

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



LG Manoj Sinha speaking at the inaugural ceremony of 5th Khelo India Winter Games at Gulmarg.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
GULMARG: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha attended the inaugural ceremony of 5th Khelo India Winter Games at Gulmarg on Sunday.

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 Shreshthia 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 imbuing

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 Narendra 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

sports 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 centres are being developed across the districts in J&K in a phased manner to enhance the training and performance of the athletes, he further said.

Mehrajuddin Khan (J&K), Rajeshwar Singh (Army), Yogesh Kumar

(Himachal Pradesh), Menka Gunjyal (Uttarakhand), Bhawani Thekkada (Karnataka) and Sunny Singh (Army) were emerged as winners in today's Snowboarding Slalom (Men), Ski Mountaineering Sprint (Men), Alpine Skiing Slalom, Ski Mountaineering Sprint (Women) and Nordic Ski events.

Shri Satish Sharma, Minister for Youth Services & Sports; Shri Feroz Ahmed Shah, Member of Legislative Assembly from Gulmarg; Shri Nazir Ahmad, Member of Legislative Assembly from Gurez; Shri Minga Sherpa, Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla; Shri Mayank Srivastav, DDG, Sports Authority of India; Ms Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council, senior officials, representatives of Sports Authority of India and various sports organizations, prominent sports personalities and sports enthusiasts in large numbers were present.

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

GULMARG: 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 Gunjyal 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. Jignat 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 day, 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 majes-

tic 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 Gunjyal (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:** Jignat Rafastan (Army)  
**Bronze:** Bakir Hussain (Army)  
**Nordic Skiing (5 km Women)**  
**Gold:** Bhawani Thekkada (KAR)  
**Silver:** Selma Soreng (ITBP)  
**Bronze:** Kusum Rana (ITBP)

## LEAD organises All-Sector Meeting, decides to hold national level summits

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: L&K Economic Growth and Development Dialogue (LEAD) convened an All-Sector Meeting on Sunday, bringing together members, industrialists, and key stakeholders from various sectors.

The meeting served as a platform to review ongoing initiatives, discuss strategies for sustainable economic development, and outline future plans aimed at driving growth across Ladakh, Jammu, and Kashmir.



LEAD members during the meeting in Jammu on Sunday.

He informed that LEAD will be organizing a National Level Summit this year, where investors, sector experts, businessmen, policymakers, and grassroots contributors, united by a shared mission will craft a transformative roadmap for the sustainable development of Ladakh and Jammu &

Kashmir. The event aims to foster collaboration to implement concrete actions that will drive economic growth in the region.

Harinder Gupta, Board Member, elaborated on LEAD's sector-wise and district-specific goals, detailing actionable initiatives

designed to strengthen local industries, promote innovation, and create employment opportunities.

All Core Members and Coordinators were introduced to house by him. Prant Pracharak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Jammu Kashmir, Rupesh, was specially pres-

ent at the meeting to support and encourage LEAD's initiative to strengthen the economic landscape of the region.

In his address, he expressed confidence that LEAD's efforts in J&K could serve as a model for the rest of India in the future.

Board Members - Rajesh Gupta, Sanjeev Sharma, Surinder Mohan Gupta, Vikram Gujral - along with Sector Coordinators & Incharges - Raman Suri, KK Sharma, HK Razdan, Parveen Pargal, RK Chibber, Dinesh Gupta, Vishal Abrol, Gaurav Gupta, Gaurav Abrol, Suneel Mahajan, other key stakeholders, were also present during the meeting.

## Stage set for UT Kabaddi Champ at Udhampur

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: 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.

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.

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.



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.

## APS Miran Sahib student felicitated for outstanding poetry achievement



Prabheen Kour, class XI student being honoured by LG Manoj Sinha.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Prabheen Kour, a talented class XI student of APS Miran Sahib was felicitated for her exceptional poetry skills by Lt Governor of J&K, Manoj Sinha at Abhinav Theatre on 13th February 2025. The recognition was

given in acknowledgment of her creative and thought-provoking work. Her emotionally captivating book of poetry "Your Presence" in English language was selected by J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages.

