

LG meets Khelo India Water Sports Festival Mascot

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday met the Mascot of Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025.

The Lieutenant Governor extended his best wishes to the Sports Authority of India (SAI), J&K Sports Council, and all the participating players and officials of the 3-day Khelo India Water Sports Festival, scheduled to be held from August 21 to 23 at the iconic Dal Lake in Srinagar.

The event is conceived as a celebration of Jammu Kashmir's culture and ecology. The Mascot of the Khelo India Water Sports Festival is inspired by the Himalayan Kingfisher, which reflects adventure, energy and profound connect to the nature.



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha meets the Mascot of Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025.

More than 800 athletes and officials from 28 states/union territories will be participating in Competitive sports events of rowing, canoeing and kayaking. The Water Sports Festival will also fea-

ture demonstration events like water skiing, dragon boat and shikara race.

Sarmad Hafeez, Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare; Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports

Council; Mamta Shree Ojha, Director, Khelo India Games, SAI and officials of Sports Authority of India and J&K Sports Council were present on the occasion at Raj Bhawan.

MAM College organises seminar on ‘Nasha Mukh Bharat to Viksit Bharat’

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JAMMU: Government Maulana Azad Memorial (MAM) College, Jammu, under the guidance of Principal Prof. Archana Kaul, successfully organized the second day of the Induction/Orientation Program, which included a one-day seminar on "Nasha Mukh Bharat to Viksit Bharat." The program was organized by NCORD and Student Welfare Committee, Prof. Ruth K. Maschi (Convenor).

The program began with a welcome address by Dr. Atiya Noor from the Department of English. The first speaker of the day was Ajay Sharma, SP South Jammu, who interacted with the students and briefed them about various aspects of the menace of drugs.

He emphasised the need for a multi-pronged approach to



curb the rapidly spreading evil of drug abuse among the youth. His main concern was to equip students with adequate knowledge about drug abuse so that this menace can be effectively prevented. After his enlightening session, a skit on Nasha Mukh Bharat was performed by the 3rd and 5th Semester students from the NCC and NSS Units.

The second speaker of the day was Dr. Arti Sharma, Nodal Officer of Nasha Mukh Bharat from the Chief Medical Office,

Jammu. She elaborated on the biological effects and implications of drug use and highlighted the medication and psychiatric interventions, like Opium Substitute Therapy (OST).

The program concluded with an Anti-Drug Pledge Ceremony, in which all students, staff, and guests participated with great enthusiasm. Principal Dr. Archana Kaul also interacted with the students and staff, highlighting the importance of organising such awareness programs.

Dr. Rajinder Kumar served as the Nodal Officer, while Prof. Menaka Rajput (NSS, Viksit Bharat) coordinated the day's program.

The event was attended by all the staff members of the college and Sangeeta, senior Lecturer in Education, HSS Boys Bakshi Nagar Jammu, Seema Sharma, from Social Welfare Department Jammu and PSI Sumil Singh Ketraval, JKP. A vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. Nishu Devi from the Department of English.

Reasi Shooting meet held



Participating shooters posing with officials.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: The District Shooting Championship, organized in collaboration with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), concluded today at SMVD Sports Complex, here.

Director Sports, SMVD Sports Complex and Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Druv Gupta graced the occasion as the chief

guest, while Sanjeev Kotwal, Nodal Officer, SMVD Sports Complex, was the special guest.

Both dignitaries and guests were warmly welcomed by Manu Partap, president, District Rifle Association, and Dr. Sourabh Kesar, vice president of the Association.

Among others, Danish Sharma, Judo Coach, SMVD Sports Complex, was pres-

ent. Meanwhile, executive member of the Association, Rahul Bakshi, expressed gratitude to the Director Sports for extending a helping hand. He also extended thanks to Coach Jagdeep Kumar for the smooth conduct of the championship.

Those shooters who qualified as per the norms of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) shall now represent Reasi district in the upcoming J&K Shooting Championship.

The Results:

10 meters: Pistol: Youth: Vishali Sharma, 1st; Yashika Sharma, 2nd.

Senior: Sanjeev Singh, 1st; Rishab Dubey, 2nd and Mangal Singh, 3rd.

Sub-Youth: Divyansh Rajput, 1st. Rifle: Sub-Youth: Aarya Sharma, 1st.

Masters: Vijay Kumar, 1st. Senior: Nitin Singh Jamwal, 1st; Danish Sharma, 2nd.

Nasha Mukh Bharat Rally & Cultural Evening held at JU



Participating students, police officials and JU faculty at Nasha Mukh Bharat-Youth Rally.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As part of the National Youth Exchange Program 2025, the Department of Home

Science, University of Jammu and Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation (LFO-BHF), in collaboration with Jammu & Kashmir Police, and Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), successfully organised the Nasha Mukh

Bharat - Youth Rally and Cultural Evening to raise awareness against the growing menace of drug abuse.

The rally was flagged off by Deputy Superintendent of Police, Sunil Singh Jasrotia (Chief Guest), in the presence of Prof. Sarika Manhas, Head, Department of Home Science, and Vivek Parihar, Live For Others Foundation. Their participation underscored the vital

role of educational institutions and social organisations in mobilising youth for nation-building.

