

India clinches bronze at CAVA U-19 Men's Volleyball Championship 2025 with win over Kyrgyzstan

Iran defeats Uzbekistan-I to clinch gold

STATE TIMES NEWS
TASHKENT/JAMMU: India's U-19 Men's Volleyball team scripted a remarkable comeback story by clinching the bronze medal at the Central Asian Volleyball Association (CAVA) U-19 Men's Championship 2025 held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The young Indian squad showcased exceptional resilience and teamwork to defeat Kyrgyzstan 3-1 in the bronze medal clash, with set scores of 21-25, 25-14, 25-08, and 25-23.



Jubilant Indian team posing with officials after winning bronze at CAVA U-19 Men's Volleyball Championship-2025

In a thrilling final showdown, Iran triumphed over Uzbekistan-I to secure the gold medal, leaving their opponents with silver. The match showcased exceptional skill and determination from both sides, but Iran ultimately emerged victorious, solidifying their dominance in the competition. The Indian team showcased immense talent, determination, and team spirit throughout the tournament. The match began with a shaky start for India as Kyrgyzstan took the first set 25-21. However, the Indian boys quickly regrouped under pressure and displayed tactical brilliance in the following sets. With explosive attacks and tight defence, they dominated the second set 25-14 and steamrolled through the third set with an emphatic 25-08 win. The fourth set proved to be a nail-biter, but India held their nerves to seal it 25-23 and with it, the Bronze Medal.

India's captain, Mahendra Dhurwe, stood out throughout the tournament with his outstanding offensive play. He was honored with the Player of the Tournament award for being the best attacker, highlighting his pivotal role in India's campaign. Earlier in the tournament, India had a mixed campaign. They began with a 0-3 loss to Iran (16-25, 14-25, 20-25) but bounced back strongly with a 3-0 victory over Kyrgyzstan (25-14, 27-25, 25-23) in their second outing. However, a tough 0-3 defeat to Uzbekistan-I followed. Refusing to be disheartened, the Indian team made a strong statement by overcoming Uzbekistan-II in a crucial match (25-20, 20-25, 25-19, 25-22) to reach the Bronze Medal round.

Standout players Mohinder, Kunal Das, Adarsh Rai, Rajat Singh, Akhilan Kamaraj were instrumental throughout the tournament, earning praise for their consistent performance, composure under pressure, and unbreakable spirit on the court. Their contributions, combined with the strategic leadership of Head Coach K.R. Lakshminarayan, proved vital in India's podium finish. The Indian team, mentored by assistant coaches Surinder Kumar and Mohd Javed, and supported by a dedicated staff including Dr. Utkarsh Kulshreshtha (Therapist) and referee Narendar Kshatriya, was formed under the supervision of the Volleyball Federation of India's Adhoc Committee. Their coordinated efforts ensured the young team was both mentally and physically prepared for the challenge. Team Manager Kuldeep Magotra expressed immense pride in the squad's achievement, stating, "These young players have showcased the heart of champions. Their performance in this championship is a reflection of hard work, unity, and undying passion for the sport." "This bronze medal marks

a significant achievement for India in youth volleyball on the international stage. It is not just a victory in a match, but a testament to the growing strength and potential of Indian volleyball at the grassroots level. With consistent support, infrastructure, and training, these young stars are poised to become the torchbearers of Indian volleyball in future international tournaments," Magotra said.

The 12-member Indian contingent featured top emerging talents such as Rajat Singh, Mahendra Dhurwe (Captain), Ashish Kumar, Sunil Muwal, Nandamudi Mourya, Vignesh Shanmugan, Adarsh Rai, Aadhi Krishna Nediyaara, Kunal Das, Akhilan Kamaraj, Alok Manoj Todkar, Nikhil Jat, drawn from across the nation. This Bronze Medal is not just a reward for their efforts in Tashkent but a promising sign of what lies ahead for the future of Indian volleyball.

With this podium finish, India has once again stamped its presence in the international volleyball scene, inspiring countless young athletes back home. As the team returns with pride and a medal in hand, they carry with them the hopes of a brighter, stronger future for Indian volleyball.

