

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/2025-27 Why delay in nominations out of POJK DPs & Kashmiri Migrants to Legislative Assembly even when there is no stay from High Court?

Rupesh gets Addl Charge as **Director Information**

Website: www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

JKPS Panjtirthi student wins bronze at 3rd RJK Gold Medal Open National Archery C'ship

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

Attends opening ceremony of 'Khelo India Water Sports Festival' at Dal Lake We must set our sights on Int'l Water Sports Games: LG

Scale, magnitude of sports events in J&K for last 5-6 years impressive, unprecedented

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday attended the opening ceremony of "Khelo India Water Sports Festival-2025" at the iconic Dal Lake in

In his address, Lieutenant Governor extended a warm welcome and best wishes to all participating athletes and team officials. He congratulated the Union Sports Ministry, Sports Authority of India, J&K Sports Council, sports enthusiasts, water sports veterans and people of Jammu Kashmir on the momentous

He also expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving the historic city of Srinagar the opportunity to host the country's first 'Khelo India Water Sports Festival'.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the participation of 800 athletes from 28



LG Manoj Sinha at the opening ceremony of Khelo India Water Sports Festival at Srinagar on Thursday

States/UTs in this mega national sports event will project J&K UT as the Water Sports Capital of the Country.

"Hosting of national-level sporting event with participants from across the country sends a strong message of normalcy and progress in J&K. While winter sports attract visitors during snow season, water Says, 800 athletes from 28 States/UTs participating in this mega national sports event which will project J&K UT as **Water Sports Capital of Country**

Hosting of national-level sporting event with participants from across the country sends a strong message of peace, normalcy and progress in J&K. While winter sports attract visitors during snow season, water sports will promote summer tourism benefiting local economy

Next 2 days competitive Games will provide unique opportunity for sportspersons from all over country to stay together, live and compete in same CONTD ON PAGE 9

sports will promote summer tourism benefiting the local economy.

Next two days the competitive Games will provide a unique opportunity for sportspersons from all over the country to stay together, live and compete in the same environment and showcase the sporting excellence," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor,

in his address, shared the extraordinary journey of J&K towards becoming a sporting powerhouse.

"I am proud to say that Sports in J&K UT have got its due under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Modern sports infrastructure has been developed under his guidance across Jammu Kashmir and

Omar hails inaugural Khelo India Water Sports as "yet another historic sports event in J&K"

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday attended the first-ever Kheld India Water Sports Festiva held at Dal Lake, describing



the event as a "historic moment that blends the spir it of sports with the natural beauty of Kashmir.' The festival, which draws over 800 participants was attended by Minister of State for Youth Affairs &

Raksha Khadse, Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Shri Manoj Sinha, Minister for Youth Services and Sports Satish Sharma, Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani MLA Zadibal Tanvir Sadiq, besides dignitaries from the

Central Government and senior officials of the J&K adminis Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said Jammu and Kashmir shares a long association with Khelo India, hav ing hosted the Winter Games in Gulmarg five times. "When we hear Khelo India, winter immediately comes to mind because we have grown up playing in the snow. But today, it

s a matter of immense pride that Dal Lake is hosting the first-ever Water Sports Festival ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

JDA's anti-encroachment drive; 20 structures razed to retrieve 110 kanal of land

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu Development Authority on Thursday launched a largescale drive against landgrabbers and removed encroachments by dismantling 20 illegal structures built on a 13-acre land in Jammu city.

Alleging "massive encroachment" of state land, the CAG had earlier said the Development Authority (JDA) has failed to demarcate its 7,243 acres of land in Jammu.

The JDA, under the leadership of its Vice Chairman Rupesh Kumar and in active coordination with the district

Suspected drones sighted in border areas of Jammu, search operation launched **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A suspected drone was spotted by locals in a border area of the district Thursday, prompting security agencies to launch a search operation, officials

Residents reported the sighting to security agencies on Thursday in the Gajansoo border area, they Police and other security

immediately forces launched a search operation in the area, officials added. A senior officer said it is

not vet clear whether the drone originated from this side or across the border Investigation into the matter is underway.

