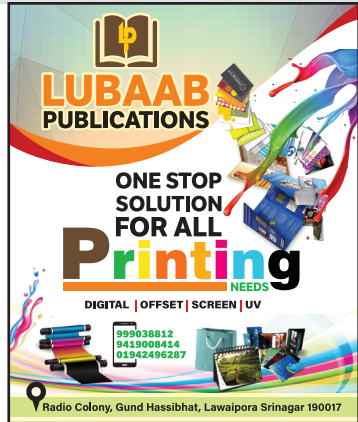


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15TH  
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PUBLICATION

HEADLINES  
TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless



# Aug 5 date of justice, PM Modi's bold decision gave birth to 'Naya J&K': LG Sinha

## Hands over appointment letters to 158 NoKs of terror victims

■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, AUG 05:** Terming August 5 as the date of insaaf (justice) for Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said exactly six years ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a bold and historic decision by abrogating Article 370, giving birth to Naya Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking at a ceremony organized to handover the appointment letters to 158 Next of Kins (NoKs) of Kashmiri Civilians killed by Pakistan-backed ter-



rorists, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "I pay tributes to all the martyrs who became victims of Pak-sponsored terrorism. For over three decades, the terrorist nation spilled the blood of innocent Kashmiris. The pain endured by the terror victim families can't be translated into words," LG Sinha said.

Becoming emotional while narrating stories of families who lost loved ones to terror, LG Sinha assured them that their wait for justice was over.

TURN ON PAGE 2

## Bijbehara Girl Thanks LG Sinha for Job After Father's Killing

■ HT News Desk / KNO

**SRINAGAR, AUG 05:** For 16-year-old Soliha Javed from Bijbehara, August 05, 2025, will be etched in her memory not just as a date, but as the day justice finally knocked at her door after 12 long years of silence, pain and perseverance.

"I was in UKG when my father was killed in a terror attack," Soliha said, her voice steady but eyes welling with emotion.

"Now, I am in Class 10 and this is the first time I have

TURN ON PAGE 2

## 29 Years On, Samena Says LG Delivered Justice

■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, AUG 05:** For 22 years, Samena of Anantnag district carried a wound time could never heal, as the loss of her family members, who fell victim to a terrorist attack in the early 1990s.

She said decades passed in silence, with no justice, no support and no recognition. But on August 5, 2025, her tears carried a different meaning — tears of justice, gratitude, and hope.

"For the first time in 29 years, someone in power looked at us with compassion. Today, we felt heard. LG Manoj Sinha gave us justice, not sympathy," Samena said while speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News

TURN ON PAGE 2

## Families of terror victims thank LG Sinha for job appointments

■ HT News Desk / KNO

**SRINAGAR, AUG 05:** Families of terrorism victims from various parts of Jammu and Kashmir expressed their gratitude after receiving government job appointment letters from Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at an event held at SKICC Srinagar on Tuesday.

As per the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the event was attended by more than 150 affected families, and a total of 158 appointment letters were handed over to the next of kin of those who lost their lives in terror-related incidents.

TURN ON PAGE 2

## We Stand With You: Div Com Kashmir to Victim Families

■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, AUG 05:** Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, on Tuesday said the government's support to families affected by terrorism goes beyond official gestures, describing the distribution of appointment letters as a symbol of collective

solidarity and healing.

The Div Com, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), made the remarks during an event at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar, where Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha handed over government job

TURN ON PAGE 2

# No Official Notification Yet On Panchayat Elections: RDD&PR

## Clarifies on 'fake order being circulated on social media'

■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, AUG 5:** The Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Jammu and Kashmir, has issued a strong clarification regarding a fake government order being widely circulated on various

social media platforms, which falsely claims that Panchayat elections in the Union Territory will be conducted after November 2025.

A purported government notification titled "Conduct of Panchayat Elections in the Union Territory of Jammu and

Kashmir - Post November 2025" bearing Order No: 45-RD&PR of 2025 and dated 05-08-2025 is being shared online.

The officials from the department of RDD&PR have confirmed that no such order has been issued by the department

TURN ON PAGE 2

# Lawmakers Meet CM Omar, Raise Development Issues

## CM Thanked for Extending Power Amnesty Across J&K

■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, AUG 5:** Several Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) today called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, to discuss a range of public concerns and development issues of their respective constituencies.

The legislators who met the Chief Minister included Ali Mohammad Dar (Chadoora), Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani (Beerwah),

TURN ON PAGE 2



## Former Governor Satya Pal Malik passes away

PM, LS speaker condole demise

■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, AUG 05:** Jammu & Kashmir's former Governor Satya Pal Malik passed away on Tuesday at New Delhi.

79-year old Malik died at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital (RMLH) in New Delhi today after a prolonged illness.

In a statement issued to media, the RMLH said that Malik passed away today at 1:12 PM.

"It is with deep regret that we confirm the demise of Satyapal Malik who had been receiving intensive care at our facility. The patient had a longstanding history of diabetic kidney disease, hypertension, and other chronic health issues including morbid obesity and obstructive sleep apnea," the

TURN ON PAGE 2

## Anshul is new Div Com Kashmir, Rakesh Minhas DC Jammu

14 IAS, JKAS OFFICERS SHIFTED

■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, AUG 05:** In a significant administrative reshuffle by the Lieutenant Governor's administration, Anshul Garg, a 36-year-old IAS officer of the 2013 batch, has been appointed as the Divisional Commissioner of Kashmir, making him the

youngest officer to assume the high-profile post.

Garg, who previously served as CEO of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, replaced V.K. Bhiduri, who was transferred to Delhi by the Ministry of Home Affairs in May.

Known for his proactive

TURN ON PAGE 2

## 6th Anniversary BJP celebrates abrogation of Article 370

■ HT News Desk / KINS

**JAMMU, AUG 5:** The Jammu and Kashmir unit of the BJP marked the sixth anniversary of the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A on Tuesday with large-scale celebrations across all districts of the Union Territory, declaring the move as a landmark step towards constitutional unity, equal rights, and dignity

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## J&K reports 5 rabies deaths in 2024: Centre

■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, AUG 05:** Jammu and Kashmir recorded five human rabies deaths in 2024, up from four in 2023 and none in 2022, according to data tabled in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry

TURN ON PAGE 2

# CS Reviews Impact Of Employment Generation Schemes In J&K

■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, AUG 5:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting to review the performance and impact of employment generation schemes across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by the Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Commissioner Secretary, Cooperatives, Secretary, Labour & Employment Department; Director Employment and all Deputy Commis-

sioners who joined virtually.

In-depth deliberations were held to enhance the effectiveness, transparency and reach of self-employment initiatives.

The Chief Secretary underscored the urgent need to consolidate all employment-related schemes onto a single online platform to ensure seamless service delivery and minimize manual intervention. He stressed that only empowered committees should be entrusted with the approval of applications, thereby eliminating scope for unilateral decision-making.

Highlighting the critical role of



financial institutions, the Chief Secretary directed the departments to strengthen bank linkages, particularly under schemes implemented by the Women Development Corporation (WDC). He also emphasized the importance of focusing on interest subvention components by the departments to ease the financial burden on the beneficiaries.

The Chief Secretary observed that it is imperative that transparency remains the cornerstone of all self-employment schemes. He added that outcome-based assessment must

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## AN APPEAL TO MAKE A COLLECTIVE EFFORT

VMS SPECIALTY  
HOSPITAL (VMSSH)



FROM THIS:



TO THIS:



YOU SUPPORTED US ALL THROUGH

NOW A LITTLE MORE EFFORT & WE WILL OPEN THE DOORS OF THIS HOSPITAL TO OUR CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM HEART DISEASE:

Our vision is clear:

Healthy Children Shape a Healthier Society

The hospital is taking form—paint, tiles, and firefighting systems are in place—

But vital work remains: air conditioning, medical gas pipelines, electrical systems, and partitioning.



JK HOPE AND HEALTH  
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One Last Push To Keep Young  
Hearts Beating: Every Penny  
Supports A Heart Beat

Advt - Comp...







# GENC delegation meets Dr Jitendra Singh, discusses key employee issues

■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, AUG 5:** A delegation from the Government Employees National Confederation (GENC) met Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh in New Delhi today to discuss various service-related concerns of Central Government employees.

The delegation appreciated the government's proactive stance—particularly the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT)—in addressing long-pending issues such as the promotion backlog, which they said has improved morale and brought greater clarity in career progres-



sion.

They also discussed broader reforms, including timely grievance redressal, cadre-related matters, and suggested improve-

ments to the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS). Issues related to the proposed 8th Pay Commission, rationalisation of CGHS benefits, and clarity on UPS

norms were also raised.

Dr. Singh, who holds multiple key portfolios including Science & Technology, PMO, and Personnel & Public Grievances, was

receptive to the suggestions and assured continued dialogue with employee bodies.

Describing the meeting as constructive, GENC members thanked Dr. Singh for regularly engaging with them and giving them the platform to voice their concerns. They expressed confidence in the government's commitment to employee welfare and systemic reforms.

GENC represents a wide range of central employees, including those from defence production, postal services, autonomous bodies, and the central secretariat, and plays a key role in shaping staff-related policy discourse.

## KDA Installs Two More Digital Signboards in Achabal, Total Now Reaches Eight Across Kokernag Region

■ Farooq Rather

**KOKERNAG, AUG 5:** In a continued effort to modernize and enhance tourist information and facilitation infrastructure, the Tourism Development Authority Kokernag, under the leadership of CEO Mohd Rouf Rahman (JKAS), has installed two more digital signboards in Achabal area today.

The newly installed digital boards have been strategically placed at the Achabal Bus Stand and Main Chowk Achabal. This move brings the total number of digital signboards across the Kokernag jurisdiction to eight, as part of the Authority's latest



drive to digitalize important tourist destinations and ensure ease of navigation and access to information for visitors.

The distribution of digital signboards across the region now stands as follows:

- Achabal: 2
- Chatapal: 1
- Kokernag: 3
- Dandipora: 1
- Daksum: 1

These modern glow and signboards aim to provide real-time tourist information, promote local attractions, and elevate the overall tourist experience in the scenic areas of south Kashmir. The initiative reflects the Tourism Development Authority's commitment to boosting tourism infrastructure in line with contemporary standards.

## Tiranga Rally Organised by YAC in Bhadarwah to Instil Patriotic Fervour

■ Amir Iqbal Khan

**BHADARWAH, AUG 5:** In a vibrant display of patriotism ahead of Independence Day, the Youth Action Committee (YAC) on Monday organised a grand Tiranga Rally in Bhadarwah, drawing enthusiastic participation from students, local residents and officials alike.

The rally was spearheaded by YAC chairman Naseer Mehboob and ceremoniously flagged off by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bhadarwah from the New Bus Stand. The march, cul-



minating at Seri Bazar, was marked by spirited chants and waving of the national flag as hundreds of school children from across Bhadarwah zone marched in unison.

Also present on the occasion were the Additional Superintendent of Police, SDPO Bhadarwah, DFO Bhadarwah, officials of forest department, Municipal Committee Bhadarwah functionaries, teachers and members of the Gujar community. The administration lent full support to the event, which aimed at fostering a collective sense of national pride.

Addressing the gathering, YAC chairman Naseer Mehboob said, "I pay heartfelt tribute to all the brave soldiers and martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for the nation. I especially salute tourists who laid down their lives in Pahalgam."

Later, the rally concluded with brief yet stirring addresses by Mehboob and social activist Tariq Parvaiz Butt, both underlining the vital role of youth in nation-building and the enduring importance of patriotism in safeguarding the country's unity and integrity.

