

CM reviews preparations for 5th Khelo India Winter Games

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday chaired a high-level meeting to review the preparations for the 5th edition of the Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) scheduled to be held from February 22 to 25, 2025 at the renowned ski resort Gulmarg.

The meeting focused on ensuring the successful conduct of the event and strengthening Jammu & Kashmir's position as a premier destination for winter sports.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Youth Services & Sports Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary Dheeraj Gupta, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Commissioner Secretary Tourism, Commissioner Secretary General Administration Department (GAD)/Information, Commissioner Secretary Youth Services & Sports (YS&S), Secretary PWR(B), Secretary Health & Medical Education, senior police officers, heads of departments, Director Information, and other concerned officials.

Commissioner Secretary



CM, Omar Abdullah releasing commemorative souvenir of the 5th KIWG.

YS&S, Sarmad Hafeez gave a detailed presentation, highlighting the success of the 4th edition of Khelo India Winter Games, which significantly boosted the popularity of Gulmarg and Kashmir as global winter tourism destination.

This year, the 5th edition has once again been allotted to Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, he informed.

The meeting was informed that the event is split into two phases: one held in Ladakh from January 23 to 27, and the second in Gulmarg from February 22 to 25.

Over 1,000 athletes from 35 states, Union Territories and sports boards are expected to participate in competitions such as alpine skiing, Nordic skiing, ski mountaineering, snowboarding and a demonstration sport-snowshoe racing.

The venues for the events include Kongdoori and Gulmarg Club.

The meeting reviewed the organizational framework, including technical and logistics arrangements, with the event being funded by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India.

Committees for coordination, registration, and logistics have already been constituted, with registrations underway.

The meeting was informed that mascot for the 5th edition, a snow leopard, and the event's logo have been finalized.

Publicity efforts, including hoardings and mascot displays at major cities and airports such as Delhi, Srinagar, Jammu and Amritsar, are in full swing.

In terms of media and publicity, the Department of Information and Public

Relations (DIPR) has been actively involved in pre-event, event, and post-event coverage.

The games will be televised live on DD Sports and streamed on other online platforms, with extensive coverage planned through AIR and Prasar Bharati.

A community engagement slogan, "Aes Che Praraan" (We Are Waiting), has been adopted to involve local communities in the games.

Teams and officials are expected to arrive in Srinagar on February 21, where a help desk at the airport will assist with logistics arrangements. The event will also feature cultural evenings, a grand opening ceremony and comprehensive arrangements for transportation, traffic management, health services, water supply, sanitation and food for participants and

officials. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah unveiled the Khelo India Winter Games 2025 mascot, the snow leopard, symbolizing the region's rich biodiversity and commitment to conservation.

During the meeting, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah emphasized the importance of ensuring seamless coordination and preparedness for any unforeseen situations including accidents. Chief Secretary asked the department to have some prominent sports celebrities at the event to enhance the event's visibility and appeal.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister also released a commemorative souvenir and launched a multimedia campaign-including print, electronic, and social media initiatives-for the Khelo India Winter Games 2025.

The Chief Minister expressed confidence in the preparations and reiterated the government's commitment to making the 5th edition of Khelo India Winter Games a grand success.

He commended the efforts of all stakeholders involved and emphasized the importance of showcasing Jammu & Kashmir's potential as a hub for winter sports and tourism.

Wrestler Choota Gani of Punjab wins Kah-Pohta Dangal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Wrestler Choota Gani of Hoshiarpur in Punjab lifted the 111rd annual Kah-Pohta Dangal title defeating Benia Min of J&K Police and a resident of Basantgarh in district Udhampur in a closely contested bout that lasted for 21 minutes at Village Kah-Pohta in Jammu.

Chota Gani presented a cash prize of Rs 60,000, while runners-up Benia Min awarded with Rs. 40,000.

Senior BJP leader Nand Kishore Sharma was the chief guest, who distributed a total cash prize of Rs 2,60,000. Former Joint Secretary of J&K Sports Council and president J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association, Shiv Kumar Sharma presided over the function. All J&K Panchayat Conference president, Anil Sharma, wrestling promoter Sat Paul Verma and BJP leader, Vikas Gupta were guests of honour.

Dangal was organized by the Kah-Pohta Dangal Committee, inviting wrestlers from neighbouring Punjab for a contest against top J&K wrestlers.

The event (Dangal) witnessed intense competition, with a total 49 bouts fought



Dignitaries with participating wrestlers.

throughout the day. The dangal was organized under the overall supervision of Raj Kumar (Raju), Narayan Dutt and Vijay Kumar. The bouts officiated by Sat Paul Verma, Raj Singh, Sunny Sharma (Airtel) and Rajinder Kumar Ramotra. In the second main bout won by Muneer of J&K Police who defeated

Sahil of Bahballi in Punjab. Winner Muneer got Rs.12,000, while Sahil got Rs. 9,000. The third main bout was won by Nadeem (Rs 10,000) of Doda beating Imam Hussian (Rs 8,000) while fourth bout secured by Fiza of J&K Police and a resident of Billawar in Kathua

beating Shamma of Hoshiarpur in Punjab. Winner Fiza cash awarded Rs. 9,000 and Shamma got Rs.6,000.

