

# Foreign athletes hail Gulmarg as world-class winter sports destination

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: The breathtaking slopes of Gulmarg came alive as foreign skiers from the United States, England, Australia, New Zealand, France, Japan, Hong Kong, Russia and Nepal participated in the first-of-its-kind Himalayan Freeride Event, organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council.

The event was meticulously planned to provide participants with an unparalleled skiing experience on Gulmarg's world-class slopes, renowned for their pristine powder snow and challenging alpine terrain. Skiers from different nationalities explored the diverse landscape, showcasing their expertise while embracing the unique adventure and challenges that make Gulmarg a premier winter sports destination.

In the male category, Sam (Australia), Roro (France), and Francois Mortier (United States) secured the first, second, and third positions, respectively. In the



Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Sarmad Hafeez with foreign skiers.

female category, Virginia Michele Winstone (New Zealand), Laura (United States), and Melanie Anderson (Hong Kong) claimed the top three spots.

A key highlight of the event was an interactive session with international athletes and experts, where valuable insights were shared on Gulmarg's growing stature as a global winter sports hub. Discussions focused on infrastructure development, safety protocols, environmental sustainability, and strategies to attract more professional

athletes and skiing enthusiasts to the region.

Foreign athletes were particularly captivated by Gulmarg's unmatched skiing experience. Rebecca, an American skier, remarked, "The powder snow here, combined with the breathtaking backdrop of the Himalayas, is unmatched. Nowhere else in the world offers such a unique and exhilarating experience."

Beyond the world-class skiing, international participants were deeply touched by the warm hospitality of the

local people. Many athletes praised the friendliness and generosity of the local community, expressing gratitude for the way they were welcomed and hosted. "The people of Gulmarg have been incredibly kind and hospitable. Their warmth made this experience even more special," said Verneil Sebastian, a skier from France.

Many participants also thanked the J&K Government for organizing such a prestigious event. They pledged to act as

ambassadors for Gulmarg upon returning to their home countries, hoping that next year's Himalayan Freeride Event would witness even greater international participation.

Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Sarmad Hafeez, speaking at the felicitation ceremony, expressed pride in hearing foreign athletes speak so highly of Gulmarg. He congratulated the winners and emphasized that this event marks the first step toward hosting major international

winter sports competitions in the region. He reiterated the government's commitment to transforming Gulmarg into a world-class winter sports destination.

Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council, extended her gratitude to all international participants who traveled from across the globe for the event.

She highlighted Gulmarg's unique slopes as a top-tier winter sports attraction and noted that the presence of professional athletes from different countries would significantly boost Gulmarg's global reputation.

She also thanked the J&K Government for its unwavering support in strengthening the sports ecosystem in the region.

With the overwhelming success of the inaugural Himalayan Freeride Event and glowing endorsements from international skiers, Gulmarg is set to establish itself as a premier destination for winter sports on the global map.

## APS Miran Sahib celebrates outstanding achievements of Scouts, Guides



APS Miran Sahib faculty with Scout and Guides.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: APS Miran Sahib celebrated the outstanding achievements of its Scouts and Guides, who have shown exceptional dedication, leadership, and community spirit.

Recently, the school attended a special ceremony where six students-three Scouts and three Guides-were honoured with the prestigious Rajya Puraskar award.

The awardees included Scouts Aditya Kumar, Manpreet Singh, and Vansh Kumar, along with Guides Mahi Manhas, Saniya Rajput, and Janvi. They received the award for their exceptional contributions in community service, adventure activities, and leadership skills.

The ceremony, held at the Convention Hall, was graced by Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha, who presented the awards, badges of honour, and certificates to the students.

Sayar Rajawat, who played a crucial role in guiding the students, was also recognized for her efforts.

The school was represented by Ritu Sharma, the Principal, along with Scout Master Suresh Kumar and Guide Teacher Upneet Kour.

## JKPS Kunjwani shines in 12th J&K UT Rope Skipping Championship



JK Public School, Kunjwani faculty felicitating winner students.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: In the 12th J&K UT Rope Skipping Championship held on 10th and 11th February, 2025, hosted by International Delhi Public School, Gho Manhasan, the young rope skippers of JK Public School Kunjwani clinched four gold and one bronze medal.

The event was organized by the Rope Skipping Association of J&K marking a grand celebration of athleticism and dedication to sports.

The winners were Aarav Pratap Singh, Mannan Veer Singh, Rajveer Singh, Ananya Singh won gold medal each, and Aaradhya

Sharma won bronze medal.

Principal JK Public School, Rajesh Rathore congratulated the winners and felicitated them in the school assembly for their outstanding performance in the competitions. He also lauded the School Coach, Gopal Dass and HOD (Sports) Subash Chander for training the students.

## CS awards medals at Anant Khel 2025 of CUJ

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The annual sports meet Anant Khel 2025 of Central University of Jammu was held with high enthusiasm from 27th January to 29th January 2025 with participation of 600 students and 100 faculty and staff across 19 sports events in the University Campus, Bagla Suchani.

