

Inaugural Ceremony of Ladakh's First-Ever State Open Snow Ski Championship Held at Umba Yarzah

Kargil, March 24, 2026: The historic inaugural ceremony of the 1st State Open Snow Ski Championship 2025-26 was held today at the picturesque Yakza Ski Slope in Umba Yarzah, Sankoo, Kargil. The event marks a significant milestone in the promotion of winter sports in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

The championship was formally inaugurated by Mr. Tahir Hussain Zubdavi, Joint Director, Youth Services & Sports, UT Ladakh. In his address, he highlighted the importance of developing snow skiing as a competitive sport in the region and congratulated the participating athletes for their enthusiasm and dedication.

Mr. Mohammed Ali, Nambardar of Ooba village, was also present as a distinguished guest during the ceremony.

More than 90 athletes, including both male and female participants from across Ladakh, are taking part in the three-day championship (March 24–26, 2026). The events commenced today with great energy and included: Snowboard Giant Slalom, Alpine Skiing (Slalom & Giant Slalom), Ski Mountaineering Sprint and Ski Mountaineering Vertical.

The vibrant inaugural ceremony was witnessed by a large and enthusiastic crowd, especially locals from the Sankoo area and residents of nearby villages including Kumbha. The presence of spectators added to the festive atmosphere and reflected the strong community support for winter sports in the region.

Describing the event as a great success, organizers noted that the championship has provided a much-needed platform for local talent to showcase their skills on home slopes and will play a key role in nurturing future champions from Ladakh's high-altitude Himalayan terrain.

The Department of Youth Services & Sports, UT Ladakh, is organizing the championship with the aim of promoting snow skiing, building sports infrastructure, and encouraging youth participation in winter sports.

Further rounds of competitions will continue tomorrow and the day after, with medal ceremonies expected at the conclusion of the event.





