



## ‘No jurisdiction’: India rejects Hague court tribunal order on Indus Waters Treaty

Tribunal constituted in patent breach of treaty: MEA, says IWT suspension remains in force

KT News Desk

New Delhi, Aug 31: India on Monday rejected the order issued by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague on the status of the Indus Waters Treaty, asserting that the tribunal has “no jurisdiction” over New Delhi’s sovereign decisions and that its decision to keep the pact in abeyance remains in force.

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs, according to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), described the arbitration body as an “illegally constituted” court and said India does not recognise its existence in law.

The statement came after the Court of Arbitration said the Indus Waters Treaty remains in force and that India cannot unilaterally suspend or place it in “abeyance”.

India said it categorically rejects the latest award as well as previous pronouncements by



the body.

“This so-called court was constituted by the World Bank in patent breach of the terms of the Treaty and India categorically rejects its so-called award, just as it has firmly rejected all prior pronouncements by this illegally constituted body,” the MEA said.

It said India has never appeared before the tribunal and has refused to take cognisance of its earlier pronouncements.

“India has never recognised the existence in law of this illegally-constituted and so-called Court of Arbitration, and has consistently maintained that the very establishment of this alleged arbitral body constitutes a grave violation of the Indus Waters Treaty,” it said.

The MEA further asserted that the tribunal had no authority to adjudicate on India’s sovereign decisions.

“This so-called Court of

Arbitration has no jurisdiction whatsoever to pronounce on India’s sovereign decisions,” it said, adding that its present or future pronouncements would have no impact on India’s actions concerning projects being undertaken by the country.

The ministry also made clear that New Delhi’s decision to suspend the implementation of the Indus Waters Treaty has not been withdrawn.

“India’s decision to hold the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance remains in force,” it said.

The treaty was placed in abeyance by India in April 2025, days after the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were killed.

Notably, the Indus Waters Treaty, signed in 1960 with the World Bank’s assistance, allocates the eastern rivers -- Ravi, Beas and Sutlej -- for India’s unrestricted use, while Pakistan has rights over the western rivers -- Indus, Jhelum and Chenab.

The Permanent [| More on P6](#)

## Take Red Cross services closer to people: LG Sinha

Directs DCs to intensify resource mobilisation, explore innovative avenues for fund generation



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Aug 31: Emphasising the need to take Red Cross services closer to the people, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday called for greater outreach in far-flung and border areas.

Chairing the Annual General Meeting of the Indian Red Cross Society, J&K UT, LG Sinha,

according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, “The Red Cross Society must further strengthen its humanitarian role and expand its activities to ensure timely assistance and essential services reach vulnerable and needy sections of society across Jammu Kashmir.”

He also entrusted the officials of IRCS J&K to further

intensify the anti-drug campaign and make their valuable contribution to building a Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir.

The Lieutenant Governor, who is also the President of the Indian Red Cross Society directed the Deputy Commissioners to intensify resource mobilisation and explore innovative avenues for fund generation to further [| More on P6](#)

### Cabinet expansion

## G A Mir meets Rahul Gandhi, AICC Gen Secy says High Command to take final call

Umairsar Gul Ganaie

Srinagar, Aug 31: Senior Congress leader and MLA Dooru Ghulam Ahmad Mir met Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi on Monday evening and is understood to have discussed the issue of joining the council of ministers in J&K with him.

Sources disclosed to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the issue of joining the Cabinet in Jammu & Kashmir also came up for discussion during the meeting, besides other political and organisational matters.

In a post on X, Mir said they discussed various organisational and political matters concerning Jammu and Kashmir, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

“Had a productive meeting with Rahul Gandhi and discussed important organisational and political matters concerning Jammu & Kashmir, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. We discussed ways to further strengthen the Congress organisation and advance our political and organisational agenda with renewed focus and determination,” he said.

Mir is reportedly miffed over Tariq Karra’s statement ruling out the option of joining the Cabinet when the High Command was yet to take a final call on the matter.

Talking to KNO over phone, All India Congress Committee (AICC) General Secretary in-charge for Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Syed Naseer

## J&K highly vulnerable to multiple natural hazards, says Parl panel

Appreciates UT’s disaster management framework, flags last-mile gaps, floodplain encroachments

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Aug 31: The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs has observed that Jammu & Kashmir remains highly vulnerable to multiple natural hazards, including floods, landslides, earthquakes, avalanches and Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), owing to its fragile Himalayan ecology, challenging terrain and climatic variability.

In its report, accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Committee noted that different regions of J&K face varying disaster risks. The Kashmir



Valley is particularly prone to floods, the Chenab Valley remains vulnerable to landslides, while the Jammu region

falls under high seismic risk zones.

The Committee observed that J&K has [| More on P6](#)

## CM meets several individuals, deputations at Raabita

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Aug 31: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday met several individuals and deputations at Raabita, Srinagar, and discussed issues related to sustainable mountain development, tourism promotion and sports.

A delegation from the Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI), comprising its President Dr. Ramesh Negi, LEAD Strategist Dr. Rajan Kumar Kotru and Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, called on the Chief Minister and discussed strategies for promoting sustainable mountain development in Jammu and Kashmir.



Amitash Ojha, Associate Professor of Cognitive Science at IIT Jammu, also met the Chief Minister and briefed him about a proposed nudge-based initiative for tourism development in Jammu and Kashmir. The initiative seeks to leverage behavioural insights to encourage sustainable tourism

practices, enhance visitor experience and support local tourism stakeholders.

The Chief Minister also met J&K fencer Vishal Thapar, who has been selected to represent India at the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, scheduled to be held from September 19 to October 4, 2026.

### Census-2027

## Population enumeration in 1115 villages, 3 municipalities of J&K to begin today

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Aug 31: The month-long population enumeration in snow-bound areas of Jammu & Kashmir will begin tomorrow, with enumerators set to physically visit households to record details in 16 districts of the Union Territory.

The population count in the snow-bound areas of J&K will begin on September 1 and continue till September 30.

“The population enumeration exercise will begin in snow-bound areas of J&K and the entire Ladakh Union

Territory,” Amit Sharma, Director Census Operations for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Union Territories, told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

Sharma, who is also Chief Principal Census Officer for J&K and Ladakh, is visiting Dudu and Basantgarh subdivisions of Udhampur to formally inaugurate the population enumeration exercise.

As per details available with KNO, the population enumeration in 1115 villages and three municipalities, which fall under the list of [| More on P6](#)

## Protesting MBBS interns demand written order for stipend revision

Health Min says proposal under process with Fin Dept; JKPCC Chief writes to CM

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Aug 31: MBBS interns across Jammu and Kashmir on Monday launched a coordinated protest demanding enhancement of their monthly stipend from the existing Rs 12,300 to Rs 30,000, asserting that they would not withdraw the agitation until a formal government order is issued.

Protests were held at several government medical institutions, including GMC Srinagar, GMC Baramulla, GMC Handwara, GMC Anantnag and SKIMS Bema in Kashmir, besides GMC Jammu, GMC

Udhampur, GMC Rajouri and GMC Doda.

The protesting interns, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said they have been compelled to take the protest route after their demand for a revision of the stipend remained unresolved despite repeated assurances.

“We have been hearing the same assurances for the last two years that we heard today from the concerned minister. The issue is always said to be under process, but there has been no concrete decision. This time, we will not call [| More on P6](#)

## Intense showers may trigger flash floods, landslides in J&K: MeT

Jammu hottest at 33.4°C, Gulmarg coolest at 19.9°C in J&K

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Aug 31: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to experience generally hot and humid weather on September 1, with light to moderate rain and thundershowers expected at many places, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar said on Monday.

The weather office, as reported by the news

agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said brief spells of intense heavy showers are likely, particularly in the Jammu division during the early morning and late afternoon or evening hours.

It advised people to remain cautious as brief intense showers at localised places may trigger flash floods, mudslides and landslides during August 31 and September 1-2.

According to the weather data issued by the Meteorological Centre, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 28.9 degrees



Celsius and a minimum of 16 degrees Celsius during the past 24 hours.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 27.1 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 18 degrees, while Pahalgam recorded 24.3 degrees and 11.8 degrees, respectively.

Kupwara recorded a maximum temperature of 30.2 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 16.7 degrees, while Kokernag recorded 26.8 degrees and 14.3 degrees.

Gulmarg recorded a maximum of 19.9 degrees Celsius and a minimum [| More on P6](#)

## Despite intense heat across country, J&K records zero heatwave days in Aug

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Aug 31: Jammu and Kashmir recorded no heatwave days during August, even as large parts of the country experienced unusually high temperatures, with intermittent rain, cloud cover and persistent moisture keeping the weather pleasant across the

Union Territory.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the India Meteorological Department (IMD) in previous years has linked prolonged heat spells to deficient rainfall and subdued monsoon activity, which allow temperatures to rise sharply. [| More on P6](#)

Apple Transportation

Make greater use of railway goods, freight services: Div Com Kashmir to fruit growers

Advises fruit truck drivers to strictly adhere to prescribed load limits on National Highway

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 31: In a significant move aimed at facilitating the economical and hassle-free transportation of horticulture produce, particularly apples, to various domestic mandis and international destinations, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg Monday urged fruit growers, traders and other stakeholders to make greater use of railway goods and freight services.

The Divisional Commissioner, as per an official statement, was chairing a meeting convened to review the utilization of railway freight services for the transportation of horticulture produce from Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by IGP Traffic, Kashmir, M. Soleman Choudhary; Deputy Commissioners, Director Horticulture Planning & Marketing, Ghulam Jeelani Zargar; officers of Northern Railway, Industries & Commerce and Information Departments, besides representatives of various fruit associations.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner directed all Deputy Commissioners and the Director Horticulture Planning & Marketing to hold consultations with fruit growers, traders, associations and aggregators to encourage wider and more economical utilization of railway freight services.

He stressed that



railway transportation should be increasingly utilized for long-distance destinations, as it can provide a cost-effective and efficient alternative for transporting large quantities of horticulture produce. He also directed the Director Horticulture Planning & Marketing to ensure effective coordination among fruit growers, traders, associations and railway authorities for the smooth movement of produce.

The Div Com laid special emphasis on maximizing transportation of horticulture produce from Jablipoora Mandi Anantnag. He further directed all Deputy Commissioners to explore and facilitate the transportation of a certain percentage of fruit

consignments through railway services from their respective districts.

Discussing the Roll-on/Roll-off (Ro-Ro) service, the Divisional Commissioner directed Northern Railway officials to share an informational video with fruit associations highlighting the prescribed technical parameters for trucks, including permissible load height and other requirements, to facilitate its effective utilization.

With regard to transportation of fruit by road, both Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and IGP Traffic Kashmir directed fruit associations to undertake extensive sensitization of truck drivers regarding adherence

to the permissible load limits on the National Highway.

They emphasized that overloading not only violates prescribed norms but also poses serious risks to road safety and traffic management. The officers cautioned that strict punitive action would be taken against vehicles found violating the prescribed load limits.

Representatives of various fruit associations put forth their suggestions and sought long-term solutions for strengthening the transportation infrastructure for the horticulture sector, including improved connectivity of fruit mandis with the railway network.

DC Ganderbal reviews preparations for Census 2027 in snow-bound areas

Directs time-bound coverage of all households



The Deputy Commissioner directed all Charge Officers to ensure that appointment orders of enumerators are issued in a timely manner and comprehensive training of all appointed enumerators is completed before commencement of the field exercise. He stressed that the enumerators must be adequately trained in the prescribed procedures and use of the Census application before undertaking household enumeration.

KT News Desk

GANDERBAL, AUGUST 31: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, who is also the Principal Census Officer for the district, Monday convened a meeting to review the preparedness for Census 2027 in Snow-Bound Areas of District Ganderbal.

The meeting, as per an official statement, reviewed the preparedness of the concerned Census Charge Officers for the commencement and timely completion of Census related activities in the snow bound areas of the district.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all Charge Officers to ensure that appointment orders of enumerators are issued in a timely manner and comprehensive training of all appointed enumerators is completed before commencement of the field exercise. He stressed that the enumerators must be adequately trained in the prescribed procedures and use of the Census application before undertaking household enumeration.