The rally commenced from Fountain Plaza, JU, and proceeded towards Dogra Chowk. At Dogra Chowk, a powerful Nukkad Natak was staged by the group Modern Dogre, highlighting the devastating effects of drug addiction and inspiring the public to work collectively for a drug-free future. After the performance, the rally returned to the University campus, concluding with a strong message of determination and unity in the

fight against substance abuse.

Following the rally, an awareness lecture on the drug menace was conducted, featuring Rashmi Choudhary, Sub-Inspector, Narcotics Control Bureau, who sensitized the participants about the growing challenges of substance abuse.

The session was presided over by Rahul Sahai, Chairman, Indian Chamber of Commerce, who also addressed the gathering and emphasized the urgent need for collective action by youth, civil society, and institutions to curb this

menace.

In the second half of the programme, a grand Cultural Evening was inaugurated by Chief Guest Padma Shri Awardee Romalo Ram, along with Special Guests Tamana Seth (JKAS), Kashish Gupta, CEO Talla Jewellers, and Sandeep Kour (JKAS).

The Cultural Evening witnessed enthralling performances by renowned regional artists and cultural groups, who showcased the rich heritage, folk traditions, and diverse art forms of different states and cities.

Satish announces slew of activities on National Sports Day

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SRINAGAR: In line with the nationwide initiative to promote sports and physical fitness, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, IT, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, on Tuesday announced a slew of programmes to mark National Sports Day on August 29 and Community Fitness Day on August 31 across Jammu & Kashmir.

The Minister made the announcement while participating in a virtual meeting convened by Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, which was attended by Sports Ministers from different States and Union Territories to finalize the framework for the celebrations across the country.

The meeting was also attended by Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services



Sports Minister J&K, Satish Sharma chairing a virtual meeting on Tuesday.

and Sports, Sarmad Hafeez; Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul and other senior officers.

Satish Sharma informed that the week-long activities in Jammu & Kashmir will be aimed at spreading awareness about fitness, encouraging grassroots participation in sports, and inculcating the values of discipline, teamwork, and healthy living among citizens. He said that schools, colleges, and community

institutions during morning assemblies will organise tributes to Major Dhyan Chand, fitness pledges, sports and recreational games, indigenous sports, yoga sessions, cycling events, and community walks.

"To ensure greater inclusivity and impact, a specified target of individuals per district has been set. Special attention will be given to youth engagement as well as fitness activities

for senior citizens under the Fit India Movement", the Minister maintained.

Satish Sharma further highlighted that the celebrations will have a strong digital engagement component, with campaigns on social media platforms, promotional taglines, and fitness assessments through the Fit India Mobile App. He added that all activities and achievements will be documented, including medal tallies and photo gal-

leries, and uploaded on the Fit India portal through institutional logins for record and transparency.

Reiterating the vision of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, the Minister said, "National Sports Day is not only a tribute to the legendary Major Dhyan Chand ji but also an occasion to reinforce the importance of sports and fitness in the lives of our people. We are committed to making this celebration a people's movement where every village, every youth, and every citizen actively participates. Sports and fitness must become a way of life for all."

The Minister urged institutions, communities, and citizens across Jammu & Kashmir to come forward and participate in the programmes, making the celebrations of National Sports Day 2025 and Community Fitness Day a grand success.

Bucchi Babu Invitation Cricket Tournament Vanshaj spins web, plots Railways' collapse; J&K set to take 1st innings lead

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JAMMU: Promising left-arm spinner Vanshaj Sharma spun web and tormented Railways' batters with a stellar spell of 6 for 49 in 26.3 overs, helping Jammu and Kashmir restrict the opposition for a modest 220/8, thus sighting a crucial first innings lead in the ongoing Bucchi Babu Invitation Cricket Tournament, organised by Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA).

On a batting-friendly surface, Vanshaj's crucial breakthroughs halted Railways' progress at key moments. He dismissed dangerous looking Ashish Singh (76 off 139 balls), and a well-set skipper Vivek Singh (16 off 25 balls), preventing Railways from capitalizing on their reasonably solid foundation.

Earlier, J&K declared their first innings at the overnight score of 393/5 thus inviting Railways to bat.



Railways opener Mrunal Devdhar and Ashish Singh began on a cautious note and added 31 runs in 63 balls before left-arm seamer Sunil Kumar dismissed Devdhar at his individual score of 11 runs. Then Railways' batters struggled against Vanshaj Sharma who bowled with nagging line and teasing length and the team managed to score 220 runs in 90 overs, losing 8 wickets in the process. Dinesh Mor was unbeaten on 57 and Himanshu Sangwan was at the crease on 17 at the draw of stumps on day-2 today.

With two wickets in hand and the final day's play left, Railways are still trailing by 173 runs. J&K is all set to gain a sizeable first innings lead.

For J&K, Vanshaj Sharma was the wrecker-in-chief, capturing 6 important wickets, while another left-arm spinner Abid Mushtaq and Sunil Kumar claimed one wicket each.

