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# Ready to Pay Heaviest Price, However No Compromise On Farmer's Interests: PM Modi

■ HT News Desk

**NEW DELHI, AUG 7:** In a subtle message directed at US President Donald Trump, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that India will never compromise on the interests of its farmers and dairy sector, and declared he was prepared to bear a significant personal cost if necessary.

The statement came a day after Trump ratcheted up tariffs on Indian goods to 50 per cent, even as the two nations discuss a bilateral trade deal. The trade deal has been struck over the US demand for greater access to India's agricultural

and dairy market.

It wants reduced tariffs on products like corn, soybeans, apples, almonds and ethanol, as well as increased access for US dairy products. New Delhi is, however, resisting these demands as these will have a direct bearing on farmers.

"Hamare liye apane kisanon ka hit sarvoch prathamikta hai. Bharat apne kisanon, pashu paalakon aur machhuaare bhai-bahanon ke hiton ke saath kabhi bhi samjhuata nahin karega. (For us, the interests of farmers are our top priority. India will never compromise on the interests of its farmers, dairy farmers and fishermen)," Modi said addressing



a three-day global conference to mark the birth centenary of late renowned agri-scientist M S Swaminathan.

To protect farmers' interests, the prime minister said he was ready to personally pay the huge price. "Main jaanata hoon ki vyaktigat roop se mujhe bahut badee keemat chukaane padegee. Lekin main iske liye taiyaar hoon." (I know that I will personally have to pay a heavy price. But I am ready for it).

Further, he said, "Mere desh ke machhuaaron ke liye, mere desh ke pashu paalokon ke liye aaj Bharat taiyaar hai." (Today, India is ready (to pay the

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## Tourism has Huge Potential in Gurez For Employment Generation: Omar Abdullah

CM Expresses Optimism While Attending National Tribal Festival at Gurez

■ HT News Desk

**GUREZ, AUG 7:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today reaffirmed his government's commitment to the development and upliftment of Gurez and its people. Speaking at the valedictory function of the two-day



National Tribal Festival Gurez-2025 held at the picturesque border village of Chorwan in Gurez, the Chief Minister assured residents that Gurez remains high on his government's priority list.

He lauded the peace-loving nature of the people of

TURN ON PAGE 2

## 2 CRPF personnel killed, 16 injured in Basantgarh accident

LG expresses grief, says will never forget their exemplary service

■ HT News Desk

**UDHAMPUR, AUG 07:** Two CRPF personnel were killed while 16 others sustained injuries after a vehicle they were travelling in met with an accident and plunged into a deep gorge in Basantgarh area of Udhampur district on Thursday.

Official sources said that the CRPF vehicle was on its way to a location in the hilly terrain when it skidded off the road and rolled down into a gorge, leading to casualties.

"Rescue operations were immediately launched and all the injured were evacuated from the accident site," an official said. "Two personnel died on the spot while 16 others were injured and have been shifted to a hospital for advanced treatment."

The deceased personnel have been identified as Anand Koach from Meghalaya

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## Statehood Restoration; Apex Court Likely To Hear The Plea On August 14

■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, AUG 07:** A plea seeking the restoration of Jammu & Kashmir's statehood is likely to be listed for hearing in the Supreme Court on August 14.

Talking to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), advocate Soayib Qureshi, said the case is likely to be listed for hearing on August 14. "We have prayed for a time-bound direction for restoration of J&K's state-

hood," he said, adding that the matter has not been listed for hearing tomorrow.

The case was mentioned on August 5 by senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan before a bench comprising Chief Justice of India B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran. Sankaranarayanan informed the court that the hearing was listed for August 8 on the Supreme Court website and requested that it not be removed from the cause list. The CJI had agreed to

the request.

The petition has been filed by Zahoor Ahmad Bhat, a lawyer and academician and Khurshaid Ahmad Malik, a socio-political activist.

The petition argues that the continued delay in restoring statehood violates the principle of federalism, which is part of the basic structure of the Constitution.

The petitioners have submitted that no steps have been taken to

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### FOOD CATASTROPHE:

## Panic Grips Kashmir As FDA Destroyed 3500 Kg's of Unlabelled, Rotten Meat

■ HT News Desk / KNO

**SRINAGAR, AUG 07:** In an ongoing crackdown on the supply of 'unsafe' meat and dressed chicken in Kashmir, the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) has seized and destroyed over 35 quintals (3,500 kg) of decomposed and unlabelled meat in recent days. The action is part of an intensified enforcement drive by the FDA to ensure food safety and public health.



Officials told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the seized consignments were either being transported or stored without proper labelling or cold-chain logistics, raising serious concerns over public health and food safety.

"The meat was in a decomposed condition, packed without any identification or temperature control. In many cases, we could not even

TURN ON PAGE 2

## Rotten Meat Smugglers Won't Be Spared: Minister

■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, AUG 07:** Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Satish Sharma on Thursday said that culprits involved in smuggling

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## Kashmiri entrepreneurs can tap opportunities in UAE and beyond: Sudhakaran

■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, AUG 07:** The Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) today hosted a landmark Open House titled Startup Transcend: Scaling Up Opportunities for Startups in the UAE, aimed at linking the local startups with the fast-evolving entrepreneurial ecosystem of the

Middle East.

The session, organized at JKEDI's main campus at Sempora, Pampore, featured an engaging talk by Siby Sudhakaran, CEO of Startup Middle East, who brought deep insights into how Kashmiri entrepreneurs can tap into opportunities in the UAE and beyond.

Speaking on the occasion, Khalid Jahangir,

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## Ladakh's Halman Apricot makes Int'l debut

First-ever shipment flagged-off to gulf nations

■ HT News Desk

**LADAKH, AUG 07:** In a landmark moment for Ladakh's Agri-export potential, the first-ever consignment of fresh Halman apricots was flagged off to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Qatar.

The virtual flag-off was conducted by the Chairman of APEDA, while Rudra Goud P.T. (IAS), Administrative Secretary, Industries & Commerce, UT

Ladakh, led the physical ceremony in Leh.

The event, jointly organized by APEDA and the UT administration in collaboration with M/s Fair Exports (India) Pvt. Ltd. — a subsidiary of LuLu Group International — marked a major milestone for local produce reaching international markets.

A total of 1.5 metric tonnes of premium

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## J&K achieves 81% tap water coverage under JJM: Centre

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, AUG 07:** The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), launched by the Government of India, has made significant strides in Jammu & Kashmir, with 15.6 lakh rural households (approximately 81% of the total rural households) now having access to tap water as of June 2025.

However, despite the notable progress, there remains a

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## CS Reviews Issues Facing J&K Varsities; Assures Early Resolution

■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, AUG 7:** In a significant move to strengthen the higher education in J&K, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting to take stock of the issues confronting various universities operating across the Union Territory.

The meeting aimed at accelerating the resolution of pending matters hampering the academic and infrastructural growth of these institutions.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Higher Education Department, Shantmanu; Principal Secretaries of the Finance, Public Works (R&B), and Agriculture

Production Departments; Secretaries of Health and Rural Development; Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir; Deputy Commissioners concerned; Managing Directors of JPDCL and KPDCL; Director General, Budget and other senior officials.

Vice Chancellors of all the major universities in J&K, both academic and agricultural, also participated.

During the deliberations, the Chief Secretary underscored the importance of timely intervention and seamless coordination between universities and line departments. He emphasized that institutions of higher learning deserve the utmost seriousness in addressing their issues, given their critical role in

shaping the educational and innovation ecosystem of the UT.

He directed the Higher Education Department to document all innovative practices, including research projects, patents, start-ups and other unique academic initiatives, being undertaken across these institutions. Such documentation, he said, would help in knowledge sharing and replication of successful models elsewhere in the UT.

In a significant push for human resource development, the Chief Secretary also urged the universities to design crash courses for capacity building of government employees across departments. He further directed for mapping of all skill development and vocational

courses being offered, to help align academic offerings with market and governance needs.

The ACS, Higher Education, provided an overview of the key issues affecting the universities. He also highlighted the problems that have already been addressed through inter-departmental coordination.

Taking a university-wise assessment, the Chief Secretary engaged directly with each Vice Chancellor to understand institution-specific bottlenecks. These included issues related to land transfers, creation of academic and non-teaching posts, allocation of additional funds, infrastructure augmentation, delays

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### AN APPEAL TO MAKE A COLLECTIVE EFFORT

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



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## CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

### Ready to Pay.....

price) for the fishermen and dairy farmers,) Modi also released a commemorative coin and stamp in honour of the legendary scientist.

During his address, the prime minister highlighted various schemes implemented by the government for the all-around development of the farm and allied sector.

Hestressed the need to sustain food production amid the growing challenges of climate change.

Modi called for developing more climate-resilient varieties of crops, including heat-resistant. (Agencies)

### Tourism has.....

Gurez, acknowledging their unwavering commitment to peace even in challenging times. “Gurez has always stood as a symbol of resilience and harmony. My government recognises this spirit and is determined to ensure that the region progresses in all spheres,” he said.

Emphasising the need for improved connectivity, the Chief Minister assured the people that efforts are underway to provide mobile network coverage to keep Gurez connected with the rest of the country.

Highlighting the tourism potential of Gurez valley, the Chief Minister urged the residents to work together to keep Gurez clean and pollution-free. “Gurez is blessed with immense natural beauty, and it is our collective responsibility to preserve it for future generations. While we want development and progress for the region, it must be balanced with safeguarding its heritage, culture and traditions,” he said.

The Chief Minister noted that the expansion of tourism will create employment opportunities, especially for the youth of Gurez.

Earlier, the Chief Minister toured various stalls showcasing local produce, herbs, traditional foods, and handicrafts. Tribal dance performances by cultural troupes from Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat added colour and diversity to the celebrations.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister also distributed appreciation certificates to women-led Self Help Groups for their entrepreneurial efforts.

Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani; MLA Gurez, Nazir Ahmad Gurezi; MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Sadiq; Additional Secretary, Tribal Affairs (Government of India); Secretary, Tribal Affairs (J&K); and Director, Tribal Affairs also spoke on the occasion.

Later, he also inaugurated and witnessed a polo match and flagged off a trekking group from Gurez, promoting the region's potential for adventure tourism. Additionally, he planted saplings at the Tourist Reception Centre in Gurez as part of a green initiative.

Earlier in the morning, the Chief Minister held a grievance redressal camp at Wampora, Dawar, where residents from various areas including Chorwan, Kanzalwan, Tulail, Markote, and Bagtore raised issues concerning road and mobile connectivity, upgradation of educational institutions, banking facilities, ATM services, community bunkers, and employment opportunities. The Chief Minister patiently listened to all grievances and assured timely redressal.

He said that since the time of Sher-e-Kashmir, has remained committed to delivering justice to the people of Gurez. “We understand the hardships faced by the people of this region. Our government has empathy and commitment to address these concerns,” he remarked.

### Apex Court.....

lay out a clear timeline or implement the Supreme Court's December 2023 directive that 'restoration of statehood shall take place at the earliest and as soon as possible'.

The plea is listed for hearing at a time when political momentum around the issue is building.

The Congress party has launched a full-fledged campaign for restoration of statehood. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has written to all political parties, including BJP, to bring a bill in the Parliament during the ongoing monsoon session to restore J&K's statehood—(KNO)

### 2 CRPF personnel.....

and Arvind from Bihar.

The injured personnel include: Karle Gajanand, Sunil Xalxo from Jharkhand, Aneesh Kumar from Kerala, Milan Kumar from Jharkhand, Mohd Mushtaq from J&K (Rajouri), Gopa Ram from Rajasthan, Udharaj (ASI) from Uttar Pradesh, Jitender Pradhan from Jharkhand, S. Sudalai Mani from Tamil Nadu, Zala Vijay Kumar from Gujarat, Sonu Kumar from Jharkhand, Mukesh Kumar from Bihar, J. Hebram from Odisha, Rakesh Kumar from J&K (R.S. Pura), Dhanraj Pahade from Maharashtra, and Sukhwinder Singh from Delhi.

Meanwhile, Army helicopters were used to airlift the injured personnel to hospital for immediate and specialized medical care.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha also expressed condolences over the tragic incident. “Saddened by the loss of CRPF personnel due to an accident near Udhampur. We will never forget their exemplary service to the nation. My thoughts are with the bereaved families. Praying for the speedy recovery of the injured,” he posted on X.

He said that officials have been directed to ensure the best-possible assistance to the injured. (KNO)

### Panic Grips.....

open the packages due to the foul smell,” Smiti Sethi, Commissioner, FDA Kashmir told KNO.

The crackdown has sparked panic among those involved in the trade. Sethi said that illegal suppliers are now dumping meat consignments in open areas and even water bodies to evade detection.

“This is a panic response. They know we are closing in. So, before the material reaches markets or checkpoints, they are dumping it on roadsides or in water bodies,” Sethi said.

According to the officials, during the past 72 hours, raids have been conducted in several locations across Kashmir, including Srinagar, Pulwama, and Central Kashmir, where large stocks of suspected rotten poultry and mutton were seized. A single raid in Lasjan led to the seizure of over five quintals, where the owner of the stock is claiming the supply is for commercial distribution to restaurants and hotels.

The FDA says that public complaints were crucial in triggering the enforcement. Residents reported foul smells and suspicious movements, helping authorities identify storage points.

“People have turned into whistleblowers. We are grateful for their cooperation. With our limited staff, we can't reach every corner unless people help us,” Sethi said.

The crackdown is being supported by local police units, who have accompanied FDA officials during field operations. Officials say the coordination is crucial for ensuring safety and law enforcement during seizures.

As per the officials, cold storage units and meat supply hubs were now under the FDA's scanner. While the department has not yet named any specific facilities, officials confirmed that an investigation is underway.

“Yes, we are monitoring them closely. I won't reveal names right now due to the sensitivity of the probe,” Sethi said.

Samples from the seized stock have been sent for laboratory testing, and further legal action under the Food Safety and Standards Act is expected once reports arrive.

“This is just the beginning. We are committed to ensuring that only safe and legal food reaches the public,” Sethi added.

As per the officials, during the past two days, the department conducted a series of surprise inspections and raids in multiple locations. Notably, in the Safakadal and Parimpora areas of district Srinagar, enforcement teams seized 2,500 kababs found to be processed using frozen meat containing unpermitted food colour. These adulterated kebabs were destroyed on the spot and safely disposed-off to prevent any risk to public health.

Additionally, 150 kilograms of meatballs (Gushtaba) were also seized during the operations. Legal food samples of the seized products were collected by Food Safety Officers for detailed analysis and further legal action.

In a separate incident in the Nagbal area of district Ganderbal, approximately 250 kilograms of locally procured meat were destroyed due to visible signs of deterioration caused by improper handling and storage conditions—(KNO)

### Rotten Meat.....

rotten meat into Kashmir won't be spared, and blanket ban would be imposed on the entry of illegal packed food items entering the valley.

