



## LG attends inaugural ceremony of 5th Khelo India Winter Games at Gulmarg

**GULMARG, MARCH 09:** Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha attended the inaugural ceremony of 5th Khelo India Winter Games at Gulmarg today.

The Lieutenant Governor welcomed and conveyed his best wishes to athletes and team officials from all over the country participating in different winter-sports disciplines.

"Khelo India Winter Games symbolizes the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat. The world-famous winter tourism destination Gulmarg has been developed as a winter sports city. I welcome you all.

A real champion is made not by victory or defeat but by passion, enthusiasm, courage and sportsmanship. This is your opportunity to show the world the skills and unique abilities you have acquired after years of hard-work and inspire the young generation.

Let us strengthen our bond as a family by imbibing the values of sportsmanship, brotherhood, and promote peace, unity and harmony," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Naren-



dra Modi, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, J&K Sports Department, Sports Council and all stakeholders for promoting robust sports culture, and developing start-of-the-art sports infrastructure and allied facilities, along with global standard coaching, in the UT of Jammu Kashmir.

"I am proud of what we have achieved in the last 4 and a half years. Today, the UT of Jammu Kashmir has become a home to the national and international level sporting events. International cricket has returned to the Kashmir Valley after three decades. The success of previous editions of Khelo India Winter Games, inspirational success stories of our sportspersons in various

disciplines reflects our Sporting Power," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the key initiatives taken by the government to promote sports in Jammu Kashmir.

Around 4500 players are being trained in 92 Khelo India Centers in different parts of Jammu Kashmir. Last year 15,000 players from Jammu Kashmir participated at the national and zonal level.

Water Sports Academy and Fencing Academy have been established at Nehru Park, Srinagar and MA Stadium, Jammu, respectively.

We are soon going to complete the construction of the prestigious Khel Gaon in Nagrota and high-performance training cen-

## Thrills & triumphs mark inaugural day of Khelo India Winter Games 2025

**GULMARG, MARCH 09:** The pristine snow-covered slopes of Kangdoori in Gulmarg came alive on Sunday as the 5th Khelo India Winter Games 2025 kicked off with high-octane action and a breathtaking display of athleticism.

The grand sporting event set the stage for some of the finest winter sports performances India has ever witnessed.

The air crackled with excitement as athletes from across the country vied for supremacy, their determination etched in every swift turn, every daring descent, and every triumphant leap over the powdery snow.

Against the backdrop of the stunning mountains range, competitors showcased their grit and finesse, leaving the crowd spellbound.

The opening day featured fiercely contested events, with participants battling not just their rivals but also the elements.

In the Men's Snowboarding Slalom, Jammu and Kashmir's Mehrajuddin Khan carved his way to gold with a flawless run, while his compatriot Zubair Ahmad Lone secured silver in an electrifying finish. Vivek Rana from the Army clinched bronze, completing the podium for an event that had spectators at the edge of their seats.

The Women's Snowboarding Slalom saw Menka Gunjiyal of Uttarakhand glide effortlessly to victory, claiming gold. The battle for silver and bronze was fierce, with Himachal Pradesh's Sakshi Thakur and Natasha Maher securing second and third



places, in a thrilling contest of skill and speed.

In the Ski Mountaineering Men's Sprint, Army's Rajeshwar Singh dominated the treacherous ascent and descent, seizing the gold. Siddharth from Maharashtra put up a commendable effort to secure silver, while Mayank Dimri from Uttarakhand bagged bronze in an event that tested the endurance and agility of the competitors.

In the Alpine Skiing Slalom, witnessed Yogesh Kumar from Himachal Pradesh clinching gold with a masterful display of precision and control. Jigmet Rafastan from the Army took silver, while his teammate Bakir Hussain secured bronze, capping off a day of exhilarating action on the slopes.

In the final competition of the, Bhawani Thekkada of Karnataka won gold in the Women's 5 km Nordic Skiing event. Selma Soreng of ITBP earned a well-deserved silver, while her teammate Kusum Rana clinched the bronze.

