

Reyhaan of KCPS wins Best Writer Award in Mumbai

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Rehaan Gupta of KC Public School won the prestigious Best Writer Award at 'SIS Confluence 2024' organised by Singapore International School, Mumbai on August 16. It is a unique amalgamation of creatively competitive inter-school events centered around the concept of a knowledge challenge.



Rehaan Gupta along with other students of KC Public School.

The event brought together 19 schools from across India, including notable institutions such as Dhirubhai Ambani International School, Mumbai, Mayo College Girls' School, Ajmer, NL Dahmia School, Mumbai, Sarala Birla Public School, Ranchi, Mody School

Rajasthan, The Indian School New Delhi and Sunbeam School Varanasi. It featured a blend of classic quizzing, debates and creative writing competitions. The event was not only about knowing the right answers but also about the process of

discovery, the art of effective communication and creative expression. The debates underscored the significance of persuasive speaking and the power of words, while the creative writing segment allowed participants to engage in self-reflection, critical thinking and imaginative expression.

KCPS students arrived in Mumbai on August 15 ready to showcase their skills. After the opening ceremony on August 16, KCPS student Ada Aggarwal of Class 11 took part in the 'Incubation' event, focusing on speech writing and reportage, where participants analyzed a video prompt and crafted impactful speeches.

Kalash Bhat of Class 10 participated in the Turncoat debate on the topic 'South Asian youth is more show than substance' and demonstrated her agility in arguing on both sides of the motion.

Reyhaan Gupta of Class 11 excelled in the Bridge Round

in which he tackled the topic "How the facial cream industry has created 'the dark skin' complex among Indians" by presenting compelling arguments both for and against the issue. Reyhaan's performance in this round earned him the Best Writer Award in recognition of his ability to convey nuanced perspectives with clarity and depth.

Raju Chowdhary, Chairman of KC Public School, Arti Chowdhary, Managing Director, Arjun Chowdhary, Vice Chairman, Amarendra Kumar Mishra, Principal and Sanjay Pandey, Vice Principal, congratulated Reyhaan and other KCPS delegates for bringing accolades to the school.

Deepti shines as London Spirit lift maiden women's Hundred title

■ AGENCY
LONDON: India all-rounder Deepti Sharma played a crucial role with both bat and ball as London Spirit lifted their maiden Women's Hundred title, beating Welsh Fire by four wickets in the final at the Lord's here.

Deepti snapped a wicket giving away 23 runs and then smashed a run-a-ball 16, including the winning six off Hayley Matthews, as the Indian and England's Charlie Dean jumped into each other's arms in celebration.

Two years ago, Deepti had

controversially dismissed Dean after running her out at the non-striker's end during the third ODI against England in 2022, triggering a debate over the spirit of the game.

It was ecstasy for Deepti and despair for Dean that day but here the two were on the same side, engineering the maiden victory after chasing down a victory target of 116 in 98 balls.

Besides Deepti, Eva Gray (2/26) and Sarah Glenn (2/17) snapped two wickets each, while Tera Norris (1/18) also chipped in with a wicket to restrict Welsh

Fire to 115 for 8 in stipulated 100 balls, which was mainly built on the 41-ball 54 by Australia's Jess Jonassen.

In reply, Georgia Redmayne anchored the chase with a 32-ball 34.

Heather Knight (24) and Danielle Gibson (22) also chipped in with useful contributions even as Shabnim Ismail threatened to derail the chase with figures of three for 24 in her 20 balls.

But Deepti then took the onus on herself and produced the only maximum of the match in the nick of time to take her team home.

We'll be drawing on Green, Marsh a bit more against India: Cummins

■ AGENCY
MELBOURNE: Australia Test captain Pat Cummins expects greater workload with the ball for all-rounders Cameron Green and Mitchell Marsh against India in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy this summer. Cummins wants both the all-rounders to share the workload with the team's front-line pace attack in the gruelling five-Test series starting November: "It's been huge (having the all-rounders). In some ways we haven't had to use them as much as we thought we would. Which is a great thing. The last couple of summers have been pretty light (with) quick Test matches," Cummins said at the launch of Play Cricket week.

