

Geeta Samota becomes first CISF personnel to conquer Mt Everest

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Sub Inspector Geeta Samota has become the first CISF personnel to conquer the world's tallest peak Mount Everest in the 56-year-long history of the force, a spokesperson said Tuesday.

She summited the 8,849 m tall mountain on Monday.

"Geeta stood on the 'roof of the world', a triumphant moment symbolising not just a personal victory, but the incredible resilience and strength fostered within the CISF and the Indian nation," the spokesperson said in a statement.

The 35-year-old subordinate officer joined the paramilitary force in 2011 and is currently posted at the Udaipur airport unit of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

The mountaineer hails from the Chak village in Rajasthan's Sikar district and had initially started as hockey player in her local college. Her upbringing was traditional in a



house that had five daughters including her.

An injury led her to move away from hockey and upon joining the force she found CISF did not had a mountaineering team then and she saw an sporting and adventure

opportunity here, the spokesperson said.

Samota went on to undertake specialised training in mountaineering and in 2019 she became the first woman from any Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) to scale Mount Satopanth (7,075 meters) in Uttarakhand and Mount Lobuche (6,119 meters) in Nepal, he said.

In early 2021, the CAPF contingent for a Mount Everest expedition of which Geeta was part, was unfortunately called off due to technical reasons.

She then set an ambitious goal-the "Seven Summits" challenge, which involves climbing the highest peak on each of the seven continents.

Between 2021-2022, she summited four of these formidable peaks: Mount Kosciuszko (2,228 m) in Australia, Mount Elbrus (5,642 m) in Russia, Mount Kilimanjaro (5,895 m) in Tanzania and Mount Aconcagua (6,961 m) in Argentina.

The CISF official achieved this feat in a "remarkable" span of just six months and 27 days, making her the fastest Indian woman to do so, he said.

Samota, the spokesperson said, also became the first and fastest woman to climb five peaks in Ladakh's Rupshu region in just three days, including three peaks over 6,000 m and two over 5,000 m.

"The CISF director general and force members have extended their profound congratulations to Samota. Her extraordinary journey and successful summit, shine as a beacon of inspiration for the youth of India and stand as a moment of immense pride for the entire CAPFs fraternity," he said.

The about 2 lakh personnel strength force guards vital installations in the government and private domain including airports, nuclear power centres and historical monuments.

June 2025 Term-End Examinations of IGNOU pushed to June 12

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The June 2025 Term-end Examinations of the IGNOU for various Academic Programmes offered by the University through ODL & Online Programmes (Pen & Paper & CBT Mode) which were earlier announced to commence from 2nd June 2025 have been rescheduled.

The university has issued a Notification to this effect stating that due to administrative & technical situations, the University has rescheduled the June, 2025 TEE from 12th June, 2025 till 19th July, 2025. The June 2025 examinations were earlier supposed to commence from 2nd June, 2025.

"For the June 2025 Term End Examinations, Regional Centre Jammu has established 32 Examination

Centres spread across the length and breadth of Jammu region having Examination Centres in all ten districts of the region with Examination Centre at each of the ten district Headquarters so that the students do not have to travel longer distances for appearing in the exams in the prevailing heat weather conditions", said Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director, Regional Centre Jammu.

There are no examinations on Sundays and Govt. Gazetted Holidays. The examinations are conducted on working days in two sessions every day. The morning session examination is conducted from 10AM to 2PM and the evening session examination is conducted from 2PM to 5PM. The revised date sheet is placed on IGNOU website

www.ignou.ac.in which can be downloaded and saved for future reference. The admit cards (or hall tickets) for the June 2025 exams are expected to be released 10 to 15 days before the new exam commencement date. That means students can expect to download their hall tickets by the end of May 2025.

IGNOU has also extended the assignment submission deadline for the June 2025 TEE. Students now have time until May 31, 2025, to submit their assignments, project reports, dissertations, and other required documents. This extension applies to students from all programmes including ODL, online, GOAL, and EVBB. Students are encouraged to make the most out of the additional time and ensure timely submission of all academic requirements.

KV CUJ felicitates students for outstanding performance in CBSE Class 10 Examinations

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To honour the achievements of the students, a special felicitation ceremony was held today at the Central University of Jammu wherein Prof. Sh. Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu & worthy Chairman Kendriya Vidyalaya, CU Jammu awarded mementoes and books to the toppers and high achievers.

Pertinent to mention here that in this session 31 students appeared in the 10th standard examinations and the school achieved 100% results. Bishu Thapa secured the highest score in the school with outstanding marks of 88.50%. The results have once again reaffirmed the school's commitment to academic distinction and holistic development of



Meritorious students posing for a photograph with faculty members.

the students. This was possible because of the commitment of the faculty of KV, CU Jammu and unwavering support and mentorship of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain.

