

**Shri Vitthalrao Joshi Charities Trust's
B.K.L. Walawalkar Rural Health Medical College and Hospital's
Shrikshetra Dervan Vartapatra**

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Chief guest, Prof. Dr. Chandrajit Jadhav, being welcomed by entrepreneur Kamlesh Joshi, with Ajit Galavankar and Sandeep Tawde on the right, and Dr. Suvarna Patil on the left.

At the Dervan Sports Complex, the Shri Vitthalrao Joshi Charities Trust organized the 12th annual sports festival from 27 February to 6 March 2025 on the occasion of Shiv Jayanti. This sports festival included 19 sporting events such as athletics, football, table tennis, basketball, gymnastics, yoga, kho-kho, kabaddi, swimming, langdi, mallakhamb, shooting, archery, badminton, volleyball, wall climbing, carrom, chess, and skating.

The sports festival was inaugurated in grand style in the presence of the chief guest, Prof. Dr. Chandrajit Jadhav, Vice President of the Maharashtra Olympic Association and senior sports organizer, with the flag hoisting ceremony performed by him at the sports complex. On this occasion, several dignitaries were present, including entrepreneur Kamlesh Joshi, hospital director Dr. Suvarna Patil, education director Sharayu Yashwantarao, national table tennis player Ajit Galavankar, Maharashtra Kho-Kho Association's Official Sandeep Tawde, SVJCT Sports Director Shrikanth Paradkar, and Shri Yogesh Vichare, among others. This was followed by the singing of the state anthem.

At Shiv-Samarthagad, the sports torch was lit by Shri Udayraj Kalambhe, President of the Ratnagiri District Physical Education Teachers Association. The SVJCT English medium school students Ovi Bode (Swimming), Sanskar Shedge (Athletics), Harsh Bagwe (Athletics), and Siddhesh Barje (Athletics) won medals at national competitions brought the sports torch and was handed over to the chief guest by Siddhesh Barje. After the winning student-athletes brought the torch into the sports complex, the sports flame was lit by Dr. Chandrajit Jadhav.

The inaugural ceremony was organized on the covered kabaddi/kho-kho ground. Once all the dignitaries were seated on the stage, the anchor Ms. Ashwini Khandekar welcomed everyone and introduced the chief guest.

Prof. Dr. Chandrajit Jadhav is a well-known sportsperson and sports administrator. He is the General Secretary of the Maharashtra Kho-Kho Association, Associate Vice President of the Maharashtra Olympic Association, Joint Secretary of the Kho-Kho Federation of India, and a recipient of the "Chhatrapati Sports Guidance Award." He has also served as the head of the selection committee for international Kho-Kho tournaments. He has been continuously working for providing government job opportunities to Kho-Kho players. In Maharashtra, he is regarded as an expert in technical aspects of Kho-Kho and a strong promoter of the sport.

Dr. Jadhav, who first participated in a national competition at the age of fourteen, has made remarkable contributions as a Kho-Kho player. While working as a national referee, he also served as coach of the Maharashtra women's team and helped the state win several gold medals. Many women players from his

Dharashiv team have received national, international, and Shiv Chhatrapati awards. He is currently working as a sports director in a college and has earned a PhD in Kho-Kho.

Entrepreneur Kamlesh Joshi felicitated Dr. Chandrajit Jadhav with a bouquet and a memento.

Sports Director Shri Shrikanth Paradkar welcomed all the dignitaries and, in his introductory speech, said:

“To nurture the sporting talent of Maharashtra and to identify it at the right time and take it to national and international levels, the ‘Dervan Youth Games’ sports festival was started in Konkan under SVJCT. This festival is organized every year on the occasion of Shiv Jayanti, and it has now completed its 12th year. Known as the Mini Olympics of Konkan, this festival continues to grow in scale and reputation.”



Mrs. Ashwini Khandekar, conducting the program



Mr. Shrikant Paradkar delivering the introductory address



Ms. Sharayu Yashwantarao expressing her views.



Mr. Kamlesh Joshi expressing his views.



Dr. Suvarna Patil expressing her views.



Aparna Varde (Pune), who received the 'Ila Award' for Best Player in the National Kho-Kho Championship held at Kurukshetra, being felicitated by Mr. Kamlesh Joshi.



Parth Tetale administering the 'sports oath' to the athletes.



"Sustainable nutrition is the true foundation of an athlete's success," said Dr. Chandrajit Jadhav.

Every year, around six thousand players between the ages of 5 and 19, along with their coaches, arrive in Dervan from different parts of the state for this occasion. This festival, which provides immense energy to athletes and revitalizes the sports culture in rural areas, has now reached a significant level.

'Dervan Youth Games' has secured an important place in Maharashtra's sports calendar, and athletes eagerly look forward to it every year. Notably, even without much advertising or marketing, this festival stands out due to its excellent organization, planning, disciplined management, and generous prizes.

It is not just a sports festival; various sports competitions are organized here throughout the year. In many places, athletes face difficulties in accessing sports complexes for regular practice. However, the SVJCT sports complex remains consistently available for players. Without complex procedures, athletes are given access for training after verifying only essential documents. The sports complex is open to all, with a nominal monthly residential fee of only ₹300 and minimal charges for usage.

Importantly, no condition is imposed on athletes that they must promote or associate their name with the institution. The complex is equipped with modern facilities such as a gymnasium, swimming pool, gait analysis system, force plate, and the rest. Such facilities elsewhere typically require lakhs of rupees in investment, but here they are available at nominal cost. In addition, services of a psychologist, nutritionist, and physiotherapist are also available, which continuously benefit the athletes.

A total of 19 sports disciplines is included in the Dervan Youth Games, ranging from Kho-Kho to Kabaddi, and from Chess to Shooting, covering both indoor and outdoor traditional as well as international sports. With participation from 6,000–7,000 athletes every year, displays of sporting excellence, enthusiasm on the field, and strong spectator presence, "DYG" has now gained recognition across the country.

The number of participating teams and athletes increases every year. Due to intense individual and team competitions, the atmosphere remains highly sporting and energetic for eight days each year.

Over the past twelve years, the Dervan Youth Games has received support and encouragement from various sports organizations, as well as senior organizers and contributions of Kho-Kho Association Official Sandeep Tawde, Pune-based sports organizer and Gymnastics Association Secretary Sandeep Joshi, and Shiv Chhatrapati award-winning player and Mallakhamb Association Official Shantaram Joshi, among others, have been significant to the success of the event.

Education Director Sharayu Yashwantarao highlighted the importance of discipline and team spirit. She said, "Today marks the beginning of sports competitions and is a day that gives new wings to your dreams. When you step onto the field, you represent your school, your family, and the expectations of the nation.

Sports teach discipline, teamwork, and the strength to accept defeat. More important than winning are consistency, hard work, and sportsmanship. Stay humble in victory and learn from defeat to rise again. Keep confidence and give your best effort with full strength on the field."