"I suspect this summer might be a bit different at time. We'll be drawing on Cam Green and Mitch Marsh a bit more.

"Even someone like Cam basically started in Shield cricket as a bowler but hasn't had to bowl heaps in Test matches. Now he is a few years older, I think we will be leaning on him a bit more," he added. The 25-year-old Green has bagged 35 wickets at 35.31 in 28 Tests so far in his career.

"The first point is they (Green and Marsh) both absolutely make the top six on their batting alone which is a luxury," Cummins said.

"We're really lucky that Nathan Lyon bowls plenty of overs, so you don't necessarily have to have an all-rounder, but

it makes a big difference to have that fifth bowling option.

"And with someone like Cam and Mitch we have six bowling options. It's a really nice thing to have. Top six should always make the team on their batting."

Cummins' bowling colleagues have been vocal about how having a bowling captain has benefited the team in managing the workload. "It's nice of them to say that, they'd never say it to my face," Cummins said.

"When I'm at the top of their mark asking them to do something, they know I'm also doing it down the other end and wouldn't ask for something I can't do myself. Maybe there's a bit of built-up trust over the last decade or so."

NIT's NCC unit celebrates Raksha Bandhan with soldiers in Srinagar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The NCC sub-unit of National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, in collaboration with the Samskruti Foundation Hyderabad Monday celebrated Raksha Bandhan with Army jawans at Haft Chinar, Srinagar.

The event was coordinated by Associate NCC Officer Lt. Dr. Nitika Kundan and Assistant Professor Dr. Kurella Swamy.

A total of 16 students participated in the event, tied rakhis to Army jawans and distributed sweets. They shared personal messages, and cards to the brave soldiers who celebrate these festivals away from their families.



NIT's NCC unit students after celebrating Raksha Bandhan with soldiers in Srinagar.

lies.

The celebration continued with Group Commander Brigadier Deepak, Commanding Officer Colonel S.P. Tiwari, and the PI staff. The students expressed their deep gratitude to Colonel S.P. Tiwari for his support in making

this event possible.

Later, NCC students extended the celebration by tying rakhis to the security guards at NIT Srinagar campus, recognizing and honoring those who safeguard them around the clock.

Associate NCC Officer Lt.

Dr. Nitika Kundan expressed her gratitude to Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath and Institute's Registrar Prof. Atikur Rahman for their continuous support and encouragement to NCC unit in supporting such events.

"We are also thankful to

Samskruti foundation Hyderabad for their collaboration and support for this event. We expect their support for future endeavors," she added.

Lt. Dr. Nitika Kundan said that Raksha Bandhan, derived from the Sanskrit words "Raksha" (protection) and "Bandhan" (to tie), translates to "the tie or knot of protection."

"The festival embodies the timeless love between brothers and sisters. The Rakhi, a symbol of love and duty, represents this cherished relationship. Soldiers, who protect with unwavering dedication, embody this spirit without the need for a Rakhi to be tied on their wrists," she added.

Jodhamal students win accolades at Doon School MUN 2024

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a remarkable showcase of talent and diplomacy, Jodhamal students have once again secured prominent positions at the prestigious Doon School Model United Nations (DSMUN) 2024.

The event, spanning three intensive days witnessed fervent debates and thoughtful deliberations by delegates from across the globe.

The Chief Guest in the inaugural ceremony was Shishir Priyadarshi, an alumnus of the 1973 batch of The Doon School. He served as a Director at the World Trade Organisation and is currently the President of Global Relations at the Adani Group while the Chief Guest in the valedictory ceremony was Ruchira Kambhoj, the former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations General Assembly.