Beyond the competition, the true spirit of the Khelo India Winter Games was

evident in the jubilant celebrations of the athletes. The powdery snowfields of Gulmarg turned into a playground of joy as victors and participants alike revelled in their shared love for winter sports.

"It's not just about winning. It's about feeling the adrenaline rush, pushing your limits, and embracing the beauty of the mountains," said gold medalist Mehrajuddin Khan, his breath visible in the crisp mountain air.

The participating athletes echoed similar sentiments.

"Competing here, amidst these majestic peaks, is an experience like no other. The camaraderie among athletes makes it even more special," they said.

The opening day of the Khelo India Winter Games 2025 proved to be an unforgettable spectacle, with more thrilling action on the horizon.

As the competition intensifies in the coming days, Gulmarg's snow-laden slopes are set to witness more moments of glory and unyielding determination. Medalists:

Snowboarding Slalom (Men)

Gold: Mehrajuddin Khan (J&K)

Silver: Zubair Ahmad Lone (J&K)

Bronze: Vivek Rana (Army)

Snowboarding Slalom (Women)

Gold: Menka Gunjiyal (Uttarakhand)

Silver: Sakshi Thakur (Himachal Pradesh)

Bronze: Natasha Maher (Himachal Pradesh)

Ski Mountaineering Men's Sprint

Gold: Rajeshwar Singh (Army)

Silver: Siddharth (Maharashtra)

Bronze: Mayank Dimri (Uttarakhand)

Alpine Skiing Slalom

Gold: Yogesh Kumar (HP)

Silver: Jigmet Rafastan (Army)

Bronze: Bakir Hussain (Army)

Nordic Skiing (5 km Women)

Gold: Bhawani Thekkada (KAR)

Silver: Selma Soreng (ITBP)

Bronze: Kusum Rana (ITBP)

## When you do something different, you need backing of team management: Rohit

**DUBAI, MAR 09:** Rohit Sharma came to the Champions Trophy party when it mattered the most with his customary attack upfront approach in the final, which had the vote of the erstwhile team management helmed by Rahul Dravid and current one headlined by Gautam Gambhir.

Rohit, who had a torrid time in the

Test series in Australia, got back to form in his favourite format, and his 76 set the tone for India's four-wicket victory in the final against New Zealand here on Sunday.

"To have the result our way is a great feeling," Rohit said after winning the player of the match award.

Asked about his attack at-all-cost style since the last 50 over World

Cup, Rohit explained the rationale behind the move.

"It was not natural to me, but something I really wanted to do. When you are doing something different, you have to have the backing of the team and management.

"I spoke to Rahul (Dravid) bhai earlier and now Gauti (Gambhir) bhai as well.

## Varun represents India in World University Games

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, MAR 09**

Varun Sharma has been selected for the World University Games in Judo, scheduled to be held from JULY 16 TO July 27 at Germany.

Varun is trained under Danish Sharma, Judo Coach of Shrine Board Stadium, Katra and chief coach of J&K Sports Council, Suraj Bhan Singh. It was after a gap of eight years that Varun



has made it to the World University Games. Danish Sharma played for India in the World Universities eight years back.

Meanwhile, CEO of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Anshul Garg (IAS); Additional CEO, Alok Kumar Morya (IFS) and Director Sports, Dhruv Gupta (JKAS) congratulated both player and coach for their efforts and qualification for the prestigious event.

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, MAR 09**

Hosts District Jammu lifted both men and women titles in the 24th J&K Senior Kho Kho Championship, which was organised by J&K Kho Kho Association in support with J&K Sports Council at Green Play Fields, here today.

In the men final, Jammu defeated Budgam while women trounced district Kathua by five points in interesting contests.

Jammu district teams demonstrated remarkable prowess throughout the tournament, overcoming formidable opponents with strategic game play and unwavering spirit.

"We are immensely proud of our team's outstanding performance. Their dedication, hard work, and relentless pursuit of excellence have brought this prestigious



title to Jammu district," said Jammu District Kho Kho Association president, Dr Baljinder Kour.