The Deputy Commissioner further directed that mobile devices used by each enumerator must conform to the prescribed specifications and be properly configured to facilitate smooth and uninterrupted updation of Census data.

Emphasising the importance of accuracy, the Deputy Commissioner directed the enumerators and

supervisory staff to ensure that correct and complete information is captured and updated for every household, with due care to avoid errors, omissions or duplication.

He stressed that each and every household in the identified snow-bound areas must be covered in a time-bound manner, and directed the Charge Officers to closely monitor field progress and ensure that the scheduled commencement and completion of the Census exercise is adhered to strictly.

The Deputy Commissioner also called for regular monitoring of field-level progress, prompt resolution of technical or operational issues and close coordination among all Census functionaries to ensure smooth conduct of the exercise in the challenging snow bound areas.

He directed the concerned officers to maintain proper coordination with the District Census Cell and ensure timely reporting and updation of progress, so that any gaps in coverage are identified and addressed without delay.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Chief Planning Officer Ganderbal, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Kangan, all Charge Officers, District Coordinator Census 2027, District Master Trainer Census 2027 and officials of the District Census Cell, besides other concerned officials.

DC reviews implementation of National AYUSH Mission in Udhampur



KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, AUGUST 31: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa, who is also the Chairman of the District AYUSH Society on Monday chaired a review meeting to assess the functioning of the AYUSH Department and the implementation of the National AYUSH Mission in the district.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Jugal Kishore; Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh and other officers from various departments.

At the outset, District AYUSH Officer Dr. Surekha Pandita delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the implementation of the National AYUSH Mission and the functioning of the AYUSH Department in the district.

The DC directed the AYUSH Department to scale up its progress and achieve the prescribed targets within the stipulated timelines. He stressed the need to intensify outreach programmes and directed the department to ensure the availability of services under major AYUSH Public Welfare Programmes at all AYUSH institutions across the district.

The DC further exhorted the District AYUSH Officer to undertake regular visits to AYUSH healthcare facilities to assess their functioning, identify gaps and ensure effective and quality service delivery.

DDC Anantnag chairs Bankers' DLRC meeting for quarter ended June -2026

KT News Desk

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 31: A District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting to review the performance of the banking sector in Anantnag district for the quarter ending June-2026 (Q1 FY 2026-27) was held Monday under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner (DDC), Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat at the DC Office.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by GM DIC, CPO, CAO, CAHO, DD Fisheries, DSWO, AD Handicrafts, District Officers KVIB, KVIC and NRLM, LDO RBI, DDM NABARD, Cluster Heads of J&K Bank, Chief Manager SBI, Director RSETI, District Coordinators of various Banks and officers from



KVIB, KVIC, EO MC Ananthnag and NRLM. At the outset, the minutes of last DLRC meeting held in June-2026 were unanimously confirmed by the committee. Presenting a comprehensive review, Lead District Manager (LDM), informed the chair that the total deposits in the district as of June 30, 2026 stood at Rs 9698.49

crore, while advances amounted to Rs 7612.18 crore, resulting in a Credit-Deposit (CD) ratio of 78.49%. Under the District Credit Plan (DCP) of FY 2026-27, the banking sector disbursed Rs 1287 crore under the priority sector against a target of 6804.46 crore, thereby achieving about 19% of the allotted target. Non-priority sector lending stood at Rs 628.55 crore against the target of Rs 2567.21 crore, thereby achieving 24.5% of the target.

During the meeting, the DDC reviewed the performance of banks for the quarter 1st in detail. He laid special emphasis on improving the Credit-Deposit (CD) Ratio and enhancing credit flow to priority areas, particularly agriculture and allied sectors besides formation of FPOs and hassle free disbursement of loans.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE  
ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA.

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NIT No: 106/EEA/R&B of 2026-27/5352-62

Dated: 27-08-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

| S. No | Name of Work                                                    | Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs) | Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees ) | Earnest money (In Rupees ) | Time of completion | M.H of Account                                                                     | Class of Contractor | Project Authority |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1     | 2                                                               | 3                       | 4                           | 5                          | 6                  | 7                                                                                  | 8                   | 9                 |
| 1.    | EDUDC2627100021-(Construction of Fencing at HS Jawharpura Lam). | 9.76                    | 600/-                       | 2% of Adv cost             | 45 days            | District Capex Budget Secondary Education Sector during the financial Year 2026-27 | CEE, DEE            | DDCP              |

Position of AAA: Accorded vide No: 96 of DDGP of 2026 Dated: 09.07.2026

Position of funds: Committed.

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:-

|   |                                            |                     |
|---|--------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Date of Issue of Tender Notice             | 27-08-2026          |
| 2 | Period of downloading of bidding documents | 27-08-2026          |
| 3 | Bid submission Start Date                  | 28-08-2026          |
| 4 | Bid Submission End Date                    | 03-09-2026 4:00 PM  |
| 5 | Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)    | 04-09-2026 12:00 PM |

Every participating contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder. (As per circular No. 01(ADM) FD of 2025 Dated 08-07-2025 of J&K Finance Department )

(The participating contractor may disclose his Bank Account as per the format, devised as Annexure- A of the NIT and submit/upload the same accordingly at the time of submission of the bid).

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document/Tender Fee to be deposited in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG)

(In case the participating bidder wishes to deposit the requisite amount physically at any branch of the Bank other than using UPI or any other mobile application, the said bidder has to upload the Transaction Receipt as per devised format forming Annexure-Z to this NIT, duly signed by the concerned Branch Manager with proper seal.)

2. All the bidders must deposit Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG).

(In case the participating bidder wishes to deposit the requisite amount physically at any branch of the Bank other than using UPI or any other mobile application, the said bidder has to upload the Transaction Receipt as per devised format forming Annexure-Z to this NIT, duly signed by the concerned Branch Manager with proper seal.)

3. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value to be deposited in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG), which shall be released after successful completion of DLP / maintenance period.

(In case the successful bidder wishes to deposit the requisite amount physically at any branch of the Bank other than using UPI or any other mobile application, the said bidder has to upload the Transaction Receipt as per devised format forming Annexure-Z to this NIT, duly signed by the concerned Branch Manager with proper seal.)

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender receiving authority).

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

DIPK-5136/26  
DATED: 31-08-2026

Sd/-  
Draftsman  
Sd/  
Technical Officer

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Awantipora

Department of Tourism, J&K  
Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
Tourist Reception Centre, Srinagar

e-mail: [dirtourism-Kashmir@jk.gov.in](mailto:dirtourism-Kashmir@jk.gov.in)

Subject:- Arrangement for craft safari on eve of 1st International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK) 2026.

Order No:225 DTK of 2026.

Dated:31. 08.2026.

In connection with the 1st International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK), 2026, scheduled from 07th to 10th September, 2026, the following officers/officials are hereby placed at the disposal of Nodal Officer of the event for coordination and arrangements related to the Craft Safari:

1. Mr.Azad Ahmad Yaseen, I/C Tourist Officer (Cell No. 7006886562).
2. Mr. Shafkat Ahmad Itoo, I/C Tourist Officer (Cell No. 7006823575).
3. Mr.Gowhar Raffee, Assistant Tourist Officer (Cell No. 9906611909).

They shall coordinate with the concerned departments and organizers of the said festival to ensure the timely and effective execution of all arrangements pertaining to the Craft Safari.

By order

Assistant Director Tourism, Kashmir

DIPK-5166/26

No: Est/65-B/DTK/640

DATED: 31-08-2026

## Strengthening Sports Infrastructure J&K aims to secure up to Rs 1,200 crore under Khelo India 2026-31

Harness opportunity for transforming J&K's sports ecosystem: CS Atal Dulloo

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, Aug 31: Jammu and Kashmir has drawn up an ambitious five-year roadmap to maximise Central assistance under the Khelo India programme, with the Union Territory aspiring to secure around Rs 1,000-1,200 Cr during 2026-31 for strengthening sports infrastructure, nurturing talent and building a comprehensive sports ecosystem across the UT.

The roadmap was presented on Monday before the UT Level Coordination Committee (UTLCC) in its first meeting chaired by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, who called for a focused, district-driven approach to leverage the national programme for creating high-quality sports infrastructure and facilities across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by ACS, PWD; Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports Department; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Commissioner Secretary, Education; DG, Youth Services & Sports; DG, Budget; representatives of Planning, Rural Development Department and other concerned departments. Deputy Commissioners participated through video conferencing from their respective offices.

Chairing the meeting, the Chief Secretary directed all Deputy Commissioners to leverage the rechristened Khelo India 2026-31 scheme to create the best possible sports infrastructure and facilities in their respective districts, while ensuring optimal utilisation of existing assets. He called for prompt preparation of comprehensive district sports plans and directed the districts to submit the requisite plans by



September 15, 2026.

Dulloo observed that Jammu and Kashmir has consistently demonstrated remarkable sporting talent and stressed the need to provide young athletes with the right platforms, facilities, coaching and exposure to hone their abilities and compete at the highest levels. He called upon the departments and districts to aspire for maximum admissible funding under the Khelo India programme, with particular emphasis on developing Centres of Excellence and strengthening the sports ecosystem from the grassroots to the elite level.

Presenting the roadmap, Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, outlined J&K's strategy to tap the various funding windows under the Khelo India programme and build a coordinated sports development architecture for the next five years. He reiterated that the roadmap seeks to address the sporting requirements of athletes from grassroots participation in schools to preparation of elite sportspersons capable of contributing to India's medal tally at the Olympic and international level.

He urged Deputy Commissioners and concerned departments to be proactive and prompt in

preparing district-level plans so that Jammu and Kashmir can make optimal use of the national funding opportunities available under the programme.

Dwtailing it out further, he added that the national Khelo India programme carries a total financial outlay of ₹28,489 Cr for 2026-31, including administrative expenses, with the annual allocation rising progressively from ₹3,173 Cr in 2026-27 to ₹9,198 Cr in 2030-31. The roadmap prepared by the Youth Services & Sports Department seeks to position J&K to secure the maximum admissible share from these national funding windows.

The meeting was apprised that the national outlay is structured across key intervention areas covering the entire sports development continuum. The largest window is Khelo India Training Facilities, with an allocation of ₹10,586 Cr, accounting for 37.2 per cent of the total outlay.

This is followed by Strengthening Strategic Sports Assets with ₹4,963 Cr, Sports Infrastructure for Medals Strategy with ₹4,866 Cr, Talent Identification and Development with ₹2,407 Cr, and Sports Competitions and Leagues with ₹2,358 Cr.

Other important windows

include State Action Plan for Sports Infrastructure Development (Central Share) with ₹1,400 Cr, Coach and Support Staff Development with ₹748 Cr, Sports Technology with ₹302 Cr, and the Fit India Movement with ₹300 Cr. An additional ₹559 Cr has been earmarked for administrative expenses under this programme.

The funding architecture, comprising both recurring and non-recurring components, provides opportunities ranging from creation and upgradation of sports infrastructure and training facilities to talent identification, competitions, coaching, technology and promotion of fitness.

A major thrust of the new roadmap is on grassroots talent identification and athlete development, with J&K targeting a ten-fold increase in the number of supported athletes.

The strategy envisages deployment of Khel SETU as an integrated platform for mapping and identifying sporting talent across schools and universities, while addressing the existing gap in Physical Education Teachers in government schools by enhancing their capacity through trainings and other courses.

The roadmap also proposes a common four-level coaching

framework, systematic skilling of local trainers, community coaches and PETs through E-Khel Paathshala, and focused development of women coaches at local, national and international levels.