## Srinagar Police Observes Integrity Pledge Ceremony Across All Establishments

■ Mohammad Hanif Khan

**SRINAGAR, AUG 5:** In a resolute effort to uphold the principles of transparency, accountability, and ethical governance, Srinagar Police today observed the Integrity Pledge ceremony across all its units including District Police HQ, District Police Lines, Police Stations and Police Posts.

The Pledge ceremony was organized as part of the Vigilance Awareness Week to emphasize the commitment of Jammu & Kashmir Police in promoting integrity and combating corruption in public service.

Senior officers administered the oath to all the police personnel across all units of Srinagar Police, collectively affirming their dedication to ethical conduct in both professional and personal spheres.

Speaking on the occasion, senior



officials reiterated the importance of fostering a corruption-free environment and maintaining public trust through honest and responsible policing.

They emphasized that integrity forms the backbone of effective law enforcement and good governance. The Integrity Pledge initiative is

in line with the directives of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), which encourages all public institutions to instill a strong culture of integrity and vigilance.

Srinagar Police remains committed to serving the citizens with transparency, fairness, and unwavering ethical standards.

## J&K Students Association Expresses Condolences with Mir Zubair on Passing Away of His Uncle

■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, AUG 05:** The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) on Tuesday has expressed grief and heartfelt condolences to its National Media Coordinator, Mir Zubair, on the demise of his uncle, Master Nasir Ahmed Mir who passed away on

Monday.

In a joint condolence statement, Chairman Mushtaq Habeeb, National Convenor Nasir Khuehami, President, General Secretaries, Secretaries, Spokespersons, Joint Secretaries, State Presidents, and Media Coordinators of the Association extended their sympathies to the bereaved

family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul.

Association asserted that, A man of remarkable warmth, humility, and generosity, his passing is an irreparable loss not only to his family but also to all who knew him. We pray to Almighty Allah to grant him the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and to

bestow strength and patience upon the bereaved family to bear this immense and irretrievable loss,".

The Association emphasized that his demise has left a void that cannot be filled. His absence will be deeply felt by all whose lives he touched with his kindness, wisdom, and compassion.

In this moment of personal sorrow, the entire JKSA family stands firmly beside Mir Zubair, it added.

Association added that, This is an immense personal loss for him, and we share in his grief during this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mir Zubair and his entire family".

## Joint Operation Cracks Down on Illegal Sand Mining in Sukhnag Nallah, One Tractor Seized

■ Ubaid Mehdi

**BUDGAM, AUG 5:** In a joint enforcement drive against illegal sand extraction, teams from Beerwah and Hardpanzu Police Stations, accompanied by the District Mineral Officer (DMO) Budgam and field staff, conducted raids at multiple hotspots along the Sukhnag Nallah. Six vehicles laden with illegal mineral seized by DMO budgam along

with area staff lasjan and handedover to police station nowgam

During the operation as per news, several tractors engaged in illegal sand mining attempted to flee; some managed to escape, while others detached their trolleys and abandoned them on the spot. Acting swiftly, the enforcement team deflated the tyres of multiple tractors to prevent further escape attempts. One tractor was seized and

handed over to Hardpanzu Police Station. In an alarming incident, some miscreants attacked the hired tractor drivers assisting the enforcement team. Authorities confirmed that legal action has been initiated, and certain individuals involved in the assault may face detention. The district administration reiterated its firm commitment to curbing illegal mining activities and safeguarding natural resources in Budgam.

## “Har Ghar Tiranga” Campaign-2025 gains momentum in Kupwara

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**KUPWARA, AUG 5:** The spirit of patriotism is sweeping across Kupwara district as the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign 2025 gains strong momentum. Under the nationwide initiative launched as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the District Administration Kupwara has geared up to ensure wide public participation through a series of vibrant activities across schools, public institutions and communities.

The campaign, which runs from August 2 to August 15, is

being implemented in three phases, with the first phase (August 2-8) currently underway. This initial phase is focused on spreading awareness and building patriotic fervor, especially among the youth. As part of the first phase, schools, colleges, and public institutions across Kupwara are engaging in:

- Wall decoration drives, with students and staff creatively painting school walls with patriotic themes and messages.
- Thematic exhibitions, showcasing India's rich history, the evolution of the national flag, and



stories of national heroes.

Tiranga Rangoli competitions, being organized across schools, public spaces, and marketplaces, adding color and vibrancy to the campaign.

Various awareness and cultural activities, including essay

competitions, quizzes, and patriotic song performances.

The district administration, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ms. Ayushi Sudan, has called for active community participation and coordination at all levels—right from panchayats to educational institutions and youth clubs.

The second and third phases of the campaign (August 9-12 and August 13-15 respectively) will focus on community mobilization and mass flag hoisting, culminating in the grand celebrations of Independence Day.

## MDC Presented A Drama "ADER ZEAT" at DIS Pulwama

■ Gulfam Barji

**PUWAMA, AUG 5:** At the Dolphin International School in Pulwama the artists belonging to the Mehak Dramatic Club Srinagar written by Ashok Kak and directed by Farhat Siddiqui to present the Kashmiri stage drama ADER ZEAT. While the drama was full of sarcastic there was also a special message about the Beti Bachao Beti Pado and the actors



working in the drama succeeded in delivering the best message to students. In the actors including Shabbir Hakak, Fayaz Sofi, Tanveer Dar, Fatima Sofi, Mehdi Ali, Jan Majrooh, Hilal Khan and Farhat Siddiqui, were appreciated by the actors working in the play. College Chairman Syed Bilal Fazli, School Principal Syed Sameera, students and other school staff also appreciated the artists. Finally, Farhat Siddiqui, the head of the Mehak Dramatic Club, was honored to Principal Syed Sumaira. The program was approved by the Ministry of Culture Government of India Under shishya parampara scheme.



HT EDITORIAL

Revitalize checking system  
to stop entry of adulterated  
food stuff to Kashmir

Few days back the Food Safety Department seized a huge shipment of rotten meat from an industrial estate in the outskirts of the Srinagar city. The department seized 1200 kilograms of rotten meat from the premises of an industrial unit in the industrial estate at Zakura. The officials of the department had said that the consignment of rotten meat was meant to be supplied to the different hotels located across the Srinagar city.

Initially it was made out that the rotten meat was meant to be supplied to a leading hotel of Srinagar, but later on the situation changed and it was made public that the meat was meant for multiple hotels and not one hotel. Since the consignment was huge and it consisted of 12 quintals of rotten meat one fails to understand how such a huge quantity reached Srinagar and then the Zakura area. This is a serious issue and needs answers from the people at helm.

The system of checks and balances seems to have gone awry in Kashmir and it is due to this reason that unchecked food stuff and other items enter the valley. In the past anything that was meant to enter the Kashmir valley was checked at Lakhanpur and Qazigund check posts. It seems the check posts have been wound up or the officials working there have been directed to let everything get in without any check whatsoever.

Since multiple government departments are entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring the safety and hygiene of the food stuff it is important that these departments work in unison so that no harm is caused to the common masses. Since it is the motto of all the government departments to provide relief to the people, all the practical and possible steps need to be taken in this regard. This would ensure that no food business operator takes the people for a ride and only hygienic food stuff is provided to the people of Srinagar and other districts of Kashmir.

As on date packaging food items manufactured by different companies have flooded the markets in Kashmir and there seems to be no quality check of the same. There are some food packets where there is no mention of the manufacturing and expiry dates and as such the health of the people is compromised. Proper packaging and labelling of the food packets should be ensured and any lacunae in this regard should not be tolerated.

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# Down The Memory Lane : A Rendezvous With Teacher of Teachers ; Dr G Q Alaqaband



■ Dr Ibrahim Masoodi

Entering the Govt. Medical College Srinagar main gate behind the wheel of his aqua coloured Fiat car, Prof. G.Q. Alaqaband was a familiar sight at GMC Srinagar.

He would step out dressed in his signature small-check half-sleeve shirt, a crisp white coat invariably worn over it, glistening white beard neatly trimmed, spectacles perched gracefully, and brown, polished lace-up shoes that reflected the same quiet discipline he carried into his clinical rounds.

His confident gait and calm authority needed no introduction.

As he made his way to Ward 3, Govt. SMHS hospital Srinagar, Kashmir the usual crowd of attendants with their steel tiffins would instinctively step aside.

The gatekeeper, busy as always with managing entry and exit, would suddenly get super alert, to let him pass without delay.

Prof. Alaqaband didn't need to announce his arrival—his presence spoke for itself.

One memory of him remains vivid to this day.

I was a third-year MBBS student, still in the early stages of developing a clinical eye. I had been assigned—more accurately, compelled—to present a case.

The patient was an elderly man with left-sided weakness. I had taken the history, though truthfully, history-taking felt tedious and mechanical at the time—something to “get through” rather than learn from.

The patient was admitted to Ward 3. I don't remember the exact bed number,

Nevertheless I remember he was on the right-side wing of the male section, a few beds away from the main door

I remember the tension in the air as students gathered in a circle and Prof. Alaqaband took his seat on a wooden stool nearby

After hearing the brief history, he rose and examined the patient himself.

What followed was an elegant demonstration of bedside clinical medicine—eliciting reflexes, identifying subtle neurological signs, correlating findings with precision.

Each step was explained with clarity. We weren't just watching a physical examination—we were witnessing clinical mastery.

Then he took the case file, and instead of jumping to the conclusion, he began from the first page—the



patient's name, age, and date of admission. He explained how each entry in the record had its importance, and stressed how documentation was not a formality but a clinical tool. He advised us on how to write well, record carefully, and approach each case with discipline and detail.

And then came the questions:  
Adrenaline leached out of my adrenal glands

My heart started racing!  
“What made you ask that?”  
“What does that sign indicate?”  
“What else should you have con-

sidered?”

He guided our thinking without belittling our gaps.

He also checked our instruments—our stethoscopes, reflex hammers, torches—emphasizing that clinical readiness started with simple tools. Preparedness, he taught us, was a form of respect—toward the patient, the profession, and oneself.

The session lasted over an hour, yet no one looked away. It wasn't just a clinical class—it was an experience. He transformed what I once considered mundane—like history-taking—into something essential, rich, and intellectually rewarding.

Prof. Alaqaband didn't teach with flair. He taught with depth. He showed us how to observe, how to question, how to think—and most of all, how to care.

Long live the professor who reminded us that the foundations of medicine lie not just in books, but in careful listening, thoughtful examination, and meticulous recording.

The teacher of teachers Prof. G.Q. Alaqaband, Also we must read and listen to his hardships, the challenges he faced, how he rose through perseverance, how he qualified both MRCP London & Edinburgh in the first attempt and FRCP finally.

Dr. Ibrahim Masoodi is a  
Consultant Gastroenterologist  
Royal Stoke University Hospital  
Stoke on Trent UK...

## Cycle of professional limbo



■ Dr. Showkat Hussain Rather

In the classrooms of Jammu and Kashmir's higher education institutions, thousands of educated, experienced, and committed contractual teachers continue to serve under conditions of extreme uncertainty. These teachers, many of whom hold PhDs and have cleared competitive national eligibility tests, are engaged year after year on short-term contracts. Their appointments are often renewed semester-wise or annually, keeping them in a cycle of professional limbo. Despite playing a vital role in delivering college education across the Union Territory, their contributions remain undervalued by the system they loyally serve.

Over the years, these teachers have filled the vacuum created by unfilled permanent posts, shouldering equal academic responsibilities with fewer rights and significantly lower pay. Their work is indispensable, but their status is temporary. They are not entitled to regular salary structures, social security benefits, or long-term academic planning privileges. Their engagement is subject to arbitrary renewals, with no clarity on their future or recognition for past service.

Adding to the sense of betrayal are the broken promises made by political figures and administrative heads. Political leaders have, in various public forums, assured regularization and fair treatment of these teachers. However, no policy initiative has materialized to address their longstanding issues. These empty promises have only intensified the frustration and despair within the teaching community. What is being witnessed is not merely administrative apathy but a systemic disregard for academic labour.

