

Vice Chancellor Open Badminton Tournament concludes at SKUAST-J



Prof. B. N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu along with other dignitaries and players.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The three-day Vice Chancellor Open Badminton Tournament, organized for students, faculty members and staff concluded successfully at the Sports Complex of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J), Chatha.

Prof. B. N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu was the Chief Guest

on the occasion and distributed trophies to the winners and runner-ups. In his address, Vice Chancellor lauded the efforts of the organizing committee and congratulated the participants for displaying great sportsmanship, enthusiasm and dedication which contributed to the grand success of the tournament. He emphasized the importance of sports in fostering discipline, fitness and team-

work among students and staff and encouraged continued participation in such events at state, national and international levels. The tournament was organized under the overall supervision of Dr. Sudhakar Dwivedi, Dean Student Welfare and witnessed enthusiastic participation of more than 50 players from various categories. In the students' category, Antargya (4th Year Agriculture) emerged victori-

ous in men's singles defeating Gurtex (2nd Year Agriculture) while in men's doubles the duo of Gurtex and Antargya clinched the title against Kashish and Sachin. The women's singles title went to Sumbul (2nd Year) with Takshi (3rd Year) finishing as runner-up. Fiza and Rithika won the women's doubles, while Sumbul and Takshi were the runners-up. In a spirited mixed doubles

match, Antargya and Shreya outplayed Gurtex and Fiza to win the title.

In the teaching staff category, Dr. Sushil won the singles title with Dr. Amitesh finishing as runner-up. In the doubles, the pair of Dr. Vinod Gupta and Dr. P.K. Rai won the tournament while Dr. Sushil and Dr. Amitesh finished runner-up. In the mixed doubles event, Dr. Sushil teamed up with Dr. Puja to claim the title defeating the team of Dr. Amitesh and Dr. Julie D Bandral.

All the statutory officers of the university were present during the award ceremony.

The tournament concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Dr. Sudhakar Dwivedi, DSW in the presence of all statutory officers and faculty members. The event served as a platform for promoting fitness, friendly competition and unity among the SKUAST-Jammu fraternity.

CUJ hosts campus placement drive



Officials along with selected students.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A one-day placement drive was organized by Central University of Jammu (CUJ) for final year:

The placement drive provided a significant opportunity for CUJ students to kickstart their careers.

Renowned companies such as Prevest DenPro, Synthimed Labs, and Jubilant Biosys visited the campus to recruit budding professionals. Following rigorous aptitude tests and personal interviews, eight students were shortlisted for various roles including Trainee and Research Scientist.

The placement initiative was held under the guidance and visionary leadership of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor; CUJ, who emphasized the University's commitment to creating diverse career pathways.

In his message, Prof. Jain stated, "We believe in providing our students with diverse opportunities to excel in their chosen fields. These reputed

companies are leaders in their domains, and we are proud to see our students being recognized by them." The visiting corporate team includes Prevest Denpro led by Sandeep Sharma (HR), Synthimed Labs Team lead by M.L. Thakur (Quality Head) and Kajol (HR). From Jubilant Biosys Dr. Siva Kumar Reddy, Vinay, and Pritesh Bhatia graced the occasion. They offered a job role as Trainee, Research scientist. The placement drive not only provided students with a chance to secure placements but also allowed them to gain valuable insights into the corporate sector. Dr. Sujata Kundan (HOD Chemistry) along with Dr. Pawan Kumar and Dr. Satya Narayan expressed pride in students' accomplishments and said we are committed to nurturing not just academic excellence but also career growth and employability of our students.

Training and placement office motivated the students for the session and advised them to take advantage of campus placement in getting a head start in their career.

Preet Nagar Club wins Cricket Trophy



Winner team receiving trophy.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Preet Nagar Cricket Club defeated Trikuta Cricket Club to lift the title trophy of week-long Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Tournament at MA Stadium, here. The final was also witnessed by Minister for Sports, Satish Sharma, who was chief guest. Prior

to the commencement of the final, a two-minute silence was observed in memory of those who have lost their lives in the terror attack at Pahalgam in Kashmir. The final of the event was also witnessed by Sajjad Shaheen (MLA Banihal), Khurshid (MLA), Satwant Kour

Dogra (senior NC leader) and Rakesh Singh Raka (NC leader) as guests of honour.