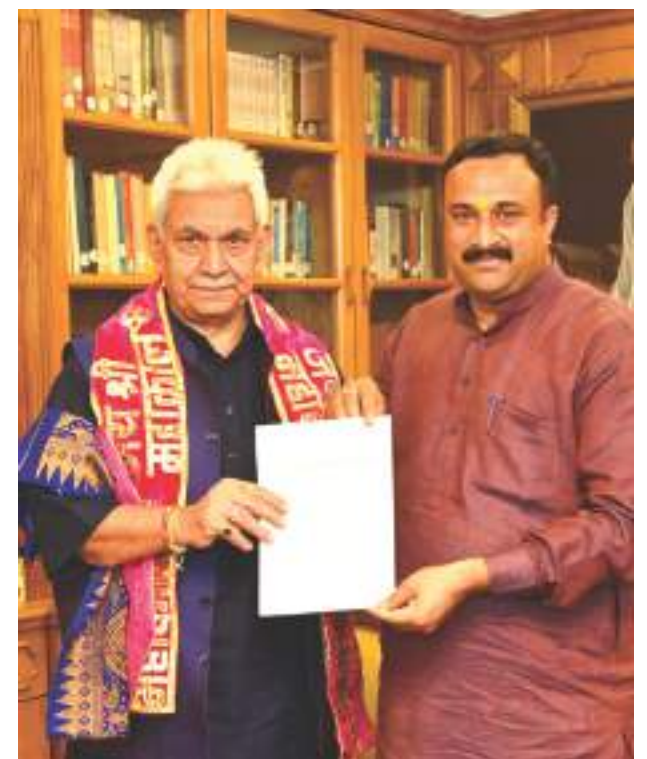
Under the proposed Khelo India Training Facilities framework, the roadmap envisages development of Olympic Training Centres at the elite level, upgradation of existing facilities into National Centres of Excellence, and greater participation of accredited private academies through the PPP mode.

It also proposes expansion of Khelo India Centres, introduction of Khelo India Utkarsha Vidyalayas and Feeder Schools, and strengthening of specialised training facilities to create a structured pathway from grassroots participation to elite performance.

Three major technology interventions have been identified in collaboration with local premier technical institutions. These include an AI-based Sports Talent Identification and Athlete Performance Analytics Platform and an AI-enabled Sports Infrastructure and Youth Services Delivery Management System through NIT Srinagar, besides a Digital Youth Health Screening and Preventive Care System through IIT Jammu.

The roadmap envisages a coordinated transformation of Jammu and Kashmir's sports landscape by combining existing infrastructure, new investments, grassroots talent identification, professional coaching, sports science and technology, with the larger objective of creating a sustainable pipeline of athletes capable of representing the UT and the country at national and international sporting arenas.

## Delegations call on LG Manoj Sinha in Srinagar



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 31: Mahant Rohit Shastri, President, Shri Kailash Jyotish & Vedic Sansthan Trust, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday and discussed various important matters related to promotion of spiritual tourism and cultural heritage of J&K. He also

requested for development of International Yoga Centre at Mantalai in Udhampur as a global centre for yoga-related activities.

Meanwhile, a separate delegation of Polo View Traders Association (North) also called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and projected various welfare issues of the traders of Polo View Market.

## Budgam-Katra Special Express resumes, no more changing at Banihal



Yogesh

Jammu, Aug 31: In a significant step towards passenger convenience and strengthening rail connectivity in Jammu & Kashmir, Jammu Division has successfully resumed the operation of Train No. 04688/04687 Budgam - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - Budgam Special Express with effect from 29th August 2026.

With the resumption of this train, passengers travelling from the Kashmir Valley to Jammu and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, especially pilgrims, have got

great relief.

Earlier, passengers had to change trains at Banihal, which caused inconvenience, but now with the availability of a direct train from Budgam to Katra, their journey has become smooth as well as time-saving.

Since its resumption, the train has been receiving an overwhelming response from passengers. Passengers at Budgam, Srinagar, Anantnag, Qazigund, Banihal, Sangaldan, Reasi and Katra stations have welcomed this decision.

Passengers told that the direct rail service will not only

save their time and money, but will also provide them with a comfortable and safe travel experience.

Many passengers specifically appreciated the Vistadome coach available in this train, which offers a 360-degree view of the picturesque Kashmir Valley.

On this occasion, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu Division, Uchit Singh said, "The resumption of the Budgam-Katra Special train is an important decision taken on the demand of passengers. Its operation has been running successfully since 29th August, and we are getting very positive feedback from passengers. Jammu Division is always committed to passenger convenience and a better travel experience."

Jammu Division is committed to passenger convenience, Singh said, adding that the positive response and appreciation from passengers is an encouragement for us.

The SDCM said the Division will continue to expand such passenger-friendly services in future as per passenger load and demand—(KNO)

## Provide equal opportunities to girls in sports: SSP Talib

Girls' Super Cup Inter-School Cricket  
Tournament commences in Sopore



KNO Correspondent

Sopore, Aug 31: The Girls' Super Cup Inter-School Cricket Tournament, organised by the Private School Association Sopore in collaboration with Sopore

Police, commenced on Monday with the theme "Women Empowerment."

According to the details, SSP Sopore Iftkhar Talib was the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony and encouraged young girls to actively participate in

sports.

Addressing participants, SSP Talib stressed the need to provide equal opportunities to girls to help them nurture their talent, build confidence and pursue their sporting ambitions.

Organizers said that teams from eight schools are participating in the competition. "The event aims to provide young girls with a competitive platform to showcase their cricketing skills. The tournament also seeks to promote discipline, teamwork and confidence among students while carrying the broader message of women's empowerment through sports," they said.

Pertinently, the inaugural match was played between Gulzar Memorial School and Rahmat Aalam School, marking the beginning of the tournament—(KNO)

Rumours only for TRP

## Javed Dar rejects reports of discord in NC



Waris Fayaz

Rafiabad, Aug 31: Jammu and Kashmir Minister and National Conference senior leader Javed Ahmed Dar rejected reports of differences within the party, terming the speculation as rumours being spread for TRP.

Speaking with reporters, Dar said there was no disappointment within the party "Media should avoid speculation and rumours. There is no such thing. No one is disappointed. Our leader is strong and so is his team," he said.

He said the party would accept any decision taken by its leadership, citing the example of 2012 when eight ministers were asked to take care of party affairs.

"Whatever our leader decides, we are ready to accept it and we should. We have seen this earlier in 2012. Eight ministers were asked to take care of the party and everyone except a few from Jammu are still in the party," he said.

He described the National Conference as a "premium and disciplined party". "These are just rumours and speculation for TRP and nothing else. The party is intact," he said.

On remarks by Srinagar MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi, the minister said he had a cordial relationship with him and described him as a colleague and brother—(KNO)

## No question of GN Azad returning to Congress: Salman Nizami

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Aug 31: Rejecting rumours of Ghulam Nabi Azad's return to the Congress, his close associate Salman Nizami on Monday said the former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister had "categorically denied" any such possibility.

Nizami said Congress' leadership failed to recognise the contribution and stature of Ghulam Nabi Azad and repeatedly humiliated a leader who dedicated decades of his life to the party.

"The same people who failed to value and respect him are now spreading rumours about his return to Congress which is not true. He has repeatedly and

Continued on  
www.kashmirthunder.in

## Dilapidated Sangam-Lassipora road 'haunts' commuters

Potholes, broken surface, waterlogging make travelling on key industrial corridor difficult; People demand immediate macadamisation, R&B assures restoration soon

Jahangeer Ganaie

Pulwama, Aug 31: The vital Sangam-Lassipora road in South Kashmir's Pulwama district has virtually turned into a hazardous stretch, with deep potholes, broken patches and a severely damaged surface making daily commuting a nightmare for residents, transporters and workers.

According to the details the road serves as a crucial link between the Sangam National Highway and SIDCO Industrial Estate at Lassipora, connecting the industrial hub with the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway (NH-44).

Residents said, "Despite its



importance the road has been allowed to deteriorate for years, with temporary patchwork repairs

failing to provide any lasting relief." They said the condition of the road has now reached a point where

motorists are forced to negotiate potholes and damaged portions throughout the stretch. "The problem is particularly serious for heavy vehicles, buses and commercial transporters that use the road regularly," residents added.

"This road has become extremely difficult to travel on. It is full of potholes and damaged portions, and drivers have to constantly slow down or change lanes to avoid them," residents said. Commuters said the situation becomes more dangerous during rainfall when potholes get filled with water.

"Two-wheelers and smaller  
Continued on  
www.kashmirthunder.in

## EDITORIAL

# Amarnath Yatra Sets Benchmark In Sustainability

The successful conclusion of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026 is a story of meticulous planning, collective effort, and an unwavering commitment to cleanliness and environmental responsibility. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recognition of the Yatra's sanitation and waste management model in his Mann Ki Baat address is an acknowledgement that large-scale

religious events can be managed sustainably without compromising the fragile ecology of the Himalayas. The numbers speak for themselves. Over 4.80 lakh pilgrims offered prayers at the holy cave. More than 8,000 sanitation facilities were deployed. Under the Zero Waste to Landfill approach, 414.46 metric tonnes of waste was collected and scientifically processed.

What makes this achievement remarkable is the difficult terrain and the adverse weather conditions that posed serious challenges for more than 10 days. The fact that 82% of pilgrims completed darshan within the first 20 days and 95% within the first month reflects the efficiency of the arrangements. This Yatra was not the success of any single institution.

As Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha rightly observed, it was the success of "Team Jammu Kashmir" as a whole—the Shrine Board, civil administration, Army, CAPFs, police, BRO, medical professionals, sanitation workers, pony operators, pithu bearers, and langar volunteers. The participation of more than 16,000 pilgrims in the cleanliness pledge

and the conversion of horse and mule dung into biogas are testaments to the spirit of shared responsibility. The Yatra also demonstrated that technology and tradition can work together. Aadhaar-based registration, real-time monitoring through twice-daily coordination meetings, and the deployment of 93 medical facilities along the route ensured that pilgrims had a

safe and dignified experience. As the Prime Minister said, when cleanliness becomes part of people's conduct, it enhances the beauty and identity of a place. The Amarnath Yatra has set a benchmark not just for pilgrimage management but for how India can balance faith, development, and environmental stewardship. This is a model worth replicating across the country.

# Cyber-Physical Systems: Foundation For A Technology-Driven Future

The world is moving from machines that simply perform tasks to systems that can sense, think, and respond. This convergence of the physical and digital worlds is giving rise to a new generation of intelligent systems called Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS). A CPS connects computing technologies with physical systems through sensors, software, and communication networks—enabling machines to sense their surroundings, process information, and respond to changing conditions in real time.

Press Information Bureau

Cyber-Physical Systems connect the digital and physical worlds, enabling machines to sense, analyse and respond intelligently. India is developing a strong CPS ecosystem through the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS). The Mission links research institutions, industry, Government and global partners to advance indigenous CPS capabilities. Its Technology Innovation Hubs and Translation Research Parks are converting research into applications across critical sectors. These efforts are supporting India's journey towards a technology-driven, innovative and self-reliant Viksit Bharat.

Understanding Cyber-Physical Systems  
The world is moving from machines that simply perform tasks to systems that can sense, think and respond. This convergence of the physical and digital worlds is giving rise to a new generation of intelligent systems called Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS).

A CPS connects computing technologies with physical systems through sensors, software and communication networks. It enables machines to sense their surroundings, process information and respond to changing conditions in real time. For example, driverless cars can navigate roads with limited human intervention. Smart factories can monitor production processes and adjust operations automatically. Medical devices can continuously track patients and support timely interventions. Smart buildings can regulate lighting, temperature and energy use based on real-time conditions. Even everyday devices, such as cleaning robots and fitness trackers, use similar capabilities.

At its core, CPS brings together computation, communication and physical processes. This integration is creating a new generation of intelligent, connected and responsive systems.

Government of India's CPS Initiatives

As CPS increasingly shapes critical infrastructure and emerging technologies, indigenous capabilities in this domain are becoming strategically important for India. Recognising this importance, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) is implementing the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS). The Union Cabinet approved the Mission in 2018, with an outlay of 3,660 crore for nine years. NM-ICPS provides a national framework for advancing CPS research, innovation and applications across priority sectors.

