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TODAY
Voice To The Voiceless



P:12 Clear head puts Starc on path to new heights

Justice Finally Reaches Forgotten Homes : LG Sinha Hands Over Jobs to Families of Terror Victims

37 next of kin of civilians killed in terror incidents receive appointment letters

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, AUG 5: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday handed over appointment letters to 37 next of kin (NoKs) of civilians killed by terrorists, describing the initiative as a historic step towards delivering long-delayed justice to families devastated by terrorism. He said the appointments symbolise the nation's commitment to honouring the sacrifices of innocent victims while asserting that the post-August 5, 2019 constitutional changes have strengthened peace, equality,



development and accountability across Jammu and Kashmir. The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today handed over appointment letters to 37 Next of Kins (NoKs) of civilians who were brutally killed by terrorists. He said it is a profound honour to stand with the families of terror victims on this historic day and it is not merely about appointment letters but it is about remembrance of martyrs, justice to terror victim families, and the reaffirmation of our national will. "My heartfelt tribute to the innocent civilians martyred by terrorists

SEE ON P-2

Post-August 5 Reforms Transformed J&K, Ladakh : PM Modi

Says Constitutional Changes Expanded Rights, Accelerated Development and Empowered Marginalized communities.

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, AUG 5: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the constitutional changes of August 5, 2019 marked a decisive turning point in the history of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, leading to significant progress in infrastructure, education, healthcare, entrepreneurship and social empowerment. Reaffirming the Centre's commitment to the region, he said every citizen would have equal opportunities to contribute to the vision of a developed India.



transformation" in the lives of the people.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35(A) seven years ago "marked a decisive new chapter" in the journey of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, asserting that the move has brought about a "wide-ranging

SEE ON P-2

Security Intensified Across J&K ; Amarnath Convoys Suspended as Precaution

Pilgrimage continues smoothly from Baltal despite temporary halt in convoy movement on Article 370 anniversary.

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, AUG 5: Authorities enforced a multi-layered security grid across Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, temporarily suspending the movement of Shri Amarnath Yatra convoys as a precautionary measure on the anniversary of the August 5

Authorities on Wednesday suspended the movement of Shri Amarnath Yatra convoys along the Jammu-Baltal route as part of precautionary security measures on the seventh anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370, officials said.

They said no convoy carrying pilgrims was allowed to leave Jammu for the Baltal base camp



constitutional changes. Officials said the pilgrimage itself continued without disruption for devotees already stationed at the Baltal base camp.

during the day. Similarly, return convoys from Baltal to Jammu were also withheld as part of the security protocol.

SEE ON P-2

CM Omar Visits Flood-Ravaged Poonch, Announces Five-Marla Plots for Landless Families

Reviews relief operations, meets bereaved families and assures complete rehabilitation of those affected by flash floods.



HT NEWS NETWORK

POONCH, AUG 5: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday visited the flood and cloudburst-affected areas of Poonch district, meeting grieving families and assessing the extensive damage caused by the recent disaster. Announcing five-marla residential plots for families rendered landless, he assured all affected residents that the government would ensure comprehensive rehabilitation and expedite relief and restoration efforts.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today visited the flood-affected areas of Poonch

district to assess the devastation caused by the recent flash floods and cloudbursts, meet the affected families and review the relief and rehabilitation measures undertaken by the district administration.

During the visit, the Chief Minister met bereaved families in Murrah, Surankote and Arigam-Loran, expressed his heartfelt condolences and assured them of the Government's unwavering support in overcoming the tragedy. At Murrah, the Chief Minister visited the residence of Mohammad Latif, who tragically lost eight members of his family

SEE ON P-2

August 5 Changes Ended Era of Violence, Opened New Chapter of Development : Darakhshan Andrabi

Waqf Board Chairperson says constitutional reforms paved the way for peace, equal rights and inclusive growth.

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, AUG 5: Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board Chairperson Dr. Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Wednesday said the constitutional changes of August 5, 2019 ended decades of violence and separatism in the region, enabling a new phase of peace, development and equal constitutional rights for all citizens.

Chairperson of the J&K Waqf Board, Dr. Syed Darakhshan Andrabi, on Wednesday said that the constitutional changes of August 5, 2019, paved the way for lasting peace and freedom from a prolonged spell of bloodshed in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement issued, participating in the Bharatiya Janata Party's event to mark the August 5 complete merger day in Srinagar, Dr Andrabi said that, in the garb of Special Status, local political parties had promoted



separatism and unrest in Jammu and Kashmir for decades.

"These political parties are responsible for the killing of thousands of innocents who lost their lives because of their politics of exploitation and division. Now after the abrogation of Article 370, we got freedom from violence and

SEE ON P-2

MY Tarigami Renews Statehood Demand

CPI(M) leader accuses Centre of shrinking democratic space and delaying restoration of statehood.

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, AUG 5: CPI(M) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami on Wednesday renewed the demand for restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, alleging that the abrogation of Article 370 fundamentally altered the constitutional relationship between the Union and the erstwhile state. He also accused the Centre of failing

to fulfil its commitment on restoring democratic rights.

); CPI(M) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami on Wednesday described the abrogation of Article 370 as a "systematic assault" on the relationship between the Union and the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, alleging that democratic space had continued to shrink since the

SEE ON P-2

BJP Advocates Constitutional Changes Have Become Irreversible, NC Wows to Continue Fight for Restoration of Rights

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, AUG 5: Jammu and Kashmir marked the seventh anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370 with competing political narratives, as regional parties renewed demands

for restoration of constitutional safeguards and statehood while the BJP celebrated the day as a milestone of national integration. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said his party remained committed to

SEE ON P-2

Thousands Join Majlis-e-Aza, Zuljanah Procession at Magam

Religious scholars emphasise Karbala's message of justice, sacrifice and moral courage.

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

MAGAM, AUG 5: Thousands of mourners participated in the observance of 21st Safar-ul-Muzaffar at Malbhuchan in Magam on Wednesday, where religious scholars highlighted the enduring lessons of Karbala and called for unity, justice and adherence to the teachings of Islam. The



traditional Zuljanah procession concluded peacefully amid devotional gatherings.

The 21st of Safar-ul-Muzaffar was observed with religious fervour

at Malbhuchan, Magam, where a day-long Majlis-e-Hussaini was organized under the leadership of Hujjat-ul-Islam wal-Muslimeen Aga Syed Hassan Mosavi Al-Safvi,

President of Jammu & Kashmir Anjuman-e-Sharie Shian. Prominent Zakireen of the organization addressed the gathering and recited elegies commemorating the sacrifices of Karbala.

Addressing a large congregation of mourners, Hujjat-ul-Islam Aga Syed Mujtaba Abbas Mosavi Al-Safvi said that true success lies in complete obedience to Almighty Allah, the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (pbuh), and the Ahl al-Bayt (AS), while deviation from their

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JKAACL pays tribute to eminent Punjabi Writers at Seminar in Srinagar

Latest Issues of Sheeraza Punjabi released

■ JAMEEL ANSARI

Srinagar, AUGUST 05: The Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) organised a One-Day Punjabi Seminar at the Conference Hall, Tagore Hall, Srinagar, to pay tribute to six eminent deceased Punjabi writers of Jammu & Kashmir whose remarkable literary contributions have significantly enriched Punjabi language and literature.

The programme commenced with a two-minute silence to mourn the sad demise of S. Niranjan Singh, Principal, Gamraj, Tral, a respected educationist. The participants paid heartfelt tributes and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul.

The dignitaries present on the dais included Harvinder Kour, Secretary, JKAACL; Lal Chand, Additional Secretary, JKAACL; Ajit Singh Mastana; Dr. Sukhvinder Singh; Dalbir Singh Sodhi; and Popinder Singh Paras, Senior Editor, Sheeraza Punjabi.

The seminar commemorated the literary legacy of Kanwal Kashmiri, Saran Singh, Ichhupal, Harmohinder Singh Harji, Mohinder Singh Rikhi and R. S. Bali. Scholarly papers on their lives, works and literary contributions were presented by Rattan Singh Kanwal, Mangat Singh



Jugnu, R. S. Rajan, Dr. Sukhvinder Singh, Dr. Satwam Singh and Joginder Singh Shan. The speakers highlighted the invaluable contribution of these distinguished writers to Punjabi literature and their lasting relevance in the literary and cultural landscape of Jammu & Kashmir.

In her welcome address, Harvinder Kour emphasised the need to preserve, promote and strengthen Punjabi language and literature. She called upon Punjabi literary organisations, Khalsa Schools and cultural institutions

to work collectively towards the growth and development of Punjabi language and its rich literary heritage.

Ajit Singh Mastana delivered the keynote address and highlighted the literary legacy and contribution of the writers being commemorated.

Dalbir Singh Sodhi delivered a special lecture on the seminar theme, while Dr. Sukhvinder Singh spoke in detail about the literary contribution of R. S. Bali and appreciated the Academy's efforts in organising meaningful programmes aimed at preserving and promoting Punjabi literary heritage.

The latest issues of the Academy's prestigious Punjabi journal, Sheeraza Punjabi, were also released on the occasion, marking another important initiative towards the promotion and dissemination of Punjabi literature and providing a platform to writers, poets, scholars and researchers.

The event was attended by eminent writers, scholars, researchers, students, literary enthusiasts, family members of the deceased writers and officers and officials of the Academy. An interactive discussion followed the scholarly presentations, during which participants exchanged views on the literary contributions and contemporary relevance of the writers.

GDC Ramkote organises intra-college painting competition to mark I-Day celebrations

■ HT News Network

RAMKOTE, AUGUST 05: As part of the ongoing celebrations of the 80th Independence Day, the NSS Unit of Government Degree College Ramkote today organised an intra-college painting competition in the college premises.

The event was organised under the guidance of Principal Dr Rakesh Kumar Koul.

The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from students of BA semester 1st and 3rd who showcased their artistic talent and creativity through paintings

reflecting the spirit of patriotism, national unity, cultural heritage and the ideals of freedom. The participants presented a variety of thought-provoking artworks highlighting themes such as "Unity in Diversity," and "India's Freedom Struggle".

The competition concluded with the evaluation of paintings by the judging panel comprising Prof Pankaj Nandan and Prof Suresh Chander. Naresh Singh of BA semester 1st, Lalita Devi of BA semester 1st and Tanu Devi of BA semester 3rd secured first, second and third positions respectively. The winners were felicitated for their exceptional performances.

JKPCC hosts Pre-event activities ahead of 10th World Circular Economy Forum Webinar

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, AUGUST 05: A webinar on Circular Economy was conducted today by Jammu Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC) in its Conference Hall with participation from different stakeholders, institutions, industrialists, Municipal Bodies, officers from Tourism and other related Departments. The Webinar-themed "Circular Tourism", formed part of the series of pre-event activities being organized in the run-up to the 10th World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF 2026) scheduled to be held on 15 to 18th September 2026 at Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat.

The pre-event webinar was conducted to generate awareness, encourage knowledge sharing and promote dialogue among stakeholders on the principles of Circular Economy, while highlighting practical approaches



for integrating sustainability into key sectors, including tourism.

The officers from CPCB Regional Directorate North (Chandigarh) PCCs and PCBs also participated in the Webinar.

The opening remarks were made by Member Secretary JKPCC Dr. R. Gopinath. Regional Director Jammu Suresh Manda and Nodal Officer (WCEF) Er Anil Kumar Sharma were also present.