Talking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) Sharma said, “Health Minister Sakina Itoo and Agriculture Minister Javed Dar took separate meetings with stakeholders today. A high-level meeting will be held on Friday to devise a strategy to prevent the rotten meat from entering into Kashmir.”

Sharma said that law enforcing agencies, including J&K Police, will be involved, to act against the accused involved in this illegal trade. “We are going to act tough and no one will be spared. It's a big Mafia and it will be dealt with an iron fist.”

Pertinently, officials on Thursday said that during the past few days the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) seized and destroyed over 35 quintals (3,500 kg) of decomposed and unlabelled meat across Kashmir.

The seized consignments, as per officials, were either being transported or stored without proper labelling or cold-chain logistics.

“The meat was in a decomposed condition, packed without any identification or temperature control. In many cases, we could not even open the packages due to the foul smell,” Smiti Sethi, Commissioner, FDA Kashmir told KNO.

“The crackdown has sparked panic among those involved in the trade. The illegal suppliers are now dumping meat consignments in open areas and even water bodies to evade detection, Sethi added.

“This is just the beginning. We are committed to ensuring that only safe and legal food reaches the public,” she said—(KNO)

### Kashmiri entrepreneurs.....

Secretary in Industries and Commerce Department and Director, JKEDI, highlighted Jammu and Kashmir's rich heritage of enterprise and trade. He underlined how today's dynamic environment demands that local entrepreneurs look outward and explore cross-border collaborations to scale and sustain their businesses.

“The Middle East, particularly the UAE, offers sector-specific platforms, strategic partners,

and investor networks that can help startups from J&K build scalable, technology-driven, future-ready ventures,” he said, emphasizing JKEDI's commitment towards providing global linkages and mentorship.

Siby Sudhakaran, in his address, elaborated on the potential of the UAE's startup ecosystem, including free zones, incubators and dedicated investment platforms that actively support high-potential businesses. Drawing on his experience of organizing Dubai Expo 2020 and building a strong startup community thereafter, he encouraged J&K entrepreneurs to explore partnerships, identify strategic sectors and establish a competitive niche for their ventures.

“I am a startup for startups,” Sudhakaran remarked, inspiring the participants to leverage Middle East networks to create breakthrough collaborations. He highlighted the success stories where such linkages turned fledgling ideas into unicorn companies.

He stressed on the local startups of UT of J&K to identification of the sector specific support being provided by the various platforms across Middle East and exploring the mainland and free zones for their startups in the Middle East. He described that Startup Middle East can help the startups to scale their businesses in the areas of UAE and Dubai.

The event drew enthusiastic participation from early-stage founders, ecosystem enablers and student innovators. The interactive Q&A session gave participants an opportunity to clarify how they could align their business models with opportunities in the UAE and other Middle Eastern markets.

The session concluded with a reaffirmation of JKEDI to its mission to build a globally connected startup ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir, announcing its plans for a Startup Idea Challenge across educational institutions to foster innovation and entrepreneurship from a young age.

### Ladakh's Halman.....

Halman apricots, procured from Kargil and supplied by M/s Halman Apricot Kargil, were shipped after undergoing rigorous quality checks and international-standard packaging supported by APEDA's export facilitation.

Known for their sweetness, rich flavour and long shelf life, Halman apricots are a traditional crop of Ladakh's high-altitude valleys. The export initiative comes under APEDA's “One District One Product” and “Vocal for Local, Global Outreach” missions, aimed at promoting indigenous produce to global consumers.

Officials hailed the effort as a model of successful collaboration between farmers, FPOs, government bodies and private exporters. APEDA's regional head for J&K and Ladakh said, “This milestone is a tribute to the potential of Ladakhi produce and a boost for rural economy and global branding.”

M/s Fair Exports (India) Pvt. Ltd. noted a rising demand for Himalayan-origin fruits in Gulf markets and committed to scaling up procurement in future seasons.

The flag-off event saw participation from horticulture officials, local entrepreneurs, FPO members and administration representatives — all celebrating a new chapter for Ladakh's agribusiness landscape.

With this successful maiden export, the Halman apricot steps into the global spotlight, offering new opportunities for economic growth and farmer empowerment in the region. (KNO)

### J&K achieves.....

gap in providing 100% coverage to all villages, with only 1,293 villages achieving the 'Har Ghar Jal' status, highlighting that 100% of rural households in these villages now have tap water.

This information was shared by the Minister of Jal Shakti, C.R. Patil, in response to a question in the Lok Sabha.

As per the latest figures, the total number of rural households (HHs) in J&K stands at 19.26 lakh, of which 5.75 lakh (around 29.88%) had access to tap water at the commencement of the JJM in August 2019.

The Minister also addressed complaints related to the mission's implementation, revealing that J&K had received complaints concerning defective faucets and insufficient water supply in certain regions. Since water supply is a state subject, grievances related to such issues are typically handled at the state level and are forwarded to local authorities for resolution.

Additionally, citizens can lodge complaints on the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS), which are subsequently forwarded to the concerned state departments for corrective action.

Despite the progress made, several challenges remain in fully implementing the Jal Jeevan Mission in the region. These include inadequate water sources in certain water-stressed areas, Geographic difficulties and scattered rural populations, which make the installation of infrastructure challenging.

Limited technical capacity at the local level, including Gram Panchayats and local communities, to properly manage and maintain water supply systems. Delays in obtaining statutory clearances and issues related to the matching state share for funding.

The Ministry of Jal Shakti has also taken several steps to address these challenges, including financial assistance through interest-free loans, coordination with other ministries for obtaining clearances and the introduction of

the ‘Nal Jal Mitra Programme’ to ensure the availability of skilled local personnel for water management.

To ensure the continued success of JJM, the Ministry has recommended measures like source recharging, rainwater harvesting and the reuse of greywater in a bid to conserve and manage water resources more efficiently.

The government is also encouraged to collaborate with other national programs like the MGNREGS and Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for better water resource management. (KNO)

### CS Reviews.....

in ongoing construction works and other operational challenges.

The Chief Secretary issued on-spot directions to the concerned departments for resolving these issues in a time-bound

and mission-mode manner, underscoring the need for expedited action.

The participating universities included University of Kashmir, University of Jammu, Cluster University Srinagar, Cluster University Jammu, Central University of Kashmir, Central University of Jammu, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST), Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU) and Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology, Kashmir /Jammu.

The Chief Secretary concluded the meeting by reiterating the government's commitment towards strengthening the higher education and research infrastructure in the UT. He directed all the stakeholders to ensure continuous engagement and monitoring to overcome any hurdle faced by these vital institutions.

#### Terror-Funding Case

## NIA court frames charges against 2 accused

#### ■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, AUG 7:** In a significant breakthrough in the ongoing efforts to dismantle the financial and logistical support system of terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir, the NIA court in Srinagar has framed charges in a high-profile terror funding case. According to a statement, charges have been framed against two accused—Shabir Ahmad Bhat of Kakapora and Javid Ahmad Yatoo of Pampore—while criminal proceedings have also been initiated against absconding Pakistan based LeT handler Sumama alias Babar alias Ilyas, who is also an accused in the case.

“The investigation was conducted by Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK). The case pertains to a criminal conspiracy by handlers and commanders of the proscribed terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) from across the Line of Control (LoC), who, in close coordination with Pakistani nationals based in Gulf countries and other foreign territories, have been channeling terror funds into Jammu & Kashmir,” it reads.

It added these funds were being routed through a well-organized network using couriers camouflaged as pilgrims, expatriates, and businessmen, thereby camouflaging illicit financial flows under the guise of religious and commercial travel.

“During the course of investigation, it was established that Shabir Ahmad Bhat was in constant and secure communication with the Pakistan-based LeT handler Sumama, using encrypted messaging applications. While in Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah, Shabir, on the instructions of the handler, received large sums of Saudi Riyals from known LeT conduits in Madina. Additionally, he coordinated with

other Kashmiri residents who had travelled for Umrah, instructing them to collect money from specific individuals whose identities and locations were shared by him,” it reads.

The statement reads upon returning to Kashmir, these couriers handed over the funds to Shabir Ahmad Bhat, who then converted the foreign currency into Indian rupees and further distributed the funds among active terrorists and their families, as per directions from the LeT handler. “The investigation also revealed the pivotal role of another accused Javid Ahmad Yatoo in facilitating and establishing contact between Shabir Ahmad Bhat and the LeT handler in Pakistan. His involvement was instrumental in enabling the functioning of this transnational funding module,” it added.

The statement added the framing of charges in this case marks an important milestone in the sustained efforts of Counter Intelligence Kashmir to identify, expose and dismantle terror funding networks operating under the radar.

It reads that two more individuals—Mohammad Ayoub Bhat of Budgam and Mohammad Rafiq Shah of Srinagar have also been recently arrested in the case. “The investigation led to the seizure of electronic devices, bank statements, transaction logs, and other documents which expose a deeply embedded and covert hawala infrastructure used to fund terrorism,” it added.

The statement reads these recoveries have further corroborated the existence of a well-structured, underground financial network sustaining terrorism in the region. “Arrests of additional co-conspirators are likely as the investigation continues to unfold”. (KNO)

## Traffic Police Rural Jammu launches special drive against overloading, other violations in Samba, Kathua

#### ■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**JAMMU, AUG 07:** Traffic

Police Rural Jammu today launched a special drive in the Samba-Kathua area to curb overloading and other traffic violations. The drive was conducted under the overall supervision of SSP Traffic Rural Jammu, G.L. Sharma, accompanied by DySP Traffic Samba-Kathua, Sukhdev Singh, along with the concerned DTIs and SOs Traffic.

The primary objective of the drive was to address the menace of overloading in passenger vehicles and take strict action against habitual violators. The initiative aims to ensure that owners and drivers of commercial passenger vehicles strictly comply with traffic rules and avoid violations under the Motor Vehicles Act and associated rules.

During the drive, 39 vehicles, including 18 buses (including one school bus), 14 mini-buses and seven light passenger vehicles, were challaned for various violations, primarily for overloading.

It is pertinent to mention that, during the current year, 3,526 vehicles have already been challaned for overloading passengers by Traffic Police Rural Jammu. Vehicles



found repeatedly violating traffic norms have also been recommended for cancellation of their registration certificates and route permits.

Alongside enforcement, regular road safety awareness programmes are being conducted across the jurisdiction of this unit. These initiatives involve collaboration with local police, the Motor Vehicles Department, civil administration, educational institutions, transporters, drivers and other stakeholders to promote adherence to the Motor Vehicles Act and rules.

SSP Traffic Rural Jammu emphasised the need for discipline, accountability

and transparency in traffic enforcement. He directed all traffic personnel to deal strictly with violators under relevant legal provisions and instructed that all officers and officials must wear body-worn cameras while performing enforcement and regulation duties.

In view of the ongoing monsoon season, the Dy.SP Traffic and enforcement/ regulation officers have been instructed to deploy traffic personnel in accident-prone and slippery zones. The focus remains on effectively curbing over-speeding and rash driving to minimise road accidents.



# Ethics Committee holds meeting in Srinagar

## Urges legislators to uphold integrity, contribute to public welfare

HT News Desk / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, AUG 08:** The Ethics Committee of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman Surjeet Singh Salathia and attended by the members including Javaid

Iqbal, Zafar Ali Khatana, Dr. Sajjad Shafi, Arvind Gupta, Daleep Singh, Surinder Kumar, and Mehraj Malik.

The Chairman underlined the importance of upholding the highest standards of conduct and integrity among legislators. He reiterated the Committee's commitment towards preserving the credibility of democratic institutions,

emphasizing that the integrity of these institutions rests upon the ethical behaviour of their members.

"We all must refrain from insulting other public representatives and officers in the public and always remember that we are custodians of a democratic tradition," the Chairman said.

Urging the legislators to con-



tribute positively towards the public welfare, the Chairman said that, "Our actions should reflect our responsibilities and serve as a model for dignity, accountability and respect in legislative functioning," the Chairman stated.

The Committee unanimously resolved that no member shall engage in disrespectful or insulting behaviour towards

any public representative, whether inside or outside the Assembly. It further decided that recommendations will be issued against the legislators who will be found violating the ethical norms.

The members who shared their valuable suggestions, assured their full cooperation in ensuring effective functioning of the Committee.

## Kulgam Police Conducts District-Wide Raids on Banned Literature

Farooq Rather

**KULGAM, AUG 07:** Kulgam Police conducted coordinated and legally monitored searches at multiple "Bookshops" across the district to prevent the circulation of Banned Literature associated with proscribed organisations.



The operation was carried out professionally and systematically to ensure strict adherence to legal provisions.

During the searches, all bookshop owners were sternly warned against stocking or distributing prohibited content. They were also sensitized about the legal consequences of violating these directives and instructed to strictly follow the guidelines.

Kulgam Police remains committed to upholding peace and public order. Citizens are urged to stay away from such proscribed material and report any suspicious activity, including the circulation of banned literature, to the nearest police station.

## Srinagar Police Raid Bookshops Over Banned Anti-National Books

Mohammad Hanif Khan

**SRINAGAR, AUG 7:** In compliance to Order No. Home-ISA/223/2025-11(7655892) dated August 5, 2025, raids were conducted in various bookshops for search and forfeiture of banned books across District Srinagar under the provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The objective of the operation was to identify, seize, and forfeit

any literature that propagates or systematically disseminates false narratives, promotes secessionist ideologies, or otherwise poses a threat to the Sovereignty and Unity of India.

These measures have been undertaken as part of a broader effort to counter subversive and anti-national content that could incite unrest or undermine National Integrity.

The searches were conducted



in a peaceful manner, and due legal process was followed.

Srinagar Police remains committed to upholding the rule of law and ensuring that no material or content which endangers the Security or Integrity of the Nation is allowed to circulate among the general public.

Further action, if warranted, will be taken under law, as per the findings of the ongoing investigation.

## DC Kulgam Visits MRCFC Khudwani

Reviews ongoing research and technological advancements

Farooq Rather

**KULGAM, AUG 07:** The Deputy Commissioner Kulgam Athar Aamir Khan (IAS) visited the Mountain Research Centre for Field Crops (MRCFC) Khudwani, SKUAST-K, to review ongoing research and technological advancements.

The DC was briefed on the Seed Production Programme and key research trials under the All India Coordinated Research Improvement Programme (AICRIP), focusing on crop improvement, agronomy, plant protection, and soil health.

Emphasis was laid on resource conservation technologies like Direct Seeded Rice (DSR), nano fertilizers, and residue management. He was also apprised of germplasm conservation efforts involving traditional rice varieties like Mushk-budji, Red Rice, and Shalimar Sugandh-1.

The DC toured modern laboratories, interacted with researchers, and lauded the centre's contributions to



sustainable agriculture. He assured full administrative support to strengthen agricultural research and innovation in the region.