Dragon Boats set to create waves in Dal Lake



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SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Dragon Boat Association received a boost ahead of the Khelo India Water Sports Festival, with the Delhi Dragon Boat Association providing three dragon boats, of latest model, for the Khelo India Water Sports Festival at Dal Lake in Srinagar Kashmir from August 21 to 23. The festival is being organised by the J&K Sports Council.

Farooq Ahmad Bhat from J&K has served as Race Official at the 19th Asian Games Hangzhou China and coached Indian Team. J&K has already produced

six international players, including two gold medalists Zahoor Ahmad Latoo and Zain Ul Aabidin at the IDBF World Championship in Thailand 2023.

J&K Dragon Boat Association President Mohammed Syed Punoo, IPS (Retd.) and Vice President Aamir Ali expressed hope that the introduction of Dragon Boat events would inspire youth, nurture fresh talent and strengthen J&K's presence in the sport. Dragon Boat Sports event is a separate sport and championships are being conducted under

International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF) globally.

The Dragon Boat Sports event has been inducted in Asian Games, Asian Beach Games by the Olympic Council of Asia under the Asian Dragon Boat Federation, a continental Federation of International Dragon Boat Federation.

Dragon Boat race is a fast and exciting flat water human powered watercraft sport which is performed on a long boat with a dragon face at the head.

The boat accommodates 12 players, who paddle on the beat of a drum over predefined distances.

CUJ holds patriotic letter-writing event under Har Ghar Tiranga campaign

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of National Security Studies and Office of the Dean Students' Welfare, Central University of Jammu (CUJ), under the leadership of Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, organized a special event under the Government of India's Har Ghar Tiranga campaign to foster patriotism and connect students with the nation's protectors. As part of the programme, students wrote heartfelt letters to the Jawans of the Armed Forces and Police Personnel, expressing their deep gratitude, respect, and appreciation for their selfless service and dedication to safeguarding the nation. The initiative aimed to instill national pride, acknowledge the sacrifices of security forces, and strengthen the emotional bond between citizens and those who guard the country's frontiers and maintain law and order. Event coordinator Dr. Neeta Rani, Head, Department of National Security Studies encouraged



students to reflect on the role of the armed forces and police in upholding peace and security, inspiring them to contribute positively to nation-building. The letters will be forwarded to defence units and police departments as a token of respect. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation and served as a reminder of the importance of unity, respect, and national spirit envisioned under the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign.

India's Asia Cup squad: Gill appointed vice-captain, Bumrah included but Shreyas Iyer misses out

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: Test skipper Shubman Gill was on Tuesday appointed India's T20 vice-captain for next month's Asia Cup where Jasprit Bumrah will also be there to bolster the team's bowling attack even as a strong contender like IPL-winning captain Shreyas Iyer missed out due to abundance of talent in the format.

The 25-year-old Gill's last T20 International match was against Sri Lanka at Pallekele in 2024 and he has now replaced Axar Patel as the deputy of skipper Suryakumar Yadav in the 15-strong squad.

Asia Cup begins on September 9 and India is placed in Group A of alongside Pakistan, Oman, and the UAE.

Gill's inclusion was hardly a surprise after a stupendous run in the recent Test rubber against England where he scored four hundreds in the drawn five-match series.

"Gill's form in England was something we expected but he exceeded it all," chief selector Ajit Agarkar said during the squad announcement press conference here.

However, the management will have to ponder over Gill's batting slot during the continental showpiece because Abhishek Sharma and Sanju Samson have forged an effective pair at the top.

Agarkar looked at it as a delightful problem of plenty rather than a headache.

"There are more options (for top order) now and Shubman has been in a great form anyway. When they get to Dubai, they can decide on the playing XI according to the opposition and the

conditions," said the former India pacer.

But the team think tank has the option of pushing Samson down to the middle-order, where the Kerala batter batted quite often in the past, and gave Gill the opening slot.

Agarkar hinted as much. "Sanju was playing because Shubman and Yashasvi were not available at that point (and) so was Abhishek. (But) Abhishek's performance clearly makes it hard to leave him out. Plus, his bowling is handy," he said.

"Like I said, he (Shubman) was (the) vice-captain the last time he played T20 cricket. That was after the last World Cup so even at that point, clearly we were thinking along those lines.

"Now that he's available, at least he (Suryakumar) has two options. It's their headache to pick the batting lineup (now); ours was to pick the 15 and so. But we've got some real depth as far as T20 cricket is concerned and we are very happy with it," he added.

But the selectors opted to pick him nonetheless and this will be Bumrah's first T20 tournament since last year's World Cup.

India squad for Asia Cup: Suryakumar Yadav (captain), Shubman Gill (vice-captain), Abhishek Sharma, Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Jasprit Bumrah, Jitesh Sharma, Shivam Dube, Arshdeep Singh, Sanju Samson, Harshit Rana, Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh, Varun Chakravarthy, Kuldeep Yadav.

Standbys: Prasidh Krishna, Washington Sundar, Riyan Parag, Dhruv Jurel, Yashasvi Jaiswal.