Resource person - Assistant Professor Dr. Harish Chander Dutt of Jammu University, Nikita Grover and Aakash Mishra Scientists from CPCB North, Chandigarh and Dr. Majid Farooq Sr. Scientist from JK DEERS imparted technical inputs on the subject.

5-Day Theatre Workshop Begins at MLHS Nowhatta Srinagar

■ GULFAM BARJI

Srinagar/August: 5 A five-day theatre workshop for school children commenced today at Motherland High School "MLHS" Khwaja Bazar, Nowhatta. The workshop has been organized by Yamberzal Youth Club "YYC" under the Guru Shishya Parampara Scheme of the Ministry of Culture Govt. of India, New Delhi. The workshop aims to introduce young students to the fundamentals of theatre and enhance their creative abilities through practical training in acting, dialogue



delivery, stage discipline, body language, voice modulation, and overall stage performance. During the five-day programme, experienced theatre artists will conduct interactive training sessions designed to develop

participants' artistic skills, self-confidence, teamwork, communication abilities, and creative thinking. The organizers stated that such workshops play a vital role in connecting the younger generation with the performing arts, preserving the country's rich cultural heritage, and encouraging children to participate in constructive and creative activities. The workshop will conclude with a special stage presentation in which the participating students will showcase the skills they have acquired during the training programme.

Orientation program on POSH Act held at Bhaderwah

■ HT News Network

BHADERWAH, AUGUST 05: A one-day orientation Programme on the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act) was today organized by the District Social Welfare department here at Tehsil Social Welfare Office.

The Presiding Officers and Members of the Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs), representing various Government Departments, Educational Institutions and Public Sector Establishments were sensitized to the provisions of the POSH Act, 2013, the functioning of Internal Complaints Committees, complaint redressal mechanisms, principles of

natural justice, inquiry procedures, confidentiality, record maintenance, statutory timelines and the responsibilities of employers and ICC members under the Act.

Resource persons Advocate Isha Hateshi and Advocate Pooja Kotwal from the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), along with Humera Balwan and Kewal Krishan from Mission Shakti, Social Welfare Department imparted the technical sessions.

The programme included interactive discussions and practical case studies, enabling participants to better understand the legal and procedural aspects of handling complaints of sexual harassment in a fair, transparent and time-bound manner.

GDC Paloura hosts quiz competition on "Freedom Struggle and Heroes"

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, AUGUST 05: As part of the ongoing celebrations of the 80th Independence Day, the Government Degree College (GDC) Paloura organised an engaging Quiz Competition on the theme "Freedom Struggle and Heroes." The event aimed to enhance students' knowledge of India's glorious freedom movement and inspire patriotism by highlighting the sacrifices and contributions of the nation's freedom fighters.

The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from three teams. Team A comprised Sneha, Bharti and Tehzeev; Team B included Manik Singh, Kawaljit Singh and Shabnam; while Team C consisted of Gourav Singh, Manish Sharma and Reena Devi.

The quiz featured multiple rounds covering various aspects of India's freedom struggle, prominent national leaders, revolutionary movements and significant historical events. The participants displayed remarkable knowledge, confidence and team spirit throughout the competition.

The competition was judged by Dr. Sapna Sharma, Head, Department of Chemistry, Prof. Rakesh Kumar, Head, Department of Physics and Prof. Vishal Magotra, Head, Department of History.

MSME Incubator Inaugurated at IUST to Strengthen Regional Innovation and Entrepreneurship Ecosystem

■ Showkat Dar,

Awantipora, August 5: The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) today inaugurated the MSME Business Incubator at its Innovation Campus, to further boost the entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem of Hammy and Kashmir. The Incubator has been sanctioned under the MSME Innovative Scheme of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India.

The Incubator was inaugurated by Prof. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, Dean Academic Affairs, IUST, and Shri A. K. Tamaria, IEDS, Joint Director & Head of Office, MSME Development and Facilitation Office, Jammu, in the presence of Shri Saheel Alaqband, IEDS, Assistant Director, MSME DFO Srinagar, Prof. Parvez A. Mir, CEO, CIED-IUST Foundation, Mr. Sameer Wazir, Finance



Officer, IUST, coordinators and members of the CIED-IUST Foundation, faculty members, and a large gathering of students from IUST and Government Polytechnic College. Addressing the gathering, Prof. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir congratulated the CIED-IUST Foundation on its remarkable growth and described students as the "growth engines" of the University. Encouraging them to aspire high and embrace entrepreneurship as a promising career pathway, he urged students to cultivate curiosity by constantly asking why and how, identify problems

encountered in everyday life, and work towards developing innovative solutions. He observed that such a problem-solving mindset is essential for building an entrepreneurial culture and appreciated the Foundation's vision in creating opportunities for young innovators. Welcoming the distinguished guests, Prof. Parvez A. Mir highlighted the vision of the CIED-IUST Foundation to build a vibrant innovation ecosystem through strategic partnerships, incubation support and entrepreneurial capacity building. He noted that the establishment of the MSME Business Incubator represents another important milestone in the Foundation's mission to empower innovators, strengthen the startup ecosystem and contribute to the socio-economic development of the region.

GDC Basohli organises painting competition themed "Important Events of the Freedom Struggle"

■ HT News Network

KATHUA, AUGUST 05: Government Degree College Basohli today organised a Painting Competition on the theme "Important Events of the Freedom Struggle" as part of the Independence Day Celebrations 2026.

The event was conducted under the patronage of Principal Prof. Raj Kiran Sharma.

A total of 15 Students from different semesters took part in the competition, showcasing their artistic talent and deep sense of patriotism through their creative expressions

The panel of judges consisting of Dr. Shubh Kumar, Dr. Verinder Singh and Roshan Lal Sharma evaluated the paintings on the basis of creativity, originality, relevance to the theme, artistic presentation and overall impact.

Suman Kumari of Semester V bagged



the First Position, followed by Divya Thakur of Semester III who secured the Second Position and Poonam Pathania of Semester III who stood Third. The winners were applauded by the Principal, faculty members and students for their outstanding artistic expression and meaningful depiction of the freedom struggle. The panel of judges consisting of Dr. Shubh Kumar, Dr. Verinder Singh and Roshan Lal Sharma evaluated the paintings on the basis of creativity, originality, relevance to the theme, artistic presentation and overall impact.

CBC's Two-Day Outreach Programme on Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan Begins at Kokernag

■ HT News Network

Kokernag (Anantnag), August 5, 2026: A two-day Integrated Communication and Outreach Programme (ICOP) on Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan, organised by the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, commenced today at Government Model Higher Secondary School (GMHSS), Kokernag. The programme was inaugurated by Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Kokernag, Parvaiz Rahim.

The inaugural session witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, parents, officials and members of the local community. Experts from the Departments of Health, Social Welfare, School Education and the local administration delivered informative lectures on the objectives of the Nasha



Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan, highlighting the causes, consequences, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of substance abuse.

Welcoming the participants, Field Publicity Officer, Shahid Mohammad Lone, highlighted the mandate of the Central Bureau of Communication in

disseminating information on the flagship initiatives and welfare programmes of the Government of India. Stressing the growing challenge of substance abuse, he said that the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan has assumed greater significance in the present scenario. He noted that the campaign reflects the

commitment of the Hon'ble Prime Minister towards protecting the nation's youth and emphasised that timely dissemination of authentic information is essential for building awareness and encouraging community participation. He also underscored the crucial role of parents and teachers in identifying the early signs of addiction and guiding young people towards healthy lifestyles.

Addressing the gathering, Field Publicity Officer, CBC Srinagar, Naseer Ahmad Rather, reaffirmed CBC's commitment to taking the message of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan to every village, school and community through sustained awareness campaigns, outreach programmes and exhibitions. He said that the campaign seeks to educate, inspire and motivate people, particularly the youth, to become ambassadors of a drug-free society.

Parent-Teacher Meeting and Career Counselling Session Held at BHSS Tarathpora Kupwara

■ HT News Network

August 5, Tarathpora A Parent-Teacher Meeting and Career Counselling Session was successfully organized at BHSS Tarathpora with the active participation of students, parents, teachers, and members of the School Management and Development Committee (SMDC). The programme was graced by District Treasury Officer Mohammad Shafi Wani (KAS) Deputy Chief Education Officer Mohammad Iqbal Shah, and Madam Nutan Banker as special guests, who interacted with students and parents and shared valuable insights on education and career planning. Addressing the gathering, DTO Mohammad Shafi Wani emphasized that consistency, self-discipline, and regular



self-study are the true foundations of a successful career. He encouraged students to remain focused and persistent, stressing that examination scores alone do not determine one's future success or career prospects. In his address, Dy. CEO Mohammad Iqbal Shah highlighted that subject specialization should never be viewed as a limitation. He urged students to broaden their horizons, explore diverse career avenues, and pursue opportunities that align with their interests, aptitude, and

abilities. Speaking on the occasion, Madam Nutan Banker underscored that poverty should never become a barrier to quality education. She said that numerous opportunities and support mechanisms have been created to ensure that students from underprivileged backgrounds can continue their education and achieve their aspirations through dedication and hard work. The Principal of BHSS Tarathpora Ab Rasheed War, members of the School Management and Development Committee (SMDC), and teachers also addressed the gathering. They emphasized the importance of strong parent-teacher collaboration, regular student mentoring, and informed career planning in shaping the future of young learners.



HT EDITORIAL

The Battle for Wular Begins at Our Doorstep

There is an old saying that we do not inherit nature from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children. Few places reflect this truth more powerfully than Wular Lake. One of Asia's largest freshwater lakes, Wular is not merely a scenic landmark. It is a lifeline for Kashmir—supporting thousands of families, sustaining rich biodiversity, regulating floods and helping maintain the Valley's delicate ecological balance. If Wular survives, Kashmir benefits. If it declines, the consequences will be felt far beyond its shores.

The government's decision to introduce scientific solid waste management in villages around the lake is therefore a welcome and timely initiative. It addresses a simple but vital reality: pollution is easier to prevent than to remove. Every piece of plastic kept out of a stream, every household that disposes of waste responsibly and every village that manages its garbage scientifically helps protect the lake before the damage is done.

But this initiative also carries a larger message. No government, however committed, can save a lake on its own.

Across the world, the greatest success stories in environmental conservation have one thing in common: people become partners in protecting nature. Laws, machines and funding can provide the framework, but lasting change comes only when citizens change their habits. A clean lake is not created by government orders alone; it is created by millions of responsible decisions taken every day by ordinary people.

For decades, Wular has faced growing threats. Encroachments have reduced its size. Silt carried by rivers has made large parts of the lake shallower. Plastic waste, untreated sewage and indiscriminate dumping continue to pollute its waters. Climate change has added another layer of uncertainty by bringing more frequent floods, erratic rainfall and changing weather patterns. Each of these challenges may appear separate, but together they threaten one of Kashmir's most valuable natural assets.

The importance of Wular goes far beyond its beauty. The lake acts like a natural sponge, absorbing excess water during heavy rains and reducing the risk of floods downstream. It supports fisheries that provide livelihoods to thousands of families. It offers habitat to countless species of fish and migratory birds and helps recharge groundwater that communities depend upon throughout the year. In many ways, Wular quietly performs services that no human-made infrastructure can fully replace.

This is why protecting the lake should not be viewed only as an environmental issue. It is equally a matter of public health, economic security and climate resilience. Every polluted water body eventually affects drinking water, agriculture, tourism, fisheries and the quality of life of nearby communities. The cost of neglect is always greater than the cost of prevention.

