

Sport Climbing meet of Reasi, Udhampur held

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JAMMU: Anurag Sharma of Aryan Oriental Convent Higher Secondary School, Udhampur bagged the Gold in the Junior Boys category of the Udhampur, Samba and Reasi District Sport Climbing competitions which held on Sunday at Sprawling Buds ICSE School, Bantalab, here.

Whereas Akhil Sharma bagged the Silver, the Bronze medal shared by Shahitya Sharma and Varun Kumar. Similarly, in the Junior Boys category of Samba District there was an encouraging competition among Rijul Sharma, Dhairy Sharma and Vidyt Sharma in which Rijul emerged victorious. Dhairy Sharma and Vidyt Sharma had to contain with Silver and Bronze medal respectively.

Other Results: Samba District: Men: Nikhil Kumar, 1st; Adarsh Sharma, 2nd and Dheeraj, 3rd. Women: Dhairi Sharma, 1st; Jyoti Choudhary, 2nd and Bhavna, 3rd. Under-10 Girls: Bhavneet Kour, 1st; Navet Kour, 2nd and Arya



Rahul Sharma, inaugurating Udhampur and Reasi District Sport Climbing Championship at Sprawling Buds ICSE School, Bantalab, Jammu.

Singh, 3rd. Under-10 Boys: Nirvaan Padyor, 1st; Zorawar Singh, . 2nd and Viren Partap Singh, 3rd. Sub Junior Boys: Viraj, 1st; Nischaya Balhotra, 2nd and Sarvagya Singh Saini, 3rd.

In the Junior, Sub Junior and Mini Girls categories there was not adequate participation. However, consolation prizes given away to Vanshika Kumari (Junior Girls), Aaradhya Vaid (Sub Junior Girls) and Tanisha(Mini Girls).

Competitions in the Mini Girls and Mini Boys categories of the Udhampur district were completely dominated by climbers from Aryan Oriental Convent who made a clean sweep in these categories. Whereas Aliya

Alahi, Sanchita Sharma and Kavia Rajput secured the first three positions in the Mini girls categories, Farz Malik, Ansh Angurana and Vihaan Ghalgotra were the winners in the Mini Boys groups.

However, there was a tough competition in the Sub Junior Boys category in which Arshad, Abhimanyu Singh and Mohd Ayaan secured the first three positions respectively.

Almost similarly, in the Sub Junior Girls categories of Udhampur District there was a keen competition among the fresh climbers in which Akanshika emerged victorious. Ishika Thakur and Varsha Devi clinched the second and third positions.

In the junior girls category there were only two participants but they gave a good account of themselves by climbing the wall in style and were thus felicitated with medals.

However, competitions in the Men and Women categories of Udhampur district could not be held for lack of adequate participation. Competitions in respect of Reasi district were in progress when the last report was received.

Earlier, the championship in which about 210 climbers of Udhampur, Samba and Reasi District participated was declared open by Chairman of Sprawling Buds ICSE School, Jammu Rahul Sharma, happens to

be patron of Tawi Trekkers J&K in the presence of Shawetcia Khajuria, general secretary; Ram Khajuria, senior vice president and Sumit Khajuria, vice president of Mountaineering Association of J&K (MAJK).

International climbers, Shivani Charak and, general secretary of District Mountaineering Association, Jammu, Sonam Sidharth were also among the prominent persons present.

At the prize distribution function of Samba and Udhampur districts Prof C K Khajuria, Principal, Government Degree College, Purmandal (Samba District) was the chief guest. He along with guest of honour Arti Sharma, Director Apple Kids International Pre School presented medals to the winners of the various categories. The chief guest lauded the role of MAJK in promoting Sport Climbing in J&K and producing national and international climbers like Shivani Charak.

The championships are being organized by MAJK and sponsored by J&K Sports Council.

Cycle Rally organised under Fit India Movement at High School Chak Murar



Zonal Physical Education Officer, Surbjeet Kour flagging off cycle rally.

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JAMMU: In a vibrant display of enthusiasm for fitness and well-being, a cycle rally was organized on Sunday at High School Chak Murar, Zone Bishnah, under the banner of the Fit India Movement. The event was spearheaded by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, J&K, and witnessed the active participation of around 55 field staff members from the zone.

The rally was held under the chairmanship of

Rajinder Singh Tara, Director, Youth Services and Sports, J&K, and guided by Sukhdev Raj Sharma, District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Jammu. Zonal Physical Education Officer, Surbjeet Kour, efficiently coordinated and supervised the event.

Cycling with enthusiasm and unity, participants conveyed a strong message promoting health, fitness, and an active lifestyle. The initiative aimed to motivate not only students and staff

but also the wider community to embrace regular physical activity as a cornerstone of daily living.

The Department of Youth Services and Sports, J&K, applauded the dedication and spirit of all participants, organizers, and supporters for making the event a resounding success. The department reaffirmed its commitment to fostering a robust sports culture and promoting fitness at the grassroots level across the Union Territory.

