

Special children don their sporting colours

As many as 300 differently-abled students participated in the first such event in the satellite city

Srishti Shinde ● BELAPUR

There are tons of sporting events in the city that attract a lot of talent; but Wednesday's sporting extravaganza was indeed special. For the first time in Navi Mumbai, Belapur witnessed a brigade of differently-abled kids displayed their sporting talents at the district sports event organised by Swami Brahmanand Pratishthan, CBD Belapur, in association with the ministry of youth affairs and sports and special olympics. This 2-day event will end on Thursday at Rajeev Gandhi stadium, Belapur.

The event commenced at 10.30 am with the traditional march past flagged off the sports meet in the presence of prominent guests like SS Patil, the deputy education officer, SSA, Thane, LB Mahajan, the regional deputy commissioner social welfare, Mumbai vibhag, and the principal of Swami Brahmanand Pratishthan, Sukanya Venkataraman. This is the first time in the sports history of the city that this kind of a mega event has been organised for specially challenged.

The meet saw participation by as many as 300 differently-abled students (visually impaired, hearing impaired, orthopedically handicapped, mentally challenged, etc.) from 16 schools across Navi Mumbai, Raigad and Thane. Along with the host school Swami Brahmanand Pratishthan, other prominent schools like Aashray Special School, Sanpada; Bharatiya Manav Vikas Trust, Panvel, ETC- Education Training Centre for CWDA, Airoli; Helen Keller Institute, Mahape; Holy Cross Convent Special School, Thane; Shivshankar Shikshan Sanstha, Koparkhairane, etc. participated in this event.



Mukesh Trivedi DNA



The children competed against each other in various disciplines like athletics, aquatics and indoor games which included short put, softball throw, standing long jump, walking race, wheelchair race, 50 metres relay race, 25 metres freestyle swimming, table tennis and badminton. A new game called Bocce Ball was introduced and implemented in the curriculum for special children.

When principal Sukanya

Venkatarama was asked about the importance of the sport, she said, "The game emphasises on improving the student's grip, eye-hand coordination, concentration, etc. We had conducted a coaching camp on January 27 so that teachers and students become familiar with the sport."

Chief guest SS Patil mentioned, "The plan of organising such an event for CWSN (Children with Special Needs) has been there for 4-5 years, this year we have been

successful in doing it in Navi Mumbai. Right to Education is something that every child is entitled to and sports is a part of it. Hence, the aim of organising this event is to boost the morale of these children so that they can confidently compete with the normal kids."

The smiles seen on the faces of these children was worth a million dollars. "Every child wanted to participate in every game and all of them are very

much able for doing so. It's a bliss working with them and giving them the platform since these kids deserve a lot more in life; and many of them are highly talented," said Venkataraman, who has been serving the school for 19 years as a teacher and the past 6 years as principal. The event has been assisted by all sports fraternities across the city to give special children a taste of the sporting arena.



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—SS Patil, chief guest



Philanthropic gesture for leprosy-affected

DNA Correspondent ● VASHI

Members of Shree Chitragupt Samaj Welfare Association, an organisation consisting of Kayasthas residing in the satellite city, visited Shantivan and met those affected by leprosy.

Under the guidance of the president RS Saxena, the members visited Shantivan that is managed by Kushtarog Nivaran Samiti and is located around 10 kilometres away from Panvel taluka of Raigad district.

The entire visit was co-ordinated by Rajesh K Shreevastava and former secretary Gita Uday Prakash.

"It was a very good experience for all of us. The secretary of Kushtarog Nivaran Samiti took the members of our association to various centers explaining the affairs of the leprosy home and the Vridha Ashram as well. We all served the inmates food and distributed sweets and fruits as well. Other snacks items like biscuits were handed over in the office, as these



items were for breakfast and afternoon tea. We also gave a cash donation," Shreevastava said.

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—Rajesh K Shreevastava

for the benefit of these people. It is really amazing to see the trust members carry on this work of theirs with great dedication since 1990. It was a lovely to see inmates running a weaving and knitting workshop and making carpets on orders too," he said.

Samaj members made a commitment to pay more visits and support this cause.