Members of Kah-Pohta dangal Committee who helped for the smooth conduct of Dangal included Raj Kumar (Raju), Narayan Dutt, Vijay Kumar, Sunil Kumar, Anil Kumar and Sunil Sharma.

While speaking on the occasion, Nand Kishore Sharma highlighted the significance of physical activities like wrestling in promoting a healthy lifestyle, especially among youth, as a means to deter them from engaging in harmful habits such as drug use.

J&K UT Taekwondo Champ from Feb 9

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The J&K Taekwondo Association (JKTA) proudly announce the hosting of mega event of 27th J&K UT Taekwondo Championships, scheduled to be held on February 9 to 11at the Indoor Hall, Bhagwati Nagar, here under 'My Youth My Pride'. The championships will be conducted under the aegis of the Taekwondo Federation of India and the J&K Sports Council (JKSC) following the laid down guidelines and norms, a handout issued here today informed. The championships is open to boys and girls in Sub Junior (Born between 01/01/2013 and 31/12/2016); Cadet (Born between 01/01/2010 and 31/12/2012); Junior (Born between 01/01/2007 and 31/12/2009) and Senior (Born before 31-12-2006) on the year 2024.

In addition to this, the JKTA Athlete License and JKSC registration are mandatory for all the athletes to participate in this event. The last date for online registration is on February 5 before 10 pm. Without online registration, no entry would be entertained. Only two athletes in each category from a district association are eligible to participate.

Important Details:

Registration: 9th February 2025 (registration will Close at 8:00 PM)

Weight-in Timing & Date: 9th February 2025 at 3:00 PM sharp. **Venue for Registration & Weight In:** Indoor Hall, Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu.

For further information, participants may contact: Anuj Sharma (Organizing Secretary, JKTA) at 9018920009.

J&K Archeries team leaves for 38th National Games



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Nine members J&K Archeries Team on Monday left for 38th National Games at Uttarakhand from January 28 to February 14, 2025. Team: Sumaina Devi, Rita Devi, Hritik Sharma, Sangarsh Dev Singh, Amit Thakur, Shubam Sharma, Bhavani Jasrotia. Officials: Abhilasha Choudhary and Sahil Sharma. Team flagged off in the presence of Divisional Sports Officer B.S Balli, Suraj Bhan Singh Manager Indoor Complex MA Stadium Jammu and Ajay Gupta Manager KK Hakku Stadium Jammu.

Satish Sharma flags off J&K Contingent for 38th National Games

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Minister for FCS&CA, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Information Technology, Science and Technology, ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma, on Sunday flagged off J&K contingent participating in the 38th National Games during a vibrant ceremony held today at KK Hakku Stadium, Jammu.

Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul, along with General Secretaries of various Sports Associations and other senior officials were present during the event.

The J&K contingent, comprising 108 players (87 male and 21 female athletes), will showcase their skills across 14 sports disciplines in the prestigious National Games, scheduled to take place in Uttarakhand from January 28 to February 14, 2025.

Speaking at the ceremony, Satish Sharma congratulated



Sports Minister Satish Sharma flagging off J&K contingent.

letes), will showcase their skills across 14 sports disciplines in the prestigious National Games, scheduled to take place in Uttarakhand from January 28 to February 14, 2025.

Speaking at the ceremony, Satish Sharma congratulated

the athletes on their selection and expressed confidence in their ability to excel. "J&K's athletes have already demonstrated their prowess on national and international platforms. I am confident that this contingent will bring glory to

the region by clinching numerous medals in their respective sports," he said.

The Minister emphasized the crucial role of youth in shaping the future of the nation and highlighted sports as a dynamic avenue for talent and growth. He assured the athletes of the government's unwavering support, including access to world-class infrastructure, training programs and opportunities to compete in national and international events.

The athletes on their selection and expressed confidence in their ability to excel. "J&K's athletes have already demonstrated their prowess on national and international platforms. I am confident that this contingent will bring glory to

the region by clinching numerous medals in their respective sports," he said.

The Minister emphasized the crucial role of youth in shaping the future of the nation and highlighted sports as a dynamic avenue for talent and growth. He assured the athletes of the government's unwavering support, including access to world-class infrastructure, training programs and opportunities to compete in national and international events.

Satish Sharma asserted that under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, the government is committed to provide better sports infrastructure and modern facilities to sport persons so that more athletes can represent J&K in national and international events.

Nuzhat Gul echoed these sentiments, reaffirming the J&K Sports Council's commitment towards nurturing local talent and providing a strong foundation for their success. She assured the athletes that various national-level coaching camps and competitions would be hosted in J&K this year.

The sports disciplines represented by the J&K contingent included Wushu, Boxing, Netball, Fencing, Gymnastics, Judo, Yoga, Cycling, Water Sports, Archery, Shooting, Taekwondo and Wrestling.

