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HEADLINES TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless



P:12

Kuldeep has been a match-winner,
deserves a longer run, says Kartik

Tarigami Condemns Threats to Kashmiri Pandits

CPI(M) leader calls
intimidation an attack on
Kashmir's tradition of
coexistence and pluralism

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 12: CPI(M) leader and Kulgam MLA M.Y. Tarigami on Wednesday condemned reported threats against Kashmiri Pandits, describing them as a direct assault



on Kashmir's longstanding tradition of inclusivity and coexistence. Tarigami said the community was an inseparable part of the region's cultural and social fabric and that threats by militants must be condemned without reservation. He urged authorities to ensure the safety of all communities and take sustained measures

SEE ON P-2

Let the Tiranga Fly in Our Hearts, Not Just on Rooftops : LG Sinha

J&K's overwhelming participation in Vande Mataram campaign
has inspired the nation, says Lieutenant Governor

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 12: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday urged the people of Jammu and Kashmir to make the spirit of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign a part of their thoughts, character and actions, saying the national flag should represent not merely pride but a commitment to unity, honesty, service and responsibility.

Addressing the Tiranga Mahotsav at Botanical Garden Srinagar after flagging off a Tiranga Yatra from SKICC, Sinha said Har Ghar Tiranga, launched in 2022, had evolved into a festival of public consciousness and a tradition of national love. He said the enthusiastic participation of Jammu and Kashmir in the Vande Mataram campaign had become a



source of inspiration for the entire country.

Linking the celebrations with the 150th anniversary of Vande

Mataram, Sinha described the song as an enduring voice of India's national consciousness and a symbol of unity, courage and self-respect. He congratulated the people, particularly the youth, for their participation and urged Jammu and Kashmir to retain its leading position in the next phase of the campaign.

The Lieutenant Governor said the participation of people from districts including Bandipora, Baramulla, Pulwama, Poonch, Rajouri, Kishtwar, Jammu and Srinagar reflected the region's strong spirit of national unity. He called upon citizens to honour the sacrifices of freedom fighters and soldiers by helping

SEE ON P-2

India Targets 100 GW Nuclear Capacity by 2047

Centre plans five indigenous small modular reactors by 2033, pushes domestic technology and private investment

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12: India is stepping up its nuclear energy ambitions with a target of 100 GW of nuclear capacity by 2047, while planning to develop at least five indigenous Small Modular Reactors by 2033, Union Minister Jitendra Singh told the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. The strategy focuses on indigenous reactor technologies, thorium utilisation, domestic manufacturing and wider private-sector participation.

The government is also advancing 700 MW indigenous reactors, SMR designs and fast-breeder technology as part of its long-term three-stage nuclear programme aimed at strengthening the country's energy security and technological self-reliance.

India is accelerating efforts to build a self-reliant and globally competitive nuclear energy ecosystem, with a focus

on indigenous reactor technologies, Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), thorium utilisation, domestic manufacturing and greater private-sector participation, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said in the



Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

The government's long-term nuclear strategy is anchored in India's three-stage nuclear power programme and the Nuclear Energy Mission announced in the Union Budget 2025-26. The mission aims to expand India's nuclear energy capacity to 100 GWe by 2047. Under the two-pronged strategy for capacity expansion, India plans to

SEE ON P-2

J&K Braces for More Rain as Heavy Showers Likely From August 16

Authorities alert vulnerable areas as intense rainfall could trigger flash floods, landslides and mudslides



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 12: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to experience another spell of unsettled weather over the coming days, with light to moderate rain and thundershowers forecast at many places and isolated intense showers possible. Weather activity is expected to increase again between August 16 and 19, when heavy rainfall is possible in parts of the Jammu division and isolated areas of Kashmir. The warning comes after heavy

SEE ON P-2

Sitharaman Seeks Stronger BRICS Partnership to Unlock Private Capital

Finance Minister stresses predictable investment climate and greater role for multilateral institutions in de-risking projects

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAIPUR, AUGUST 12: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday called for stronger cooperation among BRICS governments, multilateral development institutions and the private sector to mobilise capital for large-scale development projects. Speaking at a seminar on the role of the New Development Bank, she said the key challenge was not simply the availability of funds but creating stable, predictable and credible frameworks capable of attracting long-term private investment. She highlighted India's infrastructure initiatives and public investment programmes as catalysts for greater private-sector participation.

: Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday

called for stronger collaboration among governments, multilateral development institutions and the private sector to mobilise



capital at scale across BRICS economies.

Addressing a seminar on "The Role of the New Development Bank in Mobilising Private Capital in Member Countries" on the sidelines of the BRICS Finance

SEE ON P-2

SIA Raids Nine Locations in 1990 Premi Double-Murder Case

Searches across Jammu, Rajouri and Kashmir as agency pursues fresh leads more than three decades after killings

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 12: The State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Wednesday conducted searches at nine locations across Jammu and Kashmir in connection with the 1990 killing of Kashmiri poet and scholar Sarwanand Koul Premi and his son, Virender Koul. Officials said six locations were searched in Rajouri, two in Jammu and one in Kashmir as part of the ongoing investigation into the decades-old double murder.

The searches are aimed at gathering evidence and pursuing fresh leads in the case, which was originally registered at Police Station Dooru in Anantnag. More than three decades after Kashmiri poet and scholar Sarwanand Koul Premi and his son Virender Koul were abducted from their home and killed in 1990, the State Investigation Agency (SIA) Kashmir on Wednesday conducted searches at nine locations across Jammu and Kashmir as part of

SEE ON P-2

HT BOTTOM NEWS

SC Seeks States' Consideration of Uniform Policy on Unauthorised Constructions

Top court says ground realities differ across states, but urges authorities to balance enforcement with rights to shelter and dignity

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12: The Supreme Court on Wednesday declined to entertain a PIL seeking a nationwide policy for the regularisation and demolition of long-standing unauthorised constructions, but asked states and Union territories to consider the issues raised while framing or revisiting their policies.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalaya Bagchi and V. Mohana observed that circumstances and ground realities vary considerably across states and that it would neither be feasible nor prudent for the court to prescribe a single framework for the entire country.