Oasis'25 culminates with enthusiasm at Jodhamal



Faculty members along with students during the event.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jodhamal Public School successfully concluded its much-awaited two-week summer camp, Oasis'25, leaving behind a trail of joy, creativity, and holistic development. The camp saw the enthusiastic participation of around 150 students, who engaged in a wide array of skill-based and recreational activities designed to nurture their talents and overall personality. The grand finale of the camp was marked by a vibrant Valedictory Ceremony in the presence of proud parents and faculty members. The event began with the traditional lighting of the lamp, symbolizing knowledge and enlightenment, followed by a warm welcome address by Vice Principal Mrs. Amita Arora. She applauded the efforts of both students and mentors who contributed to the camp's success. A series of impressive per-

formances captivated the audience. A melodious Casio recital opened the cultural program, followed by a thought-provoking skit titled "The Plastic Predicament", which conveyed a strong message on environmental conservation. The audience was also treated to a humorous and imaginative play, "The Magical Market," which showcased the creativity and confidence of the young performers. Enthusiastic dance performances, choreographed with precision and passion, lit up the stage and received thunderous applause.

Among the camp highlights was the Fireless Cooking activity, where young "Master Chefs" whipped up healthy and delicious dishes. An Art & Craft Exhibition proudly displayed beautifully hand-crafted items created by the students, reflecting their artistic flair and imagination.

Each student participated in one sport and one co-curricular activity, ensuring a balanced and enriching camp experience. Expert mentors guided the students with dedication, helping them explore music, dance, sports, dramatics, and more. The overall coordination of Oasis'25 was expertly managed by Deepali Puri, CCA Coordinator (Junior School), who also delivered the vote of thanks.

All participants received Certificates of Appreciation in recognition of their commitment and growth. The program concluded with group photographs and heartfelt appreciation from parents, who lauded the school's initiative in fostering confidence, creativity, and character among the students.

With Oasis'25, Jodhamal Public School reaffirmed its dedication to meaningful, joyful learning beyond the classroom.

J&K excels in Karate



Dignitaries along with players and coaches.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir excelled in the just concluded Sub-Junior, Cadet and Junior National Karate Championship at Dehradun in Uttarakhand which was organised by Karate India Organisation (KIO). The medal winners are Moomin Hamid Malik (Sub-Junior, Plus 60 kg); Shreeen Jaan (Sub-Junior Girls, Below 50 kg) and Rudhra Pratap Saini (Cadet Boys, below 70 kg Kumite). In the closing function, Uttarakhand Minister for Sports, Rekha Arya was the chief guest while Hanshi Bharat Sharma, president KIO, presided. The J&K fielded a strong contingent of 42 athletes across three age groups and different weight categories. The team was led by Ambedkar Gupta, president of the Amateur Karate-Do Association of J&K. "The success of our young athletes is a testament to their hard work and the dedication of our coaching staff. It was after a long time that J&K has figured in the medal tally at the National level," said Ambedkar Gupta. Other officials of the team were Munish Kumar (chief manager), Anil Kumar (technical manager), Sourav Mehra (chief coach), Vansh Sambyal (assistant coach), Rittu Slathia and Palavi Mahajan (both manager).

VC JU flags off Walkathon against drug abuse, inaugurates 6-Day Yoga Workshop at Bhaderwah Campus

STATE TIMES NEWS
BHADERWAH: Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor (VC), University of Jammu (JU), on Monday flagged off a vibrant Walkathon against drug abuse and inaugurated a six-day Yoga Workshop at the Bhaderwah Campus of the University of Jammu. The dual events were organized by the Directorate of Sports and Physical Education in collaboration with the Indian Army, District Administration Doda, and Bhaderwah Campus, as part of a broader initiative to foster national integration, a drug-free lifestyle, and holistic well-being among the youth.



VC JU Prof. Umesh Rai flagging off walkathon at Bhaderwah.

The Walkathon, carrying the resounding message "National Integration - Now and Always!", witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members, with participants marching through Bhaderwah town, holding aloft the national flag and banners reading "Say No to Drugs, Say Yes to Sports" and "One Walk, One Community, One Cause."

