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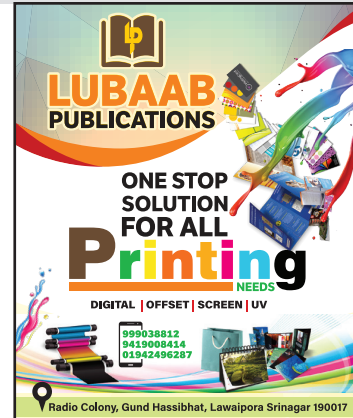
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15TH
YEAR OF
PUBLICATIONHEADLINES
TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless



National Flag Symbolizes Our Unity, Pride and Shared Identity: LG Sinha

"We Must Resolve to Build The Edifice of Prosperous, Peaceful J&K on the Foundation of Supreme Sacrifices of Our Armed Forces"

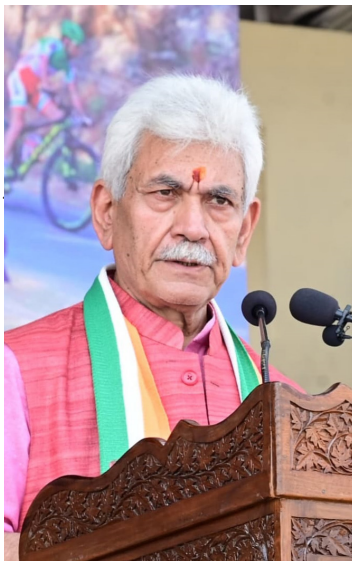
■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 12: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today flagged-off the Tiranga Yatra from Dal Lake in Srinagar and joined the walkathon from Dal Lake to Botanical Garden.

"Tiranga is my Dharma. Tiranga is my strength. Tiranga is my heartbeat," said the Lieutenant Governor.

He also observed that it would be a blessing to be born again to serve the country.

"करम हेतु, इस धर्म भूमि पर लें फरि फरि हम जन्म सहर्ष- For the sake of duty, may we again and again take birth on this holy land. भारत माता की जय!", the Lieuten-



Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Jammu Kashmir has entered a new era of inclusive development.

"With renewed self-confidence and faith, the people of J&K are writing their own destiny. The unfulfilled dreams of generations are finally being realized.

With love for the Maa Bharti in their hearts, the people of Jammu Kashmir are marching ahead. This patriotic spirit is our greatest strength, which is paving the way for a peaceful and prosperous future of J&K and the nation," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed gratitude to the

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Successful Conclusion of Holy Yatra is a Be fitting Reply From People of J&K to The Enemy's Neferious Designs: LG Manoj Sinha

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 12: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today felicitated the officers of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, Administration, J&K Police, Army, CAPFs, BRO, service providers, medical professionals, members of Non-Governmental Organisations, and other stakeholders for the successful conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025.

At a felicitation ceremony held at Raj Bhawan Auditorium, the Lieutenant Governor congratulated the people of J&K for making holy pilgrimage a rich spiritual

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LG Felicitates 79 BSF Cyclists for I Day Rally

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 12: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today today felicitated the 79 Cyclists, who participated in the 'Pedal for Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' rally, organised by Border Security Force. The Cycle rally was organised as a part of 79th Independence Day celebrations.

The Cyclists comprising 40 local youth and 39 BSF Personnel covered 79 KMs (BSF Campus Bandipora-Manasbal- Sumbal-Shalateng-Hyderabad- Bakshi Stadium- Frontier HQ, BSF Kashmir, Humhama) and celebrated the core ideal of our India's diversity, spirit of national unity and fostered a sense of common identity.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the country's first line of defence, BSF, for paying a befitting tribute to the brave soldiers and officers who have shown incredible valour, courage, and sacrifice to maintain the unity and integrity of the nation. He said the rally will also encourage the youth to join BSF, Army and Police Force.

"BSF's 'Pedal for Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' rally passing through numerous towns and villages along the way inspired the young generation and reminded them about the vision of our founding fathers and their ideals of selfless service. It is a bounden duty of every citizen of

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Uphold, Preserve The Dignity of The National Flag: CM Omar at Tiranga Rally

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 12: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today urged the people to preserve and uphold the honour of the national flag, calling it a living symbol of India's identity, pride and the sacrifices of countless patriots.

He was addressing a gathering at the Tiranga Rally concluded at the Nehru Memorial Botanical Garden, Chashma-i-Shahi, Srinagar.

Reflecting on the past, the Chief Minister recalled that there was a time when the national flag was only permitted to fly over government buildings, barred from being displayed in homes, workplaces, or private spaces. "This was the reality we lived in — the flag belonged to the nation, yet it was absent from our personal lives," he said.

Highlighting the role of a single determined citizen who approached the courts and secured



the right for every Indian to hoist the Tiranga at their homes, the Chief Minister said this change was proof that "even one individual, driven by the right intentions, can bring about lasting change."

He paid rich tribute to those who laid down their lives for the honour of the national flag, stating, "They gave up their present for the nation's future, stood alone

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Holding event in Pahalgam boosts morale of J&K people: CM

■ HT News Desk

PAHALGAM, AUG 12: Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah Tuesday interacted with members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) during the 445th Council Meeting, being held at the picturesque

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Visits Shalimar Garden, takes stock of restoration works

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 12: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday visited the historic Mughal Garden Shalimar to inspect the ongoing conservation works

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Security beefed up in J&K ahead of I-Day celebrations

■ HT News Desk / KINS

SRINAGAR, AUG 12: Security forces have stepped up an unprecedented multi-layer security grid across Jammu and Kashmir, especially along the border districts, to ensure a safe and incident-free Independence Day.

In the Jammu region, both ground and aerial surveillance have been intensified, with additional Quick Response Teams (QRTs) deployed in Jammu city.

Army and Border Security Force (BSF) units are maintaining a heightened vigil along the 225-km Line of Control (LoC) and the 192-km International Border (IB), while patrolling and area domination in the hinterland have also been reinforced.

Border grid security has been tightened, with all border roads under strict watch.

Security on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH44) has also been bolstered, and drones are scanning sensitive stretches. Police have issued advisories in Rajouri and Poonch, urging public cooperation and requesting prompt reporting of any suspicious activity or objects.

The run-up to Independence Day has also seen a wave of patriotic fervour, with Har Ghar Tiranga and Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav events

lighting up schools, colleges, and government offices across all districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The main Independence Day event in Jammu will be held at Maulana Azad Stadium, where Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary will unfurl the Tricolour and take the salute.

In Srinagar, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah will preside over the celebrations at Bakshi Stadium, as the Union Territory stands united under tight security and a spirit of national pride. This year's Independence Day will be the first following the formation of an elected government after the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status in 2019.

Meanwhile security forces have fortified Srinagar and other district headquarters across the Valley, with special focus on key entry points, as part of intensified measures ahead of Independence Day.

Officials said multiple checkpoints have been established, where random vehicle inspections and frisking operations are being carried out to block any attempt by subversive elements to infiltrate the city or disrupt public safety.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, V.K. Birdi said that comprehensive security

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B O T T O M

Faulty Trellis Systems Threaten Kashmir's Apple Boom



■ Irshad Ul Islam

ANANTNAG, AUG 12: In the heart of Kashmir's apple country, just days before harvest, a mild gust of wind was all it took to bring down an entire high-density orchard. The collapse of the galvanised iron (GI) trellis system in Mirdanter village, Anantnag, has left grower Arif Shafiq Bhat counting his

losses — and the region's horticulture industry counting the cost of substandard infrastructure.

Bhat's eight-kanal orchard, planted in 2019 by a private developer, was meant to be a model of Kashmir's high-density revolution — delivering higher yields, better quality, and greater resilience. Instead, on Thursday

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ACB busts another major land scam; 8 FIRs registered

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUG 12: In yet another major breakthrough, the Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has exposed a large-scale land scam involving the illegal grab of Custodian land in Asarwan, Mishriwala, and Bhalwal areas of Jammu district.

ACB in a statement said that acting on specific inputs, it uncovered a nexus between land grabbers, Form Alaf holders, and officials of the Revenue and Custodian departments, leading to fraudulent mutations and sales of government land.

According to the ACB, thousands of kanals of Custodian land were illegally usurped by the land mafia with the connivance

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Kulgam anti-terror operation called off after 12 days

■ HT News Network

KULGAM, AUG 12: The prolonged anti-terror operation in the Akhal forest area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district was officially called off on Tuesday, bringing to an end 12 days of one of the longest counter-terror operations in recent years.

An official informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the decision was taken after security forces, despite an exhaustive search through dense alpine

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CS FOR MAKING KIWSF A GRAND SHOWCASE OF LOCAL TOURISM, ART, CULTURE

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 12: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting with senior officers from the civil administration and Police to review preparedness for the maiden edition of the Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF) 2025, scheduled to be held on the iconic Dal Lake from 21st to 23rd August.

Calling the event a unique opportunity to project Kashmir's multifaceted charm on a national platform, the Chief Secretary emphasised that the festival must be converted into a grand celebration of local

tourism, handicrafts, art and culture. He directed the Handicrafts & Handloom Department to organise top-class exhibitions, highlighting the region's rich craftsmanship to the visitors expected during the event.

The Chief Secretary noted that the timing of the festival coinciding with the peak tourist season in Srinagar has offered an ideal occasion to create lasting impressions on visiting the athletes, officials and spectators. He asked the Youth Services & Sports Department to ensure flawless conduct so that the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports considers Srinagar as a regular venue for

the festival in the years ahead.

Reviewing arrangements in detail, the Chief Secretary took stock of venue readiness, sports infrastructure, boarding and lodging facilities for athletes, security measures and branding and publicity.

He directed all the concerned departments like that of Tourism, PDD, Jal Shakti, Traffic, Hospitality & Protocol, Civil Aviation, Airports Authority, LCMA, Handicrafts & Handloom, SDRF, Health and Fire & Emergency Services to deliver their responsibilities with the highest standards of efficiency.

Commissioner Secretary, Youth

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Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign: Civil & Police Administration Handwara Lead Mega Tiranga Rally

■ HT News Desk

KUPWARA, AUG 12: As part of the ongoing nationwide Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi, and SSP Handwara, Choudhary Mushtaq Ahmad along with other senior civil and police officers, today led a grand Mega Tiranga Rally from Model Boys Higher Secondary School Handwara.

The rally witnessed massive

public participation, with thousands of students from across Sub-District Handwara, government officials, employees, civil society members, traders, transporters, and locals, all proudly carrying the National Flag. Among the prominent participants were Tehsildar Handwara Zeeshan Khan, ASP Handwara, SDPO Handwara, DSP DR, Deputy CEO Kupwara, EXN R&B Division Handwara and others.

The spirited march began from the lush playground of



Model Boys Higher Secondary School, weaving its way through various streets and markets of Handwara town, and concluded at the District Hospital Handwara. All along the route, the atmosphere echoed with patriotic slogans, songs, and chants, showcasing the deep commitment of the people towards unity, integrity, and nationalism.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADC Handwara and SSP Handwara highlighted the importance of the Har Ghar

Tiranga initiative in fostering a strong sense of patriotism. They appealed the public to hoist the National Flag at their homes from August 13 to 15 and to actively participate in the 79th Independence Day celebrations.

The Mega Tiranga Rally forms part of a series of events organized by the Sub-District Administration Handwara to commemorate the sacrifices of India's freedom fighters and celebrate the nation's hard-earned independence with pride and honour.

Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign: Civil and Police Administration Handwara Lead Mega Tiranga Rally

■ Dr. Ab Qayoom

HANDWARA, AUG 12: As part of the ongoing nationwide Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara Javed Naseem Masoodi and SSP Handwara Choudhary Mushtaq Ahmad (KPS), along with senior civil and police officers, today led a Mega Tiranga Rally from Model Boys Higher Secondary School Handwara. The rally witnessed massive participation, with thousands of students from across Sub-District Handwara, government officials, civil society members, traders, transporters, and locals carrying the National Flag. Tehsildar Handwara Zeeshan Khan, ASP Handwara, SDPO Handwara, DSP DAR, Deputy CEO Kupwara, and EXN R&B Division Handwara were among the prominent participants. Starting from the playground of Model Boys Higher Secondary School, the rally passed through the main streets and markets of Handwara before concluding at District Hospital Handwara. The atmosphere throughout the route was charged with patriotic slogans, songs, and chants. Addressing the gathering, ADC Handwara and SSP Handwara stressed the importance of the Har Ghar Tiranga initiative in fostering patriotism, urging citizens to hoist the National Flag at their homes from August 13 to 15 and to actively participate in the 79th Independence Day celebrations. The event concluded with the singing of the National Anthem, resonating with the collective spirit of patriotism and reaffirming the commitment of the people of Handwara towards the progress and unity of the nation.