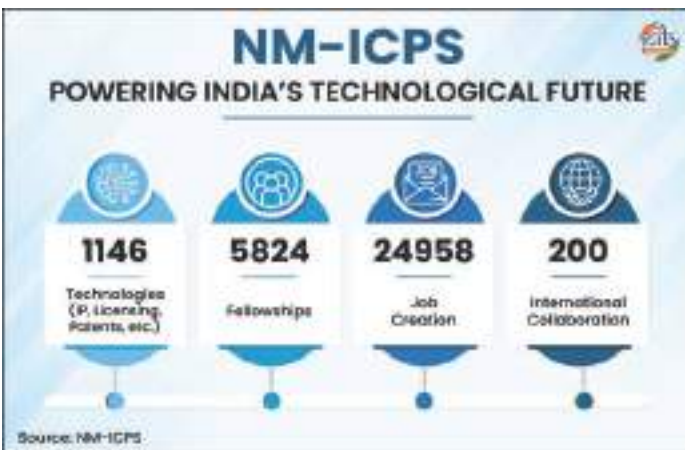
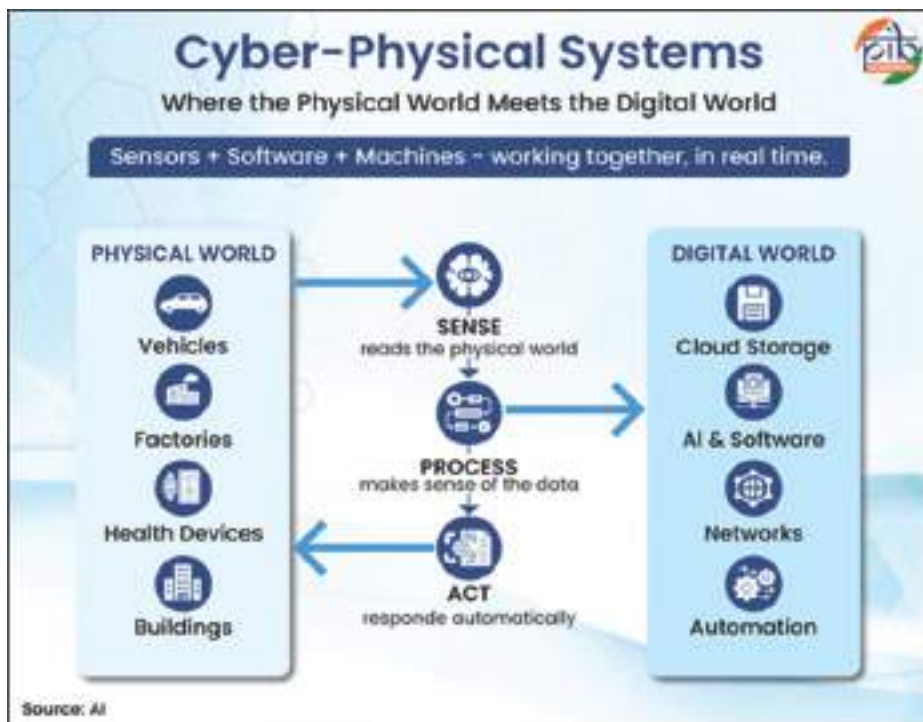
The mission brings academia, industry, Government and international organisations onto a common platform. This convergence connects scientific research with national priorities, industrial capabilities and emerging market opportunities. It covers the complete innovation journey, from R&D and translational research to product development and start-up incubation.

NM-ICPS is developing national-priority technologies, core competencies and specialised talent in emerging CPS domains. It is also establishing world-class interdisciplinary Centres of Excellence across the country. These centres serve as focal points for advanced research, technology development, expertise and policy inputs.

Through this coordinated approach, NM-ICPS is building India's capacity to develop indigenous CPS solutions for critical national challenges. It is laying the institutional foundation for a technology-driven future shaped by Indian research, innovation and entrepreneurship.

India's Leap Towards a Cyber-Physical Future

India is building a national ecosystem to take CPS from research laboratories to practical applications. NM-ICPS is developing this



ecosystem through specialised institutions, skilled talent and industry partnerships.

Under the mission, the Government has established 25 Technology Innovation Hubs (TIHs) as Section 8 companies. These hubs are hosted by premier academic institutions across the country. The TIHs work across four broad areas: Technology Development; Human Resource Development and Skill Development; Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Start-up Development; and International Collaborations.

The hubs go beyond conventional research activities. They develop technology platforms, translate research into products and nurture technology-based start-ups. They also engage with Government Ministries to identify national challenges and develop practical solutions. This approach connects scientific capabilities with the needs of society and the economy.

From Technology Development to Technology Translation

The mission is now placing greater emphasis on taking promising technologies towards deployment and commercialisation. In 2025, four high-performing TIHs were selected and supported as Technology Translation Research Parks (TTRPs). These parks were established at IIT Kanpur, IISc Bengaluru, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad and IIT Indore. Each TTRP focuses on a strategic technology domain. IIT Kanpur focuses on Cybersecurity, while IISc Bengaluru focuses on Robotics and AI Systems. IIT (ISM) Dhanbad focuses on Mining Technologies, covering exploration to mineral beneficiation. IIT Indore focuses on Digital Healthcare. The four TTRPs are designed to accelerate technology translation and commercialisation.

Building Technology, Talent and Enterprise  
NM-ICPS is building an integrated ecosystem that connects technology, talent and enterprise through its TIHs and TTRPs. As of August 2026, the Mission has enabled 1,146 technologies and supported intellectual property creation and licensing. It has also contributed to 1,329 technology products across agriculture, healthcare, mining, cybersecurity, advanced communication and positioning, among other domains.

Human resource development and skill enhancement remain key pillars of this ecosystem. The CHANAKYA (Comprehensive and Holistic Advancement of National Knowledge Yield and Analytics) Fellowship Programme supports undergraduate, postgraduate, PhD and postdoctoral researchers. It funds projects addressing real-world CPS challenges through specialised Technology Innovation Hubs. As of August 2026, the mission has awarded 5,824 fellowships.

These efforts are complemented by wider skill development initiatives that strengthen India's specialised CPS talent pool. The Mission has provided skills development training to more than 2.46 lakh professionals.

The Mission is also nurturing entrepreneurship by helping research-based innovations move towards commercialisation. It has incubated 1,136 start-ups and spin-offs, contributing to more than 24,000 jobs.

International partnerships have further expanded India's CPS capabilities. The Mission has established 200 international collaborations, strengthening India's engagement in this emerging technology domain.

The growing network of TIHs and TTRPs is strengthening India's CPS ecosystem across research, skills, entrepreneurship and

industry. NM-ICPS is accelerating the journey from innovation to deployment and building indigenous solutions for national priorities.

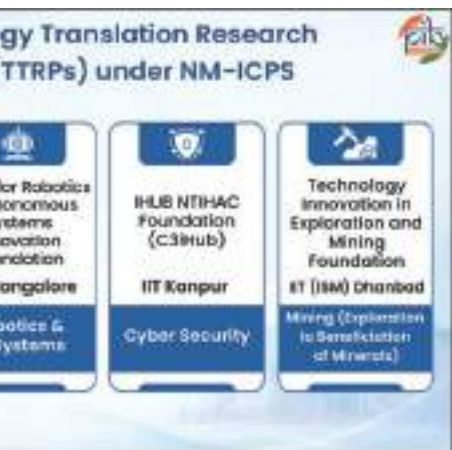
BharatGen: Strengthening the Intelligence Layer of Cyber-Physical Systems

As CPS becomes more intelligent, AI is emerging as an important layer connecting machines, people and physical environments. In this direction, BharatGen, supported under NM-ICPS, is developing sovereign AI capabilities tailored to Indian languages and contexts.

Led by IIT Bombay with a consortium of academic institutions, BharatGen spans text, speech and vision-language technologies. Its latest Param-2 foundation model has 17 billion parameters and supports all 22 Scheduled Indian languages.

BharatGen has also developed Shrutam speech-to-text and Sooktam text-to-speech models supporting 12 Indian languages. Patram, developed under the DocBodh framework, enables multilingual access to complex Indian documents.

Domain-specific models include Ayur Param for Ayurveda, Agri Param for agriculture and Legal Param for the Indian legal domain. These capabilities can make CPS more responsive to India's linguistic diversity and sector-specific requirements.



By combining indigenous AI with connected physical systems, BharatGen can enable more accessible human-machine interaction. It can also support locally relevant decision-making across healthcare, agriculture, governance and other public-interest applications. BharatGen thus complements India's CPS ecosystem by adding a sovereign, multilingual and multimodal intelligence layer.

NM-ICPS: Translating Innovation into Real-World Impact

The strength of CPS lies in its ability to solve problems beyond the laboratory. NM-ICPS-supported technologies are now addressing challenges across healthcare, agriculture, mining, communications, cybersecurity and mobility.

Healthcare

CPS is transforming continuous monitoring, simulation-based treatment and earlier disease detection. The Drishti CPS Foundation at IIT Indore has developed CharakDT, a digital twin of the human body. It simulates the lungs, eyes and heart to study disease progression and test treatments virtually.

Digital Twin

A digital twin is a live, virtual copy of a real-world physical object, process, or system. It uses real-time data from smart sensors to mirror, track, and study how the real thing works and behaves.

Agriculture

CPS is helping farmers make decisions using real-time data on crops and field conditions. Researchers at IIT Bombay developed the Agri-IoT Farm Management System to monitor soil, weather and micro-climate conditions. The technology supports efficient use of water and fertilisers while improving farm productivity.

Mining

Mining operations often involve hazardous

and remote locations. CPS is improving safety through drones, robotics and remote monitoring. The TEXMin hub at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad has developed drones capable of transmitting data up to 50 km. This enables real-time monitoring while reducing exposure to hazardous locations.

Advanced Communication & Positioning  
CPS technologies are supporting reliable and affordable connectivity in underserved regions. A key achievement is the 5G-Advanced ORAN Massive MIMO Radio Unit (32TR RU) developed at IIT Bengaluru. The indigenous technology enables high-speed, reliable and cost-effective 5G connectivity. It is particularly relevant for extending advanced communication infrastructure to remote areas.

Cybersecurity

As physical infrastructure becomes digitally connected, protecting CPS from cyber threats becomes increasingly important. The IHUB NTHAC Foundation at IIT Kanpur is developing solutions to secure critical infrastructure and CPS. Its IT-OT Security Operations Centre continuously monitors Information Technology and Operational Technology environments. The hub has also developed Crypto-Forensic Tools to support Law Enforcement Agencies in investigating cryptocurrency-related crimes.

Mobility, Robotics & Autonomous Systems

CPS is enabling safer deployment of autonomous vehicles and drones through controlled testing and intelligent systems. The TiHAN Foundation at IIT Hyderabad has established India's first dedicated proving ground for autonomous navigation. The testbed validates aerial and terrestrial autonomous vehicles before their real-world deployment. At IISc Bengaluru, the I-Hub for Robotics and Autonomous Systems is advancing intelligent mobility solutions. Its iRASTE application identifies accident-prone locations and provides real-time alerts to drivers. The system is currently being piloted in Nagpur, with plans for expansion to other cities.

These applications demonstrate how NM-ICPS is translating advanced research into practical solutions for critical sectors. By enabling indigenous technologies, skills and innovation, the mission is enabling safer, smarter and more efficient systems. These efforts are advancing India's capabilities towards a technology-driven and self-reliant Viksit Bharat.

Towards a Technology-Driven and Self-Reliant Viksit Bharat

Cyber-Physical Systems are opening new possibilities for intelligent infrastructure and advanced public services. Through NM-ICPS, India is building capabilities that connect scientific research with national development priorities.

The mission is nurturing indigenous solutions across healthcare, agriculture, mining, communications, cybersecurity and mobility. Its TIHs and TTRPs are accelerating the journey from research to validation, deployment and commercialisation.

BharatGen like initiative is adding sovereign, multilingual AI capabilities to this emerging technology landscape. Together, these efforts can make connected systems more intelligent, secure, accessible and responsive to Indian needs. Stronger academia-industry partnerships will further accelerate innovation and technology adoption. Skilled talent, start-ups and global collaborations will expand India's capabilities across emerging technology domains.

