

Yasha Mudgal conducts comprehensive review of YSS Deptt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports, Yasha Mudgal on Thursday chaired an extensive review meeting of the Directorate of Youth Services & Sports (YSS) to assess departmental performance, youth engagement strategies, and future initiatives aimed at strengthening sports and extracurricular activities across Jammu & Kashmir.

During the review, the Commissioner Secretary took stock of ongoing departmental activities and directed the Director General (DG), YSS to ensure year-round sports activities across all schools in the Union Territory.

Emphasizing the need for data-driven planning, she instructed for preparation of comprehensive format to capture the number of students enrolled in each sport, in all Government and Private Schools, facilitating gap analysis and targeted interventions.



Commissioner Secretary YSS, Yasha Mudgal chairing a meeting on Thursday.

In a bid to enhance youth engagement, the DG YSS was further directed to assess the participation ratio of youth in sports relative to the population of the youth in UT of J&K and compare the same with the national average. She emphasized the importance of analysing the youth engagement in the States with high girl child enrolment in sports and adopting their best practices to ensure gender-inclusive growth in the sports sector.

Reviewing the current Scholarship scheme of Department, the Commissioner Secretary asked the DG to submit a comprehensive proposal for enhancing scholarships for players and medal winners, in order to recognize and encourage young talent. She also called for the identification of encumbrance free lands, especially within the schools that can be developed into zonal mini-stadia to expand local sports infrastructure.

In a step towards identifying talent, the DG was also directed to organize talent hunts across the UT to discover and nurture grassroots athletes.

The Commissioner Secretary also asked the department to conceive a proposal for establishment of Youth Culture Centre to integrate extracurricular activities, including performing arts.

While discussing HR issues, DG YSS was impressed upon to ensure

update of the Seniority lists and timely conduct of the DPCs. Regarding service matters, the DG YSS was instructed to expedite the disposal of SRO-43, RAS and RDA cases on priority, ensuring timely redressal and compliance with service guidelines.

Focusing on tourism promotion through sports, the Commissioner Secretary asked the department to explore Bhaderwah as a winter sports destination especially in the discipline of Skiing.

During the meeting the DG presented a detailed PowerPoint Presentation regarding the functioning of Directorate of Youth Services and Sports.

The meeting was attended by Director General YSS, Special Secretary YSS, Hqrs Samba, DySP SOG Samba, SHO PS Samba and other Police officers/officials were presented on the occasion. The final match of football tournament was played between Kheli Mandi

Kheli Mandi Club wins football trophy



SSP Samba with other officials and participating teams at closing ceremony.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Samba Police on Thursday concluded football tournament organized under Civic Action Programme (CAP) at Kheli Mandi Ground Samba in which team Kheli Mandi Football Club emerged as champion of the tournament.

SSP Samba accompanied by Addl. SP Samba, DySP Hqrs Samba, DySP SOG Samba, SHO PS Samba and other Police officers/officials were presented on the occasion.

The final match of football tournament was played between Kheli Mandi

Football Club and Sangwali Mandi Football Club in which team Kheli Mandi Football Club won the match by 3-0 goals and emerged as winner of the tournament.

In the tournament, total 05 football teams viz Sangwali Mandi Football Club, Kehli Mandi Football Club, Gurha Shlathian Football Club, Thalara Mandi Football Club and Badori Football Club from different areas of district Samba had participated. All the matches of the tournament were played in a professional manner under the supervision of trained referees.

Later in the prize distribution ceremony, SSP Samba distributed trophies, football shoes, uniforms to the winner and runner-up teams. Mementos for the best player of the match and best player of the tournament were presented to the players. Besides this, mementos were also presented to all the participating players of the final match as well as to the referees. Lastly, refreshment was also served.

SSP Samba congratulated the winning team of the tournament and also appreciated the professionalism exhibited by all the participating teams during the tournament.

