

## Protesting wrestlers detained for violation of law and order, police clear protest site at Jantar Mantar

NEW DELHI, May 28:

In what could bring about a forceful end to the wrestlers' protest at Jantar Mantar, the Delhi police on Sunday detained Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia for violation of law and order after they breached the security cordon while trying to move towards the new Parliament building for a planned women's 'Mahapanchayat'.

Immediately after the wrestlers were pushed into buses and taken to different locations, the police officers began clearing the protest site by removing the cots, mattresses, coolers, fans and the tarpaulin ceiling along with other belongings of the grapplers.

It seems the police will not allow the wrestlers back to the protest site.

Special Commissioner of Police (law and order) Dependara Pathak claimed the protesters ignored repeated requests and warnings and "wrestled" with police personnel who tried to stop them. He said an FIR will be filed against the protesters.

"They were out to disturb the preparations made by security agencies," the senior police officer said.

"The detained protesting wrestlers will not be allowed to

continue with their dharna at Jantar Mantar. The entire protest venue at Jantar Mantar has been cleared," Pathak said.

Sakshi though asserted that their protest is not yet over.

"Our protest is not over yet. We will resume our agitation at Jantar Mantar after being released by police. This country will not accept dictatorship but women's satyagrah," Malik tweeted.

"Never thought a day will come when we will have to fight on streets for justice after fighting on the mat for medals. This country's daughters are strong, if they can win medals on foreign soil, then definitely they will not stop until the battle on the home soil is won," Malik wrote in another tweet and posted contrasting videos of her Olympic medal ceremony and Sunday's scuffle with police.

Punia, while still in detention, tweeted, "I am still in police custody. No one is telling me what's happening. Have I committed any crime? It should be Brij Bhushan who should be in police custody not us."

The police had warned the wrestlers not to move towards the Parliament but they went ahead, leading to the scuffle.

The champion wrestlers had resumed their agitation against

Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh on April 23, demanding his arrest for alleged sexual harassment of several women grapplers, including a minor.

Chaotic scenes were witnessed at Jantar Mantar as wrestlers and police officers shoved and pushed each other when Vinesh, her cousin sister Sangeeta Phogat and Sakshi tried to breach the barricades.

Vinesh provided a strong resistance against her detention and Sangeeta clung on to her cousin sister while lying on the road as the struggle continued for a few dramatic minutes.

The police officials dragged and lifted them into buses along with several other wrestlers and their supporters.

Pathak had urged the wrestlers to not indulge in anti-national activities on the "historic day" of inauguration of the new Parliament building by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Today is the inauguration of our new Parliament. It is an important day for our country and proud moment. So any type of agitation or march on this day is anti-national. No way Delhi Police can afford any lapse. We respect and love our athletes but can't allow any untoward incident," he said. (PTI)

## I didn't expect this would happen but Gopi sir kept pushing me: Prannoy

KUALA LUMPUR, May 28:

Sleep-deprived Indian shuttler HS Prannoy had almost given up on winning his next title and breaking a six-year long drought before chief national coach Pullela Gopichand instilled in him the belief that he remains a force to reckon with.

On Sunday, Prannoy ended the title drought with a three-game win over China's Weng Hong Yang in a pulsating men's singles final at the Malaysia Masters Super 500 tournament here.

"I think there are too many emotions. The last six years have been too much of a rollercoaster. I didn't expect that it will happen after six years to be honest. I mean if you would have asked me in 2017 I don't think I would have told you that I will win in 2023. So lots of mixed emotions," Prannoy said after the title triumph.

"Thanks to all the coaches, support staff and Gopi sir (chief national coach Pullela Gopichand). He kept telling me that it will happen one day and I should keep believing," he added.

The 30-year-old Prannoy, who is ranked ninth in the world and India's best at the moment, also thanked his former teammate RMV Gurusai Dutt, who turned to coaching after retiring in June last

year, for helping him out in his hour of need.

"Thanks to Guru, last four months we have worked really hard and the results finally came out."

The BWF World Tour is divided into six levels, namely World Tour Finals, four Super 1000, six Super 750, seven Super 500, and 11 Super 300 in order. One other category of tournament, the BWF Tour Super 100 level, also offers ranking points.

The Super 500 is a Grade 2 (level 4) event in the BWF tournament ranking system.

He said he has not slept well in the last three days.

"I haven't been sleeping well for last three days, my team was a bit worried that I am not sleeping. There was so much emotion, you are excited to come out and play in front of this beautiful crowd."

