

**1st person from country to scale highest peaks in 7 continents**

# Comprehensive sports policy in J&K need of hour: Everester Ranveer

**Rajesh Dhar**

JAMMU, Jan 29: Jammu and Kashmir possesses immense talent in various disciplines of sports. Wushu players, time and again, bring laurels to the State, Fencers blossom at the National and International scene, Gymnasts keep the State's flag high, so do the judokas and the cricketers. However, the absence of comprehensive sports policy in the State serves as a stumbling-block in making these talented players to flourish at the highest level. So, implementation of a concrete sports policy in Jammu and Kashmir is the need of the hour.

This was stated by the son of the soil, Everester Col Ranveer Singh Jamwal, while sharing his views with EXCELSIOR.

Col Ranveer, who has the honour of scaling all highest mountains of seven continents said that Jammu and Kashmir has the sporting icons like Surya Bhanu Partap Singh and likes and the only need is to provide them standard facilities and infrastructure in order to perform consistently well at the higher levels, besides providing them perks, incentives and scholarships via comprehensive sports policy analogous to the State's like Haryana, Maharashtra, Punjab and likes.

Col Ranveer, who has the distinction of conquering the World's highest peak, Mount Everest not only once, twice but thrice, said that it would be like flogging a dead horse to compare a talented sportsperson from Jammu and Kashmir, (who gets a cash award of meagre Rs 51,000) with a sportsperson from Haryana, who gets a cash award of Rs 50,000, 00 for similar achievement.

Col Jamwal, whose latest Frontier was Mount Vinson in Antarctica, said that one feels humiliated rather shell-shocked that on the one hand, a militant after surrendering gets a cash award of Rs 5 lakh and on the other hand, a sportsperson after winning a medal at the International level gets a cash award of paltry Rs 51,000.

Hailing from a small Village Badhori near Jammu, iconic Ranveer said that from a long time now, the State of Jammu and Kashmir is striving hard to carve a space on the Country's sports map, but is yet to take proper initiatives to provide requisite facilities to the budding sportspersons, adding that he expects a lot from the present Governor Satya Paul Malik and his team of advisors, who, it is believed, are leaving no stone

turned in promoting sports in nooks and corners of the State.

To a question as to how he felt after conquering all peaks in the World, Ranveer said 'on top of the world', adding that it was always an uphill task to be part of around 40 expeditions for 15 long years, simply not everybody's cup of tea.

Replying to a question as to what made him to choose mountaineering, Ranveer said that he was a perfect athlete and mountaineering was never his first choice, but it was only after joining the Army, he went for basic and advanced mountaineering and skiing courses and chose mountaineering as a profession.

Attributing his success to Indian Army, he said whatever he has achieved is because of the Army. To a question as to how did he see sports in Jammu and Kashmir and what is his message to the budding sportspersons of the State, Col Ranveer said that so far sports and games have been in bad state rather in pathetic condition in J&K, however, he pinned hopes on Governor and his advisory team for making sea change in sports culture in the State.

In a message to budding sportspersons, Ranveer said dedication, determination and devotion is the 'mantra' to succeed in any field, not to talk of the field of sports only. Throwing light on his next mission and future plans, Col Ranveer said that he will prefer rest for a while and focus on his job in the Indian Army and then start the usual mission of conquering the peaks and nurturing the young talent.

Replying to a question as to who was his favourite sportsperson, Arjuna Awardee Col Ranveer Singh Jamwal said that there is not any particular one, but a galaxy of sportspersons, whom he admires and takes as the role models. He said cricketer Virat Kohli, shuttlers Saina Nehwal and PV Sindhu, their coach Pullela Gopichand and Wrestler Sushil Kumar are a few ace sportspersons to name.

Referring to the reception accorded to him in his native town after returning from his last expedition on the other day, Col Ranveer said that an ecstatic rather a blissful feeling smacked his mind to watch a huge gathering according him a rousing welcome. He said that he simply felt on top of the world.

To a question as to how he felt to be the first person from J&K as also from Indian Army to scale all highest mountains in the world, Ranveer said that the feeling was 'Amazing'.



Everester Col Ranveer Singh Jamwal standing on a snowy mountain peak with a flag.

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



J&K Women Hockey team posing for group photograph before leaving for Senior Nationals.

**Kargil's Faneez Fatima in list**

## J&K Sr Women Hockey team leaves for Haryana

**Excelsior Sports Correspondent**

JAMMU, Jan 29: For the first time, a player from Kargil, Faneez Fatima has been picked in the J&K Senior Women Hockey team which left for Haryana to participate in the 9th Hockey India Senior Women National Hockey Championship to be held from February 1, 2019.