Chairman Prof. Jain congratulated the students and said, "Your dedication, discipline, and perseverance have brought you to this proud

moment. You are the torch bearers of excellence, and your achievements today will inspire others. My heartfelt congratulations to you, your parents, and your mentors."

Earlier, Dr Naresh Kumar, Chairman Nominee welcomed Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain for gracing the felicitation ceremony and thanked for raising the bar of

academic standards which in turn has helped in achieving the academic excellence. He also welcomed all the academic performers and the parents accompanying them.

I/C Principal, Ajeet Kumar Sharma, also lauded the students and staff, emphasizing the school's continuous pursuit of academic and moral excellence.

VSSF signs MOU with Dhanu Sports Private Limited

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Secretary, Vansh Sabre Sports Foundation (VSSF), Kuldeep Kumar Gupta signed MOU with Suman Raj MD Dhanu Sports Private Limited Tamil Nadu for developing, implementing and promoting technology-driven solutions for all sports but unlimited data analytics, player performance tracking, event management and digital fan engagement.

The fast growing sports identity in Jammu and Kashmir Vansh Sabre Sports Foundation (VSSF) achieved another milestone by becoming first such sports foundation in the union territory.

The VSSF has already been certified ISO 9001:2015, Registered with MSME, Income tax department under 12A and 80G, CRS activities with



Ministry of Corporate Affairs, NITI Aayog with National Information Centre, Government of India and has initiated things for the welfare of sportspersons and another individuals associations with sports

Vansh Sports Foundation in collaboration with Dhanu Sports Private Limited will also organise sports events in different games with in India and abroad with mutual understanding for the exposure of sports.

Gupta said the Dhanu Sports Private Limited Company engaged in live telecast, Sports broadcasting and TSR (Time Scoring Results) Services and moreover the company will also implementation of advance technology for match analytics, player performance tracking and referees assistance. the line telecast and digital streaming of sports event, event management and regulatory compliance.

Gupta told that the company retains full copyright

and intellectual property rights to the live telecast contents, video footage, audio graphics and any associated materials created during the live event.

Secretary VSSF grants licence to broadcast, distribution and reproduce the live telecast content i.e Broadcast the live content on social media and website, record store and rebroadcast the content for marketing, Archivers, Promotions and all Broadcasts shall include the copyright reserved.

Inter-Zone District Level Tournament continues in Kathua



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: The Department of Youth Services and Sports, Kathua, is successfully conducting the Inter-Zone District Level Tournament for U14 and U17 girls across multiple disciplines, including Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Volleyball, Badminton, Table Tennis, and Chess, at the Sports

Stadium Kathua, while U14 boys' cricket matches are being held at the Sports Stadium Hiranagar.

At the Kathua stadium, a vibrant display of talent and energy was on full display as 553 girls from six lower zones-Kathua, Barnoti, Marheen, Lakhapur, Hiranagar, and Sallan-competed with zeal. The participants

demonstrated exceptional sportsmanship and enthusiasm, signaling the growing interest in sports among schoolgirls in the district.

Meanwhile, in Hiranagar, the U14 boys' cricket final saw Zone Marheen defeat Zone Lakhapur by 6 wickets, showcasing excellent teamwork and skill.

Results: Volleyball U14

Girls: Zone Sallan defeated Zone Marheen in straight sets (2-0). Volleyball U17 Girls: Zone Lakhapur won against Zone Hiranagar by 2-0 sets.

Kabaddi U14 Girls: Zone Sallan beat Zone Kathua by 10 points. Kabaddi U17 Girls: Zone Hiranagar won against Zone Lakhapur by 11 points. Kho-Kho U14 Girls: Zone Lakhapur defeated Zone Barnoti by 9 points. Kho-Kho U17 Girls: Zone Sallan overcame Zone Lakhapur by 4 points.

All matches and events are being conducted under the overall supervision of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Kathua, Sunil Singh Sambyal, ensuring smooth coordination and enthusiastic participation from all zones involved.

Jakiians shine at 14th District Martial Arts Championship

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: "Luck marches with those who give their best in whatever they do." This spirit was exemplified by the young martial artists of JK Public School, Panjtirthi, who delivered an outstanding performance at the 14th District Martial Arts Championship organized by the Freedom Society, an association dedicated to the promotion of sports and martial arts in Jammu & Kashmir.

The championship witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across various reputed schools in the region, showcasing their talent, discipline, and fighting spirit.

Five determined and talented Jakiians from JKPS Panjtirthi took part in the competition and returned with a haul of medals, making their school proud.

Yashasvi Nanda of Class



Principal JKPS Panjtirthi, Suman Banbah felicitating winner students.

6, Vishal Dogra, Navdeep Rajput, and Lavit Verma of Class 4 each clinched gold medals in their respective categories. Tavish Gupta of Class 6 secured a silver medal, further adding to the school's achievements.