IGNOU Ranked No.1 in NIRF India Rankings 2025 under Open University Category

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Education today announced the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2025 rankings, with the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) securing the No.1 position in the Open University category for the second consecutive year. This remarkable achievement reaffirms IGNOU's leadership in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and online education in India.

NIRF, launched in 2015 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (now Ministry of Education), ranks institutions across India based on key parameters such as Teaching, Learning and Resources; Research and Professional

Practices; Graduation Outcomes; Outreach and Inclusivity; and Perception. These rankings serve as a benchmark for academic excellence nationwide.

Reacting to the recognition, Prof. Uma Kanjilal, Vice-Chancellor of IGNOU, expressed gratitude to the entire IGNOU community, stating, "This milestone is a result of the tireless dedication of our faculty, academic, and non-academic staff. Our mission continues to focus on making quality education accessible and inclusive. We are committed to using technology, blended learning, and vernacular languages to reach even the remotest learners."

With a vast learner base spread across India and abroad, IGNOU remains the largest open university in the

world. The university continues to innovate in pedagogy and delivery through multimedia resources, video lectures, and digital platforms, making education more inclusive and learner-centric.

Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu, praised the visionary leadership of Prof. Uma Kanjilal, stating, "It is because of her impeccable academic background and forward-thinking approach that IGNOU has achieved this prestigious feat again."

By securing the top rank once again, IGNOU has demonstrated its unwavering commitment to expanding the frontiers of open education and contributing to the development of a knowledge-driven, inclusive society.

CS assesses post-flood restoration across J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Thursday chaired two separate meetings with Administrative Secretaries, which were also attended by the concerned Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners of the districts, to review the situation in flood-affected areas and assess the progress of ongoing restoration efforts.

During the meetings, the Chief Secretary took a detailed appraisal of the damage caused to public infrastructure, including roads, bridges, schools, and other essential facilities. He also reviewed the availability of basic civic amenities such as power, drinking water, and sanitation services in the affected regions.

The Chief Secretary further directed the Health Department to intensify awareness campaigns on potential health hazards in flood-hit areas and to organize special health camps to safeguard public well-being.



He also emphasized the importance of conducting safety audits of all flood-affected schools and ensuring proper hygiene measures before resuming regular academic activities, stressing that no compromises should be made in this regard.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the stock position of essential commodities, including food grains,

fuel, and petroleum products, and sought updates on the pace of restoration work being carried out on damaged roads across the UT.

Deputy Commissioners provided a detailed account of the damage to both public and private property, along with the disruption to critical services such as power, water supply, and transport infrastructure.

The Chief Secretary underscored the urgent need to expedite restoration efforts, ensuring timely relief to the affected population, and relocate vulnerable communities to safer locations wherever necessary.

Reiterating the government's commitment to stand with the people in this hour of need, the Chief Secretary stressed that it is the foremost responsibility of the administration to remain present on the ground and accessible to citizens. He urged the officers across all levels to work with dedication, sensitivity, and selflessness, reminding them that such times put to test the true spirit of public service among those at the helm of affairs.

Shailender reviews flood damages, development projects at SKUAST-J, AHD

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Agriculture Production Department, Shailender Kumar, conducted an exhaustive visit to Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology (SKUAST), Chatha Campus, Jammu, following the devastating flash floods occurred on 26th August, 2025.

During the visit, the Additional Chief Secretary reviewed the extent of damage to the academic, research and allied infrastructure. He interacted with the university authorities, faculty members and students. He issued critical directives aimed at enhancing the institutional resilience against the future calamities.



ACS, Shailendra Kumar chairing a meeting at Jammu on Thursday.