Health Director Dr. Suvarna Patil said that today's children are increasingly immersed in the virtual world. However, the real need is active participation in physical, outdoor sports. Such games greatly support physical

development during growing years and also enhance mental development through exercise and activity. Avoiding sports in the name of studies is not appropriate. For holistic personality development, there is no substitute for outdoor games and physical exercise. Physical activity improves mental concentration, and sports further enhance focus.



While inaugurating the Olympic photo exhibition, Dr. Chandrajit Jadhav was present along with (from left) Kamlesh Joshi, Ajit Galavankar, Dr. Patil, Mrs. Yashwantarao, Sandeep Tawde, Shrikanth Paradkar, Kedar Nirokhekar, and others.



Kedar Nirokhekar giving information about the exhibition to Dr. Chandrajit Jadhav, with Sandeep Tawde by his side.

Mr. Kamlesh Joshi presented a candid reality before the athletes. He said that today's youth appear to be heavily engaged in gaming and spend a lot of time on it. However, these are not outdoor sports played on the field, but virtual games that often turn into addiction and are highly harmful physically and mentally. Therefore, young people should test their abilities in real outdoor sports and keep their body and mind strong and healthy.

While formally declaring the inauguration of the 'Dervan Youth Games', the chief guest Dr. Chandrajit Jadhav emphasized that mere participation in sports is not enough; athletes must work hard to achieve excellence. Only through discipline and rigorous practice can players shine at national and international levels. He urged athletes to remain determined for top success and not neglect their health.

Speaking on the subject, Dr. Chandrajit Jadhav urged athletes to stay away from junk food. Commenting on athletes' diets, he expressed concern over the growing habit of consuming junk food. He said:

"Junk food increases unnecessary calories in the body, which adversely affects your health and physique. As a result, your performance and stamina on the field may suffer. If you want to achieve excellence, give priority to nutritious food. Success in sports does not depend solely on sweating it out on the field; athletes must also pay special attention to their diet if they wish to compete at the global level and build a name for themselves. A balanced diet is the true foundation of an athlete's success.

Today, competition has increased tremendously. Along with physical fitness, mental stability is equally important, and proper nutrition plays a vital role in achieving it. Athletes should prioritize home-cooked meals rich in proteins and vitamins."

He also emphasized that while a mobile-free society is unrealistic in today's modern age, every athlete must be aware of how much and in what manner they use mobile phones.

After athlete Parth Tetambe administered the Sports Oath to all participants, the program concluded with spectacular and thrilling demonstrations of Mallakhamb and Yoga.

Every year, an exhibition is organized focusing on a particular sport, providing comprehensive information through photographs, charts, and other educational materials, especially in relation to the Olympic movement. This year, the exhibition was dedicated to the sport of Kho-Kho and was inaugurated by Dr. Chandrajit Jadhav. Entrepreneur Kamlesh Joshi, Sports Director Shrikanth Paradkar, Ajit Galavankar, and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

The Youth Games have evolved into much more than a platform for competitions and medals; they have become a medium for introducing athletes to the roots, history, and heritage of sports. As in previous years, the special educational exhibition attracted great interest from athletes and sports enthusiasts alike.

The highlight of this year's exhibition was the presentation of the glorious journey of Kho-Kho, an authentic indigenous Indian sport. The exhibition not only explained the rules of the game but also traced its origins and highlighted renowned players who have achieved international recognition. Detailed information, photographs, historical records, and achievements of prominent players inspired many aspiring athletes.

A unique feature of the Youth Games exhibition is that it goes beyond static information boards and uses audiovisual presentations to educate participants. In previous years, similar exhibitions successfully showcased sports such as gymnastics, football, athletics, badminton, table tennis, and swimming. These video presentations helped athletes understand technical aspects and world-class standards of their respective sports. This research-based exhibition has now become a distinctive identity of the Youth Games, and the large crowds it attracted this year once again demonstrated its popularity.

Address by Chief Guest Prof. Dr. Chandrajit Bhalchandra Jadhav

"For me, Kho-Kho is as sacred as my mother. My entire career, right from childhood, has been closely connected with this sport. I have been playing Kho-Kho since I was ten years old. As a player, I participated in Sub-Junior National Championships, Inter-University Competitions, National Games, and many other tournaments.

My district, Dharashiv (formerly Osmanabad), was once considered one of the weaker districts in the sport. I often wondered why districts like Pune, Mumbai, and Thane consistently produced champion teams, while players of a similar standard were not emerging from my district. I asked myself why we could not create the same sporting environment in Dharashiv.

When I completed my college education in 1999, I decided that I would dedicate myself to developing players from my district. From that year onward, I entered the field as a coach. In 2007, at the Hingoli championship, my team finished runner-up in the Murli Sub-Junior category. That achievement gave me the confidence that we could accomplish something significant.

Driven by that determination and enthusiasm, I continued developing players. Gradually, our progress accelerated, and today I am proud to say that one of the finest Kho-Kho teams in the country belongs to Dharashiv and has emerged from my own training ground.

One of my players, Mrs. Sarika Kale, has been honored with the nation's prestigious Arjuna Award. A total of eight players and mentors from our system have received the Shiv Chhatrapati State Sports Award from the Government of Maharashtra, and twenty players have gone on to achieve remarkable success in the sport.

One of my players received the award for being the best player in the country, which is a matter of immense pride and achievement for me. Another significant accomplishment is that more than 170 athletes trained at my ground, who have won medals at the state, national, and international levels, are today serving in various government departments through the 5% sports quota, reservation benefits, or direct recruitment.

Most Kho-Kho players come from economically weak and ordinary families. The fact that I have been able to help build and secure the futures of many such families gives me immense satisfaction. Alongside this, I have been working as a leading sports administrator in Maharashtra since 2010.

The Maharashtra Kho-Kho Association began its journey in 1956. Looking at the nearly seventy-year period from 1956 to 2026, the sport has undergone tremendous transformation. In 2010, under the leadership of the late and respected Ajitdada Pawar as President, and with me serving as the General Secretary of the Maharashtra Kho-Kho Association, we assumed responsibility for the organization. From that point onward, Kho-Kho in Maharashtra witnessed a remarkable turnaround.

Today, if we look back, the period from 2010 to 2026 can truly be regarded as the golden era of Kho-Kho in Maharashtra. Whether it is the quality of event organization, cash prizes and facilities for players, or employment opportunities for sportspersons, Maharashtra has emerged as a leader in the country. Kho-Kho, a sport born on the soil of Maharashtra, has become a milestone in creating careers and transforming the lives of children from ordinary families. This, for me, is one of the greatest achievements.

I know every Kho-Kho player in Maharashtra, and indeed in the country, by name. I am familiar with their game and performance. Likewise, it is important to maintain close relationships with referees, coaches, and sports administrators. After all, we belong to the soil of Maharashtra, and this game is a part of our heritage.

If we look at indigenous Indian sports such as Mallakhamb, Atya-Patya, Yoga, Wrestling, Kabaddi, and Kho-Kho, they may not be as globally popular as some other sports, but they are immensely valuable for personality development, holistic growth of students, intellectual sharpness, and strategic thinking. These games are deeply rooted in Indian tradition.