The closing ceremony was graced by Arun Gupta, president Chamber of Commerce and Industries, who was chief guest. Gupta presented title trophies and other individual prizes.

Among the special guest were Dr Manmeet Singh, chairperson Ran-

jit College of Education; B.S Tirthi, founder JKKKA; Harpreet Singh Anand, chairman JSS; general secretary, Amrinder Pal Singh; treasurer, Pankaj Malhotra; Tarmeet Raina, joint secretary; Makbool, Tejashwar Gupta, Ana Gupta, Sanjeet, Dr Maninder Singh Bawa, Vikas Gupta, Aditya, Gourav, Pankaj, Gagan Kumar, Mahesh Abrol, Anil

Gupta, Dheeraj Sharma, Manzoor, and Qyoom.

The competition officiated by the penal of technical officials including Sahil Dev Singh, Palbinder Singh, Shubam Bhu, Rohit Sharma, Bashir Ahmed, Pooja Sharma, Keshu Rajput, Sahil Angral, Yogesh, Sandeep Singh Jamwal, Sidharth, Abhishek Singh and Fayaz Ahmad Pala.

## Asmita Judo City League held

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, MAR 09**

A day-long Asmita Judo City League held at Pargo Memorial Shiksha Kendar, Gurha Manhasan, here today. The event was organised by Judo Association of Jammu and Kashmir under the aegis of Sports Authority of India and Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Vice Principal of the host school, Ajay Singh was the chief guest, who presented medals and certificates among the winners of different weight groups. Suraj Sharma, general secretary of Judo Association of J&K and Jagdish Singh were the guests of honour. Anu, social

activist was the special guest.

Bouts were officiated by Manish Chatwal, Judo In-



structor, Sunakshi Devi, Anju Rajak and Lakshmi Devi. About 100 female judokas participated in this championship.

The Medal Winners: Gold: Aarya Chib, Surbhi, Rachita, Pinky, Khushi, Ishani, Mansi 44, Anjali, Khushi, Sunakshi Devi, Shabnam, Aaruhi,

Anshika, Mahika, Sunalika 30, Mahvish 23.

Silver: Mahima 28, Shalu 32, Khushi 36, Kamini 40, Koutiva 52, Sonia 57, Deepika 44, Senaha 48, Lakshmi 63, Anu Sharma 57, Priyal 15, Mannat 20, Suhani 28, Mehaj 25, Ridhima 30, Aaruhi 23.

Bronze: Mahi Vemra 28, Muskan 28, Mannat 32, Nitika 32, Kaviya 36, Chandni 36, Monika 40, Anvi 40, Sonia 52, Ishani 52, Sabika 44, Anju 44, Sumakha 48, Samriti 48, Anaya 15, Anaya Varma 18, Rafia 20, Mahi 20, Akshita 28, Kanika 28, Vinamika 25, Sonakshi 25.

## Stage set for UT Kabaddi Champ at Udhampur

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, MAR 09**

Udhampur district has made necessary arrangements to host the 23rd Sub-Junior UT Kabaddi (boys and girls) Championship at Indoor Subash Stadium, here from March 15.

Udhampur. This was informed by the general secretary of

J&K Amateur Kabaddi Association, Kuldeep Kumar Gupta. He said that the event is hosted by the Udhampur District Kabaddi Association under the aegis of J&K Amateur Kabaddi Association and supported by the J&K Sports Council from March 15 to March 17.

All the affiliated district kabaddi teams are expected to take part in this

three-day event. The participating district units have been advised to submit their entries on or before 12 pm of March 13, positively.

Further, the Association secretary disclosed that the teams for the Sub-Junior Nationals shall be selected out of the UT Championship, so the district units have been advised to select the best talent for

J&K meet.

The selection will be followed by the coaching camp from March 18 onwards at Udhampur.

Those participating players have been asked to bring along, at the time of reporting, Aadhar Card and Domicile Certificate besides Medical Fitness Certificate from the Medical Officers and NOC from parents.