India Cements wins city T-20 league

Team beat DYPSA in the final match last week

DNA Correspondent ● VASHI

The final match of DYPSA T-20 league that commenced at 6.30 pm on January 28 was attended by about 30,000 people to whom the university had handed out free passes. The teams India Cements and DYPSA Group A reached the finals after winning the semi-final matches which happened in the morning and afternoon of the same day.

In the first semi-final played in the morning between India Cements and Reliance One, the former scored 180 runs for the loss of six wickets and won the match. The second match in the afternoon, played between DYPSA Group A and Tata Sports Club saw the former winning with a score of 171 runs for the loss of 5 wickets.

SMASHING WIN

In the final match, DYPSA ended with 155 runs for 8 wickets. However, India Cements won the T-20 league final with 12 balls to spare. The winning team was also awarded a prize money of Rs7 lakh along with a trophy and certificates.

In the final match between India Cements and DYPSA Group A, the first innings that was played by DYPSA ended with a total of 155 runs for 8 wickets. However, India Cements won the T-20 league final with a whopping 158 runs for 6 wickets and only 12 balls to spare. The winning team was also awarded a prize money of Rs7 lakh along with a trophy and certificates.



St. Augustine's girls reign at Krida Mahotsav

Srishti Shinde ● NERUL

The Navi Mumbai Sports Festival organised by Navi Mumbai Krida Sankul was held from January 19 to January 22 at Navi Mumbai Sports Association (NMSA) grounds. More than 10,000 students from more than 122 schools and colleges across Navi Mumbai participated in the sports festival, better known as the mini olympics of Navi Mumbai.

Students St. Augustine's High School, Nerul, bagged winning positions in relay race and football. There were a total of 21 football teams from some of the most prominent schools across Navi Mumbai that participated in this tournament. More than 1,000 students participated in athletics in various track and field events like races, long jump and shotput.

Students of St. Augustine's High School, Nerul, won second place in the 4 x 100 me-

TOP SPOT

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tres relay race in the girls under-12 age group.

The team included VK Sruthilakshmi Ranjish, Akanksha Kandalkar, Poonam Kharade and Riya Tank, who are all VIth standard students. The girls delivered a remarkable performance at the race and thus secured second position, winning a trophy, prize money as well as certificates.

In the girls under-16 group, St. Augustine's footballers defeated St. Lawrence High School, Vashi, in the final match. The St. Augustine's team was a good mix of girls selected from the under-12 and under-14 age groups, who competed against the under-16 age group teams in their category.

The match was played for 20 minutes in each half, wherein Karishma Vazirani scored the first goal in the first half of the match in favour of St. Lawrence, Vashi. After a gruelling second half, Pooja Dhamal scored a last minute goal on behalf of St. Augustine's, thus equalling the score to 1-1.

The fate of the match was decided in the tie breaker, which St. Augustine's, Nerul, won 4-2. Akansha Khandalar, Pooja Dhamal, Pranali Shetty and Shifa Kadgi scored the winning goals. The team got prize money of Rs2,000 and a trophy.

Stars descend for charity

Richa Pinto ● NERUL

The mega musical programme and comedy show held on January 29 at Sri Ganesh ground in sector-12 was a magnificent affair. Renowned stars from the Malayalam film industry, Suresh Gopi, Kavya Madhavan, Samvrittha, Jagathi Sreekumar were in attendance.


The event organised by Kalyan Diocese's Navi Mumbai and Raigad zone, witnessed around 7,500 people. The bishop of the Kalyan diocese, his excellency Mar Thomas Elavanal inaugurated the event at 6pm followed by a grand Malayali orchestra show. "We started



preparing for this grand show for the past one year. A lot of efforts have been put in by each and every member of the diocese. Once the bishop inaugurated the show by lighting the lamp, the grand acts rolled in, one after another. The show had everything from reality show singers Cicily, Durga and Vineet to major Malayalam film stars.

Besides, the comedy show created a thorough laugh riot," parish priest of Infant Jesus Church in Koparkhairane, Father Siju Thomas said.

The main aim of conducting this programme was to accumulate funds for the Animation and Renewal Centre (ARC) in Panvel. "This centre is being built mainly to foster charity oriented activities of our Diocese. Here, we plan to conduct various camps and sessions on personality development, providing counselling on family issues. We were happy with the response received from the community," Fr. Kuria Kose from Nerul's Little Flower Catholic Church said.



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