



India's rich cultural tapestry takes centre stage as Commonwealth baton heads to Ahmedabad

GLASGOW, AUG 03: As the curtain came down on the Glasgow Commonwealth Games, India offered the world a vibrant invitation to Ahmedabad, blending ancient philosophy, contemporary artistry and cultural grandeur in a handover presentation that officially launched the journey towards the centenary edition of the Games in 2030.

The emotional centrepiece of Sunday's closing ceremony at the OVO Hydro saw Glasgow formally pass the Commonwealth Games baton to India before a spectacular showcase of music, dance and storytelling projected India's identity as a nation where tradition and modernity coexist.

Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh, representing King Charles III, formally declared the Games closed.

"Thanks for the manner in which you have competed, officiated, supported, organised the Games. You have once again brought the spirit and value of Commonwealth tonight. Thank You Glasgow," he said.

"I call up on athletes of all countries and territories to come to Ahmedabad, India in four years time to celebrate the 24th Commonwealth Games in what will be the centenary of the Games," he added. IndiaNews Portal

Jaismine Lamboria carried India's flag at the closing ceremony after winning gold in the women's 57kg category boxing competition.

The formal handover began with the Commonwealth Games flag making its symbolic journey across the arena.

Led by bearers holding the Scottish and Indian flags, the procession lowered the folded Games flag. Glasgow's Lord Provost Jacqueline McLaren then passed it to Commonwealth Games Scotland vice-chair Susan Jackson, Scottish netball player Emily Nicholl, Commonwealth Sport president Dr Donald Rukare, two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra, Indian Olympic Association president PT Usha, and

finally Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi. This marked the official transfer of hosting responsibilities from Scotland to India.

From that solemn moment, the atmosphere transformed into a celebration of India's civilisational ethos.

The Indian presentation unfolded over three acts, taking the audience on what organisers described as a journey celebrating shared values, culture and connection.

The overarching message was rooted in the ancient Indian philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam -- "The World is One Family" -- a theme that resonated strongly with the Commonwealth's ideals of unity and friendship.

The opening act also commemorated 150 years of Vande Mataram, India's national song, with a sweeping choreography led by actor Manushi Chhillar.

Set against immersive digital visuals, hundreds of dancers painted a vivid portrait of India's diversity while maestro Shankar Mahadevan's stirring score fused orchestral grandeur with Indian musical traditions.

The performance sought to portray India as a civilisation that welcomes the world

through its plurality of languages, customs and artistic traditions. A specially produced film introduced international audiences to Ahmedabad.

The film presented sport as an inseparable part of Indian life, tracing its evolution from ancient traditions of discipline and physical excellence to the aspirations of one of the world's youngest nations. Gujarat was portrayed as a place where centuries-old heritage intersects with innovation and urban ambition, positioning Ahmedabad as a fitting venue for the Commonwealth Games' landmark centenary edition.

The visual narrative culminated with a message that sport has the power to unite people, celebrate diversity and bring the Commonwealth together in India. The second act celebrated perhaps the strongest cultural bridge between the outgoing and incoming hosts - music. Called "The Cultural Jugalbandi", the segment paired internationally acclaimed Indian sitar virtuoso Rishab Sharma with celebrated Scottish musician Ross Ainslie.

The dialogue between Sharma's sitar and Ainslie's Scottish pipes and whistles became a symbolic conversation between two ancient musical

traditions. Moving seamlessly between meditative passages and energetic crescendos, the performance demonstrated how music can transcend geography and language while respecting cultural identity.

The finale belonged to one of India's most celebrated musical families, IndiaNews Portal

Shankar Mahadevan returned to the stage alongside his sons Siddharth and Shivam Mahadevan for a concert that travelled through some of India's most recognisable songs, including "Suno gaur se duniya wala, Bhaag Milkha, Ae watan watan and Lehara Do."

Gujarati playback singer Bhoomi Trivedi added a special tribute to the host state, ensuring Gujarat occupied centre stage before welcoming the Commonwealth in four years' time.

The Indian showcase followed Glasgow's farewell celebration featuring Scottish music, poetry and dance.

Scotland's wheelchair racer Melanie Woods won the David Dixon Award, which is given to the outstanding athlete of the Commonwealth Games, based on their performance, fair play and overall contribution to their team's participation at the Games.



Inter-school DYSS Kurash meet held

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 03

Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) organized inter-school selection competitions of district Jammu in the discipline of Kurash at Santosh Vidya Mandir, Paloura, here today.

Around 100 participants took part in this three-day event Manni Samriti, chairman of the host school was the chief guest, who interacted with the participants. Sandeep Singh, vice principal of the school, was the special guest.

Speaking on the occasion, the guests appreciated the efforts of the students and encouraged them to take up sports for physical fitness and discipline. They also emphasized the importance of martial arts like Kurash in building confidence among girls.