DSMUN has become one of the premier Model United Nations conferences in Asia



Jodhamal students after winning at Doon School MUN.

presenting as a platform for the exchange of ideas, the forging of friendships, and the cultivation of diplomatic acumen among young leaders from diverse backgrounds and cultures across India and abroad.

With a lineup of 11 Committees encompassing contemporary, historical, and futuristic agenda, revolving around the theme: 'Musings of a Divided World, Resolutions of a United One', the DSMUN 2024 provided a platform for intellectual discourse and diplomatic engagement on global issues.

The Committees were: UNSC, DISEC, COP29, Lok Sabha, UNOCT, Congress of Paris, Futuristic Crisis Committee, IOC, SPECTOL, Groves' Cabinet, and IPC.

The three-day Conference was attended by the delegates from the most prestigious schools in India and abroad such as Welham Boys' School, Dehradun, Welham Girls' School, Dehradun, Mayo College, Ajmer; Mayo College

Girls' School, Ajmer; The Daly College, Indore, The Emerald Heights International School, Indore, Modern School, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi, YPS Patiala, The British School, New Delhi etc.

Jodhamal students have been consistent participants in the DSMUN for over a decade, getting a unique platform to compete with the students of the best schools across the globe participating in DSMUN every year and have been winning best prizes over the years, this year being no exception.

Out of a contingent of 10 Jodhamal participants, following 06 were felicitated in the valedictory ceremony for their outstanding performances.

Guhika Sachdev was adjudged the Best Delegate in Committee: COP 29, Aviral Kapoor and Shaurya Jamwal received High Commendations in UNSC, Navaj Kumal Anand and Adhwik Mahajan received Special Mention in IPC while Amaay Gupta received a Verbal Mention in UNOCT.

These distinguished delegates

were prepared under the mentorship of Mubeen Butt, Anjali Gupta and Raghunandan Singh while Nivedita and Raghunandan escorted them to the Doon School.

Commending their achievements, Nandan Kuthiala, the Trustee of Jodhamal School, Arati Kuthiala, Director of the School, Girish Kumar, Principal, and Amita Arora, Vice Principal extended their heartfelt congratulations to the students, and emphasized that their success not only reflects the school's legacy of excellence but also sets a high standard for the aspiring diplomats of the future.

Jodhamal School's triumphant participation in DSMUN 2024 not only demonstrates their commitment to fostering diplomatic skills but also underlines the institution's dedication to producing well-rounded global citizens.

As the accolades pour in, the legacy of excellence at Jodhamal School continues to shine brighter than ever before.

Humanity Public School celebrates Raksha Bandhan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBHA: Humanity Public School, Bassi Kalan celebrated Raksha Bandhan with great ardour and gaiety. The celebration commenced with a special assembly on this prolific occasion.

The principal, Gaurav Charak, Vice-Principal, Anku Charak, Akashdeep Raina (Senior Incharge), Ravinder Sadhu (Administrator Officer), Parsidh Singh (Incharge, Hr. Sec. Wing), Namrta Sharma (Incharge, Senior Wing), Vandana Sharma (Incharge, Primary Wing), Mrs. Aparna Billowria (Incharge, Pre-Primary Wing), Mahan Singh (Sports Incharge), Er. Varinder Kumar (IT/Computer Incharge) were also



Humanity Public School students during Raksha Bandhan celebration.

present on the occasion.

A talk was presented to mark the significance of the occasion. This was followed by topics. Abhinandan of class 11th and Abhaya of class 6th presented their topics on Raksha Bandhan. The girls of class 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th presented a heart-touching group song under the guidance of music teachers Rajan Kumar and Kumar Abilash.

This was followed by a captivating dance performance by the students of class 6th to honour the brother-sister bond and love under guidance of dance teacher Taruna Mehra.

The underscore of the program was the tying of "Rakhis" by girls to boys. Rohini Charak (Hindi Teacher) also presented

her topic on the importance of Raksha Bandhan.