The team includes Harnet Kour, Inpreet Kour, Payal Sharma, Amandeep Kour, Bindu Devi, Gargi, Manisha Dass, Nadia, Minakshi Khajuria, Taniya Mahajan, Afreen Wani, Faneez Fatima, Kamini Devi, Baljeet Kour, Reebu Jan, Sonia Devi, Shalun and Chitra. The team is being accompanied by Ravi Raj Singh as manager, J Singh as coach and Inayat Ferooz as trainer.

Earlier, the screening of the team was done by J&K State Sports Council under the supervision of Chief Sports Officer, Haji Abdul Qayoom and Divisional Sports Officer Ravi Singh in presence of GS Bakshi, General Secretary Hockey J&K and Ravi Raj Singh, Vice President. Pant and Hooda's partnership took the game away from England Lions after they removed opener Rituraj Gaikwad for a duck and then reduced India A to 102 for four in the 28th over. Medium-pace Will Jacks was the pick of the bowlers for England Lions with figures of 2 for 35. The final ODI of the series will be played on Thursday. (PTI)

## Pant, Thakur star in India A's win

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, Jan 29:**

Returning to competitive cricket after the Test tour of Australia, Rishabh Pant slammed a quick half-century while Shardul Thakur starred with the ball to guide India A to a fourth straight win over England Lions in the unofficial ODI series here today. Asked to bowl first, Thakur picked up 4 for 49 as his new-ball spell helped India A topple the visitors' top-order and leave them tottering at 55 for 4 by the 15th over. But half-centuries from Ollie Pope (65 off 103) and Steven Mullaney (58 off 54) helped England Lions resurrect their innings. However, the visitors still could only manage 221 for 8 in 50 overs. India got home in 46.3 overs

with six wickets in hand, largely due to the efforts of Pant. Chasing the target, KL Rahul, who alongside Hardik Pandya is facing an inquiry by a yet to be appointed Ombudsman for their loose talk on women during a TV show, made 42 off 77 balls while opening the batting. The Karnataka batsman was finally amongst the runs after a dismal tour of Australia. But it was a fluent Pant who stole the limelight with a fluent 73 off 76 balls that included six boundaries and three hits over the fence. Pant shared an unbeaten 120-run partnership with Deepak Hooda, who made a run-a-ball 47, took India home with 21 balls to spare in the five-match series. Pant will play the fifth and final game of the series before flying out to New Zealand for the three T20s.

## Great chance for mentally toughest Saina to win All England C'ship: Vimal

**NEW DELHI, Jan 29:**

Saina Nehwal is mentally the toughest shuttler in the country and the ability to overcome injuries is the key to her longevity, believes former coach Vimal Kumar. Saina, who had suffered a shin injury late last year, won the Indonesia Masters last Sunday after the withdrawal of Carolina Marin from the summit clash due to a leg injury. Her former coach Vimal has also backed the Indian ace to win the coveted All England

Championship in March. "She is definitely mentally the toughest, even I will give her edge over the men's players, she is much tougher than all of them," Vimal, who had coached Saina from 2014 to 2017, said on Tuesday. "She doesn't think too much once she is on court, no matter if she has some pain, she will go all out and make it difficult for her opponents," said the former India coach, under whom Saina attained the World No. 1 ranking in 2015. (PTI)



Students from 'Dramatics Class' of MV International School, who brought laurels to the School by winning 2nd position on the 70th Republic Day celebration organized by District Administration at Rani Suchai Singh Stadium Samba. They presented a life sketch of Brigadier Rajinder Singh in front of the audience. Gouvar Abrol, Director MV International School and KL Dogra lauded the efforts of the students for this achievement.

## Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad Football Tournery from Mar 1

**Excelsior Sports Correspondent**

JAMMU, Jan 29: Kashmir Sports Executive Committee J&K in its meeting held today at Jammu has decided to organise Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad Football Tournament and coaching camps for Under-19, 17 and 16 boys from March 1, 2019. The organisers have advised the players/clubs desirous to take part in the events to send their entries within 10 days.

Earlier, the screening of the team was done by J&K State Sports Council under the supervision of Chief Sports Officer, Haji Abdul Qayoom and Divisional Sports Officer Ravi Singh in presence of GS Bakshi, General Secretary Hockey J&K and Ravi Raj Singh, Vice President.

## Veteran athletes leave for Jaipur

**Excelsior Sports Correspondent**

JAMMU, Jan 29: Jammu and Kashmir Veteran Athletic Association selected 25 players, who left for Jaipur today to participate in the National Master Athletic Championship-2019 to be held at Swai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur in Rajasthan from February 1 to 7, 2019. The State team is being led by Tarsem Lal Basotra, General Secretary of the Association. The team will take part in the Championship under the banner of J&K State Sports Council. The team was flagged off by President of the Association, Abdul Qayoom and Chairman Advocate BR Chandan.