The International Border in the Jammu district is guarded by the Border Security Force. Authorities continue to remain on high alert as drone activities along the border pose serious security concerns.



administration, launched a large-scale anti-encroachment operation across key locations in Jammu district. an official spokesperson said. As a result of the operation,

approximately 110 kanals of prime land was successfully retrieved and brought back under official possession, the official said. The spokesperson added

that to prevent further encroachments, reclaimed land is being secured through fencing and the installation of warning During the operation, over

20 illegal permanent

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a landmark

judgment that closed a four-

decade-long legal battle, the

2nd Additional District and

Sessions Court, Srinagar,

Swati Gupta has ordered

compensation to the family

of Avis Ahmed Shah, a 22-

vear-old mechanic who died

in the 1985 Exhibition

Ground bomb blast. The

court held the State account-

able for negligence in ensur-

ing public safety at the gov-

On October 13, 1985, Avis

had gone to the annual

Srinagar Exhibition Ground,

a bustling cultural and com-

ernment-organized event.

'Country comes first': Minister terms 'no bilateral sporting ties with Pak' good decision

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Asserting that the government wants to encourage sports but the country comes first, Union Minister of State for Sports, Raksha Khadse. Thursday said people's feelings cannot be hurt by allowing bilateral tournaments involving Pakistani players.

"The way our relations are these days, especially since Operation Sindoor, I think it is a good decision," Khadse told reporters while responding to a query on the sports ministry barring India-Pakistan bilateral sporting events and allowing only

Justice after 40 years: Srinagar Court orders

compensation in 1985 Exhibition Blast

mercial event that included

the popular Radha Theatre.

At around 8:45 PM, a bomb

exploded near the theatre,

leaving Avis and another vis-

itor critically injured. Avis

succumbed the next morning

Though the case was regis-

tered under the Explosive

Substances Act and later

invoked TADA provisions,

the court clarified that the

State could not absolve itself

of liability. Judge Swati

Gupta observed that authori-

ties had failed in their statu-

tory duty to provide adequate

preventive checks and securi-

ty, despite organizing and

at SKIMS Hospital.



Union Minister of State for Sports, Raksha Khadse briefing media at Srinagar on Thursday.

multilateral competitions. important. We want to promote sports but we cannot

regulating the event.

The compensation claim

was filed in 1986 by Avis's

father, Mohammad Yousuf

Shah. After his death in

1998, the litigation was pur-

sued by his widow and chil-

friends, witnesses, and fami-

ly members confirmed that

Avis was the family's sole

breadwinner, earning Rs

700- Rs 800 a month as a

mechanic and supporting his

Rejecting the State's tech-

nical objections, the court

awarded the family Rs 3.84

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

parents and siblings.

lakh compensation,

Testimonies from

hurt the feelings of our peo-"For us, the country is very ple by bringing players from such a country. For us, the country and its people come

Bus carrying pilgrims

falls into gorge, one dead

STATE TIMES NEWS

first. So, it is a very good decision," she said. The minister, who was here

for the Khelo India Water Sports Festival that commenced at the Dal Lake on Thursday, also said that Jammu and Kashmir now has the potential to become the water sports capital of the country.

"We are witnessing very good participation here. The way J-K has become the winter games capital of the country, we want it to become the capital for water games as well," she said, referring to the annual Khelo

Jammu Rly Stn on high alert after threat note found with pigeon



Security agencies carrying out search operation.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Security forces have captured a pigeon from the border area of RS Pura in Jammu district carrying a threat note to blow up the Jammu railway

ers from different parties in

Lok Sabha Speaker Om

prompting police to beef up security in the region, offi-

cials said. Pakistan has been known to send balloons, flags and pigeons to the India side

Modi's swipe at Cong leadership's 'insecurity'

as Monsoon session concludes SAMBA: A bus carrying pil-STATE TIMES NEWS

grims to the cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi skidded off the Jammu-Pathankot high-

way and fell into a gorge in Samba district on Thursday, leaving one person dead and 39 others injured, officials said. The accident took place at Jatwal, when the bus carrying pilgrims to Katra from UP suffered a tyre burst and skidded off the highway near a small bridge, they said. The deceased was identified as 45vear-old Iqbal Singh of Amroha, they added. The injured were shifted to the

Samba.