The Indian Constitution, though not providing an explicit guarantee of employment, offers a moral and legal framework that these teachers believe is being violated. Article 14 ensures equality before the law and prohibits discrimination. Yet, contractual teachers doing the same work as their permanent colleagues continue to be treated unequally. Article 16 talks about equality of opportunity in matters of public employment, which these educators are denied, despite years of service and experience. Furthermore, the Directive Principles of State Policy—particularly Articles 39 and 41—call upon the state to ensure the right to work and adequate means of livelihood. The continued exploitation of qualified teachers on temporary

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Adding to the sense of betrayal are the broken promises made by political figures and administrative heads. Political leaders have, in various public forums, assured regularization and fair treatment of these teachers. However, no policy initiative has materialized to address their longstanding issues. These empty promises have only intensified the frustration and despair within the teaching community

contracts clearly undermines these constitutional values.

The negative effects of this prolonged career instability are wide-ranging and deeply damaging. Economically, these teachers live under constant stress. Their salaries, often much lower than those of permanent teachers, are not only meagre but frequently delayed. Many contractual educators go unpaid for months at a time, forcing them to borrow money, cut down on basic needs, or seek part-time work just to survive. Without any provision for provident fund, pension, health insurance, or even maternity leave, they face total financial insecurity. Their status as temporary employees also disqualifies them from availing bank loans, home mortgages, or education loans for their children. Even planning for future life events such as marriage, home ownership, or old age becomes impossible under such economic instability.

The psychological burden is no less serious. Constant fear of contract termination, year-to-year unpredictability, and lack of institutional respect lead to high levels of stress, anxiety, and depression. These teachers work with full sincerity and commitment, yet their position in the institution remains unacknowledged. This feeling of being undervalued erodes their self-confidence and leads to emotional burnout. The lack of a stable identity within the academic community also creates a sense of alienation and helplessness.

On a professional front, career instability prevents growth and innovation. Temporary teachers often shy away from investing in research, curriculum

planning, or long-term academic projects because they are unsure of whether they will be retained for the next academic session. Opportunities for research grants, academic conferences, or publications are often denied to them due to their non-permanent status. The years they spend teaching are often not counted when applying for permanent posts, thereby penalizing their commitment. This leads to stagnation, where their qualifications and experience are effectively wasted.

The instability also has serious social repercussions. Many teachers are unable to start families or provide stability to their children due to their precarious incomes. Strained family dynamics, disrupted social lives, and feelings of inferiority in peer circles are all common. The community begins to see them as “failed professionals,” despite their qualifications, simply because they do not have a permanent government job—a benchmark for social respectability in many parts of India.

Moreover, the consequences are not limited to the teachers alone. The larger education system also suffers. A teacher who does not know whether they will have a job next semester cannot be expected to fully engage with students or commit to long-term academic goals. Students lose the opportunity to learn from consistent mentors. Institutional planning, academic continuity, and the overall educational experience deteriorate when teachers are frequently rotated or replaced. The result is a diluted quality of education—an outcome that ultimately harms the students and the reputation of the institutions involved.

The situation calls for an urgent and compassionate policy response. Jammu and Kashmir must not lag behind other Indian states that have formulated regularization policies for long-serving contractual staff. It is imperative to implement a clear, transparent, and fair framework that recognizes the experience and qualifications of contractual teachers. This should include regular monthly salaries in accordance with UGC norms, access to social security and medical benefits, and consideration for regularization after a fixed number of years of service. Contracts should be renewed on time, and delays in salary disbursement must be eliminated.

Education is the cornerstone of societal development, and teachers are its foundation. When the teachers themselves are unstable, insecure, and underappreciated, the entire educational structure is weakened. The contractual college teachers of Jammu and Kashmir are not seeking charity—they are demanding justice, dignity, and recognition. Their voices must be heard, not just for their own welfare but for the future of the students they teach and the society they serve.

The author is a Lecturer, Model Government Degree College, Charar-i-Sharif, Budgam



# Month of August: Celebrating Space Achievements



■ Sahil Manzoor

India is a nation of countless great achievements, and we rightfully celebrate and observe them on their respective days. Each accomplishment plays a vital role in the development of our country. Without striving for new heights, it is impossible to be counted among the developed nations of the world.

Since gaining independence, India has made significant strides in various sectors, especially in space exploration. We continue to set our sights on future milestones in the space sector, with dedication and vision.

## Understanding Space and Human Potential

Space is vast—so vast that it's beyond our imagination. The term "space" itself confuses many. To understand what space truly is, we must turn to the authentic theories of science. Science is the discipline that studies everything—from microscopic organisms to the largest celestial bodies.

On Earth, some people lack access to basic scientific knowledge, unaware of how days and nights occur or how seasons change. They may be frightened by natural phenomena like thunder or lightning. Meanwhile, others have spent months in space, orbiting thousands of kilometers above Earth. This contrast shows that while we are all human, our skills and knowledge vary widely. Some individuals work miracles, not just for India but



for all of humanity.

## The Role of Technology and Human Intelligence

Today, we live in an era dominated by technology and artificial intelligence (AI). AI seems capable of completing many tasks with ease, which sometimes causes concern about job security. However, it is essential to remember that every innovation and breakthrough has been made

possible by the human mind.

Humans have the extraordinary ability to adapt to their surroundings. With creativity, intelligence, and perseverance, they can solve even the most complex problems. Every invention and technological advancement is rooted in human curiosity and genius.

## National Space Day: August 23

In recognition of a landmark event,

\*\*Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared August 23rd as National Space Day, to commemorate the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the moon on August 23, 2023. The theme of the celebration is "Touching Lives While Touching the Moon."

This historic achievement symbolizes the hard work, patience, and dedication of our brilliant scientists and engineers. It is not just a success for ISRO but for every

Indian. Such victories inspire future generations to dream big and work hard for their country.

## What is Chandrayaan-3?

The word Chandrayaan is derived from two Sanskrit words: "Chandra," meaning moon, and "Yaan," meaning vehicle. Chandrayaan-3 gave India global recognition in the field of space engineering.

With this success, India became the first country to land near the Moon's south pole, earning praise from around the world. It was a moment of pride and a major milestone in India's journey toward space exploration excellence.

From now on, August 23 will hold a special place in the hearts of Indians and be celebrated with pride and enthusiasm across the nation.

## Suggestions for Celebrating Space Achievements

To honor and expand upon such achievements, we must take proactive steps:

**Educational Infrastructure:** All schools, colleges, and universities should be equipped with modern science laboratories, well-stocked libraries, and interactive tools to simplify complex scientific concepts.

**Accessible Learning:** Scientific knowledge should be made understandable and accessible to all learners, especially at the grassroots level.

**Media Engagement:** News channels should create engaging science programs that highlight national and international scientific achievements daily.

**Mentorship Opportunities:** Students should be given opportunities to interact with renowned scientists, which will inspire and motivate them to pursue careers in science and technology.

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# IS THE INDIA BLOC A MAGNET FOR ROHINGYAS AND INFILTRATORS?



■ Tushi Deb

It has often been said that the true test of a political formation lies not in the slogans it chants, but in the silence it maintains. The INDIA bloc—a loose confederation of regional 'leaders' with a rapidly fading Congress party—has, once again, chosen to speak in panicked tones where silence might have served it better. The controversy surrounding SIR (Special Intensive Revision) has offered more than just a bureaucratic or procedural flashpoint. It has become a moral mirror, and one in which the INDIA bloc finds itself unable to look without wincing.

At its core, SIR is a measure to protect the most sacred aspect of Indian democracy—the integrity of the voter roll. It seeks not to target communities but to identify those who have entered the republic through extra-constitutional means and subsequently altered the balance of both demography and democracy.

The INDIA bloc claims to be the guardian of democracy, secularism, and constitutional morality. But scratch the surface, and a disturbing pattern emerges—a pattern that reveals not democratic idealism, but demographic opportunism. The fierce opposition to the Election Commission's SIR exercise exposes the bloc's most uncomfortable truth: it sees illegal migrants and infiltrators not as threats to national security, but as assets to its electoral arithmetic.

At the forefront of this resistance stand three familiar faces—Mamata Banerjee, Tejashwi Yadav, and Rahul Gandhi. All three leaders have launched scathing attacks on the SIR, labelling it a "conspiracy", a "targeted operation", and an "anti-minority witch hunt". But the real question is, what are they trying to hide? For them, the voter is no longer a citizen, but a statistic, one to be preserved not for their rights, but for their reliability in the voting booth. Mamata Banerjee's hyperventilation against the SIR is telling. Here is a Chief Minister who once brazenly claimed that "one crore people in Bengal are already illegal migrants"—only



to now call voter list verification an "ethnic cleansing exercise". Her paranoia is not unfounded. Bengal's border districts—Malda, Murshidabad, North 24 Parganas—are ground zero for unchecked migration. Over the years, her government has looked the other way as entire villages have been settled by illegal Bangladeshi entrants and Rohingyas, who are then given ration cards, Aadhaar IDs, and ultimately voter cards. SIR threatens to dismantle this vote bank empire. Lashing out at Mamata Banerjee in a meeting, Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted a stern message. He stated, "In West Bengal, Trinamool, of its self-interest is putting Bengali identity at stake. Infiltration has increased, with a forged documents eco-system developed by the TMC. Bengal and the country's safety and security are at stake."

In Bihar, Tejashwi Yadav's resistance to SIR reeks of desperation. With Lalu Prasad's brand of caste calculus

running out of steam, the RJD has been silently banking on demographic shifts in Seemanchal and border belts to tip the scales. And SIR now threatens to pull the plug.

Rahul Gandhi, as always, speaks of "protecting the soul of India". But this soul-searching has no space for national security, demographic stability, or voter legitimacy. The Congress' silence on illegal migration is not just strategic—it's suicidal. From Assam to Delhi, Congress governments in the past have either enabled or ignored infiltration. Now, stripped of its traditional base, the party sees the illegal vote as a survival strategy.

This is not the first time India has grappled with illegal immigration. From the days of Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, who warned against unchecked infiltration, to the Assam Accord, which tried in vain to draw a constitutional line, the Republic has always known

that citizenship cannot be based on convenience. But the INDIA bloc, true to its nature, has chosen to peddle old rhetoric: that SIR is an attack on minorities, that it is a communal ploy, that it seeks to divide. This is not conviction—it is camouflage.

The real fear is that SIR will unveil how deeply the electoral base in several eastern constituencies has been distorted by undocumented and politically nurtured settlements. That it will expose how entire Assembly segments were engineered not by democratic mobilisation, but by demographic manipulation.

There is a deeper philosophical question here—one that the INDIA bloc seems incapable of answering. What does citizenship mean in a post-Partition, plural republic like India?

If everyone who enters becomes indistinguishable from the citizen, if the sanctity of borders can be dissolved with political intent, and if voting rights can be quietly handed out in exchange for electoral returns, then we must ask: what remains of the nation?

The INDIA bloc's refusal to support SIR is not rooted in ideology. It is rooted in the absence of one. Their politics thrives not on the strength of an idea, but on the preservation of ambiguity, illegality, and vote bank arithmetic. In a democracy that values transparency, legitimacy, and the rule of law, SIR is not just a policy tool—it is an act of national introspection. It calls upon the state to ask: Who belongs? And perhaps more importantly, who doesn't?

That the INDIA bloc has chosen to oppose this is neither surprising nor new. It merely confirms what the public has long suspected—that this alliance has no vision for India, only a strategy to retain fragments of it.

