

Three-Day Gymnastics Aerobic Judges Course concludes at MAM Stadium Jammu

JKGA committed to identifying and nurturing talented gymnasts, providing them training and support to succeed: Wattal

TT CORRESPONDENT
JAMMU, APR. 15: The three-day Gymnastics Aerobic Judges Course, organized by the Gymnastics Federation of India (GFI) in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Gymnastics Association (JKGA), concluded successfully at Gymnastics Academy, MAM Stadium, here today. On this occasion President Jammu and Kashmir Gymnastics Association (JKGA) Kiran Wattal was chief guest. The three-day course marks a significant step towards enhancing the standard of gymnastics in the country. The three days course trained judges in line with the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) guidelines and rules, ensuring fair and accurate competition assessments at national levels. Over 39 participants from across India enrolled, received expert training from Y. Ranjan Singh (Course Expert) and Tejinder Singh (Course Coordinator),



both nominated by the GFI. Speaking on the occasion, President JKGA Kiran Wattal said that three days course provided comprehensive training to participants on judging techniques, rules and regulations of aerobic gymnastics. Successful

participants received certification, enabling them to officiate at national-level competitions. The course successfully developed a pool of skilled judges in Jammu and Kashmir, contributing to the growth and development of gymnastics in the region, added

Wattal. Wattal further said that course attracted participants from various parts of Jammu and Kashmir, who gained valuable knowledge and insights from experienced faculty members. The JKGA and GFI worked together to ensure

the smooth execution of the event with active contributions of Youth Services and Sports Department, Sports Council. Wattal expressed confidence that J&K gymnasts will excel at national and international levels due to their hard work and dedication.

Wattal appreciated LG Sinha's role in promoting sports in Jammu and Kashmir, noting that his efforts have created a vibrant sports ecosystem that fulfills the aspirations of the region's youth. JK Youth Services and Sports Department has played a crucial role in organizing sports events, promoting talent and providing infrastructure for various sports disciplines.

Wattal acknowledged the Union government's financial support, which has enabled JKGA to develop gymnastics infrastructure and provide training programs for athletes. He also acknowledged support from Omar Government and Sports Minister Satish Sharma expressing gratitude for their encouragement and support.

Wattal appreciated collaborative effort between government agencies, sports organizations, and individuals in promoting gymnastics in Jammu and Kashmir.

India wins four medals in Archery World Cup Stage 1



India wrapped up their campaign at the Archery World Cup Stage 1 with a creditable four medals, including a silver in the men's recurve team event and a bronze by rising star Dhiraj Bommadevara in the individual recurve category, here on Sunday.

The 23-year-old Army archer Dhiraj showed exceptional grit and composure to clinch the bronze medal match, bouncing back from a 2-4 deficit to beat Andres Temino Mediel of Spain 6-4 in a tense five-setter.

Earlier in the day, he was also part of the Indian trio alongside veterans Tarundeep Rai and Atanu Das that settled for silver after a 1-5 loss to China in the team final.

India's medal tally from the tournament stood at four — gold in the compound mixed team, bronze in compound men's team, silver in recurve men's team and bronze in recurve men's individual (Dhiraj). India's campaign also saw Abhishek Verma narrowly miss out on a medal, finishing fourth in the compound men's individual section.

In the bronze medal match, Dhiraj and Mediel tied the first set 28-28. The Spaniard then edged ahead 29-28 in the second set with two 10s, while Dhiraj could manage only one, to take a 3-1 lead. The third set was again deadlocked at 29-29, putting Dhiraj under pressure. But the young Indian responded with a brilliant fourth set, hitting two 10s (including an X, the arrow closer to the centre) to win it 29-28 and level the score at 4-4.

In the deciding set, Dhiraj was ice-cool under pressure, nailing three perfect 10s to seal a well-deserved bronze. Earlier in the semifinals, he had lost 1-7 to world number four and Paris Olympics silver medalist Florian Unruh of Germany, who proved too strong with consistently high scoring. Earlier, the Indian men's recurve team of Dhiraj, Tarundeep Rai and Atanu Das started well in the gold medal match against China, tying the first set 54-54.

However, inconsistency in the second set — marked by two 8s allowed the Chinese trio of Li Zhongyuan, Kao Wenchao and Wang Yan to pull ahead with a 58-55 scoreline.

Julian Alvarez Bags Penalty Double As Atletico Madrid Beat Real Valladolid



Julian Alvarez netted two penalties as Atletico Madrid dispatched bottom side Real Valladolid 4-2 on Monday in La Liga. Coach Diego Simeone's son Giuliano and Alexander Sorloth were also on target as the Rojiblancos moved back within seven points of league leaders Barcelona. Atletico, third, also trail rivals Real Madrid by three points and still hold onto slender hopes of winning the title. "We can't do anything more than keep moving forward, thinking about what's to come," Alvarez told DAZN.