Prannoy was instrumental in India's epic Thomas Cup victory last year but an individual title has eluded him since the 2017 US Open Grand Prix Gold.

This week however, Prannoy gave ample display of his fortitude as he outfoxed his opponents -- world number five Chou Tien Chen, All England champion Li Shi Feng and Japan's Kenta Nishimoto -- in three games on way to the title clash.

"The draw was really tough for me, I had tough matches. I had to really dig deep in the four matches. It all went to the wire. It shows how much I was patient and my fitness was also decent."

"To beat such players is not easy. The conditions were slow and I had to hang in there and I did that."

"The first thing is to keep aside the competition within ourselves, the competition is with myself. I think it is really important for me to be consistent whatever I do and results will follow."

Prannoy has battled a series of injuries and health issues before turning his career around in the back end of 2021.

"I need to be smart enough which tournaments to play and which to back out and train in between the tournaments, these are the key points because the number of tournaments are really really high and we have to be smart."

"It (the triumph) gives a lot of insights. When you dig deep and win such matches, that helps you find a lot of hidden gems, you will be discovering those after a long time and realise that you can do that."

Even as Prannoy looked for that big title triumph, former Commonwealth Games bronze medalist Gurusai Dutt has been his constant companion. (PTI)



Runners during Patnitop Marathon on Sunday. -Excelsior/Shubam Anthal

## 550 enthusiastic runners participate in Patnitop Marathon

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

PATNITOP, May 28: The third edition of Patnitop Marathon organized here today witnessed participation of more than 550 enthusiastic runners and fitness lovers who arrived here from different parts of the country.

Patnitop Marathon is an initiative by Kapil Arora, an international Tri-Athlete, Ultra-marathoner and a Fit India ambassador, supported by Patnitop Development Authority, Directorate of Tourism Jammu, District Administration Ramban, Udhampur and Skyview by Empyrean, Patnitop.

Being organized under 'Visit Patnitop' event series, there were four categories for the run-21.09 km, 10 km, 5 km and 1 km. The 1 km category was introduced this time for the kids. The participants were divided into age groups 10-14 yrs, 14-18 yrs, 18-35 yrs, 35-45 yrs, 45-55 yrs and 55+ yrs.

The Half Marathon (21.09 kms) was flagged off by Sachin Kumar Vaishy, DC Udhampur; Dr Vinod Kumar, SSP Udhampur; Thakur Sher Singh, CEO PDA, and Kapil Arora at 6 am from Skyview Terrace Patnitop. They too ran with the

participants towards Nathatop. Avny Lavasa, DC Jammu was also present on the occasion to participate in the run.

Participants of other three categories were flagged off at 6:15 am, 6:30 am and 7:00 am respectively.

The participants were from Delhi, Haryana, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, J&K and Punjab.

In 21.09 kms category, Akshay Sharma won the award for Fastest Male Runner and Rinky Sharma for Fastest Female Runner. In 10 kms category, Raghav Sharma won the award for Fastest Male Runner and Avny Lavasa, for Fastest Female Runner. In 5 kms, Sunil Kumar was the Fastest Male Runner and Ayushi Gupta, Fastest Female Runner.

The event was supported and participated by some notable members of India's Runners' Community including Ramanjeet Oberoi, who started his running journey at the age of 54 and completed 140 marathons in last 10 years and Dr Pallavi Vengurlerkar, an Ironman athlete, avid marathoner and Black Belt in Karate.

## BCCI unlikely to support hybrid model, final decision at ACC executive board meeting

NEW DELHI, May 28:

The BCCI will not support Najam Sethi's proposed hybrid model of hosting the Asia Cup wherein four preliminary round and two super four games will be held in Pakistan with India's matches and the final taking place in a neutral country.

It is understood that the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) chairman Jay Shah, who is also the secretary of the BCCI, during an informal discussion with some of the continental body's members in Ahmedabad has made the Indian board's stand clear.

For a tournament to happen at a neutral venue, the all-powerful executive body of the ACC needs to take the final call, and therein lies the problem.

"Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan have already told the PCB that they have no issues playing their games in Pakistan. But India is not keen on supporting the hybrid model. Now, the impasse hasn't been broken and the final decision will only be taken at ACC executive board meeting that Jay (Shah) will have to summon," an ACC board member said.

The ACC executive body

has 25 members -- 5 Test-playing nations (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan), 3 with ODI and T20I status and 17 more with only T20 status.