The sports extravaganza concluded with the much awaited medal ceremony which was graced by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, as chief guest today in the University campus.

In his address, Atal Dulloo appreciated the emergence of Central University of Jammu as an institution of excellence and underscored the attributes of University life for the students. He highlighted the significance



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo with CUJ faculty and winner team.

of the spirit of sportsmanship which makes a nation great.

Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma, was the guest of honour on the occasion.

Vice Chancellor, Professor Sanjeev Jain, shared his vision of making students of the Central University of

Jammu physically fit, morally upright and a great asset for the nation. He advised the students to imbibe the true spirit of sportsmanship.

In her welcome address, Professor Vandana Sharma, Director, DPE, shared the vision and spirit of Anant Khel at Central University

of Jammu where every participant of CUJ demonstrated team spirit, mutual respect, ethical behaviour and modesty in true sense.

Professor Yashwant Singh, Registrar Central University of Jammu, highlighted the achievements of the University.

In the ceremony, 51 gold

medals, 50 silver and 30 bronze medals were awarded by the Chief Secretary in the individual and team events such as Cricket, Football, Badminton, Volleyball, Kho-Kho, Kabbadi, Javelin, discus throw, shot put, long jump, high jump, aesthetics, table tennis, carrom, chess, Marathon etc. The total number of students and employees who were awarded medals by the chief guest was over 400.

The spectacular feature of the sports meet was the newly introduced Vice-Chancellor's trophy for overall best performance for a school of study for the best performance during the Anant-Khel-2025. This trophy was won by the School of Education of the University.

## KC International School celebrates Annual Sports Day 2025

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: KC International School celebrated its Annual Sports Day with fervour and zeal. The event was a resounding success, showcasing the athletic prowess and sportsmanship of students.

The occasion was graced by the presence of Arvind Gupta, Member of Legislative Assembly J&K, as the Chief Guest. Other esteemed guests Kuldeep Handoo, the ambassador for the 'War Against Waste' initiative and Dronacharya awardee; Anissa Nabbi, JKAS, State Project Manager, Rural Livelihood Mission, Jammu, Colonel Muneesh Jasrotia, CO, 2nd J&K Girls Bn., NCC and special Guest Sumeet Sharma, CID Inspector, Chaitanya Chowdhary, President KCIS and Principal of the School, Anupama Sinha.

The Inauguration Ceremony reached its



Chief Guest presenting trophy to the winner team at KCIS.

climax with the symbolic release of balloons and pigeons into the sky. As the Chief Guest and dignitaries gently freed the pigeons from their enclosures, the birds soared majestically into the air; their snowy feathers glistening in the sunlight. The balloons soared high into the sky, symbolizing the unity and competitive spirit of the students.

The welcome dance, lighting the torch, and oath-taking ceremony further added to the excitement, setting the tone for the sporting extravaganza.

The students displayed their love for discipline through splendid march past.

The Houses of the School - Ruby, Emerald, Topaz and Sapphire, marched in perfect synchronization and unspoken coordination. The tiny tots from pre primary and primary wing participated in some of the riveting events like Bunny race, pick up and Drop Race, write and Run Challenge, Hurdle race, Frog Race, Duck Walk followed by 50 M, 100M, 200 M, and 400 m Relay Races by the

middle and senior wing students of the school.

The icing on the cake was the participation of parents and teachers in race and tug of war. The spirit and swiftness of students were greatly acclaimed by the audience. Topaz House clinched the 1st position. Ruby and Sapphire Houses were declared second and third position respectively.

The houses competed fiercely, displaying their team spirit and camaraderie. The Chief Guest and dignitaries awarded prizes to the young

enthusiasts, recognizing their achievements and contributions.

The Chief Guest, Arvind Gupta applauded the students' scintillating performance and emphasized the importance of regular participation in extra-curricular activities for all-round development. He encouraged the students to pursue their passions and strive for excellence.

The vote of thanks was presented by Anupama Sinha, Principal of the school. She extended heartfelt gratitude to the dignitaries for sparing their precious time to motivate the children, extolled the parents for their unwavering support, and eulogized the efforts of students, teaching, and non-teaching staff. She applauded Babita Bhan, Activity Coordinator and entire sports and activity staff for their hard work in making this event a successful.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Ju-Jitsu Association of Jammu & Kashmir announced the appointment of Tarun Uppal as the new President and Bhupesh as the Chairman of the Association.

This pivotal decision was unveiled during a significant meeting held at Hotel Radisson Blu, Jammu, which brought together key stakeholders and passionate sports enthusiasts dedicated to advancing the sport of Ju-Jitsu in the region.