Valladolid, without a win in 12 matches, gave Atletico a more uncomfortable evening than they would have imagined or hoped for. The visitors

took the lead through a Mamadou Sylla penalty after Clement Lenglet handled a corner kick as he went to head it clear.

However the hosts were quickly level with a penalty of their own after Javi Sanchez fouled Simeone.

Alvarez, who controversially had a penalty ruled out for supposedly touching the ball twice against Real Madrid as his team were knocked out of the Champions League, stroked it down the middle. Two minutes later Simeone sent Atletico ahead, surging inside from the right and blasting home after Pablo Barrios sent a ball over the top for him. Atletico were dominant but could not add to their lead and Lenglet allowed Valladolid back in

with a foul outside his area.

Sanchez took the free-kick and it deflected off Conor Gallagher's shoulder in the wall past the helpless Jan Oblak.

Atletico were handed a chance to reclaim the lead when Marcos Llorente turned into the box and was clumsily brought down by Henrique.

Alvarez tucked home the game's third spot kick, sending Andre Ferreira the wrong way.

It was his 14th league goal of the season and 26th across all competitions after joining from Manchester City last summer.

Sorloth wrapped up Atletico's win with another goal off the bench, as has been his penchant this season, mopping up after Ferreira saved an Alvarez effort.

"We have to rest and we have a very tough game against Las Palmas (on Saturday)," said Diego Simeone, refusing to be drawn on whether his team were still hopeful of catching up with Barcelona and Real Madrid.

His son was equally determined to follow the party line.

Treesa Jolly-Gayatri Gopichand Miss Out On Sudirman Cup Finals Due To Shoulder Injuries



The women's doubles pair of Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly will miss out due to injury, but PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen will spearhead a strong Indian singles challenge at the Sudirman Cup Finals to be held in Xiamen, China from April 27 to May 4. It has been learnt that both Treesa and Gayatri, currently ranked 10th in the world, are recuperating from shoulder issues attributed to a packed schedule last year. The duo have already featured in five tournaments this season, adding to the 22 events they contested in 2024.

The pair had enjoyed a successful run last year, clinching the Syed Modi International title and reaching the semifinals of the BWF World Tour Finals in December. In their absence, the young combination of Priya Konjengbam and Shruti Mishra will shoulder the responsibility in the women's doubles event after being named in the 14-member Indian squad by the Badminton Association of India (BAI).

India, who qualified for the prestigious mixed team championships based on their overall world ranking, have been clubbed in a challenging Group D alongside former champions Indonesia, two-time runners-up Denmark, and a strong English outfit. The tournament will see the return of the formidable men's doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty after an injury break.

Chirag had suffered a back injury during the second round of All England Championships in March. The young pairing of Hariharan Amsakarunan and Ruban Kumar Rethinasabapathi has been named as backup for Satwik and Chirag in men's doubles.

PV Sindhu, Lakshya Sen To Lead India At Sudirman Cup Finals; Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty Return After Injury

Double Olympic medalist P V Sindhu and world No. 18 Lakshya Sen will spearhead the Indian challenge at the Sudirman Cup Finals to be held in Xiamen, China from April 27 to May 4, the national federation announced on Tuesday. India, who qualified for the prestigious mixed team championships based on their overall world ranking, have been clubbed in a challenging Group D alongside former champions Indonesia, two-time runners-up Denmark, and a strong English outfit. The 14-member Indian contingent will see the return of the formidable men's doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty after an injury break, while the country's top-ranked women's doubles pair of Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly will miss the event due to injury-related issues.

In their absence, the young combination of Priya Konjengbam and Shruti Mishra will shoulder the responsibility in the women's doubles event, while young pairing of Hariharan Amsakarunan and Ruban Kumar



Rethinasabapathi has been named as backup for Satwik and Chirag in the men's doubles.

"The selectors have picked the best possible combination in all the five categories despite some injury worries," Badminton Association of India (BAI) General Secretary Sanjay Mishra said in a release.

"We are no longer dependent on one or two disciplines to win the tie and that makes us a formidable force in any team event. We are confident that the team will not only make its mark in the group stages but can go on to create history by winning a

medal," he added. Besides Sen, the men's singles line-up also features H S Prannoy, while Sindhu will be joined by former national champion and world No. 45 Anupama Upadhyaya in the women's singles.

Sindhu, who was recovering from a hamstring injury sustained in February, had valuable match practice at the Badminton Asia Championships last week.

In the mixed doubles, Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto, who reached the quarterfinals at the Asia Championships, will lead the challenge.

MS Dhoni, Aged 43, Breaks All-Time IPL Record, Becomes First Player In History To...