A Rakhi Making competition was also conducted successfully for classes 1st to 10th. The students used their creativity and ingenuity to create dazzling Rakhis. The presenter of the programme was Gayatri Singh Charak of class 12th. Later, the Principal of the school Gaurav Charak addressed the students and inspiring them to always cherish the bond of love with siblings.

Vice-Principal, Anku Charak, earnestly wished Raksha Bandhan to all the school staff and students and motivate the students to celebrate these kinds of festivals in the school.

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Sanskrit has emerged as most accurate language for space communication: Sham Lal



Former Minister, Sham Lal Sharma and other dignitaries honouring Cartoonist Chandrashekhar.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The conclusion of Sanskrit Month was observed on World Sanskrit Day by the Shri Kailash Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust at Mishriwala, in the Jammu North Assembly.

The program was presided over by Mahamandaleshwar 1008 Mahant Shri Rameshwar Das Maharaj, with Dr. Bhupendra Nath Tripathi (Vice-Chancellor), Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, (Jammu) as the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour was Sham Lal Sharma, former Minister of Jammu & Kashmir.

The program began with Vedic chants, and several individuals, including Rajeev Sharma, a member of the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council, renowned graphic designer V. Cartoonist Chandrashekhar, Dr. Satya Priya and Preeti Chaudhary, were honoured for their significant contributions to society.

Mahant Rohit Shastri, the head of the Trust, stated that during Sanskrit Month, 19 programmes were organized to promote the divine language Sanskrit, including events on de-addiction, cyber security, tree plantation, and anti-drug rallies.

The primary objective of the Trust is to bring Sanskrit into every household. He urged the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, to introduce Sanskrit from the first grade in schools and to establish a Sanskrit University in Jammu & Kashmir.

Mahamandaleshwar 1008 Mahant Shri Rameshwar Das Ji highlighted that Sanskrit Day is celebrated every year on the day of Shrawan Purnima. He also acknowledged the significant role played by Mahant Rohit Shastri in promoting Sanskrit.

Dr. Bhupendra Nath Tripathi remarked that Mahant Rohit Shastri has given a new identity to Sanskrit in Jammu &

Kashmir. He emphasized that the Devanagari script, used in the Sanskrit language, was chosen by ancient sages for composing mantras due to its ability to produce the proper vibrations in the mind upon pronunciation. Sanskrit is the oldest language in the world, embodying the cultural pride of India. There is a need to bring Sanskrit to the masses to further spread India's glorious culture.

Sham Lal Sharma stated that the Trust is playing a crucial role in promoting the divine language Sanskrit.

He explained that Sanskrit is not merely a language of rituals but the mother of Sanatan Dharma and culture.

He noted the ancient origins of Sanskrit and how it has emerged as the most precise language for space communication on the global stage.

He also emphasized the importance of knowing both the local Dogri language and Sanskrit for the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

Several dignitaries, including Prof. Sharad Chandra Sharma, Dr. Vikas Padha, Ajay Sharma, Uttam Chand Sharma, Sunil Sharma, Deepak Gupta, Ankush Sharma, Ajay Sharma, Dil Bahadur Singh, Nigam Gupta, Rahul Singh, Rajan Sharma, Rakesh Singh, Master Vijay Kumar, Rakesh Singh, Manu Mehta, Yash Seth, and Rajinder Seth, were present on the occasion.

PM Modi wishes luck to Indian contingent for Paris Paralympics

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday extended his warm wishes to the Indian contingent for the upcoming Paris Paralympics and said the whole country will be rooting for the athletes as they strive for excellence in the sporting extravaganza.

The Paralympics are slated to begin on August 28 and conclude on September 8, and a record 84 athletes will represent India in the French capital.

During his virtual interaction, PM Modi spoke to first-timers as well as previous winners in the Paralympics.

"Your journey is as important to the country as it is for you and your careers. Our country's pride will be related to what you all achieve there. An entire country is rooting for you."