The petition, filed by the Centre for Law and Good Governance, sought directions to the Centre and state governments to frame a uniform policy aimed particularly

at protecting unauthorised dwelling units occupied by economically weaker families.

regularisation schemes implemented in states such as Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and



The court, however, said the issue largely falls within the policy domain of state governments and local authorities.

"We are hopeful that due consideration shall be given to all such issues by the competent authorities," the bench said.

The PIL highlighted

in Delhi. It alleged that unauthorised colonies and structures are sometimes demolished abruptly, without adequate notice, rehabilitation or welfare measures for affected families. The petitioner argued that demolition is an extreme and irreversible

SEE ON P-2

Bandipora Placed Under Heightened Security Ahead of Independence Day

Additional checkpoints, intensified vehicle checks and frisking launched across key locations

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 12: Security has been intensified across Bandipora ahead of Independence Day celebrations, with police establishing additional checkpoints and stepping up surveillance at key roads, entry and exit points and other sensitive locations. Vehicles and their occupants are being subjected to enhanced checking and verification of identity and registration documents. Police have appealed to the public to cooperate with security personnel and remain vigilant to ensure peaceful Independence Day celebrations across the district.

The Bandipora Police have intensified security arrangements across the district ahead of the Independence Day celebrations, with enhanced surveillance and checking measures being implemented at key locations.

SEE ON P-2

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Tarigami Condemns

to preserve Jammu and Kashmir's pluralistic social character. CPI(M) leader and Kulgam MLAMY Tarigami on Wednesday condemned threats against Kashmiri Pandits, saying such intimidation was an assault on Kashmir's tradition of inclusivity and coexistence.

Tarigami's remarks came amid reports that the government had sent Kashmiri Pandit employees on leave as a precautionary measure following threats against members of the community.

"Threats against Kashmiri Pandits, which have prompted the government to send them on leave as a precautionary measure, are highly condemnable," Tarigami said.

He said the Kashmiri Pandit community was an "inseparable part" of Kashmir's cultural and social fabric and stressed that threats by militants must be condemned unequivocally.

"Such threats by militants are an assault on Kashmir's tradition of inclusivity and coexistence and deserve unequivocal condemnation, cutting across political and ideological differences," he said.

Tarigami said the safety and security of all communities living in Jammu and Kashmir must remain a priority and urged that efforts be made to preserve the region's pluralistic social fabric. (KNS)

Let the

build an India that is prosperous, safe, just and committed to equal opportunities.

"Har Ghar Tiranga will not only be on the rooftops of Jammu and Kashmir, but it will always be high in our thoughts, character and actions," Sinha said, urging people to translate the spirit of patriotism into their daily conduct, decisions and responsibilities.

The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha participated in the Tiranga Yatra today, leading a momentous celebration of national pride in Srinagar. Following the Yatra, he addressed the citizens, reaffirming the immortal spirit of India's unity and the indomitable courage of its people. The event marked the confluence of two monumental celebrations, the mass movement of Har Ghar Tiranga and the 150th anniversary of the national song Vande Mataram.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the Tiranga is the living embodiment of India's consciousness and pride. He emphasized that the Tiranga Yatra in the Kashmir Valley sends a clear message that India must never stop and always move forward.

"In 2022, when the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign was launched under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', its purpose was to rekindle in every Indian's heart a sense of closeness, respect, and emotional connection toward the tricolour. When the Tiranga flutters simultaneously on millions of homes, 140 crore Indians' hearts beat as one in a single sentiment, a single faith, a single resolve. Today, Tiranga Yatra has evolved into a festival of people's consciousness, a tradition of patriotism, and a cultural value binding every citizen to the motherland," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the people of Jammu Kashmir for their remarkable participation in the Har Ghar Tiranga and Vande Mataram campaigns. He noted that their enthusiasm has become a source of inspiration for the entire nation. He said the Tiranga is the soul of our nation and 'Vande Mataram' is the immortal voice of that soul.

The Lieutenant Governor urged citizens to reflect on their contribution to building the India envisioned by the nation's forefathers. He emphasized that while martyrs defended the nation with their blood, today's generation must defend it with character, honesty, hard work, unity, and service.

He said that the confluence of Har Ghar Tiranga and Vande Mataram is not merely the meeting of two campaigns but the announcement of a new era.

"This is the symbol of a Jammu Kashmir filled with self-confidence and marching firmly toward the future where 'Vijayi Vishwa Tiranga Pyara' is a life's resolve in every citizen's heart, where every home is a centre of patriotism and where every heart beats in rhythm with the pulse of national unity," he said.

On this historic occasion, the Lieutenant Governor called upon the people to take collective and personal responsibility for shaping Jammu Kashmir's and India's future. He urged the people to ensure that the Tiranga will not only fly high at every home but also in our thoughts, our character, and our actions.

"Let us resolve that the sacred spirit of 'Vande Mataram' will reflect in every action, every decision, and the discharge of every responsibility. We should take a pledge to repay the debt of our immortal heroes' sacrifices by building a nation that is prosperous, secure, just, and opens doors of equal opportunity for every citizen. We should work together to realize the vision of a Jammu Kashmir where the three colours of the Tiranga are visible in the values of life. We should build a Jammu Kashmir that is economically strong and takes unbroken pride in Indian culture, civilization, and spiritual values. The future is ours. This century belongs to India. This is the era of India's self-confidence, its courage, and its immortal national consciousness," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor honoured Veer Naris and War Heroes. He also inaugurated the Har Ghar Tiranga Exhibition and felicitated the nodal officers of the Vande Mataram campaign.

