

Jammu Marathon witnesses overwhelming participation

*DGP Dilbag Singh presents prizes to winners

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 5: Jammu Marathon, a mega event was organised by Jammu and

participating in these events," the DGP said. "J&K Police is leading from the front in organizing the events in almost every sports



Participants of Jammu Marathon. -Excelsior/Rakesh

Kashmir Police under its Civic Action Programme here at Gulshan Ground, today.

ADGP Jammu Mukesh Singh flagged-off the run, while Director General of Police, Dilbag Singh presided over the flag-in ceremony and presented awards and prizes among the winners of the event.

Ashok Bhan (retired DGP), Commandant General HG/CD/SDRF J&K, B. Srinivas, Spl DG CID J&K, RR Swain, Spl DG Crime J&K, AK Choudhary, ADGPs SJM Gillani, Mukesh Singh, MK Sinha, Danesh Rana, IGP Vikramjeet Singh and BS Tuti, DIGs Sarah Rizvi, Intiaz Ismail, Ajit Singh Salaria and Nisha Nathyal and others were present during the event.

The DGP appreciated ADGP Armed J&K and his team for successful conduct of the event with the participation of thousands of athletes. "Starting with the small event levels, Civic Action Programmes organized by J&K Police have become the national level events as athletes from across the country are now

category to provide a platform to the J&K youth," the DGP said.

He also congratulated ADGP Armed and his team for emerging winners in the All India Police Golf Tournament that was hosted by CRPF at Nodia, Uttar Pradesh.

The ADGP Armed SJM Gillani informed that 4000 athletes including athletes from across the country participated in 11 different categories.

In the 21km half marathon men category, Ritik Sharma, Pankaj Kumar and Narendra Singh won first three positions respectively, while in 10km road race women above 18 category, Rimpdy Devi, Gunjan Preet Kour & Shamshad Bano won first three positions respectively. In the 10km road race for boys U-18, Vishal Sharma, Shamsher Singh & Sunny Sharma won first three positions and in the 10km road race for girls U-18, Sakshi Thakur, Sara Naqash & Mantasha Jan won first three positions respectively. In 10km for veteran men

Sports holds big promise for talented youth: Slathia

Excelsior Sprots Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 5: Pradesh BJP Vice President and former Minister Surjeet Singh Slathia today lauded growing participation of youth in various games, saying the enthusiasm among sports lovers is equally reassuring and reflective of the fact that the games hold big promise for talented youth.

Speaking at the prize giving ceremony of the Thalora Football League final match, Slathia expressed happiness over Vijaypur constituency becoming hub of sports and other activities, enabling youth to showcase their talent on larger canvas.

He said holding of various events like holding of football matches speak about love for sports in the constituency.

"Given the commitment of youth, I am optimistic that the day is not far when our youth will make a big mark in the UT and National level sports events", Slathia added.

Lauding the sportsmanship of the participating players, the Pradesh BJP Vice President said that football is gaining popularity among youngsters, perhaps

because the game calls for quick and fast reactions.

"This was seen in immense measure this afternoon", Mr Slathia said while referring to the tolling of the ball by players to limit the choices for opponents.

Slathia said that victory and defeat forms part of the game but the spirit behind the play is something that promotes camaraderie and discipline among the players. He exuded confidence that the young players will participate in the events at various levels across the country and even abroad and bring laurels to Jammu and Kashmir.

Slathia, who was the chief guest, complimented the organisers for providing a platform to young players in showcasing their talent. He said such events will not only sharpen their talent but inspire others to emulate the spirit of the game. He hoped that the endeavours of the organisers would hugely benefit the young players and also help in gaining popularity for the sport in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Championship trophy was clinched by PRC Club Hiranagar.



Players posing for a group photograph at KV2 School Ground on Sunday.

KV Masters beats Media CC by 6 wkts

Excelsior Sprots Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 5: KV Masters led by Samendar Rathore defeated Media Cricket Club led by Vivek Suri by 6 wickets in a cricket match, organized at KV2 School Ground, here today.