A Kho-Kho player shaped by these values excels wherever he or she goes. Whether that person becomes a peon or a district collector, the commitment to excellence remains the same. Such individuals strive to leave a distinct mark in whichever field they enter. In my view, athletes and coaches are the most important stakeholders in sports. Maintaining direct communication and a sense of responsibility toward them is essential.

Although Kho-Kho is at the center of my work, the ultimate responsibility of every sports administrator is to work for the development and future of the athletes. I have always tried to preserve the bond between sports and sportspersons, and to stand by athletes in solving their challenges and difficulties.

Their parents may be the heads of their families, but I consider every athlete associated with me as part of my extended family. With that perspective, I continue striving to work more effectively for their welfare and success.

After completing my postgraduate degree (M.P.Ed.) in 1999, I was immediately appointed as a Professor and Head of the Sports Department at a senior college. From that moment, I developed a strong resolve to dedicate myself to Kho-Kho and contribute to it in the best possible manner. As I continued my work, success followed.

During this period, I studied the development of Kho-Kho across Maharashtra. I closely observed regions where the sport had flourished and where high-quality players were consistently being produced. In 2009, I submitted my doctoral research synopsis at Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar. The proposal was approved, and under the guidance of Dr. Kamal Jadhav, I conducted three years of research.

My doctoral study was titled '*A Study of the Contribution of the Maharashtra Kho-Kho Association to the Development of Kho-Kho in Maharashtra.*' The research focused on the functioning of the Maharashtra Kho-Kho Association and its affiliated district associations. Through this study, I gained deep insights into the sport, its administration, and the areas where improvements were needed.

The process of examining recommendations, hypotheses, and various dimensions of the sport broadened my perspective and enhanced my intellectual maturity. It enabled me to view Kho-Kho from an entirely new angle. The transformation that everyone has witnessed in Maharashtra Kho-Kho since 2010 is, in many ways, a result of that learning and vision. In 2010, I became the Secretary of the Maharashtra Kho-Kho Association, and the experience gained through research proved invaluable.

Research played a major role in my life. It helped me identify my own shortcomings, improve myself, and contribute more effectively to the growth and development of the sport. Research helped me understand how the development of a sport should take place in a systematic manner. It enabled me to work more effectively and efficiently.

Whenever research is undertaken, it brings both strengths and weaknesses to light. It helps identify weak links, while recommendations emerging from the study become extremely valuable. Through questionnaires, field visits, and interactions with various districts, associations, and players, researchers carefully examine existing problems and explore possible solutions. Such research undoubtedly proves beneficial. It benefited me personally, and it also greatly assisted me in organizational development, strengthening sports administration, and enhancing the popularity of Kho-Kho. I say this with great pride today.

Over the years, I have travelled extensively across Maharashtra, throughout India, and to several countries around the world for sports events. However, I can confidently say that this sports complex is truly unique. It has been created by passionate sports workers without any government assistance. Such a sports complex is one of a kind in the country.

Here, one finds athletics facilities, a swimming pool, football grounds, badminton courts, basketball courts, Kho-Kho and Kabaddi grounds, a shooting range, what is not available here?

As a sports administrator, I feel deeply honored to have been invited to this place. I bow before this land because I have had the opportunity to experience its spirit firsthand. I will carry with me the fragrance of this soil and the inspiration of the dedicated volunteers and workers associated with it. I am certain that this visit to the Dervan Sports Complex will continue to provide me with energy and motivation in the years ahead.

Now, at the age of fifty, I also had the opportunity to interact with Kaka Maharaj and receive his blessings during my visit to the Dervan Sports Complex. That blessing itself is a great source of strength and inspiration for me.

This sports complex is of international standards. Even governments have often struggled to create facilities of this quality, yet the senior sports organizers here have built it through sheer dedication and selfless commitment. It demonstrates what can be achieved through determination and a sense of social responsibility. These distinguished individuals have shown how much can be accomplished in sports and social service through collective willpower and vision.

The concept of **Indoor Kho-Kho** has gained prominence in recent years. As the sport expanded internationally, it became clear that outdoor conditions in many countries were not conducive to play. Some regions experience extreme cold, while others face frequent rainfall. As a result, a sport traditionally played outdoors gradually moved indoors.

However, facilities for indoor Kho-Kho remain scarce, not only in Maharashtra but across India. In this context, the Shri Vitthalrao Joshi Charities Trust deserves immense credit for constructing Maharashtra's first dedicated indoor Kho-Kho stadium. This is a matter of great pride for me.

Apart from the sports complexes at Balewadi and Dharashiv, there are very few indoor Kho-Kho stadiums anywhere in Maharashtra. In fact, there are only three or four such facilities in the entire state. Yet the indoor stadium here at Dervan is exceptional, it can comfortably accommodate four playing courts simultaneously and provides excellent arrangements for spectators and event management. It is truly a one-of-a-kind facility.

Most indoor stadiums are air-conditioned or designed primarily for competitions played on mats. What makes Dervan special is that it has preserved Maharashtra's traditional sporting culture by providing a well-developed clay playing surface. This tradition of nurturing athletes on natural soil remains alive here, and the availability of such a ground within the Dervan Sports Complex is a matter of immense pride for all of us.

Dervan Youth Games 2026 – A Brief Overview

As in previous years, this week-long sports festival received an enthusiastic response from athletes. A total of **2,108 participants** (compared to 1,986 last year) competed in individual events across various age groups and sports disciplines. As expected, there was significant participation from the districts of **Pune, Kolhapur, Sangli, Satara, Sindhudurg, and Ratnagiri**. Nashik, Thane, and Mumbai also recorded encouraging participation.

Athletics attracted the highest number of participants. Gymnastics, Mallakhamb, Archery, Badminton, Swimming, and Shooting also witnessed excellent participation.

In team sports, **364 teams** (compared to 326 last year) showcased their skills, involving **3,403 athletes** (compared to 2,932 last year). Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, and Langdi, as always, witnessed intense competition.

Overall, **6,860 athletes** participated in this year's event, compared to **4,918** in the previous year. The participation of girls was also noteworthy, and in line with the Trust's policy, continued efforts are being made to further increase their involvement.

This year, the number of participants was **1,187 in individual events** and **2,070 in team sports**, totalling **3,257**. Successful athletes were awarded **117 trophies, 1,160 medals, and cash prizes worth ₹17 lakh**.

Selected Sports and Winners

Langdi: 14 Teams, 203 Players

Boys Under-15

Champions: Zilla Parishad School, Mandki (Chiplun Taluka), **Best Player:** Atharva Rajendra Ghumak (Mandki)

A remarkable achievement was recorded as Mandki School retained the Langdi championship title for the tenth consecutive year at the Derwan Youth Games. For the past 22 years, teachers Ravindra Ghanekar, Headmistress Meena Vichare, Vidya Kasbekar, and recently retired graduate teacher Dattatraya Narvekar have not only trained students to excel in sports but have also maintained the school's academic excellence despite being located in a small village.