The celebrations also featured the screening of a special documentary by the Department of Culture, followed by Tiranga concert where artists paid a musical tribute to the nation's bravehearts.

Shri Justice Rahul Bharti; Deputy Chief Minister, Shri Surinder Kumar Choudhary; Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Shri Javed Ahmed Rana; Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election, Shri Javid Ahmad Dar; Advisor to Chief Minister, Shri Nasir Aslam Wani; Chairperson, J&K Waqf Board, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi; Chief Secretary, Shri Atal Dulloo; DGP, Shri Nalin Prabhat; Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, Shri Shaleen Kabra; Principal Secretary Culture, Shri Brij Mohan Sharma, people from all walks of life, senior officials of Civil Administration, Police and Security forces, and youth in large number joined the Tiranga Yatra.

India Targets

deploy large indigenous reactors, including 700 MWe Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs), at greenfield sites while developing SMRs for brownfield locations such as retiring fossil-fuel power plants, captive industrial facilities and remote off-grid applications.

A key target under the Nuclear Energy Mission is to develop and operationalise at least five indigenous SMRs by 2033. The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) is working on indigenous designs including the 220 MWe Bharat Small Modular Reactor (BSMR-200) and the 55 MWe SMR-55.

BARC is also developing a High Temperature Gas Cooled Reactor of up to 5 MWth capacity, which could be coupled with a thermochemical cycle for hydrogen production.

Dr Jitendra Singh also highlighted the work of the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) in advancing the second stage of India's nuclear programme. The centre is pursuing research and engineering development related to Sodium Cooled Fast Breeder Reactors and associated closed fuel-cycle facilities.

The government is simultaneously seeking to expand the domestic nuclear manufacturing and research ecosystem. The Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Act, 2025 has been enacted to facilitate wider participation of public and private entities in nuclear manufacturing, engineering services, research and development and supply chains.

According to the minister, the Department of Atomic Energy is supporting Indian industry through knowledge-sharing and handholding for emerging SMR technologies while developing domestic vendors and strengthening private-sector research capabilities.

Critical components, including low-alloy steel forgings for reactor pressure vessels and reactivity control drive mechanisms, have already been developed through domestic industry, while work on other critical equipment is underway with industry and start-ups.

The reforms under the SHANTI Act are aimed at expanding private participation while retaining stringent requirements relating to nuclear safety, security and safeguards. The legislation also provides statutory status to the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board.

Dr Jitendra Singh said India's long-term nuclear strategy also places significant emphasis on thorium, given the country's substantial thorium resources.

Under the three-stage programme, natural uranium is first used in PHWRs, with spent fuel reprocessed to extract plutonium. The second stage involves Fast Breeder Reactors, which use plutonium to generate additional fissile material. The third stage envisages large-scale utilisation of thorium through uranium-233 produced from thorium after adequate Fast Breeder Reactor capacity has been established.

India has already undertaken research towards thorium utilisation. Thorium oxide pellets have been used in the initial cores of operating PHWRs, while thorium-based fuels have been irradiated in BARC research reactors. Irradiated thorium has also been reprocessed to obtain uranium-233, which was subsequently fabricated as fuel for the KAMINI reactor at IGCAR, Kalpakkam.

The government is also working to strengthen domestic capabilities across the nuclear fuel cycle, reactor design, manufacturing and construction. Alongside energy generation, efforts are being made to expand indigenous nuclear medicine infrastructure through the Isotope Production Reactor, aimed at increasing domestic production of medical isotopes.

The government's overall approach combines expansion of nuclear capacity with indigenous technology development, advanced reactor research, domestic manufacturing and greater private-sector participation, with the objective of strengthening India's long-term energy security and technological self-reliance.

Omar Clears

while preserving the religious, cultural and spiritual heritage associated with the historic shrine.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has approved a ₹5.15 crore project for the comprehensive development of the historic Gurudwara Charan Kamal Sahib at Bakhta in Kathua district.

The project envisages the construction of a new Langar Hall and Prayer Hall, besides provision of modern civic amenities for devotees visiting the revered shrine.

The initiative marks another significant step towards strengthening pilgrimage infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir while ensuring the preservation of the region's sacred cultural and spiritual heritage.

The development of the historic Gurudwara will provide improved facilities for devotees and further contribute to the conservation and promotion of Jammu and Kashmir's rich and diverse heritage. (KNS)

Sitharaman Seeks

Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting in Jaipur, Sitharaman said multilateral development banks have a crucial role in de-risking investments, improving project bankability and strengthening investor confidence.

She said BRICS economies are among the major growth engines of the global economy but face common structural challenges in mobilising private capital at scale. The challenge, she noted, is not merely the availability of capital but creating confidence, stability, predictability and credible long-term frameworks that can sustain private investment.

Highlighting India's experience, the Finance Minister said the government has strengthened the country's infrastructure ecosystem through sustained public capital expenditure and structural reforms. Public investment has expanded significantly over the past decade, creating productive assets across highways, railways, ports, logistics networks, digital infrastructure and energy systems.

Sitharaman emphasised that public capital should act as a catalyst rather than a substitute for private investment. She highlighted several measures undertaken by the government to facilitate private participation, including Viability Gap Funding, the Hybrid Annuity Model, credit enhancement mechanisms, Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs), the National Infrastructure Pipeline and PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan for Multimodal Connectivity.

She said the Union Budget 2026-27 has further introduced targeted measures aimed at facilitating private-sector investment, including new Dedicated Freight Corridors, High-Speed Rail Corridors, operationalisation of new National Waterways and a Coastal Cargo Promotion Scheme.

The minister said these initiatives are intended to create greater visibility for investors, improve risk-sharing and strengthen the overall investment environment.

Sitharaman stressed that the future of development finance lies in partnership, with multilateral institutions, national governments and the private sector bringing different but complementary strengths to the development process.