Students from Aryans Group of Colleges Visit BB Cantt Srinagar in Collaboration with Saving The Future NGO

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 12: Saving The Future NGO facilitated a day-long educational visit for students of Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura Chandigarh, to the prestigious BB Cantt Srinagar. Students from various streams including Paramedicals, Engineering, Pharmacy, management, Nursing and others explored key locations such as the Ibadat-e-Shahadat Museum, Sarv Dharm Sthal, War Memorial, and the historic Pani Mandir.

The visit culminated with an interactive session with the General Officer Commanding, 31 Sub



Area, where students gained valuable insights into the values, discipline, and legacy of the Indian Army.

Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman Aryans Group of Colleges, expressed his gratitude, stating, "It was an enriching experience for our students to witness the courage, sacrifice, and history that defines our armed forces."

Adv. Syed Junaid Sadaat, Chairman of Saving The Future, emphasized, "Such visits are essential in connecting students to the nation's pride and instilling a sense of respect and awareness about the armed forces."

DLIC approves 408 youth-led enterprises under Mission YUVA at Kulgam

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KULGAM, AUG 12: District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) Kulgam today approved 408 cases of youth-led business ventures under Mission YUVA, giving a major boost to entrepreneurship and self-employment in the district. Out of the total 408 approved cases, 399 cases fall under Nano Enterprises, 08 cases under New MSME, and 01 case under Existing Enterprises Scheme.

DLIC meeting was chaired by

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan and attended by key members of the committee including GM DIC, District Development Manager NABARD, District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Kulgam, District Nodal Officer JKEDI, Career Counselling Officer, Employment Officer DE&CC Kulgam and Lead District Manager (LDM) Kulgam.

The cases presented for DLIC approval had undergone a detailed scrutiny and verification process conducted by the Small Business

Development Unit (SBDU) ensuring transparency, viability, and alignment with Mission YUVA's objectives.

The projects approved under this phase span over a diverse set of sectors including agri-allied ventures, service-oriented businesses, trades & retail setups. Beneficiaries will receive financial assistance, mentorship, and handholding support under the scheme, coordinated by the District Employment & Counselling Centre (DE&CC) Kulgam in collaboration with other line departments.

Rural credit workshop held at block Keller of Shopian

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SHOPIAN, AUG 12: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Shopian in coordination with the Agriculture and allied departments organized a rural credit workshop today at block Keller, Shopian, under the Jammu & Kashmir Comprehensive Integrated Project (JKCIP).

The programme was presided over by MLA Shopian, Adv. Shabir Ahmad Kullay, and attended by DDC Member, Fazul-ud-Din Choudhary; Senior Scientist & Head, KVK Shopian, Prof. Zaffar Afroz Badri; Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, and representatives from Sericulture, Fisheries, JKHPMC, scientists of the Kendra, officers and officials from allied sectors, along with over 100 progressive farmers.

Members from Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), NGOs, champion farmers, as well as press and media person-



nel were also present. In his address, MLA appreciated the efforts of KVK scientists for reaching every corner of the district and sensitizing farmers about various schemes launched by the UT Government for their welfare.

Prof. Zaffar Afroz Badri presented an overview of the programme, highlighting the implementation of various schemes for the larger benefit of the farming community.

The workshop aimed to enhance farmers' understanding of financial, technical, and institutional benefits available under JKCIP.

Discussions focused on pre-production interventions to improve productivity and achieve high yields. Processing and value addition of farm produce, including grading, packaging, and viable transportation methods to extend shelf life and increase market value besides market linkages with national and international Mandis and metropolitan cities, and the infrastructure needed to achieve profitable outcomes was also discussed.

Representatives from the departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture, Sheep Husbandry, Animal Husbandry, and JKHPMC presented their schemes and services, encouraging farmers to avail these opportunities for better productivity and profitability.

The event concluded with an interactive session, where farmers clarified their queries and shared their experiences.

Awareness programme on 'International Youth Day' held at Pulwama

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

PULWAMA, AUG 12: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Pulwama today organized an awareness programme on "International Youth Day" in ADR Centre District Court Complex Pulwama.

This year the theme for International Youth Day was 'Local Youth Actions for the SDGs and Beyond' highlights the unique role of youth in translating global ambitions into community-driven realities. The programme

was organised under the chairmanship of Malik Shabir Ahmad, Chairman DLSA (Pr. District & Sessions Judge), Pulwama and under the supervision of Mudasar Farooq Secretary DLSA Pulwama.

On the occasion, Mehraj-ud-din Wani, Chief LADC Pulwama delivered a brief lecture to the participants on the problems faced by the youth of our country like unemployment, drug abuse etc and how these problems can be addressed and solved. He also threw light on the insights into



the life of Swami Vivekananda and relevance of his ideology in

the present times.

The main purpose of the day was to draw attention to a given set of cultural and legal issues surrounding youth.

Furthermore, Asst. LADC Pulwama also spoke on the occasion. Staff members of DLSA Pulwama, LADCs & PLVs of District Pulwama also participated in the said programme. Moreover, similar programme was also organized at TLSC Awantipora in collaboration with Hajahad Public Higher Secondary School Awantipora.

Joint Team Raids in Ramban to Curb Psychotropic Drug Misuse

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

RAMBAN, AUG 12: In a determined effort to ensure strict compliance with drug control regulations and prevent the misuse of psychotropic substances, a joint team of the Drug Control Department and Police today conducted extensive inspections in Ramban town.

Acting on the directions of the District Administration Ramban, the inspections focused on verifying adherence to legal provisions governing the sale and distribution of psychotropic and other habit-forming drugs by local chemists. The team meticulously scrutinized sales records, stock registers, and expiry dates of medicines to ensure compliance.

The Administration has reiterated its commitment to safeguarding public health and warned that stringent action will be taken against any violations. The Drug Control Officer Ramban has instructed all medical establishments to restrict the sale of psychotropic drugs strictly to legitimate needs, only against valid prescriptions, and to maintain proper documentation as mandated by law.

Chemists were also directed to ensure all medicines are within expiry and records are up to date. The public has been assured that such inspections will be conducted regularly, with offenders facing strict legal consequences to uphold drug safety and ensure access to quality, safe, and effective medicines in the district.

Vibrant Tiranga Rally at Sanasar Showcases Patriotism and Promote Destination

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

RAMBAN, AUG 12: Amid the mesmerizing scenic views of Sanasar, with its hills and meadows awash in tricolours, the District Administration Ramban today organised a vibrant Har Ghar Tiranga rally and series of patriotic events.

Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, led the rally, joined by SSP Arun Gupta, ADC Varun-jeet Singh Charak, ACR Shokat Hayat Mattoo, CEO Mukhtar Ahmed, DFO Ramban Bishan Dass, DFO Batote Abhinav Rehmotra, Tehsildar, Dr. Rujeeta Mahajan, and other officers. More than 1,000 students, youth, and locals enthusiastically participated in the celebrations. The day's main attractions included a Tiranga Shikara Rally, a Tiranga Horse Riders Rally, the stunning display of tricolours around the Sanasar Lake, and captivating cultural performances by students. Visitors to the tourist destination also joined the

festivities, contributing to the spirited display of patriotism.

The Tiranga Shikara Rally on the serene waters of Sanasar Lake drew loud cheers as boats, adorned with fluttering tricolours, glided across the sparkling surface, creating a breathtaking spectacle. The Tiranga Horse Riders Rally added a unique traditional touch, with riders proudly carrying the National Flag through the surrounding meadows, symbolising courage and pride. The entire lakeside area was decorated with vibrant flags, turning the landscape into a sea of saffron, white, and green. Meanwhile, students from various schools showcased their talent through patriotic songs, dances, and skits, drawing applause from the crowd.

Participants, including school children, tourists, and local residents, expressed that the sight of Sanasar draped in the tricolour was both inspiring and unforgettable. They said the unique combination of patriotic fervour

and natural beauty created a powerful message of unity and national pride, making the day a cherished memory for all. At Gool, the Sub-Divisional Administration also organized a grand Tiranga Rally from the Judicial Office to Hospital Gool. Led by SDM Imtiaz Ahmed, the rally saw enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, and locals, with the streets adorned in the vibrant hues of the tricolour, reflecting a strong spirit of patriotism and community pride.

At Khari, a vibrant Tiranga Yatra was carried out in Tehsil Khari, witnessing the enthusiastic participation of over 400 students and locals. The event was led by Tehsildar Khari S. Harvir Singh, along with the BDO Khari and Police Post In-charge Khari. The rally infused the area with patriotic zeal, as participants marched with the National Flag, raising slogans and spreading the message of unity and national pride. Similar events were also held in other tehsils across the district.



Abdul Rahim Rather conducts surprise inspection of Legislature Hostel Srinagar

REVIEWS ONGOING DEVELOPMENT, UPGRADATION WORKS

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, AUG 12: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather today conducted surprise inspection of Legislature Hostel Srinagar to gather first-hand appraisal of all ongoing development and upgradation works at hostel for the facilitation of legislators.

Secretary Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandita; Executive Engineers of various wings; senior officers of Legislative Assembly Secretariat and other concerned officers also accompanied the Speaker during the visit.

During the inspection, the Speaker toured various sections of the New Block of the hostel, assessing the pace and quality of civil works, infrastructure improvements and other facilities. He



directed the concerned executing agencies to maintain high standards of workmanship and adhere strictly to the stipulated timelines. He stressed that public resources must be utilized efficiently and works executed in a manner that reflects both quality and durability.

The Speaker also directed the concerned executive agency to renovate the rooms damaged recently in fire incident on immediate basis. He also took strong notice of lackadaisical approach in construction of compound wall which was damaged during 2014 floods.

Later, the Speaker also chaired a brief meeting to review the functioning of Legislature Hostel.

Speaking during the meeting, the Speaker instructed the management of the hostel to ensure

proper upkeep, regular maintenance and modern amenities in the hostel to meet contemporary requirements of the legislators. "Legislators are the face of the democracy and public and they need necessary facilities with dignity they deserve", he stated.

He also underlined that the improvements in functioning of hostel will not only benefit the legislators but also uphold the dignity of the institution they serve.

Meanwhile, during the meeting, the Speaker also took stock of various issues of employees of Legislature Hostel. He directed the officers of Assembly Secretariat for timely conduct of DPC meetings of eligible staff members. He also called upon the officers to maintain proper discipline in the hostel and ensure proper uniform code for the staff.

Awareness & Assessment drive themed 'Special People, Special Attention' launched in Budgam

■ HT News Desk

BUDGAM, AUG 12: District administration Budgam has launched a Special Awareness and Assessment drive titled 'Special People, Special Attention', aimed to assess and address the specific needs of citizens with special abilities across the district.

The initiative is being carried out by the District Social Welfare Office (DSWO) Budgam, under the directions of Deputy Commis-

sioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat.

Over the course of the campaign, scheduled from 4th August 2025 to 21st August 2025, 12 dedicated programmes have been planned in different blocks and towns of Budgam, ensuring maximum outreach and inclusion. The assessment will focus on identifying and documenting requirements of citizens with Autism Spectrum Disorders, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Illness and other cognitive or phys-

ical conditions etc.

These programmes will also serve as awareness sessions for families, caregivers, and local communities while highlighting available government schemes, support systems, and avenues for assistance.

DSWO Budgam, added that these drives will be conducted in collaboration with medical experts, special educators, and community volunteers to ensure accurate assessment and follow-up action.

MLA KULGAM PRESIDES OVER DISTRIBUTION/ FITMENT CAMP

Distributes aids & appliances among CWSNs

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, AUG 12: A distribution-cum-fitment camp under the Samagra Shiksha was today organized at Government Middle School Bongam.

The event, presided over by the Member of Legislative Assembly (MLSA) Kulgam, M.Y. Tarigami, was organized by Zonal Education Office Kulgam in collaboration with an expert team from ALIMCO, Kanpur for the distribution of aids and appliances among Children with Special Needs (CWSNs) assessed under the Inclusive Education

initiative.

Prominent dignitaries present on the occasion included DDC Chairperson, M Afazal Parry; DDC Member Kulgam-B, Gh. Mohi-ud-Din; DDC Member Qaimoh, M Abass Rather and Chief Education Officer Kulgam, M Shabir.

Addressing the gathering, MLA and other dignitaries lauded the efforts of the Education department in creating opportunities and robust support systems for CWSNs, thereby ensuring their seamless integration into the mainstream education system.

