MBS College organises five-days FDP on Digital Marketing

Faculty along with dignitaries during the programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Mahant Bachittar Singh College of Engineering & Technology (MBSCET), Jammu, organised a five-day Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on "Digital Marketing" under the banner of ICT Academy.

The programme was coordinated by Ajaz Yousaf, Senior Relationship Manager - Academic Operations, ICT Academy, and concluded after five days of intensive lectures, practical demonstrations and hands-on training sessions.

The FDP was conducted by Anmol Duggal, Digital Marketing Specialist, Growth Marketer, Trainer and Consultant, who provided participants with practical insights into the latest digital marketing trends and AI-powered technologies.

Throughout the programme, faculty members received training in content creation, website development using WordPress, email marketing, customer journey mapping, marketing funnels, Search Engine Optimization (SEO), Search Engine Marketing (SEM), Google Ads, AI-powered keyword research, ChatGPT, Claude, Perplexity, Gemini, NotebookLM, Answer Engine Optimization (AEO), Generative Engine Optimization (GEO), Large Language Model Optimization (LLMO), social media marketing, digital advertising on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and LinkedIn, website optimization techniques and AI-driven search technologies.

Live demonstrations, website review activities and interactive doubt-clearing sessions enabled participants to gain practical experience and understand the effective application of digital marketing tools in teaching, research and professional practice.

The valedictory function was graced by Prof. (Dr.) Amrik Singh, Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Rajinder Singh, Administrator, Prof. Parveen Singh, Vice Principal, H.S. Gill, Dean Students' Welfare, Ishpal Singh, Professor of Practice, and Heads of various departments.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Amrik Singh appreciated the successful conduct of the FDP and stressed the importance of continuous learning and upskilling to meet the demands of the rapidly evolving digital landscape.

Certificates were presented to all participants during the valedictory ceremony. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty members of MBSCET and representatives from MAM College, Dogra Degree College, NITS Polytechnic, SPMR College, PSPS Government College of Women, and Government Degree College, Ramban.

Lovetesh, State Head, ICT Academy, J&K, also announced several upcoming training programmes for faculty members and students.

The FDP was efficiently coordinated by Ridhika Sharma, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science & Engineering, while Dilpreet Kaur, Assistant Professor (CSE) and Ankush Sharma, Assistant Professor (APSH) conducted the proceedings of the valedictory function. The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks proposed by Ridhika Sharma.

District-level inter-school selection trials begin in Kathua; 104 athletes participate on opening day

Officials along with during the trials.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: The Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS), Kathua, on Saturday commenced the Inter-School District-Level Trials-cum-Selection for Under-19 boys and girls in Judo, Karate, Wushu, Taekwondo, Boxing, and Wrestling, along with all age-group selection trials in Softball, Basketball, Swimming, and Fencing.

On the opening day, Judo and Karate trials for the U-19 category, along with Softball and Basketball trials for all age groups, were conducted at the Sports Stadium, Kathua. Fencing trials were held at NAZ Ground, Billawar, while Swimming trials took place at Jandi Pond, Hiranagar.

A total of 104 athletes from different schools across the district participated on the first day, showcasing impressive talent, discipline, and competitive spirit.

District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Kathua, Sunil Kumar, interacted with the participants, encouraged them to perform to the best of their abilities, and directed the selectors to ensure a fair and transparent selection process so that the most deserving athletes represent the district.

Before the commencement of the trials, all participants and officials took the Nasha Mukt Bharat Pledge, reaffirming their commitment to promoting a drug-free society.

The selection trials will continue until August 4, 2026, under the banner of the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, Jammu & Kashmir, as part of the department's annual calendar of activities.

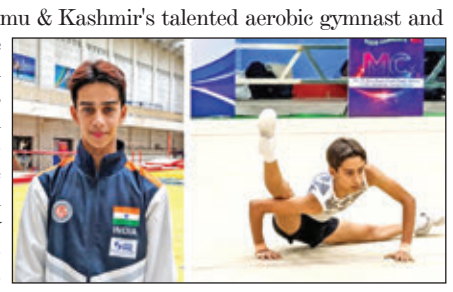
Abhigya Langeh qualifies Ph.D

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Abhigya Langeh, daughter of Lt. Rahul Dev Singh and Sunita Sambyal and Granddaughter of Thakur Dhain Singh Langeh, resident of Jammu, has been declared qualified for the award of Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in National Security Studies by the Central University of Jammu. She worked on the topic, "India China Border Dispute: Revisiting Border Management Practices and Resolution Mechanisms, 2001-2021" under the supervision of Dr. R. Sudhakar, Associate Professor, Central University of Jammu.