In that sense, SIR has done more than trigger a political storm. It has exposed the intellectual, political and ethical bankruptcy of a coalition long past its expiry date. And in doing so, it may have offered the Republic a chance—however fraught—to reclaim its original promise and infiltrators? If the SIR is allowed to succeed, it won't just clean up electoral rolls. It will clean up the political rot that feeds on ghost votes and silent demographics. And that's exactly why the INDIA bloc is terrified, because when the illegal vote dies, their politics dies with it.

The columnist is a noted writer and journalist from West Bengal and can be reached at tushidebsai@gmail.com



# Sakeena Itoo visits SMHS Hospital Srinagar, enquires about health of injured student

HT News Desk / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, AUG 05:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today visited the SMHS Hospital Srinagar to enquire about the well-being of young student Adfar Imtiyaz of Ichigam Budgam who sustained serious injuries due to an electric shock incident.

During the visit, the Minister held detailed deliberations with the attending doctors and medical staff to get first-hand information about the student's condition and ongoing treatment. She directed the Principal GMC to ensure best possible treatment to the injured student.

Expressing deep concern over the unfortunate event, the Minister also interacted with the family members and attendants of the injured student. She assured them every possible support from the government during this difficult time.

The Minister assured them that accountability will be fixed on this incident and swift action will be taken against those responsible for this negligence.

She also extended prayers for speedy recovery of the injured student and expressed solidarity with the family.



# Kashmiri doctor awarded prestigious FRSPH honor

HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, AUG 05:** Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo, a renowned Kashmiri doctor and columnist, has been honored with the prestigious Fellowship of the Royal Society for Public Health (FRSPH).

This accolade is a testament to Dr. Itoo's exceptional contributions to public health through his work in health education, research, advocacy, and mentorship.

The Royal Society for Public Health, established in 1876, is a revered global institution dedicated to advancing public health and well-being. By obtaining this fellowship, Dr. Itoo joins an elite group of professionals who are recognized for their significant impact on global public health.

This honor not only enhances his standing within the public health community but also paves the way for potential leadership roles in shaping public health policies.

Dr. Itoo's distinguished career includes affiliations with leading organizations such as the American College of Physicians and the Royal Colleges of Physicians of Edinburgh and London. He is also a Fellow of the International Diabetes Federation and an Academic Life Member of the Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India, underscoring his wide-ranging influence and expertise in the medical field.



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## 'Beat the Bloat: Top Causes and Effective Remedies for a Happier Gut

Following are the top causes of bloating and steps to curb

### 1. Overeating

Cause: Consuming large meals can stretch the stomach and slow digestion, leading to a sensation of fullness and pressure.

Remedy: Eat smaller, more frequent meals. Take time to chew thoroughly and eat slowly to give your digestive system time to signal fullness. Avoid eating late at night.

### 2. Swallowing Air (Aerophagia)

Cause: Talking while eating, chewing gum, smoking, or drinking through straws can lead to swallowing excess air.

Remedy: Avoid carbonated beverages, eat more slowly, and reduce habits that increase air intake. Mindful eating can help.

### 3. Food Intolerances

Cause: Some individuals have difficulty digesting specific carbohydrates (e.g., lactose, fructose, gluten), leading to gas and bloating.

Remedy: Keep a food diary to identify triggers. Consider lactose-free or gluten-free alternatives if you suspect intolerance. Speak with a healthcare provider before making major dietary changes.

### 4. Constipation

Cause: Infrequent bowel movements can lead to a build-up of stool and gas, causing discomfort and bloating.

Remedy: Increase dietary fiber intake through fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and legumes. Stay well hydrated and engage in regular physical activity to promote bowel motility.

### 5. Gas-Producing Foods

Cause: Some foods, such as beans, lentils, cruciferous vegetables (broccoli, cabbage), onions, and carbonated drinks, can cause excess gas.

Remedy: Monitor your reaction to these foods and limit them if needed. Cooking vegetables thoroughly can help reduce their gas-producing effect.

### 6. Gut Dysbiosis or Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS)

Cause: An imbalance of gut bacteria or conditions like IBS can lead to chronic bloating.

Remedy: A low-FODMAP diet (temporarily) under dietitian supervision may help. Probiotics and stress management techniques like meditation or yoga can also be beneficial. Always consult your GP for a tailored approach.

### 7. Hormonal Changes (especially in women)

Cause: Hormonal fluctuations during menstruation, pregnancy, or menopause can cause water retention and bloating.

Remedy: Maintain a balanced diet, stay hydrated, and engage in regular physical activity. Avoid salty foods and caffeine. Track symp-

oms to identify patterns and discuss with your GP if symptoms are persistent.

### 8. Delayed Gastric Emptying (Gastroparesis)

Cause: Slowed stomach emptying can result from certain conditions (e.g., diabetes, nerve disorders).

Remedy: Smaller, more frequent meals low in fat and fiber are often better tolerated. This condition requires medical evaluation for proper diagnosis and treatment.

### 9. Stress and Anxiety

Cause: The gut-brain connection means stress can impact digestion and lead to bloating or gastrointestinal discomfort.

Remedy: Practice relaxation techniques such as mindfulness, deep breathing, or regular exercise. Managing stress can significantly improve digestive health.



### 10. Underlying Medical Conditions

Cause: Persistent or severe bloating could indicate underlying issues such as coeliac disease, ovarian cysts, liver disease, or gastrointestinal obstruction.

Remedy: If bloating is frequent, painful, or associated with weight loss, vomiting, or changes in bowel habits, seek medical evaluation promptly.

### General Advice:

Keep a symptom diary noting food intake, bowel habits, and bloating severity to help identify patterns.

Avoid drinking large amounts of water with meals; sip fluids throughout the day instead. Maintain a healthy weight, as excess abdominal fat can contribute to bloating.

Stay active—regular walking or light exercise improves digestion and reduces abdominal discomfort.

If bloating persists despite lifestyle modifications, further medical assessment is recommended to rule out any serious underlying causes.

Courtesy -THE HEALTH GUIDE - By Dr Ibrahim Masoodi

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# Adapting to disruptive tech, prioritising Tri-service synergy key to tackling security challenges: CDS

■ **United News of India**

**NEW DELHI, AUG 5:** Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan today emphasised the need to adapt swiftly to disruptive technologies, rethink legacy structures and prioritise synergy across the three services to tackle the challenges emanating from the constantly-evolving nature of warfare. He was delivering the keynote address at the inaugural edition of the Annual Trident Lecture Series, organised by the Centre for Joint Warfare Studies

(CENJOWS) to mark its Foundation Day, at Manekshaw Centre here, a Defence Ministry statement said. He underscored the importance of technological convergence, and integrated operations to ensure national security in today's times. The event brought together senior defence leadership, strategic thinkers and scholars to reflect on the theme 'Dominating the Future Battlespace'. It also witnessed the formal release of the first General Bipin Rawat Paper on Manned-



Unmanned Teaming, a tribute to India's first CDS and his enduring legacy in shaping joint operational philosophy and transformative defence thinking. The August 2025 issue of Synergy, CENJOWS' flagship journal, was also launched, featuring incisive articles on emerging strategic trends. As part of the event, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff delivered a lecture on 'Urgency in Tri-Services Reforms', underlining the critical timelines and institutional steps needed for

meaningful reform. Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Doctrine, Organisation and Training) gave a lecture on 'Imbibing Indian Heritage Statecraft in Future Warfighting' which examined how indigenous civilisational wisdom can inform modern military thinking. The lecture series acts as an annual forum for critical reflection, strategic foresight and policy innovation, aimed at addressing the evolving dynamics of warfare and national defence. UNI RBE RN

## PM speaks with Uttarakhand CM over cloud burst tragedy, assures all help

■ **United News of India**

**NEW DELHI, AUG 5:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi today expressed his condolences to those affected by the cloud burst tragedy in Uttarkashi's Dharali, and said that every possible effort is being made to provide timely assistance to those affected. In a post on X, the PM said he has spoken with Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami to take stock



of the situation on the ground. Modi stated, "I express my heartfelt condolences to those affected by the tragedy in Dharali, Uttarkashi. I pray for the well-being of all the victims. "I have spoken with Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and taken stock of the situation. Relief and rescue teams under the supervision of the state government are making every possible effort. No stone is being left unturned to ensure aid reaches the affected people." A massive cloudburst occurred in the catchment area of the Kheer Ganga river in Uttarkashi's Dharali village, triggering flash floods that swept away homes, shops, and roads, with dozens of people feared missing. UNI AJ RN

## India, Philippines hold joint Naval exercises in South China Sea while Philippines President is in India

■ **United News of India**

**NEW DELHI, AUG 5:** India and the Philippines staged joint naval exercises in South-China Sea or 'West Philippine Sea' (as Philippines calls it) coinciding with the five-day State visit of Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr to India while both countries signed a Strategic Partnership agreement to strengthen cooperation in Defence, security, maritime, health and several other sectors. West Philippine Sea (WPS) is the designation by the Philippines government to parts of the South China Sea that are included in the country's exclusive economic zone. The term "West Philippine

Sea" has been in use by the international community since 1961. It was used to refer to the western portion of the Philippine Sea which is East of the Philippine archipelago. Philippines Army Chief Gen. Romeo Brawner said the joint naval exercises which began on Sunday were successful. Asked if Chinese forces carried out any action in response, Gen Brawner said they did not experience any untoward incident. The Manila Times, a Philippines daily, said two Chinese Navy Warships were spotted shadowing Philippine and Indian ships in the West Philippine Sea. He described the exercises as



a "show of unity" between India and the Philippines. In Beijing Chinese Foreign

Ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said disputes over territory and maritime rights and interests

should be settled through negotiations and consultation by countries directly concerned and no third party is in any position to interfere in that. The spokesman was asked about China's reaction on the India-Philippines joint exercises in the South China Sea. Three Indian Navy ships INS Mysore, INS Kiltan and INS Shakti participated in the joint exercises. During the ongoing State visit of the Philippines President to India, both India and the Philippines signed a Strategic Partnership Agreement and agreed to strengthen cooperation in Defence, maritime and security areas among others. UNI RB 1940

## Norway-Denmark-Sweden unveil joint military package for Ukraine

■ **United News of India**

**OSLO, AUG 5:** Norway, Sweden and Denmark have unveiled a joint military support package for Ukraine, aimed at securing urgently needed US-made defence equipment through an initiative coordinated by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), the Norwegian government announced today. The three Nordic countries will jointly finance one of the first aid



packages under the new US initiative known as the Prioritised Ukraine

Requirements List (PURL), which is designed to expedite the delivery of critical military supplies to Ukraine. Under the plan, Ukraine will receive American-made air defence systems, including additional missiles for the Patriot system. Norway will initially contribute Nkr1.5 billion (USD146 million), while the combined value of the joint package with Sweden and Denmark is estimated at around Nkr5 billion (USD485 million). UNI/XINHUA ANV SSP