Earlier, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs,

Anuradha Thakur, said the seminar was particularly relevant at a time when development finance is entering a phase where scale needs to be matched with resilience.

She said mobilisation of capital cannot depend solely on favourable market conditions and must instead be supported by durable frameworks capable of providing long-term stability.

The seminar brought together senior policymakers, representatives of multilateral institutions and private-sector leaders. A panel discussion featured IRDAI Chairman Ajay Seth, NDB Vice-President Roman Serov, Alessandro Teixeira of Sertrading, Tencent Senior Advisor Yongping Zhai and Pankaj Sindwani of the Tata Capital Decarbonisation Fund, besides representatives from BRICS countries, financial institutions, think tanks and academia.

J&K Braces

rain caused severe waterlogging on the Srinagar-Anantnag road at Awantipora on Wednesday, disrupting traffic and affecting nearby homes, shops and a Gurudwara.

Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness another spell of unsettled weather over the coming days, with light to moderate rain and thundershowers expected at many places and brief intense showers possible at isolated locations, according to the latest weather forecast.

From Aug 13 to 15, light to moderate rain or thundershowers are likely at many places, with brief intense showers possible at a few locations, particularly during the early morning, morning and late afternoon to evening hours.

The forecast indicates another spell of wet weather from Aug 16 to 19, with light to moderate rain or thundershowers expected at many places. Heavy rain or brief intense heavy showers are possible in a few districts during the early morning and afternoon hours.

The weather is likely to ease thereafter, with light rain or thundershowers possible at scattered places from Aug 20 to 22.

The advisory, however, flags the possibility of heavy rain and brief intense heavy showers in a few districts of the Jammu division between Aug 16 and 19. One or two districts of the Kashmir division may also experience brief intense showers during the period.

Authorities and residents in vulnerable areas have been cautioned as torrential rain or brief intense heavy showers could trigger flash floods, landslides and mudslides. Heavy rains triggered severe waterlogging on the Srinagar-Anantnag road at Awantipora on Wednesday, disrupting traffic and leaving the movement of commuters severely affected.

The road stretch has been inundated with a substantial accumulation of rainwater, prompting police personnel to reach the spot and stop vehicles from proceeding through the affected portion.

Traffic movement on the waterlogged stretch has been suspended and vehicles are being diverted through alternate routes to prevent further disruption and possible damage to vehicles.

The impact of the waterlogging has extended beyond the main road, with rainwater entering a nearby Gurudwara as well as shops and residential houses, causing inconvenience to residents and business establishments in the area.

Police personnel remained deployed at the location to regulate traffic and prevent vehicles from entering the inundated stretch.

The waterlogging has once again exposed the vulnerability of the Srinagar-Anantnag road to heavy rainfall, with commuters

facing difficulties as authorities work to manage traffic on the affected route. [KNT]

SIA Raids

the investigation into the double murder.

The searches were carried out at six locations in Rajouri district, two in Jammu and one in Kashmir, according to reports citing officials familiar with the operation. The case, originally registered at Police Station Dooru in Anantnag, is now being investigated by the SIA.

The searches are aimed at pursuing leads and gathering evidence in a case that has remained unresolved for decades. Details regarding the persons whose premises were searched and whether anything was recovered were not immediately available.

Premi and his son, residents of Soaf Shali village in Kokernag, were abducted from their home in 1990 and subsequently killed. Premi was known as a poet, scholar and writer and had been associated with efforts promoting communal harmony and social unity. [KNT]

Bandipora Placed

Additional nakas have been established along important roads, entry and exit points, and other strategically significant locations to ensure foolproof security and maintain law and order.

Police personnel are conducting intensified frisking and checking of vehicles, with registration details, identity documents and other relevant papers of vehicles and drivers being thoroughly verified.

The enhanced security measures are aimed at ensuring the safe and peaceful conduct of Independence Day celebrations across the district. Police have also urged the public to cooperate with security personnel during checks and remain vigilant.

The strengthened security grid will remain in place as part of the district administration and police efforts to ensure a secure environment for the national celebrations. (KNS)

SC Seeks

step and should be undertaken only under a policy that balances enforcement of planning and land-use regulations with constitutional rights to shelter, livelihood and dignity under Article 21.

The counsel also contended that authorities in different states adopt inconsistent approaches. In some cases, residents are allegedly allowed access to electricity and civic amenities and are charged municipal or property taxes, only to be declared illegal decades later and threatened with demolition.

The bench noted that the Supreme Court has already laid down safeguards against arbitrary demolitions. Chief Justice Surya Kant referred to the court's humanist jurisprudence beginning with Olga Tellis, observing that persons in settled possession cannot ordinarily be dispossessed without due process. The CJ also noted that even an unauthorised occupant should ordinarily receive at least 15 days' notice before demolition. Justice Bagchi said the issues raised in the PIL required assessment on a case-by-case basis and could not necessarily be resolved through a single policy framed by the judiciary. He cautioned that the broad prayers in the petition could draw the court into the executive's policy-making domain.

The bench further pointed out that unauthorised construction is not invariably linked to poverty, as some structures are built for commercial or profit-making purposes.

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ADDC Baramulla reviews progress of works under SBM-G, District Capex

■ HT News Network



BARAMULLA, AUGUST 12: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Baramulla, Pranjal J. Hazarika, today chaired a meeting at Dak Bungalow Baramulla to review the physical and financial progress of works being executed under Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G) and District Capex for the current financial year.

The meeting was attended by the Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Baramulla, Chaudhary Mudassir Hussain, Executive Engineers of R&B, Block Development Officers (BDOs), Assistant Executive Engineers and other concerned officers and officials from various blocks of the district.

During the meeting, the ACP, through a detailed presentation, provided a comprehensive overview of the progress achieved under both heads, covering targets, works accorded and tendered, allotments, execution status, expenditure and other key performance indicators.