The Chennai Super Kings (CSK) stand-in skipper, MS Dhoni turned back the clock in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 match against Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) on Monday, producing a late blitz to fire the team to its second victory of the season. Dhoni's bat breathed fire, scoring 26 runs off just 11 balls as CSK chased down the target of 167 runs in a last-over thriller. Courtesy of his fireworks at the Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow, Dhoni was named the Player of the Match. Though the "Thala" didn't quite agree with the decision of the organisers, the award helped him shatter an all-time record in IPL history. Thanks to the POTM

honour, Dhoni has become the oldest player in the T20 league's history to be given the award, at the age of 43 years and 280 days. He broke an 11-year-old record in the process, surpassing Pravin Tambe to take the No. 1 spot. Dhoni, hence, became the first player in the league's history to be named the Player of the Match at the age of 43.

Tambe held the numero uno spot until Monday, having won the Player of the Match award in IPL 2014 against KKR at an age of 42 years and 208 days. He set the record while playing for the Rajasthan Royals.

Dhoni, reflecting on the team's win, said that he expects his batting unit to perform better in the coming games if CSK are to come out of the rut they are in at present.

Kylian Mbappe Leading Real Madrid Comeback Charge Against Arsenal

Kylian Mbappe joined Real Madrid in search of Champions League glory, hoping to be on the right side of exactly the kind of magical night they need against Arsenal on Wednesday if they are to progress to the semi-finals. The Gunners lead 3-0 after dismantling the holders in London last week in the quarter-final first leg, leaving Madrid craving the sort of dramatic comeback the 115-time winners are renowned for. Returning from a three-goal defeat would be step further than anything Los Blancos have managed so far, but that is precisely why they tried to lure Mbappe to the club for years. The French superstar's explosive edge gives Madrid hope of achieving what appears to be borderline impossible.

"Of course we can," said Mbappe on his way out of the Emirates last Tuesday, heading to the team bus after Arsenal's stunning victory. Declan Rice struck two sublime free-kicks and Mikel Merino's third helped Mikel Arteta's side put one foot in the final



four. Arsenal will be fully aware the job is not yet complete, having seen Mbappe's devastating impact against Premier League champions Manchester City earlier this season. Mbappe netted a hat-trick against Pep Guardiola's side in February at the Santiago Bernabeu in the play-off round, helping Madrid eliminate City 6-3 on aggregate. The striker was sent off for a wild challenge against Alaves in La Liga on Sunday, putting his team-mates under pressure, but can make it up to them with a special performance at the Santiago Bernabeu against Arsenal.

Madrid scraped a 1-0 win and Mbappe only played 38 minutes before his dismissal, so he should be fresh for Wednesday. Mbappe has 33 goals in 49 games across all competitions this season, matching Madrid's all-time top goalscorer Cristiano Ronaldo's tally in his first season at the club. "Big night" Mbappe failed to lift the Champions League trophy with Paris Saint-Germain during his seven seasons at the club and in 2022, was on the sharp end of a spectacular Real Madrid comeback. PSG led 1-0 from the last 16 first leg, with Mbappe on target, and he netted his second goal of the tie to give the French side the lead at the Bernabeu. It sparked Real Madrid into life and a remarkable

17-minute Karim Benzema hat-trick turned the tie around and powered Los Blancos into the quarter-finals, on the way to lifting the trophy. Mbappe said his treble against Man City was exactly the kind of night he was craving.

"I've been dreaming of moments like this since I was a kid, to play for this club and to feel what it's like on a big night at the Bernabeu," said the Frenchman.

"A lot of people have told me about it, but now I've seen it with my own eyes, and I hope we'll have many more." In 2022 Madrid made a stunning comeback to beat Man City despite trailing 5-3 on aggregate in the final minutes of the semi-final second leg, progressing 6-5 in the end.

Perhaps their most important comeback came in the 2014 final against rivals Atletico, trailing 1-0 until Sergio Ramos headed home in the 93rd minute to force extra-time, with Los Blancos winning 4-1 to claim 'La Decima', their 10th Champions League trophy.

Indian-origin golfers Rai, Theegala finish in Top-30



Indian-origin golfers Aaron Rai, Sahith Theegala and Akshay Bhatia had a modest finish, with two of the three signing off in the Top-30 at the Masters here. Rai (70) finished at one-under for four days for a T-27 finish on his Masters debut, while Theegala (71) was even par for four days and finished T-29.

Bhatia shot 71 and was four-over 292 for the week, finishing T-42.

Theegala was playing his third Masters and Bhatia his second. At the top, Rory McIlroy ended an 11-year wait for a fifth Major with a dramatic win. Despite a double bogey start that wiped out

his two-shot advantage right at the beginning, McIlroy picked up the pieces as his opponents failed to seize their chances.

After going into a tie at 11-under with Justin Rose, the Northern Irishman birdied the first hole in the play-off to end the mother of all waits.

Rose ended runner-up at the Masters for a third time — the previous ones being in 2015 and 2017 — while 2018 Masters winner Patrick Reed was third, and Scottie Scheffler, the defending champion and twice winner in the fourth of three years, was fourth at 8-under for the week.