Accompanying the DC were ADC

Viqar Ahmed Giri, ACR Riyaz Ahmad Shah, Dr. Najeeb ul Rehman, Associate Director Research MRCFC Khudwani, Scientists and researchers and other officers.

## SSP RURAL TRAFFIC LAUNCHES CRACKDOWN ON VIOLATORS IN MAGAM



Ubaid Mehd

**MAGAM, AUG 7:** SSP Rural Traffic Ravinder Pal Singh today led a decisive campaign against traffic violators in the Magam area of central Kashmir. During the enforcement drive, several vehicles and motorcycles were seized for violating traffic norms.

The action targeted individuals found driving without valid licenses, using non-J&K registration number plates, and riding without helmets. The campaign was aimed at promoting road safety and ensuring compliance with traffic rules.

Officials stated that such enforcement drives will continue across rural areas to instill discipline among commuters and

reduce road mishaps. Speaking to the media, SSP Ravinder Pal Singh said,

The way traffic violations are increasing and being committed with open defiance, it cannot be tolerated any longer. From now on, anyone found driving without a valid license, proper documents, or number plates will not be spared. Two-wheeler riders without helmets will have their bikes seized and will face heavy fines."

He further emphasized that such drives will continue across rural areas to promote road safety and accountability among motorists.

Authorities have urged the public to strictly follow traffic rules to avoid penalties and ensure safety for all road users.

## DC Kulgam Visits Sheikh ul Alam (RA) Shrine at Qaimoh, reviews Development Works

Stresses on maintaining quality and aesthetics in line with the heritage value of the site

Farooq Rather

**KULGAM, AUG 07:** The Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan (IAS), today visited the revered Shrine of Sheikh ul Alam (RA) at Qaimoh and paid obeisance.

During the visit, the DC reviewed the ongoing development project for the shrine, which is being undertaken on a heritage pattern to preserve its cultural and spiritual significance.

The project, with an estimated cost of

Rs 319 lakh, aims to enhance infrastructure while maintaining the shrine's traditional architectural essence.

The DC emphasized timely completion of the works and stressed on maintaining quality and aesthetics in line with the heritage value of the site.

He also interacted with local stakeholders and took stock of their suggestions regarding the shrine's development.

Accompanying the DC were ADC Viqar Ahmed Giri, ACR Riyaz Ahmad Shah, CEO, CMO and other officers.



## One-Day Seminar on Drug Abuse Held at Altaf Memorial GDC Kilam

HT News Desk

**KULGAM, AUG 7:** In alignment with the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan, Altaf Memorial Government Degree College, Kilam, in collaboration with the J&K Society for Promotion of Youth and Masses (JKSPYM) – the State Level Coordinating Agency (SLCA) – organized a one-day seminar on Drug Abuse to raise awareness among students and faculty members.

The event was formally inaugurated by the College's Incharge Principal, Dr. Shabir Ahmad Padder, who, in his address, highlighted the alarming issue of drug abuse and its adverse effects on individual lives and the nation's development. He emphasized the importance of adhering to preventive measures advocated by various agencies to stay away from the menace.

The guest speaker on the occasion, Ms. Asma, Counsellor at the Drug De-addiction Centre, Kulgam,



delivered an insightful and extensive lecture on drug abuse, its psychological and social impacts, and the importance of early intervention. She also conducted an interactive session with students, aiming to motivate them to understand the dangers of drug addiction and avoid the use of illegal substances.

The session concluded with an open discussion in which students and faculty members actively participated, sharing thoughts and concerns regarding the growing challenge of substance abuse in society.

The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks presented by Prof. Suhail Salam Bhat, who expressed gratitude to all guests, participants, and organizers for making the seminar meaningful and impactful.



HT EDITORIAL

## SMC needs to move with time in correcting defunct street lights

Being the main civic body of Srinagar city the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) is entrusted with the responsibility of providing all the basic amenities to the residents of the city and those living in its outskirts. Few years back the government shifted the functioning of the various departments to the SMC and the corporation officials were directed to carry out the working of departments like public works department (PWD), public health engineering (PHE) and some others.

Although the people at helm tried their best to shift the assets and liabilities of the power development department (PDD) to SMC the move could not take off. However, at the same time the electric wing of the SMC was asked to carry out repairs of the street lights installed in the different areas of the city. In the past the people used to run from pillar to post as and when any street light turned defunct in any area of the city.

Over the past few years the situation has changed a lot and the concerned staff members of the SMC have been doing a commendable job in repairing the defunct street lights. However, as of late there has been a change in the working of the electric wing of SMC and the people are suffering. Since most of the areas of Srinagar city have been covered by smart meters and insulated cables, the correction of defunct street lights has been badly hit.

Employees of the electric wing of the SMC are making excuses in setting right the defunct street lights. They maintain that since there has been an up-gradation in the system they are not able to repair the defunct street lights. As a result of this there are many areas in Srinagar and the outskirts where many street lights are not working. The people living in these areas are up against many odds especially during evenings as they fear being attacked by dogs.

The shifting of street lights from the old system to the new system has led to confrontation between the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) and SMC. The KPDCL and SMC are putting the ball in opposite courts when it comes to shifting the street lights. The people at helm at the KPDCL and SMC seem to be least bothered by the problems being faced by the people. Their inaction in this regard is causing hardships to the people but at the end of the day there is no one to look into their grievances.

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# Say No to Bribery: A Threat to Justice and Progress



■ Suresh Kumar

Bribery is a cancer that silently eats away at the foundations of society. It is the act of giving or receiving something of value in exchange for influence or action in return. Though it may seem like a shortcut to success or an easy way out of difficult situations, bribery undermines fairness, transparency, and trust.

It is not just illegal; it is immoral and deeply damaging to communities, economies, and individuals. In a just society, people should be rewarded based on talent, hard work, and honesty. Bribery replaces merit with money or connections. The undeserving often rise to power, while the capable are left behind, breeding resentment and inequality. Bribery fuels corruption at every level of government and business.

When officials or leaders accept bribes, they stop serving the public and start serving their personal interests. This weakens institutions, breaks down law and order, and leads to poor governance. Those with wealth can afford to pay bribes, but the poor cannot. This creates a society where basic rights—like justice, education, or healthcare—are available only to those who can pay for them.

Bribery widens the gap between the rich and the poor, making life unfair and unjust for many. In corrupt systems, businesses must bribe officials



just to operate. This discourages investment, slows down innovation, and makes markets inefficient. Countries plagued by bribery often struggle with poverty and underdevelopment. When people lose faith in leaders, institutions, and systems, it becomes difficult to maintain social harmony.

Bribery erodes trust between citizens and the government, leading to frustration, unrest, and even political instability. Fighting bribery requires both strong laws and strong values. Governments must enforce anti-corruption laws, ensure transparency, and hold wrongdoers accountable. But citizens also have a role: we must reject bribery in our

daily lives, speak out against injustice, and support honest leaders. Education plays a critical role in shaping the future.

By teaching young people the importance of integrity and fairness, we can build a culture that stands firm against corruption. Bribery is not a victimless crime—it affects everyone. It poisons institutions, punishes the honest, and holds back progress. To build a better future, we must all take a stand against bribery. Say no to corruption, and yes to justice, fairness, and integrity.

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## Modern Trend Of Killing Relationships

# Modern Women Are Leaving Their Husbands As Soon As They Get A Job



■ Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

Marriage has now taken refuge in selfishness and independence instead of sacrifice and dedication. Many cases are coming to light where the husband educated the wife, got her a job, but as soon as she became self-dependent, she rejected the husband. This modern thinking is breaking relationships. Education and law are giving rights to women, but taking them away from responsibilities. Empowerment is incomplete until it teaches respect for relationships. Society should now raise its voice against such selfish attitude which is causing the breakdown of families.

There was a time when the relationship of husband and wife was a symbol of sacrifice, love and mutual dedication. Marriage was not just a social contract, but was considered a deep emotional and spiritual journey. But today's modernity, education and the so-called "rights consciousness" have thrown this sacred relationship into the furnace of selfishness. Today, there is concern over the rapidly increasing number of cases in the country where a husband works hard for years, does labour work and educates his wife, gives wings to her dreams, and as soon as she gets a government job - she asks the same husband: "Who are you?"

This question is not being asked of a man alone, this question is being asked of the entire sacrifice that was made to maintain a relationship. This question is also on the system that gave the right to education but did not teach responsibility. This question is also on the law, which gave protection to women but did not try to teach them the morality of maintaining relationships.

Along with modern education, another ideology has taken deep roots in the society — "put yourself first", "relationships are burden", "freedom means being free from any bondage".

This thinking is teaching, especially women, that marriage, husband, family are just a social formality that can be discarded if needed. And when education, law and a section of the society promote this thinking, the result is — homes break, trust shatters and men's sacrifice becomes a joke.

A poor husband who carried bricks, worked as a daily wage labourer to educate his wife, filled her form, paid her fees, dropped her off at the examination centre, distributed sweets to her after she got selected - when the same husband stands at the door, the wife says - "I don't need you anymore." This sentence is not just words, it is the death of the struggle in which relationships breathed. This is the face of modernity, which shines but is hollow from within.

If a wife rejects her husband without any reason, without any harassment, just because he has got a job, then this is neither empowerment nor freedom — this is a social crime. This is the murder of those values which are the foundation of Indian society. It is important to make it clear here that we are not talking about those women who are really harassed, exploited or who need protection. We are talking about those cases where a wife leaves her husband by misusing the law and rights only because she has become financially independent.

The protection that the law has given to women is necessary and should be there, but that protection is sacred only as long as it is used and not misused. Today, the number of such incidents is increasing in society where women have sent not only their husbands but also their families to jail by making false allegations, harassed them mentally and ruined them financially. Is this the family face of "New India"?

When a girl says, "Now I earn, I don't need anyone", it is not independence, it is narcissism. Does self-reliance mean abandoning relationships? Does the value of love and sacrifice become zero as soon as one gets a job? Why is it not explained that a strong woman is one who keeps her nest safe even during her flight, and not burns it as soon as she flies away?

“

If a wife rejects her husband without any reason, without any harassment, just because he has got a job, then this is neither empowerment nor freedom — this is a social crime. This is the murder of those values which are the foundation of Indian society. It is important to make it clear here that we are not talking about those women who are really harassed, exploited or who need protection. We are talking about those cases where a wife leaves her husband by misusing the law and rights only

The purpose of education is not only to get a job but also to bring maturity in thinking. Unfortunately, today's education has not given this maturity but in many cases has given rise to self-centred thinking. If self-reliance turns into selfishness, then it becomes a threat to the society. If a woman runs away from her relationships after studies, then it raises a question mark on that education, on that thinking and on that law which allows her to do this.

Many times, when a wife leaves her husband, society remains silent. Women consider it their right, and men do not even have a say. If a husband says, "I educated her, raised her, made her career", he is told, "She did not do you any favour, she is independent now." But when a woman moves forward by sacrificing her husband, does that sacrifice not have any value? Doesn't she have any emotional recognition?

This mindset has now reached the courts. There are thousands of cases pending in the courts where men are fighting for their marital rights, yearning to meet their children, and carrying the burden of a relationship that exists only on paper for years. They can neither get a divorce, nor start a new life, and neither does society understand their suffering.

In many cases, educated women have extramarital affairs, distance themselves from their husbands, and then hide behind legal protection. When someone questions such matters, he is called "anti-women", "narrow-minded" or "patriarchal". But does a society not have the right to listen to the voice of a man who protects relationships?

If this mindset continues, the institution of marriage will be hollowed out in the coming years. Men will fear marriage, families will break, and walls of mistrust will be erected in society. Women must understand that they are not only responsible for getting a job, but also for maintaining relationships. When a husband pays your fees, gets you coaching, encourages you, then he is not just a husband, but a guide, a helper, a mentor. And when you leave him after achieving success, you reject not just a person, but a trust.

This society can no longer tolerate false cases, superficial freedom and relationships broken in the name of selfishness. Now the time has come to add moral values to education, bring balance in laws, and give the message to the society that empowerment does not mean running away from responsibility, but fulfilling it honestly.

In relationships, duties are as important as rights. True empowerment is that which does not break relationships, but strengthens them. Because if a wife asks her husband as soon as he gets a job - "Who are you?" - then it is not only the husband's defeat, but the entire society's defeat.

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# Hazrat Roup Reshi (RA): The Great Sufi of Kashmir, Embodiment of Piety and Saint of Miracles



■ **Mohammad Arfat Wani**

Kashmir, also referred to as the paradise on earth, is a place where nature's majesty rubs shoulders with the spirituality of its depths. Its white-capped mountains, meandering streams, and verdant valleys are not just marvels of creation but also quiet testaments to the footprints of saints who trod this earth with hearts aglow with divine love. The valley has been blessed through history with great friends of Allah whose company made its soil a sanctuary of belief. Among the myriad of saints who illuminated here, the likes of Hazrat Amir Kabir Mir Syed Ali Hamadani (RA), Hazrat Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani Nund Reshi (RA), Baba Naseebuddin Ghazi (RA), Baba Shakuruddin (RA), Baba Reshi (RA), Hazrat Zainuddin Wali (RA) light up the spiritual galaxy of Kashmir. Among such giants, the name of Hazrat Roup Reshi (RA) shines with a unique brilliance, as his life was the ideal reflection of piety, humility, and nearness to Allah, and his miracles still inspire belief in millions of hearts.

The sacred shrine of Hazrat Roup Reshi (RA) is in the peaceful village of Kuchmulla in Tral, where each stone bears the scent of his memory and each gust whispers blessings from his aura. Being a village dweller, I have seen how individuals from far and wide come to his shrine with hope in their eyes and prayers in their hearts, and depart with an inner peace that defies expression in words. Historical records state that there were two saints by the name of Roup Reshi, one lying at Habbah Kadlah in Srinagar and the other in Kuchmulla, both contemporaries of Baba Naseebuddin Ghazi (RA) and highly



respected by the people of those times.

Hazrat Roup Reshi (RA) was born in the village of Largam, which is only two kilometers from Kuchmulla. From his very childhood, he renounced worldly pleasures and immersed himself in the remembrance of Allah. He was a shepherd, but his actual profession was day and night zikr, and his proximity to the Almighty was so intimate that even a lion would guard his flock, a miraculous occurrence still retold in wonder by the elders. He trod the path of Owaisi, guided by divine wisdom from Allah Himself, without any earthly teacher, a special boon reserved only for the purest of souls. As a member of the Rishi fraternity, he spurned luxuries and eschewed meat, fish, and eggs in his entire life. Even today, on his Urs, the Kuchmulla

folk revere this practice by not taking these foods to recall his selfless example of austerity and dedication.

