

COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2010

D.E.L.H.I. EQUALS HOSPITALITY

This is what Delhi stands for in the training manual for over 22,000 volunteers at the Commonwealth Games 2010.

Come October, Delhi will be dotted with a uniformed, well-behaved and informative army of men and women, ready to show the world the face of Indian hospitality.

The volunteers, who include people from all walks of life and all age groups, promise to leave a new legacy with the Games — that of volunteering in India.

The Games promise change, not only in infrastructure but also in attitudes. The October 3 to 14 extravaganza promises to leave a legacy of Indian hospitality for generations to come, says Devya Patney, head of the Games organising committee looking after volunteer training.

“Commonwealth Games 2010 will leave behind a long-lasting legacy not only in the form of infrastructure and sporting venues but also in the way we develop the skills of our human resources,” Patney says.

The three-tier training programme for these volunteers focuses on basic etiquette to venue specific



ic and safety training. “There are different levels towards reaching the end that will qualify them as successful volunteers. The first is a general training for developing soft skills. The second will be specific to their roles while the third will be carried out just before the Games start,” Patney says.

A tailor-made programme to keep the enthusiasm of volunteers on a high includes catchy lines like ‘U

for United’, ‘N for Namaste’, and a host of similar punchlines to remind them of their roles.

The training looks at providing general information about etiquette, how to communicate with guests and what to convey. ‘How may I help you’, ‘Please tell me what is wrong’, ‘I see what you mean’, ‘Let’s resolve it together’ — these are some of the lines from the manual given to the volunteers.

“The training has been outsourced to Amity University. There are 130 batches for the first phase of training which will be completed by the first week of August. Simultaneously, the second phase of role specific training will also start from the second week of July,” she says.

Though the initial plans were to take on 30,000 volunteers, the numbers were eventually brought down to 22,000. “Numbers are not of primary concern, we have enough volunteers. Also, following the training, the Games are definitely going to showcase to the world how India treats its ‘guests like gods’,” says a member of the volunteer training committee.

Gill inaugurates wrestling stadium

A spanking new wrestling stadium, named after wrestling great Khashaba Dadasaheb Jadhav, who was India’s first individual Olympic medallist, was inaugurated by Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Dr. M.S. Gill on July 6. The stadium, located at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium complex, will host the wrestling competition at the forthcoming Commonwealth Games.

Dr. Gill dedicated the stadium to Jadhav who won the wrestling bronze medal at the 1952 Olympic Games in Helsinki. Jadhav was awarded the Arjuna Award posthumously in 2000.

Dr. Gill also felicitated his son Ranjeet Khashaba Jadhav and presented him with a silver plaque in recognition of the achievements of his illustrious father. He also gave him a cheque for Rs. 300,000 from the National Welfare Fund for sportspersons. “Jadhav will always be remembered as the winner of independent India’s first individual Olympic medal. We are all proud of his achievements,” Dr. Gill said.

Dr. Gill said naming the stadium after the great wrestler was a small effort to honour the legendary wrestler’s achievements. He added that Jadhav was a source of inspiration for



Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Dr. M.S. Gill unveiling the plaque to rechristen the Wrestling Stadium as K.D. Jadhav Stadium in memory of Khashaba Dadasaheb Jadhav, in New Delhi, on July 6.

all Indian wrestlers. Beijing Olympics gold medallist wrestler Sushil Kumar was also present at the inauguration.

“We are happy that the stadium has been named after the great K.D. Jadhav. It will motivate us to win laurels for our country. We are training hard for the Commonwealth Games and we are looking forward to a good show,” Sushil said.

New cycling velodrome elegant and beautiful: Dikshit



Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Dr. M.S. Gill inaugurating the Cycling Velodrome at the Indira Gandhi Stadium Complex in New Delhi on June 29. Chief Minister of Delhi Sheila Dikshit also seen.

Completed in a record 17 months, a new cycling velodrome, built to international standards at the Indira Gandhi Stadium, was inaugurated on June 29 with Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit saying that the “job had been done elegantly and beautifully”.

The velodrome, which was inaugurated by Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Dr. M.S. Gill, is fully covered with a 250-metre-long timber track. Built at a cost of Rs. 1.5 billion, it has a seating capacity of 3,800.

Speaking at the function, Gill complimented all officials and the Central Public Works Department for completing the construction work ahead of schedule.

The velodrome is the first of its kind in the country and meets all the international standards.

“It’s a special occasion today. We have to be proud as it has come up in just 17 months. The other venues are also ready and I am fixing the dates for their inauguration,” Gill said.

The velodrome has been certified by International Cycling Federation (UCF) as a Category 1 Cycling Velodrome.

Mizo bamboo dance for Games ceremony

The vivacious Mizo bamboo dance, which symbolises craft and skill, will entertain spectators at the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games.

“Mizoram had accepted the invitation from the Commonwealth Games Organising Committee to perform their traditional and colourful Cheraw dance at the inaugural ceremony in the national capital,” an official said.

“Around 80 dancers, comprising men and women, will perform the bamboo dance, traditionally known as Cheraw dance, at the inaugural function at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on October 3,” he said.

This year the Cheraw made it to the Guinness Book of World Records as the world’s largest and longest dance ensemble. “On March 12, 671 troupes



Folk artistes from Mizoram perform the traditional Cheraw bamboo dance.

consisting of 10,736 dancers participated in the mass dance congregation at the Assam Rifles ground in Aizawl to demonstrate the world’s largest and longest dance ensemble,” said Jim K. Chozah, Mizoram information and public relations director. He said a

new world record was created with dancers performing the bamboo dance for hours in perfect rhythm.

The bamboo or the Cheraw dance is the harbinger of the Chapchar Kut festival of the Mizos, which marks the end of winter and the advent of summer.

The dance symbolises “the excellence, strength, skills and aspirations of the people of Mizoram”, a mountainous state of around a million people.

Cheraw is the most vibrant of Mizo dances. Men sitting face to face on the ground tap long pairs of horizontal and cross bamboo staves open and close in rhythmic beats, while girls in colourful Mizo costumes dance in and out between the beats of bamboo to great precision and timing.

The bamboo poles produce a clicking sound that forms the rhythm of the dance.