sportspersons can play a pivotal role in making these agencies to work as cohesive unit.



Players in action during a Kho-Kho match at Kastigarh in Doda.

## Doda Police organises Kabaddi Tournament under CAP

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

DODA, Mar 19: With the objective of harnessing the talent of youth in sports activities and to provide platform to the youth for sports activities in far flung areas of District Doda, IC PP Kastigarh SI Ashiq Hussain under the supervision of DySP Hqrs Doda, Ifkhar Ahmed (Nodal Officer) organized Kabaddi Tournament under Civic Action Programme at HSS Kastigarh, here.

Five teams from different parts of the Kashtigarh and adjoining areas participated in this Tournament.



J&K Body Building team posing for a group photograph along with former Minister Raman Bhalla before being flagged off for Mr India Meet.

## Bhalla flags off Body Building team for Mr India Meet

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 19: Former Minister and senior Congress leader, Raman Bhalla flagged off State Body Building team for 11th Mr India Meet to be held at Pune in Maharashtra from March 21, 2018.

The team is taking part in the Meet under the banner of Body Building Association of Jammu and Kashmir.

On the occasion, Mr Bhalla interacted with the body builders and wished them success in the upcoming event.

Prominent among others present on the occasion were Bhupinder Singh Tirthi, Rajesh Datta, Arun Kumar Sharma, Naresh Gupta and Rohit Gupta.

The Team: Vimal Jit, Ajit Singh Jamwal, Javed Bhatti, Arun Kumar, Shubam, Vicky, Hamad and Umar Farooq.

Rajesh Dutta, General Secretary BBAJK and Faroz Shah are accompanying the team as manager and coach respectively.

## DPS Jammu alumni tops J&K in GATE exam

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 19: Paarth Gupta, an alumni of DPS Jammu (batch 2014) brought laurels to his alma mater and his parents by emerging as the J&K state topper in the prestigious GATE exam, held in February, 2018, with his All India Rank being 7th, in the result declared yesterday.

The school management and Principal congratulated the student and his proud parents for the glorious achievement.

In the felicitation ceremony held today, the Principal, DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chabra, presented Paarth with a cash reward of Rs 5,000, a memento and a Certificate of Appreciation for his achievement while the school management including MK Ajatshatru Singh, President, RCT, Kunwari Ritu Singh, PVC and SS Sodhi, Director, DPS Jammu assured full support to Paarth for all his future endeavours.

He expressed his gratitude for the support extended to him by the DPS family throughout his school years while his proud parents Lovely Gupta and Rajesh Gupta also thanked the school management and staff for providing excellent knowledge base to their ward, helping him achieve success.

Computer Science Engineering from SMVDU Katra has been a focused student right from his school days and gives credit of his success to his parents and all teachers of the school.

He expressed his gratitude for the support extended to him by the DPS family throughout his school years while his proud parents Lovely Gupta and Rajesh Gupta also thanked the school management and staff for providing excellent knowledge base to their ward, helping him achieve success.

## England women beat India A by 45 runs in warm-up

MUMBAI, Mar 19:

England women warmed up in style ahead of the upcoming T20 tri-series as they defeated India A by 45 runs in the first of two practice games here today.

England women shone with both bat and ball as they looked to get used to the conditions. Besides England and hosts India, Australia are the other side in the tri-series.

After posting a massive 176 for four, England women bundled out the hosts for 131 at the Brabourne Stadium.

Electing to bat, the visitors rode on half centuries by Bryony Smith (50 off 38 balls), Tamsin Beaumont (57 not out in 41 balls) and skipper Heather Knight (52 off 24 balls).

The English batswomen hammered a listless India A bowling attack.

# Chahal, Sundar move up in ICC T20 bowlers' chart

Dubai, Mar 19:

Yuzvendra Chahal jumped 12 spots to number two while Washington Sundar moved up a phenomenal 151 places to 31st in the ICC T20I Player Rankings for bowlers on the back of their impressive show in the just-concluded Nidahas Trophy Tri-Series in Sri Lanka.

Leg-spinner Chahal now has a career-high 706 rating points while off-spinner Sundar, who was named Man of the Series, Volleyball Tournament organized

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 19: In an effort to connect with the youth, Doda Police under the directions of SSP Doda, Mohd Shabir Khatana organized a Volleyball tournament with an aim to inculcate the spirit of sportsmanship and constructively engage the youth of the area to work towards peace and tranquility in the area and also to tap their raw talent.

This tournament was inaugurated by SDPO Bhadarwah, Brijesh Sharma, Principal HSS Bhadarwah, Suresh Manhas and SHO Bhadarwah Muneer Ahmed. In this tournament total 9 teams participated and was played at Govt Higher Secondary School Belaru, Bhalla.