Proud of her students' performance, the Principal of JKPS Panjtirthi, Suman

Banbah, congratulated the winners and applauded their hard work and perseverance.

She remarked, "The only thing that overcomes hard luck is hard work. Imagine with all your mind, believe with all your heart and achieve with all your might."

The victory at the championship stands as a testament to the dedication of the students and the guidance of their mentors.

It also reflects the school's commitment to holistic development, where academics and extracurricular excellence go hand in hand.

Union Sports Minister declares KIBG 2025 open at Diu J&K UT defeats host Daman Diu in opening volleyball match

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory (J&K UT) volleyball beach team registered its first victory by defeating the host team of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu in Khelo India Beach Games by 2-0 sets (score 21-15, 21-9).

Intiaz and Azahar displayed their excellent skills and demoralised the opponents in this opening match. It's worth mentioning that despite non-existent of infra structure facilities in J&K, our athletes performed well and got recognition in first 8 teams of Indian Beach Volleyball.

Besides Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chhattisgarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and Telangana teams to compete in First Volleyball.

A contingent of 6-players including coach and

Manager from J&K UT has been sent by J&K Sports Council in collaboration with Volleyball Association of J&K after selection of trials/coaching camp at M A Stadium Jammu.

Mohd Tariq and Vijay Magotra have been nominated as Coach and Manager respectively of the team.

Kuldip Magotra, CEO Volleyball Association of J&K, who has been nominated as Technical official by the organisers in this championship, said, "It's matter of pride for J&K UT after historic achievement of volleyball game in Khelo India Youth Games by clinching gold medal, our J&K UT players are consecutively shining in Beach Volleyball at Diu and hope to give all of us a good surprise in this championship."

"Khelo India Beach Games 2025 first ever edition of its kind from 19th to 24th May 2025 across the scenic locations of Daman & Diu and Dadar & Nagar Haveli with



J&K volleyball beach team posing with V&J&K officials after winning opening match.

the tagline 'Khel Ke Sitare Diu Ke Kinare' aimed to showcase emerging talent & promote beach sports in India," Kuldip Magotra said adding that Khelo India Beach Games 2025 is more than sporting event it is a celebration of athleticism culture and the spirit of coastal India uniting athletes & fans on the shores

where sport meets the sea." Earlier, the Beach Games, held under the ever-expanding Khelo India umbrella for the first time, were formally declared open by Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, in a colourful ceremony on the Ghoghla Beach, the venue of the Games in Diu.

The Khelo India Beach Games have brought together more than 1,350 athletes from over 30 states and Union Territories. On May 24, when the Games are scheduled to end, athletes would have competed in six medal sports - soccer, volleyball, sepaktakraw, kabaddi, pencaksilat and open water swimming, Mallakhamb and

tug-of-war are the two non-medal (demonstration) disciplines.

"In a nation as diverse as ours, sports have always held a unique power that unites cultures, regions and languages. The vibrant energy of sports goes beyond entertainment and has become a transformative force, symbolizing national pride and aspirations of our youth. It is in this context that the Khelo India Beach Games hold a greater significance," said Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his message.

The nicely-crafted opening ceremony, glorifying India's amazing diversity in traditional dance forms, was witnessed among other by several dignitaries, including Administrator of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep Praful Patel, Lt Governor of Puducherry

K. Lakshminathan and Admiral DK Joshi, Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar

Islands.

"Today, we are not just inaugurating a sports event, we are heralding India's first Beach sports revolution! I believe that where there are waves, there should be passion; where there is sand, there should be a fire of enthusiasm - and the Khelo India Beach Games have ignited that fire in all our hearts today," said Dr Mansukh Mandaviya.

He added: "Under the Modi government, we do not organize events just as a formality - we are on a mission. And this mission connects sports to employment. For a Viksit Bharat, Khelo India is a sure pathway for youth to achieve their dreams."

Saying that Khelo India has added more Games to the domestic calendar, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, like PM Modi, highlighted how over the last few years, the government spared no effort to boost the sporting ecosystem through investments in infrastructure, better train-

ing facilities and supportive measures for sportspersons.

Dr Mansukh amplified this saying new Games are a way to "strengthen the domestic sports infrastructure and send a strong message to the world that India is capable of hosting international sporting events of any scale."

Dr Mansukh Mandaviya said the Khelo India Beach Games should not be seen as a "casual" affair. "Such sports like beach volleyball not only appeal to the youth as a hobby but also offer them career opportunities. This is the first time that competitive sports are being held on such a large scale on the beaches of India," he added.

Dr Mansukh Mandaviya said India was becoming a fitness conscious nation and a culture of sports has become the "new normal". He also highlighted the strong commitment that the government has for the Union Territory.