

LG, Sports Minister launch 3rd KINWG Anthem, Mascot and Jersey

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 4: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports and I&B, Anurag Thakur launched 3rd Khelo India National Winter Games Anthem, Mascot and Jersey at Raj Bhavan, today.

The launching ceremony marked the beginning of the biggest sporting extravaganza at Gulmarg starting from 10th February. More than 1500 sports persons from 29 States/UTs/ Boards will participate in 11 different winter sports disciplines.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister, Anurag Thakur congratulated the Lt Governor-led UT Government for promoting sports in J&K.

"Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we have revived the sports culture. The increased sports activities and the greater participation of youth in sports is having transformative impact on the society," said the Union Minister.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, in his address, conveyed his best wishes to all the players, officials associated with the grand event.

J&K is all geared up to host



LG Manoj Sinha and Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur launching 3rd Khelo India National Winter Games Anthem, Mascot and Jersey at Raj Bhavan on Saturday.

the players, sports lovers and officials participating in the National Winter Games. Gulmarg, the world-renowned winter tourism destination has been developed as a sports city to host the largest ever contingent of 1500 players from across the country, said the Lt Governor.

With the successful conduct of earlier winter games, Gulmarg has achieved its much deserved place on the global map of Winter Games. This year's mascot the Snow Leopard depicts the vibrant heritage of the Himalayas. It also reiterates the administration's commitment towards their conservation, added the Lt Governor.

Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and with the support of the Union Sports Ministry, world class sports infrastructure and facilities are being developed in J&K for the sports persons, observed the Lt Governor.

Sinha also spoke on the transformation taking place in the sporting ecosystem in the UT.

Sports persons from J&K are bringing laurels to the nation at national and international events. "Development of sports infrastructure is in full swing. Our Sports budget is at par with the bigger States. Today every district, every panchayat of the UT has sports facilities. We have already surpassed the target of engaging 50 lakh youth in sports activities", the Lt Governor said.

He reiterated the commitment of the Government to encourage the youth and provide them a platform to showcase their talents.

Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary to Government, Tourism and Youth Services & Sports; Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council and senior officials were present.

Davis Cup: India relegated to World Group II after losing Play-off by 2-3 to Denmark

HILLEROD (Denmark), Feb 4:

The Indian Davis Cup team was today relegated to the World Group II for the first time since the new format was launched in 2019 after losing the play-off tie 2-3 to Denmark, who were single-handedly carried by Holger Rune as the world number nine won three matches for the hosts.

The tie levelled at 1-1, India needed to win the doubles but the pair of Yuki Bhambri and Rohan Bopanna lost 2-6 4-6 in just 65 minutes to the home team combo of Rune and Johannes Ingildsen.

The equation requiring India to win both the reverse singles to stay in World Group I, Nagal

put a brave fight but lost 5-7 3-6 in one hour and 37 minutes in the first reverse singles.

That defeat gave Denmark an unassailable 1-3 lead and pushed India to World Group II. Prajesh Gunneswaran then took court in the dead rubber against Elmer Moeller and won 6-4 7-6(1) in one hour and 39 minutes.

On Friday, Nagal had erased a one-set deficit to pip August Holmgren 4-6 6-3 6-4 in two hours and 27 minutes to make it 1-1 after Bhambri lost the opening singles 2-6 2-6 to the rising teen sensation Rune. Bhambri has quit singles and now plays only doubles on tour.(PTI)



Gymnast Muskan Rana (center) displaying her medal in Madhya Pradesh.

Muskan wins Gold in KIYG

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 4: Gymnast of Jammu and Kashmir, Muskan Rana scripted history by winning first gold medal for the Union Territory in this year's Khelo India Youth Games edition, being organized in different cities of Madhya Pradesh, today.

The youngster won the top prize, which is the first gold for Jammu and Kashmir in the ongoing competition. Muskan had earlier been crowned the Junior National Champion at the

National Rhythmic Gymnastics Championship last year. It is a proud moment for Jammu and Kashmir.

APS Samba, Kaluchak, Miran Sahib celebrate Annual Sports Day

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 4: Army Public School Samba, Kaluchak and Miran Sahib today celebrated its Annual Sports Day with great pomp and show in their School premises.

At Samba, the opening ceremony was graced by Brig DKR Gautam, Cdr 168 Inf Brigade and Chairman APS Samba as the chief guest and Ashu Gautam, the First lady of the Brigade as guest of honour, besides the parents, students and officers of the Samba Military Station were present during the event.

Sanjeev Pradhan, Principal of the School, in his school report highlighted the importance of games and sports in students' life. The meet was declared open by the chief guest by releasing colourful balloons followed by a beautiful welcome song presented by the scholars of the School.

