

MDP on Lead-ART concludes at CUJ



CUJ faculty and participants of MDP on Lead-ART posing for a photograph.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Leadership and Management Development Programme (MDP) on Leadership in Panchayats for Effective and Accelerated Rural Transformation (Lead-ART) concluded at the School of Business Studies (SBS), Central University of Jammu (CUJ).

This initiative, aimed at equipping elected representatives and senior officers with essential leadership and

managerial skills, was organized by SBS in collaboration with the Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, J&K, under the patronage of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, CUJ.

The programme, conceptualized by Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, aimed to enhance leadership capacity at the grass-roots level and strengthen

Panchayati Raj Institutions across J&K.

The first batch of 30 participants, including DDC Chairpersons, Members, and BDOs, were trained in modules such as Leadership and Teamwork, Financial Management, Effective Communication, Project Management, Digital Transformation, and Innovation for Village Development.

Eminent experts, including Prof. Anil Gupta (IIM-

Ahmedabad), B. R Sharma (Former Chief Secretary of J&K), Pramod Kumar Jain (Former J&K State Water Resources Regulatory Authority), Prof. Ashok Aima (Former Vice Chancellor, CUJ), and others, provided training to instill confidence and professional skills in the participants. Distinguished dignitaries from academia, corporate, and bureaucratic sectors participated, enhancing the programme's impact.

The event was inaugurated by Sham Lal, JKAS, Director, Panchayati Raj, J&K, and other notable officials. During the valedictory session, participants expressed appreciation for the insightful sessions and the opportunity to enhance their leadership capabilities.

Abhishek Sharma, Deputy Commissioner, Samba, addressed the gathering virtually.

The organizing team included Prof. Jaya Bhasin, Dr. Neelika Arora, Dr. Shahid Mushtaq, and Dr. Asif Ali from SBS.

Prof. Jaya Bhasin welcomed attendees during the valedictory session, and Dr. Neelika Arora proposed the formal vote of thanks.

The programme proceedings were conducted by Rashmi Srivastava, with Riya Gandotra coordinating certificate distribution.

Jyoti bags JTGC women Putting contest



Winners posing for a photograph with officials.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jyoti Koul bagged the title trophy of 'Women Putting Competition' which was organised by Jammu Tawi Golf Course (JTGC), Sidhra today. The event held with the sole aim to inculcate competitive spirit among the women members.

The event turned out to be a successful initiative with a good number of women contested with great enthusiasm and zeal.

Second place went to Dr:

Farhat Khan while Wing Commander Rashmi Rawat and Tanvi Gupta remained third and fourth respectively, details shared by the JTGC informed.

Among other participants were Dr. Farhat Khan, Shreedha Gupta, Shridhi Pathania, Dr. Shafiqia Banoo, Dr. Mussarat Choudhary, Bindu Goel, P.Goel, Gul-e-Surkhab, Meenakshi Slathia, Ankita Sethi, Karuna Pathania, Deepali Handa, Hardeep Kour and Anjali

Gupta. District and Session Judge, Bala Jyoti was the guest of honour, who felicitated the winners. She said that Putting contest was an innovative way to entice women players towards golf and nurture talent in J&K.

A number of prominent persons present were Rohit Gupta (NGAI certified professional coach), Bhupesh Gupta, Sanjay Wahi, Raman Pargotra, Navneet Qazi, Joginder Singh, S.S Pathania, and Ankush Hans.

Samba Weightlifting Championship concludes



Participants posing for a photograph with dignitaries.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Organised by the Samba Weightlifting Association, the District Championship concluded at Indoor Sports Complex, here under the aegis of J&K Weightlifting Association and sponsored by J&K Sports Council (JKSC).

In the closing function, president Rajput Sabha, Narayan Singh was Chief Guest, who presented medals and certificates to the winners of men and women sections.

In total, 60 lifters turned out for the event and contested in different weight categories in this day-long event. President District Samba Weightlifting Association, Jangbir Singh briefed the gathering about the competition.

Earlier, the event was declared open by Association president, Harbhajan Singh in the presence of office of Samba District Association. Among others present were

Amit Sharma, Dayal Singh, Dilip Singh Parveen Kumar, Naman Singh, Manish Charak and Bhuvneshwar Singh.