Scientific waste management is an important beginning, but infrastructure alone cannot solve the problem. Segregating waste at home, reducing the use of single-use plastics, composting biodegradable waste and disposing of garbage responsibly are simple practices that every household can adopt. These small actions, when multiplied across hundreds of villages, can produce extraordinary results.

Education will also play a decisive role. Environmental awareness should not remain limited to annual campaigns or symbolic events. Schools, colleges, mosques, community organisations and local bodies must work together to build a culture where protecting nature becomes a daily habit rather than an occasional activity. Children who learn to respect the environment today will become adults who naturally protect it tomorrow.

The responsibility extends beyond the villages surrounding Wular. Every lake, river and wetland in the country faces similar pressures from pollution, unplanned development and changing climate. Whether it is Dal Lake, Loktak Lake or Chilika Lake, the lesson remains the same: conservation succeeds only when communities take ownership of their natural heritage.

The future of Wular will not be decided only in government offices or by environmental experts. It will be decided in our homes, where waste is separated before disposal; in our villages, where drains are kept free of garbage; in our schools, where children learn the value of nature; and in our communities, where people understand that protecting the environment is not someone else's responsibility.

Saving Wular is not simply about preserving a lake. It is about protecting Kashmir's future. And that future begins not at the water's edge, but at our own doorstep.

A flagship programme for students who want to become scientists



Sahil Manzoor

Nomination starts for the years 2024-2025. A great chance to visit Sakura, Japan. Science has utterly changed the lifestyle of humans. "Science begins where our thinking stops". The science field is so developed that anyone can think beyond their imaginations. Sometimes we could be bizarre and think for a while, "I wish I could be real that I saw a dream I was flying over the sky". Sometimes we see in our dreams such impossible and strange things. We witness events and occurrences that seem unfathomable and peculiar to the average individual. Science has the potential to make impossible things possible. Science is not based on theories. Science is all about practicals. It means you have to show the world about your inventions, modifications, and world acceptance when your inventions are proven beneficial to humanity.

Most of us are so curious to know how day and night cause. How seasons are caused and how rain falls in such a way that it comes on the earth's surface without causing destruction. How the stars twinkle, how the moon lights the earth during the night, and many more natural phenomena. Scientists took decades to learn about a single natural phenomenon. It also happens when they discover equipment for their research work. Before heading to any goal, we need a number of things to prove that, like research, equipment, and hypothetical theories of great minds who have worked on them.

This universe is so vast and is expanding without limits. We have discovered very few things in the universe. We have different disciplines, like science, which is curious to know more facts about this universe, facts about the stars, suns, and moon (the moon is the natural satellite of the earth and reflects the light of the sun), science, which is curious

to know more facts about the layers of the earth, and facts about aquatic life. We know very little about aquatic life. There is still a gallery of facts that we have not yet known. One thing that is very great about science is that it never stops working on any particular thing, like discoveries or natural phenomena. Every day we are getting more interesting facts about related astronomy fields, getting updated by modifying their functions, and every day we get modifications about all the

New Delhi. Any country first strengthens its science sector, then begins dreaming about development. Our country is one of them. India has a great record in the world when we talk about science and technology. Our nation has produced well-known scientists like the great scientist of India, such as

CV Raman (discovery of the Raman effect), Homi Jahangir Bhabha (quantum theory and nuclear physics), A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (space launches and defense missiles), Vikram Sarabhai



fields of science. For me, the definition of science is "science is the field where our thoughts stop and science begins from there. Sometimes it looks like science is utterly out of the human mind, but it is true that all the inventions are man-made and every advancement in science is only because of human minds.

Why is everyone among us a scientist? One who solves his own problems and solves the problems of society by doing strange makeshifts is a scientist. We discover new things, and we modify machines, keeping in mind that this should give respite to all of humanity.

Today we are surrounded by machines, like mobile phones, laptops, photostat machines, and machines at home like rice cookers, washing machines, mixer grinders, televisions, radios, and a number of other things we are using and troubleshooting our problems with.

Today in this article, I am going to share my opinion about one of the great and dignified flagship programs that inspire awards, MANAK. This flagship program is a well-known program of the Department of Science and Technology,

(space satellites and rockets), Jagdish Chandra Bose (Crescograph), Raj Reddy (AI and technology), Shrinivas Ramanujan, (discovery of various methods and series in mathematics), Salim Ali (systematic bird surveys), Satyendra Nath Bose (contribution to quantum mechanics), and SS Abhyankar (contribution to algebraic geometry).

Let us start by learning about the Inspire Awards MANAK and how educational institutes can apply and submit the ideas of their students. Nominations for the session 2024-2025 have started with the Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi.

What is Inspire Award? Inspire award in well-known flagship programmes conceptualized and developed by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. This flagship programme gives you a chance to become a scientist. If your idea or innovation has the potential to troubleshoot the problems of the world, like a needle is an idea or a chair is an idea, keep in mind that your idea must have economic, educational, and social importance.

Who is eligible for this prestigious flagship programme?

Middle schools can nominate five students for these inspiring awards. First, an idea competition was held in the school to select the best five students whose ideas are new and have the potential to make the problems of the world easier. How can one develop an idea? You have to think about existing problems in your surroundings and in the world and put forward your idea of how you can troubleshoot them. Every innovation and every idea is important.

How to apply.
1) Select 5 students from middle school and 2 students from secondary school and record their ideas with proper research. If either the idea is new or already existing, then it has no importance.
2) Collect the bank details of the students and mention the name on the bank pass on the portal.
3) Mention the synopsis, material required, social, economic, and educational importance in word format; also mention the workings of the model or idea you are going forward with.

4) Search on Google "inspire awards", then click the first link and click on login as school. If your school has not registered, then you have to contact the district nodal officer to inspire awards or visit the concerned DIET (district institute of training and education), who will prove your credentials for login and password. You have to keep all the credentials of inspiration within your reach, like there is recovery email ID and contact number. A school should select a computer teacher who can guide and has the ability to forward ideas to the district authority for further submission.

If your idea is selected by the national authority, your account will be credited with Rs 10000 (ten thousand only). You have to spend this money to upgrade your model.

In case you have any problems while forwarding the ideas of your students, you can mail me at sahilmanzoor0401@gmail.com.

or sahilmanzoorbhati786@gmail.com SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

SELF-INTROSPECTION: THE MIRROR OF SUCCESS IN STUDENT LIFE

The greatest journey a student can undertake is not toward the outside world, but toward understanding the person within.



Surinderpal Singh

In today's fast-moving world, students are constantly occupied with examinations, assignments, competitions, social media and the pressure to meet expectations. They spend countless hours trying to improve their grades, develop new skills and gain recognition. However, one of the most valuable practices that is often neglected is self-introspection. It is the quiet process of looking within oneself to examine thoughts, actions, strengths, weaknesses

and goals. Self-introspection is like standing before an invisible mirror that reflects not our appearance but our character, habits and values.

Education is not merely about collecting facts or securing high marks. True education develops wisdom, discipline and self-awareness. A student who regularly reflects upon his or her behaviour becomes capable of identifying mistakes before they become permanent habits. Instead of blaming others for failures, such students honestly ask themselves, "What could I have done better?" This simple question becomes the beginning of real growth.

Self-introspection helps students understand their strengths. Every child possesses unique abilities, but many remain unaware of their own potential because they compare themselves with others. Through honest reflection, students discover their talents, interests and capabilities. This awareness builds confidence and encourages them to pursue goals that match their true abilities rather than blindly following the crowd.

At the same time, introspection enables students to recognise their weaknesses without fear or shame. Nobody is perfect. Every learner struggles with something—poor concentration, lack of discipline, procrastination, fear of failure or ineffective study habits. Ignoring these weaknesses only makes them stronger. When students honestly acknowledge

their shortcomings, they can begin to improve them step by step. Thus, self-introspection transforms weaknesses into opportunities for development.

One of the greatest benefits of self-introspection is improved decision-making. Students face many choices every day—how to use their time, whom to befriend, what to study and how to respond to challenges. A thoughtful student does not act impulsively. Instead, reflection helps them evaluate the consequences of their actions before making decisions. This habit protects them from many unnecessary mistakes.

Self-introspection also develops emotional intelligence. Modern students often experience stress, anxiety, disappointment and frustration due to academic competition and personal expectations. By regularly examining their emotions, they learn to identify the causes of their feelings instead of reacting emotionally. Such students become calmer, more patient and emotionally balanced. They learn that every setback is a lesson rather than a permanent defeat.

The practice of introspection strengthens moral character as well. Students become more honest because they cannot deceive their own conscience. They become more responsible because they realise that their actions have consequences. Respect, kindness, humility and empathy naturally grow when individuals regularly evaluate their behaviour.

Medical Research in India by 2030: Why Jammu & Kashmir Must Be Part of the National Innovation Story



Prof. (Dr.) M Vijayasimha

India is in a pivotal moment in healthcare. In the last five years, it has become one of the fastest growing scientific knowledge producers in the world, with approximately 300,000 scientific papers indexed every year in all fields of scientific research. India now contributes to the scientific literature, and is one of the world's major contributors, ranking among the top five countries in terms of number of publications. India shows tremendous progress in its scientific capabilities, as its share of research in the top international journals has increased by almost double in the prestigious Nature Index from 2021 to 2025. But the next hurdle is not just to publish more papers, but to produce research that will change the way patients are treated, spur innovation, and enhance public health. India has an opportunity that by 2030 it can be one

of the largest providers of healthcare in the world as well as the most trusted producers of medical knowledge.

COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the world's perception of medical research. It revealed that countries which can produce timely and high quality scientific evidence are more ready to protect their people in a health crisis. India responded impressively with the development of indigenous

vaccine technology, growth of genomic surveillance, building of clinical research networks and the quick rollout of digital health technologies. The achievements reflected the scientific capability of the country. The challenge now is to institutionalise this success into Jammu and Kashmir and all the other UT's to have an innovation-driven research ecosystem that can be sustained at the grassroots.

In 2030, medical research will no longer be measured in terms of publications and impact factors. The real success will be if research makes a difference in people's lives. The end goal of every research project should be to address one question: will this improve patients' health care experience of better, safer, more affordable, and more equitable? Publications are significant but, only the starting point. Any new science finding needs to become clinical guidelines, public health policies, novel diagnostics, low-cost medical devices, and better patient outcomes.

India is already on a solid footing. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and other top universities and research institutes are generating internationally recognised research products. The field

of healthcare delivery is rapidly changing with the advent of AI, precision medicine, genomics, regenerative medicine, digital pathology, molecular diagnostics, wearable health technologies and telemedicine.

These innovations need to be made available, however, not just in metropolises but in rural, remote and underserved communities as well.

The geopolitical significance of Jammu and Kashmir in this country's metamorphosis is quite special. Its geography, biodiversity, climatic conditions and population characteristics offer exceptional opportunities for research in areas that are not to be found elsewhere.

There are several areas where J&K can contribute to the international scientific community significantly such as High altitude physiology, Cardiovascular adaptation, Respiratory disorders, Mental health in conflict affected and geographically remote population, Antimicrobial resistance, climate sensitive diseases, Himalayan medicinal plants, Occupational health in defence and security forces, Disaster medicine, Environmental health and Tele medicine for remote areas.