The match was roadside under the guidance of KV2 (Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 2) Principal Bhushan Kumar.

Media Cricket Club won the toss and opted to bat first. The decision proved right as openers Amit Kumar and Abhishek provided a good start against the seam bowling of Manjeet (1 wicket), Nipun, Sunny Kotwal and Navjot. The score after powerplay was 61 runs. Runs kept flowing with Amit Kumar noticing a well crafted fifty (60 runs) with good support from Sumit Sharma (24 runs) and Vivek Suri (20 runs).

With 95 runs from 10 overs, Media CC was heading for a huge total, but the introduction of spin trio of KV Masters with Sachin Kumar (3 wickets), Sikander Oberoi (2 wickets) and Samendar Rathore put a brake on the runs restricting Media CC to 151/6 in stipulated 20 overs.

In reply, KV Masters started well with Sachin Kumar hitting another fifty (53 runs) and Samendar Rathore (21 runs) gave a good opening stand.

The middle order batsmen Navjot Singh (37 runs), Pawan Parihar (17 unbeaten runs) and Naresh Kumar (14 unbeaten runs) chased the target in the 17th over. For Media CC Sachin Singh (2 wickets) and Rohit (1 wicket) were the successful bowlers. Sachin Kumar was declared player of the match for his all round performance.

Shafali, Lanning blitzkrieg, Tara's five-for guide Delhi Capitals to big win over RCB

MUMBAI, Mar 5:

The power of Shafali Verma's strokes combined with Meg Lanning's experience in a sensational 162-run opening-wicket stand helped Delhi Capitals to a thumping 60-run win over Royal Challengers Bangalore in their Women's Premier League opener here today.

American left-arm pace bowler Tara Norris then came to the party, grabbing a fiver for DC to decimate the Smriti Mandhana-led team.

A day after her Indian skipper Harmanpreet Kaur had led Mumbai Indians to 207/5 in the inaugural match of the tournament, the 19-year-old Shafali took WPL to a new high with her explosive display of 84 off just 45 balls (10x4, 4x6).

The legendary five-time

Harris, Ecclestone seal UP's dramatic last-over win vs Gujarat Giants

NAVI MUMBAI, Mar 5:

Kim Garth's splendid five-wicket haul went in vain as UP Warriorz held their nerves to pull off a dramatic three-wicket win over Gujarat Giants in a thrilling last-over finish in the Women's Premier League, here on Sunday.

Australian Grace Harris remained calm under pressure to slam a 26-ball 59 not out to seal the thrilling chase off the penul-

World Cup-winning Australian skipper Lanning, was also at her attacking best in a 43-ball 72 (14x4) as the duo demolished a listless RCB attack to take the WPL score to an imposing 223/2.

In reply, RCB got off to a spectacular start but left-arm pacer from USA Tara Norris (4-0-29-5) and Alice Capsey (2-0-10-2) dragged them down to 163 for eight in the stipulated 20 overs.

Norris, who became the first Associate player in the WPL, ripped through the star-studded RCB middle order taking the wickets of Ellyse Perry (31), Richa Ghosh (2) and Heather Knight (34) to send half of their batters back into the hut for 93 in 12.2 overs.

She bowled with pace and got the WPL's first fiver with Kanika Ahuja's scalp. (PTI)

last-over win vs Gujarat Giants

timote delivery. She found a formidable ally in Sophie Ecclestone as the duo turned it around with an unbroken 70-run stand that came off just 25 balls.

Twenty-four hours after they crashed to 64 all out in the WPL opener, Gujarat Giants showed their unflappable spirit and revived their hopes as Garth reduced UP to 20/3 inside three overs.

The Irish-Australian recruit, Garth, who replaced star Windies all-rounder Deandra Dottin, blew away the UP top-order en route her 5/36, the second fiver in the WPL -- both coming on the same day.

Shortly after a little known Tara Norris of an Associate Nation (USA) picked WPL's first fiver, it was time for the another nondescript cricketer to set the WPL on fire with wickets of Alyssa Healy (7), Shweta Sherawat (5) and Tahila McGrath (0) in one over.