The winners of various competitions were awarded with medals and certificates by the chief guest for their sports achievements.

At APS Kaluchak, the event was declared open by chief guest, Brig GPS Johal, Chairman APS Kaluchak in presence of School



Students performing during an event at Jammu Sanskriti School Jammu on Saturday.

Inter-school competition on 'Cartoon World' held

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 4: 'An inter school competition, "Cartoon World-Welcome to Disney World", was organized by Jammu Sanskriti School, Jammu (JSSJ) involving plethora of events like Ramp walk for class pre nursery, show and tell for class nursery and couple dance for class prep.

The event started with a welcome address and ceremonial lamp lighting. The chief guest of the event was Deepika Gupta, Additional General Manager, Urban in Jammu Smart City, while guest of honour was Sonali Bhatt and the judges for the event were Anuradha Rattanpal, Harleen Anand, Sunil Sharma, Sunakshi Anand-Director Operations JSS, besides all area heads of the School were present on the occasion.

Principal cum Vice Chairperson, Rohini Aima welcomed the gathering and appreciated and applauded the efforts of the participants.

In ramp walk, the 1st prize was won by Sehajleen Kour from JSSM, Zayna Fatima from IDPS stood 2nd and the 3rd prize was shared by Samarya Sharma from Pushp Vatika and Aadvik from Growing Steps and consolation award went to Joy Parihar from KC International School.

In show and tell, Vanya Chargoora from KC International stood 1st, while 2nd prize was

UT level Judo C'ship organized at MA Stadium



Winners of Judo Championship posing for a group photograph at MA Stadium Jammu on Saturday.

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 4: A day long J&K UT level sub junior and cadet Judo championship concluded at MA Stadium, here today.

The championship was organized by Judo Association Jammu & Kashmir under the aegis of J&K Sports Council and J&K Olympic Association.

Central Sports Officer, Nusrat Gazala was the chief guest who gave medals and certificates to the winners in presence of guests of honour including Gourav Gupta, general secretary Chamber & Commerce and Dr Jagandeep Singh Physiotherapist J&K Sports Council.

The bouts were officiated by chief coach Suraj Bhan Singh alongwith his team members.

In sub junior girls 28 kg, Suhani Sharma-1st, in 32kg-Arushi Rajput-1st, in 36kg, Taniya Thappa-1st and Akshara Sharma-2nd, in 40kg: Baiza Tariq-1st, and Nagam Preet Kour-2nd, in 44kg: Aisha Hasan -1st, Someena Akhtar-2nd and Shivanshi Thakur & Deepali-3rd, in 48kg: Infa Farooq-1st, Seeret Manjoo-2nd and Priya Sharma & Niharika Sharma-3rd, in 52kg: Ishita Mahajan-1st,

Duva Shabir-2nd and Ulkarshi Kesar & Tamana Devi-3rd, in 57kg, Zainab Ajaz-1st, Harshita Gupta-2nd and Momina Fayaz & Divya Thakur-3rd and in plus 57kg: Nirjala Kumari-1st, Riya Rani-2nd and Atafa Irfan & Monika Sharma-3rd.

In cadet girls 40kg: Fiza Akhtar-1st, Anjali-2nd and Nisha-3rd, in 44kg: Mansi Devi-1st, Kharikum Nisa-2nd and Gudi Kumari & Ananya Hansa-3rd, 48kg: Adan Arshid-1st, Simran Reasi-2nd and Najesa Hassan & Riya Choudhary-3rd, in 52kg: Azaan-1st, Meenakshi-2nd and Sonakshi & Sadaf Khatoon-3rd, in 57kg: Hadiya Shahid-1st and Naziya Fatima-2nd, in 63kg: Talha Fayaz-1st, Sneha Sharma-2nd and Hibba & Maitihali Kotwal-3rd, in 70kg: Nirali Sharma-1st and Humarie Shah-2nd and in plus 70kg: Bindra Devi-1st and Anshika Sharma-2nd.

In cadet boys 50kg: Hitesh Mehra-1st, Adnan Fayaz-2nd and Sunil Kumar & Shakib-3rd, in 55kg: Pardeep Singh-1st, Shah Mehfooz-2nd and Shah Nawaz & Shubam-3rd, in 60kg: Mir Hijma-1st, Atul Sharma-2nd and Obidukah Khan & Naresh

Singh-3rd, in 66kg: Akshay Sharma-1st, Sunil Kumar-2nd and Mohd Numan and Musa Ibram-3rd, 73kg: Vipul Kathua-1st, Sunny Thakur-2nd and Prikshit Singh & Musaf Nazir-3rd, in 81kg: Arnab Gupta-1st, Lucky Bhagat-2nd and Mohd Hadi-3rd, in 90kg: Rajat Chhib-1st, Asrar Ahmed-2nd and Mosin Hamid & Madhav-3rd, in plus 90kg: Abdul Hanam-1st.