Anant Khel 2025 starts at CUJ

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Anant Khel-2025 commenced at the Central University of Jammu (CUJ) on Monday. The event was inaugurated with the flagging-off of a marathon by Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain.

Organized under the aegis of the Directorate of Physical Education, the three-day sports extravaganza will run from January 27 to 29, 2025.

The campus is abuzz with the spirit of sportsmanship, with students competing in a variety of events, including cricket, volleyball, badminton, Tug of war, kabaddi, javelin throw, shot put, 100m, 200m, chess, carrom, table tennis, and more.

Prof. Jain expressed his delight at the enthusiastic participation of students and commended the Directorate of Physical Education for their meticulous



VC CUJ, Prof. Sanjeev Jain inaugurating Anant Khel-2025.

ulous planning and arrangements.

Director Prof. Vandana Sharma highlighted the vision and motto behind Anant Khel, emphasizing the timeless spirit of sportsmanship embodied in its name, which was selected through a student competition.

She extended her appreciation to the Directorate of Physical Education, including Assistant Directors Dr. R. Sudhakar, Dr. Narinder Kumar, Dr. Jay Bhavani, and Dr.

Kiran, for their coordinated efforts.

She also acknowledged the support of faculty members, the Registrar, the engineering section, NCC, and students in making the event a success.

Kuldeep appointed jury member in National Games

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Man behind promotion of the indigenous game of Kabaddi in J & K, Kuldeep Kumar Gupta has been assigned with the important task of 'Jury Member' for in 38th National Games to be held at Haridwar in Uttarakhand from January 28. The appointment has been made by president Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India considering Gupta's efforts in spreading the game to the rural districts of J&K in a professional manner.

Important to mentioned here that Kuldeep Kumar Gupta acted as technical director in 19th Asian Games held at Hangzhou in China 2024, 16th Asian Games held at Guangzhou in China 2010, 14th Asian Games held at Busan, Korea 2002 and other important events held within the country.

Presently, Gupta holds important positions in Asian Kabaddi Federation, J&K Amateur Kabaddi Association and Vansh Sabre Sports Foundation.



Madhav Sewa Trust organises Seva Basti Kabaddi Tournament



MP Jugal Kishore Sharma and others during a Kabaddi match.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Madhav Sewa Trust's Dharam Jagran Samway organized the Seva Basti Kabaddi Tournament on Monday. This noble effort aims to unite communities, promote moral values among the youth, and reconnect them with their rich cultural and spiritual heritage.

The tournament witnessed enthusiastic participation from children and youth across different social and economic backgrounds, reflecting the inclusive nature of the program.

A key highlight of the event was the oath-taking ceremony, where participants

pledged their commitment to preserving and promoting Sanatan Hindu Dharma.

Through various activities such as group discussions and interactive sessions, the program sought to instill a sense of pride in Indian traditions and cultural values.

Rakesh Tyagi, incharge North Zone Dharam Jagran informed that this initiative was aimed to counter unethical religious conversions taking place in slum areas under the guise of social service.

By engaging the youth in sports and cultural awareness programs, the organizers sought to reaffirm their commitment to their her-

itage and prevent misguided influences, he added.

He emphasized that such competitions help shape young minds by providing them with the right guidance and motivation. He reiterated their mission to empower underprivileged children by giving them access to knowledge about their roots and traditions.

MP Jugal Kishore Sharma and MLA Vikram Randhawa also shared their views. The Seva Basti Kabaddi Tournament stands as a testament to the collective efforts of organizers, volunteers, and participants, fostering a spirit of unity, selflessness, and cultural pride.

GDC Marh organises Financial Literacy Camp

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Government Degree College Marh, in collaboration with SBI organised a two days awareness programme on Financial Literacy. The programme was coordinated by Prof Surbhi Gupta (HOD Commerce), Dr. Priya Sharma (HOD Economics) and Dr. Younus Bhat (Department of Commerce) under the supervision of College Principal Prof (Dr.) Rakesh Kumar Koul.

In the opening remarks, the Principal of the college appreciated the initiative taken by the SBI personnel for organizing the programme for the welfare of the staff and the students and introducing them with various government schemes and loan facilities. He also emphasized on the significance of financial literacy, financial freedom and the need of becoming rich by increasing self employment



GDC Marh faculty with SBI members at a programme.

among the youth of the nation.

Prof Surbhi Gupta welcomed the Resource Person Ramesh Raina (Financial Literacy Counsellor), Virender Dhotra (Deputy Manager Financial Inclusion) and five members team from SBI.

Ramesh Raina threw light on various government schemes, loan facilities for self employment, ATAL Pension Scheme for the age group of 18 to 40 years people, Health insurance schemes and online frauds. He also acquainted the audi-

ence about all the ways to safeguard themselves from various types of cyber crimes. One of the significant outcomes of the programme was that the students and faculty showed interest in opening an online zero balance account with 2 lakh insurance and accounts were opened wherein zero quarterly charges ATM cards and passbook were also on spot given to them in the college conference room. The formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Priya Sharma.

Meanwhile, a Seminar on the theme "Why is Voters