The event was attended by

various distinguished dignitaries including K. Ramesh Kumar, Commissioner Secretary of the Culture Department, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner of Jammu, Gulzar Ahmed Bhat, Harvinder Kour, Chairman and Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages respectively. "We are incredibly proud of Prabheen for her dedication to the art of poetry," said Ritu Sharma, Principal of APS Miran Sahib.

As a budding poet, Prabheen Kour hopes to continue writing and sharing her poetry with the world, aiming to inspire others through the power of words.

## Ananaya takes 4 wickets as J&K drubs Mizoram by 6 wkts

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
TRIVANDRUM: Right-arm leg spinner, Ananaya Sharma displayed extraordinary spinning skills to take 4 important wickets and guide Jammu and Kashmir to convincing victory by 6 wickets over minnows Mizoram in the ongoing Women's U-23 One Day Trophy at St Xavier's KCA Cricket Stadium, Trivandrum on Sunday.

Earlier, winning the toss and batting first, Mizoram bundled out for a paltry total of 54 runs in 27.4 overs. Nunmawii was the only batter to cross the double figure mark, scoring 12 runs off 28 balls studded with 2 fours, while the other batters failed to show any application



Jammu and Kashmir team posing for photograph.

against the disciplined bowling of J&K bowlers.

Ananaya Sharma was the pick of the bowlers for Jammu and Kashmir, who took 4 wickets by conceding 15 runs in her 6.4 overs, while Speedster Mariya Noorain bagged 2 wickets by

giving away 5 runs in her 5 overs. Ronak Jahan and skipper Rudrakshi Chib claimed one wicket each.

In reply, J&K chased the target easily in 9.4 overs by losing 4 wickets, thus winning the match by 6 wickets. Chitra Singh Jamwal top

scored with 18 runs off 16 balls studded with 4 boundaries, while skipper Rudrakshi contributed unbeaten 11 runs with 2 fours.

For Mizoram, Zdi took 2 wickets while Jacinta and Sandhia claimed one wicket

## Nightingale Pre-School celebrates 16th Annual Day with Theme 'Sapno Ki Udaan'

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Nightingale Pre-School, Rehari Chungi, Jammu, celebrated its 16th Annual Day with great enthusiasm and grandeur at Abhinav Theatre. The event, themed "Sapno Ki Udaan" (Follow Your Dreams), showcased a vibrant musical dance drama performed by the young talents of the school, leaving the audience mesmerized.



Ansuja Jamwal, Addl District Magistrate, Jammu lighting the ceremonial lamp.

Jain Conference and State President-J&K, Bhartiya Jain Sanghatana (BJS), was the Special Guest. Yudhvir Sethi, senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu East and Priya Sethi, former Minister & Incharge BJP HQ also graced the occasion.

Chief Guest lauded the efforts of the school management and teachers in nurturing young minds and emphasized the importance of following one's dreams with determination and hard work and wishes all kids happy life. Ansuja Jamwal praised the

students for their impressive performances and highlighted the role of school management in fostering creativity and confidence among children.

Sandeep Sunny Jain also appreciated the theme of the event and encouraged students to dream big and work diligently towards their aspirations.

The cultural extravaganza featured a series of dance performances, skits, and musical presentations, all woven around the theme of dreams and aspirations. The young performers captivated the audience with their confidence and artistic skills. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by the Principal Sonia Jain. The programme was anchored by Bindya Tikoo.

## Asmita Judo City League held

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A day-long Asmita Judo City League held at Pargo Memorial Shiksha Kendra, Gurha Manhasan, here on Sunday. 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 Instructor; Sunakshi Devi, Anju Rajak and Lakshmi Devi. About 100 female judokas participated in this championship. The Medal Winners: Gold: Aarya Chib, Surbhi, Rachita,



Medal winners along with organisers posing for photograph.

Pinky, Khushi, Ishani, Mansi 44, Anjali, Khushi, Sunakshi Devi, Shabnam, Aarushi, 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,

Aarushi 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, Sunakha 48, Samriti 48, Anaya 15, Anaya Varma 18, Rafia 20, Mahi 20, Akshita 28, Kanika 28, Vinamika 25, Sonakshi 25.