Historical accounts such as Tarikh-i-Hassan report his years in intense withdrawal in the Kali Paadin forest, not far from Largam, where he would fast for long months and worship, at times fasting only for three days and subsisting on the bare minimum. His love was for Hazrat Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani (RA), whose poems he memorized and recited to propagate divine love. His miracles are still imprinted in the valley's memory. One of them is the well-known tale of the Sheikh family of Kuchmulla, who accepted Islam through his favors. Their forefather, Ziyon, a blind Hindu, was taken to the saint, and Hazrat Roup Reshi

(RA) instructed his mother that if she let her son accept Islam, he would regain his eyesight. She consented, and through the will of Allah, the blind man recovered his sight, embraced Islam as Sheikh Inayatullah, and established himself in Kuchmulla. His offspring remain there to this day, ever proud of their heritage. The Sheikh family then rose to prominence as Zaldars, influential landlords and respected leaders vested with power.

Hazrat Roup Reshi (RA) passed his last days in Kuchmulla, in which he realized union with his Creator. Legend has it that when the inhabitants of Largam came to claim his blessed body, the villagers of Kuchmulla had already laid him to rest in their land, where his shrine presently

stands amidst an ancient graveyard and a mosque, both silently testifying to his eternal presence. His Urs is celebrated annually on the 26th of Safar with deep faith. Strongly it is held that at this period meat, fish, and eggs should not be cooked, for when a family broke this custom their kitchen was set alight. Even now, it is told in awe that a lion comes to pay his shrine a visit on Thursday nights, bowing as in worship, a living testament to his spiritual might.

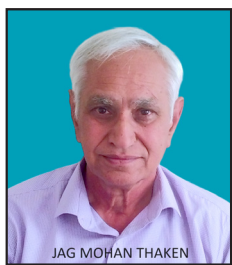
In 1983, Roup Islamia High School was founded in Kuchmulla in his honor, as an epitome of knowledge to the generations and as a remembrance of his name forever with dignity. His life taught people selflessness, chasticity, and love for Allah, and that humanity has to learn that true greatness never consists of riches and dominance but of devotion and sincerity. His teachings inform us that love and trust are the real treasures of existence.

Now, when the world is drowning in materialism and divine ignorance, the teachings of Hazrat Roup Reshi (RA) are radiating like a lamp, showing the lost hearts the way towards the light of Allah. His mausoleum is still a refuge where hearts find peace, prayers receive solutions, and souls feel the warmth of divine love. His legacy reminds us to purge our hearts of hate, to accept love and humility, and to live in faith and service to mankind. The atmosphere of Kashmir still carries the scent of his graciousness, and as long as this valley remains, his name shall keep on shining like a beacon illuminating believers' hearts and reminding us of the fact that the way to success is the one that ends at Allah.

This is the tale of Hazrat Roup Reshi (RA), the illustrious Sufi of Kashmir, the very figure of piety, the miracle saint whose name and deeds shall never die.

**The author is a passionate writer, social activist, and medical student, hails from Kuchmulla Tral. His email address is wania6817@gmail.com**

## WILL CASTE CENSUS DEMOLISH THE BARRICADES HARNESSING THE GROWTH OF THE LOWER STRATA?



■ **Jag Mohan Thaken**

Currently the caste-census is the talk of the town and it has become a political tool for the government runners and the opposition. Here arises the questions- Why was the caste census needed? Who raised the voice for its initiation? How was the government forced to bow down? What shall be the effects of this census? Will it benefit the lower strata of the society? Let us have an eye on the Indian society for getting the answers.

Centuries ago, Indian society was structured into four Varans: Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, and Shudras. These varnas represented different social classes with distinct roles and duties. Initially, these varnas were based on occupation and were somewhat flexible, but over time, they became more rigid and evolved into the caste system. Shudras were kept at the lowest ring and this fourth-grade category had been the most sufferer one and still its woes are not over. These are suppressed, depressed and harassed at every step. They are still not getting equal status, not only in the society, but also in governance. Still their marriage processions are barred, when they try to celebrate like higher strata. Still their chances for getting better creamy posts in the governance are barricaded at every stage. Still, they are deprived of the better education and barricaded to get space in educational institutes to work as teachers. In a reply to a question in Rajya Sabha from RJD MP Manoj Kumar Jha, Union MoS for Education Sukan-ta Majumdar, on 23 July, presented the data on the category-wise number of sanctioned posts and number of positions filled for professors, associate professors, and

assistant professors as of June 30, 2025.

As per data, mentioned by Indian Express, under OBC category, posts sanctioned for professors - 80% posts are vacant. For the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category, 83% of posts are vacant, while 64% of posts sanctioned are vacant in the Scheduled Caste (SC) category.

For associate professors, around 65% of sanctioned posts for the ST category and 69% in OBC category were vacant. In SC category, 51% of posts were vacant, whereas under general category only 16% of posts were vacant, thus 84 percent of general category posts were filled. What does it show? Why are the reserved seats not being filled, when every year thousands of reserved category persons clear the required qualifications as NET and PhD? Why are they being deprived of their rightful share?

If we analyse the figures of vacant seats reserved for SC/ST and OBCs in government run central universities, don't these reveal the plight of these socially depressed categories and show how inconsiderate the central government is about the upliftment of these long-neglected segments? Don't these data also support the allegations levelled by the Leader of Opposition, Rahul Gandhi, that the candidates from SC, ST, and OBC communities are being deliberately declared 'Not Found Suitable' to keep them away from education and leadership?

Rahul Gandhi states - These figures presented by the Modi government in Parliament are solid proof of Bahujans (The lower strata comprising SC/ST/OBCs) being deprived of their rights and institutional Manuism (Manuvad).

In a tweet in Hindi on July 25, 2025, Gandhi writes - "This is not just negligence, it is a well-planned conspiracy to keep Bahujans out of education, research and policies." He adds, "Due to lack of adequate participation of Bahujans in universities, the problems of deprived communities are deliberately hidden from research and discussion.

Here the question arises- "How is this stratum being kept out of the consideration zone?" Rahul Gandhi in his tweet says- "In the name of NFS (Not Found Suitable), thousands of deserving SC, ST, OBC candidates are being declared ineligible under Manuwadi thinking and the government is not ready to take any responsibility."

Gandhi demands, "This is completely unacceptable. All vacant posts should be filled immediately - Bahujans should get their rights, not Manuwadi boycott."

### Why Caste-based census?

Addressing a rally during Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra at Aurangabad in Bihar, on February 16, 2024, Rahul Gandhi questioned, "How many people from the OBC, Dalit, tribal communities own big companies or high posts?"

"The posts are mostly occupied by the people of the upper castes. They are occupying those posts in hospitals, colleges, media and others. This is why poor people belonging to OBC, SC, ST and minorities are not getting justice in the country. To bring justice to them, caste-based census is the tool and we are committed to conduct one if we form the government," he added. Demanding a caste census, Mr Gandhi every time claimed that 90 per cent of India's population is not a part of the system.

"Ninety percent of people are sitting outside the system, they have skills and knowledge but they don't have access (to the top). This is why we have raised the demand for caste-based Institutional census."

"Just conducting a caste census is not enough, it is also important to understand how the wealth is being distributed...It is also important to find out how much is the participation of OBCs, Dalits, workers in the bureaucracy, judiciary, media?" Gandhi raised the issue repeatedly.

Now the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on 30 April, 2025, has decided to include caste enumeration in the upcoming census. PIB release states that this demonstrates that the present government is committed to the holistic interests and values of the nation and society.

"Considering all these circumstances, and to ensure that our social fabric does not come under political pressure, it has been decided that caste enumeration should be included in the main census instead of being conducted as a separate survey."

However, congress sources claim that the BJP led central government was very much reluctant to allow caste census, but former congress president and presently leader of

opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi's repeated demand almost at all platforms for the last two years bowed down the government to announce the caste census.

### What Dr. Ambedkar suggested?

Dr. Ambedkar, (Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar), an Indian jurist, economist, social reformer and statesman who chaired the committee that drafted the Constitution of India, had played an important role to aware of the lower strata to educate themselves to grow with the changing scenario and to get equal status in the society.

The Manu wadi system, enforced centuries ago, was still running under British rule in India, as this suited them for easy governance over the Indian society. Dr. Ambedkar adduced, "During the British rule, the field of education was deliberately kept confined to the upper classes, as the British feared that the spread of education among the members of lower classes might jeopardize their existence in India. The worst sufferers of such an education policy were the untouchables. Their segregation in schools was absolute. They had to sit outside the holy precincts of the temple school. Drinking water was not available to them. Even the method of punishment meted out to the untouchable students was different from the method to punish the caste Hindu students. While the caste Hindu students were beaten with sticks, the untouchable students were hit with clods and stones from a distance lest the touchable teachers got polluted. Thus, only those untouchable students, who meekly submitted to such horrible insults and physical injuries, could receive education. Those who could not put up with inhuman atrocities ran away from the school and spent the rest of their lives ploughing in the farms owned by others" (Quoted by Lokhande 1982:228-229).

Quoting BR Ambedkar, Rahul Gandhi has also termed education as the biggest weapon for equality.

However, the education has, up to some extent, provided them the scope to grow and they are now uniting and fighting for their rights, but this stratum will also have to rise on its own, without looking for the government support, to face the conspiracy of the upper strata and come out of their trap. Will they dare?

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# ROTTEN MEAT: A Tragedy for the Hotelier Industry



■ Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

In today's era of elegant dining and polished customer service, being served unhygienic and potentially life-threatening food in a luxurious hotel setting is a tragic irony. When a tie-wearing waiter presents rotten ristas, kebabs, or gushtabas, it reflects a serious crisis in the hotelier industry of the Kashmir Valley.

Such incidents not only compromise customer health but also undermine the credibility built by honest, dedicated professionals who have nurtured this industry with their sweat and integrity. If these issues go unchecked, the industry risks losing public trust and tarnishing the legacy set by its pioneers. Those responsible must be blacklisted and penalized under law. This is more than a business failure—it's a betrayal of public trust.

## A Bigger Concern: Youth and the Employment Mindset

I hold a deep concern for the youth of Kashmir. While complaints about



unemployment are valid, the real issue lies not in the lack of jobs, but in the mindset that waits for opportunities instead of creating them.

A truly skilled individual doesn't plead for a job—they create opportunities not just for themselves but for others as well. In our society, professions like kandur (bread maker), puij (butcher), and goor (milk seller) have long existed. Sadly, these vital professions are often looked down upon—not because they lack value, but because of stigma and limited modernization. Imagine a butcher operating in a

clean, modern shop, wearing professional attire, using hygienic tools, and delivering excellent customer service. Such professionalism not only inspires trust but restores dignity to the profession. The same applies to our kandur and other local businesses. With cleaner environments and a focus on quality service, they could attract unemployed youth and empower them to become proud business owners.

## The Dangers of Adulteration and Price Gouging

Another major threat to consumer

trust is the ongoing issue of adulterated goods and price exploitation, especially during festivals. These unethical practices destroy community trust and harm honest vendors. Strict action and community awareness are vital to root out such behaviors.

## Every Profession Has Dignity

It's time to break the glorification of only white-collar jobs. Whether one is a doctor, teacher, bureaucrat, or baker—dignity lies in honest work and community service. We must uplift small businesses through innovation, hygiene,

and customer respect. These values can bring pride and prosperity.

## Are Hoteliers Losing Credibility?

Not all hoteliers should be painted with the same brush. Many young entrepreneurs across Kashmir are striving for excellence in hospitality—offering fresh, hygienic meals, modern ambiance, and reliable service. The rise of barbecue outlets run by educated youth is a shining example.

They are changing the narrative—proving that food businesses can be both profitable and respectable. I often talk with these young business owners, reminding them:

"You are your own boss. You're independent. You run a business. You earn with dignity. Serve well, live well, and support your family proudly."

## A Call to Action

Rotten meat incidents should not be brushed aside. We, as responsible citizens, must demand cleanliness and professionalism from bakers, butchers, milk vendors, and all food handlers. Refuse to buy from those who neglect hygiene. Speak up—politely but firmly: "Please keep your shop clean. Your service affects both our health and your future."

This is how we build a Kashmir where every lane echoes with professionalism, where youth are job creators, and where dignity exists in every profession.

Sell healthy, live healthy—and become a proud contributor to nation-building.

sahilmanzor411990@gmail.com

## HT - HEALTH TIPS

### 6 TIPS TO IMPROVE YOUR MENTAL HEALTH



Stay physically active



Surround yourself with positive people



Take time to unwind and relax



Talk to people you trust



Get quality sleep



Eat healthy, nutritious food

## IT'S TIME TO ACT — SAY NO TO DRUGS, SAY YES TO HEALTHY FUTURE!

Youth are the backbone of our society. Let's unite to eliminate the curse of drug addiction once and for all. Together, we can build a healthier, stronger, and addiction-free tomorrow.

LET'S PLEDGE TODAY — TO STAND UNITED AGAINST DRUG ABUSE. An awareness initiative by



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# SC Dismisses Justice Varma's Plea Against Impeachment Recommendation

■ United News of India

**NEW DELHI, AUG 7:** The Supreme Court today dismissed a petition filed by Allahabad High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma challenging the recommendation made by former Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna for his removal from office.

The recommendation had followed the recovery of a large amount of unaccounted cash from his official residence in Delhi after a fire incident.

A bench of Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice AG Masih upheld the constitution of the in-house committee and the procedure it followed, holding that the process was not illegal or unconstitutional.

The court said that the Chief Justice of India and the in-house committee had "scrupulously followed the process," except for uploading photographs and videos, which the court found to be non-essential.

"We have held that CJI and the in-house committee had scrupulously followed the process except uploading photos

and video and we have said it was not required. But nothing turned on it because you did not challenge it then," Justice Datta said while pronouncing the verdict.

"We have held that CJI sending a letter to the Prime Minister and President was not unconstitutional. We have made certain observations where we have kept it open for you to raise proceedings if needed in the future.

"With this, we have dismissed the writ petition," the Court stated.

The court framed six issues in the matter and made the following determinations: The writ petition was not maintainable as a challenge to the conduct of a sitting judge under the in-house mechanism;

The in-house procedure has legal sanctity and is not outside the constitutional framework; There was no violation of the petitioner's fundamental rights;

The Chief Justice of India and the inquiry committee followed the prescribed process, and uploading of photos or videos was not essential;

The act of sending the report to the Prime Minister and the President was not unconstitutional;

Liberty was granted to the petitioner to raise grievances through appropriate proceedings in the future, if needed.

Justice Varma had sought a declaration that the recommendation made by then CJI Khanna for his removal be declared unconstitutional and ultra vires. He also challenged the in-house committee report that led to the recommendation.

According to the petition, the in-house inquiry was initiated without any formal complaint and the Supreme Court's press release about the incident subjected him to a media trial.

The incident occurred on March 14, when a fire broke out at his official residence in Delhi. It was alleged that firefighters discovered a large quantity of unaccounted cash at the scene.