After a sedate first over in which Healy smashed a half-volley for a boundary, Garth bounced back to take a stunning catch off her own bowling on her second attempt to dismiss the star Australian. (PTI)

District Cycling C'ship concludes

Excelsior Sprots Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 5: Cycling Association of Jammu and Kashmir concluded two days 'District Jammu Cycling Championship' under the aegis



Winners displaying certificates while posing with dignitaries at MA Stadium on Sunday.

of CFI and J&K Sports Council at MAM Stadium, here today.

More than 60 cyclists participated in the competition in various age groups. The selected cyclists will participate in the UT level Championship which is scheduled to be held in the month of March.

Chief guest on the occasion was Kuldeep Gupta CEO J&K Kabaddi Association and guests of honour were Anil Vats and Sharad Chander Singh J&K Athletics Association.



Players posing with Police officers at Reasi on Sunday.

Police inaugurates Cricket tournament

Excelsior Sprots Correspondent

REASI, Mar 5: District Police Reasi inaugurated 'Shaheed Kamal Kishore Memorial Cricket Tournament' at General Zorawar Singh Sports Stadium, here today.

The tournament is being organized to pay tribute to the bravery, courage, valour and martyrdom of Police martyrs of the district under civic action programme.

The tournament was inaugurated by SSP Amit Gupta along with Neeraj Padyar- DySP Hqrs. and relatives of martyrs.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest Amit Gupta said that our martyrs without caring for their lives fought till their last breath for peace in J & K. "They gave supreme sacrifices of their lives while protecting and safeguarding the nation," he said.

The SSP said that Jammu and Kashmir Police is a proud Police

Sopore cricketer joins selection trials for IPL franchise

Irfan Trambo



Fast bowler Aamir Feroze Mir during a practice session in Pune. -Excelsior/Aabid Nabi

SRINAGAR, Mar 5: It has happened again, a young cricketer from North Kashmir's Sopore has participated in the selection trials for the India Premier League (IPL) franchise 'Lucknow Super Giants' held in Ghaziabad.

Aamir Feroze Mir, 22, from the Janwara area of Sopore is a bowler, who clocks 135 kmph, currently studying Data Science at a University in Pune, made it to the selection trials for 'Lucknow Super Giants' through the All India University-level cricket tournament.

"Out of that tournament, some of the players, including me, were selected for trials and were sent to Rajasthan; there the trials were held and those selected were further sent to Lucknow for assessment of their capabilities and cricketing skills," he told Excelsior.

In Lucknow, Aamir said, he went through the speed test and from there, he, along with those selected, was then sent to Ghaziabad where the final selection trials were held.

While he was not selected at the final stage, he, however, believes that the opportunity provided to him, and the level he reached, would open up a wide range of opportunities, which, he said, will further help him in excelling in the game of cricket.

In Pune, Aamir has been playing with a prime cricket academy named 'Deccan Gymkhana' as a net bowler for Indian star Cricketer Rahul Tripathi, where, he said, he got to hone and shape up his bowling skills.

"I have been playing cricket for a long time now, but professionally, I have been playing for the last 2-3 years, since the day I joined the University in Pune and got a chance to play and display my skills," he said.

Concerning the chances for his selection by the 'Lucknow Super Giants', he said that it will depend on their requirements of what they are looking for. "I watched the bowlers there whose speed were more than I had, but

achievement, so far, proves the fact that his efforts have not gone waste and that he has got the capabilities to reach a bigger platform to present his skills in the game. "Participating in trials is itself an achievement, it must push me to do more and fair better next time," he said.

In his message to youth who are busy with cricket and want to pursue the game professionally, Aamir said that consistency remains the key in every sphere of life. "Those who play the game, and want to excel further, must continue what they are doing and show perseverance. That's it," he said.

Notably, there are already several cricketers from J&K who have made their entry into the IPL with the latest addition being Jasia Akhtar who was taken in by the 'Delhi Capitals' for the maiden edition of the Women's Premier League.



