

INBRIEF

Justice Bhati elevated as CJ of J-K and Ladakh HC

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Collegium on Monday recommended the elevation of three High Court judges as Chief Justices of the Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Justice Dr. Pushpendra Singh Bhati of Rajasthan High Court recommended as Chief Justice of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The Collegium recommendation was made at its meeting held on August 31. Justice Bhati's appointment will take effect after completion of the **► P11**

Nepal floods: Death “toll” climbs **939**, 4000 missing

KATHMANDU: The death toll from the flash floods in Nepal rose to 939 on Monday, with more bodies being recovered, even as more than 4,000 people were missing. Bodies were recovered from eight affected districts as rescuers raced against time to search for those missing and rescue those stranded on the sixth day since the disaster. An ice-rock avalanche following a glacial collapse near the Nepal-Tibet border sent a torrent of water, mud and debris **► P11**

INS Nipun joins Indian Navy fleet

Navy Chief: Threat perception evolving amid strategic churn

MUMBAI: Amid the crisis in West Asia, Navy chief Admiral Krishna Swaminathan on Monday said this is a period of significant strategic churn, with global maritime highways under threat and the maritime environment becoming increasingly contested. The threat perception is constantly evolving, manifesting in newer forms of challenge and complexity, he said. Admiral Swaminathan was speaking after the commissioning of the deep-sea



diving vessel INS Nipun into the Indian Navy in Mumbai. "We are living today through a period of significant strategic churn. The maritime environment is becoming increasingly contested, and the threat perception is constantly evolving and manifesting into newer forms," **► P11**

India witnessed hottest August since 1901: IMD

NEW DELHI: 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 **► P11**

Medical interns strike over low stipend; seek hike to Rs 30,000



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU/SRINAGAR: MBBS and BDS interns across medical colleges in Jammu and Kashmir went on an indefinite strike on Monday, protesting a

monthly stipend of just Rs 12,300 -- around Rs 400 a day -- and demanding it be raised to Rs 30,000. The protesting interns claimed that their stipend had remained unchanged for nearly seven years despite re-

peated representations and protests, even as medical interns in several other states receive substantially higher amounts. According to comparative figures displayed by the protesters, Odisha tops the list with a monthly stipend of Rs 44,319, while medical interns in West Bengal receive Rs 43,099 and in Assam at Rs 35,000. The protesters assembled on the lawns outside medical college hospitals at SKIMS Bemina and GMC Srinagar, besides staging dharnas at various locations in Jammu, and said they had been forced to stop work after their long-pending demand failed to get a **► P11**



tensively deliberated on ongoing cooperation in areas of trade and investment and energy and fertiliser security among others. "We have always discussed the Ukraine issue. When we last met, you had extensively briefed me on all aspects of it. India supports all efforts for peace and will continue to do so," Modi said in his televised opening remarks at the meeting. **► P11**

India-Kyrgyz vow to boost Partnership

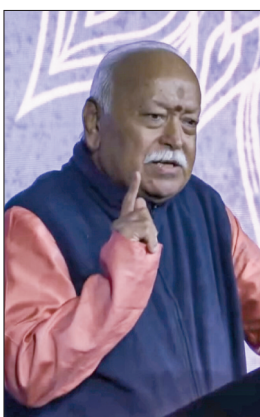
BISHKEK: Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Kyrgyz President Sadyr Zhaparov on Monday and reviewed progress made in bilateral relations as the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening the Strategic Partnership between India **► P11**

Sunita Kargotra gets addl charge of DG Prosecution

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday assigned the additional charge of Director General of Prosecution, J&K, to Sunita Kargotra, Director Prosecution, Jammu, with immediate effect. According to Government Order No. 444-Home of 2026, dated August 31, 2026, issued by the Home Department, Sunita Kargotra shall hold the charge of Director General of Prosecution, J&K, till further orders, in addition to her existing duties. The order states that she will take over **► P11**