The wider deployment of indigenous CPS can support smarter infrastructure, efficient services and new economic opportunities. NM-ICPS is therefore contributing to a technology-driven, innovation-led and self-reliant Viksit Bharat.

The views expressed by contributors on this page are their own and do not necessarily reflect the policies or positions of the newspaper

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Owner & Editor-In-Chief of Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a leading news agency in Jammu & Kashmir.

## AYUSH healthcare facilities, services reviewed in Jammu, Samba

KT News Desk

JAMMU, AUGUST 31: Director AYUSH J&K Dr. Ajay Kumar Tikoo Monday undertook a comprehensive review of AYUSH healthcare services and infrastructure in Jammu and Samba districts, with a focus on strengthening service delivery, expediting the operationalization of newly established healthcare facilities and ensuring effective implementation of AYUSH programmes at the grassroots level.

As part of the visit, the Director AYUSH inspected the 10-bedded Integrated AYUSH Hospital at Gari Garh-Jammu, where he interacted with the hospital staff and obtained detailed feedback regarding the functioning of the facility and issues affecting service delivery. He assured the staff that the issues brought to his notice would be addressed on priority and directed them to adopt a systematic and result-oriented approach to ensure that IPD services are made functional at the earliest, thereby enhancing the availability and scope of AYUSH healthcare services in the area.

Later, Dr. Tikoo visited the under-construction 50-bedded Integrated AYUSH Hospital at Nonath, Ghagwal-Samba, where he reviewed the pace and quality of the ongoing construction work. He emphasised strict adherence to prescribed standards



and directed the concerned officers to ensure the early completion of the project and timely operationalization of hospital services.

Later, the Director held a meeting to review the functioning of the AYUSH sector in District Samba, with emphasis on programme implementation, service delivery, institutional performance and operational challenges. The review commenced with a briefing by Dr. Renu Dass, supported by a detailed presentation highlighting the status of AYUSH services, key achievements, progress under various programmes and issues requiring attention.

Dr. Tikoo directed the concerned officers to ensure

effective and timely implementation of all AYUSH health programmes, strengthen service delivery mechanisms and introduce innovative and outcome-oriented measures to enhance patient footfall and public outreach.

The Director further stressed the need for the implementation of AHMIS across the district to strengthen digital health records, improve monitoring mechanisms and enhance the overall management of AYUSH healthcare services.

The Director was accompanied by Assistant Director Ayurveda Dr. Rakesh Raina; Dr. Renu Dass and officials from the Planning Section and National AYUSH Mission (NAM).

## Drug Abuse Rehabilitation, Socio-Economic Reintegration Scheme

## DC Srinagar reviews rollout at IMHANS, GMC Srinagar

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 31: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Monday visited the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) to review the preparedness for implementation of the Phase-I rollout/Pilot of the Rehabilitation & Socio-Economic Reintegration Scheme for Drug Abuse Victims, 2026.

The pilot programme is being coordinated by the Social Welfare Department aimed at testing the rehabilitation model on the ground, identify operational gaps, refine the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and generate necessary learnings for its subsequent expansion across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, took detailed stock of the arrangements for implementation of the pilot phase in Srinagar District and reviewed the availability of rehabilitation services, coordination mechanisms among the concerned Departments and institutions and other necessary arrangements to ensure effective implementation of the programme and its successful execution in the District.

The DC emphasised the need for a holistic, coordinated and outcome-oriented approach towards rehabilitation of drug abuse victims, with focused



attention on their recovery, rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration into mainstream society. He stressed that all concerned Departments and Institutions must work in close coordination to ensure seamless delivery of services to beneficiaries. He also underscored the importance of registration of the affected persons of the drug abuse, proper documentation of field experiences, identification of implementation challenges and timely corrective measures so that the learnings from the pilot can contribute towards

strengthening the programme before its wider rollout.

The DC further called for effective monitoring and regular assessment of the rehabilitation interventions to ensure that the intended objectives of the scheme are achieved and beneficiaries receive sustained support throughout the rehabilitation and reintegration process.

The visit was a part of the Government initiative and the District Administration's ongoing efforts to ensure effective preparedness and coordinated implementation of initiatives

aimed at addressing drug abuse and strengthening rehabilitation and reintegration services in the District.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, IAS Probationer, Aakash Garg, Tehsildar South, Sajad Rasool Shah, Prof (Dr.) Arshid Hussain Head of Department, Dr. Ajaz, Medical Superintendent SMHS Hospital, Dr. Andleeb, In-charge Drug De-Addiction Centre, SMHS Hospital, Dr. Yasir Hassan Rather and other concerned Officers and Officials.

## Research Methodology for PhD Scholars

## Cluster University Srinagar organises 3-day workshop

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 31: The Dean, Academic Affairs, Cluster University of Srinagar, organized a three-day workshop on "Research Methodology" for Ph.D. scholars of the Maidan Batch 2025 at the Government College of Education (IAS), M.A. Road, Srinagar, a constituent college of Cluster University of Srinagar.

Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Mobin, Vice-Chancellor, Cluster University of Srinagar, in his comprehensive address, elaborated on the fundamentals of research, the evolving landscape of academic scholarship, and the way forward for doctoral researchers.

Prof. (Dr.) Mobin also provided valuable guidance to scholars and supervisors on research ethics, academic integrity, originality, and the challenges associated with doctoral research. He emphasized that a successful research journey demands more than methodological rigour, requiring critical thinking, ethical conduct, intellectual curiosity, originality, and a clear sense of purpose.

During his detailed presentation, the Vice-Chancellor discussed various dimensions of research methodology and encouraged the scholars to

approach their research with curiosity, commitment, and a strong focus on generating knowledge with meaningful academic and societal relevance. He also assured the scholars and supervisors that the University would extend all possible support and facilitate the requisite resources and infrastructure to promote quality research.

Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naaz, Dean, Academic Affairs, Cluster University of Srinagar, in her address, underscored the critical role of research methodology in conducting systematic, credible, and meaningful research, emphasizing that a sound methodological foundation is essential for the successful completion of a Ph.D. programme.

Dr. Ghulam Hassan Dar, Assistant Professor, Cluster University of Srinagar, expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor and the Dean, Academic Affairs, for initiating the workshop and for their continued efforts towards strengthening and enriching the Ph.D. programme at the University.

The three-day workshop is aimed at equipping doctoral scholars with essential conceptual and practical understanding of research methodology and strengthening their capacity to undertake rigorous, ethical, and impactful academic research.

## NALSA

## DLSA Ganderbal establishes 2 village legal aid clinics at Anderwan

KT News Desk

GANDERBAL, AUGUST 31: As part of the Mega Drive for implementation of NALSA Schemes at the Grassroot Level (Phase-I), District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal has fully established two Village Legal Aid Clinics at Panchayat Ghar Anderwan-A and Panchayat Ghar Anderwan-B, with an objective of taking legal services, awareness and welfare benefits closer to the people of the identified village at the grassroots level.

The initiative is being undertaken in pursuance of the directions of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and the Jammu and Kashmir Legal Services Authority under the ongoing 60-day Mega Drive. The two Village Legal Aid Clinics have been properly arranged and equipped with display banners carrying the contact details of the Deputy Legal Aid Defence Counsel (LADC), panel lawyers and Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs), enabling the local residents to easily approach the legal services functionaries for timely and effective assistance as per NALSA's schemes.

Monday, a team of DLSA

Ganderbal headed by the Deputy LADC, visited the identified clinics and held detailed discussions with the villagers. During the interaction, the team apprised the residents about various NALSA schemes and entitlements, the availability of free legal services and the manner in which eligible persons can seek legal advice, assistance and support through the Village Legal Aid Clinics.

The villagers were specifically requested to visit the Legal Aid Clinics with their grievances, legal issues and difficulties so that the same can be appropriately addressed and, wherever required, assistance can be provided through the legal services machinery. The team also sensitized the residents regarding the availability of free legal aid to eligible persons as per section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

DLSA Ganderbal is also undertaking door-to-door legal awareness and outreach activities in the area to ensure that persons who are unable to visit the Legal Aid Clinics themselves are not left out. Through such direct outreach activities, the Authority aims to identify eligible beneficiaries and facilitate access to

benefits under the identified NALSA schemes, particularly among downtrodden, vulnerable and disadvantaged sections of society of the said village.

The outreach is focused on creating awareness regarding schemes and legal entitlements concerning children, education and schooling, senior citizens, persons with mental illness and intellectual disabilities, victims of human-wildlife conflict and acid attacks, victims of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, workers in the unorganized sector, Veer Parivar and poverty alleviation schemes, besides other relevant legal services entitled to the villagers.

The establishment of the Village Legal Aid Clinics, marks an important step towards bringing the justice delivery and legal aid system to the doorstep of the people. DLSA Ganderbal shall continue to monitor and supervise the functioning of the clinics and conduct sustained awareness and outreach activities throughout the Mega Drive so that the intended beneficiaries are able to effectively avail the benefits of the identified NALSA schemes and other legal services.

## Awareness programme on drug abuse, tobacco products held at GDC Shopian



KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, AUGUST 31: An awareness programme on the ill-effects of drug abuse and illicit trafficking, with special emphasis on the harmful effects of tobacco products, was organised Monday at GDC Shopian as part of the ongoing efforts to promote a drug-free society and sensitise students about the serious health and social consequences of substance abuse.

The programme witnessed active participation of students, teaching faculty, college staff and other stakeholders. The event focused on creating awareness among young people about the dangers associated with drug abuse, tobacco consumption and other harmful substances, while encouraging them to adopt healthy and responsible lifestyles.

Dr. Ishrat Jabeen and Dr. Aadil Farooq, Medical Officers, also addressed the participants and elaborated on the adverse health

consequences of drug and tobacco use. They highlighted the physical and psychological impact of substance abuse and urged students to remain informed about the long-term risks associated with tobacco products and other addictive substances.

Abhishek Sharma, Sub-Inspector, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Srinagar, addressed the gathering and sensitised the students about the menace of drug abuse and illicit trafficking. He highlighted the importance of awareness, vigilance and collective community participation in preventing substance abuse, particularly among the youth.

The programme also emphasised the need for sustained awareness campaigns, student engagement and coordinated efforts among educational institutions, health authorities, law-enforcement agencies and the community to effectively address the growing challenges associated with substance abuse.

## Anti-drug awareness campaign held at GHSS Beararu – Bhaderwah

KT News Desk

BHADERWAH, AUGUST 31:- As part of the ongoing efforts to promote a drug-free society and sensitise the younger generation against the dangers of substance abuse, the Department of Social Welfare Bhaderwah, in collaboration with the Education and Police Departments, organised an anti-drug Awareness IEC (Information, Education and Communication) Campaign at Government Higher Secondary School, Beararu-Bhaderwah. The programme aimed to educate students about the physical, psychological, social and economic consequences of drug and substance abuse and motivate them to adopt a healthy, responsible and drug-free lifestyle.

During the awareness session, students were sensitised to the serious risks associated with substance abuse and its adverse impact on health, education, family life, social relationships and future prospects.

## NCORD Meeting

## DC reviews measures to combat drug abuse, illicit trafficking in Kathua

KT News Desk

KATHUA, AUGUST 31: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma Monday chaired a meeting of the District-Level Narco Coordination Committee (NCORD) to review the drug control measures and assess the progress achieved by the concerned departments in combating the menace of narcotics in the district.

At the outset, the meeting undertook a detailed review of the action taken on the decisions of previous NCORD meetings, besides assessing the status of enforcement activities, identification of vulnerable areas and measures adopted to prevent drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

It was given out in the meeting that suspension/ cancellation of Vehicle Registration

Certificates has been ensured by the Motor Vehicle Department of persons involved in illicit drug trafficking. The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to further intensify coordinated efforts against the cultivation, trafficking and peddling of narcotic substances. He stressed upon the enforcement agencies to maintain close surveillance over vulnerable areas and ensure strict action against persons found involved in narcotics-related activities as per law.