Rural credit workshop under JKCIIP held at block Khag in Budgam

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, AUG 12: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Budgam in collaboration with line departments and J&K Bank conducted Rural credit workshop under Krishi Sampark Abhiyan-4.0 as part of the JKCIIP initiative at village Khag in district Budgam.

The programme was presided over by Prof. and Head KVK Budgam Dr. Bilal Ahmad Lone. KVK Scientists Dr. Shabeer Ahmad Ganie, Dr. Ambreen Nabi, Dr. Iram Farooq, Sub-division level SMS from Agriculture, public representatives, officials from Agriculture & allied sectors, bank officials, KVK representatives, JKCIIP officials and other stakeholders participated in the event.

The workshop aimed to generate awareness among farmers about various rural credit schemes, agricultural financing options and insurance schemes to ensure better access to financial resources for sustainable agriculture.

Dr. Bilal Ahmad Lone Prof. & Head said that KVK Budgam has been proactively implementing programmes that connect farmers with the latest scientific interventions and financial support systems. He assured that KVK Budgam will continue to work as a bridge between farmers, financial institutions and technical agencies, and urged farmers to actively engage with such programmes and avail the facilities designed for their socio-economic upliftment.

Dr. Shabeer Ahmad Ganie scientist from KVK in his address stressed upon all the stakeholders to work in unison to achieve the objective set under JKCIIP. He also called for exploring opportunities in the niche crop for raising income of the farmers.

DC Bandipora holds Introductory meeting with district, sectoral officers

Asks for convergence in various sectors

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BANDIPORA, AUG 12: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Tuesday held an introductory meeting with district and sectoral officers to strengthen coordination, review departmental functioning, and chart a roadmap for improved public service delivery.

During the meeting, DC inter-

acted with heads of all line departments, issued key directions, and sought detailed feedback on the prevailing work culture and sector-wise progress. She conducted a short department-wise review, emphasizing the need for professional work ethics, enhanced efficiency, and strict adherence to timelines.

DC assessed the status of ongoing developmental projects, particularly those in remote and far-

flung areas such as Gurez Valley, and passed directions for speedy execution and completion before the onset of winter to ensure uninterrupted delivery of public services.

She urged officers to work with dedication, transparency, and accountability, ensuring that government schemes and welfare initiatives reach the intended beneficiaries in a time-bound manner.

Budgam Holds Awareness Programme on Children's Legal Rights & Protections

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, AUG 12: To educate children about their rights and responsibilities, promoting legal literacy and empowering them for their rights, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam, the Legal Services Unit for Children Budgam (LSUC) organized a legal awareness program for children at Alasma Educational Institute Budgam.

The programme was held under the supervision of O.P. Bhagat, Chairman, DLSA, Budgam and under the guidance of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary DLSA Budgam and Principal, Alasma Educational Institute, Budgam.



In his address, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel (LADC), Budgam, Yawar Ali, emphasized that the primary objective of the programme was to educate children including those with disabilities, transgender children, and the ones

rescued from trafficking, child marriage, abuse, or denied access to education, about their legal rights and protections.

The event focused on raising awareness about child protection laws, constitutional and legal rights

of children, and the mechanisms available to ensure legal aid and assistance to children in need of care and protection. It also highlighted the vital role of legal services institutions in promoting access to justice for every child,

particularly those facing mental health, social, or economic vulnerabilities.

Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel, Budgam, Shaista Gani also addressed the gathering. She, along with other resource persons, delivered insightful presentations and engaged participants in interactive discussions on child rights, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, the POCSO Act, and other important legislations.

Speakers underscored how timely legal intervention, counselling, and awareness can prevent the exploitation and marginalization of children and ensure their holistic development.

JKCIIP Kisan Sampark Abhiyan launched in Doda to strengthen agri-rural financing

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

DODA, AUG 12: The Agriculture Production Department J&K, in collaboration with Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Jammu, launched the Kisan Sampark Abhiyan in Doda district at Community Hall Bhaderwah under the Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project in J&K. The initiative began with Rural Credit Workshops aimed at improving farmers' access to easy credit facilities, thereby boosting agricultural productivity, profitability and sustainability.

The inaugural programme was held at the Community Hall, Bhaderwah, under the leadership

of Prof B N Tripathi, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Jammu, and Sandeep Kumar (IFS), Mission Director JKCIIP.

The event was graced by Dhanater Singh Kotwal, Chairperson District Development Council Doda; Daleep Singh Parihar, Member Legislative Assembly; Roshan Lal, Additional District Development Commissioner Doda; Sunil Kumar Bhutyal, Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhaderwah; Dr Neeraj Kotwal, Chief Scientist KVK Doda; Amjad Malik, Chief Agriculture Officer; Ragu Nath Upadhaya, Chief Horticulture Officer; Dr Irfan Wani, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer; Dr Gurjeet Singh, District Sheep Husbandry Officer along with representatives



from NABARD and J&K Bank.

Addressing the gathering, dignitaries encouraged farmers to take full advantage of government and central schemes under JKCIIP to strengthen their agricultural ventures.

The inaugural workshop witnessed participation from over 300 farmers who received detailed guidance on credit facilities available through various schemes, including those promoting agri-niche crops, horticulture development, Farmer Producer Organisations, startup incubation and market linkages. Representatives from leading banks and financial institutions provided information on loan products, funding procedures and insurance coverage. Each

participant also received a comprehensive brochure on JKCIIP components, such as PMFBY, KCC, Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, HADP and others.

Under JKCIIP, selected blocks in Doda will host multiple Rural Credit Workshops in the coming weeks to ensure farmers in all areas have access to resources, information and opportunities to enhance their livelihoods. The programme is jointly implemented by the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Agriculture Production Department, Government of J&K, with the aim of improving competitiveness, sustainability and income opportunities for farmers and stakeholders across agriculture and allied sectors.



HT EDITORIAL

Of Rotten Meat, Rotten Society and Rotten System...

The recent revelations of rotten, unfit meat being supplied in Kashmir are not just a food safety violation, however they are a moral and administrative failure of the highest order. In a region where mutton is central to daily meals and festive traditions, this is nothing short of a betrayal of public trust.

Reports of consignments carrying foul-smelling, decayed meat sometimes disguised by chemical treatment to mask the rot should set off alarm bells in every department entrusted with safeguarding food standards. This is not merely about traders cutting corners; it is about playing with the health and lives of thousands. Consuming such meat can lead to severe food poisoning, long-term health complications, and, in the worst cases, fatalities.

What is most damning is that such consignments manage to enter the Valley despite a network of checkpoints, veterinary clearances, and market inspections. Either these systems are so weak that they fail entirely, or they have been deliberately undermined by corruption and negligence. In both cases, the public pays the price.

This crisis calls for immediate, uncompromising action. The government must initiate a full-scale investigation into the supply chain — from source to butcher shop — and hold accountable not only the traders involved but also the officials whose oversight failed. Random, surprise inspections must become the norm, not the exception, and penalties for selling unfit meat must be harsh enough to deter repeat offenders.

At the same time, consumers must be empowered with awareness knowing how to detect signs of spoilage and being encouraged to report suspicious meat without fear.

Public health is not a negotiable commodity, and when it comes to food safety, there can be no tolerance for “adjustments” or “settlements” under the table.

Rotten meat in our markets is a symptom of a deeper rot in enforcement, in ethics, and in governance. Cleaning up one will require cleaning up the other.

Sooner the better sense prevails to put the house in order, otherwise after a brief spelling of raids and other exercises these illegal and immoral activities would go unchecked again...

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HEALING HANDS

Dr. M Yousuf Tak's Outreach To Gadder Meadows



Shuja Tak

Gadder Meadows, Kashmir; On winding paths where roads yield to rugged trails, and the whispers of nature mingle with distant bird-calls, Dr. Yousuf Tak, Senior Consultant and President of the Doctors Association Kashmir (DaK), embarks on a mission defined not by distance, but by compassion.

Walking eight kilometers through the challenging terrain of Gadder Meadows, Dr. Tak reaches the doorsteps of tribal families long burdened by the twin hardships of isolation and inadequate healthcare. Accompanied by the selfless volunteers of Mercy Hands Foundation, he brings more than medicine; he brings hope.

Beneath open skies, free medical consultations unfold, while essential medicines and intravenous fluids provide much-needed relief. Patients suffering chronic pain find solace through precise



intra-articular injections, easing joints weathered by years of hardship.

Yet this mission transcends physical healing. Dr. Tak and his team engage adolescent girls and women in heartfelt discussions on female personal hygiene, sowing seeds of awareness that promise healthier futures. In classrooms bathed in gentle daylight, tribal students participate in the Back to School Club, embracing education hand in hand with wellness.

For those requiring advanced care, seamless coordination with District Hospital Pulwama ensures their health journey continues beyond these humble meadows.

Behind this noble endeavor stands a dedicated team—Fayaz Ahmad Wani, RMP; volunteer Nissar Ahmad Lone; Shuja Tak; social activist Afifa Ali; and Imad Yousuf—each weaving vital threads into this tapestry of service.

In the heart of Gadder Meadows, where nature's beauty meets human resilience, Dr. Tak's footsteps echo a timeless truth: healthcare is not a privilege for the few, but a right to be delivered; no matter the distance.

The writer can be reached at takshuja19@gmail.com

Uttarakhand disaster: Is Fragile Kashmir Prepared?



Mohd Rafique Rather

A catastrophic landslide in Dharali Uttarakhand has shocked the nation. Hundreds of houses, hotels, vehicles, and commercial establishments were buried under debris as nature unleashed its fury. But beyond the destruction of property, it is the human loss that stands as the most heartbreaking tragedy—families torn apart, lives lost, dreams shattered. This wasn't merely a natural disaster—it was a man-made tragedy born of reckless development and unchecked tourism. The devastation in Uttarakhand is not an isolated event; it is a warning that must echo all the way to Kashmir, where a similar model of unregulated expansion and ecological tampering is underway.

Uttarakhand's once-serene hills were slowly gouged out to make way for roads, hotels, and tourist infrastructure. Forests were cleared, water channels blocked, and nature's balance disturbed in the name of development. When we violate nature, it responds—often violently.

Today, Jammu and Kashmir, particularly the Valley, is witnessing a tourism boom. Crores of tourists have visited in just two years. While tourism supports livelihoods, it must not come at the cost of irreversible environmental damage. Sadly, that is precisely what's happening.

Hillsides are being cut, forests cleared, and wetlands filled to accommodate more tourists. Roads are widened in landslide-prone zones without proper geological assessments. Popular destinations like Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonmarg, and even the alpine meadows of Gurez and Bangus are overcrowded. Vehicles choke narrow roads. Waste disposal systems are inadequate, turning pristine environments into dumping grounds.

Unregulated construction on steep slopes, forest encroachments, and illegal development along water bodies are destabilizing Kashmir's ecological foundation. Dal Lake is choking. Wular and Manasbal are shrinking. The Lidder, Sindh, and Jhelum rivers carry more sewage and plastic than clean water.

If this continues, Kashmir is heading for an ecological catastrophe, and a disaster like the one in Uttarakhand is not a matter of if—but when.

Signs are already evident. Summers are hotter



than ever; Srinagar recently recorded unprecedented temperatures. Winters have become more erratic and harsher. These extremes are symptoms of deforestation, green cover loss, water body encroachments, and rising pollution.

Kashmir's glaciers—lifelines of our rivers—are retreating at a worrying pace. This endangers not just water availability, but agriculture, horticulture, and hydropower—critical to our survival. The consequences are not just environmental, but also economic, social, and cultural.

We must now ask: what kind of development do we want? Sustainable progress in harmony with nature—or mindless expansion that leaves destruction in its wake?

Tourism should not mean chaos. It must follow a model of planned, responsible growth. We are guests in nature's home, not its owners. Once destroyed, no amount of money or manpower can restore nature's original balance.

The government must act urgently and responsibly. Construction in ecologically sensitive zones—upper reaches, wetlands, and forests—must be banned outright. Environmental impact assessments should be made compulsory and strictly enforced before project approvals. Waste management infrastructure needs immediate upgrading in all major tourist hubs. A large-scale afforestation drive must be launched with public participation to revive our vanishing green cover. Most critically, tourist inflow to fragile areas must be regulated through seasonal caps or permits. Environmental rules must not remain on paper—they must be strictly imple-

mented on the ground.

But governance alone is not enough. Citizens too must act. Locals should avoid encroaching on forests and wetlands for commercial gain. Tourists must travel responsibly—avoid littering, respect local ecology, and support eco-friendly initiatives. Trekking, camping, and religious tourism must be monitored and controlled to prevent environmental degradation. The mindset of “more is better” must give way to “better is better.” Sustainable tourism means fewer numbers, better facilities, cleaner spaces, and happier hosts and visitors.