Deputy Commissioner Devansh Yadav inaugurating Cricket pitches at GDC Kishtwar on Sunday. -Excelsior/Tilak Raj

DC inaugurates professional Cricket pitches at GDC

Excelsior Correspondent

KISHTWAR, Mar 5: Deputy Commissioner Dr Devansh Yadav inaugurated two professional Cricket pitches including one turf and other cemented pitch, recently constructed at Govt. Degree College Ground, here today.

The Deputy Commissioner was the chief guest of the event, while guests of honour were Principal GDC Kishtwar Dr. Jyoti Parihar and Executive Engineer R&B Ravinder Kumar. Both the pitches were constructed by District Administration under District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT) under the supervision of District Youth Services and Sports Department, while the work was executed by R&B Department.

A warm welcome was given to the chief guest and guest of honors by the District Youth Service & Sports Officer, Kharati Lal Sharma. The DYSSO Kishtwar thanked the District administration for taking such initiative which will help the youth to showcase their

talent in the field of cricket and other sports activities.

The Deputy Commissioner said that youth of the district has a great potential for sports and the establishment of these sports facilities will provide an opportunity to the aspiring sports persons to hone their talent.

He said that as many as 50 such turf pitches besides indoor stadiums are to be established across the district by the end of this year which can be instrumental to exploit the sports potential of youth in hilly areas as well where enough sports grounds are not available.

The Deputy Commissioner also encouraged the sports aspirants to take part in the upcoming Cricket trials and guidance programme, scheduled to be held at Kishtwar soon wherein the Ranji Players and professional coach from the State will share their experiences.

He appreciated the efforts of the Sports Department, Kishtwar, R&B Department and cooperation of Principal GDC Kishtwar in the completion of the twin cricket pitches in a time-bound manner.



Nita M Ambani, owner Mumbai Indians team cheering with her team members during the inaugural ceremony at Mumbai.

WPL will inspire many young girls: Nita Ambani

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

MUMBAI, Mar 5: Mumbai Indians team owner, Nita M. Ambani expressed hope that the Women Premier League (WPL) would inspire many young girls to follow their dreams and take up sports in their life.

Mumbai Indians put on a sublime performance in the presence of team owner in the inaugural game of the WPL at DY Patil Stadium yesterday. The team controlled the game against Gujarat Giants with both bat and ball, registering a whopping 143 runs in the opening match to set the tournament off

to a thrilling start. The stadium saw both women and men turn out to support women cricket and cheering everyone was Nita Ambani, whose passion is to get more women to play sports.

Ambani said the WPL's opening day was an unforgettable event. "It is an iconic day and an iconic moment for women in sport. It's so thrilling to be part of the WPL," she said.

Ambani said, "I hope this inspires young girls across the country to take up sport, realize their dream and follow their hearts."

Army holds open Athletics meet at Mendhar

Excelsior Sprots Correspondent

POONCH, Mar 5: Army organized Rifleman Aurangzeb Shaurya Chakra open Athletics meet in Mendhar Sub-division, here today.

The event was organized under two categories wherein under-40 years was open for men and women in 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, javelin, shot put and long jump, while in 2nd category was for men over 40 years in 200m and shotput.

A local sport of stone-lifting was also conducted during the event in which participants lifted a weight of 132 kg. The event was organized to pay tribute to son of soil Rifleman Aurangzeb, Shaurya Chakra who laid his life for the nation on June 18, 2018 in Pulwama and to promote Khelo India programme in far flung areas near

to Line of Control. The event also helped to promote Nari Shakti by having women in the athletics meet. More than 200 participants including 70 women and 150 men participated in the event with high spirit and enthusiasm.

Parents of Rifleman Aurangzeb, Shaurya Chakra; Mohd Haneef and his wife were the chief guests. Mohd Haneef praised the Indian Army for organizing the event in remembrance of his son. He also told the youth to join the Indian Army and serve the nation.

The event culminated with prize distribution which was attended by Indian Army, President Ex-Servicemen Committee District Poonch, DDC Mendhar and other prominent former servicemen with other prominent civilians from all walks of life.