Emphasizing the need for a comprehensive approach to tackle drug abuse, the DC directed the Health, Education, Social Welfare and other concerned departments to intensify awareness and sensitization programmes, particularly among youth and students, about the harmful effects of drug abuse.

## JKAACL releases Ajit Singh Mastana's Punjabi Ghazal Collection "Reejhan De Jharney"

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 31: The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) organised a book release function at its Seminar Hall, Academy Complex, Lal Mandi, Srinagar, to release "Reejhan De Jharney", a collection of Punjabi ghazals authored by renowned Punjabi writer Ajit Singh Mastana.

The function was presided over by Prof. Gurcharan Singh Raina, Harvinder Kour, Secretary, JKAACL; S. Jaipal Singh, Dr. Sukhwinder Singh, and Popinder Singh Paras, Editor, Sheeraza Punjabi were present on the occasion.

Congratulating Ajit Singh Mastana on the publication of his book, Secretary, JKAACL, appreciated his long-standing contribution to Punjabi literature and language. She said that Mastana has dedicated a significant part of his life to the promotion and development of



Punjabi literature and language. She added that the Academy is committed to recognising and encouraging writers who have made valuable contributions to the literary and cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

S. Jaipal Singh, the Chief Guest, also congratulated Ajit Singh Mastana and appreciated his literary contribution. He said that writers of such calibre can bring positive change in society through their meaningful and thought-provoking

writings. He praised Mastana's valuable literary creations and wished him continued success in his literary journey.

In his Address, Prof. Gurcharan Singh Raina appreciated the efforts of the Academy in promoting and preserving the rich literary traditions of the region. He said that Ajit Singh Mastana has always deserved recognition for his significant contribution to Punjabi literature. He also appreciated the depth, sensitivity and creative

quality of Mastana's writings.

Dr. Sukhwinder Singh, (Retd. Associate Professor from Punjab), presented a scholarly paper highlighting various aspects of the literary work of Ajit Singh Mastana. He elaborated upon the themes, literary techniques and creative dimensions reflected in Mastana's writings. His presentation was appreciated by the scholars, writers and literary enthusiasts present on the occasion.

Rattan Singh Kanwal and Ranbir Singh also highlighted the literary journey and contribution of Ajit Singh Mastana through their respective papers. They appreciated his sustained efforts towards the enrichment and promotion of Punjabi literature.

Speaking on the occasion, Popinder Singh Paras, Editor, Sheeraza Punjabi, said that Ajit Singh Mastana has remained actively associated with literary activities throughout his life and has consistently contributed to society through his writings.

# CS reviews roadmap to unlock Jammu’s full tourism potential

## Calls for new destinations, better use of existing assets, year-round tourism offerings

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Aug 31: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Monday reviewed a comprehensive, multi-faceted roadmap presented by the Department of Tourism for accelerating tourism development and upgrading visitor infrastructure across the Jammu Division, with emphasis on religious circuits, border tourism, adventure destinations and eco-tourism.

The meeting, attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism; Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Director, Tourism, Jammu and other senior officers, deliberated on a range of projects aimed at enhancing the visitor experience while unlocking the tourism potential of destinations across the region.

While reviewing the proposed interventions, the Chief Secretary called for expanding the roadmap to cover other high-potential destinations across the Jammu Division,

particularly emerging tourism hubs such as Baderwah, Sanasar, Seven Lakes and other suitable destinations.

He stressed the need to adopt an integrated approach that combines infrastructure development with destination-specific experiences, ensuring that the benefits of tourism reach a wider geographical area and create new opportunities for local communities.

The Chief Secretary also called for optimum utilization of tourism assets already created in Jammu city, including the Tawi Riverfront and Jambu Zoo, besides exploring additional activities and attractions that can draw visitors throughout the year.

He emphasized that Jammu should not remain primarily a transit point for pilgrims, but evolve into a vibrant, diverse and all-season tourism destination, offering religious, cultural, recreational, adventure and nature-based experiences to visitors.

On this occasion the ACS Finance, Shailendra Kumar,



stressed the need to leverage the enormous pilgrim footfall at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine to expand the tourism economy of the wider Jammu region.

He suggested setting an ambitious objective of encouraging at least 20 per cent of pilgrims visiting the Shrine to stay in and around Jammu for additional tourism experiences.

He further advised the Tourism Department to package the region's local art, culture, music and cuisine as distinctive attractions and develop experiences in and around the districts surrounding Katra to encourage

longer visitor stays.

Earlier the ACS, Tourism Department, Dr Ashish Chandra Verma highlighted the status and proposed interventions under a comprehensive development plan encompassing major religious, adventure, border and eco-tourism destinations across the Jammu region.

With respect to Purmandal-Utterbehni Pilgrim Circuit, he divulged that a Detailed Project Report (DPR) amounting to 45.88 crore has been submitted to the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, under the PRASHAD Scheme. The

proposed interventions include extensive landscaping, bathing ghats along the Devika River, pathway illumination, public conveniences and comprehensive solid waste management systems to strengthen the pilgrim circuit.

Regarding the Shivkhori Shrine the ACS revealed that a project costing 5 crore has been approved under the Tourism Work Plan 2026-27 for comprehensive upgradation of the shrine along with major works for other areas too.

Giving out the detailed presentation the Director Tourism,

Jammu, Dr. Vikas Gupta shared the major components of the proposal including construction of overhead shelter sheds along the track from Ram Mandir to Bhawan at a cost of 340.58 lakh, completion of a cafeteria and pre-fabricated rooms near the helipad, track repairs, additional water points and a dedicated waiting hall.

About the Aithem Mega Adventure Hub & Food Village, he highlighted that the project is being developed in two phases over 215 kanals of land. Construction of the Phase-I access road is underway with Phase II proposed to be explored through a Public-Private Partnership model for developing 16 major components, including bungee jumping, sky-cycling, skywalks, ethnic food stalls and cabin accommodation.

To strengthen border tourism infrastructure, a project costing 19.52 crore for Suchetgarh Border Outpost has also been given the administrative approval recently. The proposed upgradation will increase seating capacity from 1,400 to 3,000

persons and introduce a VIP lounge, fine-dine restaurant, museum and projector room with tendering to be carried out soon.

Moreover the Baradari River Rafting Destination in Reasi is also being prioritised under this renewed strategy. The first Phase of the White Water River Rafting destination has achieved 45 per cent physical progress under the CAPEX budget and is targeted for completion by November 2026.

The project will provide computerized ticketing, dedicated facilities for differently-abled visitors, open-terrace cafés and enhanced safety infrastructure. A 18 crore DPR for Phase-II has also been submitted for docking, launching and passenger dispersal facilities.

In addition to these the Basohli-Ranjit Sagar Lake is also given more attention for development here. The destination has been selected under the Government of India's Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme, a DPR with a tentative cost of 96.07 crore was submitted on August 10, 2026.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### ‘No jurisdiction’: India

Court of Arbitration, headquartered at the Peace Palace in The Hague, is an intergovernmental organisation established under the 1899 Hague Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes. (KNO)

#### Take Red Cross

strengthen humanitarian and welfare activities of the Red Cross Society.

He directed them to prepare comprehensive district-wise annual activity plans, identifying priority areas and interventions, and submit the same for effective implementation.

LG Sinha advised the Deputy Commissioners to explore opening Diagnostic Centres in remote areas, particularly at places where people have to travel long distances to reach hospitals and access essential healthcare services.

The Lieutenant Governor called for intensifying coordinated efforts towards the complete elimination of Tuberculosis (TB) and ensuring effective identification, diagnosis, treatment and follow-up of TB patients at the grassroots level.

Shubhankar Pratyush Pathak, General Secretary, IRCS, J&K presented various agenda items for review and ratification.

The meeting also deliberated on various important matters including budget estimates, audit, appointment of Medical Officers at Blood Banks and Diagnostic Centres, and activities undertaken by the Red Cross Society and its District-level units.

The Deputy Commissioners apprised the Lieutenant Governor of the activities being undertaken in their respective districts and shared suggestions for further strengthening the functioning and outreach of the Red Cross Society.

The meeting was attended by Dr Mandeep K Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Shubhankar Pratyush Pathak, General Secretary, Indian Red Cross Society, J&K; Deputy Commissioners (Presidents of District Red Cross Units), and officials of IRCS, J&K. (KNO)

#### Launched after

abroad. The helpline has been used to assist students, facilitate emergency travel, coordinate with local administrations, and address a range of public-service related issues.

One of its most notable interventions came during the Iran-Israel conflict, when scores of students from Jammu and Kashmir found themselves stranded amid escalating tensions. The helpline played a key role in maintaining communication with affected students, coordinating with their families back home, and facilitating the flow of information between the administration and those caught in the crisis.

The service also earned widespread appreciation in the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack, with students and families describing it as a dependable point of contact during a period of uncertainty and fear.

Remarkably, the operation is being managed by a single officer posted at the Chief Minister's Secretariat, who monitors calls, coordinates responses and follows up with departments and authorities across jurisdictions.

Despite its lean structure, officials say the helpline has responded to thousands of calls and messages, often serving as the first point of contact for people seeking urgent intervention.

Government sources said the initiative reflects the administration's effort to remain accessible beyond traditional office channels and ensure that residents of Jammu and Kashmir, irrespective of where they are located, have a direct line to the government.

As the helpline completes more than a year of operations, it has increasingly come to be viewed not merely as an emergency contact number, but as a reassurance mechanism for students, workers, professionals and families from Jammu and Kashmir navigating challenges far from home.

For many, a call to 1800-8900-166 has become synonymous with the assurance that help is only a phone call away. (KNO)

#### J&K highly vulnerable

developed a structured disaster management framework. The Disaster Management Plan, initially notified in 2017, was revised in 2023 to align with the UT's administrative structure and the National Disaster Management Plan. District Disaster Management Plans have been prepared for all 20 districts.

Institutional arrangements have been strengthened following the reorganisation, including restructuring of the Disaster Management Authority. However, the transition period witnessed challenges related to clarity of responsibilities and coordination between departments.

Disaster risk reduction is being incorporated into infrastructure development, with measures such as slope stabilisation and improved drainage being undertaken in road, tourism and hydropower projects. However, such measures are still project-specific and have yet to become part of a uniform system.

The Committee appreciated steps taken to strengthen early warning mechanisms, including adoption of the Common Alerting Protocol and integration of alerts from IMD, CWC and DGRE. However, last-mile connectivity continues to pose a challenge in remote districts like Kishtwar, Kupwara and Bandipora.

The disaster response capacity is supported by SDRF battalions, NDRF deployment, and coordination with the Army. Resources are being pre-positioned and seasonal preparedness measures are being undertaken.

Community-level preparedness has been strengthened through Aapda Mitra and Aapda Sakhi initiatives, along with Disaster Management Committees at Panchayat and Block levels.

Various mitigation measures, including slope stabilisation, flood protection works and embankment construction, have been undertaken in vulnerable areas like Ramban, Baramulla and Uri. Monitoring of glacial lakes to address GLOF risks is also being carried out.

Measures to tackle urban flooding are being carried out in Srinagar and Jammu. However, encroachment along floodplains, insufficient drainage networks and gaps in enforcement continue to pose challenges.

Provisions relating to earthquake-resilient construction and floodplain zoning have been established, but implementation remains uneven, particularly in peri-urban and rural areas.

The Committee observed that J&K has made considerable progress in strengthening its disaster management framework. However, it emphasised the need to improve last-mile connectivity, ensure strict implementation of land-use regulations, mainstream disaster risk reduction across development activities, and enhance technological and institutional capabilities. (KNO)

#### G A Mir meets

Hussain, said on Monday that the Congress has taken a stand that it will not join the Cabinet until statehood is restored. He, however, added that any decision on altering the position rests with the party High Command.

“The High Command will take a decision,” he said when asked whether the party would join the government.

He reiterated that the party's position is not to join the Cabinet until statehood is restored. “Any alteration in that has to be decided by the party High Command,” he added.