In his acceptance speech, Tarun Uppal stated, "I am deeply honored to take on this responsibility. My commitment is to uplift Ju-Jitsu in the Union Territory, ensuring that our athletes have the opportunity to shine on national and international platforms." His vision emphasizes a collaborative approach to nurturing talent, alongside a dedication to promoting Ju-Jitsu



Newly elected members of Ju-Jitsu Association of J&K.

as both a competitive sport and a means of self-defense.

Bhupesh echoed this sentiment, highlighting the critical need for structured training programs and robust infrastructure to support aspiring athletes. "It's essential that we provide our young talent with the resources they need to excel. Our focus will be on creating a supportive environment where every individual can thrive," he shared.

The Ju-Jitsu Association of Jammu & Kashmir is

gearing up for a transformative era under the new leadership. With a renewed focus on fostering young talent, enhancing training opportunities, and promoting the martial art as a disciplined competitive sport, the Association is poised to elevate Ju-Jitsu's presence across the region.

As the association steps into this new chapter, it invites all enthusiasts, athletes, and supporters to join in its mission to cultivate a vibrant Ju-Jitsu community in Jammu & Kashmir.

## Another stellar show by Gymnasts of J&K

**STATE TIMES NEWS**



JAMMU: In an incredible achievement of J&K Gymnasts on Thursday on the last day of the Gymnastic event during National Games, J&K Gymnasts won three more medals. Muskan Rana won one gold and one bronze in Individual Apparatus finals whereas Manya won bronze medal for J&K making it total to 7 medals including two gold, two silver and bronze medals.

Muskan won one more gold in Ribbon and one bronze in Clubs event making it total to two gold, one silver and two bronze in her kitty. Whereas Manya of J&K also won today bronze in Ribbon event making it to two Bronze medals in Individuals. It is out of place to mention that team comprises of Muskan, Manya, Vaibhavi and Jagriti Thakur also have won silver medal.

Muskan Rana's dominance with two gold, a silver, and two bronze is commendable, and Manya's contribution with two bronze medals adds to the glory. The team's Silver medal further highlights their collective strength.

Kudos to the entire team including Gymnasts, Coaches, Gymnastic Association and J&K Sports council.

## Heritageans awarded Rajya Puraskar Award by Lt. Governor

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Heritage School continues its legacy of excellence as its young Scouts and Guides were honoured with the prestigious Rajya Puraskar Award for the fifth consecutive year.

This esteemed award, also known as the Governor's Award, is the highest recognition bestowed upon Scouts and Guides at the state level for their exceptional commitment, discipline, and service.

The award ceremony, held on 13th February 2025, at the Conventional Hall, Canal Road, Jammu, was a distinguished affair.

Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha personally presented the awards to the deserving recipients, further emphasizing the significance of this accomplishment.

The event was also graced by the presence of Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu,



Heritage School faculty felicitating Scouts and Guides for receiving awards.

Satish Sharma Minister of Youth Services and Sports, Rajinder Singh Tara Director General Sports and Nasreen Khan Deputy National Commissioner (Guide Wing).

This year, the proud recipients of the Rajya Puraskar Award from Heritage School include Scouts-Sidh Mahajan, Achleshwar Singh, Aviral Sadotra,

Kaamil Bogia, Arham Jain, Rudra Pratap Singh, Surya Pratap Singh, Yashab Khaalid, and Aditya Sharma-along with Guides-Sarvagya Sharma, Aastha Bhan, and Divyakshi Sargotra. These exceptional students have demonstrated exemplary commitment, discipline, and service, embodying the true spirit of scouting and guiding. Their dedica-

tion to the program's ideals serves as an inspiration to their fellow students and reinforces Heritage School's dedication to nurturing well-rounded individuals.

The Heritage fraternity congratulates the awardees on this remarkable achievement and wishes them continued success in their journey of leadership and service.

## Historic silver medal in Archery for J&K

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The 38th National Games, the most prestigious multi-sport event in India held once every four years, witnessed a historic moment in archery for Jammu & Kashmir.

Hritik Sharma, training at the Shrine Board Archery Academy, won the first-ever silver medal for J&K in the able-bodied category, marking a significant milestone in the state's sporting history.

Hritik Sharma secured a silver medal, finishing as the runner-up against the highly accomplished archer Rajat Chauhan from Rajasthan.

Compound Mixed Team: Hritik Sharma and Sunaina Devi (J&K) finished in 4th place, narrowly missing a podium finish against Punjab.

Compound Men's Team: The team comprising Hritik Sharma, Shubham Sharma, Sangharsh Dev, and Amit Thakur secured 4th place in a highly competitive event.

This historic achievement was made possible under the guidance of coaches Kuldeep Vedwan and Abhilasha Chaudhary, who led the team at the National Games. The Shrine Board Archery Academy has consistently contributed to J&K's excellence in archery, with para archers Rakesh Kumar and Sheetal Devi already bringing laurels by winning Paralympic medals and Arjuna Awards for the state.

Hritik Sharma's silver medal marks a new era for able-bodied archers from J&K and sets the stage for further achievements on the national and international platforms.