A video showing bundles of currency burning in the fire also surfaced. Justice Varma denied the allegations and claimed that it was a conspiracy to frame him.

On March 22, an in-house



committee was constituted by the then CJI to probe the matter.

The committee comprised Punjab and Haryana High Court Chief Justice Sheel Nagu, Himachal Pradesh High Court Chief Justice GS Sandhawalia, and Karnataka High Court Justice Anu Sivaraman.

The committee began its work on March 25 and submitted its report on May 3, which was placed before the CJI on May 4.

Following the report, the CJI forwarded the findings to the President and recommended Justice Varma's removal.

Justice Varma was subsequently sent back to his parent High Court, Allahabad, where he was re-administered the oath of office. However, on instructions from the Chief Justice of India, no judicial work was assigned to him.

In his petition, Justice Varma stated that the proceedings before the committee violated principles of natural justice since the panel did not inform him of its procedure or give him an opportunity to respond to the evidence.

He argued that it was essen-

tial to identify the ownership and quantity of the recovered cash, which the panel report did not address. He also alleged that former CJI Khanna had asked him to resign or take voluntary retirement within a short time frame.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing Justice Varma, submitted that the in-house mechanism was only limited to making recommendations and could not trigger impeachment proceedings.

He contended that the recommendations by the in-house committee do not carry binding value. He further argued that he was not challenging the report itself, but its use as the basis for recommending the judge's removal, which he said violated Article 124 of the Constitution and the Judges Inquiry Act, 1968.

The bench questioned the delay in approaching the court. "If you challenge the constitutionality of the provisions, you should have come early... You say you are not heard, and then there is a delay," Justice Datta observed.

Sibal responded, "But it is

about my fundamental rights. I can raise the points now." The Court replied that the petitioner should have shown that the Chief Justice of India had violated procedure.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, also appearing for Justice Varma, referred to the impeachment process of former Supreme Court judge Justice Soumitra Sen, stating that in that case, the judge was called and heard.

During the hearing, the bench said that the in-house procedure was introduced in 1999 and that the office of the Chief Justice of India cannot be considered as a mere post office.

"If the CJI has material to believe that there is misconduct, he can inform that and that he has informed the President and Prime Minister, that is all," Justice Datta said.

The court also dismissed a separate plea filed by Advocate Mathews J. Nedumpara seeking the registration of an FIR against Justice Varma. With this, the Supreme Court closed the matter and dismissed the petition filed by Justice Varma. UNI

## Stalin writes to EAM seeking release of TN fishermen arrested by SL Navy

■ United News of India

**CHENNAI, AUG 7:** Expressing deep anguish and concern over the continuing arrests of Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy, Chief Minister M K Stalin today wrote to External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S. Jaishankar to take immediate and effective measures to secure the release of all the detained fishermen and their boats from the Lankan authorities.

In a Demi-Official letter to Dr Jaishankar, copies of which were released to the media here, Mr Stalin drew his immediate and personal attention to the recent apprehension of 14 Indian fishermen, along with their mechanised fishing boat and an unreg-



istered country craft, by the Sri Lankan Navy in the early hours of yesterday.

"It is deeply concerning that, despite my repeated appeals to the Union Government to intervene diplomatically and bring an end to the continued arrests of Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy, such incidents persist", he pointed out.

Notably, the apprehension reported yesterday marks the 17th such incident in 2025 alone, he said.

Stating that at present, 237 fishing boats and 80 fishermen remain in the custody of Sri Lankan authorities, deprived of their only means of livelihood and their right to fish in traditional waters, the Chief Minister requested Dr Jaishankar to take immediate and effective measures be taken to secure the release of all detained.

Tamil Nadu fishermen and their fishing boats at the earliest. UNI

## US President Donald Trump vows to intensify economic pressure on India via secondary sanctions

■ United News of India

**WASHINGTON, AUG 7:** US President Donald Trump has vowed to intensify economic pressure on India over its purchase of Russian oil, implying that these pressures would likely materialise in the form of secondary sanctions.

Despite India being one of the US' most prominent trading partners, and the two nations sharing high-level diplomatic ties, Trump has levied a massive 25% tariff on all imports from the south Asian giant as a punitive measure over

New Delhi's continued purchase of Russian oil and gas.

Trump has stated that he will be enacting an additional 25% tariffs on India, bringing the total percentage up to 50% for the world's fourth largest economy, and Washington's ninth-largest trading partner.

"It's only been 8 hours. So, let's see what happens. You're going to see a lot more... You're going to see so much secondary sanctions," Trump said in response to a question regarding why India was being singled out for its oil purchases from Russia, reports



RT.

Secondary sanctions are penalties that target third parties who interact with a sanctioned country, with the aim to limit their access to the sanctioning country's market.

"For us, the interest of farmers is our top priority," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in response to the sanctions yesterday.

"India will never compromise on the interests of farmers, fishermen, and dairy producers. I know we will have to pay a heavy price for it and I'm ready. India is ready for it," he said. UNI ANV SSP

## Russian security chief Sergey Shoigu meets India's NSA Ajit Doval, discusses security ties, defence purchases

■ United News of India

**MOSCOW, AUG 7:** Russia's top security official Sergey Shoigu has called for the further strengthening of security ties between India and Russia, amid New Delhi's ongoing trade spat with the US over its purchase of Russian oil, and President Donald Trump's economic sanctions, reports RT.

The Russian Security Council Secretary on Thursday held talks with his Indian counterpart National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, who is currently in Moscow to discuss the Kremlin's security and defence ties with New Delhi.

Doval's discussions with his Russian counterpart and with other high-ranking Russian defence and security officials will be focused primarily on counterterrorism, cooperation, the acquisition of more S-400 systems, and the potential purchase of Russia's fifth gen Sukhoi Su-57 fighter jets. The sides will also discuss cooperation in energy, fertilisers, and other commodities.



"Russia and India are linked by strong, trusting, time-tested bonds of friendship," Shoigu told Doval.

"For our country, the comprehensive strengthening of the special privileged strategic partnership with India, based on mutual respect, equal consideration of each other's interests and the desire to advance a unifying agenda, is of paramount importance."

He added that both Russia and India are looking to create "a new, more just and sustainable world order, ensuring the supremacy of international law and jointly combating modern challenges and threats."

The visit comes amid Trump's signing of an executive order on Wednesday which imposed an additional 25% tariff on all imports from India due, in a bid to pressurise New Delhi to cut its oil trade with Russia. In effect, most Indian exports to the US will be charged a 50% tariff. India, for its part, has refused to budge, criticising the move and calling the White House' measures "extremely unfortunate," while pledging to protect its own national interests.

At his meeting with Doval on Thursday, Shoigu said, "Regular consultations through the Security Council of the two countries help deepen Russian-Indian relations and take them to a new, higher level in the current difficult international situation."

Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is also expected to visit the Russian capital later this month, with preparations ongoing for Russian President Vladimir Putin's upcoming visit to India sometime later this year for the annual summit meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. UNI ANV RN

## Uttarkashi floods not due to glacial burst, says space tech firm

■ United News of India

**CHENNAI, AUG 7:** Suhora Technologies, an Earth observation and space data analytics company today categorically said the flash flood in the Uttarkashi region of Uttarakhand is not due to any glacial burst.

Ruling out the theory of glacial burst, Suhora Technologies took help of satellite images and data analytics and said the flood is due to a cloud burst. Suhora Technologies examined data from the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) and also its own comprehensive glacial lake inventory along with cross-checking through high-resolution optical imagery to verify that there are no glacial lakes present upstream of Dharali village, thereby ruling out a glacial burst as the cause of the flash floods.

The company conducted the analysis using Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and high-resolution optical imagery to identify the disaster-hit zones resulting from this catastrophic event.

According to the company, it had acquired Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) imagery at 11:01 PM on August 5 through its platform, SPADE, which delivered the image in near real-time, enabling timely and accurate analysis of the disaster.

As per the analysis Suhora Technologies said approximately 16 hectares of area have been affected, impacting nearly 148 buildings and resulting in widespread disruption to housing, schools, and public infrastructure.

In addition, one bridge has been damaged, and about 0.95 km of road has been affected, leading to significant road closures and interruptions in connectivity.

"This incident is a stark reminder of the increasing vulnerability of Himalayan regions to climate-induced natural hazards, emphasizing the need for proactive policy, planning, and community resilience strategies," said Krishanu Acharya, CEO, Suhora Technologies.

"Space data analytics can play a critical role in disaster management and can provide actionable insights to government agencies, policymakers and companies, thereby enhancing their ability to respond effectively and build greater resilience against future disasters," said Acharya. UNI

## Thailand cabinet approves defence deals with China, Sweden

■ United News of India

**BANGKOK, AUG 7:** The Thai government has approved a multi-billion-dollar defense procurement plan that includes the purchase of Swedish Gripen fighter jets, two foreign-made frigates, and the finalization of a submarine deal with China, The Nation reported.

The Swedish fighter jets are intended to replace the American F-16s that have been in service with the Thai air force for 37 years, the report said on

Wednesday.

The purchase includes three single-seat SAAB JAS-39 Gripen E aircraft and one two-seat Gripen F, as well as auxiliary systems and electronic warfare equipment, the report read, adding that aircraft will be equipped with modern Meteor air-to-air missiles and other weapons. The total cost of the 12 aircraft is estimated at 60 billion Thai baht (\$1.85 billion), the report said.

The cabinet also approved the purchase of two frigates for the Thai navy at a cost of 35 billion



Thai baht, the newspaper reported. The purchase is reportedly part of the navy's strategic plan to have eight frigates by 2037 to bolster the country's maritime security in both the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea.

The cabinet also approved amendments to the contract for the purchase of the S26T submarines, changing the engine specifications to the Chinese-made CHD 620 model, the report said. The delivery date has been extended, with the first submarine expected in 2030, several

years later than originally planned.

The contract for the diesel submarines was originally signed by Thailand with China's state-owned China Shipbuilding & Offshore International Co., Ltd. in 2017, with the first submarine to be delivered in 2023. However, Germany has refused to supply China with the MTU 396 engines specified in the contract between Thailand and China due to the EU's ban on strategic equipment supplies to China. UNI SPUTNIK AAB





# DSEK Launches Region-Wide PTM Visits from Aug 9

DSEK Chief Visits Remote Budgam Schools, Announces Student Initiatives

## HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, AUG 7:** In a major initiative to strengthen school-community engagement and enhance student performance, the Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) has announced a comprehensive region-wide officers' visit to schools, coinciding with Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTMs) scheduled across Kashmir on August 9, 2025.

Demonstrating leadership by example, Director School Education Kashmir Dr. G.N. Itoo today visited remote schools in the Khag zone of Budgam district, including Government Middle School Alamnag and BMS Poshkar. Dr. Itoo participated in the PTMs, held a mass parent interaction, and commended the spirit of collaboration witnessed at the grassroots level.

During the visit, the Director appreciated the remarkable presentations by students and announced special student exposure programmes. As a

personal gesture of encouragement, he donated 5000 from his own resources to support student activities, calling upon schools across the region to emulate the same spirit of participatory education.

In a statement Dr. G.N. Itoo, Director School Education Kashmir has said that, "Parent-Teacher Meetings are a cornerstone for educational success. Through the active involvement of our officers, we aim to make these interactions more impactful and inclusive. This initiative is our shared responsibility to uplift education standards in Kashmir."

**Officers to Monitor and Engage Across Kashmir**  
As per the official directive, senior officers of the Directorate—including Joint Directors (Central, North, and South Kashmir), Chief Education Officers (CEOs) of all districts, and DIET Principals—will be conducting school visits across the Valley. These officers will:

- Monitor and partici-



pate in Parent-Teacher Meetings

- Interact with students, teachers, parents, and school heads
- Address institutional issues on the spot
- Collect feedback and data to guide future educational policies

The visits will span primary, middle, high, and higher secondary schools, as well as District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs). Schools have been instructed to prepare comprehensive PTM outcome reports to be reviewed by the Directorate for assessing impact and identifying areas for improvement.

- Strengthening the Parent-School Partnership
- These Parent-Teacher Meetings are designed to:
- Foster open communication between parents and teachers
- Reinforce account-

ability and transparency in schools

- Address academic progress and behavioural development
- Promote parental involvement in academic reforms
- Provide field officers with real-time insights on curriculum and infrastructure
- Call for Public Participation

The Directorate has issued instructions to all field-level education officers for seamless coordination, and has informed the School Education Department, Civil Secretariat J&K about the initiative.

All parents and guardians are urged to attend the PTMs on August 9, 2025, and play a proactive role in shaping the educational journey of their children. Schools have been asked to ensure a welcoming and inclusive environment to encourage maximum participation.

## Shrikant Balasaheb Suse assumes charge as DC Kupwara

### HT News Desk

**KUPWARA, AUG 7:** Mr. Shrikant Balasaheb Suse today assumed the charge as Deputy Commissioner Kupwara.

Shrikant is AGMUT 2016-batch IAS officer. Prior to current assignment, he was previously serving



as Managing Director, Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited. Besides, he has also served as Deputy Commissioner of Shopian, Kargil and Leh districts.

On the arrival, he was received by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kupwara, Mufti Fared ud din; Additional Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad, ACR, Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad and other senior officials of DC Office.

## CEO Ganderbal Attends Independence Day Rehearsal Programmes

### HT News Desk

**GANDERBAL, AUG 07:** Worthy Chief Education Officer (CEO) along with SO, Planning Mr. Farooq Sahab conducted an extensive Visit of BMS Gadoora with the primary objective of reviewing the overall academic environment and to assess the infrastructure status and availability of basic facilities.

Later during the Day Worthy Chief Education Officer (CEO) along with SO, Planning Mr. Farooq Sahab conducted an extensive Visit of BMS Gadoora with the primary objective of reviewing the overall academic environment and to assess the infrastructure status and availability of basic facilities.

During the visit, the CEO conducted thorough inspections of school buildings, classrooms, drinking water facilities, Kitchen sheds and overall maintenance of school premises.

The CEO stressed the importance of providing a safe, clean, and conducive learning environment for students and directed



the concerned authorities to expedite any pending repair and construction works.

During the visit the CEO interacted with students to assess their academic progress and under-

stand their learning needs and also checked the note books of the students. He also engaged with teaching staff and directed them to check the note books of students on Regular basis.

CEO Checked the MDM records /Kitchen Shed and directed the concerned to keep proper hygiene in and around the schools.

On-spot instructions were issued to the heads of institutions for immediate remedial measures wherever deficiencies were found.

The visit reflects the department's commitment to improving educational infrastructure and ensuring that every child has access to a quality learning environment.

## Renowned Social Worker Asadullah Thakur Passes Away, Valley Mourns Loss

### HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, AUG 07:** Asadullah Thakur, a respected social worker from Lasjan, Srinagar, and son of Ghulam Muhammad Thakur, passed away on Tuesday, leaving the region in deep mourning.