## US federal court redirects border agents to stop deportations, overriding President Trump's asylum ban

■ **United News of India**

**WASHINGTON, AUG 5:** In an upset to US President Donald Trump's anti-immigration stance, a federal court has redirected American border troops to stop their deportation of migrants, ruling that presidential order could not be used to cut off humanitarian support for potential asylum seekers, two Department of Homeland Security officials told CBS News. Asylum and migration have been one of the cornerstones of the second Trump administration, with border agents allowed full hand to deport illegal migrants without valid permits. The move did indeed manage to curb immigration by a massive degree, particularly from the US-Mexico border, which recorded the lowest



level of migration so far. The scale of deportations by the Trump administration has been unprecedented, with border agents not allowing any asylum seekers to enter in a bid to undo the damage caused by the alien 'invasion' under the previous Biden administration, where immigration was noted to be at its highest. On Friday, a federal appeals

court lifted its pause on a lower judge's ruling that found Trump's decree to be in violation of US asylum laws. While the appellate court narrowed the lower court's order, saying that the POTUS' proclamation could be used to pause access to the asylum system, it also ruled the US government could not disregard other laws that bar officials from deporting migrants to places

where they could be tortured or persecuted. Officials at Customs and Border Protection were instructed this weekend to halt deportations, thus effectively cancelling Trump's proclamation and to process migrants under the US immigration law, which affords foreigners on American soil the right to request humanitarian refuge, the two anonymous DHS officials said. While the court order could potentially reopen Washington's asylum system, it is unlikely to affect the status of those found crossing the southern border illegally. These people will likely remain detained while officials vet their claims. The Trump administration has largely stopped the practice of releasing migrants onto American soil while they await their court dates, limiting releases to cases

involving extraordinary circumstances. The Justice Department could also try to get Friday's court order suspended by the Supreme Court, in a bid to revive the POTUS' asylum ban. In a statement to CBS News late Monday, CBP said Friday's court order affirmed "the President's authority to deny asylum to aliens participating in an invasion into the United States." CBP said the Trump administration is "committed to ensuring that aliens illegally entering the United States face consequences for their criminal actions." "This includes prosecution to the fullest extent of the law and rapid removal from the United States," the agency added. "CBP will continue to process illegal/inadmissible aliens consistent with law, including mandatory detention and expedited removal." UNI XC ANV GNK

## Kharge, Rahul, Priyanka express sorrow over Dharali cloudburst

■ **United News of India**

**NEW DELHI, AUG 5:** Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra today expressed deep sorrow over the cloudburst in Dharali (Uttarkashi), Uttarakhand, which has led to the loss of several lives and many people missing. Describing the devastation as "heartbreaking" Kharge on X said, "The devastation caused by the cloudburst in Dharali (Uttarkashi), Uttarakhand, is truly heartbreaking. Many lives have been lost, and several people are missing. Entire families have been uprooted." Kharge extended his condolences to the victims' families and appealed to the government and administration to expedite rescue efforts. "My deepest condolences to those affected by this terrible tragedy, and I pray for the safe return of those who are missing. I appeal to my government



and the administration to expedite the relief and rescue operations, and to deploy additional NDRF teams if needed," he added. Meanwhile, Rahul Gandhi said, "The news of severe devastation caused by a cloudburst in Dharali, Uttarakhand, leading to the death of several people and many others going missing, is extremely tragic and concerning." Extending condolences, Rahul said, "I extend my deepest condolences to the affected families and hope for the swift recovery of the missing individuals". Emphasising the urgency of the situation, he appealed to Congress leaders and workers to support the administration in relief efforts and assist those affected in every possible way. Echoing these sentiments, Wayanad MP, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said, "The news of the cloudburst incident in Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand, resulting in the death of some individuals and a large number of people going missing, is deeply saddening." "May God grant peace to the departed souls. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. I pray for the safe return of the missing individuals," Priyanka said. She appealed to the state government to provide immediate assistance, relief, and compensation to the victims and also urged the Congress leaders and workers to extend all possible help in the relief and rescue operations. UNI RBE SSP

## Iranian crude oil to China declines significantly due to increased sanctions by US

■ **United News of India**

**BEIJING/TEHRAN, AUG 5:** In a strong hit to Iran's economy, Chinese for crude oil purchases from the Middle East nation have fallen considerably, dipping

to less than a third of what it was in July, reports Iran International. Purchases fell to about 1.2 million barrels per day, nearly 30% lower than in June and slightly below the year-ago level, the drop following a sharp uptick witnessed in June when the demand exceeded to over 1.7 million barrels. The rise in Chinese oil purchases was attributed to the Iran-Israel war, with experts noting that merchants bought Iranian crude in 'rush' fearing Tehran's supply fall owing to the war, un the

backdrop of growing uncertainties back in June. The slowdown in shipments comes as the United States has stepped up enforcement of sanctions targeting Iran's oil trade. The US Treasury said last week it imposed measures against a fourth Chinese oil terminal allegedly handling sanctioned Iranian crude. The announcement followed broader sanctions on more than 50 individuals, entities, and vessels tied to what the US Treasury described as a "shipping empire" connected to Hossein Shamkhani, son of a

senior adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader. Iran's export capacity is constrained by aging oil fields, rising domestic demand, and low investment, leading to a greater fall in its rich oil industry. For Iran, which is already undergoing crippling sanctions, and a socio-political-economic damage in the wake of the massive Israeli attacks, the news does not bode well, as China remains the largest buyer of Iranian crude oil, with Tehran selling its oil to Beijing at massive discounts. UNI ANV SSP





## Tiranga Yatra & Har Ghar Tiranga

# Ensure proper planning, security arrangements: Div Com, IGP Jammu

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**JAMMU, AUG 05:** Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar and Inspector General of Police Bhim Sen Tuti today reviewed the preparations for the Tiranga Yatra and Har Ghar Tiranga campaign in the Jammu Division.

The meeting was attended by IG CRPF Jammu, DIG Traffic Jammu, Deputy Commissioners and SSPs from Jammu Division, Secretary J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, SSP Security Jammu, and Heads of Departments and representatives from Industries, Education, Jammu Municipal Corporation, CRPF, Health, Youth Services and Sports, ULB, and RDD. The participants discussed various arrangements for the successful conduct of the events to be organised as run-up activities to the Independence



Day 2025 celebrations.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the Heads of Departments to ensure proper arrangements by their respective departments, including flag distribution, participation of students, civil society members and personnel from security forces, distribution of T-shirts, refreshments, sanitation, traffic management, health-care facilities, deployment of fire tenders and wide publicity of the activities.

He further directed JKAACL to deploy a nodal officer to coordinate with district-level nodal officers for flag distribution under the Tiranga Yatra and Har Ghar Tiranga campaign.

It was informed that the Tiranga Yatra in Jammu District will be organised on August 12. The yatra will commence from Gulshan Ground PHQ and proceed

towards the back gate of Jammu University, Gujjar Nagar Tawi Bridge and culminate at Maharaja Hari Singh Park.

IGP Jammu emphasised the importance of adhering strictly to the Flag Code during the celebrations. He also directed the deployment of adequate security personnel for the events across the division.

All Deputy Commissioners were directed to ensure proper planning and security arrangements in their respective districts for the Tiranga Yatra and Har Ghar Tiranga campaign.

Further directions were issued for traffic advisories, illumination of iconic infrastructure and Government buildings and active involvement of all stakeholders, particularly school students, to ensure mass participation in the national festival celebrations.

## DC Budgam visits bereaved family of electrocution victim in Ichgam

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**BUDGAM, AUGUST 05:** In a tragic incident today, two students from Ichgam area, studying at Government Higher Secondary School Ichgam, got electrocuted after reportedly leaving the school premises to swim in a spring located near a nearby masjid.

One student unfortunately lost his life, while the other remains critically injured and is currently under observation at SKIMS Soura Hospital, Srinagar.

Upon receiving the distressing news, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, visited the bereaved family to personally offer condolences and express solidarity with them during this difficult time. Dr Bilal assured the families that strict action will be taken against anyone found negligent, and justice will prevail.

DC further said that, an enquiry committee has already been constituted to investigate the incident thoroughly.

He said that the committee will ascertain as to how the electrocution incident occurred, identify any lapses, and ensure that accountability is fixed. He assured the administration is fully committed to a transparent, time-bound enquiry, and any official or individual found guilty of negligence will face action as per the law.

DC said, district administration stands with the families in this moment of grief and will extend all necessary support. Further steps are also being taken to review safety measures around such places, he added.

DC was accompanied by ADC Budgam, Dy. CEO Budgam, DEPO Budgam and other officers during the visit.

## Transport Commissioner visits Katra town, directs strict enforcement of traffic norms

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**KATRA, AUG 05:** Transport Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan today paid a surprise visit to Katra town to review transport management and assess compliance with Motor Vehicle norms.

During the visit, the Transport Commissioner held meetings with civil and police officers and other stakeholders. He directed officers and concerned ARTO to conduct regular enforcement drives against commercial vehicles operating without valid documentation, including permits and licences. Special emphasis was placed on establishing NAKAs at designated locations and conducting joint vehicle checking drives to ensure strict compliance.

An awareness-cum-interaction session was also conducted for taxi and three-wheeler auto drivers. Directions were issued to their unions to strictly adhere to traffic norms and provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act. On-the-spot instructions were issued to defaulters, stressing immediate compliance with the prevailing traf-



fic regulations.

During the enforcement drive, approximately 450 vehicles were checked at various locations. A total of 73 vehicles were e-challaned, 10 vehicles were seized and penalties amounting to ₹2,35,000 are expected from the e-challans.

The enforcement team accompanying the Transport Commissioner included MVIs S. Jagandeep Singh,

Lakhwinder Singh and Surinder Rana. The drive was supervised by ARTOs Bipen Singh Charak, Taramani Sharma and Neeraj Sharma.

The Transport Commissioner reiterated the department's commitment to delivering efficient, transparent public services while ensuring strict enforcement of Motor Vehicle laws across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

## ADC Jammu reviews arrangements for Janmashtami festivities

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**JAMMU, AUGUST 05:** Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Ansuya Jamwal, today chaired a preparatory meeting to review the arrangements for the forthcoming Janmashtami celebrations in the district.

During the meeting, the ADC directed for foolproof security arrangements and the deployment of magistrates at key locations to maintain law and order throughout the festivities. Stressing the importance of public con-

venience and safe celebrations, she instructed the concerned departments to intensify night patrolling and conduct special sanitation drives, particularly in and around prominent temples, community halls and congregation venues.

The ADC directed for adequate provision and uninterrupted supply of essential commodities including fruits, vegetables, milk and flowers for religious purposes. Instructions were issued for the constitution of joint market-checking teams to curb over-

charging and ensure the availability of quality edible items at fair prices.

She also emphasised on the need for uninterrupted power and potable water supply to all main celebration sites. Departments were asked to fast-track the repair of potholes and ensure the cleaning of all approach roads, lanes and marketplaces, facilitating smooth movement for devotees.

The deployment of fire and emergency services, medical teams and ambulances at desig-

nated locations was also reviewed. For public safety and convenience, the ADC stressed efficient traffic management plans and directed close coordination between the traffic police and municipal authorities to avoid congestion and ensure smooth vehicular flow during processions and at celebration venues.

ADC Ansuya Jamwal urged all departments to work in close coordination and maintain heightened vigil to ensure the peaceful, smooth and joyous conduct of Janmashtami

in Jammu. She appealed to citizens and devotees to cooperate with the administration and follow all guidelines for a safe festival.

The meeting was attended by the Assistant Commissioner General, Deputy Director Fire and Emergency Services, SDPO City North, DySP Traffic North and senior officers from the Power Development Department, Jal Shakti, Jammu Municipal Corporation and other allied departments besides representatives of religious bodies.

## GDCW Kathua Organizes Series of Patriotic Events to Celebrate 79th Independence Day

■ HT News Desk

**JAMMU, AUG 5:** Government Degree College for Women, Kathua, celebrated the 79th Independence Day with great patriotic fervor by organizing a series of engaging and meaningful activities from 1st to 5th August 2025. Under the patronage of the college Principal, Dr. Savi Behl, the events aimed to foster national pride, creativity, and awareness among students through active participation in cultural and educational programs. The celebrations commenced on 1st August with a Poster Making Competition on the theme "Unsung Heroes of Indian Freedom Movement." A total of 12 enthusiastic volunteers showcased their artistic talents and highlighted the sacrifices of lesser-known freedom fighters. Miss Nidhi Salgotra secured the first position, followed by Miss Harshika in second place and Miss Tamana Sangwal in third.