Jammu and Kashmir institutions should not only be a part of multicentre studies of the country but strive to become the lead centres of the studies. Medical colleges, Universities, hospitals, Biotechnology centres and public health institutions can be used as regional hubs for collaborative research. This leadership would bring in money from around the globe, multidisciplinary partnerships, intellectual property, biotechnology business venture creation, high skilled job creation, and direct the solving of local healthcare issues.

SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act in J&K

Legal Safeguards and Ground Realities



Noor Mohammad Trali

As true democracy is measured by the strength of the legal protections it offers to its most vulnerable citizens. In India, the Constitution embodies the principles of social justice and equality by providing robust safeguards for historically disadvantaged communities. Among the most significant of these legal protections is the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, a landmark legislation enacted to prevent caste- and tribe-based discrimination, violence, and exploitation.

The Act was introduced to curb atrocities against members of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), ensuring not only stringent punishment for offenders but also prompt justice, rehabilitation, and financial assistance for victims. It contains strong legal provisions, including non-bailable offences, mandatory investigation by a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP) or a higher-ranking officer, and the establishment of Special Courts for the expeditious disposal of cases.

However, the history of this legislation in Jammu and Kashmir has followed a different trajectory. Prior to October 31, 2019, the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir had its own Constitution and the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC), under which the Central SC/ST Act was not applicable. Consequently, crimes against members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were dealt with under general criminal laws, depriving victims of the enhanced legal safeguards envisaged under the

Act.

The constitutional changes of August 5, 2019, followed by the implementation of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act on October 31, 2019, altered this legal landscape. The SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act now extends fully to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. As a result, all Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes—including Gujjars, Bakerwals, and other tribal communities—are legally entitled to the protections

likelihood of intimidation, compromise, or witnesses turning hostile.

There is also a pressing need for greater sensitisation within the police and administrative machinery. While the law mandates prompt registration of First Information Reports (FIRs) and investigations by senior police officers, consistent training is essential to ensure that officials understand the spirit of the legislation and respond to complaints with professionalism, sensitivity, and

and Kashmir Legal Services Authority (JKLSA) should ensure free, competent, and accessible legal aid for economically weaker victims.

Special Courts: The Cornerstone of Speedy Justice

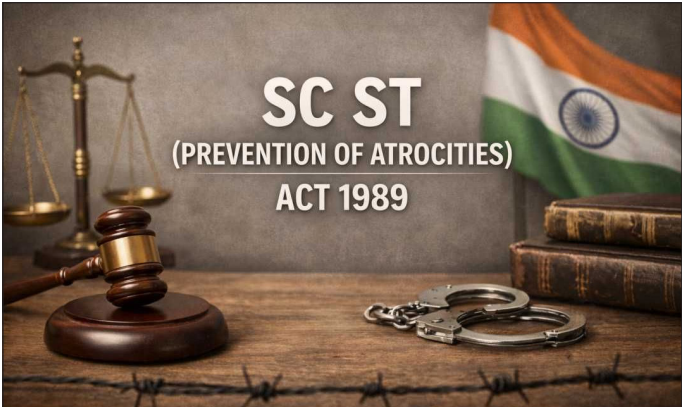
Section 14 of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act makes the establishment of Special Courts a legal necessity to ensure the swift disposal of cases. In Jammu and Kashmir, dedicated Special Courts, supported by exclusive judicial staff and experienced Special Public Prosecutors, should be established, particularly in tribal-majority districts such as Rajouri, Poonch, Doda, Kathua, Anantnag, Pulwama, Kupwara, and Bandipora.

Equally important is the implementation of an effective witness protection mechanism to safeguard victims and witnesses from intimidation or coercion during the course of investigation and trial.

Conclusion
In a region like Jammu and Kashmir, where tribal and socially disadvantaged communities constitute a significant section of the population, the effective implementation of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act is not merely a legal obligation but a constitutional, moral, and social imperative.

The success of this landmark legislation depends not only on the strength of its statutory provisions but also on their sincere, transparent, and timely enforcement. Strengthening public awareness, building institutional capacity, establishing dedicated Special Courts, ensuring prompt rehabilitation, and guaranteeing access to justice will go a long way in reinforcing the faith of vulnerable communities in the rule of law.

A law achieves its true purpose not by the words written in statute books, but by the justice it delivers in the lives of those it is meant to protect. Only through effective implementation can the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act truly uphold the constitutional ideals of equality, dignity, and justice for the marginalized people of Jammu and Kashmir.



guaranteed under this legislation.

While the Act is now in force and cases are increasingly being registered under its provisions, its implementation on the ground remains a work in progress.

One of the foremost challenges is the lack of public awareness. In many remote tribal areas inhabited by Gujjars and Bakerwals, a significant section of the population remains unaware of the rights and protections available under the Act. Illiteracy, limited access to legal information, and inadequate institutional outreach often discourage victims from reporting offences.

Another major concern is the absence of fully functional Special Courts. Although designated Sessions Courts hear cases under the Act in several districts, dedicated and permanent Special Courts, as envisaged under Section 14 of the legislation, have yet to be established comprehensively. The heavy backlog of civil and criminal cases often delays the disposal of SC/ST cases, increasing the

urgency.

The Way Forward
For the Act to become an effective instrument of social justice rather than merely a legal text, several practical measures are essential.

Awareness campaigns should be launched across tribal and rural areas in local languages such as Gojri, Pahari, Kashmiri, and Dogri. Panchayat-level awareness programmes, radio broadcasts, social media outreach, and legal literacy camps can help educate vulnerable communities about their constitutional and legal rights.

Regular training and sensitisation programmes should be organised for police officers, particularly investigating officers, to ensure strict compliance with the provisions of the Act and to foster a victim-centric approach.

Victims must receive statutory financial relief and rehabilitation assistance without delay through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). In addition, the Jammu

Late Gani: A Tribute on the Occasion of His Third Death Anniversary



By Shah Zubair

There are certain personalities who continue to live in the hearts of people long after they have departed from this world. Their voices may fall silent, but their ideas, writings, and contributions remain a guiding light for future generations. The late Gani was one such multifaceted personality who devoted his entire life to Kashmiri language and literature, culture, and social service.

On 7 August 2026, three years will have passed since his demise. This occasion is not merely a time to remember an individual but also an opportunity to pay tribute to his remarkable literary, scholarly, and cultural contributions.

Gani was born in 1948 in the historic town of Chadoora in the Budgam district of Kashmir. His father, Faqir Ghulam Ali Dar, was a distinguished and learned man with a deep attachment to Arabic and Persian language and literature.

The scholarly atmosphere at home greatly influenced the personality of Gani and nurtured in him a passion for reading, research, and poetry.

From his childhood, he displayed exceptional talent and promise. However, life subjected him to severe trials at an early age. Soon after the death of his mother, his father also passed away. Despite these difficult circumstances, he never lost hope and continued his journey through life with determination and perseverance.

Gani served in various government departments. He worked with the Home Guards and the Police Department and later joined the Power Development Department. Alongside his professional responsibilities, he remained actively engaged in literary and social activities throughout his life.

He was not only an accomplished poet

but also a successful organizer, researcher, thinker, and social activist. He consistently raised his voice for the rights of workers and employees and served for a considerable period as the president of a trade union.

His contributions to Kashmiri literature will always be remembered. His poetry reflects themes of love, humanity, spirituality, social awareness, and the rich traditions of Kashmiri culture. His style of expression was simple, captivating, and realistic, which earned him admiration among both literary circles and the general public.

One of the most distinguished aspects of Gani's life was his dedication to literary organization and cultural development. He remained associated with the Azad Cultural Forum Chadoora for many years and served

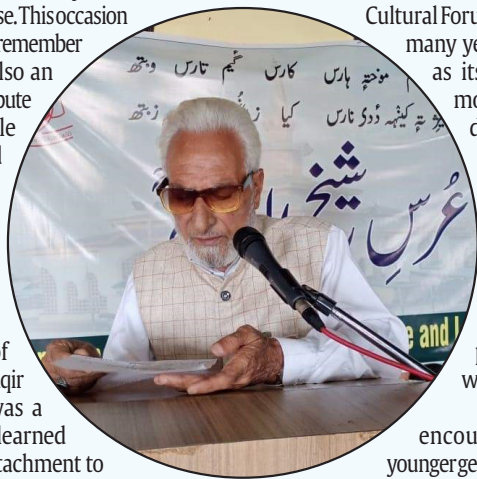
as its president for more than two decades. Under his leadership, numerous literary gatherings, poetry symposiums, and cultural programmes were organized. Guiding and encouraging the younger generation was one of the principal missions of his life. Supporting young poets and writers was his hallmark. Today, his granddaughter, Iqra Gani, is carrying forward this literary tradition and preserving the legacy of her grandfather.

On 7 April 2023, this shining star of Kashmiri literature departed from this world forever. Yet the truth remains that such personalities never truly die. Their ideas, writings, and contributions continue to inspire future generations and illuminate their path.

On the occasion of his third death anniversary, we pay our heartfelt tribute to him and pray that Almighty Allah grants him the highest place in Paradise and accepts his scholarly, literary, and cultural services as an everlasting charity.

The name of Gani will forever shine like a bright star on the horizon of Kashmiri literature.

Ameen.



From Great-Grandfather to Great-Grandson: Kashmir's Santoor legacy lives on



Mohammad Hanief

In an era when cultural identities are increasingly shaped by digital algorithms, streaming platforms and global entertainment trends, the quiet work of preserving traditional art forms has become one of the defining challenges of the twenty-first century. Across the world, communities are striving to protect their intangible heritage from the erosive effects of time and changing tastes. In Kashmir, where history and culture have long found expression through poetry, craftsmanship and music, that responsibility rests in significant measure with an extraordinary father-son duo.

Adil Amin Tibetbaqal and Master Muhammad Abdullah Tibetbaqal are not merely musicians. They are inheritors of a legacy spanning more than a century, custodians of a tradition that has helped shape Kashmir's cultural consciousness, and living symbols of the region's enduring relationship with its artistic heritage. Representing the third and fourth generations of the renowned Tibetbaqal musical dynasty, they stand today at the intersection of history and modernity, carrying forward a family tradition that has survived shifting political landscapes, evolving social realities and rapidly changing cultural preferences.

Their story assumes particular relevance in contemporary Jammu and Kashmir. In recent years, the Union Territory has witnessed a renewed emphasis on cultural revival. Heritage festivals, literary gatherings, educational initiatives, and government-supported programmes have sought to reclaim and celebrate Kashmir's artistic traditions. At the same time, younger generations continue to navigate a world dominated by smartphones, short-form video, and global entertainment. This paradox defines the present cultural moment in Kashmir: a society striving to honour its past while adapting to the demands of the future. It is within this landscape

that the Tibetbaqals have emerged as among the Valley's most influential cultural ambassadors.

The origins of their story lie with Ustaad Muhammad Abdullah Tibetbaqal (1914–1982), the legendary musician remembered across Kashmir as the “King of the Santoor.” Few artists have left as profound an imprint on the region's cultural identity. At a time when the Santoor remained largely confined to accompaniment within traditional ensembles, he reimagined its possibilities and elevated it into a distinguished solo concert instrument. His

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Adil Amin Tibetbaqal and Master Muhammad Abdullah Tibetbaqal are not merely musicians. They are inheritors of a legacy spanning more than a century, custodians of a tradition that has helped shape Kashmir's cultural consciousness, and living symbols of the region's enduring relationship with its artistic heritage.