The Results:
Women: 40 kg: Priyanka Rajput, Ist; Garima Sharma, 2nd. 45 kg: Akriti Sharma, Ist and Minakshi Rajput, 2nd. 55 kg: Anamika Rajput, Ist. 59 kg: Ritika Kumar, Ist (Youth) and Pratha Jasrotia, 2nd (Junior). 71 kg: Gurpreet Kour, Ist. 76 kg: Nitika Sharma, Ist.

India at Olympics: Steered by Sreejesh, hockey team in semis; Lakshya remains in hunt for bronze



■ AGENCY

PARIS: The Indian hockey team produced one of its most resolute performances in recent memory to enter the Olympic semifinals for a second successive edition but Lakshya Sen's zealous push for a gold turned into a hunt for bronze on a bitter-sweet Sunday for India at the Paris Games.

With no medals added to the tally today, India slipped to 53rd in the overall standings with its three bronze medals, all secured in shooting (women's 10m air pistol, 10m air pistol mixed team and men's 50m rifle 3 positions).

There was heartbreak in boxing too as Lovlina Borgohain, who won a welterweight (69kg) bronze in the Tokyo Games, exited following a quarterfinal loss to Chinese veteran and familiar foe Li Qian in the women's middle-weight (75kg) category.

After that, it was Lakshya's turn to bow out of gold contention with a 20-22 14-21 loss to defending champion Viktor Axelsen. However, he still has a chance to finish on the podium in his Olympic debut, provided he can beat Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia in the bronze playoff on Monday evening.

Despite the setbacks, the nation had a strong reason to celebrate.

And it was thanks to the hockey team's strong-willed showing despite being on the back-foot for a majority of the match after key defender Amit Rohidas was shown a red card for unintentionally hitting a rival player about 20 minutes into the game.

For a little over 40 minutes, a 10-man India held off Britain to 1-1, forcing a shootout, in

which veteran goalkeeper P R Sreejesh proved to be a decisive force for the umpteenth time.

The 'Great Wall of India', as he is affectionately called, made a couple of crucial saves after his superb show in regulation time to steer India into the last four with 4-2 shootout triumph.

"(It is a) daily job of a goalie," shrugged the 36-year-old, who is competing in his last international event.

"When I stepped on this field today, there was two options for me. This can be my last match, or I got an opportunity for two more matches and I think, yeah, I got two more matches now," he quipped.

Head coach Craig Fulton declared that his team had not just won a match but made a statement of intent.

"When our backs are against the wall, we're all roped in. We're all in this together," he said.

India's boxing campaign, which never quite looked like taking off, came to a medal-less end after Tokyo edition bronze-winner Lovlina Borgohain (75kg) bowed out following a hard-fought quarterfinal loss to China's Li Qian in the women's competition.

Borgohain, the reigning world champion in the category, went down 1-4 to the Tokyo Games silver-winning 34-year-old in a messy contest during which both the boxers were repeatedly cautioned for clinching and holding.

This was after Nishant Dev was ousted from the men's 71kg quarterfinals on Saturday night, also a close contest.

A six-strong boxing contingent, comprising four women and two men, was representing

the country in the Games. Out of these, four had crashed out in the preliminary stage itself.

India's dream of a first ever Olympic gold in badminton will remain unfulfilled after Sen suffered a straight-game defeat to Axelsen in the men's singles semifinals.

The 22-year-old from Almora, a world championships bronze-medallist, squandered a three-point advantage in the first game and a 7-0 lead in the second to surrender to the two-time world champion in a 54-minute clash.

India have never won an Olympic gold medal in badminton with PV Sindhu claiming a silver and bronze at the 2016 Rio and 2020 Tokyo editions and Saina Nehwal securing a bronze in the 2012 London Games.

Indian shooters Vijayveer Sidhu and Anish Bhanwala gave a good account of themselves in the qualifications but could not enter the final of the 25m rapid fire men's pistol event in Chateauroux.

Vijayveer and Anish shot brilliantly over two stages of qualification, staying in contention till the final 10 shots of the second rapid-fire stage, only to shoot scores of 92 and 93, finishing ninth and 13th respectively. Only the top six shooters make the final cut.

In the women's skeet competition, Maheshwari Chauhan and Raiza Dhillon ended in 14th and 23rd place respectively in the qualification.