Runners-up: Chiplun United Gurukul, Chiplun

Girls Under-15

Champions: Pune Eagles, Pune. **Best Player:** Tejal Nitin Sonar (Pune Eagles)

Runners-up: Shirke High School, Ratnagiri

Boys Under-12

Champions: Ramanbaug School, Pune. **Best Player:** Viraj Nilesh Deshmukh (Ramanbaug School)

Runners-up: Gadre English Medium School, Chiplun

Girls Under-12

Champions: Shirke High School, Ratnagiri. **Best Player:** Janhavi Prakash Zore (Shirke High School, Ratnagiri)

Runners-up: Gadre English Medium School, Chiplun

62 teams participated in Kabaddi: 127 Competitive Matches

Boys Under-14

Champions: Vishwaseva Vidya, Sangli

Runners-up: A.D.T. Sharada Sports, Baramati

- **Best Player:** Viraj Balaj (Sangli)
- **Best Raider:** Ashraf Sheikh (Baramati)
- **Best Defender:** Avdhoot Sodge

Girls Under-14

Champions: Bhairavnath Kabaddi Team, Pune

Runners-up: Rajarshi Shahu Vidyalaya, Kolhapur

- **Best Player:** Aradhya Dodkar (Pune)
- **Best Raider:** Sai Nikam (Kolhapur)
- **Best Defender:** Dnyaneshwari Bavle (Pune)

Boys Under-18

Champions: Aniket Foundation Team, Kolhapur

Runners-up: Annasaheb Dange Team, Kolhapur

- **Best Player:** Sarvesh Teher (Kolhapur)

- **Best Raider:** Samarth Range (Kolhapur)
- **Best Defender:** Manthan Sawant (Kolhapur)

Girls Under-18

Champions: P.T.B. Team, Pune

Runners-up: Bhairavnath Vidyalaya Team, Satara

- **Best Player:** Samruddhi Mugurkar (Pune)
- **Best Raider:** Bhairavi Ingwale
- **Best Defender:** Madhavi Jadhav (Pune)

Shooting Competition

Atharva Sutar won the gold medal in the under-17 open sight category and Rigved Khot won the gold medal in the under-14 open sight category. Yashraj Gujre of Solapur won the gold medal in the under-14 air pistol category. Nidhi Hadkar won the bronze medal in the under-14 group. Aneska Palande won the silver medal in the under-14 peep sight category. Ishan Nadar won the bronze medal in the under-14 peep sight category. Swara Kaldhone of Solapur won the gold medal in the under-17 air pistol category and Vaishnavi Gujre won the silver medal in the under-14 air pistol category.

89 athletes hit the target in archery

A total of 22 players from Satara won medals in the archery competition. While a total of 10 players from Pune made their mark. Two players from Thane became gold medalists. In the under-10 group, Swaroop Kasekar won gold medals in the compound round and Sharyu Saitwadekar in the recurve round. In the Indian round, Samarth Suryavanshi won gold medals in the under-10 group, Aaradhya Shinde in the girls' round and Samarth Thopte and Rashi Garde won gold medals in the under-18 group. In the under-18 girls' compound round, all three medals were won by players from Pune. Samruddhi Taur, Anushka Pawar, Abhidnya Gawde were the medalists. Jyoti Sawant, Afrin Pathan, and Viraj Pawar from Sangli were the medalists.

Football: Intense Competition Among 31 Teams

In the Girls' Under-17 category, Soccer Training Team defeated Gijavane High School 1-0 in the final to claim the championship.

In the Boys' Under-17 category, the final was played between Swarajya Academy, Kolhapur and Soccer Training, Kolhapur. Soccer Training, Kolhapur won the match 3-1. However, after the match ended, players from Swarajya Academy displayed unsporting behaviour and became involved in pushing, scuffling, and fighting with their opponents on the field. As a result, Swarajya Academy, Kolhapur was disqualified from the tournament and disciplinary action was taken against the team.

In the Boys' Under-14 category, St. Xavier's, Kolhapur defeated Zeal International School, Sangli by 2-1 in the final. Earlier, in the semifinals, Soccer Training Kolhapur (C) was disqualified following objections regarding age fraud among its players.



Volunteers with Chief Trustee Shri Ashok Raghunath Joshi

28 teams participating in volleyball

Girls under 16 from Wai, Satara won the championship. In the volleyball club and boys category, Shivraj Vidyalaya and Junior College, Murgud, Kolhapur, won the championship. In the girls category, Sharda Sports Academy, Shardanagar, Baramati, Pune district, won the runner-up title. In the boys category, Y Volleyball Club, Satara district, won the runner-up title.

Sangli and Satara districts dominate in Badminton Tournament

Shlok Bhosale of Podar International School, Satara won gold medals in both the boys' under-13 and under-15 age groups, while M. S. Tarse of L. P. Patil Vidyalaya, Sangli won gold medals in both the girls' under-13 and under-15 age groups, and Gauri Pramod Gondkar of Saurabh Chavan Badminton Academy, Satara won gold in the 11-year-old girls' group and bronze in the under-13 age group. Samarth Sawant of R. B. P. Badminton Academy, Sangli won bronze in the under-15 age group and silver in the under-17 age group. And Anushree Modlimbkar of Mumbai won silver medals in the girls' 13 and 15 age groups.

In the under-11 girls' badminton category, Neerja Rajesh Pawar of F. S. Club of Kudal in Sindhudurg district won the silver medal and Swara Yogesh Koli of the same club won the bronze medal. In the under-11 boys' category, Riyansh Abhijit Raut of SCBA in Umbraj (Karad) in Satara district won the gold medal, while Kunal Kishore Jejurkar of RPB Badminton Academy in Sindhudurg won the silver medal and Durvank Prathamesh Sawant of Abhinav Prashale won the bronze medal. In the under-13 boys' category, Viraj Arjugade of Royal English School in Satara won the silver medal and Rishank Kulkarni of Khelo India Center School in Sindhudurg won the bronze medal. In the under-15 girls' category, Meera Todkar of Saurabh Chavan Academy in Satara won the bronze medal. In the boys' under-15 category, Aaradhya Pawar of Podar International School, Satara, won the silver medal. In the boys' under-17 category, Sairaj Samant of Vetora High School, Sindhudurg, won the gold medal and Vedant Poyekar of G. V. Public School won the bronze medal.

Skating: In the under-8 boys and girls category, Thane's Riha Shetty, in the under-10 murli category, Ratnagiri's Spruha Surve, and in the under-10 boys' category, Ratnagiri's Advait Bahutule won the gold medal. Ratnagiri's Shivansh Mahadik won the silver medal and Sindhudurg's Devansh Koli won the bronze medal. Under-10 Among girls, Neha Shinde of Ratnagiri won the silver medal and Prisha Chavan of Ratnagiri won the bronze medal. In the under-10 boys, Swatej Lad and Gauransh Kittur of Ratnagiri won the silver and bronze medals respectively.