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mastery of Sufiyana Mousiqi—Kashmir's classical music tradition rooted in Sufi philosophy and shaped by Persian and Central Asian influences—ensured that one of the Valley's oldest musical forms continued to flourish. In 1972, he became the first artist from Jammu and Kashmir to receive the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, a watershed moment in the region's cultural history. His broadcasts on Radio Kashmir reached households across the Valley, and for generations of listeners, the sound of the Santoor became inseparable from his name. More

importantly, he established a legacy rooted not merely in performance but in preservation—a legacy that would eventually find expression through his descendants.

Among those descendants, Adil Amin Tibetbaqal



has emerged as one of the foremost custodians of the family's heritage. A Santoor artist, academician, and mentor, Adil has dedicated his professional life to ensuring that the musical traditions of Kashmir remain relevant in an increasingly globalised world. An All India Radio B-High graded artist and gold medallist, he combines performance with rigorous teaching and mentorship. Through years of classroom instruction and practical guidance, he has introduced countless students to the intricacies of Indian classical Santoor and Kashmiri Sufiyana Mousiqi. In doing so, he has assumed a role that extends far beyond that of an educator: he has become a steward of cultural memory. Under the careful guidance of his father, his natural talent began to evolve into disciplined artistry. At the age of five, he made his first public appearance, earning recognition as one of the youngest Santoor performers of note. What followed was a journey that attracted attention from cultural institutions, educational organisations, and media platforms. Today, despite still being a student of Class VIII at Green Valley Educational Institute in Srinagar, Muhammad Abdullah has already established himself as one of Kashmir's most promising young musicians. His repertoire encompasses Indian classical, Kashmiri classical, Sufiyana Mousiqi, folk

traditions, and traditional instrumental compositions. His performances have drawn admiration from audiences across generations, and his achievements have been acknowledged by several dignitaries and institutions.

Yet beyond the accolades lies a deeper significance. Muhammad Abdullah represents a generation often described as digitally native—a generation raised amidst unprecedented technological advancement and global connectivity. His commitment to a centuries-old musical tradition challenges assumptions about the declining relevance of classical arts among young people. In many ways, his journey offers a compelling response to one of the central questions confronting contemporary societies: Can tradition survive in the digital age?

The answer, it would seem, lies in the relationship between father and son. Together, Adil Amin Tibetbaqal and Muhammad Abdullah Tibetbaqal embody two complementary dimensions of cultural preservation. One represents experience, scholarship, and mentorship; the other symbolises continuity, possibility, and the future. Their partnership illustrates that heritage is not inherited automatically. It must be nurtured, protected, and consciously passed from one generation to the next.

As Jammu and Kashmir continues to invest in cultural preservation, the story of the Tibetbaqals serves as a timely reminder that institutions alone cannot sustain heritage. Ultimately, it is preserved through individuals willing to dedicate their lives to its survival. For Adil Amin Tibetbaqal, that dedication has manifested through education, performance, and fatherhood. For Muhammad Abdullah Tibetbaqal, it is expressed through youthful passion and artistic promise. Together, they represent more than four generations of musical excellence. They represent the enduring spirit of Kashmir itself. And as the notes of the Santoor continue to echo through classrooms, concert halls, and cultural gatherings, they carry with them a simple but profound truth: traditions do not disappear when they are cherished. They endure, finding new life in every generation willing to listen, learn, and carry them forward.

The author is a senior analyst and environmentalist. Feedback can be sent to m.hanief@gmail.com. Twitter/X: @haniefmha

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Omar's defence of Mehbooba exposes 'Chor-Chor Mausere Bhai' Politics: Bali Bhagat on Tricolour disrespect

'Tiranga is our pride, Not a political prop': Bali Bhagat hits out at Mehbooba, Omar

HT News Network

Jammu, Aug. 5: Launching a scathing attack on PDP president Mehbooba Mufti and Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, senior BJP leader and former minister Bali Bhagat on Wednesday said the alleged display of the National Flag in an inverted position by Mehbooba Mufti was an "unpardonable insult" to the Tricolour and accused Omar Abdullah of shielding her instead of condemning the incident.

"Respect for the Tiranga is non-negotiable. It is the symbol of the sacrifices of millions of freedom fighters and the pride of 140 crore Indians. Anyone who cannot even hold the National Flag with the dignity and sanctity it deserves has no moral right to lecture the nation on democracy or patriotism,"

Bhagat said.

He said a former Chief Minister is expected to know the Flag Code and uphold the honour of the National Flag.

"If leaders who have occupied the highest constitutional offices cannot even display the Tricolour correctly, one has to ask whether they truly respect the nation they claim to represent. Those who cannot respect the sanctity of the Tricolour, how can they be trusted to serve the country?" Bhagat said.

Targeting Omar Abdullah for describing the incident as an inadvertent mistake, Bhagat alleged that the Chief Minister's response exposed the "politics of convenience" between the National Conference and the PDP.

"Instead of condemning the insult to the National Flag, Omar Abdullah rushed to defend



Mehbooba Mufti. This is nothing but 'chor-chor mausere bhai' politics. Whenever one of them is caught on the wrong side of public sentiment, the other immediately comes to the rescue. Their ideological differences disappear when it comes to protecting each other," Bhagat alleged.

He further alleged that the incident reflected what he described as the opposition's "double standards" on issues of nationalism.

"The Tricolour is above

politics, parties and personalities. No leader is above the dignity of the National Flag. If an ordinary citizen is expected to honour the Flag Code, political leaders must be held to an even higher standard. There should be no selective outrage and no selective accountability," he said.

Demanding appropriate action in accordance with the law, Bhagat said, "The dignity of the Tiranga cannot be compromised under any circumstances. The law should take its own course if there has been a violation of the Flag Code. National symbols deserve the highest respect, and no one should be allowed to undermine them with impunity."

He urged all political parties to treat the National Flag with the reverence it deserves and said the people of Jammu and Kashmir would not tolerate any disrespect to the Tiranga.

Lethpora Khrew road in shambles, residents demand urgent macadamisation

HT News Network

Pulwama, Aug 05 (KNO): Residents of Khrew and adjoining areas in South Kashmir's Pulwama district have voiced strong resentment over the worsening condition of the Lethpora-Khrew road, urging the authorities to take up its immediate repair and macadamisation to avert accidents and ensure smooth movement of traffic. According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the road, considered a vital artery connecting the Khrew Industrial Area with the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, has fallen into a state of severe disrepair, with large potholes, broken stretches and an uneven surface making daily travel increasingly hazardous for thousands of commuters. Locals said the road has not undergone proper macadamisation for several years, and continuous wear and tear coupled with heavy vehicular movement has left it badly damaged. They said the road is extensively used by industrial vehicles, public transport, private cars, school buses and two-wheelers, making its restoration a matter of urgent public importance. Residents said commuting on the road has become a daily ordeal, with motorists forced to negotiate deep potholes and damaged patches that not only slow traffic but also expose passengers to safety risks. They added that vehicles frequently develop mechanical faults due to the poor condition of the road, increasing maintenance costs for transporters and private vehicle owners alike. Farooq Ahmad Lone, a local resident, said the road has gradually deteriorated because of official neglect. "This road is one of the busiest links in the area as it connects the industrial estate with the National Highway. Unfortunately, it has been ignored for years. The damaged surface causes immense inconvenience to commuters, while frequent potholes are damaging vehicles and making travel uncomfortable. The authorities should immediately initiate macadamisation before the situation worsens further," he said. Another resident, Tariq Ahmad Yatoo said several vulnerable stretches, particularly around curves and sloping portions, have become dangerous for motorists.

"During rainfall, water accumulates inside potholes, making them difficult to detect. Vehicles often skid on the broken surface, especially on sharp bends, increasing the possibility of accidents. These stretches have become highly unsafe and require immediate repairs," he said.

Commuters said the road experiences heavy traffic throughout the day because of industrial activity in Khrew and the movement of goods carriers, passenger vehicles and employees working in cement factories and other industrial units. Despite its strategic significance, they alleged that the road has remained neglected for years.

Over 1.81 lakh minority scholarships sanctioned in Baramulla LS seat since 2019: Rijjiu

HT News Network

Srinagar, Aug 05 (KNO): The Union Government on Wednesday informed Parliament that 1,81,650 minority scholarships under different Central schemes were sanctioned in the Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency between 2019-20 and 2025-26, while several infrastructure and development works have been undertaken at Waqf properties across Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Replying to an unstarred question by Baramulla MP Abdul Rashid Sheikh in the Lok Sabha, Union Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijjiu, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the Ministry implemented Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Schemes for six notified minority communities—Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Jains and Parsis—across the country till 2021-22. He said details of scholarships sanctioned in the Baramulla parliamentary constituency from 2019-20 to 2025-26 have been placed in the annexure.

According to the reply, 1,53,138 Pre-Matric scholarships were sanctioned with financial assistance of 33.13 crore, 24,781 Post-Matric scholarships with assistance of 15.54 crore, and 3,731 Merit-cum-Means scholarships amounting to 9.69 crore during the period. The year-wise figures show that in 2019-20, 75,323 Pre-Matric, 16,350 Post-Matric and 904 Merit-cum-Means scholarships were sanctioned. In 2020-21, the numbers stood at 43,890, 5,038 and 1,186, respectively, while 33,387 Pre-Matric, 3,105 Post-Matric and 1,214 Merit-cum-Means scholarships were sanctioned in 2021-22. During 2022-23, only renewal payments were made, benefiting 538 Pre-Matric, 288 Post-Matric and 427 Merit-cum-Means students. No scholarships were sanctioned under these schemes during 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26, as the schemes were discontinued after 2021-22 except for pending renewals. Replying to another part of the question regarding Waqf properties, Rijjiu informed the House that several development projects have been completed or taken up at Ziyarat Baba Payam-ud-Din Reshi (RA), Baramulla and Tangmarg. These include restoration of Devri stone flooring and entrance staircase, construction of a modern kitchen, dining hall, cement concrete drain, toilet blocks, ablution block, guest house and double-storeyed shop complex, installation of fencing panels, landscaping, ornamental woodwork, polycarbonate roofing over the shrine sanctum, face-lifting of Jamia Masjid and other allied civil works.

The minister further said Waqf development works have also been undertaken at Jamia Masjid Gulmarg, where construction of the mosque has been taken up. At Ahami Sharief, Bandipora, works include construction of a kitchen, demolition of dilapidated structures, construction of a new office building, shops at the shrine entrance and chain-link.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Housing & Urban Development Department Civil Secretariat, J&K, Srinagar/ Jammu

Public Notice

The Housing & Urban Development Department, J&K invites public suggestions and comments on the Draft Jammu and Kashmir Town Planning (Gazetted) Service Recruitment Rules, 2026 and Draft Jammu and Kashmir Town Planning (Subordinate) Service Recruitment Rules, 2026 to be submitted within 15 days hereof at hudd-jk@nic.in. The draft documents are available on the Department's official website: <https://hudd.jk.gov.in>.

By the order of
Commissioner/Secretary to the Government,
Housing & Urban Development Department.