Mera Yuva Bharat Anantnag organises District-Level Nasha Mukh Yuva for Viksit Bharat competition

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 12: Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) Anantnag, in collaboration with District Administration and Government College for Women (GCW) Anantnag, today organised a District-Level "Nasha Mukh Yuva for Viksit Bharat" competitive programme in the Auditorium of Govt Degree College (W) Anantnag.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation of young people in eight competitive events aimed at creating awareness among youth about the harmful effects of substance abuse and encouraging them to become ambassadors of a drug-free India. The competitions included Folk Songs, Dance, Nukkad Natak/Mime Acts, Painting, Debate/Elocution, Short Film/Reel, Slogan Writing and Slam Poetry.

ADC Anantnag, Vikas Ahlawat, was the Chief Guest, while Principal GDC Dr. Khalida Hassan, graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour.

In his presidential address, the ADC appreciated the efforts of Mera Yuva Bharat in organising such meaningful and youth-centric programmes. He applauded the enthusiasm and creativity displayed by



the participants and emphasised the important role of young people in creating awareness against substance abuse. He encouraged the youth to become positive role models and actively contribute towards building a healthier and more developed society. Earlier, Principal Dr. Khalida Hassan delivered the welcome address calling for effective convergence of MY Bharat initiative with higher education institutions.

Deputy Director, MY Bharat Anantnag, Khushal Gupta, addressed the gathering

and briefed the participants and guests about the objectives, structure and significance of the "Nasha Mukh Yuva for Viksit Bharat" programme. He highlighted the role of youth in combating substance abuse and contributing towards the vision of a developed and drug-free India.

A Nasha Mukh Pledge was also administered to all participants and attendees, reaffirming their collective commitment to staying away from drugs and promoting a healthy, responsible and drug-free society.

Mega Tiranga Rally held at Kulgam under Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign

DC, SSP join thousands of citizens in Rally

■ HT News Network



KULGAM, AUGUST 12: A Mega Tiranga Rally under Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign and Tiranga Exhibition in the form of Human Chain, dedicated to National Song, Vande Mataram was today held by the District Administration Kulgam.

Both the programs were led by Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam in presence of SSP Kulgam, Anayat Ali and other district administration officers officials and local citizens.

The citizens assembled at the lawns of Mini Secretariat, Kulgam formed a Tiranga Exhibition in the form of Human Chain and presented tribute to the Vande Mataram through mass singing of National Song.

Thereafter, the rally commenced from the Mini Secretariat Kulgam and passed through various parts of the town, witnessing spirited participation from citizens from all walks of life and culminated at Ghanta Ghar with the mass singing of National Song and National Anthem at both the locations.

NIT Srinagar organises Tiranga rally under Har Ghar Tiranga campaign

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Aug 12: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Wednesday organised a Tiranga Rally under the nationwide 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Campaign 2026, as part of its celebrations ahead of India's 80th Independence Day.

The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation from members of the NIT Srinagar community, including Deans, Heads of Departments and Centres, faculty members, non-faculty employees, outsourced staff, students, research scholars, NCC and NSS volunteers and other staff members.

The programme was aimed at promoting patriotism, national unity and pride while encouraging members of the institute community to display the National Flag, the Tiranga, with pride and respect.

The rally was flagged off by Incharge Director Prof. Roohi



Naaz in the presence of Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman. Deans, HoDs, HoCs, faculty members, administrative staff and the institute's Security Officer also participated in the event.

NCC and NSS volunteers were also present during the programme. Participants carried the National Flag and raised patriotic slogans as they marched around the campus in a coordinated display of national pride and unity.

The rally was organised in accordance with the institute's call for active participation in the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Campaign

2026. The campaign aims to strengthen citizens' emotional connection to the National Flag and encourage people to display the Tiranga as a symbol of national pride, unity, and identity.

The rally was part of the broader Independence Day celebrations being organised by NIT Srinagar. The Institute is conducting a series of activities involving students, faculty and staff to mark the occasion and highlight the significance of the country's freedom struggle, national unity and constitutional values.

DJMC IUST convenes BoS meeting for PG programs

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, AUGUST 12: The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (DJMC), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), convened a second Board of Studies (BoS) meeting for its post-graduate programmes on Wednesday.

The meeting was chaired by Prof. Afroz Ahmad Bisati, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, IUST, and convened by Dr. Rabia Noor, Head, DJMC.

Among the key items on the agenda were the proposed two-year postgraduate programme under the new nomenclature, Mass Communication with AI, and the one-year M.A. programme in Journalism and Mass Communication. The proposed programmes seek to respond to the rapidly evolving media ecosystem, marked by technological advancements, digital transformation and the growing integration of Artificial Intelligence into media practices.

The members deliberated upon the academic framework and curricular aspects of the department's postgraduate programmes, with a focus on strengthening and updating the programmes in line with the changing academic and professional landscape of media studies.

They also discussed the programme structures, curriculum and other academic components before making recommendations as per the prescribed academic and statutory processes.

'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign CUKashmir holds, Tiranga Rally, Plantation Drive

■ HT News Network

Ganderbal, Aug 12: Under the aegis of 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir) organised a Tiranga Rally and Plantation Drive, at the Tulmulla Campus here on Wednesday.

Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Shahid Rasool, Registrar, Dr. Nisar Ahmad Mir, Dean School Legal Studies, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Mir, Dean School of Business Studies, Prof. Syed Zahoor Ahmad Geelani, Dean DSW, Dr. Jehirul Islam, faculty members, administrative staff, scholars, students participated in the event. The participants carried the Tricolour and marched across the campus, reaffirming their commitment to the ideals of unity, integrity and national development. In his message for the participants, Vice Chancellor, Prof. A Ravinder Nath, said, "The 'Har Ghar



Tiranga' campaign provides us with an opportunity to renew our commitment to the values that the Tricolour represents—unity, courage, sacrifice and inclusive national development. The Tiranga Rally and the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' plantation drive carries a message that is both patriotic and purposeful," Prof. A Ravinder Nath added.

Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Shahid Rasool, said the initiatives such as the Tiranga

Rally provide students with an opportunity to connect with the history and values of the nation while translating those values into meaningful action.

Registrar, Dr. Nisar Ahmad Mir, highlighted the significance of collective participation in strengthening the spirit of national unity and said the enthusiastic response from the University community reflected its deep sense of belonging to the nation.

Series of activities held under Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign across Bandipora

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 12: As part of the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign-2026 and the commemoration of 150 years of Vande Mataram, a number of Tiranga Rallies and patriotic activities were held across Bandipora district today, witnessing enthusiastic participation of students, officers, officials and people from different sections of society.

In Sumbal, a Tiranga Rally was organised from Irrigation Colony, Sumbal, to Degree College, Sumbal. The rally was attended by SDM Sumbal, Murtaza Ahmad Sheikh, SDPO Sumbal, Tehsildar Sumbal and Hajin, SHO Sumbal, Commandant 45 Battalion Sumbal, ZEO Sumbal, Executive Engineers of PDD, Irrigation & Flood Control and R&B Departments, besides officers and officials from



various departments, members of civil society, President Traders Federation Sumbal, President Senior Citizens Council Sumbal, students, Lumberdars and Chowkidars.

Participants carried the National Flag with pride, reinforcing the message of unity and national pride.

In Gurez, a Tiranga Rally was held from the Sports Ground of Government Degree College

Gurez to Sumo Stand. The rally was led by Sub-Divisional Magistrate Gurez, Mukhtar Ahmad, accompanied by Tehsildar Gurez, Block Development Officer Gurez and other officials. Officers, officials and local residents participated in the rally with patriotic enthusiasm, carrying the Tricolour and reaffirming the spirit of national unity in the frontier valley.

A Tiranga Rally was also held at Habba Khatoon Stadium, Dawar.

As part of the celebrations, people also participated in Selfie with Tiranga activities at the Mini Secretariat Bandipora and S.K. Stadium Bandipora, expressing their pride and respect for the National Flag.

Tiranga rallies and related activities were also held with the participation of Block Bonakoot, Block Gurez, Block Arin, Block Hajin, Block Bandipora and Block Nowgam, besides NRLM Bandipora, Department of Agriculture Bandipora, Municipal Council Bandipora, PDD Bandipora, RSETI Bandipora, Poshan Project Gurez and other departments and institutions.

The Department of AYUSH, Bandipora, participated through awareness sessions, Yoga activities and Tiranga Rallies, sensitising students.

Mega Tiranga Rally organised at Awantipora, participants display patriotic spirit

Rally commences from historic Awanti Swami Temple

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, AUGUST 12: A Mega Tiranga Rally was organised today at Awantipora as part of the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign-2026, being observed in integration with the third phase of the commemoration of 150 years of the National Song "Vande Mataram."

The rally commenced from the historic Awanti Swami Temple, with participants carrying the Tricolour, displaying their dedication to the values of unity, patriotism and national pride. Despite heavy showers, the rally witnessed enthusiastic participation, reflecting the spirit of public engagement and commitment towards the campaign.

The rally was attended by SSP Awantipora Sajad Ahmad Shah, ADC Awantipora, Mushtaq Ahmad Lone, Commandant



CRPF 110 Bn, district officers and officials from the Police, defence forces and civil administration. The rally also witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, youth and civil society.

The participants marched through Awantipora carrying the Tricolour, creating a vibrant patriotic atmosphere and spreading the message of national unity and pride among

the people.

The event formed part of the district-wide calendar of activities being organised under Har Ghar Tiranga-2026, aimed at encouraging widespread public participation and taking the message of patriotism, unity and national pride to every household.

Besides, earlier in the day, Pulwama participated virtually in the UT-level Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign-2026 programme led by the Lieutenant Governor of J&K, Shri Manoj Sinha. The programme was attended by Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, SSP Pulwama, Tanushree and District and Sectoral Officers.

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DC Anantnag reviews progress under Mission YUVA

Emphasises regular monitoring for smooth implementation

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 12: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress and implementation of various components under Mission YUVA at the DC Office.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Principals of all Government Degree Colleges, Principal Government Polytechnic College Anantnag, Superintendents of Government ITI Anantnag and Seer Hamdan, Employment Officer, DE&CC, Career Counselling Officer, DE&CC, Cluster Heads, Circle-I and Circle-II, Lead District Manager (LDM) Anantnag, District Programme Manager (DPM), NRLM, Block Programme Managers (BPMs), NRLM, and representatives of SBDU/BHD under Mission YUVA.

During the meeting, a detailed review of all major parameters under Mission YUVA was undertaken, including progress achieved in respect of application processing, sanction, disbursement, training and other key indicators.

The Deputy Commissioner expressed satisfaction over the progress achieved in the sanction and disbursement of Mission YUVA cases. Detailed deliberations were held with the Cluster Heads regarding pending cases and they were directed to closely monitor the



pendency and ensure disposal of all pending cases in a time-bound manner, in coordination with the concerned banking institutions.

The District Programme Manager, NRLM, was directed to intensify efforts

towards increasing the participation of Lakhpati Didis and facilitating their conversion into viable entrepreneurial beneficiaries under Mission YUVA, particularly through the Udyam Jagriti 5.0 campaign.

Emphasis was laid on greater mobilisation, handholding and convergence between NRLM and Mission YUVA for achieving the desired outcomes.

The DC also directed all Principals of Government Degree Colleges, Government Polytechnic College and Superintendents of Government ITIs to ensure effective and smooth implementation of the Udyam Jagriti 5.0 campaign, scheduled to commence from 17th August, with active participation of students and prospective entrepreneurs.