The landslide in Uttarakhand is more than a disaster—it is a message from nature. When we destroy forests, flatten hills, fill lakes, and block rivers, we invite ruin. Kashmir, with its beauty and fragility, is not immune. In fact, it is more vulnerable.

We must listen to this warning—not tomorrow, not next year, but today.

Let us not allow the paradise that is Kashmir to become another cautionary tale. Let it be an example of how nature and development can coexist—if we respect ecological boundaries.

Because if we fail to act now, the devastation we saw in Uttarakhand—the destruction, displacement, and above all, the tragic loss of human lives—may soon unfold in our own mountains. And by then, our regret will come far too late.

The author is a former trade union leader, columnist, television debater, and is associated with the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party.

Cultural Bonds of J&K

Cultural Platforms Lighting the Path of Harmony in J&K



■ **Abdul Quddir Kundria**

In an age where divisive forces often overshadow the values of unity and compassion, the role of social and literary organizations in Jammu & Kashmir stands out like a ray of hope. These institutions, along with theatre platforms and cultural forums, have been working tirelessly to spread the fragrance of peace, love, literature, and brotherhood. Through their gatherings, performances, and initiatives, they are not only preserving culture but also creating bridges of understanding between communities.

Recently, Dogri Sanstha Jammu, in collaboration with Punjabi Sabha Jammu, organized a unique joint literary meet at the Dogri Sanstha premises. The program was conducted in both Dogri and Punjabi languages, celebrating the cultural richness of the region. Poets, poetesses, and writers presented poems, ghazals, and songs infused with patriotism. Every performance seemed to come straight from the heart, as if each poet was turning their feelings into a bouquet of words, whose fragrance filled the hall.

The audience responded warmly, showing heartfelt congratulations on the President of Dogri Sanstha Jammu, Padma Shri awardee Prof. Lalit Magotra, and his team, as well as Punjabi Sabha Jammu's President, Dr. Baljit Singh Rana, and their members. The gathering was hailed as an event deserving limitless praise.

On another front, Adbi Kunj Jammu & Kashmir recently held a successful literary session that once again reminded everyone why it has become a beacon of cultural and emotional connection. Known for infusing every gathering with the spirit of harmony, Adbi Kunj's events blend literary excellence with messages of love, unity, and national brotherhood.

This session also carried a moment of solemn remembrance. Under the joint banner of Adbi Kunj and Anjuman-e-Farogh-e-Urdu, a two-minute silence was observed for departed souls, including the sister-in-law of Ameen Banhali Sahib,

victims of a tragic landslide in District Reasi (Thuro), JKAS officer and SDM Ramnagar, Mr. Rajinder Singh Rana, and his four-year-old son, as well as the young daughter of SSP Udhampur, Mr. Amod Kumar Nagpuri. Their memories were honored not only in Adbi Kunj but also in Dogri Sanstha Jammu and Punjabi Sabha Jammu gatherings.

Adbi Kunj Jammu & Kashmir, Dogri Sanstha Jammu, Punjabi Lok Sabha Jammu, Gujjar Desh Trust Jammu, Anjuman-e-Farogh-e-Urdu Jammu & Kashmir, and Ek Dogra Manch Jammu are all organizations deeply committed to the cause of literature and humanity. They are more than just meeting places for writers; they are platforms where humanity itself takes center stage. Their work is rooted in the belief that literature and art can break barriers, heal divisions, and inspire social progress.

What makes these institutions particularly remarkable is their openness. Anyone with a love for literature is welcomed with warmth and respect, regardless of background. This spirit of inclusivity is, in many ways, the true hallmark of genuine literary organizations.

One of Adbi Kunj's most memorable recent gatherings was dedicated to the late Sham Talib Sahib, a celebrated writer and poet who served the organization for nearly fifty years. His leadership transformed the institution, making it a strong pillar of literature in the region. Under his guidance, the organization reached new heights, hosting countless events that enriched the cultural life of Jammu & Kashmir.

Many respected personalities have contributed to this journey, such as Arsh Om Dalmotra, Piyasa Anjuman, Sarbar Chouhan Habib, Santosh Nandan, Satthi K.R. Salgotra, Mohammad Baqar, Shashi Kumar Verma, and others who, through sincerity and vision, laid strong foundations for the organization's future. Their combined efforts have turned it into a vibrant, purposeful body and a treasure of literature and brotherhood.

Today, the institution's leadership includes Chairman Piyasa Anjuman, Vice Chairman Sarbar Chouhan Habib, President Arsh Om Dalmotra, Vice President Santosh Shah Nandan, General Secretary Sardar Manjit Singh Kamra, Satthi K.R. Salgotra, and Mohammad Baqar from Ladakh UT, along with members like Rajan Singh, Jitendra Jolly, and Shashi Kumar Verma. Backed by a team of sixty dedicated mem-



bers, they are promoting literary activities with honesty and dedication while contributing towards national prosperity, social awareness, and guiding the youth.

In a recent event, the institution honored social and literary personality Abdul Quddir Kundria as session president, a decision widely appreciated as an example of unity and brotherhood. For more than 35 years, Kundria has been associated with numerous literary and social organizations including Adbi Kunj Jammu & Kashmir, Anjuman-e-Farogh-e-Urdu Jammu & Kashmir, Dogri Sanstha Jammu, Punjabi Sabha Jammu, Gujjar Desh Trust, KL Saigal Hall Writers' Club, Dogra Manch Jammu, Nawi Dogri Sanstha Jammu, Bhaveshkrma Sabha Jammu, All J&K Backward Classes and All India Backward Classes Federation, and All Reserved Categories OBC/SC/ST Federations.

Theatre platforms in Jammu & Kashmir have also played a vital role in promoting social messages and human values. Groups like the J&K Cultural Academy, Natrang Theatre Group, Kala Sangam Jammu, Nat Manch Jammu, Bhraj Kala Manch Jammu, Rang Yug Manch, Dogra Manch Jammu, and Mandal Mitraan Di, along with many storytellers, have presented plays that resonate with audiences. Their performances blend entertainment with moral and social themes, ensuring theatre remains a meaningful cultural force.

Even in district headquarters, tehsils, and villages, these platforms are thriving. In Reasi district, villages like Kundra, Bhab-

bur, Dera Baba, Kanjali, Tanda, Mansu, and Chumbian have hosted performances where artists sing ballads, perform folk songs, and display their art with passion.

Reasi has produced many respected poets and writers who have carried the district's name to all corners of India, including Gopal Krishan Komal, Mohammad Rashid Rai, Raj Kumar Rahi, Tariq Butt, Babu Bhatti, Bishan Das Gehria, and Abdul Quddir Kundria himself. Yet, many other talented poets from Reasi remain unrecognized by the administration.

The same can be said for Kathua, Udhampur, and Samba districts, where poets and theatre artists are tirelessly working to promote brotherhood, unity, and humanity. Numerous institutions here also await recognition and support from the authorities.

Attending literary gatherings, plays, and storytelling events brings a sense of spiritual peace. These occasions allow participants to immerse themselves in the world of literature and reflect on the deeper truths of humanity. When gatherings include readings from holy scriptures such as the Gita, Quran, Guru Granth Sahib, and Bible, they naturally foster peace, love, tolerance, and brotherhood.

However, it is also a fact that most of these organizations and artists work without significant financial backing from the government, often funding their activities from their own pockets. The lack of even ten percent of the needed financial support limits their ability to reach wider audi-

ences or take their art to international stages. For the sake of preserving culture and promoting national unity, government support for these initiatives is essential.

These organizations are living examples of India's cultural pluralism. They bring together people from different religions, languages, and traditions to share the common ground of literature and humanity. They provide intellectual nourishment for writers and instill social awareness among audiences. For the youth especially, such gatherings can be transformative, guiding them away from destructive habits and towards constructive engagement with art and culture.

One of the most commendable developments in recent years has been the collaboration between these organizations and district administrations, including the Jammu & Kashmir Police, to address the drug menace. By organizing special programs, plays, and awareness campaigns, they are guiding young people away from addiction and towards healthier, more meaningful lives. This partnership deserves the highest praise and offers a model that other regions could follow.

When literary and theatrical institutions work hand in hand with civil society and government agencies, they can effectively tackle challenges like drug abuse, moral decline, and social unrest. By engaging the youth in constructive cultural activities, they help lay the foundation for a more humane and civilized society.

In today's turbulent times, supporting these organizations is more than a gesture, it is an investment in the moral and cultural strength of the nation. Participation in their events is not just an act of appreciation for literature or theatre, it is an expression of love for humanity and loyalty to the nation.

Our collective focus should be on nation-building. In areas where schools and colleges are still underdeveloped, we must work together to improve infrastructure and opportunities. With unity and brotherhood, we can strengthen peace, combat drug addiction, promote literature and culture, and contribute to a pure, healthy, and prosperous society. This is not merely a cultural duty, it is a moral imperative, and it is the true pride and glory of our nation.

The writer is an eminent Dogri Poet/Writer of Jammu and Kashmir

Dilapidated school, future in danger

How will the foundation of education grow amidst broken roofs and walls?



■ **Dr. Satyawan Saurabh**

Lakhs of government schools in India are in a dilapidated condition. Broken roofs, cracked walls, lack of water and toilets—these are a threat to both the safety and education of children. In the last nine years, 89 thousand government schools were closed, which further deepened the gap between the rich and the poor in education. The Right to Education Act guarantees safe buildings, but the ground reality is different. The government, society and citizens will have to jointly invest in the repair and facilities of school buildings, so that future generations can build their dreams on a strong foundation, not on rubble.

Education is the soul of any nation and schools are its temples. It is the place where children's dreams take shape, thoughts get wings and the foundation of the future is laid. But sadly, in India, especially in rural areas and economically backward regions, the condition of these temples is extremely worrisome. Many schools have broken roofs, large cracks in the walls, water leaking in

the rain, broken windows, dilapidated benches and lack of basic facilities like drinking water and toilets. Recently, seven innocent children died when a dilapidated wall of a government school collapsed in Jhalawar district of Rajasthan. This incident is not limited to any one school or state, but is a warning for the whole country. Every time such an accident happens, there is discussion for a few days, but then everything becomes normal, and the problem remains as it is. The question is, do we have to wake up only after children lose their lives?

The latest data from the Ministry of Education shows that there are more than 1.5 million primary and 1.5 lakh higher secondary schools in India. A large part of these are in rural areas, where very little attention is paid to the maintenance of buildings. Even today, lakhs of schools do not have separate toilets for girls, drinking water arrangements are inadequate and in many states, about one-third of the schools are in dilapidated or semi-dilapidated condition.

The Right to Education Act 2009 guaranteed free and compulsory education to children between the ages of six and fourteen. It is also clearly written in this law that every school building should be safe, well-equipped and child-friendly. But the truth is that the paper provisions were not implemented on the ground. Children



studying in dilapidated buildings face danger every day, and the right to education remains confined only to books.

In the last nine years, more than 89,000 government schools have been closed across the country. The reason given is that enrollment in these schools has decreased, but the real reason is that the poor condition of the schools, the lack of teachers and the lack of facilities have broken the trust of children and parents. Parents want their children to study in a safe environment, so they turn to private schools, even if they have to take a loan for that. The result is that children from rich families study in schools with better facilities, while children from poor and rural families study in dilapidated government schools or drop out of school.

This is creating deep inequality

in education. When one child studies in an air-conditioned room, modern teaching material and library and the other child sits under broken benches, damp walls and leaking roof, how will equal opportunities be possible for both? This inequality is not limited to education only, but also affects employment, income and social status in the future.

Research shows that children studying in unsafe and uncomfortable environments are more stressed, less likely to attend school regularly, and more likely to drop out. Classrooms flooded during the rainy season, sitting in a classroom without a fan or ventilation in summers is difficult, and cold air coming in from broken windows in winters affects children's health.

In our country, only about 2.9 per cent of the GDP is spent on

education, while the international recommendation is at least 6 per cent. The amount allocated for repair and maintenance of buildings is much less than what is required. Moreover, the amount that is sanctioned is often not spent fully due to slow bureaucratic process, corruption in contracting and lack of monitoring.

If the situation is to be improved, first of all a special fund should be created for the repair and security of school buildings, in which both the state and the center should jointly contribute money. This fund should be used in a transparent manner and the account of every expenditure should be made public. Annual security audit of every government school should be mandatory, in which facilities like strength of the building, furniture, electricity and water arrangements, toilets and playgrounds should be evaluated. Panchayat, parents and local social welfare organizations should be involved in monitoring, so that misuse of funds can be stopped.