Sources disclosed to KNO that the High Command is weighing the pros and cons of joining the Council of Ministers and is expected to convey its final decision on the matter to the National Conference soon. (KNO)

#### Population enumeration

snow-bound non-synchronous areas.

The highest number of such villages/municipalities has been identified in Doda district (305), followed by Kishtwar (158), Baramulla (93), Kathua (48), Poonch (24), Kupwara (49), Budgam (5), Bandipora (28), Ganderbal (7), Pulwama (32), Shopian (32), Anantnag (55), Kulgam (66), Ramban (88), Udhampur (79), and Reasi (49).

The municipalities falling under snow-bound non-synchronous areas are Uri, Gulmarg, and Kishtwar.

The self-enumeration exercise for the second phase was undertaken in these areas from August 17 to August 31.

The first phase of the census in the entire UT was carried out in June by officials. (KNO)

#### Protesting MBBS

off the protest merely on verbal assurances,” an intern said.

Another intern said the existing stipend was disproportionate to the responsibilities being shouldered by MBBS interns in government hospitals. “We work in emergency departments, wards, ICUs and operation theatres and remain involved in patient care for long hours. Rs 12,300 a month is not adequate considering the workload, responsibilities and rising cost of living,” the intern said.

The interns said they would refrain from routine duties as part of the agitation, while stressing that their demand had been raised after exhausting other avenues.

Meanwhile, Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo said the government had taken cognisance of the interns' demand and that the proposal for increasing the monthly stipend from around Rs 12,000 to Rs 30,000 was under process with the Finance Department.

“Their demand is genuine. We are not saying that it is wrong because there is a lot of inflation these days. There is a need to increase the stipend, and we also acknowledge it. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has also said so,” she said.

The minister, however, said that since the matter was already under consideration, resorting to a strike was not appropriate as it could affect patient care.

The interns, however, said they wanted a time-bound and formal resolution rather than another assurance. “We respect the minister and appreciate that she has acknowledged our demand, but we have heard such statements before. What we need now is a government order. Once the order is issued, there will be no reason for us to continue the protest,” an intern said.

Amid the protest, Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president Tariq Hameed Karra urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to intervene urgently and ensure an

early resolution of the interns' demand.

In a letter to the Chief Minister, Karra described the demand for enhancement of stipend as genuine and deserving of immediate consideration. He highlighted that interns routinely work long and demanding hours, including extended shifts, while attending to patients and assisting in hospital services.

The J&K Congress Chief further said that the stipend being paid to medical interns in J&K is considerably lower than that offered in several other parts of the country.

“I would therefore urge your good self to kindly direct the concerned authorities to engage with the protesting interns, listen to their grievances and work towards an early and satisfactory resolution of the issue,” Karra said.

The interns said they would continue their agitation until a formal decision is communicated by the government. “We have performed our duties throughout the internship despite long hours and heavy workload. We only want a fair and dignified stipend. Until there is a written order, the protest will continue,” an intern said. (KNO)

#### Intense showers

of 12.5 degrees, the lowest maximum temperature among the main weather stations in the Kashmir division.

In Jammu division, Jammu recorded a maximum temperature of 33.4 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 25.4 degrees.

Banihal recorded 28.5 degrees and 15.9 degrees, while Batote recorded 26.4 degrees and 19.9 degrees, respectively.

Katra recorded a maximum of 30.5 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 23.4 degrees, while Baderwah recorded 29 degrees and 18.6 degrees.

The highest rainfall during the past 24 hours was recorded at Rajouri (ARC), which received 16.5 mm of rain.

For September 2 to 10, the Meteorological Centre has forecast generally dry weather, with brief spells of rain and thundershowers at isolated to scattered places, mainly during the early morning and afternoon hours.

The weather office said farmers may continue harvesting and other agricultural operations while exercising caution during periods of intense rainfall. (KNO)

#### Despite intense

An official of the Meteorological Department told KNO that the weather pattern remained more variable through much of the August month, with repeated spells of rain and thundershowers providing temporary relief from rising temperatures. “Several parts of the Kashmir division received light to moderate rainfall at different intervals, while the Jammu region also witnessed episodes of heavy rain, particularly in districts such as Reasi, Udhampur and Jammu,” he said, adding, “The intermittent precipitation was accompanied by cloud cover, which limited solar heating during the day and prevented temperatures from remaining elevated for prolonged periods.”

“Although temperatures rose during the latter part of August, conditions remained largely hot and humid rather than developing into a sustained heatwave,” he said, adding, “Srinagar recorded a monthly maximum of around 33.5 degrees Celsius, with high humidity adding to the discomfort. The combination of moisture and cloud cover, however, helped restrict the duration and intensity of the heat.”

The official said that weather patterns during the month also saw brief but intense showers in different areas, often occurring during the morning or late afternoon. “These spells helped bring down temperatures before a prolonged build-up of heat could occur,” he added.

“The contrast highlights the importance of rainfall distribution and cloud cover in determining local heat conditions. Even when temperatures rise, sustained heatwave conditions require prolonged periods of excessive maximum temperatures, and the prevailing atmospheric moisture and rainfall over J&K repeatedly interrupted such a pattern,” the official said.

Meanwhile, the weather office has forecast further spells of rain and thundershowers in parts of J&K in the beginning of September, with isolated intense showers also possible.

While the absence of heatwave days provided relief from extreme heat, authorities have continued to caution residents about weather-related risks associated with intense rainfall, including flash floods, mudslides and landslides in vulnerable areas. (KNO)

## India bloomed, doomsayers doomed: PM Modi on 7.8 pc GDP growth in Q1

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 31: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday hailed the 7.8 per cent GDP growth in the April-June quarter and took a dig at those questioning the state of the Indian economy, saying "doomsayers were doomed and India bloomed yet again".

The prime minister said that India's exemplary GDP growth during Q1 of FY 2026-27 is a "herculean feat".

"The collective strength of our people ensured India delivered such growth despite oil price shocks and supply chain issues in



the midst of global uncertainties. "Doomsayers were doomed and India bloomed...yet again!" Modi said in a post on 'X'.

India's economy grew at a faster-than-expected 7.8 per cent in the April-June quarter, showing resilience in the face of concerns that the war in Iran and resulting global economic uncertainty could weigh on growth.

Gross domestic product (GDP) growth in the first quarter of the 2026-27 fiscal year slowed from a barnstorming 8.6 per cent in the previous quarter, but remained well above expectations when the conflict erupted and disrupted energy markets.

## Govt reforms, agile economic management bearing results: FM



PTI

New Delhi, Aug 31: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said the reforms undertaken by the NDA government, together with an agile management of the economy, are bear-

ing results, with real GDP growth coming in at 7.8 per cent in the April-June quarter. India's economic growth in the first quarter is well above the Reserve Bank of India's 7 per cent GDP growth forecast for the quarter. "The credit for

this strong performance goes to the people of India and their hard work. Reforms undertaken by the NDA Government, together with an agile management of the economy, are bearing results," Sitharaman said in a post on X.

She said the Narendra Modi-led government remains committed to further expanding economic opportunities for all citizens.

As per GDP data released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, nominal GDP in Q1 of FY 2026-27 is estimated to have grown by 10.3 per cent, while real GVA (gross value added) recorded 8.2 per cent growth.

## 'Centre's FY27 fiscal deficit touches 26.8 pc of full year target at end July'

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 31: The central government's fiscal deficit for 2026-27 stood at 26.8 per cent of the full-year target at the end of July, according to data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) on Monday.

The deficit was at 29.9 per cent of Budget Estimates (BE) of 2025-26 for the first four months of the previous financial year.

In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit, or gap between the government's expenditure and revenue, was Rs 4,55,144 crore in the April-July period of the 2026-27 fiscal year.

The Centre has set a fiscal deficit target of 4.3 per cent of the GDP or Rs 16.96 lakh crore for the current fiscal.

According to the CGA, the Centre's net tax revenue was about Rs 8.45 lakh crore, or 29.5 per cent of the corresponding BE of 2026-27 of total receipts, up to July 2026.

In the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year, the net tax revenue was at 23.3 per cent of that year's BE.

## Modi holds talks with Putin



PTI

Bishkek, Aug 31: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday held talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin focusing on various key aspects of bilateral ties including cooperation in areas of trade and investment, energy and defence. The meeting took place on the margins of the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

(SCO) in this capital city of Kyrgyzstan.

The talks came over a week before Putin travels to India to attend the annual BRICS summit.

Ahead of the meeting, officials said the talks cover traditional areas of India-Russia engagement including defence, energy, trade and investment.

The two sides are also likely to deliberate on the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the West Asia crisis.

## India witnessed hottest Aug since 1901: IMD

### 'Monthly rainfall likely to be below normal in Sep'



PTI

New Delhi, Aug 31: Monthly rainfall over India as a whole during September is most likely to be below normal, the India Meteorological Department said on Monday in its monthly forecast. The IMD also said that India experienced the hottest August in 2026 since 1901, with the mean temperature at 28.01 degrees Celsius.

The weather department said that the rainfall is expected to be below 91 per cent of the long period average (LPA) in September.

LPA refers to the rainfall recorded over a particular region for a given period, such as a month or a season, averaged over a long period, typically 30 to 50 years.

For September, the LPA is about 167.9 mm based on data between 1971 and 2020. The IMD also said that during September, the monthly average maximum temperatures are likely to be above normal.

Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director General of Meteorology at the IMD, said in a statement that currently, strong El Nino conditions are prevailing over the equatorial Pacific Ocean, with sea

surface temperature (SST) remaining above normal across the central and eastern equatorial Pacific.

"These conditions are expected to strengthen further in the coming months," he said.

According to Mohapatra, India experienced the hottest August in 2026 since 1901, as the mean temperature stood at 28.01 degrees Celsius.

The normal mean temperature for the month is 27.34 degrees Celsius.

He said the average minimum temperature for August 2026 was also the highest since 1901, touching 24.36 degrees Celsius against a normal of 23.68 degrees Celsius.

The month also witnessed deficient rainfall at 213.3 mm – the seventh lowest since 2001, the IMD said.

A key reason behind the below-normal rainfall was moderate to strong El Nino conditions prevailing over the equatorial Pacific.

Moreover, although four low-pressure systems formed during August and collectively persisted for 26 days, their rainfall activity remained largely confined to the Indo-Gangetic plains, leaving other parts in rainfall deficit, the IMD said.

## PhonePe launches UPI payment for feature phones without internet

### Boosts financial inclusion



PTI

New Delhi, Aug 31: Fin-tech major PhonePe on Monday announced the launch of 'PhonePe UPI 123Pay', a service that enables UPI transactions for feature phone users without the requirement of an internet connection.

With this launch, PhonePe claims to have become the first major third-party application provider (TPAP) to extend UPI payment capabilities to an estimated more than 200 million feature phone users across the country.

The service, built on a proprietary technology stack, utilises an SMS-based architecture to ensure transaction reliability even in regions with limited 2G connectivity. The company has partnered with handset manufacturers like Nokia, HMD, Lava International, and ITEL Mobile (Transsion Holdings) to provide the service

pre-bundled on their devices.

"Bringing UPI to feature phones through PhonePe UPI 123Pay extends the benefits of digital payments beyond smartphones to every corner of the country," said Sameer Nigam, Founder and CEO, PhonePe.

He added that the initiative aims to drive financial inclusion by onboarding the "next 300 million users" into the digital fold.

The platform allows users to perform peer-to-peer (P2P) transfers and peer-to-merchant (P2M) payments. For feature phones equipped with cameras, the service also supports QR code scanning. Additionally, users can manage accounts, check balances and view transaction histories.

To assist first-time users, the company has introduced a voice-first, AI-powered helpline. The assistant provides step-by-step activation guidance in English and 12 Indian languages.

## Sensex falls 227 points, Nifty slips below 24,100

PTI

Mumbai, Aug 31: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty declined in early trade on Monday as renewed tensions in West Asia triggered a rebound in crude oil prices.

Weak trends in the global markets and foreign fund outflows also dented investors' sentiment during the initial trading, market analysts said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 226.60 points to 77,028.56 during initial trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 120.40 points to 24,053.55.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, Infosys, Tata Steel, InterGlobe Aviation, Bajaj Finance, Tata Consultancy Services and Titan were among the major laggards.