Earlier, the tournament was inaugurated by former Chief Minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah with the message 'Say No to Drugs'.

Besides the title trophies, those individual performers presented with special prizes by the organisers. Tejinder Pal Singh Aman, provincial president of the J&K Youth National Conference was the chief organiser of the tournament. The organizers also extended special thanks to the community for their overwhelming support and reiterated their commitment to hosting more such events aimed at youth upliftment and social awareness.

Tajinder Singh wins gold in Body Building Championship

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Tajinder Singh achieved a remarkable feat by securing second place at the recent Body Building Championship, held at the Police Auditorium in Jammu. The event was organized by the Body Building Association of Jammu and Kashmir (BBAJK) in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council. This accomplishment earned Tajinder Singh the prestigious silver medal, a testament to his dedication and hard work. Vinay Sharma, Vice President of BBAJK, congratulated Tajinder on his impressive victory, expressing confidence in his potential to set similar records in the future. Sharma highlighted that the primary goal of organizing such Championships is to inspire youth to stay away from drugs, negative influences, and harmful associations. By promoting a healthy lifestyle and positive engagement, BBAJK aims to steer young individuals towards constructive pursuits and foster a drug free community, he said.



NSS Special Camp witnesses creative activities at Govt SPMR College of Commerce

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The fifth day of the ongoing NSS Special Camp at Government SPMR College of Commerce, Jammu, was marked by a vibrant array of activities, showcasing the creativity, enthusiasm, and team spirit of the volunteers.

The day commenced with the NSS Assembly, where the volunteers collectively sang the NSS Song, creating an atmosphere of unity and motivation. Following this, a "Best Out of Waste" competition was organized, encouraging students to display their innovative talents by crafting useful items from everyday waste materials such as bottles and discarded household items.

The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation, with students presenting a variety of impressive and sustainable creations. After careful evaluation, Niharika and Aanshu secured the First Position, Vashu clinched the Second Position, while Amit was awarded the



Faculty members along with students during the event.

Third Position. The event was adjudicated by Dr. Ashraf Nawaz and Prof. Sanjeev Verma, who praised the students for their creativity and environmental consciousness.

Dr. Rajinder Singh, Principal of the college congratulated NSS volunteers for their efforts.

The occasion was graced by NSS Advisory Committee Convener Prof. Reena Rani, along with committee members Mohd Azam, Dr. Chetna Gupta and Shaji Khan. Several distinguished faculty members, including Dr. Roomi Rani, Dr. Lata and

others were also present and extended their support and encouragement to the participants.

The entire day's proceedings were smoothly and successfully conducted under the able supervision of NSS Programme Officers, Dr. Deepshikha Sharma and Dr. Deepak Pathania.

Other activities included engaging brainstorming sessions and group discussions among the volunteers, fostering critical thinking, teamwork, and leadership skills, thus making the fifth day of the NSS Special Camp both memorable and impactful.

Youth Parliament inspires future leaders at APS Damana

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the momentous occasion of 42nd AWES Raising Day which falls on Tuesday, young aspiring leaders from APS Damana envisaged Youth Parliament besides organizing an array of other co-curricular activities. The event simulated a platform designed to engage and educate the youth about the legislative process and the importance of civic participation. The pivotal aim of the event was to promote democratic values and Parliamentary proceedings among the youth by provid-

ing a dynamic platform for structured debates on social, political and governance issues. Brig Vivek Puri, PhD, Cdr Chenab Brigade & Chairman of the School who was the Chief Guest on the occasion, declared open the proceedings of the Parliament. The mind-boggling concerns ranged from educational reforms to societal norms and mental health awareness, climate change and social justice, reflecting the diverse concerns of today's youth. The exuberant participants from classes VII to

XII were divided into an array of Ministries provided with different Portfolios, each tasked with developing a bill that addressed their chosen issue. After thorough debates and discussions, proposals were presented to the entire assembly, showcasing the creativity and passion of the youth involved. During the Prize Distribution Ceremony, Neelakashi Sharma (X B) and Naman Vivek Puri (VIII A) were adjudged as the Best Speaker and the Best Delegate respectively. The Special Mentions were given to Aaradhya Verma