Such quick repair teams should be formed at every block level, which can immediately repair schools after rain, earthquake, storm or any other disaster. Local labourers and artisans should be given priority in repair and construction work, so that employment is generated in the village itself and the quality of work can also be monitored.

But improving the building alone will not solve the problem. Adequate appointment of teachers, availability of libraries, laboratories, sports equipment and modern teaching aids are equally important. The school environment will become inspiring only when children feel safe there and have all the resources available for learning.

School buildings are not just brick and stone structures, they are fortresses that protect the dreams and future of children. When this fortress itself is weak and dilapidated, how will the foundation of education be strong? The time has come that the government, society and citizens should all join together to repair these temples. Investing in education is not just an expenditure, but the most profitable capital investment, because only a safe and educated child becomes a responsible citizen of tomorrow.

If we don't repair these broken walls and roofs today, tomorrow our future generations will search for their dreams among these rubbles. It is not just a question of repairing school buildings, it is a question of repairing the future of India.

The author is a Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, Radio and TV panelist, 333, Fairy Garden, Kaushalya Bhawan, Barwa (Siwani) Bhiwani, Haryana - 127045

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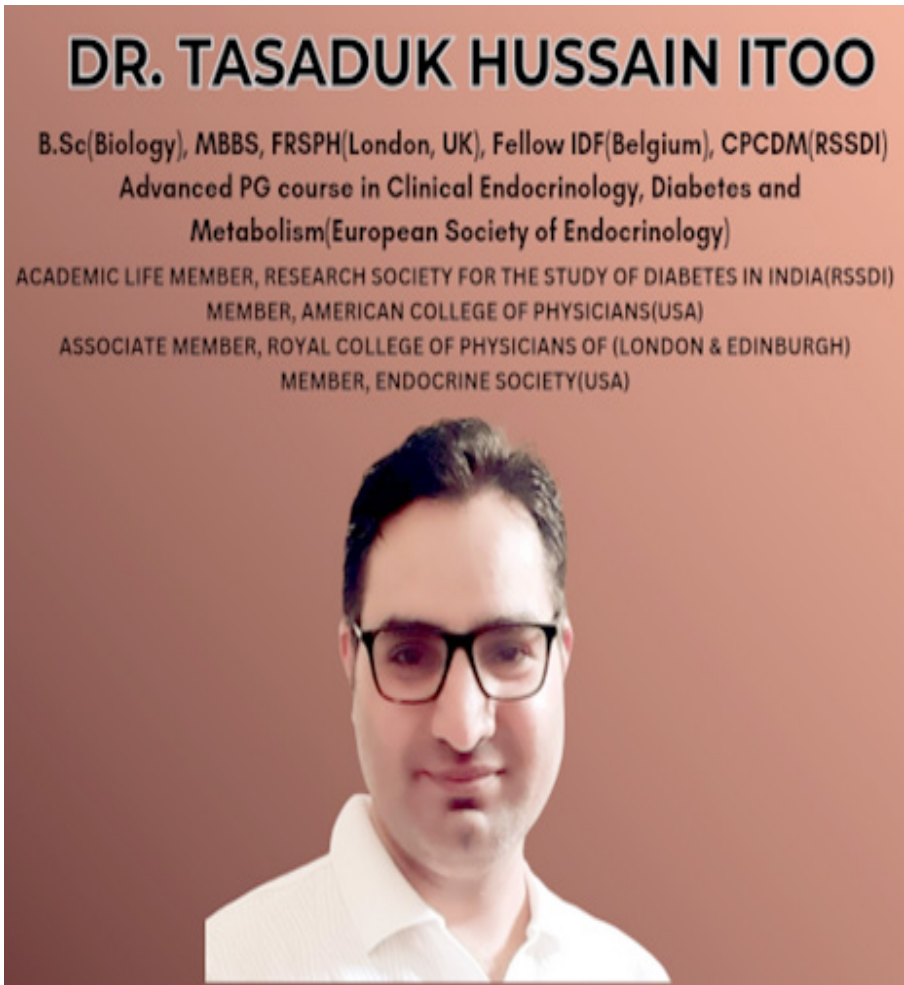
Dr Tasaduk Hussain Itoo: Renowned Physician & Public Health Advocate

■ HT Health Desk

Dr Tasaduk Hussain Itoo is a distinguished Indian physician, public health advocate, and acclaimed medical writer, widely recognized for his expertise in Diabetology, endocrinology, and public health education. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Kashmir and his MBBS from the University of Jammu. His pursuit of excellence led him to complete a Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Diabetology (CPCDM) accredited by the Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI), advanced clinical endocrinology training from the European Society of Endocrinology, and specialized Diabetology training from the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) School of Diabetes, accredited by EACCME and UEMS. He has also enriched his academic portfolio with certifications from the prestigious universities worldwide including University of Tokyo and Stanford University School of Medicine. In recognition of his significant contributions to public health, he was awarded the prestigious fellowship FRSPH – Fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health (UK).

Dr Itoo's professional affiliations reflect his global engagement with the medical community. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health, a member of the Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI), the American College of Physicians (USA), and the Endocrine Society (USA). Additionally, he is associated with the Royal Colleges of Physicians of London and Edinburgh, underscoring his commitment to international standards of medical practice.

His outstanding contributions have earned him multiple honours. In April 2025, he was awarded the International Diabetes Federation Fellowship (Belgium) for his exceptional work in diabetes care, education, and advocacy. That same year, he received the Indian Achievers Award for excellence in healthcare and medical education. In 2024, he was honored with the Global Recognition Award for his service in health awareness and public education,



and in 2025, his impactful writings on health and social issues earned him the National Literature Award.

Beyond clinical practice, Dr Itoo has established himself as a prolific medical writer and columnist, with hundreds of published articles in prominent newspapers, magazines, and journals. His work spans chronic disease prevention, lifestyle medicine, diabetes management, and public health advocacy. Known for his clear, evidence-based, and reader-friendly style, he strives to make complex medical information accessible to all.

Deeply committed to community ser-

vice, Dr Itoo has spearheaded numerous initiatives, including patient education programs, free online medical consultations, and diabetes awareness campaigns. He also mentors aspiring medical writers, guiding them in developing effective health communication skills to serve society.

Through his multifaceted roles as a clinician, educator, writer, and mentor, Dr Itoo continues to make a profound impact on public health both in India and internationally. His unwavering dedication to advancing healthcare knowledge and empowering communities marks him as a leading voice in modern medicine.

Maize: The Queen of Cereals



■ Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

Maize is cultivated on a large scale in the Kashmir Valley and holds immense value in both food and non-food industries. Globally, maize is widely grown as a cereal grain, especially in regions like Central America.

Interestingly, maize is known as the queen of cereals due to its remarkable genetic yield potential. It is cultivated on more than 160 million hectares across over 160 countries. The United States is the largest producer, contributing about 35% of global output, followed by China with around 20%.

India, blessed with a great diversity of food crops, ranks maize as the third most important grain after wheat and rice (2010–2011 data). In the country, it is cultivated on 8.6 million hectares, with 80% grown during the Kharif season. Indian agricultural scientists have developed several new varieties through advanced pollination techniques, making maize even more productive and beneficial.

To ensure farmers reap maximum benefits, the Department of Agriculture should conduct regular mass counselling and awareness programs for maize growers. Our hardworking farmers play a crucial role in strengthening the nation's economy, and their needs must be addressed at every level.

Types of Maize

White grain
Normal yellow
Sweet corn
Baby corn
Popcorn
Waxy corn
High amylase corn
High oil corn

Taxonomy:

Family: Poaceae (Grass family)
Tribe: Maydeae
Botanical name: Zea mays
Chromosome number: 2n = 20
Maize in the Kashmir Valley

In Kashmir, maize is cultivated from large



farmlands to small patches, primarily in hilly areas. Kupwara, Baramulla, and Budgam are the leading districts in production. The crop is rain-fed, playing a vital role in local diets and the rural economy.

Besides being consumed fresh or as flour for making delicious and easily digestible maize bread, the leftover stalks serve as valuable fodder for livestock during harsh winters. Thus, maize provides both food security and income for farmers.

However, maize cultivation is highly dependent on water availability. This year, prolonged drought and water scarcity have severely affected crop yields. The government should ensure adequate irrigation facilities under centrally sponsored schemes to safeguard farmers' livelihoods.

Health Benefits of Maize

Maize, or corn, is rich in vitamins, minerals, fibre, and antioxidants. It supports eye and digestive health, prevents anaemia, and strengthens the heart. It may also help control diabetes and promote healthy skin.

Nutritional Profile:

Vitamins: A, C
Minerals: Iron, zinc, magnesium, phosphorus, selenium

Health advantages include:

Preventing haemorrhoids
Reducing cancer risk (due to antioxidants)
Promoting healthy weight gain
Supporting growth in children
Boosting immunity
Corn is also used in cosmetics, adding to its economic importance.

Benefits of maize

Whether as food, fodder, or an industrial raw material, maize is a versatile and valuable crop. Eating fresh, healthy maize products benefits both health and the economy. Let us support our farmers, improve irrigation systems, and ensure this queen of cereals continues to thrive in our fields and on our plates.

sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

HT - HEALTH TIPS

5 TIPS FOR

Taking Care of Your Mental Health

Practice Mindfulness

Take daily moments for mindfulness, like meditation, to find inner calm.

Stay Active

Do regular exercise, as it can boost your mood and reduce stress.

Get Enough Sleep

Prioritize quality sleep with a healthy bedtime routine.

Practice Gratitude

Cultivate a positive mindset by counting your blessings daily.

Seek Support When Needed

Reach out to family, friends or mental health professionals when necessary.

#MentalHealthMatters

@reallygreatsite

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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9:30 AM to 1:30 PM
Venue: 30A, AIO Green Belt,
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☎ 96222 00900 / 94191 91439

Dr. Sheikh Mustafa
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Former Associate Professor GMC Srinagar
Fellowship reproductive health & research
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International Youth Day: DLSA Srinagar organises legal awareness programmes

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, AUG 12: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, in its continued endeavour to promote legal literacy and empower young citizens, organized an extensive legal awareness programme in connection with the observance of International Youth Day.

In this connection, two events were held at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Amira Kadal, Srinagar, and Vitasta Law College, Srinagar, with the aim of sensitizing students about vital social and legal issues, equipping them with the knowledge to safeguard their rights, and inspiring them to play a constructive role in society.

The initiative was held

under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Chairman (Principal District and Sessions Judge), DLSA Srinagar, and was conducted under the supervision of Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge and Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

At Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Amira Kadal, the programme commenced with an interactive session on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsels (LADC), DLSA Srinagar explained the scope, objectives, and safeguards provided under the Act, stressing the importance of awareness in preventing exploitation and ensuring the safety of children. They motivated the students to channel their potential towards positive



societal change.

Panel Lawyer, DLSA Srinagar, provided an insightful overview of the Domestic Violence Act (DV Act), underlining its provisions for protection and legal remedies available to victims, while encouraging students to stand against all forms of abuse.

The awareness drive continued at Vitasta Law College, where the focus shifted to equally significant topics. Advocates/Panel Lawyer captivated the law students with an in-depth presentation on the legal, psychological, and social dimensions of drug abuse. They highlighted the alarming rise in substance abuse among the youth, its legal repercussions, and the urgent need for preventive community action.

Both programmes were marked by enthusiastic participation from students, who engaged in meaningful discussions with the resource persons. Their questions and observations reflected a deep interest in the topics and a willingness to contribute towards societal well-being.

Speaking on the occasion, representatives of DLSA Srinagar emphasized that empowering youth through legal awareness is a crucial step towards building a just, inclusive, and resilient society. They reiterated the Authority's commitment to conducting such programmes regularly, thereby enabling young citizens to recognize their rights, fulfill their responsibilities, and take an active stand against injustices.

DEERS-EIACP Hub marks National Remote Sensing Day at Eco-Vista Raika Park

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, AUG 12: The Department of Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing EIACP Hub, Jammu & Kashmir, organised an awareness campaign to mark National Remote Sensing Day celebrated annually on AUGUST 12, at Eco-Vista, Raika Park, Jammu. The event featured a keynote lecture by Dr A S Jasrotia, Head, Department of Remote Sensing, University of Jammu, on the topic "Applications of GIS". Dr Vikram Sarabhai, the father of Indian Space Programme, was remembered and his achievements highlighted.