Meanwhile, 14 patients ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

hospital in

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday expressed disappointment at the

absence of normal proceedings in Parliament's Monsoon session leading to the passage of several amid the Opposition's protests, and said bright and young MPs of the Congress do not get to participate in discussions due to the "insecurity" of its leadership.

Sources said Modi made these remarks at the customary informal meeting of lead-



was adjourned sine die. Opposition leaders kept away from the get-together

The sources added that he did not name Rahul Gandhi. the Leader of Opposition in

the House who is leading his party's agitation against the Election Commission's drive to revise electoral rolls in Bihar, but his remarks were apparently aimed at him.

Modi singled out the Promotion Regulation of Online

Gaming Bill, which bans all real-money games and was passed by Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha without

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

"We never said anything

have always

judicial

activism

should never

become judi-

cial terrorism

adventur-

ism," the CJI

judicial

about the elected people. I

Presidential reference hearing

Kishtwar cloudburst: Multi-agency search operation intensifies to trace 33 missing

STATE TIMES NEWS

CHASHOTI: The multiagency search operation to trace 33 missing persons in cloudburst-hit Kishtwar district in Jammu and Kashmir entered the eighth day on Thursday, officials said.

The death toll in the natural calamity that struck the last motorable village en route to the Machail Mata temple on August 14 during the yatra stands at 65, including three CISF personnel and one Special Police Officer (SPO) of J-K Police. Over 100 people were injured

"The search operation by multiple agencies has been intensified to trace 33 missing persons. Operations are



underway at the most affected sites by separate teams," a senior official told PTI.

The focus of the operation has been laid at three locations -- the major impact site near a langar (community

kitchen), the area where houses were washed away, and the Bhuat nallah in Gulabgarh-Paddar areas Joint teams of police.

Army, National ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Authorities begin DNA profiling, issue lookout notice to identify 3 bodies

JAMMU: Authorities here on Thursday began DNA profiling of body parts recovered during the search operation in the eloudburst-hit Chisoti village of Kishtwar district, and issued ookout notices to identify three bodies.

The search operation has been intensified to trace 33 people ho are still missing, officials said.

A cloudburst struck Chisoti, the last motorable village en oute to the Machail Mata temple, on August 14, leaving a rail of death and destruction.

A senior officer supervising the operation put the death toll at 65 and said that 62 bodies have been identified so far and handed over to their families. "Three bodies are still unidentiied." he said He said the five limbs recovered have been preserved, and

DNA profiling has been initiated. "People whose kin have been missing have been asked to come forward for DNA profiling," the officer said. Officials said lookout notices have been issued for the three

GMC Hospital in Jammu and

oodies -- including one headless, and two of women -- kept at

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

judicial terrorism: CJI **STATE TIMES NEWS** elected people who have a lot NEW DELHI: Judicial of experience should never be undermined.

Judicial activism shouldn't become

activism should not become judicial terrorism, Chief Justice of India B R Gavai

Thursday during the presidential referhearing ence which raised constitutional questions whether the

said

court can impose timelines for governors and the president to deal with bills passed by state assemblies.

came when Solicitor General

Tushar Mehta, appearing for

the Centre, told a bench that

The chief justice's remark

told Mehta.

The bench also comprised Justices Surya Kant, Vikram Nath, P S Narasimha and A S Chandurkar

Mehta resumed his submissions by referring to

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