Pune tops the wall climbing competition

Pune dominated in all four categories of the competition, except for two medals won by Srijan Patwardhan of Ratnagiri and two medals won by Ashish Jagtap of Satara in the boys' under-15 category and three medals won by Tanuja Mahadik of Satara in the girls' under-18 category. In the boys' under-18 category, Ayush Pawar of Pune won the gold, Viraj Phalke the silver and Ishan Suryavanshi the bronze. In the girls' under-18 category, Veda Chaudhary of Pune won the gold and Iravati Tatuskar the silver. In the boys' under-15 category, Maula Syed of Pune won the bronze. Also, in the girls' under-15 category, Isha Waghmare of Pune won the gold, Kavya Mali the silver and Meera Chaudhary the bronze.

Table Tennis: Satara's Aarav Deshmukh dominated by winning gold medals in the boys' under-13 and under-15 age groups. Satara's Shravani Main won gold in the girls' under-15 age group and silver in the under-13 age group. Satara's Gauri Naik won gold in the girls' under-17 age group and bronze in the under-15 age group, maintaining Satara district's dominance in this competition.

In this competition, Varsha Parulekar of Sindhudurg won silver medals in the girls' under-15 and under-17 age groups, while Pushpam Shah of Kolhapur won silver medals in the boys' under-13 and under-15 age groups. In the girls' under-11 age group, Shreya Main of Satara won gold, Vibha Ghadge won silver and Arnika Kale won bronze medals. In the boys' under-11 age group, Shubhankar Jadhav won gold, Pranav Bhosale won silver and Niranjana Patil won bronze medals. In the boys' under-13 age group, Rajveer Patil won bronze medals. In the girls' under-13 age group, Aarohi Chandane of Sangli won gold and Mukta Shevde won bronze medals. In the girls' under-17 age group, Gauri Naik of Satara won gold and Swara Bhasme won bronze medals. In the boys' under-17 category, Sindhudurg's Laik Talwadekar won the gold medal, Kolhapur's Vedant Pujari won the silver and Kunal Bartakke won the bronze medal. Rajveer Gaikwad won the bronze medal in the under-15 category.

Swimming - 704 athletes and 21 teams participating: Advika Soni of Blue Water Sports Academy, Pune, performed brilliantly in this competition by winning 5 gold medals in this competition, securing first place in all the events of 100m freestyle, 100m and 200m butterfly, 100m backstroke and 4450m mixed freestyle relay in the under-12 age group. Similarly, Nidhi Bhide of Mahesh Milke Swimming Group, Ratnagiri, won one gold, one bronze and three silver medals, while Krishang Amol Pakhale of Aquatechnics, Ratnagiri, won two bronze and two silver medals and won first place in the 4450 mixed freestyle relay category.

In this year's competition, most of the clubs from Pune participated, including Blue Water Sports Academy, Champion Aquatic Club, Harmony Aquatic Club, Metrocity Club, Swift Finswim Club, Symbiosis School, as well as Shantiniketan Swim and PGT from Kolhapur, J. M. C. Club from Jaysingpur, Mahesh Milke Swimming Group and Aquatechnics from Ratnagiri, J. M. Rathi Swim Club from Raigad, Maa and Don Bosco High School and Junior College from Sindhudurg, Starfish Sports Foundation from Thane, Tasgave Swimming Society from Miraj and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Smarak Samiti and C.S.M. S. Players from all these clubs participated and performed brilliantly. Also, in the mixed 4450-meter relay competition for the under-16 age group, Blue Water Sports Academy Pune won first place, Harmony Aquatic Club (A) second place and Tasgave Swimming Society from Miraj won third place. In the mixed 4450-meter relay competition for under-12s, Blue Water Sports Academy Pune won first place, Akantechniks from Ratnagiri won second place, and Tasgave Swimming Institute from Miraj won third place.

Basketball: Kolhapur's Warna Club won the 16-year-old girls' competition. In the same age group, Satara's N. B. Hoops secured the first position. In this competition, Kolhapur's Fly Basketball secured the second position in the 16-year-old girls' and Kolhapur's Chhatrapati Shivaji High School, Ghunki secured second place in both the girls' and boys' Under-16 categories. Meanwhile, in the Under-14 category, JSPM Blossom High School (Pune) took first place among girls and N.B. Hoops (Satara) took first place among boys; notably, N.B. Hoops (Satara) also secured second place in both the girls' and boys' sections of this same Under-14 age group.

Domination of Ratnagiri chess players: Along with field games, chess matches were also held in this sports festival. Chess players of various age groups from across the state participated in it. In the under-9 age group, Aarav Nimkar from Ratnagiri, in the under-10 age group, Chetan Shinde from Ratnagiri, in the under-11 age group, Viraj Bansod from Ratnagiri, in the under-12 age group, Soham Karuvar from Ratnagiri, and Omkar Sitap from the under-16 age group won gold medals.

In the under-10 category, Ratnagiri's Mayank Jadhav won the silver medal and Riyansh Javale won the bronze medal, showing Ratnagiri's dominance over the entire group. In the under-16 girls' category, Pune's Arya Sitap, Ratnagiri's Nidhi Lele and Ratnagiri's Saanvi Damle won the best female chess players. A total of 15 players were selected as the best players based on their performance in the competition. Out of these, Vaibhav Raul from Sindhudurg won the first position by scoring six out of seven points. A total of 108 chess players participated in the competition. Out of these, 10 players had achieved international ratings.

Carrom: In the carrom competition, Sakshi Ramdurkar from Sindhudurg won the gold medal in the girls' category. Swara Mohile from Ratnagiri won the silver medal. In the boys' category, Omkar Wadkar from Kolhapur won the gold medal, Shreyansh Waghate from Ratnagiri won the silver medal and Anay Bhagwat from Ratnagiri won the bronze medal.

69 teams participating in Kho-Kho: 968 players

Children's group under 14 years of age:

Winner: Shiv Pratishthan, Khandala, Satara

Runner-up: Ramanbagh Mitramandal, Pune

Ayush Yadav, Khandala Best Defender, Vedant Gaikwad, Pune Best Chaser, Varad Pol, Khandala Best All-rounder

Girls' group under 14 years:

Winner: Rajmata Jijau Sports Club, Pune

Runner-up: Rajmata Ahilyadevi Holkar Sports Club, Sangli Vedika Tamkhade, Sangli Best Defender, Shreya Jadhav, Pune-Best Chaser, Sai Garad, Pune Best All-rounder

Children below 18 years:

Winner: Rajendra Vidyalaya, Khandala, Satara

Runner-up: Shirsekars M. Gandhi Academy - Mumbai Suburban, Amey Murchavde - Mumbai Suburban Best Rescue

Tarbejkhan - Khandala, Satara - Best Chase, Lokesh Jadhav – Khandala, Satara - Best All-rounder

Girls below 18 years:

Winner: Rajmata Ahilyadevi Sports Club, Bhilwadi Sangli

Runners-up: Dnyananavikas Vidyalaya – Thane, Dhanashree Kank - Thane Best Defender, Dhanashree Tamkhade - Sangli Best Chaser, Shrawani Tamkhade - Sangli Best All-rounder

More than three hundred volunteers worked day and night to make this sports competition a success. The participating players and their parents expressed their satisfaction with the successful organization of this competition and expressed their determination to participate in the competition every year. The entire competition was conducted with utmost discipline and according to schedule. Even though the temperature reached a record high during the competition, the enthusiasm and spirit of the players did not diminish.