Known for his humility and commitment to social service, Thakur's demise was widely mourned across the Valley. Political, social, religious, and

literary bodies expressed profound grief, while numerous dignitaries visited his residence to offer condolences and prayers.

Described as a noble soul and pillar of the community, his death is being seen as a major loss to society. The bereaved family has thanked all well-wishers and requested continued prayers for his soul's highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous.



## MakeMyTrip launches Multilingual GenAI Trip Planning Assistant

To make travel booking conversational, inclusive

### HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, AUG 7:** MakeMyTrip, India's leading online travel company, announced a significant leap in product evolution with the launch of GenAI-enabled Trip Planning Assistant, that assist users at every stage of travel planning, from discovery to fulfilment, and beyond. Users would find conversational assistance through their entire journey, from destination-discovery, shopping, in-trip, and post-sales scenarios.

A company spokesman said that the new GenAI Trip Planning Assistant is a notable upgrade to the existing AI agent, Myra, and will make the experience seamless and conversational, enabling travellers to interact via voice and text. This will ensure that users across India who have previously been unable to book due to discomfort with the English language, will now be able to do so. The Beta version of Myra is now live in English and Hindi, with plans to expand to multiple Indian languages, after fine tuning conversation flows based on early user feedback. Users can ask complex and open-ended

queries in the realm of travel in Hindi or English.

The GenAI Trip Planning Assistant, Myra, is built on a network of specialised AI agents across all major travel categories, flights, accommodation, holidays, ground transport, visas, and forex. It supports multimodal input (text, voice, image, video), continuous back-and-forth dialogue, itinerary edits, and post-sales support—all within the same interface.

Speaking at the launch, Rajesh Magow, Co-Founder and Group CEO, MakeMyTrip said, "We have always believed that technology is at its best when it solves complex problems behind the scenes, while making the customer interface as intuitive and as delightful as possible. With GenAI, we take that vision further by turning intent into action through natural, human-like conversations. By enabling access initially in Hindi, and expanding to multiple Indian languages soon, this launch has the potential to solve for the Bharat heartland, reaching the deepest corners, and bringing seamless, intelligent travel booking to those who've long been underserved by digital platforms.



It brings together the full strength of our platform, including customer preferences data, supply, user-generated content, personalization, and real-time intelligence, to power the next era of travel: connected journeys that intuitively adapt to each traveller's needs, from start to finish."

"The scale and complexity of this system make it one of the most ambitious tech builds we have undertaken at MakeMyTrip. It is also the first of its kind to operate across so many categories,

in real time, and at this depth. Our in-house team has developed custom language models and layered them with planning, scheduling, and verification systems that work in sync and respond in real time. The result is a multi-agent AI framework that collaborates across categories to deliver a seamless experience. The system is currently in beta, allowing us to learn from real interactions and continue strengthening it," said Sanjay Mohan, Group CTO, MakeMyTrip.

In 2023, MakeMyTrip became one of the first travel platforms to integrate GenAI into its core booking experience. This early investment in AI builds on a broader track record of using technology to solve real-world traveller challenges. Over the years, the platform has introduced features such as Fare Lock, Zero Cancellation, voice-led customer support, and recently predictive tools for train bookings. The current launch extends that momentum, bringing AI deeper into the platform and across the entire journey from planning and purchase to service and support.

The next phase of development will introduce richer semantic search capabilities, AI-driven use cases on images & videos, enabling users to move beyond structured filters and interact through more abstract, intent-led queries. This will allow the system to understand and respond to nuanced travel needs, making discovery even more fluid and personalised. As the GenAI platform evolves, MakeMyTrip will continue to push the boundaries of how travellers plan, book, and experience their trips.

## Rehmatal Foundation, Mantaqi Academy Heads Visit Chinar Book Festival

### HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, AUG 7:** The ongoing Chinar Book Festival at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar, witnessed a distinguished visit by Jenab Sheikh Firdous Ali, Chairman of the Rehmatal Lil Aalameen Foundation, and Jenab Tawseef Ahmad Wani, Director of the Syed Hassan Mantaqi Academy.

During their visit, the dignitaries toured various stalls, interacted with publishers, authors, and book enthusiasts, and appreciated the wide array of literary and cultural works on display. Their presence underscored the significance of intellectual engagement and the promotion of a reading culture within society.

Both leaders emphasized the profound value of books in shaping individuals and communities. They noted that books are not only sources of knowledge



and wisdom but also vital tools for developing critical thinking, nurturing empathy, preserving cultural heritage, and fostering ethical and moral understanding. In an era dominated by fast-paced digital content, books continue to offer depth, reflection, and a lasting connection to human thought and experience.

Chairman Sheikh Firdous Ali highlighted that literature rooted in values and scholarship can inspire the youth to become informed and responsible citizens. He lauded the festival as an initiative that bridges generational gaps and creates essential spaces for dialogue, education, and cultural exchange.

Organizers of the Chinar Book Festival expressed heartfelt gratitude for the dignitaries' visit and their encouraging remarks. Their participation added meaningful value to the event, which continues to attract large crowds from across the region.

The festival remains a vibrant celebration of literature, learning, and the enduring power of the written word.



# Javid Dar launches IWMP portal to boost transparency in watershed development

Emphasizes tech-enabled approach to water conservation

HT News Desk / DIPR

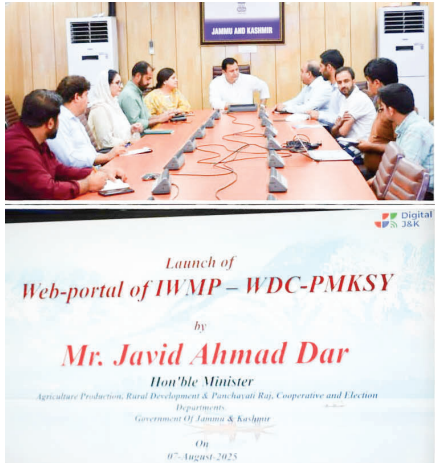
**SRINAGAR, AUG 07:** Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, Javid Ahmed Dar, on Thursday, launched the official website of Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) at the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar.

The launch event was attended by Commissioner/Secretary, Rural Development Department, Babila Rakwal; Secretary, Information Technology Department, Piyush Singla; Chief Executive Officer, IWMP, J&K, Rajnish Kumar and others.

On the occasion, the Minister emphasized that the launch of the IWMP website marks a major step in efforts to ensure transparency, accountability and citizen engagement in watershed development across Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the portal will enable real-time updates on watershed interventions, allowing the citizens to track ground-level progress, monitor resource utilization and identify areas of improvement.

“From mapping ponds and reservoirs to detailing interventions in each catchment, the IWMP portal reflects our commitment to climate-resilient development, reaching even the remotest Panchayats,” Dar said.

The Minister highlight-



ed that rainfed areas in J&K are particularly vulnerable to land degradation and water scarcity. He said the new digital platform will help strengthen planning, monitoring, and execution of projects tailored to these ecologically sensitive zones.

Dar also emphasized the importance of building small reservoirs to conserve water effectively. He reiterated the role of digitization in tracking the watershed projects. “Water preservation is crucial and constructing small reservoirs can make a significant difference,” he said.

The Minister underlined the need for digital platforms to improve governance. Babila Rakwal lauded the digital leap, calling it “a transformative tool to improve field-level implementation of watershed programmes.”

Secretary IT, Dr. Piyush Singla, emphasized the critical role of information technology in enhancing

public service delivery and interdepartmental coordination. He stressed the importance of making government websites dynamic and interactive, noting that static websites often go unnoticed.

Rajnish Kumar, provided an overview of the portal's features and reiterated the department's commitment to sustainable watershed development using data-driven approaches and modern technologies.

He said that the newly launched web portal — iwmp.jk.gov.in — has been designed as a robust digital

platform under the WDC-PMKSY 2.0 scheme to promote transparency, accessibility and real-time dissemination of information on watershed development projects. It offers dynamic access to project guidelines, progress reports, success stories and more, aiming to enhance the evidence-based planning and encourage active community participation, he added. He stated that 19 projects are currently under implementation, covering a vast project area of 69493 hectares under the Integrated Watershed Management Programme.

## Public Notice

I have changed my old name from Mughli to new name Mugli bano c/o Mohammad Sultan Mir, Gotapora Budgam in future I will be known as new name Mugli Bano c/ Mohammad Sultan Mir.

If any body is having any objection . He /she may contact passport Office , srinagar with in 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

## 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**

## 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 Wagoora)/ 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**

## 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 Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of UMER AHMAD GANIE S/O ALI MOHAMMAD GANIE R/O KAKOTHAL Tehsil kreeri Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 05/03/2006 and event has been shown to be occurred at home 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**

## Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application for issuance of RBA certificate applicant MOHAMMAD SHABAN SHEIKH S/O. GHULAM RASOOL SHEIKH R/O SHEIKPORA Tehsil KREERI in favour of Son's MOHD NADEEM ,SHOWKAT & WAHEED AHMAD R/O SHEIKHPORA for the issuance of RBA in his /her / their favor

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of SHEIKHPORA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the SHEIKH community having annual income 701292// the details of family of the applicant are as follows

1. MOHD SHABAN SHEIKH self 61 years retire employee
2. HALEEMA BEGAM wife 60 years Housewife
3. RIFAT AKHTER daughter 31 years H/W
4. MOHD NADEEM Son 29 years CSC centre
5. WAHEEDA BANO daughter in law 28 years H/W
6. SHOWKAT AHMAD son 28 years private employee
7. WAHEED AHMAD son 26 student

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

**Naib Tehsild Kreeri**

## Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of GHULAM MOHD WANI S/O WALI MOHD WANI R/O KREERI for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that MOHD ASHRAF WANI S/O GH MOHD WANI R.O KREERI has passed away on 07/04/1998 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

1. GH MOHD WANI 85 years Father aged
2. SARA BEGUM 75 years Mother aged
3. FAROOQ AHMAD 48 years Brother shopkeeper
4. ASHIQ ABTAL 40 years Brother shopkeeper
5. NASEEMA AKHTER 44 years Sister housewife

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self.

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

**Naib Tehsild Kreeri**

## Health & Medical Education Department GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, ANANTNAG

College Campus, Dialgam Anantnag J&K-192210

Email ID: admsection.gmca@gmail.com | gmcanantnag2018@gmail.com

### NOTIFICATION

It is hereby notified for the information of candidates who have applied and submitted the hard copy of their application form along with requisite documents via Speed/Registered Post for the post of Speech Therapist advertised vide Advertisement Notice No, 04 GMCA of 2025, dated: 14-07-2025, on academic arrangement basis under S.O-364 of 2020, dated: 27-11-2020 that upon scrutinizing, the candidature of the candidate found ineligible is given below:

S.No	Form No.	Name	Parentage	Address	Ineligible
1	10384	Mohammad Amin Malla	Ghulam Hussain Malla	Darkunda, Dandoosa, Budgam	DRT (Qualification/ Course)

Further, the applications which have been found deficient in requisite documents are mentioned below.

S.No	Form No.	Name	Parentage	Address	Deficient Documents
1	13082	Amina Shamim	B S Yadav	Chanipora Payeen, Tanghar, Karnah, Kupwara	I. DOB Certificate (10th Based) II. All Marks Sheets (BASLP) III. Degree Registration Certificate
2.	13088	Nadiya Rashid	Abdul Rashid Dar	Delawar Colony Sector 1, Mujgund, Parimpora, Srinagar	I. Valid Registration Certificate

The candidates are hereby advised to submit the deficient documents in the office of Administrative Officer, Govt. Medical College, Anantnag via E-mail: admsection.gmca@gmail.com within four (04) days w.e.f. 07-08-2025.

Note:

The candidates must be in possession of all required documents on 25-07-2025 and no document/certificate issued beyond the cutoff date shall be accepted/ entertained.

**No: GMCA/Estt/Rec/2025/ 5498-550**

**Dated: 06-08-2025**

**Sd/- Principal/ Dean  
Govt. Medical College, Anantnag.**

**DIPK: 4949/25 | Dated: 07-08-2025**

## In The Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Bandipora

Coram Iqbal Ahmad Akhoun UID No: JK00181

**Date of Application: 04/07/2025**

**Date of Order:**

**In the case of:**

**UT through SHO P/S Bandipora FIR No. 38/2013 u/s 379, 201 RPC**

**V/S**

**1. Muntazir Ahmad Bhat S/O Bashir Ahmad Bhat R/O Ward No. 02 Bandipora**

**Proclamation Order**

Proclamation requiring the appearance of the accused person namely Muntazir Ahmad Bhat S/O Bashir Ahmad Bhat R/O Ward No. 02 Bandipora.

Whereas in the above titled challan in case FIR no. 38/2013 u/s 379, 201 RPC, the accused person has been arrayed as accused and general warrant of arrest issued by this court has been returned with the report that the said accused could not be found.

From the statement of the tameeli as well as conduct of the accused this court is satisfied that the said accused person has absconded and is concealing himself, to avoid the service of the said warrant.

As such proclamation is hereby made that the accused person is required to appear before this court within the period of 30 days from the date of publication of proclamation falling which proceeding U/s 88 JK CrPc shall be initiated against him.

Given under my hands and seal of the court today on 4-7-25

**Sd/- Chief Judicial Magistrate  
Bandipora**

**DIPK: 4944/25 | Dated: 07-08-2025**



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# NIFT Srinagar observes 11th National Handloom Day; honours local weavers

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, AUGUST 7:** The National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Srinagar today celebrated the 11th National Handloom Day with a vibrant and culturally rich programme dedicated to honouring the region's weavers and promoting the heritage of Indian handlooms.

Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Higher Education, Shantmanu, was the chief guest on the occasion while Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Dr Bilal Mo-hiuddin Bhat, was the guest of honour.

Other participants included Dr. Ghulam Nabi Itoo, Director, School Education and Professor

Monika Gupta, Director, NIFT Srinagar along with artisans, weavers and senior officials from the departments of industry, skill development and education.

In his address, Shantmanu lauded NIFT Srinagar for its commendable role in bridging young design talent with India's rich handloom legacy. He praised the faculty, students and staff for their dedication and remarked that "NIFT Srinagar has emerged as one of the finest institutions in the region and is the best campus among 19 NIFT campuses."

The celebration included screening of short films produced by NIFT Srinagar on handloom heritage and inspirational suc-



cess stories of weavers, highlighting the resilience and creative spirit of the sector. A special

felicitation ceremony titled "Rich Hands to Weavers" honoured the local artisans for their invaluable contribution. Besides, certificates were also distributed among the students and trainees who had completed handloom-related training programmes.

The highlight of the event was a student-led fashion show, where models walked the ramp in garments crafted from traditional handloom textiles, seamlessly merging heritage with contemporary design.