DIPK-4164/26
Send Date: Aug 5 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Khan Mohd Akram S/o Mohammad Subhan Khan, Resident of Chack Kally Khan, Sabdan, PO: Bemina, District Badgam, Jammu & Kashmir - 190018, holder of Indian Passport No. K1878983 issued at Srinagar on 27/10/2011. I hereby declare that my Name and Date of Birth mentioned in my above passport is "KHAN MOHD AKRAM" and "06/05/1946" respectively. Whereas, my correct Name and Date of Birth as per Aadhaar Card No. 6632 5294 7496 is "Mohammad Akram Khan" and "01/01/1945" respectively. I am in the process of getting my passport corrected as per my Aadhaar. If any person has any objection regarding the same, he/she may file objection within 7 days of publication of this notice.

Name:- Mohammad Akram Khan

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR Office of the Executive Magistrate 1st Class Narbal District Budgam

It is notified that the applicant namely Mohammed Shafi Sheikh S/o Ghulam Rasool Sheikh R/o Checki kawoosa Tehsil Narbal District Budgam applied for the issuance of Birth certificate of his son and daughter. Namely Faizan SHAFI S/o Ghulam Shafi Sheikh. whose Date Of Birth is 21/08/2016. Tabasum Shafi S/o Mohammed Shafi Sheikh whose Date of Birth whose Date of Birth is 25/04/2014.

They intendents to register the Date of Birth of his Son and daughter according to School record. If anybody has any objection in this regard. They may contact tehsil office Narbal within the period of seven days. After said days, no objection will be entertained. Dated 05/08/2026

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla e-mail, id, xennmhd.bla@jk.gov.in

Tender Notice Inviting e-Tender

NIT No: M&HDB/TS/2026-27/49/1490-94
Date: 05-08-2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, **Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla**, invites online **e-bids in Two Cover system** on percentage wise basis from Authorized Service Providers of OEMs /Registered / Listed Contractors for the below mentioned works:

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion
01.	Routine / Corrective maintenance to Snow Cat 90HP MM Sonalika pertaining to Mechanical and Hospital Sub-Division 1 st Baramulla	1.48663	200.00	2973/-	10 days

Note:-

- AAA:** - Administrative Approval accorded by Chief Engineer M&HD Kashmir vide No. M&HED / K / Acctt / 29 of 2026-27 Dated: - 30-04-2026.
- Technical Sanction:** - Technical Sanction Accorded by Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramullavide No. M&HDB/TS/34of08/2026; Dated: -04-08-2026.
- Executing Agency:** - Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla.

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	05-08-2026
2.	Period of downloading of the bidding document	From 05-08-2026 to 17-08-2026
3.	Bid Submission Start Date	From 05-08-2026(18:00 HRS)
4.	Bid Submission End Date	17-08-2026(18:00 HRS)
5.	Date of Opening of Cover 1 st	18-08-2026(13:00 HRS)

The bidders are required to submit their offers in **two (02)** covers.

Cover-I shall contain: Scanned copies of following documents:

01.	Tender Fee	Tender Fee equivalent to Rs. 200.00 (Rupees Two hundred Only) has to be deposited in the Departmental Common Pool Account maintained in Jammu & Kashmir Bank, Branch Residency Road Srinagar, under Account No: 0005010200000355 (IFSC Code: JAKA0CHINAR). Proof of the said Electronic / Digital Transfer has to be uploaded in Cover-I documents.
02.	EMD	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) equivalent to 02% of value of the advertised cost has to be deposited in the Departmental Common Pool Account maintained in Jammu & Kashmir Bank, Branch Residency Road Srinagar, under Account No: 0005010200000355 (IFSC Code: JAKA0CHINAR). Proof of the said Electronic / Digital Transfer has to be uploaded in Cover-I documents.
03.	Terms & Conditions	Scanned copy of the Annexure- "A" & "B" duly accepted by the bidder.
04.	Tax Clearance	Registration Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting GST Number.
05.	GST	Scanned copies of PAN Card / GST Registration / Latest GST clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns.
06.	Undertaking	Undertaking as per format at Annexure "C" that the bidder has not been blacklisted or debarred by any Govt./Semi Govt. Department.
07.	Contractor Registration	Scanned copy of valid Contractor Registration on JKPWDOMS of PWD J&K.
08.	Eligibility / Work Experience Certificate	The Bidder Shall submit documentary proof of having successfully executed similar nature of work amounting to 80% of the estimated cost in single contract or 50% of the estimated cost in two contracts each or 40% of the estimated cost in three contracts each in last 07 years in any Govt./Semi Govt./Autonomous institutions alongwith satisfactory performance certificate issued by a competent authority not below the rank of Executive Engineer.

Note:-

- The successful bidder has to furnish EMD document physically to the Divisional office alongwith fee receipt within three days from the date of opening price bid, without which his bid shall not be accepted for further processing of contract in his favour.
- No EMD exemption shall be given to bidders.
- Bidders / Firms shall refrain from uploading irrelevant documents.
- Contractor / Firm shall upload the contact / communication details separately on single page.

A. Cover-II shall contain:

- Price bid, as per BOQ uploaded by this department. In no case, financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for 180 days and the contract shall be valid for one complete year, starting from the date of allotment of the said contract.
- The complete bidding process will be online.
- The Financial bid of only qualifying bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Executive Engineer M&HD Baramulla after evaluation of technical bid and decision thereof.
- Bidder shall be penalized as per tender conditions if they withdraw their bid during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the rate below %age inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
- The cost of tender documents is non-refundable and the tender shall in no case be accepted if submitted by any firm other than the purchaser.

DIPK-4166/26
Send Date: Aug 5 2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospitals Division
Baramulla

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION KAKAPORA(I & F C DEPARTMENT) Notice inviting e-Tender

Short term e-NIT Noe-NIT No:-05of 2026-27

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders (in single Cover System) on percentage (%) basis are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with the J & K Government for the following Work to be opened by the Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Kakapora.

S No	Name of work	Estt. Cost (₹. in lakh)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Cost of T/ Doc. (in ₹.)	M.H of Account	Time of Completion	Class of contract
01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08
1	Flood precautionary measure on left side of River Jhelum from RD 33.00 km to RD 56.00 km during the 2026-27 Part 2nd	2.30	4600/-	200/-	2711 M&R	2026-27	DEE
2	Flood precautionary measure on Right side of River Jhelum from RD 39.45 km to RD 58.00 km during the 2026-27 Part 2nd	1.50	3000/-	200/-	2711 M&R	2026-27	DEE

No of works:-02 No's

Position of AAA:- Accorded by Superintending Engineer Hydl. Circle Pulwama HQ. Shopain vide order SE/HYD/SPN/DB/34 of 08/2026-27 dt. 01-08-2026

Technical Sanction: Sanctioned vide this office Order No.02 of 08/2026 dated 01-08-2026.

Position of funds: 50% available

- The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded on e-procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below: -

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	01/08/2026 from 1800 Hrs
2.	Date of start of downloading	01/08/2026 from 1800 Hrs.
3.	Bid submission start Date Technical/Financial	01/08/2026 from 1800 Hrs.
4.	Bid Submission end date	07/08/2026 up to 1800 Hrs.
5.	Date & Time of opening of Tenders	08/08/2026 at 1100 Hrs.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document fee (Non- Refundable/ Non- transferrable) and Earnest Money Deposit (2% of the Advertised cost) to be deposited into Bank Account No.0367010200000608 IFSC code: JAKATANKEE, Account Name: Chief Engineer Kashmir Irrigation and Flood Control (mentioning therein NIT No, Sr. No of work and Adv. Cost of work) & date on it must not be prior to date of issuance of this tender Notice.
- The Bidders/Tenders should mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government to any other Bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number. As per JK Finance Departments' Circular No. 01 (Adm) FD of 2025 dated 08-07-2025.
- The bidders/tenders shall have to upload Self attested undertaking to the effect that the registered card of the contractor has not been blacklisted/Debarred by any department nor the contractor has been declared insolvent by any court of Law.
- The L1 has to deposit 3% of Project Cost as Performance Security as per the above prescribed mechanism in para 01 part I.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-
 - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 7 Days after fixation of contract.All other terms and conditions as laid down in the PWD Form 25 Double shall also remain in force.

DIPK-4156/26
Send Date:- 05-08-2026

Sd/-
(Er. Farooq Ahmad Ganie)
Executive Engineer
Flood Control Division Kakapora

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

With deep sorrow, we inform the demise of

MANZOOR AHMAD BHAT

S/O Mehraj-ud-Din Bhat
R/O Sikander Pora, Rainawari
who departed for his heavenly abode on 03 August 2026 (Monday).

May Almighty Allah forgive his shortcomings, grant him Jannat-ul-Firdous, and bestow patience and strength upon the bereaved family. Ameen.

FATEH KHAWANI
will be held on
Friday, 07 August 2026, at 2:30 PM
at Ancestral Graveyard
Sikander Pora, Rainawari, Malkha, Srinagar.

The family respectfully requests all relatives, friends, and well-wishers to attend and pray for the departed soul.

NOTE: A humble request to the women attendees: Kindly do not bring fruits or any other offerings. Your prayers and presence are sufficient.

BEREAVED FAMILY

Amaan Manzoor 9797319676 (Son)
Momin Manzoor 8899224659 (Son)





Parliament Must Function Smoothly: PM To BJP MPs At Breakfast Meeting

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

New Delhi, Aug 5: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday hosted a breakfast meeting with 37 BJP MPs, including BJP president Nitin Nabin and some AAP leaders who had joined the party, and stressed that Parliament must function smoothly and without any disruption.

Modi shared his experience in public life and offered guidance on how seriously MPs should take Parliament, sources aware of the interaction said.

The prime minister also encouraged MPs to spend at least one or two hours each day in the Parliament library. Besides, he encouraged them to engage with the youth and actively implement the MP Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) with a focus of youth and sporting activities in their constituencies, the sources said.

Those who attended the meeting included newly elected party leaders Tarun Chugh and Vinod Tawde and former AAP leaders Swati



Maliwal, Raghav Chadha, Ashok Mittal, Sandeep Pathak and Vikramjit Singh Sahney.

The breakfast meeting during Parliament sessions has been part of the prime minister's practice for several years, providing the MPs an opportunity to directly interact with him.

Parliament proceedings have been regularly

disrupted since the Monsoon session began on July 20 with both Houses transacting very little business. Five bills have been passed by the Lok Sabha during the current session. Of these, the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026 and the Prevention of Insults to National Honour

(Amendment) Bill, 2026 have been approved by both Houses. The prime minister also encouraged MPs to spend at least one or two hours each day in the Parliament library. Besides, he encouraged them to engage with the youth and actively implement the MP Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) with a focus of youth and sporting activities in their constituencies, the sources said.

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'Vile, Obscene & Abusive' Online Posts Made Against Gadkari: HC; Orders Takedown Of Such Content

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA



Mumbai, Aug 5: The Bombay High Court on Wednesday said the posts uploaded on social media and online websites against Union minister Nitin Gadkari are completely "vile, abusive, obscene and defamatory" and ordered immediate takedown of all such content.

A single bench of Justice Arif Doctor granted interim relief to Gadkari and directed Meta, X Corp and Google LLC to ensure forthwith that the posts are taken down.

"These posts, on the face of it, are abusive, vile and obscene," the court said.

Such posts should not have a place online where they can be accessed by everyone, especially the younger generation, it added.

The bench also questioned online platforms like Meta, X Corp and Google LLC if they had any mechanism to take down such posts without the person having to approach court. The platforms ought to take down such posts voluntarily, the high court said. With all this technology at your disposal, don't you have some mechanism where there should be triggers? If someone upholds something vulgar or abusive, it should immediately be picked up and deleted. This is absolutely vile. Someone is just spewing venom," Justice Doctor said.