The Employment Department and Mission YUVA functionaries were directed to intensify their efforts and improve overall performance across all parameters, with particular focus on indicators where progress remains comparatively low. The concerned officers were asked to undertake regular monitoring and coordinated follow-up to ensure that the targets are achieved within the stipulated timelines.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed upon all stakeholders to work in close coordination and adopt a result-oriented approach for strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the district and ensuring effective implementation of Mission YUVA at the grassroots level.

The meeting concluded with directions for continuous monitoring of progress and timely submission of updated status on the identified parameters.

DC Budgam reviews rural sanitation, solid waste management

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, AUGUST 12: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today reviewed the sanitation and cleanliness arrangements under SBM(G) and stressed the need for sustained efforts to keep rural areas clean, hygienic and free from waste.

The Deputy Commissioner directed officers to strengthen cleanliness measures across all Panchayats and ensure regular door-to-door collection of household waste. He called for proper mapping and deployment of hoppers and other sanitation resources to ensure efficient collection and transportation of waste from villages.

He stressed the importance of maintaining clean surroundings in villages and directed the concerned officers to ensure timely lifting and proper disposal of accumulated and legacy waste. He also called for greater community participation and awareness to discourage littering and promote responsible waste disposal practices.

The DC issued strict directions for protection and cleanliness of water bodies and urged the



public not to dump garbage or any waste material in streams, roadsides, open spaces or other vulnerable areas.

Emphasising that cleanliness requires sustained collective efforts, he directed the concerned agencies to intensify sanitation drives and ensure regular monitoring of cleanliness in rural areas.

Mega Tiranga Rally held in Sub-Division Handwara

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, AUGUST 12: A Mega Tiranga Rally was organized in Sub-Division Handwara as part of the ongoing celebrations, evoking a strong sense of patriotism and national pride among the participants and the public.

The rally was led by SSP Handwara, Sahil Sarangal and ADC Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi, with enthusiastic participation from students, youth, officials, and local residents. The rally commenced from BHSS Handwara and proceeded through the main areas of the town before



culminating at GDC Handwara.

Participants carried the Tricolour with pride, raising patriotic slogans and spreading the message of unity, harmony, and respect for the national

flag. The vibrant display of the Tiranga along the rally route reflected the spirit of national integration and the collective enthusiasm of the people of Handwara.

Mega Tiranga Rally held in Kupwara to Mark Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign

■ Dr Abdul Qayoom

KUPWARA, AUGUST 12: In a mission-mode push to deepen public participation in the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign, the District Administration Kupwara today organized a mega Tiranga Rally in Kupwara town, drawing enthusiastic participation from students, officials and citizens alike.

The Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign, being observed nationwide from August 9 to 17, 2026, is a flagship initiative under the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, aimed at fostering a deep sense of personal connection with the National Flag and encouraging every household to hoist the Tricolour as a mark of patriotism and national pride.

The rally also drew inspiration from the ongoing



Vande Mataram Campaign, being observed nationwide since last year to commemorate 150 years of the National Song, further reinforcing the collective spirit of national pride and reverence for the motherland among the participants.

The rally was flagged off from BHSS Kupwara by Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, and SSP Kupwara, Syed Al Tahir Gilani. The procession passed through the General Bus Stand, Kupwara, culminating at the D.C. Office Complex,

Kupwara. Adding further vigour to the celebrations, a bike rally and bicycle rally were also flagged off on the occasion, with a large number of students carrying the Tricolour and raising patriotic slogans.

District Officers, sector officers and officials from various departments joined the rally, with thousands of participants marking one of the district's largest turnouts for the campaign so far, further strengthening the collective push to make Har Ghar Tiranga a vibrant.

ADC Sopore conducts inspection of facilities at GBMS check-roady Khan Sopore

■ HT News Network



BARAMULLA, AUGUST 12: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sopore, Dr. S.A. Raina today visited Government Boys Middle Checkroady Khan School, Sopore, to take stock of the overall functioning of the institution and assess the facilities being provided to the students.

During the visit, the ADC interacted with the teaching staff and students and reviewed academic activities, attendance, infrastructure, sanitation and other basic facilities available in the school.

Meanwhile, the ADC inspected the Mid-Day Meal arrangements at the school and reviewed the quality, hygiene and nutritional standards of the meals being served to the students.

He directed the concerned staff to ensure that the prescribed menu is strictly followed and that clean, hygienic and nutritious meals are provided to the students regularly.

Furthermore, the ADC stressed upon the teaching staff to lay special emphasis on the teaching of core subjects, particularly Mathematics, Science and English, and ensure that students are provided with a strong conceptual foundation in these subjects.

Later, the ADC, during a book launch ceremony, released "The Unveiled Misery", a poetic collection, authored by budding writer Shazia Showkat.

Mega Tiranga Rally held in Ganderbal as Part of 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Campaign

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, AUGUST 12: As part of the ongoing 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Campaign-2026, a Mega Tiranga Rally was held today in Ganderbal with enthusiastic participation of the general public, students, civil administration officials, police personnel and civil society members.

The rally was led by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, and witnessed participation of Senior Superintendent of Police Ganderbal, officers and officials of the civil administration, police personnel, representatives of civil society, school children and a large number of citizens.

Carrying the National Flag and raising patriotic slogans, participants marched through the designated route in Ganderbal, creating a vibrant atmosphere of patriotism and national pride. The enthusiastic participation of the general public added special significance to the rally and reflected the growing public engagement with the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign.

Students also participated enthusiastically in the rally, carrying the Tricolour and joining the patriotic celebrations. Their participation highlighted the role of youth in promoting the values of national unity,



patriotism and respect for the National Flag.

The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the enthusiastic participation of citizens and called upon the general public, particularly youth and students, to continue participating in the various activities being organised under the campaign.

He emphasized that the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign provides an opportunity for citizens to collectively celebrate national pride and strengthen the spirit of unity and harmony.