J&K Gymnast Ruddrakash Khanna to represent India at Asian Aerobic Gymnastics C'ship

■ STATE TIMES NEWS



JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir's talented aerobic gymnast and State Awardee Ruddrakash Khanna has once again brought laurels to the Union Territory by earning selection to represent India at the Asian Aerobic Gymnastics Championships, scheduled to be held in Manila, Philippines, from 5th to 7th August 2026. Ruddrakash's participation in the prestigious continental championship is fully sponsored by the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA), which has consistently extended financial support for his previous international participations, enabling him to compete at the highest level. A trainee under the guidance of S. P. Singh, former India Team Gymnastics Coach, Ruddrakash secured his place in the Indian contingent after successfully attaining the qualification score prescribed by the Technical Committee and Selection Committee of the Gymnastics Federation of India during the selection trials held in Manipur last month.

Expressing his happiness over the selection, Ruddrakash Khanna said, "Representing India for the sixth time at the international level is a dream come true and a moment of immense pride for me. I sincerely thank Secretary, J&K Sports Council & J&K Gymnastics Association, special thanks to my coach, S. P. Singh Sir, whose constant guidance, motivation and unwavering belief have played a pivotal role in my journey. I am also deeply grateful to IREDA for their continued support towards my international participation. I will give my best and strive to make India and Jammu & Kashmir proud."

CUJ organises Lecture on 'Indian Naval Modernisation: Progress and Prospects'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of National Security Studies (NSS) at the Central University of Jammu (CUJ), under the patronage of Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Sanjeev Jain, organized a distinguished lecture on "Indian Naval Modernisation: Progress and Prospects" under its Global Security Dynamics Lecture Series at the Brigadier Rajinder Singh Auditorium.

The lecture was delivered by Commander Shiv Mathur (Retd.) of the Indian Navy.

The programme was convened by Dr. R. Sudhakar, Associate Professor, co-convened by Prof. Dr. M. Venkataraman, and supported by Dr. Neeta Rani, Associate Professor and Head, Department of National Security Studies.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Tilak Raj Sharma, Assistant Professor, who welcomed the guest speaker, faculty members, research scholars, and students.

Dr. Anuradha Choudhary, Assistant Professor, introduced the keynote speaker and highlighted the significance of naval modernisation, maritime security, and the Indian Navy in the evolving geopolitical environment.

Drawing on over three decades of naval service, Commander Shiv Mathur traced India's rich maritime history and strategic sea routes before presenting a comparative analysis of naval modernisation in the United States, Russia, and India.

He highlighted India's indigenous shipbuilding programmes, advanced defence capabilities, aircraft carriers, missile systems, submarine fleets, and maritime strategy. Referring to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, tensions between Iran and the United States, and the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz, he underlined the growing significance of maritime security. He also stressed the need for an indigenous anti-submarine warfare strategy supported by advanced technology.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. M. Venkataraman emphasized the interdependence of maritime and territorial security, stating that strong land security is closely linked to robust naval capabilities and timely modernisation.

The lecture concluded with an interactive question-and-answer session involving students and faculty members. Dr. Ekta Manhas, Assistant Professor, delivered the vote of thanks.

Jammu student develops free Indian Sign Language learning tool, receives national recognition

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A 16-year-old Class XII student from Jammu, Panavin Singh Chib, has developed SignDarpan, a free web-based platform that enables hearing parents, teachers and caregivers of Deaf children to learn and practise Indian Sign Language (ISL). The innovative tool has received recognition from the Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities (AYJNISHD), Mumbai, which has recommended it as a supplementary learning resource for families and trainee teachers.

Available at SignDarpan, the platform teaches 262 ISL signs through video demonstrations performed by Deaf signers. The content has been sourced, with due credit, from the INCLUDE dataset developed by AI4Bharat at IIT Madras. Using an ordinary webcam, learners can practise signs and receive instant feedback on hand shape, movement and positioning. The platform is completely free, advertisement-free, requires no registration and processes video locally on the user's device, ensuring privacy.