The court said that if in future any such similar posts, including deepfakes or AI-generated material, are uploaded, then the minister can approach the online platforms, which shall then act upon the same.

In future, there has to be some mechanism wherein online platforms take down the material without the person having to move court, Justice Doctor said.

The bench posted the matter for further hearing after four weeks, by when the respondents shall file their affidavits in reply to the minister's plea.

Gadkari last week filed a suit against Meta, X Corp, Google LLC and unknown persons for "defamatory" deepfakes and AI-generated posts uploaded against him over the ethanol policy. The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, in the plea filed through his advocate Sandeep Ladda, sought an immediate takedown of all fake and fabricated content and a permanent injunction against the circulation of posts that allegedly tarnished his reputation. He had also sought Rs 11 crore in damages for the defamatory content. The senior BJP leader claimed that several fake, AI-generated and defamatory posts were available online regarding the ethanol-blended fuel issue.

Unknown persons have uploaded and circulated posts and deepfake content falsely portraying him as being personally responsible for the programme, and alleging that he and his family have financially benefited from it, the plea stated.

Parliament Clears Bill To Raise Supreme Court Judge Strength To 38

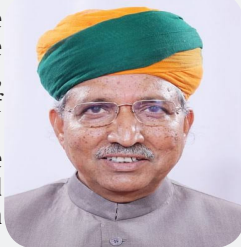
■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

New Delhi, Aug 5: The Rajya Sabha on Wednesday passed the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026, completing Parliament's approval of the legislation, as the Lok Sabha had already cleared it. The Bill increases the sanctioned strength of Supreme Court judges from 34 to 38, including the Chief Justice of India.

The bill was moved in the Upper House by Union Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal.

The Lok Sabha had passed the bill on Monday by voice vote. The Bill replaces the May 2026 Ordinance that had already expanded the sanctioned strength of Supreme Court judges and marks the first increase in the apex court's strength since 2019. During the debate on the Bill, Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Sasmit Patra urged the Centre to strengthen the Apex Court's infrastructure alongside expanding its judicial strength.

"I hope... the Minister will engage with



the Chief Justice of India, with the Bench, and with this committee and try and improve the infrastructural development of the entire judicial ecosystem of our country," Patra said.

Referring to the Judicial Infrastructure Advisory Committee constituted by Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant on May 12, Patra said the committee was tasked with examining infrastructure development for the Supreme Court and High Courts across the country.

Highlighting the Apex Court's infrastructure requirements, Patra recalled that former Chief Justice of India Justice DY Chandrachud

had outlined the need for "27 additional courtrooms, 51 judges' chambers, four registrar courtrooms, 16 registrar chambers, a new Supreme Court Bar Association library, and dedicated offices for the Supreme Court Bar Association and SCORA." Patra also raised concerns over the shortage of chambers for advocates, stating that "234 chambers are being used by 468 advocates presently," while there is a requirement for "400 to 500 advocate chambers."

Assam flood caused huge damage; it'll take time to restore normalcy, says Nadda

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

Sivasagar (Assam), Aug 5: Union Health Minister JP Nadda on Wednesday visited flood-ravaged areas of Assam and said the scale of devastation was so enormous that it will take time to restore normalcy.

Nadda, accompanied by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, toured the Nepalikhuti area along the Assam-Nagaland border, one of the worst-hit regions in the latest wave of floods that struck on July 19.

"I have visited the flood-hit Nepalikhuti area. Along with CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, I have witnessed the scale of devastation. The damage is so huge that it will take time (for normalcy to return)," Nadda told reporters after interacting with the affected families.

Assuring the affected people of all possible assistance from the Centre, he said the government stood firmly with them.

"I want to assure on behalf of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that there will be no shortcoming from the Indian government. Whether it is financial assistance, rehabilitation, compensation or support for property losses, everything will be provided," he said.

The visit comes as the northeastern state continues to grapple with a severe flood



situation. The death toll has risen to 89, while more than 1.22 lakh people remain affected across five districts amid fears of fresh inundation following overnight rains. "I have visited the flood-hit Nepalikhuti area. Along with CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, I have witnessed the scale of devastation. The damage is so huge that it will take time (for normalcy to return)," Nadda told reporters after interacting with the affected families.

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Parliament Deadlock: Rijiju Meets Rahul Gandhi

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

New Delhi, Aug 5: Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju reached out to Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday in a bid to break the persistent deadlock in the House, sources said.

This comes after the Lok Sabha was adjourned till 2 pm following opposition uproar in the Lower House for yet another day.

Since the Monsoon session began on July 20, the Lok Sabha has not been able to complete its Question Hour. Five bills have been passed without discussion amid din.

Lok Sabha proceedings were adjourned till 2 PM on Wednesday as the Opposition continued their sloganeering over various issues, including police action against students. As soon as the House met, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla asked members to go back to their seats and allow the House to take up the Question Hour.

Rahul Fears Debate In Parliament, Makes Baseless Remarks Against RSS: BJP

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

New Delhi, Aug 5: The BJP on Wednesday came down heavily on Rahul Gandhi, saying he was an "immature and part-time" Leader of the Opposition who is disrupting Parliament as he is "scared" of a comparison between the Narendra Modi government's performance and that of the previous Congress-led UPA dispensation.

The ruling party also accused the Congress leader of making "baseless" remarks against the BJP and the RSS.

The remarks came after Gandhi on Tuesday said the students of the country are in "severe pain" and they do not need Prime Minister Narendra Modi's forgiveness but his



apology for his government's action against them.

Speaking at the launch of a book by former MP Vaiko, the Leader of the Opposition had said students are on the streets because of the RSS' attempts to rewrite the country's history, adding that India will not tolerate its history being trampled upon by anybody.

Gandhi said every state has the right to be treated fairly and

express its own culture and language, but the RSS wants only the history subscribed to by it to be followed.

Addressing a press conference here, BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia alleged that Gandhi is an "immature", "part-time" and "irresponsible" Leader of the Opposition and is preventing Parliament from functioning because he fears the Modi government's record will expose the Congress. "Rahul Gandhi is scared. He knows that the characterless Congress will be exposed when there will be comparison of an effective Modi government and the spineless Congress-led government from 2004 to 2014. Therefore, the obstruction," Bhatia claim.

News Organisations Can Use Audio-Video Clips Of Judicial Proceedings For Reporting: SC

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

New Delhi, Aug 5: The Supreme Court has clarified that its recent interim order restricting the sharing and uploading of audio and video clips of court hearings does not prevent news organisations from reporting on judicial proceedings.

The clarification came after the top court noted that "some confusion persists" over its July 24 interim order, which barred posting and uploading of audio-video recordings of judicial proceedings on social media and other digital platforms without prior permission of the court administration.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant said the



restriction is confined to the use of audio and video recordings of judicial proceedings in news reports and should not be interpreted as a blanket ban on reportage by media organisations.

"It appears, however, that some confusion persists in respect of paragraph 11 of the earlier order, which this court deems necessary to clarify. The said paragraph makes it clear

that the order is not to be construed as imposing a blanket prohibition on the reporting of court proceedings by recognised news outlets," the court said.

Such outlets may, therefore, continue to report on the proceedings and inform the general public of legal developments and judicial pronouncements, save that audio or video clips of the court proceedings shall not be utilised in the course of such reportage, it said.

"In sum, while news outlets may continue to report on the court proceedings, they shall nonetheless remain bound by the restrictions set out in paragraph 10," the bench said in its order passed on July 31.

Dr Jitendra Briefs LS About El Nino, Its Monsoon Impact, Future Weather Probabilities

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, Aug 5: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. Jitendra Singh today said that the latest assessment by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) indicates that El Nino conditions, which developed during May 2026, are likely to persist from June 2026 to February 2027, with forecast probabilities ranging between 70 and 90 percent. The assessment is based on INCOIS' indigenous Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI/ML)-based El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) prediction system together with the Global Ocean Data Assimilation System.

Dr. Jitendra Singh explained that while El Nino has historically been associated with weaker Indian

Summer Monsoon rainfall over parts of the country, it is not the sole determinant of the monsoon. The Indian monsoon is influenced by several interacting climate drivers, including the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) and regional ocean-atmosphere interactions.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that while the current outlook points to the persistence of El Niño, its eventual impact on the Indian monsoon will depend on the evolution of associated ocean-atmosphere conditions, including the Indian Ocean Dipole and prevailing wind patterns during the monsoon season. Therefore, the situation continues to be closely monitored through advanced forecasting systems.

The Minister said the evolving El Niño may influence atmospheric circulation over the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal and could increase the



likelihood of marine heatwaves because of persistent warming over these regions. These changes may affect ocean mixing, nutrient availability and biological productivity, with implications for fish distribution and coastal marine ecosystems. Variations in wave and swell conditions may also

impact navigation, offshore operations and coastal activities. Highlighting the Government's preparedness, Dr. Jitendra Singh said INCOIS has continuously strengthened Ocean State Forecasting and marine multi-hazard early warning services through high-resolution forecasting models for storm surge, high waves, swell surge and high currents. The forecasting capability has been enhanced through an expanded ocean observation network comprising ocean gliders, moored buoys, Argo floats, tide gauges and satellite observations integrated with advanced data assimilation systems.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said the Government has also strengthened round-the-clock operational monitoring, multi-platform dissemination of advisories and impact-based forecasting while conducting stakeholder training programmes, mock exercises and awareness campaigns to

improve preparedness and resilience among coastal communities. Dr. Jitendra Singh further informed that under the Deep Ocean Mission, 145.06 crore has been allocated during the current financial year for mapping marine resources. Biodiversity surveys of seamounts in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone are being expanded, while advanced Autonomous Underwater Vehicles and Remotely Operated Vehicles are being deployed for exploration of hydrothermal vents, mineral-rich zones and marine resources. The Minister said that for coastal States, including Tamil Nadu, INCOIS provides Ocean State Forecast services with forecasts of waves, winds, swells, currents and sea surface temperature up to ten days in advance. High-wave, swell surge and high-current advisories are regularly issued to State authorities to support disaster preparedness and marine safety.



Rising HIV cases on higher education campuses

No more silence, dialogue is essential



Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

The future of a country is determined by its youth, and the greatest centers of youth power are our schools, colleges, and universities. Therefore, if news emerges from a state that a large number of students have tested positive for HIV, forcing the government to launch a comprehensive testing campaign in higher education institutions, this is no longer a matter solely for the health department. It is a serious warning for education, society, families, policymakers, and the entire nation. This is not the time to spread fear, but to confront this challenge with a scientific approach, sensitivity, and widespread awareness.

HIV, or Human Immunodeficiency Virus, attacks the body's immune system. If not diagnosed and treated promptly, it can lead to a serious condition called AIDS. However, advances in medical science have made it a manageable disease. With the help of antiretroviral therapy (ART), infected individuals can live a normal and long life. Therefore, early detection, regular treatment, and infection prevention are crucial.

The news of HIV infection among young people raises several serious questions. Is health and sex education adequate in our educational institutions? Are young people receiving scientific information about safe behavior, the causes of infection, and preventive measures? Are families and society willing to openly communicate on this topic? If the answer to these questions is 'no,' then we must acknowledge that the problem is not just about health, but also about our social mindset and education system.