India served world as 'Vishwa Guru', not 'Maha Shakti': Mohan Bhagwat

WASHINGTON: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said India's civilisational traditions have always been guided by the principle of helping others without discrimination and the country has served the world as 'vishwa guru' and not as a 'super power'. Addressing the 'Hindu Vishwa Bandhu - Embrace the World in Friendship' event organised by Canadian Hindus for Outreach, Relations and Dialogue in Toronto on Sunday, Bhagwat said the Hindu world view was universal in nature and believed in the principle of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' or the entire world is one family. Bhagwat underscored



service as the defining feature of 'Bhartiya' civilisational ethos. "Whenever Bharat has been asked for help anywhere in the world, it has never refused and it ex-

tends a helping hand even without even being asked. This is our tradition, the DNA of Bharat. That is why you may have heard the saying - 'If Hindus awaken, the world awakens'." Bhagwat said. Bhagwat also quoted Sant Kabir's couplets to assert that all the knowledge acquired by a person is meaningless if he fails to understand the message of love. "Kabir Maharaj says, you may have read so many books, and you are such a vidwaan (scholar). It doesn't mean anything if you don't know those two and a half letters, prem, or in English, four letters - love," Bhagwat said. **► P11**

India rejects PCA order on 'suspension' of IWT

NEW DELHI: India on Monday rejected the Permanent Court of Arbitration's order setting aside its decision to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan, saying the "illegally-constituted" body has no jurisdiction to comment on New Delhi's sovereign decisions. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said India's decision to hold the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in abeyance remains in force. New Delhi decided to put the IWT in abeyance as part of a series of punitive diplomatic and economic measures unveiled soon after the Pahalgam terror attack in April last year that killed 26 civilians. Pakistan had approached the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague in March this year to determine the status of the treaty virtually challenging India's action. "Today, the illegally constituted so-called Court of Arbitration (CoA) has issued what it termed as an award concerning Interim Measures and Status of the Indus Waters Treaty," the MEA said. "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 **► P11**



Lt Guv chairs annual general meeting of J&K IRCS

Sinha calls for stronger Red Cross net, wider humanitarian outreach

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, on Monday chaired the Annual General Meeting of the Indian Red Cross Society, J&K UT and reviewed its functioning, activities and future roadmap. The meeting was attended by Dr Mandeep K Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Shubhankar Pratyush Pathak, General Secretary, Indian Red Cross Society

(IRCS), J&K; Deputy Commissioners (Presidents of District Red Cross Units), and officials of IRCS, J&K. The Lieutenant Governor, who is the President of the Indian Red Cross Society, J&K UT, directed the Deputy Commissioners to intensify resource mobilisation and explore innovative avenues for fund generation to further strengthen humanitarian and welfare activities of the Red Cross Society. He further directed

them to prepare comprehensive district-wise annual activity plans, identifying priority areas and interventions, and submit the same for effective implementation. Emphasising the need to take Red Cross services closer to the people, the Lieutenant Governor called for greater outreach in far-flung and border areas. He advised the Deputy Commissioners to explore opening Diagnostic Centres in remote areas. **► P11**

'Green Forge' complex inaugurated at NABI

AI, advance simulation can reshape Agri-Biotech research: Dr Jitendra



MOHALI: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh on Monday inaugurated the first-of-its-kind 'Green Forge' complex at National Agri-food & Biomanufacturing Institute (BRIC-NABI) here, describ-

ing this as a milestone in genetically modified crop revolution. Singh, the Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Science and Technology and Min-

istry of Earth Sciences, while addressing the national conclave on BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) said the newly inaugurated Green Forge facility, with its controlled simulation chambers, will enable the cultivation and experimentation of genetically modified crops under varied environmental conditions, helping researchers assess their suitability for different locations. Explaining the significance of the facility, Singh said that Green Forge provides simulation chambers in which the **► P11**

J&K draws up 5-year roadmap to maximise central assistance

UT eyes Rs 1,000 Cr under Khelo India 2026-31 prog

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: 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 in excess of Rs 1000 crore in the 2026-2031 period for improving sports infrastructure.

A five-year roadmap has been prepared for seeking Rs 1000 crore to Rs 1200 crore from 2026 to 2031 in central assistance under Khelo India for strengthening sports infrastructure, nurturing talent and building a comprehensive sports ecosystem across the UT, an official spokesperson said. The spokesperson said the roadmap was presented on Monday before the UT Level Co-ordination Committee (UTLCC) in its first meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo. Dulloo called for a focused, district-driven approach to leverage the national programme for creating high-quality sports infrastructure and facilities across Jammu and Kashmir.

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 platform, facilities, coaching and exposure to hone their abilities **► P11**

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