The final match of the tournament was played between Friends Club Bhallea and Pancho Rewada Club which was won by Friends Club Bhallea.

On this occasion, Additional SP Bhadarwah, Rajinder Singh was the chief guest while Principal HSS, Belaru, Suresh Manhas and Tehsildar Bhalla, Amir Hussain were the guests of honour.

It is worth mention here that this tournament was organized by the Doda Police with an aim of encouraging peace and harmony in the region.

Later, prize distribution function was held in which trophies and medals were presented to winners and runners-up teams by the chief guest. Moreover, amount of Rs 1500 and Rs 1000 was presented to the winner and runners-up teams respectively.

Prominent among those present during the concluding function were ICPP Bhalla, Sunil Parihar, Ex Sarpanches/Panches and Staff members, Students and huge gathering of civilian from adjoining areas of Bhalla.

has 496 points. Both the spinners were part of the five games India played, and picked up eight wickets apiece. Sundar, who bowled mainly in the Powerplay, had an incredible economy rate of 5.70, while Chahal finished with 6.45.

Also making significant gains in the bowling charts were some of the other performers from the Nidahas Trophy: Akila Dananjaya of Sri Lanka, Rubel Hossain of Bangladesh and India's Jaydev Unadkat and Shardul Thakur.

All of them achieved their career-best rating points at the end of the tournament.

Unadkat (joint 52nd) and Thakur (joint 76th), India's premier pacemen in the tournament, went up 26 and 85 spots respectively with their best

points ever -- 435 and 358.

Among the batsmen, Shikhar Dhawan, Kusal Perera, Manish Pandey, Mushfiqur Rahim, Kusal Mendis and Dinesh Karthik, the star of India's win in the final over Bangladesh, made significant gains.

Karthik, who had an outstanding tournament batting in the lower middle-order, jumped from No. 126 to No.95, with his best-ever 246 points.

The two Kusals -- Perera and Mendis -- moved up 20 spots to 20th and 27 spots to the 48th position respectively after strong performances with the bat for Sri Lanka.

Perera topped the batting charts for the tournament with 204 runs, including three half-centuries, while Mendis aggregated 134 runs with two half-centuries. (PTI)



Winners of Dungal being felicitated in Katra on Monday.

## Punjab Wrestler Shamsher lifts 63rd Moori Kesari Title

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

KATRA, Mar 19: Pahlawan Shamsher Singh of Dina Nagar in Punjab lifted the 63rd Moori Kesari Title by defeating Wrestler Sonu of Delhi in a very tough fight that lasted for 11 minutes near Middle School Moori, here.

The Dungal was organized by Moori Dungal Committee in association with J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association under the overall supervision of President J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association Shiv Kumar Sharma and Sarpanch Romesh Chander.

Commandant CRPF 6th Battalion Katra Jatinder Kumar Gupta was the chief Guest on the occasion who distributed cash prizes among the winners and runners-up Wrestlers. Joint

Secretary J&K State Sports Council Shiv Kumar Sharma who is also Treasurer Indian Style Wrestling Association of India and Associate Vice President Wrestling Federation of India Presided over the function.

Retired SP Prithvi Raj Sharma, Sub Inspector M. Ashraf and Vice President J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association Naresh Kumar (Pappu Lakri) were the guests of honour.

In all 59 bouts were played in the one day long dungal.

Commandant CRPF Jatinder Kumar Gupta gave Rs. 15,000 as cash prize money to the winner of 1st malti Shamsher in presence of Shiv Kumar Sharma and Sarpanch Romesh Chander while Rs 10,000 was given to runners-up Wrestler Sonu.

## Triumph Knights drub Super Sonics in Q1 to enter final

MUMBAI, Mar 19:

Triumph Knights Mumbai North East stormed into the final of the inaugural T20 Mumbai League by whipping Sobo Super Sonics by 40 runs in Qualifier 1 today.

Triumph Knights rode on a whirlwind 63 in 35 balls from captain Suryakumar Yadav to post a challenging total of 162 for six and then defended it successfully against some poor batting by their rivals who were arrested at 122 in 19.1 overs to emerge triumphant.

The Triumph Knights thus straightaway entered the final, set for March 21, to fight for the top prize of Rs one crore, while Super Sonics will get another chance in Qualifier 2 which is set for tomorrow at the Wankhede Stadium.

Opens Shikhar Thakur (22) and Shashank Singh (34) provided a sound start to Triumph Knights innings after they were put in to bat by Super Sonics skipper Abhishek Nayyar.