JU organises ‘Fit India Sundays on Cycle’ rally to promote healthy lifestyle



Participants of ‘Fit India Sundays on Cycle’ rally at JU.

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JAMMU: The Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, University of Jammu (JU), organized the "Fit India Sundays on Cycle" rally on Sunday, in collaboration with the Fit India Mission, under the aegis of the University Grants Commission (UGC).

The event forms part of a nationwide initiative aimed at promoting physical activity and encouraging citizens to integrate fitness into their everyday lives.

The cycling rally commenced early in the morning from the University campus and witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, faculty

members, and local residents.

The initiative aligns with the broader objective of the Fit India Movement, launched by the Government of India, to foster a culture of fitness and well-being across the country.

The rally was flagged off from the Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, under the supervision of Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba, Director, Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, University of Jammu highlighted the importance of incorporating regular physical activity into daily routines.

"Cycling is not just an

environmentally friendly mode of transport, but also a great form of cardiovascular exercise that strengthens the body and mind. This campaign is our humble step towards building a healthier and more active community," he stated.

The Fit India Sundays on Cycle initiative is a recurring campaign that encourages citizens to dedicate at least one day a week to non-motorized transportation and physical activity.

The University of Jammu intends to make this rally a monthly affair to sustain the momentum and further involve students, faculty, and the broader community in the fitness drive.

WAVEX 2025 highlights investment potential of M&E startups; working on dedicated angel network for M&E

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MUMBAI: WAVEX 2025, the flagship startup initiative under the World Audio-Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) being held in Mumbai is a promising intersection of innovation, entrepreneurship, and investment.

Ashutosh Mohle, Joint Director at the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MIB), set the tone with a succinct overview of WAVEX, underscoring its vision of nurturing startups in the M&E space and providing a national platform to scale up their ideas.

Sandeep Jhingran, Chief Growth Officer, Internet and Mobile Association of India (IMAI), expressed satisfaction with the promising response to the initia-



tive.

"We received over a thousand applications. Thirty of them pitched directly to investors and over half of them are already in active conversations," he revealed, emphasizing that such efforts are essential to give focused attention to M&E startups.

Investor voices added further perspective to the transformative potential of

the initiative.

Rajesh Joshi, Venue Partner from Warmup Ventures, reflected on his personal journey from being a startup founder to becoming an investor. "Life has come a full circle...We're now speaking with 11 startups," he added.

Mustafa Harnesswala, Founder of CABIL, highlighted the traditional reluctance in funding this space.

"Many shy away from investing in media and entertainment. WAVES is shifting that mindset. We're now working on creating a dedicated angel network for M&E, and even exploring global linkages through collaborations with international governments."

The panel also fielded questions from the media, offering insight into the evolving startup landscape. When asked how investors differentiate meaningful content, Rajesh cited the example of "Giggle," a startup app that is creating a platform that helps avoid cyberbullying and sexual content, calling it a benchmark for responsible innovation.

On gender representation, Sandeep acknowledged the

limited participation of women entrepreneurs. "We're committed to doing better. In the future editions we hope to see more women entrepreneurs coming in," he added.

Expanding on the event's format, Sandeep Jhingran shared that 30 startups were given one-on-one pitching opportunities in 2 days; Mustafa Harnesswala emphasized the need for monetization strategies for content creators, stating that initiatives like WAVES help bridge that gap.

WAVEX 2025 continues to establish itself as a game-changer in the startup ecosystem for the M&E sector, breaking old boundaries and fostering new opportunities for innovators across India.

Dr R S Gupta of SMVDU triumphs at Khelo India Masters Games with triple gold in aquatics

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KATRA: Dr. Rudraksh S. Gupta, Research Fellow at the School of Mechanical Engineering, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), achieved a remarkable feat by winning three gold medals in the Aquatics Championship at the 4th Edition of the Khelo India Masters Games held in Common Wealth Village, New Delhi.

This outstanding performance not only underscores Rudraksh's dedication and passion for sports but also highlights SMVDU's growing emphasis on integrating phys-



ical excellence within its academic environment.

He expressed heartfelt gratitude to the University for its continuous support and encouragement, acknowledging the infrastructure and motivation provided to pursue his sporting aspirations along-

side academic commitments.

Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Head of the School of Mechanical Engineering, along with faculty members, extended their warmest congratulations to Rudraksh, applauding his achievement as a source of inspiration for the university community.

Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, also congratulated Rudraksh on his success, noting that his victory adds another feather to the cap of SMVDU and enhances the institution's stature in promoting holistic development through sports and academics.

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JAMMU: The 1st Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji Memorial Hockey Tournament concluded on a high note at the Guru Tegh Bahadur Mini Stadium, Camp Gole Gujral, Jammu, with Khalsa Hockey Club Gole Gujral emerging victorious in the thrilling final match against BSB Hockey Club Poonch.