"140 crore Indians are sending their blessings to you. Vijay Bhava (May you be victorious). Like you did at the Asian Paralympics and the Tokyo Paralympics, I wish you all create new records in Paris," PM Modi said in his address to the Paralympians.

He added, "You are all going to Paris as flag-bearers of India. This journey is going to be an extremely important journey of your

life, your career."

The first athlete Modi interacted with was para-archer Sheetal Devi, who is the youngest member of the Indian contingent at 17 and appearing in her first games.

"Don't take pressure. Don't think about victory or losing. You just give your best. The whole country will be rooting for you," PM Modi said while speaking to Sheetal.

"There is no stress. My preparation has been very good, sir. I want to ensure that the tri-colour is flown in Paris," Sheetal said.

Rifle shooter from Rajasthan, Avani Lekhara, was the next athlete to interact with the PM, who recalled her exploits at the last games in Tokyo three years ago.

"Sir, last time it was my first Paralympics. I participated in four events and gained experience from that. I have matured a lot in this cycle as regards to my sport, technique. The aim this time will also be to give my best in the events I am competing."

"The support that I got from the country, from you since the Tokyo Games has motivated me to do better. But there is also a responsibility that comes with it, to go there and give my best," Avani said.

How have things changed since Tokyo and how did you keep yourself motivated for more glory, the prime minister asked the shooter.

"Sir, when I was participating in the previous edition there was a sort of barrier, whether I would be able to do it or not. But then when I won two medals, that barrier broke."

High jumper Mariyappan Thangavelu said he will look to turn the silver medal he won in Tokyo to gold in Paris.

"This time I'm 100 percent winning gold, I am training in Germany."

World record holder javelin thrower Sumit Antil, who is from Sonapat, Haryana said he looks up to double Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra for inspiration.

"Sumit, the soil of Sonapat itself is very special and word record holder athletes emerge from there. You are an inspiration for the whole country," PM told Antil.

Modi asked taekwondo athlete Aruna Tanwar about the role played by her father in her journey.

"Sir, without family support we can't even play in a normal tournament, and I'm going to participate in my second Paralympics. Papa has supported me from the very beginning, and my mother has also supported

me.

"There is pressure in society and people look at us differently, that she can't do anything. But my mother and father have always said that I can do a lot of things," said Aruna.

The prime minister then wanted to know how the young athletes are able to balance sports and academics.

Rudransh Khandelwal, the 16-year-old shooter from Bharatpur, Rajasthan, chose to respond.

"Sir, I appeared in my 12th Board exams this year only and I passed with good marks, 83 percent I got. That time there was a World Cup going on in New Delhi and I was managing both things at the same time."

"I feel both education and sports play an important role in life. Because sports develop your character and improves you daily," Rudransh said.

Convinced with the answer, the PM asked how hosting the first Khelo India Para Games last December helped the athletes.

Bhavina Patel, who is a table tennis player from Mehsana, Gujarat, said it has benefited them immensely.

"Khelo India initiative has played a very important role in the development of sports

in recent years. Because of it so many talents have emerged from grassroots. It's a very good platform for para athletes and has given them a new direction."

"In Paris Paralympics, 16 players have qualified from Khelo India," Bhavina said.

Modi asked the athletes how do they recover from injuries sustained during tournaments.

Tarun Dhillon from Hisar, who plays badminton, cited his own example.

"Sir, in 2022, during the Canada International Tournament, I suffered a ligament injury during a match, which is a severe injury for a badminton player."

"Sir, I am very fortunate that I am a TOPS athlete. Because of which SAI officials and sports team has helped me a lot, and I was flown in business class from there to India on a special request, and I was operated by the best doctor, Dr. Dinshaw (Pardiwala) in Mumbai."

During the interaction, Modi said that a special recovery centre has been built for all the Indian athletes at the Games Village in Paris.

"I am hopeful that this recovery centre too will prove to be very beneficial to you all," the PM said.