The programme commenced with a plantation drive involving students from Government College for Women Parade, Jammu, who were accompanied by Dr Harman, Head, Department of Environmental Science, Dr Rajan, Coordinator, JKDEERS-EIACP, formally welcomed the Chief Guest, Dr A S Jasrotia, along with Dr Harman.

In his talk, Dr Jasrotia highlighted key applications of Geographic Information Systems, including disaster management,



environmental monitoring, urban planning, natural resource mapping and climate change analysis. He emphasised how GIS supports evidence-based decision-making and sustainable development.

The event witnessed active participation from around 60 individuals, including students, teachers and DEERS-EIACP staff, reflecting the growing interest in geospatial technologies among youth and academia. Dr Rajan, Coordinator, JKDEERS-EIACP, appreciated the students for their participation and also emphasised the importance of GIS in our daily lives.

Five-kilometre human chain glows in Tricolours under Har Ghar Tiranga campaign 2025 in Poonch

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

POONCH, AUG 12: In an awe-inspiring display of patriotism, District Administration Poonch, led by Deputy Commissioner Ashok Kumar Sharma, organised a spectacular five-kilometre human chain under the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga campaign 2025, turning the region into a sea of saffron, white, and green.

The event commenced at the historic SK Bridge, where DC Sharma, Senior Superintendent of Police Shafket Hussain Batt, Additional District Development Commissioner Pankaj Magotra, senior district officers, police officials, and a throng of students unfurled a massive stretch of the tricolour. The flag, held aloft by hundreds of hands, shimmered in the morning sunlight, signalling the start of a grand patriotic march.

From SK Bridge to the serene



Village Darella, the human chain stretched along both sides of the road, transforming the route into a living tricolour boulevard. Over 5,000 participants — a vibrant mix of district administration staff, police personnel, NCC cadets, NSS volunteers, teachers, schoolchildren,

local youth, and villagers — stood shoulder to shoulder, united by a common sentiment of love for the motherland.

The air was filled with chants of Bharat Mata Ki Jai and Vande Mataram, accompanied by the rhythmic beats of traditional drums

and patriotic songs playing over loudspeakers. Children painted their faces with the tricolour, while many elders wore traditional attire adorned with miniature flags, adding cultural vibrancy to the event.

Shopkeepers temporarily closed their shutters to join the chain, and households along the route decorated their balconies and rooftops with fluttering flags. Villagers from adjoining areas came out in large numbers, clapping, cheering, and even offering water and refreshments to participants as a gesture of solidarity.

Deputy Commissioner Sharma lauded the overwhelming public response, calling the event "a testament to the undying spirit of unity and harmony in Poonch." He emphasised that such initiatives go beyond celebration — they act as a reminder of the sacrifices made for the nation's freedom and inspire the youth to contribute positively to the country's progress.

DC Kathua flags off mega cycle rally under Har Ghar Tiranga campaign

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KATHUA, AUG 12: In a vibrant prelude to Independence Day celebrations, the District Administration Kathua, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma, today organised a mega cycle rally as part of the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga campaign. The initiative aimed to spread the message of unity, patriotism, and active citizen participation across the district.

The rally was flagged off from the Sports Stadium Kathua by DC Rajesh Sharma, accompanied

by senior officials from the administration and the education department. The starting point bustled with energy as students, teachers, and volunteers — many clad in tricolour attire and waving flags — prepared for the spirited ride. Despite an early morning rain shower that left the streets glistening, participants stood undeterred, their enthusiasm overpowering the weather's challenge.

As the rally rolled out, the sight was a moving tableau of patriotism — bicycles adorned with national flags, students with painted cheeks

in saffron, white, and green, and chants of Vande Mataram echoing through the streets. The route from Sports Stadium to Tangri Palace and onwards to Boys Higher Secondary School Kathua became a corridor of cheering citizens, with onlookers waving from shopfronts and balconies.

Speaking at the flag-off, DC Rajesh Sharma applauded the determination of the young cyclists. "The rain may have tested our resolve, but today Kathua has shown that the spirit of patriotism shines brighter than any cloud. Let us all participate wholeheartedly in

Independence Day celebrations and make Har Ghar Tiranga a people's movement," he said. He also urged every household, office, and establishment to hoist the national flag as a mark of respect to the sacrifices of the nation's freedom fighters.

Chief Education Officer Kathua highlighted that schools across the district are actively conducting activities under the campaign — from painting competitions and patriotic song recitals to rallies and cultural events. "Today's rally is a reflection of how deeply our students

connect with the spirit of Independence Day. Their voices chanting Bharat Mata Ki Jai could be heard over the patter of rain — a sound that will stay in our hearts," he remarked.

The rally concluded at Boys Higher Secondary School Kathua, where the participants were welcomed with applause and light refreshments. The event ended with a collective rendition of the national anthem, the sound of which resonated through the school grounds, leaving an enduring feeling of pride and solidarity.

Kashmir's Sozni heartland set for makeover as Craft Tourism Village

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, AUG 12: In a major boost to the famed craft sector of Kashmir, Government of India today sanctioned Craft Tourism Village for art treasure trove of Sonpah, en route picturesque Doodhpathri in Budgam District, at a total cost of 10.00 Cr.

The sanction is accompanied by the release of first instalment of Central share of 4.50 Cr by the Union Ministry of Textiles under the flagship National Handicrafts Development Programme's Infrastructure and Technology Support Scheme.

The project will be implemented by the Depart-



ment of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, and the funds shall be routed through Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India.

In a press release issued here today, an elated spokesman of the department thanked the Central Government for sanctioning the project and recognizing Sonpah's legacy of Sozni craft artisans. "As many as 22 craftsmen from this Village of Awardees have distinguished themselves by winning many UT level and Shilp Guri Awards," he added.

En route the famous tourist destinations of Doodhpathri and Tossa Maidan, the Craft Tourism Village at Sonpah shall provide a great window of opportunity to the visiting tourists and art lovers for having a firsthand appraisal of the living crafts. "Under the project, the Department shall develop aesthetic enhancements like designer gates, mural paintings, cultural and interactive zones including Live Craft Demos; common work spaces for Display-cum-Sale counters, infrastructure development, community facilities and access to market and branding," he added.

DC Reasi approves 252 cases under Mission YUVA to boost youth entrepreneurship

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

REASI, AUG 12: To strengthen youth empowerment and entrepreneurship, Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik today chaired the District Level Implementation Committee meeting to review and approve cases under the Mission YUVA scheme.

The committee held detailed discussions on applications received through the Skill and Business Development Unit. After thorough scrutiny and evaluation, the committee headed by the Deputy Commissioner approved 252 cases for financial assistance and institutional support under the initiative.

The DC highlighted the importance of Mission YUVA in providing skill development, promoting entrepreneurship and creating self-employment opportunities for the district's youth. She emphasised the need for robust post-approval support and regular follow-up to ensure the sustainable success of approved ventures.

She further stressed coordinated efforts among departments to maximise the scheme's outreach and effectiveness. Banks were also directed to ensure fast processing and disbursement of cases.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, Assistant Director Employment Annie Vaid, representatives from banks, DIC and other concerned officers.

Div Com reviews arrangements for Independence Day celebrations 2025 at M A Stadium

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, AUG 12: In the run-up to the Independence Day 2025 celebrations, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar today conducted an extensive on-site review at the iconic M A Stadium, the main venue for the divisional-level function, to ensure seamless arrangements for the grand occasion.

Accompanied by DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua, DIG Traffic, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, SSP Security, and senior officers from both civil and police administration, the Divisional Commissioner personally inspected each segment of the stadium to assess readiness. The venue bustled with activity, as workers erected stages, decorators hung tricolour bunting, and technical teams tested sound systems ahead of the big day.

The review covered a comprehensive checklist — seating arrangements to accommodate thousands of spectators, security protocols for VIPs and the public, dedicated parking areas for smooth traffic



flow, well-marked entry and exit gates, and transportation plans for ferrying citizens and schoolchildren to the venue. The Divisional Commissioner emphasised the need for adequate power backup, drinking water stations, medical aid posts, sanitation facilities, toilets, and aesthetically pleasing venue decoration in sync with the patriotic theme.

Special attention was given to setting up waterproof tents to ensure the comfort of guests in case of rain, as well as a media gallery with optimal coverage points. Nodal officers

from each department were instructed to complete preparations well before August 15 and to maintain high standards befitting the national festival.

The Traffic Department was tasked with publicising designated parking areas widely, ensuring that citizens are well-informed about the nearest parking spots. From these points, RTC buses will operate special shuttle services to the stadium, making access easier and more organised.

Reiterating the significance of the celebrations, the Divisional Commissioner said, "Independence Day is not just a ceremonial event; it is a collective tribute to our freedom fighters and a celebration of our national spirit. Every arrangement here must reflect that pride."

With security drills, cultural rehearsals, and logistical setups already in full swing, M A Stadium is gearing up to host a spectacular Independence Day celebration, promising a blend of patriotic fervour, cultural richness, and public participation.

Har Ghar Tiranga campaign: Massive rallies across Kashmir showcase patriotism & unity

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, AUG 12: In a powerful display of unity and patriotism, all districts across Kashmir came alive with the colors of the Indian tricolor as people from all walks of life participated in the Har Ghar Tiranga rallies.

Held as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations, the rallies aimed to encourage citizens to hoist the national flag at their homes and reaffirm their commitment to the nation. Across all districts of Kashmir, students, youth, government officials, local residents, personnel from J&K Police and CAPFs joined hands in a Tiranga march, waving the national flag and singing patriotic songs to show their love and commitment to the nation.

At Budgam, a massive Tiranga Rally was today held at Budgam as part of the Prime Minister's call for Har Ghar Tiranga under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.

The rally, flagged-off jointly by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Budgam, Nikhil Borkar, commenced from the Sports Stadium Budgam amidst the echoes of Jai Hind reverberating across the town.

The vibrant procession passed through prominent locations including District Hospital and District Court Road before culminating at Behisht-e-Zehra Park.

On the occasion, the DC called the rally "a testament to Budgam's enduring spirit of unity and patriotism." He said that Har Ghar Tiranga campaign is not just about hoisting a flag, it is about strengthening the emotional bond between every citizen and our nation.

DC said that Budgam has set an example of how collective will and pride can transform a public campaign into a people's movement.

He further emphasised that as part of Har Ghar Tiranga campaign under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, activities across Budgam have seen unprecedented public participation, reflecting a deep-rooted connection to India's journey of independence and progress.

He urged citizens to continue this momentum by not only participating in rallies but also by hoisting the National Flag at their homes, offices, and institutions with the same zeal.

The rally was also attended by ADC Budgam, ASP Budgam, senior civil and police officers of the district and representatives from various sectors.

The celebrations concluded with cultural performances, patriotic songs, and a reaffirmation of the district's commitment to carrying forward the ideals of freedom, democracy, and unity.

At Ganderbal, In a grand display of patriotism and national pride, district administration Ganderbal, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today organized the Mega Tiranga Rally under Har Ghar Tiranga campaign.

The rally, which commenced from the lawns of the Mini Secretariat Ganderbal and culminated at Qamaria Ground, witnessed enthusiastic participation from thousands of citizens representing various walks of life. SSP Ganderbal, Khalil Ahmad Poswal; ADDC, ADC, students and members of civil society participated in the rally carrying the tricolour and raising slogans of national pride.

Traversing through key locations of Ganderbal town, the rally was a vibrant celebration of unity and patriotism as part of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign to encourage public participation in Independence Day celebrations.

The Qamaria Ground, adorned with tricolour was filled with an atmosphere of festivity and patriotism, further amplified by the singing of patriotic songs that resonated with the spirit of independence.

On the occasion, DC urged all citizens to actively participate in the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign as well as the Independence Day celebrations on August 15 at Qamaria Ground.

District administration extended heartfelt gratitude to all stakeholders for their invaluable support in making the rally a resounding success.

At Pulwama, As part of the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga (HGT) campaign 2025, a spectacular and mega rally



was organized today at main town Pulwama, bringing together people from all walks of life in a vibrant display of unity and national pride under the Tricolour.

Led by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, along with Senior Superintendent of Police, Pulwama, P.D. Nitya, the rally witnessed enthusiastic and overwhelming participation of thousands of citizens, including elected representatives, senior citizens, families of martyrs, retired officials, students, youth, social activists, NGOs, civil society members, trade union members, Aqaf members, and the general public. Officers from the district administration, police, and paramilitary forces, along with their subordinate staff, also joined the march.