Maheshwari aggregated 118 across five series with the first three series taking place on Saturday. She recorded scores of 23, 24, 24, 25, 22. Raiza aggregated 113 after a sequence that read 21, 22, 23, 23, 24.

Here too, only the top six in the qualifications make it to the final.

India's unimpressive show in athletics competition continued with national record holders Parul Chaudhary and Jesvin Aldrin failing to qualify for the women's 3000m steeplechase and men's long jump respectively, here.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Faculty members and students of GGM Science College organized an event titled "Discussion on Freedom Fighters" to commemorate the 77th Independence Day celebrations.

The event aimed to celebrate the spirit of unity, remember the sacrifices of freedom fighters, and encourage the community to come together as one.

This initiative aligns with the college's mission to promote values of inclusivity and harmony among students and the broader public.



Principal GGM Science College, Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta and others at a programme.

The event was organized under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal of GGM Science College.

He emphasized that "Discussion on Freedom

Fighters" is not only a topic for a particular day but a continual remembrance of the sacrifices made by freedom fighters, fostering a sense of respect and gratitude.

He highlighted that such events instill values such as unity, teamwork, and national integration.

A floral tribute was given to Rashtrapita Mahatma Gandhi, Chandra Shekhar

J&K U-23 Wrestling Championship concludes

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Participants from different districts of the Union Territory participated in the two-day Under-23 Wrestling Championship which was organised by Wrestling Association of J&K in collaboration with University of Jammu (JU) at Gymnasium Hall on JU campus, here.

The J&K Sports Council (JKSC) and J&K Olympic Association also patronised the event. In the prize distribution function, Director Sports, JU, Dawood Iqbal Baba was chief guest, who presented medals to the winners of various weight categories.

Out of this competition the



Medal winners posing for a photograph with dignitaries.

J&K team was named for the upcoming National Championship by the selection committee under the guidance of chairman selection committee, Dheeraj Sharma. The National championship is scheduled to be held at Rohtak in

Haryana from August 16 to August 18.

Among other prominent present were Jai Bharat (general secretary) and Om Parkash (treasurer).

The Medal Winners: 57 kg: Vishal Choudhary, Gold; Ankit Choudhary, Silver and

Mohd Aslam, Bronze. 61 kg: Anil Singh, Gold; Sachin Singh, Silver and Latief, Bronze. 65 kg: Kulwinder Singh, Gold; Keshav Singh, Silver and Amrik Singh, Bronze. In 70 kg: Zakir, Gold; Gulam Sawar, Silver and Nitin Singh, Bronze. 74

kg: Gulshan Chib, Gold; Asif Ali, Silver and Shubham Singh, Bronze. 79 kg: Mohd Sadeeq, Gold; Mudassar Ahmed, Silver and Showkat Ali, Bronze. 86 kg: Amarjeet, Gold; Sunil Singh, Silver and Toffeq Umar, Bronze. 92 kg: Mohd Irfan, Gold; MAKsood Ahmed, Silver and Vipan Saini, Bronze. 97 kg: Madhan Singh, Gold; Kulbhushan, Silver and Dheeraj Choudhary, Bronze. 125 kg: Yuvraj Singh, Gold; Vikram Singh, Silver and Mohd Aquib, Bronze.

Prominent among those present were Swarn Lal, Ravinder Sharma, Krishan Singh, Roshan Sharma, Anil Kumar and Raj Kumar.

Vibrant Verve-Season 2 organised by FICCI FLO JKL & Luxuries of Kashmir concludes with resounding success



Senior BJP leader, Priya Sethi and others at a programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The much-anticipated Vibrant Verve - Season 2 celebrating women entrepreneurs across India and an exclusive exhibition organized by FICCI FLO JKL and Luxuries of Kashmir, powered by PC Totuka & Sons Jewellers from Jaipur as the Platinum Sponsor and J&K Bank as Support Sponsor concluded on Friday at KC Regalia, Jammu, with overwhelming participation and enthusiasm from the local community and beyond. Ruchika Gupta, Chairperson FICCI FLO JKL, highlighted the significance of the event, stating, 'Vibrant Verve' goes beyond being a mere exhibition; it is a movement that fosters empowerment, innovation, and collaboration.