Following an expert review by an ISL Master Trainer, AYJNISHD confirmed that the signs were linguistically accurate and consistent with standard Indian Sign Language. In its communication dated June 29, the institute recommended SignDarpan for hearing parents, families and trainee teachers and expressed its intention to include the tool in its parent-guidance and teacher-training programmes.

Earlier, the platform was demonstrated at the School for Hearing Handicapped, run by J&K Samaj Kalyan Kendra, Jammu, where it was evaluated by ten ISL-trained staff members. It was also reviewed and acknowledged by the Composite Regional Centre for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Jammu-Samba.

An Indian patent application (No. 202611076747) has been filed for the technology. "The tool does not replace Deaf teachers or interpreters," said Panavin Singh Chib. "It is meant to help families take the first steps in learning Indian Sign Language at home, free of cost."

Inter-school selection events held at Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As part of the annual calendar of activities and to raise the teams, inter-school Jammu district selection trials and competitions held at different venues, here today in all age groups of boys and girls. The selection across three desciplines of Kalarippayattu, Kurash and shooting took place under the guidance of district officer, Sukhdev Raj Sharma, who lauded the efforts of the organizing teams. The selection events officiated by Jatinder Kumar, Sunil Abrol (Kurash), Vishal Bharti, Ashish Sharma (Rifle Shooting), Amardeep Singh and Gurdeepika Kour (Kalarippayattu).

India wins fifth boxing gold in Glasgow CWG; Lovlina, Jadumani clinch silver

■ AGENCY

GLASGOW: India won their fifth gold medal in the Commonwealth Games boxing competition but Olympic medallist Lovlina Borgohain settled for a silver here on Saturday.

Lovlina lost to Emma-Sue Greentree of Australia in the women's 70kg final in a split 1-4 verdict.

Earlier, Indian boxers Jaismine Lamboria, Preeti Pawar, Sakshi Chaudhary, Arundhati Choudhary and Priya Ghanghas won gold medals in their respective categories, while Jadumani Singh settled for a silver.

Arundhati beat Chantelle Reid of England in the women's 70kg final in a unanimous 5-0 verdict.

Preeti claimed the gold with a dominant 5-0 victory over Canada's Scarlett Delgado in the women's 54kg before reigning world champion Jaismine clinched the yellow metal with the same scoreline against Northern Ireland's Michaela Walsh, who was the defending champion in the women's 57kg.

Sakshi then beat Ruby White of England in women's 51kg final 5-0 to win India's third boxing gold of the day.

It was a harder final bout for Priya who beat Marie-Bathoul Al-Ahmadieh of Canada 4-1 in a split verdict in the women's 60kg.

Jadumani lost a hard-fought contest 0-5 against Australia's Jye Dixon.

After a bit of struggle against his taller opponent, Jadumani rallied to win the first round 3-2.

However, Dixon then showed his wares and fought back brilliantly to take the second round by an 5-0 unanimous verdict.

The Aussie used the momentum to edge out his opponent and end India's golden run in the boxing ring.

Jadumani had stormed into the men's 55kg final after pulling off a 5-0 unanimous decision victory against Philip Haoseb of Namibia on Friday.

In the women's section, Jaismine took the first round by a split verdict after a close contest with both boxers challenging each other.

However, Jaismine won the second round by a unanimous verdict, having landed some hard blows on her opponents.

Earlier, 22-year-old Preeti made a commanding start to her gold-medal bout, winning the opening round unanimously with all five judges adjudicating 10-8 in the Indian's favour.

The World No. 3 in the bantamweight division started the second round on a positive note and continued in the same vein to emerge winner for India's first gold medal of the day.

MY Bharat Kathua organises 'Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat' competitions in collaboration with GDC Women Kathua

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Students posing for photograph along with officials and faculty.

KATHUA: Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), Kathua, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, organised the "Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat" District-Level Competitions in collaboration with Government Degree College (Women), Kathua.

The programme aimed to spread awareness against drug abuse while encouraging young people to showcase their creativity, talent and commitment towards building a healthy, progressive and drug-free India.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students representing various educational institutions across Kathua district. Around 200 participants competed in eight different events, while nearly 290 students, faculty members and guests attended the programme as the audience, making it a vibrant celebration of youth talent and social awareness.