On 2nd August, a vibrant National Anthem Singing Competition was held, in which 24 students from different semesters partici-

pated. The competition had two categories—group and solo singing. In group singing, Ritu and her group bagged the first position, Radhika and group stood second, while Emani and group secured third place. In solo singing, Radhika stood first, Asima second, and Vaishali third for their soulful performances. Continuing the patriotic spirit, an Essay Writing Competition was organized on 4th August on the theme "Role of Education in Promoting Peace and National Unity." Twenty students participated and presented insightful essays. Miss Sushma (Semester III) and Miss Emani Sharia (Semester I) jointly secured the first position, while Miss Taniya (Semester III) and Miss Ranju Kumari (Semester III) secured the second and third positions respectively.

The grand finale of the celebration was held on 5th August in the form of a Seminar on "Role of J&K Youth in Achieving Viksit Bharat @2047." Ten students delivered impactful and thought-provoking presentations focused on innovation, entrepreneurship, education, civic engagement.

## GDC THANNAMANDI ORGANISES NATIONAL ANTHEM SINGING & RANGOLI MAKING COMPETITION

■ HT News Desk

**THANAMANDI, AUG 5:** The Cultural Club of GDC Thannamandi under the patronage of Principal Dr. Farooq Ahmed continuing the week-long celebration of Independence day organised a solo Anthem singing and Rangoli-Making competition. The competition aimed to instill a patriotic fervor, national pride, celebrating our legacy and relentless freedom struggle. This competition saw an enthusiastic participation from variegated semesters. The event was clubbed with the Technical Session of Summer Internship Programme 2025.

The competition was adjudged by Sh. Akseer Singh Isher, Chief guest and Subject Matter Specialist, Dept. of Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, Rajouri, Mr. Khalid Raina Teacher, Dept. of School Education and Dr. Sheraz Ahmed HOD Zoology for anthem singing whereas Prof. Fatima Parveen from Dept. of Chemistry

and Prof. Altaf Hussain from Dept. of Education adjudged the rangoli making competition.

The First position in anthem singing competition was secured by Zia ur Rehman from semester 3rd while second and third position was secured by Alia Sadeeqi from semester 1st and Toiba Aijaz from semester 3rd whereas in rangoli making competition Sadaf Parveen from semester 5th was declared 1st, Iram Mir and Iram Zabir from semester 3rd were declared to have won 2nd and third prize respectively.

Prominent dignitaries present on the occasion were Dr. Nazakat Hussain vice principal delivered the words of appreciation for all the participants. Dr. Farooq Ahmed appreciated Dr. Gulshan Rashid Bhat, Convener Cultural Club and all the respected club members; Prof. Altaf Hussain, Prof. Rummy Dar, Dr. Meenakshi and Prof.

Yasmeen Kouser for their collaborative effort in making the event successful.

### Public Notice

My Daughter's Date of Birth (DoB) wrongly mentioned in her Aadhar card as 04-03-2001 instead of 17-10-2001. Now I am applying for its correction if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact concerned Authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**FAYAZ AHMAD BUKHARI F/O IQRA FAYAZ R/O KREERI BARAMULLA**

### Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written as IQRA FAYAZ D/O FAYAZ AHMAD BUKHARI while my correct name is SYED IQRA FAYAZ D/O SYED FAYAZ AHMAD BUKHARI as per school record which needs to be corrected if anybody having objection in this regard he /she may file his/her objection in office of concerned Aadhar authority within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**Name....SYED IQRA FAYAZ D/O SYED FAYAZ AHMAD BUKHARI R/o Kreeri**

### Public Notice

This is certify that Danish Mehraj S/o Mehraj Ahmad Dar R/o Aarath lost the school leaving certificate of 10th under certificate no 279 and admission no 1071 . The board Regd No is 231700000120024 and D O B is 25/07/2010 . If any body has any objection in this regard , they will invoke Jammu and kashmir board of school education bemina srinagar within the period of seven working days . After said period , no objection will be entertained .

**Danish Mehraj , S/o : Mehraj Ahmad Dar mother name : Mubeena Bano, R/o : Aarath Dob : 25/07/2010, 700643077**

### Public Notice

I, ZESHAN AHMAD KALOO, son of SHOWKAT AHMAD KALOO and SHAHNAZA BANO, hereby inform that I do not wish to change my name and other particulars in the school records. The name and particulars as shown on my Aadhar Card and my parents' Aadhar Cards should be the same in the school records.

If anyone has any objections or concerns, they may contact me within 7 days.

**ZESHAN AHMAD KALOO Cell No: 6005302393**

### Public Notice

I, Wali Mohammad Mughal, father of Sajjad Ahmad, resident of Nakiyeh, Lidroo, Tehsil Pahalgam, District Anantnag, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, do hereby declare that:

My son, Sajjad Ahmad, was born on 02-03-2017 at home. No birth certificate has been issued in his name by the concerned Registrar till date, and the said birth has not been registered in any official records, including those of the local Numberdar, Chowkidar, or police station.

I now intend to open a bank account in Jammu & Kashmir Bank in the name of my son Sajjad Ahmad. If anyone has any objection to this, they may report it within 7 days from the date of this notice. Failing which, the process of opening the account shall proceed without further notice.

**Name of the Child: Sajjad Ahmad Father's Name: Wali Mohammad Mughal Address: Nakiyeh, Lidroo, Tehsil Pahalgam, District Anantnag Date of Birth: 02 March 2017**

### Public Notice

I, Wali Mohamad Mughal, father of Sajad Ahmad, resident of Lidroo, Pahalgam, Tehsil Pahalgam, District Anantnag, do hereby inform the general public that I am applying for the issuance of the Birth Certificate of my son Sajad Ahmad, who was born on 02.03.2017 at home. No birth certificate has been issued in his favour, and the birth was not registered with any official authority including the Registrar, Namberdar, Chowkidar, or Police Station.

I am now applying to register the birth with the Registrar of Births & Deaths (BDO Office, Pahalgam) as per the provisions of the Births and Deaths Act, 1969.

If anyone has any objection to the registration of this birth, they may contact the concerned authority within 7 days from the publication of this notice. No objections will be entertained thereafter.

**Name of Father: Wali Mohamad Mughal Name of Child: Sajad Ahmad Date of Birth: 02.03.2017 Place of Birth: At home, Lidroo, Pahalgam Address: Lidroo, Pahalgam, District Anantnag**

### Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of SAHIBA FAISAL S/O MOHAMMAD FAISAL R/O RAJA -KA- TAJPUR Tehsil CHANDPORA Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 25/04/2018 and event has been shown to be occurred at CHC KREERI for issuance of delay order .In this connection.

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

**Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri**









## Rana visits Kashmir Forest Training School in Bandipora

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**BANDIPORA, AUG 05:** Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today visited the Kashmir Forest Training School (KFTS) at Chiternar in Bandipora district to assess functioning of the institution and took stock of infrastructure requirements.

During his tour, the Minister held a detailed review of the existing training modules, staff strength, hostel facilities and overall infrastructure of the school. He emphasized the need for modernization and capacity enhancement to ensure quality training for forest personnel.

The Minister assured that necessary upgradation of School's infrastructure shall be undertaken shortly for which a comprehensive upgradation proposal has



already been submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). He assured that the matter will

be vigorously followed up for early approval and funding.

Later, the Minister interacted with several public delegations

from the area who apprised him of various issues and developmental concerns related to water supply (Jal Shakti), tribal welfare and

forest-related matters.

A major concern raised by the locals was the increasing monkey menace, which has been affecting the agriculture and safety in the region.

Taking serious note of the concerns, the Minister issued on-spot directions to the concerned departments to prepare an action plan for addressing the monkey menace and improving service delivery in the sectors highlighted.

The Minister reiterated the government's commitment towards ensuring sustainable development and people-centric governance, especially in remote and ecologically sensitive areas.

He was accompanied by MLA Gurez, Nazir Ahmed Gurezi, who also engaged with the local stakeholders and officials during the visit.

## DFCO cancels sale licenses of 8 pharmacies, suspends operations of 75 retail sale establishments

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, AUG 5:** In a significant move to ensure the public safety and curb the misuse of pharmaceutical drugs, the government of Jammu & Kashmir has launched a special enforcement drive across Jammu and Kashmir, targeting the pharmacies and drug outlets for compliance with legal and regulatory standards.

During the drive, the officers of Drug & Food Control Organization (DFCO) carried out surprise inspections at various locations across the districts of Jammu & Kashmir. The objective of the initiative is to identify the pharmacies operating in violation of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and to strengthen the mechanisms preventing the unauthorized sale of psychotropic substances and prescription drugs.

Pertinently, the inspection teams cancelled the Drugs Sale Licenses of eight pharmacies for non-maintenance of sale records of habit forming drugs and not adopting the computerized system of billing for maintenance of sales records. These included M/s Aatir Enterprises Ganjiwara Anantnag, M/s Al-Mehdi Medicate, M/s Shehjar Pharmacy Budgam, M/s Medicity Pharmacy, Chadoora,, M/s New Bhat Medicate Chadoora, M/s Dar Medicate Qazipora, Chadoora, Budgam, M/s Pharma Plus Medicate Near Zara Diagnostic Lab Kheora Rajouri and M/s Happy Saini Medical Hall, Haria Chak, Marheen.

Besides, the operations of seventy five retail sale establishments were disallowed on the spot under section 22 (d) of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 on spot for non maintenance of sale records, impersonation and improper storage conditions. These included 9 each in Jammu, Rajouri and Anantnag; 6 each in Kupwara and Budgam districts; 5 each in Udhampur and Kulgam; 4 in Pulwama, 3 each in Kathua, Samba, Ramban, Doda, Baramulla and Shopian districts; 2 in Poonch district, 1 each in Kathua, Ramban, Reasi, Kishtwar, Srinagar and Ganderbal.

Likewise, the statutory drug samples of more than 500 formulations of various categories were lifted randomly for determination of strength and purity. These samples were referred to the Drug Testing Laboratories located within J&K for framing of legal opinion to ascertain their quality parameters.

Besides, stocks of drugs worth Rs 8,40,348, found to be contravening the provisions of the D&C Act, have also been confiscated from the supply chain by the Regulatory Officers of the organization under section 23 of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act.

Lotika Khajuria, State Drugs Controller, J&K has once again impressed upon the trade fraternity to follow the conditions of licenses in letter and spirit.

## Budgam celebrates 'Har Ghar Tiranga' with district-wide patriotic fervour

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**BUDGAM, AUG 05:** A series of vibrant activities and events continued today across Budgam district under the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, being observed as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

The celebrations, which began on August 2, continue to gather momentum with enthusiastic participation from educational institutions, municipal bodies, and local communities.

At PM SHRI HSS Kandoora Beerwah, students showcased their talent in essay writing and painting competitions, expressing their patriotism through words and art. Similarly, PM SHRI GHSS Dagger organised a spirited Tiranga rally, where students marched with national flags, echoing the message of unity.

Also the students at HSS Khansahib participated in a range of engaging activities including cultural performances, speeches, and thematic exhibitions. At HSS Khag, colourful rangoli designs were created by students, reflecting both creativity and devotion to the national cause.

A special highlight came from Ishtiaque Memorial Government Girls Middle School, Drang (Zone Khag) where students prepared a beautiful Thread Work Tiranga as a tribute to the nation. GDC Magam hosted a day-long programme featuring painting, wall painting, and rangoli competitions, with active involvement of students and faculty members.

In this connection, Municipal Committee Chadoora conducted a successful Har Ghar Tiranga Yatra, bringing together officials and citizens in a collective celebration of national pride. Tiranga rallies were held across several wards by the Municipal Council Budgam, promoting mass awareness and public participation.

As part of the campaign, the college building, Municipal Council building and Clock Tower Budgam were illuminated in the colours of the national flag, becoming visual symbols of patriotic spirit during evening hours.