The food and accommodation arrangements for the players were excellent throughout the sports city. The players and especially the parents expressed satisfaction with the provision of sugarcane juice, nutritious food, nutritious biscuits, fruits, milk, etc., which strictly met the health and hygiene standards. Many expressed their feelings about the prompt and courteous service of the volunteers.

Some of the responses:

Avinash Pandhari (Eagles Club, Pune): We have come from Pune. We have fielded the Langadi and Kho-Kho teams here. We have fielded a total of five teams here, one Langadi and the remaining four Kho-Kho teams. Our average playing members are around 150. We have five schools, Vimalabai Garware, Apte School, Bhawe School, Renuka Swaroop and Mahila Sadan. We teach at Renuka Swaroop ground. We practice for two months before the Dervan competitions. This is our fourth year coming to Dervan. My experience is very good and what they do is very good and we like it and we prepare only for Dervan.

Amit Nimbalkar, Assistant Coach, CMS Club, Vileparle: This is my first time here. Our swimming pool has been closed for the past two months; yet the kids have come here to compete. This is our second year; I have brought four kids, and all four have won medals. The food here is amazing, food that even hotels cannot provide! There is no problem with water. Even the washroom has good water. Hot water is good.

Sandeep Yashwant Sawant (Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil Sports Club Islampur): We have brought six boys and ten girls. This is our third year. All the planning is done well here. Every year we attend this competition. We teach yoga. Our group is associated with the school. We have come here with their permission. All kinds of games are included here, so all rural players get a chance here. There is Mallakhamb. There is Kabaddi. There is Kho-Kho, it is very good.

Kanchan Umesh Dalvi: I have come from Mumbai. This is my second year here. The campus is very beautiful. That's why I feel like coming again and again and we will keep coming, I pray to God that my son also continues to win here like this. The accommodation facilities here are very good. The food facilities are also very good at a low cost. Yes. That means there is no need to go out. You provide enough food for one person for a small amount of money. So, we don't have any problem with food here.

Kaustubh Suryakant Pednekar: I have my academy 'Muktai' at Sawantwadi. It is and through it we train children in carrom and chess. We have been implementing these activities for the last ten to eleven years and we have been coming to these Dervan Youth Games continuously for about nine years and in both carrom and chess my children who now play at the state and national level win prizes here every year. We are very happy after coming here. We come here the day before. We stay here for two days. We enjoy it very much. The competitions are also held in a great manner and especially our coordinator, Paradkar and his team give us great guidance; and we are very supportive. That is why we like to come back here. In the national competitions held outside, these children play in three states, namely Karnataka, Maharashtra and Goa, they play continuously and they win prizes

there too. For chess, we now have a seven-year-old boy, Akash Watwe, who comes from Sawantwadi. This is the first time he is participating in such a big competition. Even though his parents are not there, he has come with us. He is going to play the competition very well and will enjoy it. Children also play in the same way.

Kedar Somnath Laate: I have come from Pune. For the past six years, I have been bringing my elder son to this Dervan competition. This year, I am also bringing my younger son for the first time. Both my sons always compete in the Dervan competition in swimming. In Pune, we practice at Deccan Gymkhana with Marathe Sir. The competition is very beautiful and well organized. It starts on time. It ends on time. All the other arrangements are very beautiful. The food here is very delicious. We will definitely come next year!

Narendra Dhankad: We have been coming here for the past two years. This is the third year. We have never seen such an arrangement anywhere. It is the best arrangement. We come here every year with pleasure. Even if we don't go to Mumbai, we definitely come to Dervan. We have never seen such an arrangement and the people who make such arrangements!

Omkar Deshpande: I have come from Kolhapur. My daughter has come here to play gymnastics. This is my second time here. The arrangement here is very beautiful. The hall here, the atmosphere and the way it is managed, the way it is organized is very beautiful. Everything is organized beautifully here. If someone needs anything, they can get medical services immediately, I felt very good after seeing everything here. The infrastructure here is already very good and it is still getting better. It is very good that these things are happening in an area like Konkan. Anyone in a metro city does it. I felt very proud and good to see that such a beautiful Konkan can happen!

Deepraj Suryakant Jamdar I am the coach of PTB, Pune. Here the planning is very good. This campus is beautiful. My team is here for kabaddi. I have a girls' team. After coming here, after seeing this campus, I feel that I want one like this in our Kolhapur district too. The planning here and the people here are very supportive. Since we have a girls' team, they take more precautions. Your people take more care of the safety of our girls than our coaches. So, it feels very safe here. When our girls were staying in the hostel, not a single girl wanted to come down after nine. Once a girl goes up to the hostel, we get good guidance like 'just tell us what time you want to wake up' and we really want to learn something from them. Our team's name is PTB Pune Team. Our team is from Kolhapur but our registration is from Pune.

Anand Kadav (Ramanbagh, Pune): We have been coming to play Kho-Kho for three consecutive years in Dervan. We come for the competition. Last year we won the 'Under 14' category. This year we have five teams here to play. We have brought 4 Kabaddi teams and our Langdi team. We have brought a total of five teams and a total of 76 players here for the competition. We are happy to come here every year. We look forward to March to come for this competition. The arrangement is very good! Like every year, the players' good facilities, good food facilities, and accommodation; your cooperation. Everyone behaves very politely. There is no confusion of any kind in this competition. Be it the referee or the planning committee, they cooperate fully. We are definitely happy to say that next year we will increase one more team and participate in this competition with more enthusiasm and enjoy the game. Winning and losing is everyone's business, but we would definitely like to come next year.

Sonal Mangesh Nade We are from Pimpri-Chinchwad (Kalevadi). To be honest, this institute is very good. There are many games here and if children want to make a career in sports, there is a lot of scope here. Nowadays, sports are given importance. Therefore, it is more important to do some activities. Apart from studies, sports are also needed for physical fitness. And how is it here? Everyone is treated the same. There is no need to put a number on someone's identity. Children play here and everyone gives them a chance here, so it feels good and there is a lot of excitement that children come from many places to see what their children do, how they do it, and children come here from far away. They come from different villages. They come from the city and come together here and this institute has given so much importance to sports and I have been coming here for four years now. The main thing is that sports are very important for the progress of children. My son has won a gold medal. His name is Satyajit Nade. My daughter Gatha Nade has also won a gold medal. The arrangement here is very good. Thank you to everyone!