## Sprawling Buds donates Rs 96,491 to HelpAge India

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Jan 29: To inculcate the moral values in the students and to teach them about kindness and empathy towards others, the students and teachers of Sprawling Buds School, Bantalab donated Rs 96,491 to HelpAge India in a special assembly in the school premises here today. Students of school also took pledge to care for and support the elderly. Arti Sharma, the Director of the school along with a group of students, coordinators Heena Nayyar and Seema Sharma presented a cheque to Sunita Santoshi, State Manager of HelpAge India. On this occasion, Director of the school, Arti Sharma said that empathy is the foundation of compassion, which is the foundation of values.



Kids and Management of Sprawling Buds School posing along with representatives from HelpAge India in Jammu on Tuesday.

its concern and care to help needy and aged people who are helpless. She added that this school is contributing from the last six years for this noble cause.

**Gurjinder Kour, D/o Jarnail Singh, R/o Rajouri, who presented a Research Paper Presentation in Yuvika Kendra Delhi on the topic, "Effects of Brain Boosting Activities on Age Related Memory Impairment among Elderly".**

## India face South Africa in ICC T20 WC opening match

**DUBAI, Jan 29:**

Former champions India will square off against South Africa in their opening match of the men's T20 World Cup to be held in Australia next year, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced today. India's opening match will take place in Perth on October 24 while the tournament will get underway from October 18 with qualifying rounds in South Geelong, according to the fixtures.

India, who lost in the semi-finals to eventual winners West Indies in the previous edition in 2016, face a qualifying team in their next Super 12 match in Melbourne on October 29. India won the event's inaugural edition in 2007. The men's competition, from October 18 to November 15, will feature several qualifying matches before hosts Australia take on world's top-ranked Pakistan in the first match of the tournament-proper on October 24 under lights at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

ICC Chief Executive David Richardson said: "Whenever we host an event in Australia we know we can guarantee the one billion cricket fans around the world a great show. The semifinals are scheduled to be held on March 5 in Sydney while the summit clash has been kept for March 8 in Melbourne. The Womens T20 World Cup Fixtures: 21 February, 2020: Australia v India, Spotless Stadium, Sydney 22 February, 2020: Windies v Qualifier 2, WACA, Perth; New Zealand v Sri Lanka, WACA, Perth 23 February, 2020: England v South Africa, WACA Perth 24 February, 2020: Australia v Sri Lanka, WACA Perth; India v Qualifier 1, WACA Perth (7.00pm) 26 February, 2020: England v Qualifier 2, Manuka Oval, Canberra; Windies v Pakistan, Manuka Oval, Canberra 27 February, 2020: India v New Zealand, Junction Oval, Melbourne; Australia v Qualifier 1, Manuka Oval, Canberra 28 February, 2020: South Africa v Qualifier 2, Manuka Oval, Canberra; England v Pakistan, Manuka Oval, Canberra. (PTI)

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## Indian women up against Australia in ICC T20 WC opener

**DUBAI, Jan 29:**

The Indian women's cricket team will open its campaign at next year's Twenty20 World Cup against defending champion Australia on February 21 in Sydney. The ICC Women's T20 World Cup will take place on Australia from February 21 to March 8 next year and the sport's world governing body released the fixtures for the big event today. The warm-up matches will take place from February 15 to 20 in Adelaide and Brisbane, before the tournament takes place across Sydney, Canberra, Perth and Melbourne. After the clash against the home side, the Indian women will travel to Perth to take on a yet-to-be-decided qualifier on February 24, followed by a clash against New Zealand on February 27 in Melbourne. At the same venue, the Indians will wind up their round-robin engagements with a match against Sri Lanka.

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## APs Kaluchak organizes Convivial Fiesta-2019

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Jan 29: With the purpose of inducing a transition in the current educational paradigm, breaking the age old stereotype pertaining to education and to meet the demands of the ever evolving world, a School Fete, "Convivial Fiesta" was organized by Army Public School (APS) Kaluchak, here today. It proved to be just the apt time to indulge in extra-curricular activities, explore one's talent and hone innate skills, besides providing opportunity to indulge in different activities and learn several new things which were out of the box. The stalls that were put up, aimed at providing the opportunity to the students to indulge in different activities and grasp several contemporary things which felicitated brain storming of the students as a part of learning pedagogy. "Such activities build confidence in the students and provide the right kind of exposure to them which proves to be a boon for them in the long run", the organisers claimed.