Throughout the district, government buildings, institutions, and private homes proudly hoisted the Tricolour, turning Budgam into a living representation of unity and pride.

Deputy Commissioner Budgam Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat lauded the collective efforts of educational institutions, civic bodies, and residents in making Har Ghar Tiranga a true people's movement.

These activities not only honour the national flag but also foster a deeper emotional connect with the ideals it represents.

The campaign will continue in the coming days with more initiatives planned to sustain the momentum and patriotic spirit across Budgam.

## DLSA Srinagar sensitizes students on pivotal legal & social issues at GGHSS Chanapora

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, AUG 05:** District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, organized a comprehensive legal awareness programme at Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS) Chanapora, Srinagar.

This impactful initiative was aimed at sensitizing students about pivotal legal and social issues, particularly focusing on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the Domestic Violence (DV) Act, and the availability of Free Legal Aid.

The programme was held under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and conducted under the close supervision of Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge and Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

Addressing the gathering, Panel Lawyer, DLSA Srinagar, delivered an insightful talk on the significance and legal provisions of the POCSO Act. Her address focused on the urgent need for awareness and timely reporting in cases involving child abuse. She emphasized the protective framework



offered by the Act and the legal recourse available to victims and their guardians.

Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel (LADC), DLSA Srinagar, also spoke during the session and shed light on the Domestic Violence Act, highlighting the various forms of abuse and the rights of women under the law. She also explained the structure and accessibility of Free Legal Aid services provided under the Legal Services



Authorities Act, encouraging students to spread awareness in their communities.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty, fostering a constructive dialogue on rights, protection, and legal support.

DLSA Srinagar reaffirmed its commitment to promoting legal literacy among the youth, aiming to build a more aware and empowered society.

## 140 Assistive devices distributed among CWSN students at Shopian

MLA Zainapora chairs distribution function, highlights need of assistive devices for CWSN students

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**SHOPIAN, AUG 05:** Education department Shopian under the aegis of Samagra Shiksha today organized a distribution camp for Children with Special Needs (CWSN) at Government Higher Secondary School Imamsahib, Shopian.

The event aimed at providing aids and appliances to specially-abled students to promote inclusive education and enable their seamless integration into mainstream classrooms.

Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Zainapora, Showkat Hussain Ganie was present at the event. Principal HSS Imamsahib, Mushtaq Ahmad, other dignitaries, officials, and education stakeholders were also present.



A team of experts from AL-IMCO, along with Special Education Teachers under Samagra Shiksha, distributed aids and appliances and provided hands-on training to children on their usage, thereby empowering them with tools for better mobility and participation in regular educational activities.

In his address, MLA Zainapora lauded the efforts of the education department and all stakeholders for organizing the event while also commending the parents of specially-abled children for their dedication. He emphasized the empowerment of differently-abled students through education.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal HSS Imamsahib appreciated the parents for their

unwavering support towards the education of their specially-abled wards. He highlighted the significance of such camps in complementing the efforts toward creating a disability-friendly infrastructure in schools, including accessible toilets, ramps, and other essential facilities that foster an inclusive learning environment.

The camp served as a meaningful step toward achieving the vision of inclusive education under Samagra Shiksha and was well-received by the community and participating families.

More than 140 assistive devices were distributed among CWSN by the department in two camps covering all four education zones.

## SvaNidhi Se Samridhi: Awareness camp held for street vendors at Shopian

DC calls for maximum registration for financial assistance under SvaNidhi, social security schemes

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**SHOPIAN, AUG 05:** In order to acquaint street vendors and their families about various welfare and social security schemes, Municipal Council Shopian today organized an awareness camp for them at Government Degree College (GDC) Shopian.

The camp was presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta, and attended by officers of departments along with scores of street vendors, traders and representatives of various market & business bodies of the Shopian town.

Speaking on the occasion, DC stressed that waste generation must be properly segregated and asked street

vendors to act as responsible citizens by adhering to the good market and business values.

He also asked them to keep bins with their carts for waste collection. Water and land resources must be preserved for future generations, said DC while deploring the practice of some traders who throw waste in water bodies and in open areas of the town.

Gupta informed them about the upcoming dedication of Vending Zone in the town for the allotment of street vendors and called for their cooperation in mitigating the traffic concerns in the town.

Earlier, CEO, MC Shopian gave a brief about the prog-



ress of PM SvaNidhi. Out of a total of 234 registered vendors in the town, 221 vendors have taken benefits till date under the scheme.

He informed them about the Helpline and Facilitation Centre in place in the office at MC Shopian and called upon them to approach the centre for availing the financial assistance under any scheme.

He also presented the eligibility and benefits of various important schemes of the Government available for the street vendors including social security schemes of PMJJBY, PMSBY, labour welfare and social welfare besides other financial security schemes.

Green Bin for wet waste

and Blue Bin for dry waste along with stopping the usage of polythene & other harmful products of environmental pollution was emphasized, so was the usage of biodegradables like paper, cloth and jute bags.

LDM, J&K Bank also highlighted the key benefits of Atal Pension Yojana scheme guaranteeing monthly pension after the age of 60 with a meagre monthly premium.

Street Vendors were also exhorted to ensure cent per cent Digital onboarding & Digital payments in their business transactions and advised to conduct transactions sustainably and transparently within market norms.



# Sakeena Itoo reviews functioning of Health, Social Welfare, Education departments in Poonch

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**POONCH, AUG 05:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today chaired a meeting to review the performance and functioning of Health, Social Welfare and Education departments in Poonch district.

The meeting was attended by MLA Haveli, Ajaz Ahmed Jan; MLA Surankote, Choudhary Mohammad Akram; Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal; Director Social Welfare Jammu, Director School Education Jammu, Director Health Services Jammu, Director Colleges, Medical Superintendent District Hospital Poonch besides other district and sectoral officers.

While reviewing the functioning of education sector, the Minister had in-depth assessment of ongoing works on under construction buildings. She directed the concerned executing agencies to complete the projects in time so that they can be dedicated for public use at the earliest.



The Minister further directed the Director School Education to prioritize deployment of subject-specific teachers and rationalization of staff, particularly in border zones and far-flung hamlets. She also emphasized the periodic teacher training, strengthening School Management Committees (SMCs) and community involvement

in ensuring quality education.

"Education is the foundation for every society and the government is investing both human and infrastructural resources to give children a bright future they deserve", she stated.

Regarding health sector, the Minister sought details of all ongoing projects as well as staff position in

healthcare institutions of the district.

She directed the Director Health services Jammu to cancel the attachment of all doctors and send them to their original place of postings immediately. She further called for deployment of doctors to other remote areas once a week or as per need to provide basic health care services to the public at

their doorsteps.

"A healthy society forms the backbone of a progressive region. People living in rural and border areas deserve equitable access to quality healthcare", the Minister asserted.

She also asked the healthcare department to minimise the referral of the patients to higher institutions.

While reviewing implementation of various social sector schemes in the district, the Minister emphasized the need for transparency in selection of beneficiaries. She directed the officers to organize more awareness camps in rural and tribal areas to ensure that deserving populations are not left out due to lack of information and awareness.

"Social welfare must translate into real impact. It's not just about disbursement but also about dignity and empowerment of the most vulnerable sections of the society", she said.

During the meeting, MLA Haveli and MLA Surankote raised various issues of their concerned constituents,

seeking their immediate redressal.

The Minister assured them these concerns will be addressed promptly.

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, briefed the Minister about the performance and functioning of each department through presentation.

He informed the Minister about the enrolments, cadre-wise strength of teaching faculty, infrastructure development, school upgradation and other key school developmental projects, healthcare infrastructure, status of ambulances, work done report and healthcare services being provided to the patient's across the district.

He also briefed the Minister about the services being provided by the social welfare department like old age, widow and PHC pension schemes, state marriage assistance scheme, motorised tricycle scheme, functioning of child care institutions and child protection, one stop centres, District hub for women empowerment and other related aspects.

## Asian Star London Showcases Padma Shri Balwant Thakur

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**LONDON, AUG 05:** Asian Star Radio, London, brought a rare treat to its listeners today with an exclusive feature on the celebrated theatre personality Padma Shri Balwant Thakur. Aired during primetime across London and Birmingham, the special program delved deep into Thakur's vibrant creative journey, offering listeners an inspiring glimpse into the life and legacy of one of India's foremost cultural ambassadors.

Hosted by the dynamic and engaging anchor Payal, the hour long show turned into a masterclass in theatre, culture, and international collaboration. Touching upon a wide range of subjects from cross-cultural storytelling to the global future of Indian theatre, the broadcast proved to be both informative and enriching for a diverse audience.



Currently on a creative mission in the UK, Balwant Thakur spoke passionately about his ongoing tour and the series of events he is undertaking to expand the global footprint of Natrang, his Jammu-based theatre organization. Highlighting his recent visit to Shakespeare's Birthplace in Stratford-upon-Avon, Thakur shared his profound experience of engaging with resident actors who performed excerpts from Romeo and Juliet especially for him. Inspired by the experience, he revealed his ambitious plan to develop a new cross-cultural theatre production based on the folk tale Kunju Chanchlo from the Jammu region. Drawing parallels with Shakespearean themes of love and tragedy, Thakur envisions this production as a powerful Indo-English narrative that will resonate with audiences across both cultures.

Expanding on his creative pursuits, Thakur also spoke of his research into the internationally acclaimed musical The Lion King. With admiration for its scale, spectacle, and storytelling, he expressed his desire to conceptualize an even grander production based on Indian mythology. "Our stories are deeply layered, emotionally rich, and culturally vibrant," he noted. "The only thing we lack is professional showcasing access to world class production facilities, cutting-edge technologies, and large scale spectacle-making. With the right support, Indian narratives can not only match but surpass global benchmarks in engagement and universal appeal."

Reflecting on his previous visit to the UK, Thakur reminisced about his acclaimed performance Celebrating Diversity, a visually stunning, dance-based narrative that was staged before an audience of over 50,000 at Trafalgar Square. The production, which portrayed the multifaceted cultural identity of Jammu and Kashmir, received overwhelming applause and was later presented at the British Parliament, further amplifying its cultural impact on international audiences.

Earlier in his international engagements, Thakur had also represented India at an international seminar hosted by the prestigious University of Oxford. There, he presented key findings from his Ford Foundation USA supported research project titled In Search of a New Theatre Language. His work explored innovative approaches to theatre-making that bridge traditional Indian performance arts with contemporary global aesthetics.

## GDC Vijaypur organises seminar on 'Role of J&K youth in achieving Viksit Bharat@2047'

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**SAMBA, AUG 05:** As part of the Independence Day Celebrations 2025, Government Degree College Vijaypur organised a seminar competition on the theme "Role of J&K Youth in Achieving Viksit Bharat@2047".

The event aimed to promote youth engagement, critical think-

ing and national responsibility among students.

Students from various departments participated enthusiastically, presenting their views on how the youth of Jammu & Kashmir can contribute to India's vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047—the centenary year of independence.

Principal Dr Ashu Vashist in-

augurated the seminar and emphasised the role of youth as change-makers and nation-builders. "The aspirations and innovation of our young minds are pivotal for realising the dream of Viksit Bharat by 2047. Events like these nurture leadership, responsibility and a spirit of patriotism," she said.

A panel of judges comprising Prof Anita Jamwal (HoD Political

Science), Dr Anoop Kumar Bhagat (HoD Sociology) and Prof Ritu Bhagat (HoD Education) evaluated the participants based on content, clarity, originality and presentation.

Vinayak of Semester V secured the first position, followed by Akash of Semester V and Sudhanshu of Semester III in second and third places respectively.

Winners were felicitated with certificates recognising their insightful contributions and oratory skills.