Swapnil Atmaram Kadam: I live in Dombivli in Thane district and I used to read about this program, sports activities in the paper for about seven-eight years. This year I came to my village on the occasion of Holi and my daughter has been doing yoga since last year. I had read the brochure here and I thought I would give her name in Traditional Yoga and now we have come to participate. It is really very nice. All the arrangements are very nice.

The food is very nice. My wife and I talked to the volunteers here, we were very happy with them. We like the atmosphere here, cleanliness, neatness, discipline.

Ishanya Sports Academy, Warnanagar: Competition is very well organized. It is perfect. Your service, food, hostel room etc. are absolutely perfect. It is like the Olympics. We have brought 50 children here. Your staff here is very nice. The medical treatment is also very good. The cleanliness is also very good!



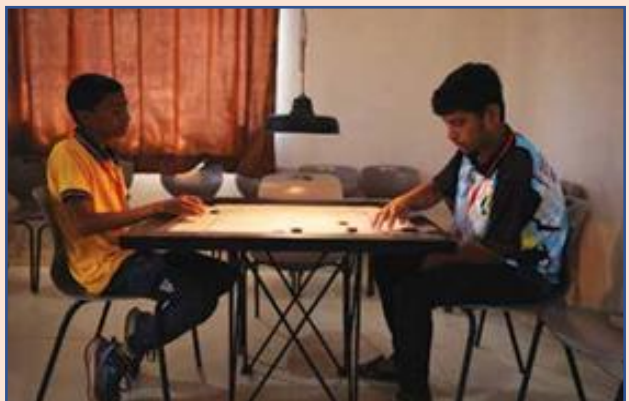
Athletes from Aatkirwadi, Tal. Panhala

Feedback From Mr. Anil Chavan, Ratnagiri:

A team from Vidyamandir Atkirwadi, Tal. Panhala, Dist. Kolhapur had come for a running competition. The children did not have shoes. If they ran barefoot on their synthetic track, there was a possibility of injuring their feet. These children from a lower economic class were voluntarily provided with shoes and socks by volunteers Mr. Yogesh and Rajesh Vichare and Nilesh Shedde the night before. This letter from the principal of that school is telling!)









Closing ceremony of 'Deravan Youth Games'



From left: Mrs. Sharayu Yashwantrao, Dr. Suvarna Patil, Mr. Vikasrao Walawalkar, Mr. Manoj Erande (Chief Guest), Dr. Deepak Mane, Ajit Galvankar, Shrikant Paradkar

The closing ceremony of the sports festival began on 17th March 2025 at 5.30 pm. Mr. Manoj Erande was invited as the chief guest for the ceremony. Along with him, Prof. Dr. Deepak Mane was also present at the ceremony. After he arrived at the ceremony venue, the final round of the 100-meter running competition for various age groups was held.

Mr. Manoj Erande is a great swimmer and is considered an excellent player, a great coach and an inspiring personality in the field of sports. He was educated at Loyola High School, S.P. College and Symbiosis in Pune. He is an English Channel swimmer and has completed the journey of 26.5 nautical miles from Dharamtar to Gateway of India in a record seven hours and 57 minutes, and has participated in thirteen competitions at the national level.

He has won many medals for Maharashtra. He is a successful coach and has produced more than 65 national champion players, some of whom have participated in Asian Games. He has received many prestigious awards, including the Shiv Chhatrapati Award for his outstanding achievements in sports. He is currently a member of the Sports Council of SPPU Pune Vidyalaya and holds important responsibilities in various sports competitions. He writes on sports topics for Dainik Sakal newspaper, swimming training for special children.

Prof. Dr. Deepak Mane has contributed to the field of sports and physical education for a long time. He has inspired many students. He is a beautiful blend of knowledge, sports and discipline. He has served as the Director of Sports and Physical Education, Head of the Department of Physical Education and Dean of the Faculty at Savitribai Phule Pune University. He has served in many important positions.



Mr. Vikasrao Walawalkar felicitated Mr. Sandeep Tawde



Sports Director Shrikant Paradkar reviewing the competition

Upon the arrival of the chief guests at the venue, the Chief Trustee of the Trust, Shri. Vikasrao Walawalkar, welcomed them with a bouquet and a memento. Director of Education Sharyu Yashwantrao, Director of Health Dr. Suvarna Patil, Director of Sports Shrikant Paradkar, Shri. Ajit Galvankar were also present on the stage. Shri. Sandeep Tawde, Senior Sports Organizer and Secretary Ratnagiri District Athletics and Kho-Kho Association, who has been present for the entire day every year since the first year of the competition and played a valuable role in planning the competition, were first felicitated by Shri. Walawalkar Saheb, after which Director of Sports Shrikant Paradkar reviewed the competition.

In his speech, he said, "The 12th 'Dervan Youth Games' was organized from February 27 to March 6. 19 sports competitions were organized in it. A total of 6800 players put their skills to the test. Considering the ongoing examination season, there is no doubt that this response to the sports competitions here is a confidence booster for the organization. Players of various sports, A total of more than 8000 sports enthusiasts, including technical officers, guides, office bearers of various sports organizations and volunteers, made these sports competitions a real success. In this competition, 117 trophies, 1160 medals and a cash prize of Rs. 17 lakhs were distributed to the players. The inauguration of this year's sports festival was held in the presence of Shiv Chhatrapati Award-winning Kho-Kho player Prof. Dr. Chandrajit Jadhav. The presence of respected Manoj Erande for today's closing ceremony is inspiring for all of us.

While reviewing the competition, the indoor Kho-Kho complex, which is unique here, received a huge response with a maximum of 72 teams participating. Players from various rural areas of Maharashtra had come to participate in this competition. 1100 players also participated in the athletics competition. 356 competitors attended for the Mallakhamb game and 189 for the Yoga, showing the popularity of the traditional game. By increasing the competition types for the age groups of 8, 10 and under 12 years. It wouldn't be wrong to say that the organization's efforts to provide the younger players with a competitive environment was successful.



Prize distribution by Mr. Manoj Erande



Prize distribution by Mr. Vikasrao Walawalkar



"After coming here yesterday and seeing all this atmosphere, I felt like I should have come here earlier." - Prof. Dr. Deepak Mane



Mr. Manoj Erande Sports is not just about playing but living it. What is taught through sports is not taught in books.

As many as 159 players participated in five sports in swimming. Four national players participated in this. 120 players participated in the archery sport. This competition is becoming a benchmark for players and coaches for the pre-school competition preparation season. Players from different parts of the state overcame obstacles like harsh weather and exam days and attended the competition. Many renowned coaches and organizers from the sports world also came to visit the competition. The joy on the faces of the players participating in the competition was indescribable when they received these medals in person. In the special event of the competition, i.e. the Olympic exhibition, comprehensive information about Kho-Kho was presented this year. There, recreational games were organized for children. The children enjoyed it to the fullest. Proper planning is behind the successful organization of any big competition. Part of this is that on the first day of this competition, the schedule of the competition to be held from March 18 to March 25, 2027 next year was posted for the information of the players and attendees.