As resonating notes of the National Anthem filled the air, the Tiranga rally made its way from Sports Stadium Pulwama and culminated in a grand gathering at Government Degree College (GDC) for Women Pulwama, where heartfelt tribute was paid to the bravehearts and martyrs of the soil who have sacrificed their lives in the service of the nation. To honor their valor and sacrifice, a felicitation ceremony was also organized on the occasion to felicitate their families.

The rally also featured a vibrant bike rally, with participants on motorcycles carrying the national flag. A large canvas of the national tricolor was also carried at the forefront, symbolizing collective pride and Unity.

The atmosphere was filled with energy and emotion by patriotic and cultural songs organised in the Tiranga Concert. The participants then collectively took the Viksit Bharat Pledge, administered by the DC committing to making Bharat Viksit by 2047 and fulfill their duties as responsible citizens.

Later, Dr. Qayoom inspected various stalls set up as part of the Tiranga Mela. The stalls, installed by various departments, showcased local products and focused on the sale of SHG-manufactured products and Tiranga-colored themed items.

While interacting with the media, DC said "This year's Har Ghar Tiranga campaign has been a great success, with decentralised Tiranga rallies and related activities organised at the panchayat, block, and tehsil levels. Under the 'One Officer, One Rally' initiative, every sectoral officer led a rally, setting the tone for a spirited celebration across the district."

"These rallies have beautifully unified the spirit of our nation, reflecting deep reverence and respect for our bravehearts. I congratulate all residents of Pulwama for their enthusiasm and overwhelming participation," he further said.

Earlier, in the run-up to the district-level mega rally, massive Tiranga Rallies were organised at Sub-Divisions Awantipora and Tral.

At Kupwara, In a vibrant display of patriotism and unity, a Mega Tiranga Rally was organized in Kupwara town under the national Har Ghar Tiranga campaign.

The event saw the enthusiastic participation of thousands of students, officials, field functionaries, and citizens, who carried national flags in their hands through the heart

of the Shopian district exhibiting fervent patriotism by waving the Tiranga in one of greatest Tiranga shows in the district.

"Massive participation was a sight to behold," said some participants who were eagerly waving the Tiranga in the rally which passed from Shirmal Sports Stadium through Rang Kadal and culminated at Aglar Fruit Mandi.

MLA Shopian, Shabir Ahmad Kullay; Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, Shishir Gupta; SSP Shopian, Anayat Ali; VC DDC, Irfan Manhas; ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; DDC members attended the rally and concert.

Participants from diverse sections of society and departments besides Security forces participated in the rally enthusiastically and danced to the beats of the Har Ghar Tiranga song.

DC, while addressing the gathering said that the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign aims to instill a deep sense of patriotism among citizens and encourage them to hoist the national flag at their homes on the occasion of 79th Independence Day.

Later, a mega and first ever Tiranga concert was held at Aglar, Shopian which featured patriotic cultural performances by local artists who mesmerized the audience with scintillating performances, earning huge applause.

At Bandipora, As part of the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga campaign 2025, Gurez Valley witnessed an enthusiastic wave of patriotic fervour alongside other parts of Bandipora district.

Sub-Divisional Administration Gurez, under the leadership of SDM Gurez organised multiple Tiranga rallies across the subdivision, with active participation from all officers and officials. These rallies have drawn large numbers of locals, reinforcing the spirit of unity and nationalism.

In addition to rallies, various cultural and creative activities were also held to engage the youth. School and college students participated in painting competitions and similar events, showcasing their talent while expressing their love for the nation.

The campaign continues to inspire residents across Gurez Valley, with the tricolour proudly flying high in homes, institutions, and public spaces.

From the Office of
Naib Tehsildar, Pahalgam

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding Renewal of RBA Certificate
Application by: Musheer Ahmad, son of Mohammad Yaqoob Sheikh, resident of Pahalgam
It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the application for renewal of the RBA Certificate in favour of Musheer Ahmad is under consideration.
Any person having any objection or claim in this regard may submit the same in writing to the Office of the Naib Tehsildar, Pahalgam, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.
After the stipulated time, no objection will be entertained, and the RBA Certificate will be renewed.

Public Notice

It is hereby informed to the general public that my name and date of birth mentioned in my Aadhaar card are incorrect and are being corrected.
My present name (as per Aadhaar): Mumtaza Banoo
My correct name: Mumtaz Parveen
My present date of birth (as per Aadhaar): 11/03/1975
My correct date of birth: 08/04/1974
Aadhaar No.: 6563 1651 9023
This notice is being issued so that if anyone has any objection to the above changes, they may send their signed objection to the address given below within 7 days of publication of this notice:

Sd/-
Mumtaz Parveen

Public Notice

My son's name and his mother's name has been wrongly written as MUSAIB PERVEEZ KUCHAY and mother's name is GULSHAN while his correct name is MUSAIB PARVAIZ KUCHAY and his mother's correct name is GULSHANA BANO which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact with concerned authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name.... PARVAIZ AHMAD KUCHAY
F/O MUSAIB PARVAIZ KUCHAY
R/O ...HUMHAMA

Public Notice

I, Sheikh Momin, S/o Ghulam Qadir Sheikh, R/o Radpora, Khanyar, at present Illahi Bagh, Srinagar, have lost the rear number plate of my motorcycle (Splendor, Registration No. JK01BA 8723) while travelling from Illahi Bagh, Srinagar to Humhama.
If anybody has any objection regarding the issuance of a duplicate number plate, they may kindly contact the RTO Srinagar within 7 days of publication of this notice.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Chadoora

Notice Inviting Tenders | Single Cover System

ENIT No: 28 of R&B/Chadoora/ 2188-97 of 2025-26 | Dated: 11/08/2025

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

SN	Nome of Work	Adv. Cost	T.D Cost	E/M	Time	MHA	Class
1.	Construction of ACR primary school kral mohalla brinjan SSA	20.73	800.00	41460.00	45	PAB	B/C

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	11/08/2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	11/08/2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	11/08/2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	18/08/2025 upto 5.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	18/08/2025 at 5.05 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (deposited in MH: 0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender receiving authority).

Note: The Date of Treasury Challan and Earnest Money / Bid security must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

2.1. The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora within 07 (Seven) days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid till DLP period.

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e., Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period. In case of failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non responsive and case for debaring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

18. The tender/bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.

19. 50% of the normal deposits (Deducted at 10% from running bills) to be released after virtual completion of the work and balance 50% after completion of DLP.

20. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

No: 2188-97 | Dated: 11/08/2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora

DIPK: 5126/25 | Dated: 12-08-2025

CMYK



Israeli Ambassador counters Priyanka Gandhi's claim on Gaza

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, AUG 11: Israeli Ambassador to India Reuven Azar today confronted Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi for her claim of Israel having committed "genocide" in Gaza and asked her not to buy Hamas numbers on casualties.

Priyanka Gandhi had said in a tweet that the Israeli state is committing genocide in Gaza and has 'murdered over 60,000 people and starved hundreds to death.'

The Israeli Ambassador while tagging Priyanka's quote on X said "What is shameful is your deceit. Israel Killed 25,000 Hamas terrorists. The terrible cost in human lives derives from Hamas's heinous tactics of hiding behind civilians, their shooting of people trying to evacuate or receive assistance and their rocket fire."

He said Israel had facilitated 2 million tonnes of food into Gaza while Hamas tries to sequester them, thereby creating hunger.



The Ambassador said Gaza population had grown 450 per cent in the last 50 years, no genocide there. "Don't buy Hamas numbers," he added.

Referring to Priyanka Gandhi's observation of "cold blooded murder" of Al Jazeera journalists "on Palestinian soil Mr Reuven Azar said "A terrorist is a terrorist, even if Al Jazeera gave him a press badge."

He said that as shown in Hamas's payroll records, Anas Jamal Mahmoud Al-Sharif was a Hamas terrorist.

Anas Jamal was one of the five journalists who were killed by an Israeli strike near Al Shifa hospital in Gaza.

Shortly after the strike, the Israeli forces said Anas was a "terrorist" posing as a reporter who had "served as the head of a terrorist cell in Hamas". UNI RB 1648

Two held for alleged sexual assault of minor at Delhi swimming pool

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, AUG 12: Delhi Police on Tuesday said they have arrested two men for allegedly assaulting two minor girls at a swimming pool in Delhi's Outer North district.

The accused, identified as Anil Kumar (37) from Samastipur, Bihar, and Munil Kumar (24) from Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh, were apprehended following a complaint filed on August 8.

According to police, the incident took place on August 7 at the M.K. Swimming Pool near Lampur Bus Stand. The mother of one of the victims, a 9-year-old girl, reported the assault, leading to the registration of a case under sections 70(2)/127(2)/351 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

A special investigation team, supervised by Deputy Commissioner of Police Hareshwar, recorded the victims' statements before a judicial magistrate. During the probe, police recovered a pillow cover, bedsheet, empty condom packets, and a DVR from the accused. UNI ATK MI PRS

Union Cabinet approves phase-1B of Lucknow metro project

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, AUG 12: The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, today approved Phase-1B of the Lucknow Metro Rail Project in Uttar Pradesh, an important step forward in the city's infrastructure growth.

This new phase will cover a route of 11.165 km with 12 stations — 7 underground and 5 elevated. After Phase-1B becomes operational, Lucknow will have a total metro network of 34 km, according to an official statement here.

The 1B phase will add 11.165 km of new metro lines, improving public transport in some of the oldest and busiest parts of the city where connectivity is currently poor.

It will connect important areas of



Old Lucknow, including busy markets like Aminabad, Yahiyaganj, Pandeyganj, and Chowk, said the statement. The metro will also link key health

centres, especially King George's Medical University, and major tourist spots such as Bara Imambara, Chota Imambara, Bhool Bhulaiya, Clock Tower, and Rumi Darwaza. It will also connect famous food areas, highlighting Lucknow's rich culinary heritage.

By connecting these important places, Phase-1B will improve travel for residents and tourists, boost local business, and help ease traffic problems in the city.

With this extension, the metro will provide a better alternative to road transport, especially on crowded routes in Old Lucknow. The expanded metro network will also help reduce pollution by cutting down on vehicles that use fossil fuels, thus helping contribute in country's aim towards Net Zero Mission, as per the statement. UNI AJ PRS

Russian Deputy FM says Alaska summit an opportunity to normalise bilateral ties

■ United News of India

MOSCOW, AUG 12: Expressing optimism over the upcoming meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his US counterpart Donald Trump in Alaska on Friday, Moscow says it views the event as an opportunity to end its strained ties with Washington, reports RT.

In an interview on Russian media on Tuesday, the country's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said the much-anticipated meeting would not merely focus on finding a settlement to the Russia-Ukraine war, but also dwell on ending the years of bad blood between the two nations, restoring the bilateral ties back to normal after they sank to their lowest under the administration of preceding US prez Joe Biden.

"We hope that the forthcoming high-level meeting will give an impulse to the normalisation of bilateral relations, which will allow us to



move forward on several issues," he said, confirming that restoring air links could be one of the items discussed.

Direct passenger flights between Russia and the US were suspended in 2022 under President Joe Biden, whose administration soon imposed sweeping sanctions on Moscow fol-

lowing the Ukraine war.

The official said other topics would be at the table, with the meeting not only limited to discussing the war. On Monday, Trump said the summit — which he described as a "feel-out meeting" — would explore a potential deal involving the swapping of territory between Russia and Ukraine as part of a settlement — a solution heavily scorned by Ukraine and Europe.

However, the official acknowledged that "at this stage, there is no observable progress regarding the return of Russian diplomatic property in the US." He was referring to several compounds, including Russia's San Francisco consulate, which were closed by US authorities in 2016-2017.

The diplomacy between the two nations soured greatly during this period as Washington expelled several Russian diplomats, alleging 'foreign interference' in national elections, a claim the Kremlin denied. UNI ANV SSP

Trump boasts success of tariffs on India, say they have greatly hurt Russia

■ United News of India

WASHINGTON, AUG 12: Boasting about the success of his reciprocal tariff policies, US President Donald Trump said his massive sanctions on India over purchasing Russian oil have 'dealt a big blow' to Moscow, reports RT.

Addressing a briefing in the White House on Monday, Trump said Russia's economy has been heavily impacted by the global pressure stemming from the imposition of US tariffs on multiple countries, many of whom are top buyers of Russian energy and weapons.

"It doesn't help when the president of the United States tells their largest or second-largest oil buyer that we're putting a 50% tariff on you if you buy oil from Russia. That was a big blow," Trump stated, in a veiled reference to India. "No one would have been so tough and I haven't stopped there," he added.



Last week, the US President added an additional 25% tariffs to Indian goods, bringing his sanctions to over 50%, as a punitive measure for New Delhi's purchase of Russian oil.

