



Sakeena stresses girls empowerment through education, sports

Chairs BBBP felicitation event; inaugurates UT-level U-17 Girls Netball Tournament

KULGAM, OCTOBER 03: Minister for Social Welfare, Education, Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today presided over a felicitation ceremony organized under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) for top performer teams of various Girls Sports Tournaments and NEET Qualifiers of the district at Government Degree College, Kulgam.

The ceremony was organized by the Social Welfare Department Kulgam in collaboration with Sports, Higher Education and other departments of district administration with the objective of celebrating the achievements of girls in sports and academics, promoting the message of women empowerment.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister highlighted the importance of empowering women and girls through education, sports, skill development and awareness. She also emphasized the need to create greater awareness among women and girls about various government schemes and welfare initiatives being implemented by different departments for their benefit.

Sakeena Itoo stressed that participation in sports helps girls develop confidence, discipline, leader-



ship qualities and teamwork while providing them opportunities to showcase their talent at different levels.

Director General ICDS Sajad Hussain Ganie, DPO Zaheer Ahmad Kaifi, ACR Kulgam Reyaz Ahmad Shah and District Social Welfare Officer Kulgam Rameez Ahmad Ganie, also addressed the gathering. They spoke on women empowerment, education, sports participation and initiatives available for women and girls.

The programme witnessed participation of girls, officials, sports per-

sonnel, students and other stakeholders. The speakers appreciated the efforts being made to provide girls with opportunities in sports and education and encouraged them to pursue their aspirations with confidence.

As part of the felicitation ceremony, medals and trophies were presented to the winners and runners-up of the Girls Basketball, Volleyball, Football, Cricket and Badminton tournaments organized at the Inter-Block and Inter-Municipality levels under BBBP in the district while 20 girls from Dis-

trict Kulgam who qualified NEET were also felicitated with certificates.

Earlier, the Minister inaugurated the Inter-District UT-Level U-17 Girls Netball Tournament at Shri Nazir Ahmad Wani Higher Secondary School Kulgam. The tournament, organized by the Directorate of Youth Services & Sports, J&K and hosted by YSS Kulgam, is witnessing participation of eight districts of the Union Territory, providing young sportspersons an opportunity to showcase their talent and gain competitive exposure.

Jammu Clinch U19 Handball Title as Inter-District UT-Level Competition concludes at Bandipora

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 03

The Inter-District UT-Level Handball Boys U19 Competition, organised by the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports (YSS), J&K, District Bandipora, concluded today at S.K. Stadium, Bandipora, with Jammu emerging as the champions.

In the keenly contested final, Jammu defeated the host team Bandipora to lift the coveted championship title. The Jammu team displayed impressive skill, coordination, determination and sporting spirit throughout the competition.

In the third-place play-off, Baramulla defeated Poonch to secure the third position in the championship.



onship. The concluding day marked the culmination of a competitive sporting event that brought together young handball players from different districts of the Union Territory. The

event also provided an opportunity for the participating players to showcase their talent, discipline and competitive spirit.

The District Youth Services and Sports Department Bandipora congratulated the Jammu team on winning the championship and appreciated the efforts of all participating teams, coaches, officials and support staff for contributing to the successful conduct of the UT-level competition.

Late gold rush powers India to 4th at Asiad; Teen archer Kumkum, golfer Pranavi script history

NAGOYA, OCT 03: The star-studded cricket and hockey teams predictably defended their crowns, but it was 17-year-old archer Kumkum Mohod and golfer Pranavi Urs, who scripted unexpected history, adding to the late gold rush that powered India to a creditable fourth place in the Asian Games here on Saturday.

The country could not repeat or better the 106 medals claimed in the previous edition, but the haul of 85 is a decent enough performance although better was expected, especially from shooters and badminton players. In the end, India secured 21 gold, 27 silver and 37 bronze medals.

Eleven of these 21 gold medals came in the last two days and the final positions could still change slightly as a couple of equestrian competitions are scheduled on Sunday where India's nearest



competitor Uzbekistan is in fray. But Saturday was a day full of celebrations for the country as familiar stars of cricket and hockey delivered with élan.

The Shreyas Iyer-led cricket team secured a 19-run win over arch-foes Pakistan in Nisshin, the hockey players, led by the redoubtable Harmanpreet Singh, were also clinical in Kakamigahara against Malaysia, beating them 5-1 in the final.

For the hockey side, the gold also secured direct qualification to the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

Another gold-winner on the day was the very understated Olympic bronze-medallist Aman Sehrawat. He picked up top honours in the 57kg category, reaffirming his calibre.

But Pranavi and Kumkum were the standout stories of the day.

While Kumkum became

the first Indian woman archer to win an individual recurve gold, Pranavi achieved the same in golf, both displaying tremendous poise under pressure.