Even today, Indian society doesn't consider it comfortable to discuss sexual health openly. Parents are hesitant, teachers often avoid the topic, and students often receive incomplete or misleading information from the internet or friends. This results in myths, misconceptions, and misconceptions. Scientific information, however, is the most effective means of preventing this disease.

It's also important to understand that HIV infection can spread not only through unprotected sex, but also through transfusions of infected blood, the use of contaminated needles, and from an infected mother to her child. However, HIV is not spread through shaking hands, sitting together, sharing food, hugging, sneezing, or mosquito bites. Unfortunately, even today, a large segment of society remains unaware of these facts. This ignorance leads to discrimination and social exclusion against infected individuals.

Young people attending higher education institutions are at a time of their lives marked by independence, curiosity, and a desire for new experiences. Guiding them in the right direction is not only the responsibility of families, but also of universities and the government. Every college and university should have a health counseling center, trained counselors, confidential testing facilities, and regular awareness programs. Students should be assured that their privacy and dignity will be fully protected if they come forward with a health concern.

If a state decides to launch an HIV testing campaign in higher education institutions, its objective should not be solely to identify infected individuals. Counseling, mental health support, treatment, and awareness must be given equal importance. Testing will be successful only if students perceive it as a normal health safety measure rather than a source of fear or shame.

The role of the media also becomes crucial here. Sensationalizing any data or event creates fear and confusion in society. Conversely, if the media promotes dialogue based on scientific facts, expert opinion, and

awareness, society can become more responsible and sensitive. It is also essential to end the tendency to associate illness with crime or character.

The growing trend of drug addiction is also a matter of concern. Drug abuse, especially the sharing of infected needles, also increases the risk of HIV infection. Therefore, de-addiction campaigns and HIV awareness programs need to be integrated. Effective infection control is achieved not only through treatment but also by reducing risky behaviors.

India has achieved remarkable success over the years through its National AIDS Control Program. New infections have declined, and millions of infected individuals have been provided treatment. However,

society becomes, the more people will come forward without fear for testing and treatment. This is also the most effective way to prevent infection.

The need today is to transform higher education campuses not only into centers of knowledge, but also centers of health, awareness, and life skills. Scientific thinking, responsible behavior, regular health checkups, and a sensitive social environment can only address this challenge.

Ultimately, the challenge of HIV teaches us that modern education cannot be limited to degrees. Life-saving knowledge is equally essential. If we break the silence today and embrace awareness, dialogue, and a scientific approach, not only will infection prevention



We must also remember that a person living with HIV is a normal citizen just like us. They need treatment, respect, and support, not scorn. The more sensitive society becomes, the more people will come forward without fear for testing and treatment. This is also the most effective way to prevent infection.



if the number of infections among young people is a cause for concern, it signals the need to review old awareness methods and make them more effective, modern, and youth-friendly.

The role of the family is crucial in this entire matter. Confident communication, accurate information, and emotional support with children and adolescents can protect them from risky situations. If families themselves make this topic taboo, young people will be forced to seek information from inappropriate sources. Silence is never the answer; appropriate communication at the right time is the foundation of safety.

We must also remember that a person living with HIV is a normal citizen just like us. They need treatment, respect, and support, not scorn. The more sensitive

be possible, but we will also build a society that sees people as human beings, not diseases. This is the need of the hour and the most important step towards a healthy, safe, and compassionate India.

(Dr. Satyawan Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)
- Dr. Satyawan Saurabh,
Poet, social thinker and columnist, All India
Radio and TV panelist,
333, Fairy Garden, Kaushalya Bhawan, Barwa
(Siwani) Bhiwani,
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Dr. SAIQA ZAHOOOR

- MBBS, DGO (KASHMIR UNIVERSITY)
- EX CLINIC ASSOCIATE & SR MOOLCHAND MEDICITY, NEW DELHI
- GYNECOLOGIST, J&K HEALTH SERVICE
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FIH Hockey Pro League returns on Dec 8, starting in Argentina

United News Of India

LAUSANNE (SWITZERLAND), AUG 5 With another unforgettable FIH Hockey Pro League season now part of hockey history, anticipation is already building for the next chapter.

The 2026-27 FIH Hockey Pro League will begin on December 8, 2026 in Argentina, promising yet another season of world-class hockey, fierce rivalries and unforgettable moments.

A total of 144 matches will be played across the season as the world's best teams battle for the coveted Pro League title in what has become the pinnacle of annual international hockey competition.

FIH President Tayyab Ikram said, "The FIH Hockey Pro League continues to showcase the very best of our sport, bringing together the world's top athletes. I am delighted to welcome the Indian women's team and the French men's team back to the League, adding even more excitement to this season."



"On behalf of FIH, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to our athletes, National Associations, hosts, commercial partners, broadcasters and fans for their continued commitment to making the Pro League the true 'League of the Best'. I already wish all teams every success for the season ahead," he said.

The opening stage of the new season will take place in Argentina, where the home favourites, the Leonas and

Leones, will launch their campaigns in front of passionate home support against some of the strongest teams in world hockey, namely China (women), Great Britain and France (men).

The opening matches will immediately set the tone for another highly competitive season, with every point proving crucial in the race for the Pro League crown.

As always, fans can expect fast-paced action, exceptional skill and

compelling contests featuring Olympic, World Cup and continental champions throughout the season.

India women's and France men's national teams rejoin the competition after earning promotion through the FIH Hockey Nations Cup. Both teams will once again compete among the world's elite, bringing renewed ambition, exciting match-ups and fresh storylines to the "League of the Best".

Their return further strengthens an already highly competitive field and promises even more thrilling contests for hockey fans around the globe.

The FIH Hockey Pro League continues to provide fans with a unique opportunity to watch the world's top teams compete throughout the season in a global celebration of elite hockey.

With every match carrying significance in the standings, every venue offering its own unique atmosphere, and every team determined to make its mark, the 2026-27 season promises to

Carlos Alcaraz withdraws from 2026 Cincinnati Open

United News Of India

OHIO (US), AUG 5 : Carlos Alcaraz will have to wait to return to the tennis court after withdrawing from the Cincinnati Open 2026.

The seven-time Grand Slam singles champion will not be able to defend his ATP Masters 1000 title, as tournament organisers announced his withdrawal on Tuesday, a week before the main draw begins.

Alcaraz has not played since April's Barcelona Open due to a wrist injury, subsequently missing Roland-Garros and Wimbledon. The target is to be fully fit for the US Open, the final major of the season where the 23-year-old is the defending champion.

The Spaniard has been back on the training courts over the past few weeks and is increasing

his workload, going from strength exercises to full practices out in Cincinnati. But the Masters tournament has come too soon for the world No. 2, according to olympics.com.

Alcaraz cedes his 1,000 ranking points from winning the Cincinnati crown last year, and will have the maximum 2,000 points to defend in New York as the gap to world No. 1 Jannik Sinner continues to grow.

Olympic gold medalist Alexander Zverev is also hot on his heels after victory in Paris and a first Wimbledon final.

Having jumped back to second in the ATP rankings above Zverev, Alcaraz will drop back to third. Returning at the hard-court Slam would be a monumental task for Alcaraz, going from non-competitive action in four months to best-of-five matches.

Harsh, Shivang, Tanush & Vipraj join India as net bowlers for Sri Lanka Tests



United News Of India

NEW DELHI, AUG 5 : The Shubman Gill-led India arrived in Sri Lanka on Tuesday evening ahead of the two-Test series, with the squad also taking along four net bowlers to help prepare for the spin-friendly conditions. Harsh Dubey, Shivang Kumar, Tanush Kotian and Vipraj Nigam have joined the team as practice bowlers for the tour. The group includes a mix of specialist spinners and bowling all-rounders, giving the Indian batters plenty of variety during training.

Leg-spinner Vipraj Nigam, who can also contribute with the bat, recently featured for India A in the tri-series in Sri Lanka. Left-arm wrist-spinner Shivang Kumar impressed with his performances in IPL 2026 and is regarded as one of the emerging young spinners in the country.

Mumbai off-spinner Tanush Kotian has been a regular with India A and has spent time around the senior set-up, while left-arm spinning all-rounder Harsh Dubey has enjoyed an excellent run in domestic

cricket over the last two Ranji Trophy seasons. Dubey was also part of India's squad for the one-off Test against Afghanistan in June. India will play a three-day warm-up match in Colombo from August 7 before the opening Test, which begins at the Galle International Stadium on August 15. The second and final Test will be played at the Sinhalese Sports Club in Colombo from August 23 to 27. The series is part of the ICC World Test Championship 2025-27 cycle. The visitors, however, have been hit by a series of injury setbacks. Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah has been ruled out after failing to recover from the left knee injury he sustained during the ODI series against England. The fast bowler underwent rehabilitation at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence but was not cleared to return. Jammu and Kashmir pacer Auqib Nabi has replaced Bumrah in the squad. The uncapped seamer earned his maiden India call-up after an outstanding domestic season in which he picked up 60 wickets and played a key role in Jammu and Kashmir's maiden Ranji Trophy title.

Neeraj Chopra opens up on injury battle

United News Of India

GLASGOW, AUG 5 : Neeraj Chopra has revealed the physical and mental toll of the injury-hit 10 months that threatened to derail his season, describing a recovery process that tested his patience and left him unsure whether he would return to competition this year.

The Indian javelin throw star shared an emotional message on Instagram on Tuesday, days after claiming the silver medal at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow with a season-best throw of 85.83m.

"There are throws that travel far, and then there are moments that carry the weight of an entire journey," Chopra wrote in his Instagram post. "The past 10 months have tested me in ways I never expected."

"Recovering from multiple injuries, rebuilding my body, finding my rhythm again, and learning to be patient when all I wanted was to compete. I was training every day without knowing if I would even have a season to compete this year."

The silver medal at CWG 2026 marked an encouraging step forward for the two-time

Olympic medalist, who had been troubled for much of the past year by an adductor injury and a series of other fitness setbacks, according to olympics.com.

After opening his 2026 athletics season with a fourth-place finish at the Doha Diamond League in June, Chopra returned to the podium in Glasgow despite challenging weather conditions.

The 28-year-old Indian athlete's run began with recurring fitness issues during the 2025 season before he aggravated a lower back injury ahead of the 2025 World Athletics Championships in Tokyo.

Clear head puts Starc on path to new heights



United News Of India

SYDNEY, AUG 5 : Mitchell Starc believes a clearer head and ability to let things go are the secrets behind him bowling as well as ever, with the left-arm on the verge of entering the top

five wicket-taking quicks of all time.

Starc will enter next week's first Test against Bangladesh in Darwin on 433 wickets, one shy of Indian great Kapil Dev's career haul.

Sevenscalps in this month's series will also see him pass Dale Steyn's mark of 439 and into fifth spot of all fast bowlers to have played Test

cricket. And Starc, 36, is showing no signs of slowing down. He is considered one of the top contenders for the 2026 Allan Border Medal

count on Friday, with the long-delayed presentation coming after Starc took 55 wickets at an average of 17.32 last year.

Starc won the award in 2022 and believes it is no coincidence the big second half of his career has come as part of Australia's most settled pace attack in history.

His use of the wobble seam with Kookaburra balls has also been a factor, but Starc insists the biggest change has been between the ears. "Excuse my language, but it's just been letting shit go," Starc told AAP. "You're never as good or bad as you think or other people think you are."

"I still moan and whinge about anything that goes wrong with or feels wrong. Even heading into (last) summer, it didn't feel like it clicked until the day before the Ashes."

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