The duo put on 40 runs just past the power play period before losing three wickets in 16

balls to slump to 48 for three.

Nayar picked up two of those by dismissing Thakur and Aditya Dhumal while spinner Dhruvil Matkar packed off Sumit Ghadiaonkar.

This brought together Shashank with his captain Yadav and the duo stemmed the rot with a partnership of 31 runs when the former fell to Badre Alam.

Yadav was batting well and reached his fifty, his second of the tournament, in style by carting a full toss over mid-wicket. He then smacked Harmeet Singh for successive sixes before the left arm spinner, a former U19 World Cupper, got his revenge by casting the Knights captain with a faster ball.

Yadav struck 4 sixes and five fours in his breezy knock and also added 57 runs in 31 balls with Akash Parkar (14 not out) as he fell in the 18th over. Nayar picked up 2 for 19 but surprisingly did not complete his quota.

Chasing 163 for victory, Super Sonics got off to a shock start when key batsman Jay Bista fell to the first ball of the innings, caught at covers. (PTI)



A scene of Nukkad 'Tahzeeb Aur Tammdun'.

## Ek Sath Rang Mandal presents 'Tahzeeb Aur Tammdun'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 19: Ek Sath Rang Mandal presented Vijay Malla's latest progressive Nukkad 'Tahzeeb Aur Tammdun' under Monday Theatre Series, here today.

The Nukkad was based on as to why our young generation is avoiding to know about history, culture and traditions?

Is it that either we do not care to teach them or they do not have time and curiosity to learn it.

'Jago Bandu Jago Bhaya' signature Nukkad song of ESRM was presented in the beginning of the Nukkad.

Old man asks youth as to how much information and knowledge they have got about the great warriors who have given us independence.

He tells them about Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru? And explains them the importance and history of these names and about 'Lohri' and other religious festivals.

The actors included Anuroop Pathania, Ashok Sharma, Raju Mad, Harsh Mahajan, Mohit Churgotra, Tejas Rampal, Shahid, Shelly Manhas, Savita, Vidhi and Vijay Malla.

The Nukkad was written and directed by Anuroop Pathania.



Winners being presented trophies by the chief guest and other dignitaries in Samba.

## Volleyball, Kho-Kho Tournament organized

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

SAMBA, Mar 19: The Department of Youth Services and Sports organized Volleyball and Kho-Kho Tournament, under RAMSA scheme, under the chairmanship of District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Samba, here today.

A total of 90 boys in both the

## Usman, Dikshita, Rushali selected for World University Games

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 19: Prof Jigar Mohd, Dean Research Studies and Dr. Meenakshi Kilam, Registrar, University of Jammu today felicitated the players of the University of Jammu Korfball (Mixed) Team who won the Bronze medal in the All India Inter-University Korfball (Mixed) Championship 2017-18 organized by the Osmania University, Hyderabad.

The players were honoured in the presence of Dr Daud Iqbal Baba, Director, Directorate of Sports & Physical Education, Dr. Akhilesh Sharma, P.S. to Vice-



Dr. Vikas Karlopa, I/C Korfball Game, Sh. Irfan Choudhary, Team coach and Mr. Mohit Singh Bhau, Team Manager.

This is for the first time in the history of the University of Jammu that three players of Korfball team namely Usman Rashid, GGM Science College, Rushali Mengi, GCW Parade and Dikshita Raina, GCW Gandhi Nagar have been selected for the World University Games scheduled to be held at Holland in the month of November this year.

Prof. Jigar and Dr Kilam lauded the efforts of the team players for this achievement.

## Memory for a lifetime: Karthik on last-ball six

COLOMBO, Mar 19:

Dinesh Karthik is no Hrishikesh Kanitkar or Joginder Sharma but the Indian batsman is not complaining about the 'memories of a lifetime' that his last-ball six against Bangladesh created.

Kanitkar's boundary against Pakistan under fading Bangabandhu Stadium lights in Dhaka or Joginder Sharma's final over act against the arch-rivals in the inaugural World Cup at the Wanderers were one-off acts that made them household names.

Karthik, during his sporadic India appearances in the last 13 and half years, has certainly done more than Kanitkar or Joginder but perhaps never had that 'me too' moment that every cricketer craves for.

"It's an amazing feeling. These are things which remain in your memory for a lifetime," an ecstatic Karthik told beci.Tv

Dr Vaneet Kaur, D/o Swinder Singh Parwanda, R/o Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, who has been declared qualified for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Business Management by the University of Jammu. She worked on the topic, "Knowledge-Based Dynamic Capabilities and Competitive Advantage: A Study of NMC's in IT Sector," under the supervision of Prof Versha Mehta.