This event is a celebration of the entrepreneurial spirit and a testament to the power of women-led businesses coming together to create lasting impact." The event was inaugurated on 3rd August by Khalid Jahangir, Director JKTPO, and witnessed the presence of distinguished guests, including Asha Suchindra, Chairperson AWWA, and G. Velladurai, Jt. Director MSME, J&K, who graced the occasion as Guests of Honour: Day one also featured participation from various government departments, including the Directorate of Handicrafts & Handloom, State Taxes, MSME, Police, and JKTPO, which contributed to the event's diverse offerings. The second day of Vibrant Verve - Season 2 saw a tremendous response from the people of Jammu, who flocked to the exhibition to explore the wide array of products from brands across India. The exhibition successfully fulfilled its mission of benefiting women entrepreneurs, not only from J&K but from all over the country. The participation of 50 stalls featuring a mix of apparel, home decor, footwear, jewelry, and gourmet foods showcased the diversity and richness of Indian craftsmanship. The event culminated with a special facili-

tion ceremony for all participating brands, presided over by Priya Sethi, Senior BJP leader and former Minister of State.

She praised the efforts of FICCI FLO JKL and Luxuries of Kashmir in putting together a credible and impactful exhibition that provided a platform for entrepreneurs to showcase their products, grow their businesses, and forge valuable networks.

Participants expressed their appreciation for the meticulous planning and execution of the event, which offered ample opportunities for business growth, collaboration, and exposure to new markets. The exhibition's partnership with the MSME Department ensured full reimbursement of stall charges for participants, reinforcing the support for women entrepreneurs. The exhibition also featured participation from various government departments and welfare associations, such as JKRLM (Jammu Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission), which showcased festive rakhis and GI Tagged Basohli Shawls & Paintings, and the Handicraft and Handloom Department, which presented the region's rich textile heritage.

These initiatives were aimed at enhancing livelihood opportunities for women and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) both in the region and across India. Prominent FICCI FLO JKL members, including Varuna Anand, Imm Past Chairperson, Arti Chowdhary, Sr. Vice Chairperson, Varsha Bansal, Vice Chairperson, Sona Mehta, Treasurer, Pooja Gandotra, Jt. Treasurer, Mona Saraf, Executive Secretary, and Nandita Bajaj, Jt. Secretary, were also present, contributing to the event's success.

As Vibrant Verve - Season 2 draws to a close, it leaves behind a legacy of empowerment, collaboration, and growth for women entrepreneurs, solidifying its status as a premier event in Jammu's business landscape.

Planting trees to augment environmental sensibility: Dr. Prashant Sinha

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PATNA: In an era where environmental degradation poses an existential threat, Dr. Prashant Sinha stands out as a beacon of hope.

This environmental journalist and activist is on a mission titled "Fifty Cities, Fifty Plants" to raise awareness about the importance of trees and encourage people to protect the planet.

Having already visited 12 cities, including Patna, Ghaziabad, and Jaipur, his efforts inspire communities nationwide to embrace environmental action.

Dr. Sinha's dedication extends beyond tree planting. He visits local schools to engage students with talks and activities highlighting the importance of conservation. Balancing his passion with running a business in another sector, he impacts his community by nurturing the next generation of eco-warriors.

In his locality, Dr. Sinha organizes pond-cleaning drives, rejuvenating water bodies and fostering community involvement. His urban tree-planting initiatives aim to improve air quality and create healthier living environments, making a tangible difference, one tree at a time.

His contributions have not gone unnoticed. He has been invited to join the panel for Doordarshan Patna as an environmentalist and has been honored with several awards, including the "Sri Sundar Lal Bahuguna Smriti Vriksha Mitra Samman" by the Green India Foundation Trust, the "Paryavaran Gaurav Samman" by the Rashtriya Paryavaran Suraksha Smiti, and the "Paryavaran Ratn Samman," presented by the NPJSS NGO on the occasion of Jai Diwas.

Additionally, Dr. Sinha has received an honorary doctorate from the Magic Book of Records, associated with the Magic and Art University, for his significant contribution to the environment. These accolades reflect his unwavering commitment and remarkable achievements.

Dr. Sinha also uses his writing to spread awareness about environmental issues. His newspaper articles offer insights into pressing challenges and share measures for conservation, encouraging readers to adopt more sustainable lifestyles.

Dr. Prashant Sinha's journey is a powerful reminder that individual actions can lead to significant change. His story serves as a source of inspiration for others to contribute to a greener, healthier planet.