Speaking at the flag-off, Prof. Umesh Rai emphasized that the event aligns with the vision of the Prime Minister, Lieutenant Governor, and the Chief Minister of JK UT for the holistic development of youth. "The participation of our youth in such meaningful, community-driven activities is crucial. It helps channel their energy into positive engagements that build discipline, unity, and a spirit of national pride," said Prof. Rai. "Through sports, wellness, and social integration, we aim to cultivate a generation that is physically strong, mentally resilient, and deeply connected to the nation's values."

Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice

Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), also addressed the participants and commended the University of Jammu for fostering such collaborative and community-oriented initiatives. As Chief Guest, Prof. Rai also inaugurated the Six-Day Yoga Workshop in the presence of Prof. Anju Bhasin, Dean Academic Affairs; Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies; Prof. Sangeeta Gupta, Dean Planning; Prof. Naresh Padua; Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Registrar and other faculty and officers of the University.

Speaking on the importance of yoga, Prof. Rai observed, "In today's fast-paced world, it is essential to find balance. Yoga offers a holistic approach to fitness that nurtures both the body and the mind. We hope

that through this workshop, our students and faculty will not only enhance their physical health but also cultivate mental resilience."

An impressive demonstration of advanced and artistic yoga techniques was presented by the students of the PG. Diploma in Yoga, University of Jammu. The demonstration session was chaired by Prof. Rahul Gupta, Rector, Bhaderwah Campus, along with Prof. Jasbir Singh, Prof. Garima Gupta, Dr. Mujeeb, and Dr. Kuljeet Singh, Principal, Little Millennium School, Bhaderwah Campus.

Earlier, Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba, Director, Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, University of Jammu, welcomed the dignitaries and outlined the objectives behind the events. The

proceedings were conducted by Mr. Arif Halem Khateeb, External Relations

Prof. Anju Bhasin, Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, Prof. Sangeeta Gupta, Dean Planning and Department, Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Registrar also addressed the audience, applauding the commitment of the youth and encouraging them to remain actively involved in such nation-building efforts.

With overwhelming student participation and high-energy engagement, the Walkathon and Yoga Workshop collectively symbolized the University of Jammu's ongoing commitment to promoting youth empowerment, wellness, and the spirit of national unity at the grassroots level.

Sportspersons serve as ambassadors; messengers of peace: Anuradha

Flags off J&K contingent for 78th Sr National Aquatic C'ship

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Sportspersons are the messengers of peace prosperity & harmony and the sports personalities often serve as brand ambassadors due to their influence, popularity, and ability to connect with a wide audiences.



Organisers presenting memento to DG YS&S J&K, Anuradha Gupta.

This was stated by Director General Youth Services and Sports J&K, Anuradha Gupta while flagging off J&K contingent for 78th Senior National Aquatic Championship in an impressive, colourful and well-attended function at MA Stadium, here today.

A contingent of 10 swimmers with 5 men and 5 women, selected on merit will be proceeding for the event to be organised by Swimming Federation of India at Bhuvneshwar in

Odisha from June 22 to June 26, 2025. While congratulating J&K Swimming Association for its endeavours in providing playing opportunities to J&K youth

and promoting sports in every nook and corner of the Union Territory, Anuradha said that J&K possessed immense sporting talent and the dire need is to hone it at the grass-root level. Wishing the swimmers best of luck, she advised them to play the game with sporting spirit and preserve sanctity of the same.

Hoping for a good show from these swimmers at the National scene, Anuradha advised them to give their best and bring laurels for themselves, their parents, coaches, mentors and the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir as well.

She advised the athletes to leave no stone unturned in blossoming at the national scene and give message to the society that sports and games serve as the best tool to empower the nation.

Organised by Jammu & Kashmir Swimming Association, the flag off ceremony was held under the overall supervision of President J&K Swimming Association, Ramandeep Singh Soodan, General Secretary Bharat Kumar Sharma, Joint Secretary Cum Coach Babita Rani and Treasurer Vikas Mahajan.

Rajouri Athletics meet held



Organisers along with players during the sports event.

STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: District Rajouri Athletics Association on Monday organised the District Rajouri Championship at Sports Stadium, here under the aegis of Athletics Association of J&K. In this day-long event, Keval Krishan Lecturer Mathematics was the chief guest and Ravi Kumar was guest of honour. The technical panel for the championship was Sanjay Kumar, Suresh Kumar, Aman Sharma, and Asif Mohd.

The Results (open category): 100 mts: Anmol Sudan, Ist; Aman Sharma, 2nd and Manik Sharma, 3rd. 200 mts: Shubam Raina, Ist; Sumit Kumar, 2nd and Neeraj Khajuria, 3rd. 400 mts: Vansh Sharma Ist, Amit Kumar Sharma, 2nd and Mohd Imran, 3rd. 1500 mts: Vikrant Khajuria, Ist; Ankush Sharma, 2nd and Ankit Sharma, 3rd.

UNDER-14: BOYS: 60m: Divyansh Raina, Ist; Aditya Raina, 2nd and Adarsh Sharma 3rd. 600 mts: Aditya Raina, Ist; Adarsh Sharma, 2nd and Divyansh Raina, 3rd. GIRLS: 60 mts: Janvi Partap Singh, Ist; Ultra Singh, 2nd and Akshara Sharma, 3rd.

UNDER-16: BOYS: 80 mts: Aditya Raina, Ist; 2nd Rahul Sharma and pushan Sharma,

3rd. 600 mts: Deepak Kumar, Ist; Ritik Kumar, 2nd and Daksh Heer, 3rd. GIRLS: 80 mts: Udit Singh, Ist; Kermica Saraf, 2nd and Palvi Sharma, 3rd.

Arbaz is Kashmir's first international TT referee

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Belongs to a small village in Shopian of Kashmir Division in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Arbaz Amin has become first international referee in the discipline of Table Tennis.



Arbaz has qualified the examination which was conducted by the International Table Tennis Federation. Soon after his qualification, Arbaz acted as an official in the UTT National Ranking Table Tennis Championships held at Panchkula in Haryana. This Kashmiri man was among 23 such individuals from India, who have successfully completed the examination. The list of new international umpires included those from Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia and Iran.

2nd Dist Magistrate Open Chess Championship 2025 begins

STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: The District Administration Poonch, in collaboration with the Department of Youth Services and Sports, inaugurated the 2nd District Magistrate Open Chess Championship 2025 at Dina Nath Rafiq Memorial (DNRM) Girls Higher Secondary School, on Monday.

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the significance of sports, highlighting their role in fostering not only physical fitness but also mental strength and discipline.

He lauded Youth Services and Sports Department and the school administration for promoting such intellectually enriching activities. He also encouraged students to actively participate in diverse sports events to ensure holistic development. A total of 70 players, including 55 boys and 15 girls from across the district are participating in the championship, reflecting growing interest in mind sports among the youth of the district. The championship aims to promote strategic thinking and mental agility among the youth.

Wushu medal winners felicitated in Udhampur

STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: District Udhampur Wushu Association on Monday felicitated those medal winners at the UT and National level competitions in a function held, here today.

Former Director Sports of SMVDSSB Katra, Ashok Kumar was chief guest, who along with other distinguished guests presented certificates to the Wushu players.

Speaking to the gathering, chief guest appreciated the medal winners and complimented the district association for encouraging the budding talent. Also present were Vijay



Organisers along with players posing for photograph.

Sharma, president District Udhampur Wushu Association; Sonia Verma, Secretary of the Association and Sahil Manhas, social activist. As also Yashpal Verma, senior player and National Raffle; Push

Mehara, Pankaj Sallan and Sourav Verma.

Players felicitated: J&K UT level: Gold: Hardik Singh, Parineeta and Hardik Raina. Silver: Anish Chib, Danish Kundal and Reva Devi. Bronze: Gourav thakur,

Vansh Katoch, Pallavi Devi, Shilpa and Daksh Jaral.

Khelo India Women's league: Vishali Sandhu and Reva Devi (Bronze medals). Junior National: Junior National participation: Ansh Verma and Babar.