(VII D) and Arun Sharma (X B). The event concluded with a key note address from the Chief Guest who was highly impressed with the significance of youth engagement in politics. He implored upon the students that events like the Youth Parliament are crucial in empowering the youth to develop their leadership skills and also to take an active role in shaping their present and future. He urged upon the students to instil a deep respect for every woman as well as for our motherland. Ms Pushpinder Kaur, Principal

APS Damana expressed her elation over the exuberant participation of the students in mirroring the functioning of Indian Parliament. The Event Coordinator Mamohan Singh, PGT Political Science inferred that the success of the Youth Parliament highlights a growing movement among youth to engage in the political process aiming to provide even more opportunities for young people to develop their leadership skills. The program culminated with the ending note by the Chief Guest followed by a light refreshment for the students.

Sneha Rana's maiden five-for, Rawal's excellent fifty power India to 15 run-win over South Africa

■ AGENCY

COLOMBO: Spinner Sneh Rana grabbed three wickets in a single over for her maiden five-wicket haul in WODIs while Pratika Rawal excelled with a well-crafted fifty to shape India's 15-run win over South Africa in the Women's Tri-series here Tuesday.

Rawal continued her rich vein of form with a measured 78 off 91 balls, helping India post a competitive 276 for six after skipper Harmanpreet Kaur elected to bat first under sunny skies.

Rana then snared five wickets as South Africa were bowled out for 261 in 49.2 overs despite Tazmin Brits 109. South Africa lost their last five wickets for 21 runs, giving India their second consecutive victory in the tournament.

The seasoned off-spinner ended with figures of 5/43. She bowled a crucial 48th over, picking three wickets while giving away just three runs.

Chasing a challenging total, South Africa came out all guns blazing, putting India on the backfoot early in the chase.

Brits weathered adverse conditions and cramps to



score a gritty 108 off 105 balls. She and captain Laura Wolvaardt stitched together a commanding 140-run opening stand, threatening to take the game away. But just when the momentum seemed to have shifted decisively in South Africa's favour, India's spinners turned the tide. Seasoned off Deepti Sharma (1/40) broke the stand in the 28th over, trapping Wolvaardt leg-before with one pitched outside off. Soon Rana struck, bowling Lara Goodall (9) to further tilt the game in India's favour. Brits went on to register her third ODI century and followed it up with back-to-back boundaries. However, she retired hurt as she was cramping up,

leaving South Africa with two new batters at the crease. Sensing an opening, skipper Kaur brought on Arundhati Reddy (1/59) and the right-arm pacer delivered immediately, removing debutant Karabo Meso. Left-arm spinner Shree Charani (1/51) then dismissed the experienced Sune Laus, caught at deep mid-wicket, as India tightened their grip on the match. With the required run rate touching nine, Chloe Tryon and Annerie Dercksen tried to accelerate but Rana accounted for both of them and Nadine de Klerk and Brits, who returned in the 48th over, to complete a memorable five-wicket-haul. Earlier, having scored a fluent fifty in the opening game,

Rawal struck seven boundaries and a six during her composed knock. She and Smriti Mandhana (36) gave India a solid start, putting on 83 runs in 18.3 overs for the opening wicket. Mandhana played the supporting role, allowing the

younger Rawal to take the lead. The partnership was eventually broken in the 19th over when Mandhana was caught down the leg side by wicketkeeper Karabo Meso off Annerie Dercksen's bowling.

SCOREBOARD		
INDIA WOMEN		
Pratika Rawal	b Mlaba	78
Smriti Mandhana	c ‡Meso b Dercksen	36
Harleen Deol	b Mlaba	29
Harmanpreet Kaur	(c) not out	41
Jenimah Rodrigues	c Khaka b Klaas	41
Richa Ghosh	‡ c Laus b Khaka	24
Deepti Sharma	c Tryon b de Klerk	09
Kashvee Gautam	not out	05
Extras		13
Total		276/6
SOUTH AFRICA WOMEN		
Laura Wolvaardt	(c) lbw b Sharma	43
Tazmin Brits	c & b Rana	109
Lara Goodall	b Rana	09
Karabo Meso	‡ b Reddy	07
Sune Laus	c sub (AB Kaur) b Shree Charani	28
Chloe Tryon	c sub (AB Kaur) b Rana	18
Annerie Dercksen	c Deol b Rana	30
Nadine de Klerk	b Rana	00
Masabata Klaas	run out (Reddy)	02
Nonkululeko Mlaba	run out (Sharma/‡Ghosh)	08
Ayabonga Khaka	not out	00
Extras		07
Total		261/10