Various school and organization competitions are organized in this complex throughout the year. 8 state-level, 4 division-level, 12 district-level competitions were successfully held in the complex. It is also appropriate to present a graph of the players who practiced here throughout the year. In which, Tanmayi Jadhav, a swimmer from the sports complex, won a silver medal in the school state-level competition and qualified for the national competition. Also, Aarohi Palkhade won a silver medal in the Sindhudurg sea swimming competition by covering a distance of 3 km.

In rifle shooting, Harsh Bagve won a bronze medal in the CBSC South Zone competition after a brilliant performance. Similarly, Srushti Jadhav won a bronze medal in the Maharashtra Air and Fire Arms Competition. In the field competition, Khushi Hase won second place in the state-level 800 m. competition and participated in the national competition held in Bhubaneswar. Similarly, Rohan Chaudhary won third place in the state-level 10,000 m. competition.

"In the future, if the athletes from Maharashtra and across the country, who are present here and who are deprived of sports facilities, taking inspiration from the 'Dervan Youth Games', take advantage of these facilities and excel not only at the national but also at the international level, then the construction of this sports complex will be truly worthwhile, and we are certainly optimistic about that."

After sunset, the national tricolor flag was lowered with honors in the sports complex. The winners of the 100m running competition were awarded medals by the chief guest Mr. Erande, Prof. Dr. Deepak Mane and the chief trustee Mr. Walawalkar, after which the chief guest expressed his thoughts.

Prof. Dr. Deepak Mane said, "Welcome to all the players, parents and friends present at the Dervan ground on this auspicious evening. The 12th 'Dervan Youth Games' is being held here today on the occasion of Shiv Jayanti in the holy land of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Since yesterday, I got the opportunity to watch some sports competitions at this ground. This good initiative has been run by the organization in this rural area for the last twelve years. This sports complex was built here with our own contribution. And they are moving towards fulfilling its goal. I wish them well and appreciate them. I have wanted to visit this area for many years. I have been invited to this place many times. But it was not possible due to busy schedule. But after coming here yesterday and seeing all this atmosphere, I felt like I should have come here earlier. I got to see the Shiv Jayanti program in the morning.



*Mr. Manoj Erande receiving the sports flag from
Yogesh Vichare*



*Mr. Manoj Erande handing over the sports flag to
Shrikant Paradkar*

I got to see such a beautiful program in Dervan for the first time. It is very remarkable that Walawalkar and his colleagues have created interest in education, health, especially physical education, and sports. As we know, this organization has set up a synthetic track on this ground since ten to twelve years ago and many children from Mumbai and Pune are coming here for residential training. While talking to Sir, it was noticed that thirty-one thousand foreign players come and play here every year. This is an innovative achievement. This achievement in the field of sports is commendable and they are also moving in terms of how to increase it further. I wish them success. Developed India 2047 is the policy of the Government of India. For this, the government is making special efforts for youth and sports. The sports department of the state is also participating in it enthusiastically and a new platform is being provided to the young generation through this. There are many opportunities. There are many schemes. Earlier, study was the only goal. But in the next ten years, India will be the largest sports center in the world. Big opportunities will be created in many fields. Earlier, it was customary to play during the youth period and then earn a living by doing some course. But now sports is seen as a business, a profession. If needed, we will definitely contribute our best to the growth of this organization. I congratulate the winning players and their teachers here and wish that this competition will create a big platform in the coming days and its scope will increase even more!

After this, Mr. Manoj Erande while expressing his thoughts said, "I am very grateful for inviting me to the closing ceremony of the Dervan Youth Games. Everything I have seen here is amazing. It is excellent. Excellent because of the infrastructure here. Even though it is in a rural area, it is excellent. You don't see such work in big cities like Pune. I was told that all this was built in just three years. So today, children from Pune and Mumbai come here for training, which means it is going the other way around. This is an example of what one person can do if he decides. Pune-kars should also learn a lot from this.

Well-maintained football ground, indoor basketball ground, volleyball, gymnastics, archery, chess, carrom, indoor games like yoga, indigenous games like Langadi, Kho-Kho, Mallakhamb, adventure sports like wall climbing, world-class synthetic track, thank you very much for running it so beautifully and efficiently. Inaugurations are held at many places, for many things. But then it is very difficult to run it year after year! Heartiest congratulations for this organization working here for twelve years. Beautiful nature, pollution-free environment, volunteers from different walks of life work here. All this is running by divine power. My salute to all these volunteers and coaches. Today, I feel very happy to stand and speak among these young and enthusiastic players.

Sports is not just about playing; it is about living. What is taught through sports is not taught in books. How to get up again after falling. How to accept defeat with ease, how to lose and regain with humanity, how to chase our dreams with discipline and courage are taught on the field of play. When we play with teammates, we learn to 'share', learn to 'support', learn to trust. These are the things that make a person a 'good person' and remember that winning is not just victory, coming on the field and trying your best is also victory.

Today's world is all about mobiles and screens. Parents would rather see their children playing on the field in the morning and evening than sitting in a hotel and wasting their free time. If we instill a love of sports in our children, it will be the best gift we can give them. Five things are needed to become a champion. One is 'Dream'! What we see today did not happen in a day. How many days must uncles have visualized that 'I want to do this. Without visualizing a dream, nothing happens. 'Dedication', 'Determination' means doing what you want with all your heart, and nothing happens without 'Patience' and 'Consistency'. This is not limited to sports only, but is applicable in all areas of life and most importantly, you win with the power of your mind. At the time of competition, children in rural areas do not even have shoes on their feet. Children in the city have good shoes on their feet. They may regret it, but the boy from the rural area wins!

This is a competition for children aged 10-12-14. He who cannot walk properly cannot run! This means that the 'basic technique' should be learned well. Move forward slowly and confidently. Sharpen your concentration, cultivate your confidence, and develop a winning attitude.

Congratulations to all the winners. Celebrate your victory in a good way because you deserve it. You will be able to see your results tomorrow.

You are going to represent the country. Those who have lost today should remember that if they have not lost, they have learned something and learning is a very big thing. A champion is not one who never loses, but one who never leaves the field! Thank you to this trust for giving me the opportunity to come here! Also thank you to Walawalkar Saheb. Thank you to all the sports staff and everyone who worked hard to make this festival a success.

Thank you also to all the parents who sent their children here to play. Children, keep playing, keep dreaming. Keep winning! Thank you."

At exactly 6:45 PM, Yogesh Vichare hoisted the sports flag and handed it over to the chief guest and as per the custom, he handed it over to the sports director for the next sports competition. The sports flame was dimmed and a cultural program presented by the children of an English medium school started in the ground. After the program, Sharyu Yashwantrao thanked everyone and the sports festival that had been going on for the past seven days came to an end.

Deravan Youth Games 2027

On the occasion of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's birth anniversary

From 18th March to 25th March 2027

Huge Sports Competition at Shri Vithalrao Joshi Charities Trust Sports Complex

A warm invitation to all athletes and sports enthusiasts

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