In sub junior boys 30kg: Shivam Verma-1st, Gagan Singh-2nd and Daksh-3rd, in 35kg: Mayank Sharma-1st, Anshuman-2nd and Ajay Kumar-3rd, in 40kg: Amrit Gupta-1st, Mushtaq Ali-2nd and Shura Mohd & Sumit Kumar-3rd, in 45kg: Zahid Maqbool-1st, Chandrdeep Singh-2nd and Naman Mansa & Anish Raina-3rd, in 50kg: Hitesh Chhibber-1st, Sheikh Mohd-2nd and Varun Kumar & Bindra Yousaf-3rd, in 55kg: Ridhama Sharma-1st, Ranvir-2nd and Riyan Yousaf-3rd, in 60kg: Daksh Gabgotra-1st, Tushar Sharma-2nd and Zahoor Aavid and Raghav Sharma-3rd, in 66kg: Arihant Mahajan-1st, and Rakshat-2nd and in plus 66kg: Zayian Dubinyal-1st and Bhawani Partap Singh-2nd.



Students performing during 'Foundation day' at Model Academy Jammu on Saturday.

Model Academy celebrates 88th Foundation Day

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 4: Model Academy, the prestigious school of MIER celebrated 88th Foundation Day in the School premises with great verve, zest and reverence, here today.

Having completed 87 glorious years, the School, an epitome of its motto, 'Shrestha' has made its founders late HL Gupta and Shanti Gupta proud of its achievements.

A special assembly was organized wherein rich tributes were paid to the founders by the management, staff and students. A humble tribute was also paid to the former chairman, late Dr Arun K. Gupta, a visionary leader and an inspiration for the educational fraternity who empowered generations of learners with his knowledge, creativity, and innovation.

The cultural fiesta was marked by a series of exotic talents thus creating a festive mood. The mellifluous musical presentation by the School choir group singing 'Model Academy Vidhya Mandir Gyan Banta Hai,' was the first item to set the mood of the audience. This was followed by a scintillating dance performance by the students of the primary department.

Dr Renu Gupta, Chairperson MIER in her message cherished

the hard work and dedication of the founders in building up an educational institution par excellence. Further, she stressed upon the students to contribute to the society by excelling in all fields.

She also expressed her gratitude towards the staff and students and said that she is proud to see the vision of founders being translated into action by transforming MIER into a hub of educational excellence, innovation, research, and creative talent which has catered to the learning needs of over 50,000 alumni in the last eight decades.

Dr Adit Gupta, Director MIER in his message advised the students to embrace the future and the endless possibilities it has to offer thus unfolding myriad opportunities that are waiting to be explored.

Principal Pramod Kumar Srivastava lauded the hard efforts of the founders and apprised the audience with the School's unflinching efforts to cater to the holistic development of a child's personality.

The programme was anchored by a student Shreya Sharma, while the event was coordinated by Manju Vali, convener along with the cultural department. The programme concluded with singing of the national anthem.



Winners and participants posing for a group photograph at Doda on Saturday.

Pir Panjal Kabaddi League 2023 concludes

* Poonch team wins title

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

DODA, Feb 4: The Pir Panjal Kabaddi League, a three-day sports event, concluded, here today.

The event was organized by the Army to engage the youth of the region and to promote the sports culture in the DKR region. Eight teams from the districts of Doda, Kishtwar, Reasi, Rajouri, Ramban and Poonch participated in the event.

The teams competed against each other in a show of strength, ability and teamwork.

Commanding Officer, 10 Rashtriya Rifles (RAJPUT) and dignitaries, including SSP, Doda attended the closing ceremony. The Poonch team won the final match in a tough and nail biting contest with the Doda team.

The champion and runners up teams were awarded with cash prizes and trophies in Doda Stadium by the Commanding Officer 10 Rashtriya Rifles (RAJPUT) and SSP, Doda. Winners, first runners-up & second runners up were also presented with Gold, Silver & Bronze medals. Best Raider and Best Catcher were felicitated with individual trophies and cash prizes.

The tournament, in line with Khelo India and Fit India initiative, was aimed at highlighting and promoting Kabaddi as a sport other than cricket and volleyball which is quite popular amongst the youth.

Indian Army, Doda has also incorporated aid from Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council to select potential players for representation at State and National level.

The initiative by the Indian Army was aimed to select and field talented players at state & national level. Selected players will further drive and inspire their peer group and local youth to achieve excellence in sports.

