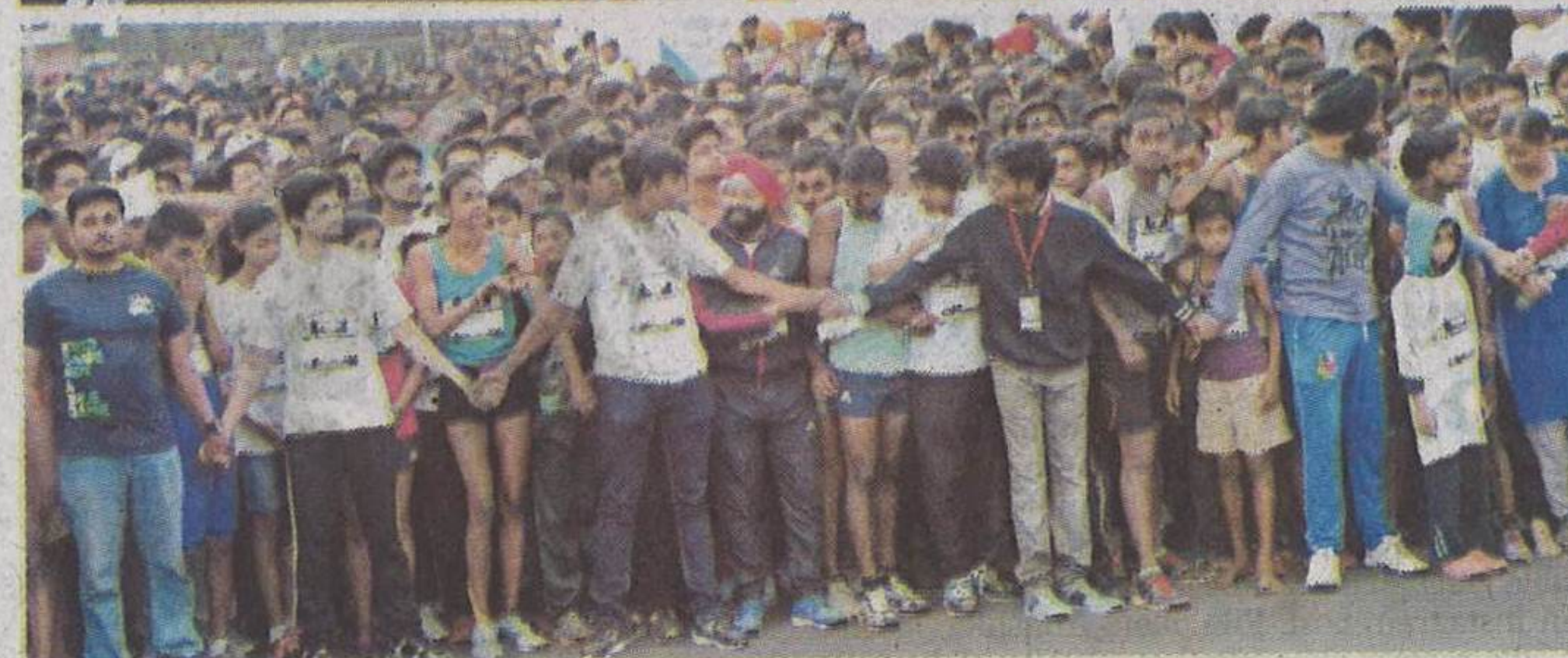


Semir, Monika wins IIM's mini marathon

Prayaas: IIM Raipur successful Marathon puts Raipur on India's Marathon Map



Semir from Ethipio wins 11km men's event.



Kids enthusiastically participate in race

Enthusiasm was writ large on many kids at marathon organised for promotion of sanitation on Sunday morning. They woke up early and came in large number to take part in race.

Many children over five years of age came along with their parents to take part in the race. Siblings from Mandhar Colony Kartik and Himanshu Gandharva too took part in the marathon. Studying in Class 8th and Class 7th respectively at Gyan Deep School, both of them prepare for athletics every day. Their father is a factory worker. Both the brothers had come along with Giroud resi-



dent Roshan Verma who guides them in race. Kartik dreams of becoming best athlete. Both of them run 15 to 20

kilometers daily. Class 3rd student in Bhavans School Arya came along with her mother to take part in marathon.

Raipur, Feb 12:

Sunday morning witnessed the roaring success of Raipur's first student driven marathon with more than 2200 registered runners running for the cause of Swachh Bharat from the environs on Telibandha Talab. Braving the early morning hours and fighting lethargy, participants started arriving at the Marine Drive from all parts of the Raipur and nearby cities since 5 am. "It is important to take small steps towards the changes we so often only speak about. This is what brought us here", says Swetha student of NIT Raipur.

Before the event started, no stone was left unturned by IIM Raipur students to ensure the smooth execution of the event. Kits including t-shirts, caps and bibs were distributed to registered participants on Friday and Saturday at prominent points in the city. Buses were also arranged from all points of the city for partici-

athletes Babita Phogat, Deepika Kumari, IIM Director Dr. B.S. Sahay and Rajeev Srivastava IPS, former DGP and first Sports Director of Chhattisgarh were felicitated at 6.30 am. Ms Babita Phogat, who is one of India's most famous wrestlers with medals at Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and Rio Olympics and inspiration for the movie 'Dangal' and ace archer Ms. Deepika Kumari one time world no. 1 archer in recurve and Arjuna Award and Padma Shri awardee were prime crowd pullers. The chief guests proceeded to declare the marathon open and lead the gathered participants in the Swachhta Pledge. The pledge saw all participants vowing to spend at least 2 hours a week towards a Clean India as well as inspiring 100 other individuals to take up the same pledge. Director B.S Sahay stressed on the importance of the Swachh Bharat movement and the stellar role played by students in initiat-

precedented 1700 registered participants, this kicked off the event in earnest

being women, 512 having run for the flagship 11 km run and 1714 having run for the 5 km

Kumar Yadav and Rooma Devi for men and women respectively walking away with



Monika Choudhary winner of 11km women's event

spellbound by the performance of a Nukkad Natak by students of Bhavan's school on the theme of Swachh Bharat followed by a dance by the team from IIM Raipur. Anuj Sabarwal, first year MBA student of IIM then delivered a stirring poem about the need for Swachh Bharat which was followed by an enthralling performance by a team from the Ministry of Culture, Chhattisgarh. Various dignitaries were then welcomed on stage including the Minister for Panchayat and Rural Development Ajay Chandrakar, City Mayor Pramod Dubey and Rajamuni Tamrakar, Sr Division RS Manager, IOCL who was the title sponsor for the event.

The central idea about the event was to adopt of a village and impart knowledge regarding sanitation and build toilets. To fulfil this promise IIM Raipur has decided to adopt the village Guma in Raipur district situated 50 kms from Raipur city.

Guma has a population of

toilets and curb the problem of open defecation in the village. Post the prize ceremony, Shri Ajay Chandrakar, Minister of Panchayat and Rural Development, handed over the letter of consent stating the understanding of village adoption to the representative of Guma village to fulfil this pledge.

This was followed by enlightening speeches of the dignitaries. The event came to a close with the felicitation of all dignitaries with mementos by Prof. Vinita Sahay, on behalf of IIM Raipur. She thanked all present for turning up in large numbers to make the event a grand success.

Using the RFID chip to track the timings for the 11km marathon and mass turn up for a marathon within city limits, the marathon was a grand success in ensuring Raipur a spot on the list of student-run marathons across India. First time runners and seasoned runners urged for the event to be conducted an-