Could the issue of hybrid model be put to vote?

"There has to be a middle of the road solution as you can't put this hybrid model to vote. I mean if there are six nations playing the event, what is the locus standi of the 19 other nations who won't play the tournament? On what basis will they vote when they have no stake?" the ACC member said.

The hybrid model does have a logistical issue. What Pakistan Cricket Board chief Najam Sethi has told the ACC is that having the Asia Cup in two countries means double mileage for broadcasters but the BCCI feels that it will be a logistical nightmare considering the UAE might not be the neutral venue.

In fact, the PCB has already told the ACC that they would expect at least 0.5 million USD from gate receipts of the two Indo-Pak matches if they are held in Sri Lanka, as the capacity of Galle or Premadasa Stadium isn't as much as Dubai. (PTI)

## Siva Sridhar surges with five Golds, sinks meet record

LUCKNOW, May 28:

Siva Sridhar of Jain University surged to five gold medals to go with his lone bronze, creating a gap in the race between him and Aneesh Gowda of Christ University, in the Khelo India University Games (KIUG) on Sunday.

It was enough for Siva to sink his own meet record in the men's 400m Individual Medley however, his 4:37.21mins on the day better than the 4:38.98mins set in the previous edition.

Aneesh Gowda was second. He also won the 4x100 medley along with teammates to add to his gold tally. Aneesh however took the men's 200m freestyle title later to narrow the gap.

Both the swimmers now have seven medals each from the pool as they also won silver and bronze in the men's 100m butterfly late in the day.

Not far away from Gautambudh Nagar's Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik (SVSP) stadium, where Siva was creating waves in the pool, Manavadiya Singh Rathore and Kirti Gupta were helping Manav Rachna University win their third shooting gold, with the trap mixed team title.

They shot a combined 139 out of 150 targets to secure the win ahead of Delhi University's Daksh Singh and Aashima Ahlawat, who shot 137.

The second gold at the shoot-

ing range went to the duo of R Narmada Nithin and Sri Karthik Sabari Raj of Madras University who got the better of Delhi University Sports Council's Anshika Gupta and Samarvir Singh 17-13 in the 10m air rifle mixed team final.

Mehuli Ghosh and Srinjoy Datta of Adamas University won bronze.

Also winning their third gold medals in the pool were Preetha V of Bangalore University, who claimed the women's 800m and 200m freestyle and Shruti Upadhyay of Jadavpur University who took the 100m and 200m women's butterfly titles on the day, to go with their golds won on Saturday.

Women power Guru Nanak Dev and Delhi Universities Women wrestlers helped Guru Nanak Dev and Delhi Universities pick two golds each at the IIT-BHU indoor stadium in Varanasi. Sweetie in the women's 53kg and Manju in the 72kg category were the winners for Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU) while Nikita in the 62 and Manju in the 59kg categories were the golden girls for Delhi. (PTI)



Players of Fearless Knight team pose for a photograph after winning a match in Bhaderkashi Premier League.

## FK trounces GK in Bhaderkashi Premier League

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

DODA, May 28: In Bhaderkashi Premier League Addition 2 Tournament organized at Jammu University campus in Bhaderwah today a match was played between Fearless Knight (FK) Team and GMC Knight (GK) Team.

The Fearless Knight team registered victory.

Fearless Knight set a target of 156 runs in 15 Overs for GMC Knight Team which failed to meet it.

Neeraj Charak of FK scored

32 runs in 18 balls and was declared Man of the Match as he also took 3 wickets.

The chief guest on this occasion was ex-MLA Bhaderwah, Daleep Singh Parihar while DDC Chairman, Dhananter Singh, BJP District President Vijay Mohan Thakur and others were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Daleep Singh Parihar said that a national stadium shall be built in Bhaderwah for the youth and within two years the project will be completed.



Players of different games in Srinagar posing for photograph.

## 100 Students flagged-off to participate in Inter-Div competitions

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 28: The Department of Youth Services and Sports (YSS) has speeded up the process of selecting student players from J&K in different games as School Games Federation of India (SGFI) is hosting School Nationals in different sports from June 6, 2023.

The Department today deputed divisional level teams of Badminton and Table Tennis with 5 players each of girls and boys in both the games, Football, 18 boys, Hockey, 18 boys, Judo, 6 boys and 2 girls, Boxing, 9 boys and 4 girls and Volleyball, 12 each in boys and girls category for further participation in UT level competitions at Jammu.