The people of the area appreciated the support provided by the Indian Army to encourage sports activities among youth in Doda district.



Selected players for Badminton championship posing for a group photograph at Jammu on Saturday.

BSNL selects Badminton team for Nat'l

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 4: Seven member men and women Badminton team has been selected by BSNL J&K Circle for participation in the upcoming 19th All India BSNL Badminton Tournament, scheduled to be held at Secunderabad, BSNL Telangana Telecom Circle from February 7 to 9.

The team was also approved by Chief General Manager BSNL J&K Circle Jammu, here today. Team: Chandan Singh (DE Rajouri), Rajesh Verma (DDE Jammu), Sanjeev Kumar

Bhagat AGM (CM) Jammu, Mohsin Hassan Khan SDE Kargil and Mukesh Chand Meena JTO Jammu, while for women team, Sudeepa Kotwal SDE Jammu and Heena JTO Srinagar were selected for the upcoming tournament.

The team was selected after the selection trials held at Police Line Badminton Hall Jammu under the supervision of BSNL J&K Circle level Committee comprising Kush Kumar, Sudershan K Sudan, Tarandeep Singh and Deepak Jyoti from BSNL and Ravish Vaid from J&K Sports Council.



Kusum Sharma, Dy. Excise Commissioner (Executive) Jammu flagging-off trekkers from Mansar.

SMVDU, Excise Deptt organize trekking event

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 4: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra in collaboration with Excise Department organized a one day trekking event from Mansar Lake to Mahoregarh Fort.

A group of 150 trekkers from SMVDU were flagged off from Mansar by Kusum Sharma, Dy. Excise Commissioner (Executive) Jammu in presence of Nagendra Singh Jamwal, Registrar SMVDU and Ved Prakash, CEO Surinsar Mansar Development Authority (SMDA).

"This is an important Trek which the Tourism Department has been promoting from last few years for making Mansar and adjoining areas a winter hub of soft adventure activities like trekking, adventure camps etc," she said adding that trekking expedition for students is aimed at spreading awareness about drug abuse and encouraging

youth to pursue healthy life style. Nagendra Singh Jamwal, Registrar SMVDU briefed the students about the trekking event and the need for cleanliness to be maintained in Surinsar Mansar Wildlife Sanctuary.

Ved Prakash, CEO SMDA appealed to the participants to adopt adventure activities and participate in wonderful treks developed by the Authority.

"Surinsar Mansar region offers treks through Wildlife Sanctuary and ASI monuments," he said inviting the participants to explore heritage destinations like Mahoregarh, Dhergarh, Purmandal and Babore temples located in the jurisdiction of SMDA.

Suraj Prakash Lochan, ETO Samba and Rupali Vaid, ETO Udampur Excise Range also spoke on the occasion.

At culmination of the trek, the participants were given certificates by the chief guest.



Dignitaries and Students during 'National Anthem' at BSF School Jammu on Saturday.

BSF Primary, Ankur Play Schools celebrate Annual Day

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 4: Ankur Play School and BSF Primary School Jammu celebrated its Annual Day and prize distribution function in their School premises with great pomp and show, here today.

The theme of the function was 'Peace - a new beginning' wherein DK Boora IG BSF Jammu Frontier, Chairman of School along with guest of honour, Sunita Boora BWWA President, Jammu DIG's, Commandants, Principal SK Shukla and Headmaster Sonia Gupta were also present during the event.

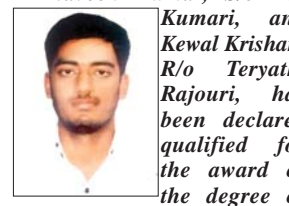
The function was declared open with the lighting of the lamp, followed by 'Saraswati and Ganesh Vandana' by the students. The Headmaster read

the annual report highlighting the achievements of the Institution during the session 2022-2023.

There were various programmes which involved most of the students of School. The performances were enriched with mesmerizing music, costumes, dances and yoga. The audience was spell bound to their seats with the performances of the students.

The chief guest appreciated the efforts of the School and applauded the achievements of staff and students during his speech. The sports achievers and sports teacher Rameshwar Singh were felicitated by the Chairman of the School.

The function concluded with the National anthem by the School choir.



Naveen Kumar, S/o Raj Kumari, and Kewal Krishan, R/o Teryath, Rajouri, has been declared qualified for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Physics by the Central University of Jammu. He has worked on the topic "Study of Scaling Features for the 1/f Noise in a Class of SOC Models" under the supervision of Dr. Suram Singh, Professor and Head, Department of Physics and Astronomical Sciences, Central University of Jammu, and Co-Supervision of Dr. Avinash Chand Yadav, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, Institute of Science, BHU, Varanasi.