SP College organises seminar to commemorate ‘World Book, Copy Rights Day’

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Department of Library & Information Science S. P. College Srinagar organized a one day seminar on the theme 'Read your way: Printed Books vs E-Books' on the occasion of World Book and Copy Rights Day on Tuesday at S P College Auditorium.

Principal S P College cum Seminar Chief Patron, Dr. Bashir Ahmed Sheikh addressing the seminar stressed that everyone should read hard copies as well as e-books to shape better human development to serve society.

He further explained Reading books is important because it expands knowledge, enhances cognitive function, stimulates imagination, and develops empathy. It also improves vocabulary, writing skills, and critical thinking, contributing to personal and professional growth. Reading can also be a source of entertainment and relaxation, offering a break from daily stressors.

HOD Department of Library and Information Science Kashmir University, Dr. Sumeer Gul was invited as KeyNote speaker of the event. Dr. Gul presented a detailed paper on celebrating World Book & Copy Rights Day and explained that by celebrating this day humans connect their souls with the books and their authors as well.

In his address to the gathering, he said World Book Day is a global event to promote the love of reading and the importance of books. It aims to encourage people of all ages to discover the joy of reading, celebrate authors and illustra-

tors, and raise awareness about the power of books to shape our understanding of the world.

The second guest speaker Librarian Govt. Degree College Womens Baramulla, Dr. Ruman Gull spoke on a broader topic 'Printed books vs e-Books'. He explained the importance of both and said aim should be reading to achieve academic and professional objectives. He briefed the gathering that the choice between e-books and printed books is largely a matter of personal preference, with each format offering distinct advantages. e-Books excel in portability, convenience, and cost-effectiveness, while printed books provide a more tangible, immersive reading experience.

Librarian GDC Sogam, Aashiq Hussain Wafai, invited speaker, spoke on a topic 'How to assist physically challenged and blind library users' and provided detailed information on tools which can be used to serve physically challenged library users.

Earlier, Librarian S P College Srinagar, Dr. M Iqbal Bhat explained why UNESCO is organizing World Book Day every year on 23rd April, he informed audience that 23rd April is death anniversary of William Shakespeare, Miguel de Cervantes and Inca Garcilaso and this is the reason UNESCO chose this date to pay tribute to these authors.

He provided information on bestselling authors around the world and informed the audience that good authored books can help people in earning a good amount of money also and gave examples of best-

selling authors like William Shakespeare whose four billion books have been sold worldwide, Agatha Christie 02 billion copies, Danielle Steel 800 million copies etc.

A book titled 'Basics in Library and Information science' authored by Dr. M Iqbal Bhat (Seminar Organizer) was also released on the occasion, and the review of book was presented by Dr. Ruman Gul (Librarian GCW Baramulla), he informed audience that book is covering the whole syllabi of MD Library & Information Science paper offered in Cluster University affiliated Colleges.

The second session of seminar was attended by student participants from S P College Srinagar, Govt. Degree College for Womens, Srinagar, Amar Singh College, Srinagar and AAA Memorial College Bemia.

Eight students spoke at the seminar in which four students spoke in favour of printed books and four students spoke in favour of e-Books.

To watch the performance of student speakers, two jury members Dr. Mudasir Khazir (Librarian GDC Khansahib and Iqbal Ahmed Khan (Jr. Librarian S. P. College) ranked the students on the basis of their performance.

1st position went to Tashif Amin (Amar Singh College), 2nd position to Sara Koul (Womens College M.A Road Srinagar) and 3rd position to Sania Mukhtar (Amar Singh College, Srinagar), all the three top student speakers were awarded with cash prize by Principal S P College Srinagar and certificates were given to all participants.