These competitions are taking place for U/19 age group categories for both boys & girls.

Subash C Chibber, Director Department of YSS along with Waseem Raja, Joint Director Kashmir flagged-off a contingent of student players along with their escorting officials from Sports Complex Wazirbagh here.

District Youth Services and Sports Officer Srinagar was also present on the occasion. The divisional level selected volleyball team is comprised of

students of different educational institutions of Kashmir division. The team is scheduled to participate in inter divisional/ UT level competition with players of Jammu division.

The final team shall participate at National level event in Bhopal from June 10 to 13, 2023.

Sharing details, JD Kashmir said that about 100 girls and boys were flagged-off today to participate in the UT level competitions of various games at Jammu.

SGFI is going to conduct 66th National School Games (2022-23) backlog in Swimming, Basketball, Wrestling, Weightlifting, Taekwondo, Yoga, Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, Shooting, Chess, Handball, Gymnastics etc in under 19 group (boys & girls) after a gap of three years.

Director of the Department said that UT level competitions are going on in Athletics, Boxing, Hockey, Badminton, Football, Judo and Table Tennis (U-19 boys & girls) at Jammu and the selected players shall participate in these sports disciplines at National level at Bhopal from June 6 to 13, 2023 and at Gwalior from June 8 to 12, 2023 respectively.



Students who excelled in Taekwondo Championship pose for a group photograph.

## GAMA students excelled in Taekwondo C'ship

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, May 28: Students of Ganesh Academy of Martial Arts (GAMA) participated in 3rd Open Asian ITF Taekwondo Championship 2023 and brought laurels to J&K by performing extremely well in their respective categories.

The players who got Gold Medals were Ayaan Tickoo, Veeradiya Badyal (from Kishtwar), Haseeb Imtiyaz (from Kishtwar), Sparsh and Santushiti.

Silver Medal winners were Saiansh Bhat, Haseeb Imtiyaz and Santushiti.

Others from J&K who also participated in the event and performed exceptionally well were Geetansh Thakur, Namika Mahajan, Haziq Bin Abdul Hamid and Shaurya Sharma.

The team was led under the supervision of Mukesh Thakur and Sachin Kumar.

All the participants will be facilitated with certificates of merit.

## Star 100m hurdler Yarraji clocks second career-best time to win Gold in Germany

NEW DELHI, May 28:

National record holder Jyothi Yarraji ran her second career best 100m hurdles race to win Gold at the Kurfalz Gala event at Weinheim in Germany.

The 23-year-old Yarraji clocked 12.84s at the World Athletics Continental Tour Challenger level meet, just a tad outside her national record time of 12.82s, which she had set last year.

This was her first international 100m hurdles race of the season.

Another national record holder Amlan Borgohain clocked 20.66s against a headwind of 0.2 m/s to win gold in the men's 200m race in the same competition on Saturday.

This was his third career-best timing. His national record set last year stands at 20.52s.

Meanwhile, Parul Chaudhary clocked her personal best of 9:29.51s in women's 3000m steeplechase to finish third at the Los Angeles Grand Prix, a World Athletics Continental Tour gold level meet, in USA.

Her earlier best was 9:38.29s which she had clocked last year. (PTI)



Players and others pose for a group photograph at the culmination of 1st All India Women Cricket Championship 2023 in Doda. -Excelsior/Tilak Raj

## Hyderabad Eleven lifts All India Women Cricket C'ship

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

DODA, May 28: The 1st All India Women Cricket Championship 2023 organized by Department of Physical Education and Sports GDC Doda under the supervision of its Principal, Dr. Attar Singh Kotwal culminated successfully, here today.

The tournament was organized in collaboration with Sports and Fitness Hub Doda at Sports

Stadium Doda.

In final, Hyderabad Eleven and Sports and Fitness Hub clashed wherein batting first Hyderabad Eleven scored 44 runs at the loss of one wicket in stipulated overs when the match was reduced from a 20 over game to 6 over due to wet playfield.

Anita Singh played a brilliant knock of 36 runs with the help of two sixes and three boundaries. In reply Sports and Fitness Hub

were restricted to 33 runs.

Principal GMC Doda Dr. (Prof) Pujja Vimesh was chief guest on the occasion and Chanden Manhas was guest of honour.

Principal GDC Doda presided over the whole event.

Dignitaries on the occasion appreciated the efforts of Dr. (Prof) Attar Singh Kotwal, Bharat Bhushan, Director Sports and Fitness Hub and Dr. Arjun Singh, HOD Physical Education and Sports for providing a platform to girl players.

