

Press Release

Amaravati, 29 February 2024

Udgam 2024 - A Celebration of Sportsmanship and Excellence at SRM University-AP

In a magnificent celebration of sports and camaraderie, SRM University-AP's annual sports fest, Udgam-2024, unfolded with grandeur and an unwavering commitment to athletic excellence on February 29, 2024. The event was graced by dignitaries and sports aficionados, including the esteemed Chief Guest Mr. Nagapuri Ramesh, the renowned Dronacharya Awardee, Prof. Manoj K. Arora, Vice-Chancellor, along with other distinguished university officials, Dr R Premkumar, Registrar, Mrs Suma N, Chief Finance and Accounts Officer (CFAO), Prof. Vishnupad, Dean - Easwari School of Liberal Arts, Prof. Bharadhwaj Sivakumaran, Dean - Paari School of Business, Mr Anil Kumar Nigam, Director - Student Affairs, Dr. Sushmita Kumari, Assistant Director-Sports, Mr Manish Kumar Anand, Director - Human Resources, Mr Pankaj Belwariar, Director – Communications, graced the event with their presence. Around 800 students from 20 colleges and universities have participated in the fest.

The word 'UDGAM', which translates to 'origin' or 'to rise up' in Sanskrit, perfectly encapsulates the spirit of SRM University-AP's sports ethos. Not merely an extracurricular activity, sports at SRM University-AP are embraced as a pivotal element of student life, reflecting a holistic approach to education and personal development.

Prof. Manoj K. Arora, in his inspiring address, articulated the university's vision of elevating its sports facilities to international standards. "We are not just building facilities; we are nurturing the champions of tomorrow," he remarked, emphasizing the university's plans to enhance its infrastructure, fostering a thriving environment for budding athletes.

The Chief Guest, Mr. Nagapuri Ramesh, echoed the sentiment, highlighting the vital role of educational institutions in shaping the future of sports in India. His words, "India's tryst with sports excellence begins in our universities," resonated with the audience, underscoring the transformative power of sports in building discipline, resilience, and teamwork.

The event saw participation from over 800 students across 20 colleges, embodying the fest's ethos of unity and competitive spirit. The Torch Bearing Ceremony, a symbolic tradition, ignited the flame of sportsmanship, passing the torch of legacy and determination from seasoned athletes to the emerging generation.

"I'm immensely grateful to the university management for granting me this incredible opportunity. Witnessing the spirited and joyous participation of the students fills us with exhilaration. SRM University-AP has truly set the stage for these young athletes to hone essential life skills such as leadership and team building. I urge all students to seize this momentous opportunity with both hands and make the most of it, embracing the challenge with the heart of a sportsperson and the zeal of a champion," said Dr. Sushmita Kumari, Assistant Director-Sports.

As the fest unfolds, athletes will compete in a plethora of events, from Basketball to Chess, football to Tennis, each game would be a testament to the indomitable spirit of the

participants. The fest was not just a competition but a celebration of the enduring values that sports instil - teamwork, integrity, and the pursuit of excellence.

In conclusion, Udgam 2024 stands as a symbol of inspiration, urging students to embrace the spirit of sportsmanship, to learn from every game, and to always play with heart and honor. As Mr. Ramesh poignantly stated, "Khiladi ya to jitta hai, ya sikhta hai, kahi hartana hai (In the arena of sports, we either win or learn; we never lose)."