The close-fought game ended with a narrow 1-0 win in favour of Khalsa Hockey Club.

Organized jointly by Khalsa Hockey Club and Khalsa Warriors Hockey Club under the aegis of Hockey J&K, the five-day tournament was aimed at promoting hockey and encouraging youth participation in sports, particularly as a positive alternative to substance abuse.

Karanjeet Singh of Khalsa



Winner Khalsa Hockey Club with dignitaries after receiving trophy.

Hockey Club was named Man of the Match for his outstanding performance and received a cash prize of Rs 1100. The title of Man of the Tournament went to Avneet Singh, who was awarded Rs 2100 in recognition of his consistent excellence.

The winners, Khalsa Hockey Club, were presented

a cash prize of Rs 10,000, while the runners-up, BSB Hockey Club Poonch, received Rs 5100. The Fair Play Award and a cash prize of Rs 2100 were conferred upon Kathua Hockey Club Lachipura.

SSP CID Randhir Singh, the Chief Guest for the final match, lauded the organizers

for their initiative and emphasized the critical role of sports in steering youth away from drugs and fostering discipline and teamwork.

Other dignitaries present included Rajinder Singh (Former President, Hockey India), GS Bakshi, Daljeet Singh (Executive Member, Hockey J&K), Adv. Barkat

Rattan (Resident Secretary, Hockey J&K), Gurpreet Singh (Vice President, Hockey J&K), Adv. Ishan Sharma (Treasurer, Hockey J&K), Dr. Karanbir Singh (Secretary, Hockey J&K), Supinder Deep Singh Bakshi (General Secretary, Hockey J&K), along with community leaders and sports enthusiasts such as Harminder Singh, Prithipal Singh Raju (Former Sarpanch, Gole Gujral), and many others.

The tournament's technical panel comprised Pankaj, Daljeet Singh Bhatiya, and Surinder Singh, who ensured smooth conduct of matches throughout the event.

The successful hosting of this tournament marks a significant step in reviving interest in field hockey in the region and nurturing local talent.

India’s soft power will increase with growth of sports culture in country: PM Modi

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PATNA: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that India's soft power will increase with the growth of sports culture in the country and his government is focussed on modernising the sports infrastructure, keeping in mind the dream of hosting 2036 Olympic Games.

Modi also said that a major chunk of Rs 4000 crore sports budget for the year was being used for the purpose as the government is determined to bring the world's biggest sporting show in the country.

Modi made these comments while virtually inaugurating the seventh edition of the Khelo India Youth Games in Bihar.

"Sports is now making its mark as a culture in Bihar. And the more Indian sports culture grows, the more India's soft power will also grow," Modi said in his video message which was played soon after Bihar CM Nitish Kumar addressed the gathering.

The Khelo India Youth Games will

be held across five cities in Bihar from May 4 to 15. New Delhi will also host a few events.

Modi said his government has developed a sporting ecosystem, keeping in mind the target of hosting Olympic Games.

"It has been a dream of every Indian to have the Olympics in India. Today, India is trying to hold the Olympics in 2036."

India is likely to fight it out with countries such as Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, South Korea, Indonesia and Chile for the 2036 Olympics hosting rights.

India has officially submitted its Letter of Intent to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to host the 2036 Games, but which other countries have also done so is not officially known yet.

"The government's focus is also on modernizing the sports infrastructure in India. In the past decade, the budget for sports has increased by more than three times," PM Modi said.

"At present, the budget for sports is about Rs. 4000 crores. A large part of this budget is being spent on sports infrastructure. Today, more than 1,000 Khelo India centers are operating in India. More than three dozen of these centres are in Bihar," he said.

Modi said sports is not something restricted to playing area, it has expanded, becoming a career option for thousands of people in the country.

"The world of sports and the economy related to sports are not limited to just sports. Today, the youth are being given new opportunities for employment and self-employment. "There is physiotherapy, data analytics, sports technology, broadcasting, e-sports, management, etc. There are many sub-sectors in sports. A stadium is no longer just a pitch, it has become a source of employment for thousands."

The PM urged the participating athletes to compete hard and learn during the Games and take back happy memories.

"During the Khelo India Youth Games, all of you athletes will get a chance to understand the level of sport at the national level. You will be able to learn a lot.

"The athletes who have come from outside Bihar will definitely take the taste of 'Litti Chokha' with them. You will also like the food of Bihar."

Addressing the gathering, Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said, "PM Modi wants India to become a developed nation by 2047. We want India to be among top-5 nations in the world. KIYG is part of a comprehensive plan. Efforts are being made to create a sports ecosystem.

"We are expecting that we will host the 2036 Games and we aspire to be in top-10 in the medal tally. We need support and efforts from all states. In am glad CM Nitish Kumar has come forward to host these Games. This is one step forward in that direction," he said.

Ladakh, known for ice and snow sports, will field 14 athletes while Lakshadweep will have 12 and Sikkim 15 competitors.