Trump added that Russia had "tremendous potential to do well," but claimed that its economy "is not doing well right now because it's been very well disturbed by this."

India has refused to succumb to

the American pressure, with the Foreign Ministry calling the US measures "unfair" and "unjustified", and has vowed to protect its national interests.

A former Pentagon official decried the US move and said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would go down in history for standing up for his country's rights, and that the US would learn that it can't "kick India around." UNI

SC grants interim relief to the wire editor in Assam FIR

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, AUG 12: The Supreme Court today restrained the Assam Police from taking coercive action against The Wire editor Siddharth Varadarajan and other members of the petitioner foundation in an FIR registered over an article on "Operation Sindoor."

The court also tagged their plea challenging the constitutionality of Section 152 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) with an earlier pending case.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi issued notice to the Union government and the State of Assam on the petition, which contests both the FIR and the validity of

Section 152 BNS the new offence of "endangering sovereignty and integrity of India" alleged to be a rebranded version of the sedition provision (Section 124A IPC) kept in abeyance by the court in 2022.

The FIR, lodged on July 11 relates to a June 29 Wire article titled 'IAF lost fighter jets to Pak because of political leadership's constraints': Indian Defence Attache'.

The piece reported remarks made by India's military attaché to Indonesia at a university seminar in Jakarta, on the loss of IAF fighter jets to Pakistan during recent military operations. The Wire maintains that the article was a factual account of the seminar and had incor-

porated the Indian Embassy's clarification.

Petitioners allege that the complaint was filed by a ruling party functionary in Assam, indicating political targeting. They also pointed out that several other mainstream outlets including The Indian Express, Hindustan Times, The Tribune, India Today, The Print, and Frontline carried similar reports on the seminar without facing police action.

Senior advocate Nitya Ramakrishnan for the petitioners argued that Section 152 is vague and effectively identical in effect to the sedition law, enabling misuse against journalists and media houses. She said the provision is being



deployed nationwide despite the court's earlier restraint on registering FIRs for sedition.

Justice Bagchi observed, "Does the mere potential for abuse make a law unconstitutional?"

We raised this yesterday in the PMLA case as well," to which Ramakrishnan replied that "vagueness is an accepted ground for challenge." Justice Kant stressed that Section 152 should

apply only in cases of a clear threat to national sovereignty.

The bench also remarked that custodial interrogation of journalists is rarely necessary, given that allegations typically stem from publicly available material. "In matters where someone may have authored an article or organised a programme, custodial investigation is usually not required," Justice Kant said.

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta for the Centre opposed granting relief in a petition that simultaneously sought anticipatory bail and challenged the law.

He contended that media persons should not be treated as a separate class.

The court clarified it was not creating a special category for journalists, but was balancing free speech rights against the State's interest in public order and security.

"When there is no imminent threat to public order, even if something borders on national security concerns, the balance has to be struck carefully," Justice Bagchi noted.

Ordering the petitioners to cooperate with the investigation if called, the court directed: "No coercive action may be taken against them in the meantime."

The matter will be heard alongside the earlier petition challenging Section 152 BNS. UNI

Cabinet clears Rs 8,146 cr Tato-II Hydro project in Arunachal

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, AUG 12: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi today approved Rs 8146.21 crore for construction of Tato-II Hydro Electric Project (HEP) in Shi Yomi District of Arunachal Pradesh.

The project is estimated to be completed in 72 months, an official statement said. The project with an installed capacity of 700 MW (4 x 175 MW) would produce 2738.06 MU of energy. The power generated from the project will help improve the power supply position in the state of Arunachal Pradesh and will also help in balancing of the national grid.

The project will be implemented through a Joint Venture Co. between North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd (NEEPCO) and the Government of Arunachal Pradesh.



The Central government will extend Rs 458.79 crore as budgetary support for construction of roads, bridges and associated transmission lines under enabling infrastructure, besides central financial assistance of Rs 436.13 crore towards the equity share of the state.

The state would be benefitted from 12 per cent free power and another one per cent towards Local Area Development Fund (LADF) besides significant infrastructure improvement and socio-economic development of the region.

The project is in line with the aims and objectives of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, would provide various benefits to local suppliers/enterprises/MSMEs including direct and indirect employment opportunities.

There will be significant improvement in infrastructure, including the development of around 32.88 kilometres of roads and bridges, for the project, which shall be mostly available for local use. UNI RBE ARN



R Ashwin Asks CSK For Clarity Ahead Of IPL 2026

■ Sidharth Monga

NEW DELHI: Chennai Super Kings (CSK) allrounder R Ashwin has asked his team for clarity on how they intend to use him in IPL 2026, ESPNcricinfo has learnt. According to sources, he has told the franchise he doesn't mind parting ways with them if he doesn't fit their plans.

Ashwin, who was acquired by CSK at the mega auction last year for INR 9.75 crore, played nine of 14 matches in a year that was seen as a homecoming. He was with the team that represents his city after eight seasons of playing elsewhere. This year's IPL was the first time since 2009, Ashwin's first season, that he played fewer than 12 games in a season. It was also his costliest year as he went for 9.12 runs an over, the first time that his economy went past 8.49.

The deadline for releasing players usually depends on when the auction takes place, which hasn't been finalised for IPL 2026 yet. The mega auction takes

Ashwin is the fifth-highest wicket-taker in the IPL. He started with CSK, and went on to represent the now-defunct Rising Pune Supergiant, Kings XI Punjab (now Punjab Kings), Delhi Capitals and Rajasthan Royals, before returning to CSK in 2025

place every three years, but there is a mini auction every year. It is usually held anytime from November to February. If there is to be a player trade - as Ashwin did say jokingly in his interview with Sanju Samson - it can take place up to one week before the auction.

Ashwin is the fifth-highest wicket-taker in the IPL. He started with CSK, and went on to represent the now-defunct Rising Pune Supergiant, Kings XI Punjab (now Punjab Kings), Delhi Capitals and Rajasthan Royals, before returning to CSK in 2025.

CSK have other calls to make as well, including captaincy, which MS Dhoni took over mid-season after Ruturaj Gaikwad injured himself. The franchise has always tended to wait for Dhoni to provide them with clarity on his availability when he starts training towards the end of the year. Last year, CSK named Gaikwad as captain even in the presence of Dhoni, which should be the case next year as well, even if Dhoni continues playing.

Espr Cricinfo



Bowlers make it two in two for Trent Rockets

■ United News of India

LONDON: A collective bowling performance from Trent Rockets saw them win their second game in a row as they brushed aside Northern Superchargers at Trent Bridge. On a surface where there was some grip, Akeal Hosein set up the win with his new ball burst that saw Superchargers get restricted to just 124/9 which was then chased down with four balls to spare.

Opting to field, Rockets struck very early as Hosein drifted one into Dawid Malan to trap him lbw. Two balls later, another delivery that drifted in, straightened after pitching to hit Zak Crawley on the pads and he had to depart as well. With the openers back in the pavilion already, Superchargers were on the backfoot from which they never recovered.

Michael Pepper and Dan Lawrence didn't trouble the scorers much either as the batting side were reduced to 34/4 in no time. Harry Brook though, looked like he was batting on a different surface as he took on Hosein for a six and a four off successive deliveries and repeated that against David Willey. He was involved in a vital stand with Graham Clark that put Superchargers well on their



way to recovery. But against the run of play, Marcus Stoinis' introduction did wonders as he removed Brook and Imdad Wasim off successive deliveries and came up with figures of 2/0 from his first set.

Just a few balls later, Clark was sent packing by Rehan Ahmed and from thereon, the visitors succumbed and scratched their way to set a target of 125 for Rockets. Contrary to the start Superchargers made, the Rockets openers looked in good touch with Tom Banton finding the boundary thrice at the start. Initially scratchy, Joe Root got going with a six against Matthew Potts. The duo knocked off almost half the target before Wasim cleaned up Banton and followed it up with Root's wicket to give his side an opening.

The spinners continued to have a fruitful outing as it was now the turn of Adil Rashid to make an impact with a couple of crucial blows. But prior to that, Rehan Ahmed had already done enough damage to drag his side closer to the target as Stoinis and Adam Hose put the finishing touches with four balls to spare.

Bracewell, du Plooy humble Phoenix to maintain Brave's perfect start

■ United News of India

LONDON: Southern Brave cruised to a nine-wicket victory and sealed their second win of the season in The Hundred, making it a double for both women's and men's teams over Birmingham Phoenix at Utilita Bowl on Sunday.

Brave won the toss and chose to bowl, which looked to be a good decision early on, with Phoenix struggling to get the ball away and score freely. Facing 90mph bowling from Jofra Archer, who was sporting a Brave bucket-hat when not charging in, Joe Clarke was the only Birmingham batter to offer some resistance with 36 from 27 balls.

Archer finished with 2 for 16

from his 20, with Michael Bracewell taking the starring role with his off-spin on a tricky pitch claiming three wickets for 16 runs from 15 balls. Phoenix finished on a below par 106 for 7. Southern Brave opened with the right-hand, left-hand combination of James Vince and Leus du Plooy and the pair rarely looked troubled, rotating the strike and picking up boundaries.

Although Brave finished the powerplay on the same score as Phoenix, they had the time to build through their innings, which Vince capitalised on and passed the milestone of 1,000 runs in The Hundred in the process - the third player to do so this season, after Nat Sciver-Brunt and Phil Salt.



When Vince was caught behind for 41 only 32 runs were needed, and Du Plooy, top-scoring with 48 from 39, and Jason Roy saw Brave home for a comfortable win.

Meerkat Match Hero Bracewell said: "Two from two and more of a complete performance. We played some great cricket and it is nice to get another win. We spoke as a spin group about how to bowl. There are big boundaries here which is nice."

"The Hundred is fantastic, the crowds are amazing. Cricket has a long history here in England so it is great to be here. The weather is not what I was expecting, but I'll certainly take it. It's a beautiful day and we're happy with the result."

David, Hazlewood combine for Australia's 9th straight T20I win

■ United News of India

LONDON: Tim David batted around top-order wreckage, smashing eight sixes in his whirlwind knock that pushed Australia to a winning total of 178 in the T20I series opener against South Africa in Darwin. The impressive 19-year-old pacer Kwena Maphaka's 4-20 was then eclipsed by Josh Hazlewood, as South Africa fell short in chase. This was Australia's record ninth straight win - their longest winning streak in T20Is, surpassing eight wins between February 2024 and June 2024.

Mitchell Marsh kickstarted the Aussie summer with a six over extra cover off Lungi Ngidi. That paved the way for a chaotic PowerPlay where Australia lost four wickets while hitting 71 runs. Kagiso Rabada didn't let the Aussie opening pair of Marsh and Travis Head blossom beyond the second over as he dismissed the latter for just two. George Linde then saw the back of Josh Inglis for a first-ball duck. Marsh was gone by the start of the fourth over too but Tim David and Cameron Green swung for the hills when the restriction was still on. Green started off with two fours and a six against Linde in the third over and David smashed Rabada - including a disdainful six down the ground. The pair went after Corbin Bosch in an 18-over over before Green lived and died by the sword against Ngidi in the sixth over. He fell for a 13-ball 35.

The young and strapping Kwena Maphaka struck in his first over in the middle-phase to dent Australia further, as they dropped to 73/5. That became 75/6 in the eighth over when Glenn Maxwell holed out to sweeper cover against Senuran Muthusamy. The wreckage did not perturb David in his endeavours to repeatedly send the ball to the stands. He and Ben Dwarshuis took the team to 88/6 at the



halfway stage. This pair batted for seven overs to add 59 runs, of which Dwarshuis scored just 17. During this stand, David deposited a ball from Muthusamy on the roof to take Australia past the 100-run mark in the 12th and also got to his seventh T20I half-century.

Maphaka returned in the 15th over to break the stand with Dwarshuis's wicket, and Muthusamy nearly ended David's stay too, but Stubbs fluffed a catch. David punished South Africa for their missteps at the death by carting sixes. Rabada thought he finally stopped David in his tracks, only for a no-ball to be adjudged on a catch in the deep. Not for the first time though, Maphaka returned to strike, getting David caught in the deep for an exceptional 52-ball 83. In the same over, Maphaka dismissed Adam Zampa to finish with figures of 4 for 20 in 4 overs. A 12-run final over pushed Australia to 178, which proved sufficient on the evening.

South Africa made a false start when Aiden Markram drove Josh Hazlewood on the up, but straight to Green at cover in the first over after already started out with three fours. South Africa too threw caution to the winds in the PowerPlay as Luan Dre-Pretorius and Ryan Rickelton eyed quick boundaries.

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