DYSS holds Hockey, Kalarippayattu events



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 03

Part of the annual calendar of activities, Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) today

organized inter-school district level selection competition to raise teams for Jammu district in the disciplines of Hockey (under-19) and Kalarippayattu (under-17, under-19), here today.

The hockey event took place at K K Hakhu Stadium while the Kalarippayattu competition held at MA Stadium, here.

The competition officiated by the technical penal including Jagjeet Singh, Karanjeet Singh, Mandeep Singh, Surinder Pal Singh, Harvinder Singh, Satinder Singh, Koshal Sharma, Hardev Singh, Harvinder Singh, Gurbachan Singh, Anit Kour and Davinder Singh.

VCA felicitates Amrita for winning chess title

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 03

The Vivek Chess Academy (VCA) today felicitated Amrita Gupta, who won the women title in the just concluded G H Raisoni Memorial Jammu Open Chess Tournament which was organised by the Jammu District Chess Association at LA-VEERAZ Chess Hall Khara Madana, near here.

In total, 71 top J&K players participated in this event. For clinching women's title, Amrita was felicitated with Rs 500 prize money by the Director of the Academy, Vivek Bharati in the presence of other trainees of VCA.

Meanwhile, Ashutosh Jamwal, an ex-player of VCA, won the tournament with securing seven out of eight points. The second prize also bagged by VCA ex



player, Pazhany with equal seven points out of eight.

In the meantime, tge efforts of Stuti gupta, another ex-player of VCA appreciated for her role as chief Arbiter for the third time in the Jammu Open Chess events.

She also achieved the milestone of 20 times as an Arbiter in the chess events held at Jammu.

CWG 2026: India finish 4th on medals table as Australia top chart yet again



GLASGOW, AUG 03: India signed off from the 2026 Commonwealth Games with another impressive medal haul, finishing fourth in the pecking order with 39 podium finishes despite competing in a significantly trimmed sporting programme that excluded some of its traditional strongholds.

India won 13 gold, 17 silver and 9 bronze medals. Australia topped the table with 171 medals, including 70 gold, while England (110 medals), and Canada (62) were second and third respectively.

Hosts Scotland ended fifth with a total of 39 medals, same as India but with less number of silver.

The Indian contingent produced a series of stand-out performances over the 11-day competition in Glasgow, collecting medals across disciplines such as boxing, athletics, judo, para sports, and weightlifting to reinforce its status as one of the Commonwealth's sporting powerhouses.

Boxing emerged as one of India's biggest contributors, accounting for 10

medals, including seven gold and three silver, while many track and field and para athletes too produced a string of podium finishes.

While the boxers delivered consistently, the judokas added crucial medals to the tally.

Although the absence of sports such as shooting, badminton, wrestling, hockey, and table tennis, along with the reduced overall programme, affected India's medal prospects compared to previous editions, the contingent adapted well to the

changed landscape and remained among the most successful teams at the Games.

There were, however, a few disappointments, with India's campaign suffering an early setback when judoka Tulika Maan was ruled out before the Games after being provisionally suspended for three whereabouts failures under anti-doping regulations.

With the Glasgow chapter coming to an end, India's focus now shifts to the 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad.

Boxing boom, judo show power India to strong Glasgow Commonwealth Games campaign

GLASGOW, AUG 03: India overcame the absence of several traditional medal-winning sports to surpass expectations at the 2026 Commonwealth Games, signing off fourth with 39 medals on the back of a record-breaking boxing campaign, a historic showing in judo, and another strong performance by its para athletes.

With the Games reduced to just 10 sports, leaving out wrestling, shooting, badminton and hockey, India's chances of a top-five finish looked uncertain before the Games began.

However, the 122-member contingent returned with 13 gold, 17 silver and

nine bronze medals, underlining the country's growing depth beyond its traditional strengths.

The Indian pugilists produced their best-ever Commonwealth Games campaign, collecting a record seven gold medals and 10 podium finishes overall. While the women lived up to expectations, the men also delivered consistently to make it India's most successful sport in Glasgow.

The performance, however, must be viewed in context. The absence of several European and Central Asian nations meant the competition was not as deep as at the Olympics or World Championships. Even so,

India made full use of the opportunity. WorldNews Section

Long considered a fringe medal sport, it produced India's best-ever Commonwealth Games performance. Asmita Dey's gold, won months after losing her father, and Harsh Singh's title, reflected the steady progress the sport has made over the last few years.

From powerlifting to athletics, Indian para athletes once again proved that their success at recent Paralympics was no coincidence. The medals across disciplines reflected the growing strength of the country's para sports programme.

Athletics presented a mixed picture

Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra, returning from injury, settled for silver and a few other medal hopefuls failed to meet expectations. At the same time, the sport produced some of India's most memorable performances.

Tejaswin Shankar fought back from a knee injury that ended his high jump campaign to win a decathlon medal, Gulveer Singh emerged as India's only double medallist with his distance-running exploits, while Murali Sreeshankar marked his return from a lengthy injury lay-off with another Commonwealth silver.