HDFC Bank climbed over 2 per cent. Kotak Mahindra Bank and Bharti Airtel were also among the gainers. Brent crude, the



global oil benchmark, traded 2.33 per cent higher at USD 90.19 per barrel.

"This week's trading begins with the market facing a few headwinds. From the global equity market perspective, the sentiments have turned slightly negative following the Fed chief Kevin Warsh's statement that if inflation persists at rates higher than the Fed's long-term target, 'we have work to do'.

"The market has taken this

as an indication of a rate hike in the FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) meeting scheduled for September 15-16. The consequent rise in bond yields is negative for equity markets. Another headwind is the renewed escalation of tensions between the US and Iran pushing the Brent crude above USD 90," V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

## Zomato bans analogue dishes on its platform

### To delist non-compliant restaurant partners

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 31: Food delivery aggregator Zomato on Monday announced a zero-tolerance policy on the sale of analogue dishes including analogue cheese, paneer or other dairy products by restaurants listed on its platform, saying it reserves the right to delist non-compliant restaurants.

Analogue dishes replace traditional ingredients with cheaper or alternative substitutes (like plant oils instead of real milk or cheese) while keeping the same look and feel.

The move comes in the backdrop of renewed focus on food safety after a reported state-wide crackdown by the Food and Drug



Administration in Maharashtra, and inspections by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in five-star hotels in Delhi.

With immediate effect, dishes that restaurant partners have declared as containing 'analogue dairy' have been delisted from the

platform, Zomato said.

Restaurant partners that remain non-compliant will be delisted from the platform, Zomato added.

In a communication to merchants listed on the platform issued on Monday, Zomato said, "Our priority is to ensure that customers receive food that is accurately represented, safe and meets the expected quality standards.

"Accordingly, we are implementing a zero tolerance policy on the listing and supply of food products containing analogue cheese, analogue paneer and other analogue dairy products on our platform".

The food delivery aggregator said the initiative is being undertaken to strengthen transparency and food quality for its consumers, in line

with food safety and regulatory requirements.

"For the restaurants that have already declared the use of analogue cheese, analogue paneer or other analogue dairy products on their menu, such items will be turned off from the platform with immediate effect," Zomato stated.

It called upon restaurant partners to take immediate measures such as: transition to natural dairy products, remove items containing analogue dairy products from their menu where transition is not immediately feasible, and review product labels and ingredient declarations provided by restaurant suppliers to verify the ingredients being used and ensure accurate representation of the products listed on Zomato.

## SCO Summit

# PM Modi to Putin: Move from 'endless war to end of war'

PTI

Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), Aug 31: Calling for an immediate end to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday urged Russian President Vladimir Putin to move from "endless war to the end of war," asserting that a peaceful resolution of the conflict is humanity's shared priority.

In a meeting with Putin on the sidelines of the SCO summit in this capital city of Kyrgyzstan, Modi said every day of war sets the humanity back and that India, the land of Gandhi and Buddha, supports all efforts towards peace and will continue to do so.

The two leaders also extensively deliberated on ongoing cooperation in areas of trade and investment and energy and fertiliser security among others.

"We have been discussing Ukraine issue. When we met previously, you briefed me in detail on all aspects of the matter. As you know, India supports all efforts towards peace and will continue to do so," Modi said in his televised opening remarks at the meeting. "Every day of



war sets the humanity back, whereas every step taken towards peace fills the humanity with new hope and enthusiasm. We must move away from endless war towards an end to the war," he said. "This is crucial for the well-being of humanity. A peaceful resolution to all issues at the earliest is the call of humanity, and this is India's message. The land of Gandhi and Buddha shares a single message: the path of

peace," Modi said.

The talks came over a week before Putin travels to India to attend the annual BRICS summit.

The prime minister also made a mention of the Russian President's visit to New Delhi last year.

"Your visit to India last year was highly successful and truly memorable. It is a matter of deep satisfaction for us that our cooperation continues to scale new

heights and that we are working together for the welfare of the people of both nations," Modi said.

"Focusing on national interest as the paramount priority has been our shared approach, and this will remain our guiding principle in the future as well," Putin, on his part, said Russia-India relations have witnessed an upswing on the basis of the special and privileged partnership.

## Nepal floods: 933 missing from hydropower project sites; rescue efforts intensify

PTI

Nuwakot (Nepal), Aug 31: Nepal's rescue teams are trying to trace 933 workers and employees in various hydropower project sites in flood-hit areas who have been out of contact since August 26, with many believed to be trapped in tunnels.

Expert teams from India and China are assisting the rescuers in these operations.

Massive flash floods, believed to have been triggered by a collapse or avalanche of ice and rock near the Nepal-Tibet border, devastated towns and villages in northern and central Nepal last week. More than 900 people were killed, while around 4,500 remain missing.

The Bhotekoshi River, which flows south from the Himalayan border region, carried the floodwaters downstream, sweeping away homes, vehicles, roads and bridges and damaging hydropower projects.

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) said on Monday, 933 people were missing from hydropower projects in the flood-hit region.

More than 600 are stranded inside the tunnels of various hydropower projects, waiting to be rescued, the authority said.

So far, 279 people have been rescued from the tunnels of various hydropower projects, including 254 people from Upper Trishuli-1 and 18 from the Langtang Khola site. The conditions of the others are unknown.

More than 500 employees, workers and engineers of the 216-megawatt



Upper Trishuli-1 hydropower project under construction are still out of contact. Around 400 of them are believed to be inside the tunnels, My Republica news portal reported.

Similarly, 213 people are missing in the Upper Trishuli-3B site, 93 in the Rasuwagadhi site, 42 each in the Upper Trishuli 3A and Langtang Khola sites, seven in Melung Khola, four in the Rasuwa-Bhotekoshi site and two in Middle Trishuli.

Two people are missing at the Trishuli Hydropower site, 16 at the Trishuli 3B Hub Substation, eight at Chilime, and one each in the Devighat Hydropower Plant and the Rasuwa Distribution Centre.

Nepali Army engineers intensified efforts on Sunday to reach people believed trapped inside the Upper Trishuli-3A project tunnel in flood-hit Nuwakot, using heavy equipment and blasting to widen an opening into the

buried structure.

According to an update from the Nepal Prime Minister's Office, a joint 90-member rescue team has been deployed at the site, comprising 66 Nepali Army personnel, including a special search and rescue team with trained dogs, 18 Armed Police Force personnel and six Nepal Police personnel.

The team reached the main section of the tunnel, known as the "crown head" and created a six-square-foot opening. Rescuers descended through the opening using ropes and called out to those inside but received no response, it said.

Rescue efforts were being continued simultaneously with heavy equipment and blasting, while the opening was being widened to facilitate a faster and more effective operation, according to the PMO update issued Sunday evening.

## UAE says it intercepted Iranian drone over its territorial waters

AP

Dubai, Aug 31: The United Arab Emirates said that it intercepted an Iranian drone over its waters Monday, an attack that comes after the United States and Iran exchanged fire over the weekend for the first time in a month.

Iranian officials said that two people were killed and several others wounded in the US attack Sunday night on Larak Island in the Strait of Hormuz. Iran responded by launching missiles at US sites in Jordan, which were intercepted.

During the lull in fighting, the US has been ratcheting up economic pressure on Iran with the hope of forcing concessions out of Tehran, including reopening the Strait of Hormuz to shipping.

## Young Professional recruitment

# CIC asks Sports Authority of India to make category-wise list public

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 31: The Central Information Commission has advised the Sports Authority of India (SAI) to put details of all stages of recruitment for Young Professionals in the public domain, including category-wise merit lists and marks of selected candidates.

The direction came while disposing of an RTI appeal concerning the recruitment process.

Information



Commissioner P R Ramesh observed that "the need for transparency is more in the case of appointment/recruitment process".

The CIC advised SAI to publish on its official website the recruitment advertisement or notice, names of finally selected candidates and

category-wise merit lists, with the sequence beginning with Unreserved (UR) followed by reserved categories -- SC, ST, OBC and PwD -- "along with their marks".

The commission said the disclosure should be made under Section 4 of the RTI Act "so that the public have minimum resort to the use of the RTI Act to obtain the information".

The RTI applicant had sought details of the total applications received for the Young Professional advertisement, dated November 5, 2024.

## Indian para paddlers sign off with 16 medals in Finland



PTI

New Delhi, Aug 31: India signed off with a haul of 16 medals including six gold, four silver and six bronze, from the ITTF World Para Future Lahti tournament in Finland.

The singles events accounted for 10 medals, while India parathletes added six more in doubles including two gold, one silver and three bronze.

Rameshbhai Chaudhary and Sumit

Sehgal spearheaded the men's doubles campaign in Classes 4-8, claiming gold with a composed 3-0 victory over South Africa's Ibrahim Abdulla and Rakan Abdulrahman in the final. Sumit completed a memorable doubles' double, partnering with Deepikarani Ramanaathan to the mixed doubles title. The duo overcame Finland's Timo Kalavei and Aino Tapola 3-0 in the final. Sonal Patel and Rameshbhai added a silver in mixed doubles after reaching the final, while three Indian combinations secured bronze.

Shubham Wadhwa and JD Madan took the men's doubles bronze, Prachi Pandey and Savita Ajjanakatti claimed bronze in women's doubles while Shivam Pal and Noorali Jamani completed the doubles tally with a mixed doubles bronze.

## Barcola joins Liverpool from PSG in \$166M deal for biggest signing of summer transfer window



AP

Liverpool, Aug 31: Liverpool finalized the most expensive transfer of the summer window by signing Bradley Barcola from Paris Saint-Germain on Monday in a deal worth 123 million pounds (\$166 million).

Liverpool secured its main target of the summer after a monthslong pursuit of a speedy 23-year-old France international who is coming off winning back-to-back Champions League titles with PSG but mainly as an impact substitute, backing up Désiré Doué.

Now Barcola will expect to be a key part of an expensively assembled Liverpool attack that also includes striker Alexander Isak and Florian Wirtz, who were signed last summer for 125 million pounds (\$170 million) and 116 million pounds (\$156 million), respectively.

"It took a long time," Barcola said in a Liverpool statement after signing what

the club described as a long-term contract, "but I'm really happy today to be able to play for Liverpool and all I want is to be on the pitch and be able to play."

Barcola is primarily a left winger so isn't a like-for-like replacement for Liverpool great Mohamed Salah, who played on the right for nine years before leaving for Trabzonspor to end a trophy-laden spell at Anfield.

The deal will see Liverpool paying 106 million pounds (\$143 million) for Barcola, who was part of the France team which lost in the semifinals to Spain at the World Cup this summer, and up to an additional 17 million pounds (\$23 million) in potential add-ons. Barcola joined PSG for 45 million euros (\$38.5 million) from Lyon in 2023.

The fee sets a record for a player leaving the French league.

PSG said Barcola helped to "write one of the most beautiful pages in the history of

Paris Saint-Germain." "Through his talent and the emotions he offered to the fans, Bradley will remain in the hearts of Parisians," PSG said.

Barcola will look to spark Liverpool

Barcola, a fast and direct winger, joins a team that has gotten off to a sluggish start to the Premier League, with Liverpool needing late goals to salvage draws against Newcastle and Nottingham Forest in the opening two rounds.

Cody Gakpo and summer signing Victor Muñoz have played on the left wing so far this season. Gakpo reportedly has been a target of Manchester City in the final days of the transfer window.

Liverpool will also play in the Champions League this season.

Without Barcola, a slow start for PSG

PSG made a massive profit from Barcola's sale, but without him, the team has struggled to unsettle its opponents' defenses, drawing its opening two Ligue 1 matches.

Known for his explosive pace, acceleration and ability to stretch defenses, Barcola was always capable of creating space for the two-time European champions. That quality could be missing for Luis Enrique's side this season, although wingers Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and Doué still provide plenty of quality on the flanks.

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# MOVIE

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HINDI ATMOS  
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