Kumkum, in fact, wouldv be heading back home with two gold and a silver medal to her credit in what can only be called a dream debut at the Games. The teenager from Maharashtra also secured an individual quota place for India in Olympic Games.

Pranavi also managed more than one medal as the Indian women's golf team finished with a silver thanks largely to her performance.

The other silver medal on the day came from wrestler Antim Panghal (women's 53kg), while recurve archer Neeraj Chauhan defeated his higher-rated compatriot Dhiraj Bommadevara to bag the men's individual bronze.

JMC launches first under Fly-over Badminton Court at Akhnoor Highway

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 03

The Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) today inaugurated a newly constructed Badminton Court at Pata Paloura, Akhnoor Road, in Ward No. 61, providing a dedicated sports facility for local residents and youth.

The facility was inaugurated by Sham Lal Sharma, MLA Jammu North, in the presence of Dr. Devansh Yadav, Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation.

The new badminton court has been developed by the JMC with the aim of promoting sports and encouraging greater participation of youth in healthy and constructive activities. Located beneath the flyover opposite BSF School, the facility is expected to provide a convenient space for residents, particularly young people, to pursue bad-



minton and other recreational activities. CCTV cameras will also be installed at the site to ensure the safety and security of the badminton court.

It was noted that a plantation drive had previously been conducted at the site by the Jammu Municipal Corporation under the National Clean Air Program. A green walkway has already been completed under NCAP by JMC under this

flyover. Speaking on the occasion, Sham Lal Sharma appreciated the JMC for developing the sports facility and emphasized the importance of providing accessible sporting infrastructure in residential areas.

Dr. Devansh Yadav said that the JMC is committed to developing public spaces and community facilities that contribute to a healthier and more active urban environment. He said such

initiatives would be taken up at suitable locations across the city to encourage community participation and promote a healthy lifestyle.

The attendees were urged to remember that the facility has been created for their benefit and that it is the duty of local citizens to look after it. They were also asked to maintain cleanliness at the site and take proper care of the plants.

J&K Kalarippayattu Coaching Camp concludes



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 03

The three-day J&K UT Kalarippayattu Coaching Camp 2026 concluded successfully today at Kotli Bhawan Hall, Rehari, Jammu with enthusiastic participation from Kalarippayattu practitioners from across the Union Territory.

The coaching camp was organised by the Kalarippayattu Association of J&K (KAJK) under the banner of the Indian Kalarippayattu Federation (IKF). Around 50 participants from eight districts of J&K participated in the camp with great enthusiasm, discipline and

sportsmanship. During the three-day camp, participants underwent intensive training in the basic techniques, movements, technical aspects and various competitive events of Kalarippayattu. Special emphasis was laid on strengthening the technical foundation of athletes and coaches and improving their understanding of competitive requirements.

The camp was conducted under the guidance of Danish Sharma, General Secretary, Kalarippayattu Association of J&K and National Referee/Coach, IKF along with Sajjan Shan, Technical Director, KAJK.

A felicitation programme was organised at the conclusion of the camp. Manjit Singh, Chairman, KAJK, attended the programme as the Chief Guest while Tarsem Sharma, Founder/CEO, KAJK was the Guest of Honour.

Mukesh Thakur and Muzafar Ahmad, Members, KAJK attended the programme as Special Guests. The dignitaries appreciated the efforts of the organisers, coaches and participants and lauded the enthusiasm shown by practitioners from different districts of J&K. They emphasised the importance of regular coaching and tech-

nical development for strengthening the sport at the grassroots level.

The organisers expressed their gratitude to all participating districts, athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers for their valuable co-operation and contribution towards making the three-day coaching camp a grand success.

The Kalarippayattu Association of J&K reiterated its commitment to promoting Kalarippayattu across Jammu & Kashmir and providing athletes and coaches with quality training opportunities to enhance their technical skills and competitive standards.

3rd ODI: KL Rahul's unbeaten 129 powers India to 351/7 against West Indies



MULLANPUR, OCT 03: KL Rahul's unbeaten 129 and half-centuries from Rohit Sharma (92) and Ruturaj Gaikwad (55) took India to a massive 351/7 against the West Indies in the third and final ODI here on Saturday.

India were reduced to 4/2 in the

first three overs when they lost Shubman Gill (1) and Virat Kohli (0) on consecutive deliveries from Jayden Seales (3/45).

Rohit made 92 off 85 balls with 10 fours and three sixes, while Ruturaj scored 57 off 69 balls with four sixes and a four.

Rahul, clobbered 10 fours and six sixes to make 129 off only 87 balls.

BRIEF SCORES: India 351/7 in 50 overs (KL Rahul 129 not out, Rohit Sharma 92, Ruturaj Gaikwad 57; Jayden Seales 3/62). PTI