## Indian women's hockey team beats Spain by 5-2 in third match

**MURCIA (SPAIN), Jan 29:**

The Indian women's hockey team put up a spirited display to stun World Cup bronze medalists Spain 5-2 in its third match of the tour here today. Young striker from Mizoram, Lalremsiami (17th, 58th minutes) starred with a brace, while Neha Goyal (21st), Navneet Kaur (32nd), Rani Rampal (51st) maintained India's lead after the initial setback in the first quarter. By virtue of this win, India has managed to level the series at 1-1. After having lost the tour opener 2-3, India held Spain to a 1-1 draw in the second game. But it was Spain, who scored the first goal in the seventh minute through Berta Bonastre. A determined India, however, made a quick recovery with striker Lalremsiami's fine goal in the 17th minute and then struck again four minutes later through Neha to take a 2-1 lead. Navneet struck a splendid third goal for India in the 32nd minute.

Though Bonastre scored her second goal of the match in the 35th minute to narrow down India's lead to 3-2, the visitors kept their nose ahead with strikes at the right time. Skipper Rani found the net in the 51st minute and then young striker Lalremsiami scored her second goal of the day just two minutes from full time to hand India a convincing 5-2 victory. (PTI)

## Jr National Ice Hockey C'ship gets underway

**Excelsior Sports Correspondent**

LEH, Jan 29: 4th Junior National Ice Hockey Championship (U-20) for boys commenced with fanfare at the newly constructed Ice Hockey Rink at Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre (LSRC), here today. The tournament comprising teams from various states and the Army is being conducted under the aegis of Ice Hockey Association of India (IHAI) for which the venue and logistic support has been provided by LSRC. The Championship was declared open by Col SK Sharma, Commandant LSRC in the presence of Shri Harjinder Singh, General Secretary IHAI and Shri Phunchock Angchuk, General Secretary Ladakh Winter Games Federation, Leh. It will provide an ideal platform for the young players, particularly from Ladakh, to showcase their talent in this unique and tough sport and will pave way to represent the Country in future. The inaugural match was played between the Army and Maharashtra teams, which, the former won by nine goals to three (9-3).

## J&K Ski, Snowboarding team flagged off

**Excelsior Sports Correspondent**

SRINAGAR, Jan 29: The Senior National Ski and Snowboarding contingent was flagged off by the General Secretary Winter Games Association of J&K, Muhammad Yusuf, here today. The team is being accompanied by Mahmood Ahmad Lone as Coach, Tahir Shafi as Manager (Men team) and Nazima as Manager (Women team). The team will be joined by WGAJK President, Mohammad Abbas Wani at Jammu as Chief de Mission. The Screening of the team was conducted at Srinagar by the Divisional Sports Officers (Kashmir and Central) yesterday and the teams were cleared to take part in Snowboarding (Men), Alpine Skiing (Men and Women) events. The team will also take part in Criss Ski and Criss Snowboarding, being held first time in India by Winter Games Association of Himachal Pradesh. The President-WGAJK Mr Wani has extended thanks to Secretary State Sports Council for facilitating the teams in this major Winter Sports event of the Country. Notably the Indian Olympic Association has nominated Muhammad Yusuf, General Secretary WGAJK as Technical Delegate. He will give all reports related to the smooth conduct of the games to the IoA. This is first time that IoA has nominated any official from J&K as technical delegate for any winter sporting event.



Contingent of Jammu Sanskriti School, Kathua, posing for a group photograph along with dignitaries and officials after winning 2nd prize for March Past organised on 70th Republic Day in District Sports Stadium, Kathua. Principal of the School Mili R. Sumbria lauded the efforts of Pushap Thakur, Sports Coach for grooming the students.

## Mandhana stars again in Indian women's series-clinching win against NZ

**MOUNT MAUNGANUI, Jan 29:**

Opener Smriti Mandhana led the chase for India with familiar panache after a feisty bowling performance that steered the side to a series-clinching eight-wicket triumph over New Zealand Women in the second one-dayer here today. Opting to field, India produced an excellent effort to bowl out New Zealand for a paltry 161 in 44.2 overs before player of the match Mandhana (90 not out) and skipper Mithali Raj (63 not out) stitched a 151-run unbroken third-wicket stand to guide the team to an easy win. The duo resurrected the Indian run chase from 15 for 2 after the early loss of opener Jemimah Rodrigues (0) and Deepti Sharma (8). "It feels great but I think our bowlers deserved the player of the match award more than me. I will give it away to our bowlers, they did a great job to restrict New Zealand on a good wicket," Mandhana said in the post-match presentation. The 22-year-old Mandhana has been in excellent form in recent times and Tuesday's half century was her eighth in the last 10 ODI innings. She hit 105 in the first match of the ongoing series. On Tuesday, she took just 82 deliveries in her unbeaten knock off 90. Raj, on the other hand, faced 111 deliveries in her sedate knock 63. But, she was a perfect counterfoil to the aggressive



Smriti Mandhana in action during the match.

Players in action during Ice Hockey Tournament in Leh.

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