In the sidelines of the grand event, Professor Monika Gupta emphasised the importance of design education in supporting traditional craft communities. "Our mission is to empower stu-

dents to innovate while honouring and preserving age-old craftsmanship of Kashmir" she stated.

The event concluded with a panel discussion on the topic 'Threads of tradition - Voices from Kashmir loom' and lively interaction session between artisans, students, and officials, focusing on future collaborations, opportunities and interventions in the handloom sector.

Pertinently, being observed annually on August 7, National Handloom Day commemorates the launch of the Swadeshi Movement in 1905. It celebrates the pivotal role of India's weavers in shaping the country's cultural and economic landscape.

## DC Pulwama reviews arrangements for Tiranga Rally/ Yatra

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**PULWAMA, AUGUST 07:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, today chaired a meeting at the District Administrative Complex to review the preparations for the forthcoming Tiranga Rally/Yatra, being organised as part of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign 2025.



During the meeting, Additional Deputy Commissioner Pulwama briefed the chair about the departmental readiness and the measures being put in place to ensure smooth conduct of the event. It was also informed that as a run up to mega Tiranga rally at the district level, Tiranga rallies at sub-division, tehsil and block levels will also be organised to create a festive and patriotic atmosphere in the district.

While reviewing the arrangements, DC issued directions to all concerned officers to ensure massive participation of officials and the general public, including students, youth groups, elected representatives, PRIs, families of martyrs, civil society members and community stakeholders to reflect the patriotic spirit and collective enthusiasm of the district.

Additionally, he stressed the need for strict adherence to the Flag Code and directed the officials to brief the participants beforehand to ensure that the dignity and sanctity of the National Flag are upheld at all levels.

"All departments shall work in close coordination to ensure that the event is conducted in a grand and befitting manner, reflecting the national spirit and the significance of the occasion," said the DC

DC also laid special emphasis on traffic management, directing the concerned departments to formulate comprehensive plans to ensure minimal disruption and safe movement of rally participants.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Pulwama, P.D Nitya; Additional Deputy Commissioners of Tral & Awantipora, General Manager, DIC Pulwama; Assistant Commissioner Development, Pulwama; Principals of Degree Colleges; Chief Education Officer, Pulwama; Chief Medical Officer, Pulwama, Tehsildars, officers of Police and Paramilitary Forces and other stakeholders.

## 11th National Handloom Day celebrated at Anantnag

Promoting Kashmir's Handloom Heritage

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**ANANTNAG, AUG 07:** The 11th National Handloom Day was celebrated with enthusiasm and pride at Akad Anantnag today, bringing together female artisans and craftspeople from various parts of the district.

The event was aimed at recognizing the contributions of the handloom and handicraft sector and encouraging its growth as a key pillar of Kashmir's cultural and economic identity.

The programme witnessed active participation from women weavers and artisans who showcased their traditional skills and products. The speakers on the occasion highlighted the significance of National Handloom Day in reviving and promoting indigenous handloom crafts, while also acknowledging the sector's vast potential in generating sustainable livelihood opportunities.

General Manager, District Industries

Centre Anantnag, Nazia Hassan, holding the additional charge of Assistant Director, Handicrafts & Handloom Anantnag was the chief guest of the event.

Speaking on the occasion, she underscored the government's commitment to uplifting the handloom and handicrafts sector.

She said, "There is immense potential in the Handloom and Handicrafts sector of Kashmir, not only for preserving our heritage but also for providing sustainable employment, especially to women. The government is working tirelessly to upgrade the sector to international standards and provide artisans with the necessary support, training, and market linkages."

Nazia also visited the Handloom Weaving Centre at the venue, where she interacted with women artisans, appreciated their craftsmanship, and assured them of continued support from the department in terms of training, design innovation, and marketing.

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

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**BUDGAM, AUG 07:** 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 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 to commemorate the event, 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.

The Municipal Committee Chadoor 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, all the major government buildings 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.

## Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan: Drug de-addiction awareness event held at GGHSS Brein Nishat

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, AUG 07:** In line with the ongoing Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan, a compelling awareness programme was today organized at Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS) Brein, Nishat Srinagar by the Cultural Unit Srinagar of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR).

The event featured a powerful theatrical performance by a local cultural group, portraying the harsh realities and tragic outcomes of drug addiction. The performance aimed to instill awareness and spark critical thinking among the young minds about the grave threat posed by substance abuse.

Dr. Anjum Saleem, Principal of the institution, expressed her appreciation for the initiative and highlighted the urgent need for such interventions to safeguard the youth from falling prey to this social evil. She underscored the role of educational institutions in fostering a drug-free mindset.

Burhan Hussain, Cultural Officer, also



addressed the audience, urging students to stand united against drug use and spread awareness within their communities.

The event concluded with a pledge ceremony, where students and staff vowed to uphold the values of a healthy and drug-free life.

## Enforcement Drive: Food Safety deptt seizes unsafe meat products, seals multiple premises

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, AUG 07:** In strict pursuance to the directions issued by the Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department, and under the ongoing crackdown on non-compliant Food Business Operators (FBOs), Department of Food Safety, under the supervision of the Commissioner, Food & Drugs Administration J&K, has intensified enforcement activities across various districts of the Kashmir Valley.

During the past two days, the department conducted a series of surprise inspections and raids in multiple locations. Notably, in the Safakadal and Parimpora areas of district Srinagar, enforcement teams seized 2,500 kababs found to be processed using frozen meat containing unpermitted food colour. These adulterated kebabs were destroyed on the spot and safely disposed-off to prevent any risk to public health.

Additionally, 150 kilograms of meatballs (Gush-taba) were also seized during the operations. Legal food samples of the seized products were collected by Food Safety Officers for detailed analysis and further legal action.

In a separate incident in the Nagbal area of district Ganderbal, approximately 250 kilograms of locally procured meat were destroyed due to visible signs of deterioration caused by improper handling and storage conditions.

The crackdown has evoked strong reactions from defaulting FBOs, some of whom have resorted to illegally dumping unsafe food items at abandoned sites. Two such incidents were recently recorded in Kakapora (district Pulwama) and Khandey Colony, Nawgam (district Srinagar).

Moreover, action was taken against two FBOs in district Ganderbal for unhygienic food storage practices. Their premises have been sealed as per law.

Food Safety department has reiterated its zero-tolerance policy towards violations of food safety norms and warned that strict legal action will be initiated against any FBOs found guilty of non-compliance.

All stakeholders, especially those dealing in high-risk food items, are once again advised to strictly adhere to the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, including mandatory labeling requirements and hygiene protocols.

Food Safety department remains steadfast in its mission to safeguard public health and ensure the availability of safe and wholesome food to consumers, who invest a substantial portion of their income in food.

Meanwhile, consumers are encouraged to stay vigilant and report any food safety concerns or violations by calling the department's toll-free helpline: 104.

## IIT Bombay honours Shailendra Kumar with National Geospatial Leadership Award, 2025

Institution to take 100 interneers from SKUAST each year

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, AUGUST 7:** Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Shailendra Kumar, has been conferred with the prestigious National Geospatial Leadership Award 2025 in recognition of his outstanding leadership, commitment and visionary guidance in promoting the geospatial science and technology, particularly through effective implementation and extension of the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP).

The award was presented to the Principal Secretary today in a ceremony that was part of the National Geospatial Awards 2025 (Edition 02), June a flagship initiative of the FOSSEE GIS project, organized by IIT Bombay under the aegis of the National Mission



on Education through ICT (NMEICT), Ministry of Education, Government of India.

The felicitation was carried out by Professor Pennan Chinnasamy, Co-Principal Investigator, FOSSEE, IIT Bombay and Co-Convenor of the Awards, along with Mohamed Kasim Khan M, National Coordinator FOSSEE GIS (NMEICT), IIT Bombay and organizing Secretary of the event.

The award acknowledged Kumar's significant role in driving adoption of geospatial tools and open-source GIS technologies in the agricultural sector of Jammu and Kashmir, thereby aligning with the objectives of the National Geospatial Policy 2022 and the Indian Space Policy 2023.

His instrumental support in integrating geospatial solutions into HADP has not only improved

data-driven decision-making but also enhanced transparency, efficiency and resource optimization in the agri-governance framework.

This year's National Geospatial Awards recognized around 100 distinguished personalities across India, including 10 IAS officers, 1 Armed Forces officer, 17 eminent scientists from ISRO, 5 Vice Chancellors and over 60 senior faculty members from premier institutions, for their remarkable contributions to the geospatial ecosystem in India.

The event was spearheaded by a core organizing team comprising Professor Kannan Moudgalya, Principal Investigator, FOSSEE (Convenor); Professor Pennan Chinnasamy, Co-PI, FOSSEE (Co-Convenor); Mohamed Kasim Khan M (Organizing Secretary) and

Madhulika Goyal, Senior Manager, FOSSEE (Awards Function Coordinator).

Notably, it was also revealed during the event that IIT Bombay is annually inducting over 1,000 interneers from across the country, with 100 internship opportunities extended to SKUAST-Kashmir students under the FOSSEE GIS initiative, aiming to skill the youth in advanced geospatial technologies and prepare them for future employment challenges.

The same is the result of an MoU signed by the Agricultural University with this institution last year.

The Principal Secretary, APD, extended gratitude to the visiting faculty members on part of the administration and the University for this unique opportunity to its students.



# DC Ramban Leads Har Ghar Tiranga Celebrations and Public Outreach Programme in Gool

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**RAMBAN, AUGUST 7:** In connection with the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga campaign to celebrate India's 79th Independence Day, Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, today led a series of patriotic and public outreach activities in Sub-Division Gool, blending the spirit of nationalism with citizen-centric governance.

Accompanied by CPO Dr. Sha-keeb Ahmed Rather, ACP Mohammad Ashfaq, SDM Gool Imtiaz Ahmed, and other senior officers, the DC visited venues showcasing student creativity through patriotic paintings, crafts, and stalls. Students enthusiastically participated in activities such as Rangoli making with organic materials, painting exhibitions, and Rakhi-making, expressing their patriotic fervour.

A major highlight was the Tiranga Rakhi celebration at GHSS Gool, where students tied trico-



lour rakhis to the Deputy Commissioner, dignitaries, and se-

curity personnel under the theme "Tiranga Rakhi Har Veer Ki Kalai

Par". Students and officials also took a pledge to hoist the National Flag atop their homes, reinforcing the message of Har Ghar Tiranga.

The DC also participated in a plantation drive under the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" initiative, organized by the Forest Department Gool, promoting environmental awareness. Outstanding student performers were felicitated for their contributions.

Across the district, the campaign was celebrated with rallies, painting contests, cultural performances, and awareness drives on Swachhata, water conservation, plantation, and hygiene, turning Ramban into a vibrant hub of patriotic spirit.

In continuation of the public outreach initiative, the Deputy Commissioner also chaired a Public Grievance Redressal Camp in Gool, aimed at addressing local concerns at the grassroots. The event was attended by DDC Chairperson Dr. Shamshad Shan,

district officers, and citizens. A two-minute silence was observed in memory of Late Sh. Rajinder Singh Rana (JKAS) and his son, who recently passed away in a tragic accident.

During the interaction, the DC assured timely redressal of all grievances through coordinated efforts. He encouraged youth to enroll under Mission YUVA, directing banks not to seek guarantees or collateral from applicants. He also announced a two-day Mission YUVA Awareness Camp to boost participation.

Delegations raised issues related to healthcare, road connectivity, education, tourism, employment, and SRO-43 matters. The DC instructed officials to ensure transparency and fairness in addressing these concerns.

Later, the DC inspected renovation work at Gorha Gali and directed the SDM to develop the site as a tourist destination, emphasizing infrastructure development and heritage preservation.

## Director Agriculture reviews progress of agricultural schemes in Jammu Division

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**JAMMU, AUGUST 07:** Director Agriculture Jammu, Anil Gupta, today chaired a review meeting at Krishi Bhawan, Talab Tillo, Jammu to assess the physical and financial progress, including expenditure incurred under various schemes implemented across the region. The meeting focused on Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), CAPEX and the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

The meeting was attended by Joint Director Agriculture (SLUB) S. Sohan Singh, Deputy Director (Planning) Priyanka Parihar and sectoral heads of different schemes under the Agriculture Department. Chief Agriculture Officers (CAOs) from all districts of Jammu Division participated via virtual conferencing.



During the session, the Director emphasised the need to expedite utilisation of available funds to ensure timely and maximum achievement under ongoing schemes. He instructed officers to strictly follow quality parameters and Codal formalities while executing infrastructure development works as per approved Detailed Project Reports.

He further directed officers to identify and address bottlenecks that may hinder effective implementation of farmer welfare schemes. He particularly stressed proactive field-level monitoring and coordination to ensure schemes are implemented smoothly and their benefits reach the intended farming community.

The Director also reviewed the progress of flagship CSS schemes including PMKSY, PDMC, SMAM, RAD, RKVY, PKVY, ATMA, NFSM and others. Detailed discussions were held with CAOs on targets achieved and strategies to improve outcomes under these schemes.

The Director instructed all CAOs to submit the latest Monthly Progress Reports (MPRs) to the Directorate without delay. He urged officers to maintain high standards of efficiency, transparency and accountability, ensuring financial and physical progress aligns with set timelines and objectives.

## DC Reasi felicitates weavers, artisans on National Handloom Day

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**REASI, AUGUST 07:** The District Administration Reasi, in collaboration with the Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom Jammu, celebrated National Handloom Day at the DC Office Complex, Reasi, to promote the handloom sector and honour the contributions of local artisans.

Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik felicitated skilled weavers and artisans from across the district for their achievements in handloom and handicrafts. Certificates of appreciation and training diplomas were awarded to recognise their dedication and craftsmanship.



The event featured a short video on the significance of National Handloom Day, certificate distribution for recently trained artisans, and poem recitations by local craftsmen. Weavers also shared success stories with the Deputy Commissioner, highlighting the impact of recent training programmes. A handloom pledge was taken by all participants, reaffirming their commitment to traditional crafts.

The Deputy Commissioner underlined the importance of preserving traditional arts and crafts as vital cultural assets and key drivers of rural employment. She reiterated the administration's support for the "Vocal for Local" initiative and government schemes for artisans.

A hands-on craft workshop for students was inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner, who encouraged them to engage sincerely with traditional crafts alongside their academics. A small exhibition of local artisans' work also drew appreciation from attendees.

The event was attended by CPO Reasi Narinder Kumar, Assistant Director Handloom Ujwal Singh, AHTO and other officials.

## 11th National Handloom Day celebrated with grandeur at Udyog Bhawan Jammu

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**JAMMU, AUGUST 07:** The 11th National Handloom Day was celebrated at the Conference Hall, Udyog Bhawan, Jammu, with grandeur and cultural vibrance.