The University was advised to engage the Irrigation and Flood Control Department for a long-term structural solution to the recurring flash floods from Ballol Nallah and its tributaries. Emphasis was placed on a thorough hydrological study to identify high-risk overflow zones. It was further directed that SKUAST-J may engage a nationally reputed consultant through IIT

Jammu to design an integrated flood mitigation plan with expenses to be met from university funds. While interacting with the hostel boarders, the ACS accompanied by Vice Chancellor Prof B.N. Tripathi and senior university officers, advised the students to maintain calm and adhere to hygiene protocols in hostel and campus premises. He directed the university authorities to ensure

provision of safe and nutritious food. He assured the students that academic continuity would be maintained through online classes. The syllabus for the current semester shall be completed within the notified timeline to avoid any academic loss, he added. The ACS reiterated the government's commitment towards supporting the University in both immediate restoration and long-term

infrastructural strengthening.

Subsequently, the ACS chaired a high-level review meeting at the Directorate of Animal Husbandry, Talab Tillo, Jammu, to assess the flood damages in the Animal, Sheep and Fisheries sectors of Jammu Division. Recognizing the severity of the recent cloudbursts and associated flooding, he directed the concerned departments to conduct rapid yet detailed surveys for assessing actual losses, including livestock casualties and infrastructural damage with the aim to facilitate timely compensation to the affected stakeholders as per government guidelines.

The review also covered physical and financial progress recorded under key schemes like HADP, CAPEX, NABARD and CSSs.

ICC Jammu welcomes new GST Reforms

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Rahul Sahai, Chairman of the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Jammu, welcomed the recent GST reforms announced by the Central Government, calling them "progressive and timely," especially with the festive season around the corner.

Rahul Sahai said, "These reforms will bring relief to the common man as the prices of several daily-use items, medicines, televisions, cars, and festive season products will come down. With Diwali approaching, this is indeed a very good and people-friendly step by the Government of India."

At the same time, he highlighted the specific concern for



Jammu & Kashmir, stating that the UT may face an estimated revenue loss of around Rs 1000 crores (Approx) annually as a result of these reforms. "J&K is already a revenue-

deficit state, and this reduction may further widen the gap. However, we remain hopeful that increased consumption in our state will help bridge the revenue shortfall and bring us closer to last year's figures."

Calling the reforms a balanced and positive move, Sahai further added, "A lot of essential items including medicines becoming cheaper is a welcome relief for citizens. We are also waiting for the fine print of the reforms, which are expected to be implemented later this month. Overall, this is a progressive and forward-looking step taken by the Government."

JU achieves 21st Rank in State Public Universities Category, showing sustainability in its Rankings

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: University of Jammu (JU) has marked a significant stride in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2025, reflecting its continued dedication to Academic Excellence, Innovation, and Institutional Growth. In a notable development, University of Jammu has improved its standing in the Public State Universities Category, rising from 23rd rank in 2024 to 21st rank in 2025. This progress highlights the University's sustained efforts toward enhancing Teaching, Research, Infrastructure, and overall Institutional Performance. In the University Category, University of Jammu secured the 51st position demonstrating continued excellence and a strong national presence, following its 50th rank last year. Additionally, the university retained its 87th rank in the Overall Category, reaffirming its consistent performance among India's top institutions. The NIRF assessment is based on multiple parameters, including Teaching and Learning Resources, Research and Professional Practice, Graduation Outcomes, Outreach and Inclusivity, and Perception. Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu remarked that these rankings reflect the dedication of our faculty, students, and staff. He further said that focus remains on creating a stimulating learning environment and advancing research capabilities and University of Jammu is motivated to push further and aim for higher rankings in the coming year.

Athletics trials on Sept 7

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Amateur Athletics Association shall hold one-day selection trials to pick up probable for the forthcoming North Zone Junior Athletics (boys and girls) Championships to be held at Madan Mohan Mahiya Sports Stadium, Company Garden, Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh from September 23 to September 25. The trials shall be held in under 14, under 16, under 18 and under 20 age categories at Athletics Tracks, University of Jammu on September seven, a handout issued by the Association here today informed. Athletes have been advised to report at the venue at 7.30 am sharp bringing along Aadhar card and date of birth certificates. For further clarifications, athletes may feel free to contact Rakesh Charak (7889428023), the handout added.