Principal GDC Doda thanked ZPEO Ghat, Surinder Parihar for his support and cooperation.

The guests handed over trophies to the winners and runners up of the tournament.

Anita Singh of Hyderabad Eleven bagged the Best Batswoman and Player of the Tournament Award.

She was also honoured with Woman of the Match Award.

Varsha Parihar of GDC Doda was presented Best Bowler Award.

Ifroz Rather, Parmood Thakur, Vinod Bandral and Khalid Hussain officiated as umpires whereas proceedings of post match presentation were conducted by Dr. Jamsheed Ahmad, HOD English GDC Doda.

Dr. Satish Kumar, Prof. Rakesh Kumar, Dr. Rajesh Manhas, Dr. Sumit Kotwal, Dr. Anita Kotwal, Prof. Syed Kazim, Prof. Preeti Devi, Prof. Purnima Manhas, Prof. Upma Kumari, Dr. Tabassum Saleem and Dr. Manish Thakur were present during the final match.



Students along with their trainers pose for a group photograph at 'Roll Ball' training camp.

## Foundation Camp organized for Roll Ball

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, May 28: With a view to give fillip to the popular game of Indian origin 'Roll Ball' which is played with skates, a two days training cum foundation camp was organized by J&K Roll Ball Association and Udhampur District Roll Ball Association (DRBA) under the patronage of Ashok Kumar, vice president J&K Roll Ball Association and Madhu Khajuria, senior functionary and National Coach of India.

In all 190 players in categories of Under-19, 17, 14 and 12 years drawn from Army Public School Udhampur, Little

Angels High School, Ever Green Academy and India Kids participated.

The training was conducted under the guidance of Khushi Gupta and Suvridha Sareen, both international players; Sameer Gupta, National Medalist; Samuel Khokar and Maneer.

The trainees were imparted basic training and coaching in fundamental skills, team composition, systems of play, duration and rules-regulations of the game.

Vimal Sharma, vice president DRBA; Surinder Kumar joint secretary DRBA; Gurmeet Singh, Rajan Kumar, Suresh Manhas and Mohan Lal also contributed in a big way.



Navjeet Kaur, who has been declared qualified for the award of degree of Doctorate of Philosophy (Ph.D) in International Business by University of Jammu. She worked on 'Cultural Influences and Global Career Choices: An Investigation of Indian Students Perspective' under the supervision of Dr. Pallvi Arora, Assistant Professor, International Centre for Cross-Cultural Research and Human Resource Management, University of Jammu.

## Inter-Div Boxing competition held

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, May 28: Department of Youth Services and Sports (YSS) here today hosted Inter Division UT level competition in Boxing in which Jammu Division clinched six Gold medals in Boys category along with one Silver while seven Gold medals were won in Girls category.

Kashmir Division satisfied with only one Gold and remaining silver in both Boys & Girls categories.

There were seven different weight categories in these competitions hosted under the chairmanship of Director YSS, Subhash Chandra Chibber and under the guidance of JD YSS Jammu, Suram Chand Sharma and under the overall supervision of DYSSO Jammu, Sukhdev Raj Sharma.

The participants were drawn from both Divisions of J&K.

All the participants took the competition with full strength and stamina to show their best.

Officials from District Jammu were deployed for the smooth conduct of the competition.

All Gold medalists will have to compete in their weight category at National level expected to be from first week of next month.

## JP Premier League culminates

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, May 28: BOMIS, Jammu announced the successful culmination of its highly anticipated JP Premier League.

The tournament, held at the school ground featured teams from various arenas showcasing their cricketing skills and passion for the game.

Over the course of two days, the participants displayed remarkable sportsmanship, resilience and teamwork. Guest of honour was Ashok Singh and Principal of the School, Aparana Kohli felicitated him.

On day 2, the first semi-final match was played between JP Panthers and Federal Cricket Club.

The second semi-final was played between Team Mirchi and JK Indians. Final match was played between JP Panthers and JK Indians in which JP Panthers emerged as winners.

During closing ceremony, Principal of the School commended efforts of the organizing committee, coaches and supporting staff who worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth execution of the tournament.

The participating teams were JP Panthers, Birla Sunrisers, JK Indians, CRPF Royals, Federal Cricket Club, HDFC Challengers, Batra Lions, Team Mirchi and Nexa Superkings.