The event concluded with the National Anthem and a vote of thanks by Prof Mamta Gupta (HoD Commerce), who appreciated the efforts of the organising faculty and the enthusiastic participation of students.

## Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign: Patriotic Zeal Echoes across Ramban District with Vibrant Theme-Based Activities

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**RAMBAN, AUG 05:** In a spirited celebration of patriotism, the District Administration Ramban, led by Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan, today organized a series of theme-based events under the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign. These events were conducted as per the activity calendar issued by the district administration, with the aim of instilling national pride and encouraging widespread public participation.

Various departments across the district enthusiastically participated in the campaign by organizing Tiranga Rangoli competitions in schools, polytechnic and other colleges besides public places. Students created vibrant and artistic Rangolis using tricolour themes and organic colours besides leaves and flowers, showcasing their creativity and patriotic fervour. These activities transformed educational institutions into hubs of colourful celebration and national pride.

In addition to Rangoli making, several

institutions conducted Rakhi making competitions, Tiranga rallies, painting activities, and awareness campaigns focused on Swachhata, water conservation, and personal hygiene. These events were held at Block, Tehsil, and Sub-Division levels, witnessing enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, and local residents. Students also presented cultural performances, including patriotic songs and skits, spreading the message of unity and devotion to the nation.

Participants, especially students, highlighted the unifying spirit of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign and motivated their peers, families, and neighbours to hoist the National Flag with pride atop their homes and establishments.

The participating youth encouraged everyone to continue taking part in the upcoming events under the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign leading up to Independence Day, thereby strengthening the spirit of unity, pride, and patriotism across Ramban district.

## GDC Ramkote organises intra-college National Anthem singing and painting competition



■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**KATHUA, AUG 05:** As part of the series of activities being organised to celebrate Independence Day, the NSS Unit of Government Degree College Ramkote today conducted an intra-college National Anthem singing competition.

The event was held under the guidance of the college Principal, Dr Rakesh Kumar Koul. A total of 13 students from BA Semesters I, III and V participated, showcasing their talent in singing.

The panel of judges comprised Prof Pankaj Nandan, IQAC Convener, and Prof Suresh Chander, Convener Cultural Committee. Participants performed renditions of the National Anthem with enthusiasm and were judged on confidence, pronun-

ciation and intonation.

Tania Sharma of BA Semester III secured the first position, followed by Monika Devi of BA Semester V and Kriti Devi of BA Semester III in second and third positions respectively.

An intra-college painting competition was also organised on the theme 'Portraits of Unsung Heroes of Indian Independence'. Students used the opportunity to artistically honour those whose contributions to the freedom struggle remain less recognised.

The painting competition was adjudged by Prof Pankaj Nandan and Prof Vasundra Raje. Taniya Sharma of BA Semester V bagged first position, Meenakshi Sharma of BA Semester III secured second, and Latasha Sharma of BA Semester V placed third.

## District Development Council Reasi approves ₹6277.53 lakh District Capex Budget for FY 2025-26

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**REASI, AUG 05:** The District Development Council (DDC) Reasi, chaired by DDC Chairperson Saraf Singh Nag, today approved the District Capex Budget of ₹6277.53 lakh for the financial year 2025-26. The budget includes ₹1147.34 lakh for ongoing works and ₹5130.19 lakh for new development proposals, aimed at accelerating infrastructure development and service delivery.

The meeting was attended by MLA Reasi Kuldeep Raj Dubey, MLA Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Baldev Raj Sharma, Vice Chairperson DDC Sajira Qadir, ADDC Reasi Sukhdev Singh Samyal, DDC Members and senior district officials.

Chairperson Saraf Singh Nag commended the consistent efforts of council members and line departments. He called for regular monitoring and strict quality control. He also directed a detailed inquiry into the NHM building at Pouni and instructed the Health Department to maintain proper documentation.

Vice Chairperson Sajira Qadir highlighted the need for constructing a two-storey building at Government High School Lar. Chief Planning Officer Narinder Kumar delivered a pre-



sentation covering the district's development status, achievements and investment priorities.

Council members actively raised local concerns. DDC Panthal sought funding for school playgrounds and infrastructure, along with road and bridge upgradation. DDC Ransoo demanded playgrounds in Pouni and Ransoo. DDC Thakrakote pointed out delays in sanctioned school building work. DDC Pouni highlighted staff shortages at PHC Pouni and the urgent need for hand pump repairs. DDC Reasi stressed canal repairs, road connectivity and the need to verify all works.

The ADDC stressed time-bound completion and quality adherence. He noted the Capex Plan was prepared with department and stakeholder input.

MLA Reasi emphasised the importance of project inspections to ensure transparency. Both MLAs urged timely, quality execution and community engagement.

The Council resolved to prioritise capital investment in sectors such as Education, Health, ICDS, PDD and RDD. With the plan now approved, the district administration will begin implementation to ensure swift and impactful development.

## DC Ramban Reviews Arrangements for Shri Krishna Janmashtami Celebrations

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**RAMBAN, AUG 05:** Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, today chaired a review meeting to discuss and finalize the preparations for the upcoming Shri Krishna Janmashtami celebrations in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak, CPO Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather, senior officers of various departments, prominent citizens, and religious leaders.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments to ensure flawless arrangements to provide a smooth, safe, and spiritually enriching experience for devotees.

He laid special emphasis on security, sanitation, traffic regulation, and the provision of essential public amenities.

DC directed the Traffic Police to ensure proper traffic regulation in Ramban town, while Municipal authorities were instructed to maintain cleanliness and hygiene around the temples, especially along the route of the Shri Krishna Jhanki, which is expected to witness participation from across Ramban.

He further instructed officers to make adequate arrangements for drinking water, ambulance and medical staff deployment, fire and emergency services, and uninterrupted power supply for the festival.





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# Vaughan Backs Brook as Stokes' Test Successor



LONDON: Former England captain Michael Vaughan has strongly endorsed Harry Brook as the ideal successor to Ben Stokes in the Test format, citing the 25-year-old's leadership qualities, temperament, and recent match-winning form. Brook's explosive 111 off 98 balls in the ongoing Test not only pulled England back into contention but also reaffirmed Vaughan's belief that the Yorkshire batter is destined for a bigger role in the national setup.

"Harry Brook, to me, looks a leader. He looks a born leader," Vaughan said while speaking on the Test Match Special podcast. "When you watch him on the field, there's a certain presence. He doesn't just bat with authority — he carries himself like someone who could run the show."

Brook's recent appointment as England's white-ball captain and his successful series win against the West Indies have added weight to Vaughan's argument. Though the West Indies were far from their best, Brook's calm decision-making and confident handling of the squad marked a promising start to his leadership journey.

In contrast, Vaughan cast some doubts over current vice-captain Ollie Pope's suitability for the top job. While acknowledging Pope's tactical awareness and value as a deputy, he questioned whether the 27-year-old had the assertive leadership qualities needed to take charge full-time.

"Ollie Pope is a fantastic deputy. He's intelligent, sharp, and probably one of the best people to have alongside a captain. But that doesn't always translate into

being the main leader. I've seen it before — Marcus Trescothick was my perfect vice-captain, but no one saw him as a captain-in-waiting."

Pope is currently captaining England for the fifth time, having stepped in for Stokes previously due to injury. Though he's regarded as a core part of the team's future, Vaughan believes leadership demands a different mindset — one that Brook seems to have naturally.

"We shouldn't just think about hierarchy. It's not about who's next in line, it's about who leads best under pressure, who players respond to, and who sets the tone. Brook ticks those boxes for me," Vaughan said.

He also emphasized that modern cricket requires bold, instinctive leaders — captains who are willing to take risks, much like Stokes himself. "You need someone who isn't afraid to back their gut, to make a call even if it's unpopular. Brook has shown he has that kind of edge — both as a batter and as a leader."

Vaughan's comments come at a crucial juncture as England face a transition phase in leadership, with Stokes battling recurring injuries and workload concerns. While the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has yet to make any announcements regarding long-term captaincy plans, Brook's name is now firmly in the mix, thanks to Vaughan's strong endorsement.

As England eyes a fresh leadership blueprint in the post-Stokes era, Brook's poise under pressure, coupled with his already-growing reputation as a match-winner, may just give him the edge over others in the leadership race.

## Tauson Stuns Swiatek to Reach Montreal Quarters

■ United News of India

MONTREAL: Clara Tauson of Denmark upset second-seeded Wimbledon champion Iga Swiatek of Poland 7-6 (1), 6-3 on Sunday night to reach the National Bank Open quarterfinals.

The 6-foot Tauson, seeded 16th in the hard-court event that ends Thursday, avenged a loss to Swiatek at Wimbledon to set up a match Tuesday with sixth-seeded Australian Open winner Madison Keys of the United States.

"I think, obviously, getting a win against her after losing to her in Wimbledon a couple of weeks ago is, obviously, nice, because I was not feeling great in that match, and I felt like I was playing some good tennis in Wimbledon," Tauson said. "So I felt like if I could keep that going, I thought I had a shot."

Tauson won her lone tour title in New Zealand in January, beating fellow Montreal quarterfinalist



Naomi Osaka of Japan in the final.

Keys outlasted 11th-seeded Karolina Muchova of Czechia 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 in the windy afternoon session.

"Clara's a fantastic ball-striker," Keys said about the quarterfinal match. "She's got a big serve. She's got a lot of power on both sides. She covers the court quite well on top of everything, so I feel like she's one of those matches where you kind of have to temper a little bit and not go for things too quickly."

Osaka also advanced in the afternoon, routing Anastasiya Sevastova of Latvia 6-1, 6-0 in 49 minutes — the second-fastest victory of her career. Osaka had a 42-minute victory in a 2016 event in Brazil.

Osaka reached the final eight of a WTA 1000 or Grand Slam event for the first time in 19 months. On Tuesday, she will face 10th-seeded Elina Svitolina of Ukraine, a 6-4, 6-1 winner over fifth-seed Amanda Anisimova of the United States.

On Monday night in the quarterfinals, 18-year-old Canadian Victoria Mboko will face Jessica Bouzas Maneiro of Spain, and Marta Kostyuk of Ukraine will meet ninth-seeded Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan.

## Messi has a 'minor' muscle injury, Inter Miami says timeline for return is unknown



■ United News of India

FORT LAUDERDALE: Inter Miami star Lionel Messi is dealing with a minor

muscle injury in his right leg after being hurt in the opening minutes of Saturday's Leagues Cup match against Necaxa, the club said

Sunday.

Messi underwent tests on his right leg after experiencing discomfort following a play in which he fell

while being challenged by a pair of Necaxa defenders, in a game Inter Miami won on penalty kicks.

His timeline for return isn't yet known, though it seems unlikely that he will be available for Miami's next Leagues Cup match against UNAM Pumas on Wednesday.

Inter Miami said in a

release that Messi's medical clearance will depend on how he responds to treatment.

Messi slapped his hand against the ground in frustration after the fall, which happened in the first 10 minutes of Saturday's match. He walked slowly toward the Inter Miami bench before sitting down on the pitch.

Trainers came out and worked on his right upper thigh area for a couple of minutes before he subbed out for Federico Redondo in the 11th. He then immediately walked to the locker room.

Miami coach Javier Mascherano said after the game that Messi wasn't in any pain.



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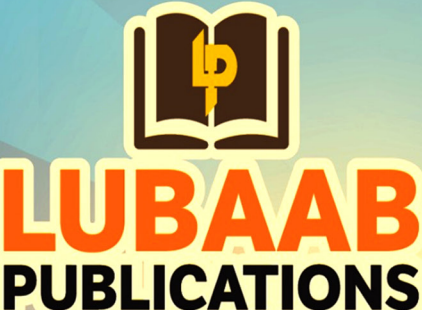
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