Cluster Jammu VC in National Working Group of AIU

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In pursuance of the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and recognizing the role of Universities and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in strengthening the nation's economic, technological, and cultural foundations for Viksit Bharat 2047, the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) has constituted a National Working Group on "Self-Reliant Bharat through Economic Patriotism and Techno-Nationalism."

Prof K S Chandrasekar, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu has been nominated to the 24 member Chancellor/Vice Chancellor National Working Group.

The Committee shall suggest many ways to promote self-reliant Bharat including undertaking activities like Organizing Expert Talks, Students' Essay competitions, Workshops, Seminars etc. The universities can prioritize Research for developing import substituti-



tions and new technologies for academia, industry and the nation, conduct research for Industry and undertake Publications.

The Working Group shall guide, promote, and coordinate meaningful activities among universities/HEIs to advance the philosophy of Swadeshi and contribute towards economic patriotism and techno-nationalism.

Through these activities, the Group will endeavour to frame guidelines/suggestions/recommendations to re-establish Bharat as an economic and knowledge leader of the first order in the glob-

al polity.

The Working Group will function for a period of three years, which may be extended with the approval of the AIU. Prof KS Chandrasekar said it is an honour to represent Jammu and Kashmir and will give more exposure to the Cluster University of Jammu on the national level.

Prof. Bhagwati Prakash Sharma, Former Vice Chancellor, Gautam Buddha University, Noida, UP is the Chairman and Prof. Sunil Pareek, NIFTEM is the Member Coordinator.

Other special invitees include Dr Sudhanshu Trivedi, MP, Rajya Sabha, Dr Ashok Mittal, Chancellor, LPU, Punjab, Mr. Shaurya Doval, Investment Banker, Praful Ketkar, Editor Organizer, Prof. Himani Sood, Pro Chancellor, Chandigarh University. Dr Alok Mishra, Joint Secretary, AISU shall be the coordinator for the committee.

Purushartha selected for RIMC Dehradun

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Purushartha Singh, son of Rajendra Singh and Smt. Sangeeta Chib, resident of Raipur Satwari, Jammu Cantt, has been selected for admission to the prestigious Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC), Dehradun.

He is the only student from the Union Territories of Jammu, Kashmir, and Leh to secure admission in this cycle, bringing honor to the region.

Established in 1922, RIMC is among the oldest and most distinguished military colleges in India. It was envisioned to prepare young cadets for entry into the Defence Services and groom them as future leaders of the Armed Forces. Admission is



considered one of the toughest in the country, with candidates undergoing a rigorous three-stage process comprising a nationwide written examination, viva-voce, and medical evaluation. Only a handful of students across India are admitted twice a year.

Ranking Badminton tourney concludes

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Yonex Sunrise Seniors and Junior Ranking cum Selection Badminton Tournament concluded today at Badminton Hall of MA Stadium, here under the banner of Badminton Association of J&K. The event which held in collaboration with J&K Sports Council (JKSC) witnessed close contests. Now, the selected shuttlers shall represent J&K in the Inter-State North Zone Championships to be held at Una in Himachal Pradesh.

In the valedictory function, Rameshwar Singh Manhas, Principal, Pragmatic Institute of Education, Miran Sahib was the chief guest.

Among those prominent present were Dr. OD Sharma (vice president BAI), Balbir Jamwal (general secretary, BAJK), Anil Gaind, Dushyant Sharma (Treasurer BAJK) and Ved Saini. The Selected J&K Team: MEN: Bhavya Sharma, Puranjay Sharma, Vaibhav Mehta, Vipul Saini, Sahil Verma, Abhijeet Jasrotia and Kulbandhu Sharma. WOMEN: Unnati Jaral, Krishika Mahajan, Suhani Sharma, Antina Naruka, Shreya Gupta, Diamond Rajput and Yashaswini Rajput. JUNIOR BOYS: Shivansh Panotra, Udayan Sharma, Akul Mengi and Samaksh Sameliya. JUNIOR GIRLS: Ganja Singh, Shrijus Sharma and Paviini Gupta.