The competitions covered a wide range of creative and cultural activities. Team B of Government Degree College (Women), Kathua emerged victorious in both the Dance Competition and Music Competition, besides securing the first position in the Nukkad Natak Competition.

In the Painting Competition, Tamanna of GDC Women Kathua secured first place. Hetal Malhotra of Government Degree College Boys, Kathua won the Debate/Elocution Competition, while Shivani Sharma emerged as the winner of the Short Film/Reel Competition. Abhishek of GDC Boys Kathua secured first place in the Slam Poetry Competition, and Kashish Bharti won the Slogan Writing Competition. All the winners will now represent District Kathua at the State-Level Competition.

The programme was graced by Dr. Jaipal Singh, Principal, Government Degree College (Women), Kathua, as the Chief Guest. In his address, he highlighted the significance of the Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat campaign and urged students to remain free from all forms of addiction, including substance abuse, negative influences and unhealthy habits.

He remarked that young people should instead develop a passion for sports, books, knowledge, patriotism, discipline and excellence, which contribute to both personal growth and nation-building. He appreciated MY Bharat Kathua for organising a meaningful youth-centric initiative that promotes social awareness through creative expression.

The programme concluded with the distribution of certificates and appreciation awards to the winners and participants. MY Bharat Kathua expressed gratitude to Dr. Jaipal Singh, the faculty members, organising committee, volunteers, judges and all participants for their wholehearted support in making the event a grand success.

The organisation reaffirmed its commitment to organising more such initiatives to empower youth and strengthen the vision of a Drug-Free India and Viksit Bharat.

Cycling events at Anantnag, Baramulla from Aug 7

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Cycling Association of Jammu and Kashmir shall hold District Road and MTB Cycling Championships in district Anantnag and district Baramulla of Kashmir Division.

While the Anantnag event shall take place at Larkipora Bridge to Shehlipora on August seven, the district Baramulla competition shall be held on August 12 near Railway Station, Sopore, a handout issued by the Association here today informed.

The competition shall be held in three age groups of under-14, sub-junior, junior and Elite.

Those interested participants need to bring along Aadhaar card, domicile certificate, date of birth certificate and two passport size phographs as also bank details at the time of competition, the handout added.

SGFI Inter-School Jammu Dist Soft Tennis Championship concludes

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The four day SGFI Inter-School Jammu District Soft Tennis Championship 2026 concluded successfully at M.A. Stadium, Jammu, showcasing the emerging talent from various schools of the district.

The championship was held from 28th July to 31st July 2026 under the supervision and collaboration of the Youth Services and Sports Department and Soft Tennis Khelo Centre Jammu,J&K Sports Council.

The tournament was organized as per SGFI guidelines and featured competitions in Under-14, Under-17 and Under-19 categories for both boys and girls.

The event witnessed intense matches and spirited performances throughout the four days. In the Under-19 Boys category, Madhavendra Singh Sambyal clinched the gold medal with an impressive display of skill and temperament. In the Under-17 Boys category, Aditya Dutt Sharma emerged as the gold medalist while Harikesh Dutt Sharma secured the silver medal and Ayansh Khajuria bagged the bronze medal.

In the girls' section, Abhiyana Khajuria won the gold medal in the Under-19 category, showcasing excellent control and court coverage. Lavanya Thakur clinched the gold medal in the Under-17 Girls category with consistent and confident play. The Under-14 Girls category saw promising young players in action with Swadhi Sharma winning the gold medal, Advika Kotwal securing the silver medal and Sanvi Parihar earning the bronze medal.

All the medal winners have qualified to represent Jammu District in the upcoming UT-level SGFI Soft Tennis Tournament.

The officials present on the occasion appreciated the dedication of the players and the efforts of coaches and supporting staff. They stated that such championships provide an important platform for the school students to showcase their talent and also help in identifying potential players for higher-level competitions.

The Youth Services and Sports Department along with the J&K Sports Council and Soft Tennis Khelo Centre Jammu reiterated their commitment to promote soft tennis in the region and provide necessary training and facilities to young athletes.

The championship concluded with a prize distribution ceremony where medals and certificates were presented to the winners in presence of officials, coaches and representatives from participating schools.