Organised by the Department of Handicrafts & Handloom, the event honoured India's handloom legacy and reaffirmed the Government's commitment to supporting weavers. Eleven curated stalls by weavers, co-operative societies and handloom units showcased the region's textile heritage. The event was inaugurated by Mo-

hammad Nazir Sheikh, Director, Handicrafts & Handloom, Jammu. In his address, he said the handloom sector reflects India's civilisational heritage and that artisans are cultural custodians. He called for collective responsibility in empowering them through innovation and sustained support.

Senior officers from the department, including Deputy Director Administration Mohammad Farooq Malik and Deputy Director Planning Rakesh Kumar Sharma, visited the stalls.

A specially curated "Handloom Selfie Point" attracted visitors, while

brochures and awareness material were distributed to enhance outreach and participation in departmental schemes.

Artisans expressed gratitude for the opportunity to showcase their work. Certificates of Excellence and mementoes were presented to selected weavers and cooperatives.

Assistant Director Handlooms Jammu Rupali Mahajan thanked dignitaries and praised the Director for his leadership. She noted that National Handloom Day reaffirms India's cultural identity and that innovation will sustain traditional crafts.

## DC Rajouri directs pre-Independence Day inspection

ADC reviews arrangements at Police Lines venue

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**RAJOURI, AUGUST 07:** On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, the Additional Deputy Commissioner Chanderparkash today conducted a detailed inspection of the Police Lines Rajouri, the venue for the Independence Day 2025 celebrations.

The ADC also chaired a comprehensive meeting with concerned departments to review the arrangements being made for the celebration.

During the inspection and meeting, ADC Chanderparkash reviewed key components such as water supply, sanitation, electricity, public address system, stage decoration, seating arrangements, media gallery, cultural performances and the participation of marching contingents.

The officers were directed to work in close coordination to ensure all arrangements are completed well in advance, and that all necessary facilities are provided for the public and participants.

The meeting was attended by ACP Sheraz Chouhan, ACD Auqil Naveed, CPO Maqsood Ahmed, Executive Engineer PDD Abdul Rasheed, Executive Engineer PHE Sudesh Sharma, DySP DAR Akshay Khajuria, Executive Officer Municipality Yusaf-



ul-Umar, and other district and sectoral officers.

## MLA, DC Reasi flag off annual Kousar Nag Yatra from Reasi

■ HT News Desk

**REASI, AUGUST 07:** The annual Kousar Nag Yatra was ceremoniously flagged off today from Thappa Chowk, Reasi, amid religious fervour and spiritual enthusiasm. Member Legislative Assembly Reasi Kuldeep Raj Dubey and Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik jointly inaugurated the yatra in the presence of senior officials and devotees.

The pilgrimage, which holds great religious significance, will culminate at the sacred Kousar Nag Lake in the Pir Panjal range. Devotees gathered early in the morning to begin their journey with traditional chants and rituals.

The Deputy Commissioner extended her best wishes to the yatriis and assured full administrative support for a safe and smooth pilgrimage. She said comprehensive arrangements have been made in coordination with departments for



track repair, security, healthcare, sanitation, power, water, toilet facilities and transportation.

She emphasised seamless coordination among the District Administration, Army, Police, SDRF, Health Department, PWD and local volunteers to facilitate the yatra.

Prominent attendees included SSP Reasi Paramvir Singh, CPO Narinder Kumar, Additional SP Ifthikar Ahmed, Tehsildar Reasi Suresh Singh, senior officers and community members.

The flag-off marked both a spiritual beginning and a reflection of the region's cultural unity and heritage.

## Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme at Central University of Jammu

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**JAMMU, AUG 7:** A week long (4th-8th August, 2025) Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme (VBYP), organised under the aegis of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, and Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, kicked off at Central University of Jammu on 4th August, 2025 with the Viksit Bharat Pledge administered by Registrar, Prof. Yashwant Singh and Tiranga Rally flagged off by Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain in the presence of Director, Directorate of Physical Education, Central University of Jammu, Prof. Vandana Sharma and deans, heads, faculty, staff and students. The Vice Chancellor underscored the role of youth's immense potential and advised them to embrace 'Make in India' and indigenous platforms to usher towards "Viksit Bharat 2047", but also acknowledged enormous challenges in the era of technological boom and



addiction to social media. The Director un-

derscored the relevance of VBYP to foster a

spirit of responsible citizenship, leadership and social awareness among the youth. She said that the university is organising a series of activities to capture the spirit of Viksit Bharat @2047 and Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan commencing with a Pledge followed by Tiranga Rally; Cycle Rally - 'Paddle for Viksit Bharat'; Yuva Samvaad; wall painting and slogan writing; and Nukkad Natak.

Dr. Sudhakar, Dr. Kiran, Dr. Bhawani, and Dr. Neerendra, Assistant Directors and Lt. Dr. Pankaj Mehta and Dr. Anju Thappa are the core committee members of the programme. As part of VBYP, students of Kendriya Vidyalaya, CU Jammu participated in a wall painting and slogan writing activities. On August 6th, the Cycle Rally - 'Paddle for Viksit Bharat' was flagged off by Registrar and Director and her team, followed by Yuva Samvad on 'Drug Addiction: An Overview' were conducted. Through the rally, the Direc-

tor efficaciously addressed the participants about the progressive stride towards Nasha Mukta Viksit Bharat. Following this event, the Yuva Samvad was held at the Auditorium. The eminent speaker of the event Dr. Manu Arora, MD, DPM, Prof. and HoD, Psychiatry, Govt. Medical College Jammu initiated his talk by emphasising that Jammu and Kashmir, and India as a whole has become one of the epicentres of drug consumption today than just a transit. He elaborately implicated the dire consequences of drug abuse and addiction to health, society, and particularly, the security of the country. The talk was received with critical queries and insights from the participants and attendees which the speaker gave quenching responses to. On 7th, Nukkad Natak, focused on Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, led by Dr. Anju Thapa was performed in the university by the students of university.



# Gill Shows He Is Ready For The Grind Of India's Test captaincy

■ [Nagraj Gollapudi](#)

**NEW DELHI:** As soon as Chris Woakes came out to bat on Monday morning, Shubman Gill and Mohammed Siraj had a quick chat and agreed to deny Gus Atkinson the single on the last ball of the 84th over which would allow Prasidh Krishna to have a crack from the Vauxhall end at the England all-rounder who had walked out, broken arm in a sling, aiming to bat left-handed. Gill asked Siraj to bowl a wide yorker outside off stump to prevent Atkinson from getting bat on ball. The other key element of the plan was for Gill to ask wicketkeeper Dhruv Jurel to take off his right glove and be alert for a throw at the stumps in case the batters attempted a bye.

Siraj delivered his end of the bargain, Atkinson failed to connect, and both batters set off for the bye. Jurel, though, never took off his glove and his throw was too slow and wide off the stumps, which left India's best fast bowler in this series highly annoyed. "Bola nahin tune usko", [did you not tell him the plan?], Siraj asked Gill, staring wide-eyed, with a heaving chest. Siraj would continue staring in disbelief at Jurel, who sheepishly jogged to the other end.

Gill would explain after the match why the plan did not take off, with Siraj now chuckling beside him: "He told me to tell Dhruv to take off his gloves to get the run out. By the time I told Dhruv, he (Siraj) was already running in to bowl. So Dhruv didn't have enough time to drop his gloves and he missed. That's why he said to me

why did you not tell him."

In the subsequent overs, until he smashed Atkinson's off stump, Siraj and Prasidh would stick to the same plan on the last ball even as Gill persisted with eight fielders on the boundary. Gill would go on to explain why he did not want to bring in the fielders in for the last ball to Atkinson.

"We felt even in the second-last ball or last ball, we felt if we go wide yorker there's a chance of him (Atkinson) missing, which he did in the first one - Dhruv missed the stumps, which happens. But that was the plan that they have to score. We wanted them to take on the fielders and score in boundaries rather than bringing the field inside and they hit a boundary. We didn't want them to achieve it in one shot. We wanted them to hit maybe two or three shots to be able to achieve the runs because that, I felt, gave us the best probability to be able [to strike], for them to make a mistake and for us to win the match."

Three overs prior to the end of an absorbing first hour on day four, the 25th of England's innings, Siraj asked Gill to have Ravindra Jadeja at backward point. Gill, on second thought, placed Jadeja to deep point. Siraj was not impressed only because he didn't want Joe Root to get off strike. Root had just walked in the previous over to replace Ben Duckett. England were 83 for 2 and Siraj's plan was to shackle Root and not allow him the dab, one of his go-to shots. Root picked up two easy singles in that over, opening the face of the bat and guiding the ball behind square. Before the start of the final over before the first

drinks break, Siraj, with both hands raised to his face, pleaded with Gill to bring Jadeja inside the circle. Gill acquiesced. Siraj bowled a maiden and nearly induced an outside edge.

"I told him let's keep the point fielder inside the circle," Siraj said on Monday, "but he told me let him go for his strokes as that could result in a wicket and the match could turn in our favour. His thinking was also right because at that moment he was thinking like a batsman."

While Gill has convinced everyone during the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy that captaincy does not affect his run-scoring, there have been questions about other aspects of his leadership. Is he good at reading the situation? Is he a good tactician? Can he communicate clearly with his bowlers? The above incidents are just two examples that give us a slightly better understanding of Gill's captaincy. They show Gill has his own thoughts but is equally receptive to what his players have to say. Siraj has played with Gill since their India A days and is a contemporary. Both of them also play for Gujarat Titans in the IPL, where Gill has been captain since 2024, with Siraj joining in 2025. "There is a mutual understanding between us," Siraj said. "Our communication is very clear. I'm very happy about his growth."

Given this was his first Test series as captain, Gill acknowledges he has a lot to learn but at the same time he is happy with the way he has juggled his responsibilities: "There are some things that me and as a team we definitely need to work on.



## Tendulkar: Siraj 'doesn't get the credit he deserves'

■ [United News of India](#)

**NEW DELHI, AUG 07:** Sachin Tendulkar has hailed the efforts of some of the India players who played a key role in the five-match Test series against England that ended 2-2 after a heart-stopping finish on the final day. Tendulkar heaped praise on "unbelievable" Mohammed Siraj, talked about how KL Rahul tightened his game around off stump with "precise footwork", how Yashasvi Jaiswal showed a lot of character and maturity during his twin hundreds, and how Shubman Gill remained "calm and composed" as a captain.

Apart from the high-octane finish and the inaugural Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy being shared, the series saw a number of twists and turns, dramatic face-offs and some extraordinary individual efforts, such as Rishabh Pant and Chris Woakes walking out to bat with injuries. Pant played four of the five Tests and scored two centuries and three half-centuries, the last of them with a fractured right foot



to average 68.42 with a strike rate of 77.63.

"The sweep shot that he played, he likes to get under the ball to scoop it with some elevation," Tendulkar said on Reddit. "People think he has fallen, but it is intentional so that he can get under the ball. The secret to play those shots is to be able to get under the ball. So it's a planned fall, he doesn't go off-balance. All that depends on the length of the ball."

While calling Pant's strokeplay and the "punch" he adds to them a "god's gift", Tendulkar said, "There were occasions where people felt he doesn't have to play that shot, it's not the right time, but someone like Rishabh should be left alone. But when he's looking to save a match, he has to have a different approach, like in the last 15-20 overs of a match. But he has figured out [how to approach an innings] depending on the match situation."

The two batting stalwarts for India in this series were Gill and opener Rahul, who racked up 754 runs and 532 runs respectively with six hundreds between them. Tendulkar pointed out both batters had "precise footwork" on the challenging conditions in England. Gill's series aggregate was the second-highest tally of a captain, only behind Don Bradman's 810 in 1936.

## Son Heung-min signs with MLS' Los Angeles FC after a decade at Tottenham

■ [United News of India](#)

**LOS ANGELES, AUG 07:** Son Heung-min agreed to a contract with Los Angeles FC on Tuesday, finalizing his move to Major League Soccer after a decade at Tottenham Hotspur.

The 33-year-old South Korean superstar forward is joining LAFC three days after he formally announced his decision to leave Tottenham.

Son attended LAFC's Leagues Cup match against Tigres at BMO

Stadium on Tuesday night, watching from a luxury suite. LAFC will formally introduce Son at a news conference Wednesday, but the club showed the forward on the stadium video board late in the first half as he waved to roaring fans thrilled by their team's landmark acquisition.

LAFC, a deep-pocketed club with significant team success in its first eight seasons of existence, reportedly paid a transfer fee of more than \$20 million, which could end up being the most ever for an



MLS move.

Son was a beloved presence at Spurs, scoring 173 goals in 454 competitive appearances for the North London club while rising to global prominence with his combination of speed, playmaking skill and finishing acumen.

The captain was given a memorable farewell last week in Seoul during Tottenham's exhibition match against Newcastle, getting a guard of honor from both teams and tearfully exiting in the second half while nearly 65,000 fans roared.

## Think before you speak, Karma hits instantly: Ashwin on Stokes' comments on injury substitution

■ [United News of India](#)

**NEW DELHI, AUG 07:** Former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has criticised Ben Stokes for his dismissive remarks on injury substitutions, saying the England captain should "think before speaking", as "karma" came back to haunt them when they were left a batter short following Chris Woakes' shoulder niggle in the fifth Test.

India wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant had retired hurt on the first day of the drawn fourth Test at Manchester but returned to bat the next day despite scans confirming a fracture in his right foot.

India coach Gautam Gambhir had subsequently called for the introduction of injury replacements in Test cricket, a suggestion that Stokes dismissed, terming it "absolutely ridiculous." However, in the fifth Test at The Oval, England faced a similar situation when Woakes suffered a fractured shoulder but still came out to bat on the final day with England nine wickets down and needing fewer than 20 runs to win.

"I want to talk about another imperfection in this series. There's a Tamil saying that loosely translates to 'Your karma will affect you almost instantly.' What you sow is what you reap," Ashwin said on his YouTube channel 'Ash Ki Baat'. "After the last Test, there were questions asked about the injury to Pant. Gautam Gambhir said that such injuries need a substitution. And when Stokes was asked about this response, he simply brushed it away, calling it a joke. I am a big fan of Stokes' cricketing abilities and his attitude. But he can think and then reply."

Highlighting Woakes' determination to continue batting despite his injury, Ashwin



added, "He was ready to give his life to win the game for his team, and almost did it too. He had the game awareness to run and give the strike to Atkinson. Hats off to Chris Woakes. Remarkable attitude, and a remarkable way to step out for your team, and put your body on the line."

Ashwin also referenced former England captain Michael Vaughan's comments on the need for cricket's rules to evolve.

"Michael Vaughan said this is one area where the game can evolve. Substitutions should be allowed. All I'm saying is: show a little empathy for the other team. Stokes should have considered what it would be like if a player of Rishabh Pant's calibre was in his team and got injured.

"Wouldn't you want a substitution? Wouldn't that be fair? You are free to share your opinion but using words like 'joke' and 'ridiculous' isn't respectful. Think before you speak. Karma hits instantly," he added.

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