The Mega Tiranga Rally formed part of a series of activities being organised across District Ganderbal under the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign,

being observed from August 09 to 17, 2026. Various activities including Tiranga rallies, Har Ghar Tiranga pledge, mass singing of the National Anthem, patriotic programmes and Swachhata Hi Seva activities are being conducted across the district.

The District Administration has been facilitating activities at district, block, panchayat and institutional levels with active participation of government departments, educational institutions, youth, civil society organisations, market associations and the general public to ensure maximum public participation in the campaign.

Patriotic spirit soars across Budgam as DC, SSP lead Mega Tiranga Rally

DC lauds massive public participation as proud & inspiring patriotic commitment of citizens

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, AUGUST 12: Patriotic fervour swept across Budgam today as Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, along with SSP Budgam, Hariprasad KK, led a mega Tiranga Rally from Sports Stadium Budgam to Bihisht-e-Zehra Park, witnessing massive participation of youth, students and citizens from all walks of life.

The rally, organised as part of the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign 2026, witnessed thousands of enthusiastic participants carrying the Tricolour and raising patriotic slogans, reflecting the strong spirit of unity, pride and national commitment among the people of the district.

Addressing the participants, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the overwhelming public response, particularly the enthusiastic participation of the younger generation.

"The massive participation in today's Tiranga Rally is a proud moment for Budgam. It reflects the deep patriotic spirit of our people and their strong connect with the national celebrations," said the DC.

He said the mega rally was among the major activities being organised across the district under the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign to foster patriotism, unity and national pride among citizens.

"The enthusiasm witnessed today is truly inspiring. I appeal to every citizen to continue celebrating the



spirit of the Tricolour and make the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign a true

people's movement across Budgam," the DC said.

He highlighted that a wide range of activities are being organised across the district, including bike and bicycle rallies, Tiranga rallies, cleanliness and plantation drives, painting and art competitions, and other patriotic programmes, to ensure vibrant and widespread participation in the campaign.

The Deputy Commissioner also appreciated the coordinated efforts of all departments, educational institutions, youth groups, civil society members and citizens particularly young generation for making the campaign a grand success across the district. He urged people to sustain the patriotic fervour and continue

enthusiastically in the ongoing celebrations. Additional District Development Commissioner, Vivek Agarwal, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Taufeeq Ahmad Gazi, Additional Superintendent of Police, Syed Sajad Bukhari and all district and sectoral officers also participated in the mega rally.

The mega rally concluded with participants reaffirming their commitment to the ideals of unity, patriotism and national pride symbolised by the Tricolour. He highlighted that a wide range of activities are being organised across the district, including bike and bicycle rallies, Tiranga rallies, cleanliness and plantation drives, painting and art competitions, and other patriotic programmes, to ensure vibrant and

widespread participation in the campaign.

The Deputy Commissioner also appreciated the coordinated efforts of all departments, educational institutions, youth groups, civil society members and citizens particularly young generation for making the campaign a grand success across the district. He urged people to sustain the patriotic fervour and continue participating enthusiastically in the ongoing celebrations. Additional District Development Commissioner, Vivek Agarwal, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Taufeeq Ahmad Gazi, Additional Superintendent of Police, Syed Sajad Bukhari and all district and sectoral officers also participated in the mega rally.



KU launches fashion technology programme with focus on skills, employment

■ **HT News Network**

Srinagar Aug 12: The Directorate of Lifelong Learning & Skill Development (DLLSD), University of Kashmir (KU), today launched a three-month introductory training programme in Fashion Technology at the Main Campus. The programme was inaugurated along with a dedicated Fashion Technology Lab.

The programme has been designed to provide participants with both theoretical knowledge and practical training in fashion technology, with a focus on developing skills relevant to the contemporary fashion and apparel sector. It aims to equip learners with practical competencies that can support employment, entrepreneurship and further professional training in the field.

While addressing the participants of the training programme Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, said that skill-based programmes can help bridge the gap between academic learning and emerging employment opportunities.

"Skill development becomes meaningful when learners are able to translate their



training into practical work and livelihood opportunities. Such courses can help young people develop specialised skills while responding to changing requirements of the employment market," she said.

Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, and Registrar KU,

Prof. Naseer Iqbal, in their remarks, appreciated the initiative and emphasised the importance of expanding skill-oriented programmes alongside conventional academic courses. They said specialised training can provide learners with additional pathways towards financial independence

and self-employment.

Speaking on the occasion Prof. Humaira Azim, Director, Institute of Home Science, KU, said the course has been designed keeping the existing skill requirements and employment market in consideration along with hands-on training so that participants can develop practical competence in different aspects of fashion technology.

Earlier, Director, DLLSD KU, Prof. Bashir Ahmad Joo, in his welcome address, provided the objectives of the programme and said the Directorate is working to expand its portfolio of skill-based courses in response to changing learner and employment needs.

The three-month programme includes theoretical sessions and practical training in areas such as fashion designing, garment construction, pattern making, stitching and finishing techniques, along with other components related to the fashion and apparel sector. The newly inaugurated Fashion Technology Lab will provide participants with a dedicated space for practical instruction and hands-on training as part of the programme.

JU's Bhaderwah Campus celebrates National Librarian's Day



■ **HT News Network**

Bhaderwah, August 12: The Bhaderwah Campus of the University of Jammu celebrated National Librarian's Day on the occasion of the 134th birth anniversary of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, the Father of Library Science in India, at the Campus Library. The programme marked the first celebration of National Librarian's Day at the Campus.

In his message, Prof. Rahul Gupta, Rector, Bhaderwah Campus, congratulated the library staff, faculty members and students on the occasion and underscored the indispensable role of libraries in promoting knowledge, academic excellence and research. He said that a library is not merely a repository of books but a dynamic centre of learning, intellectual engagement and knowledge creation.

Prof. Gupta encouraged students to develop a strong reading culture and make optimum use of the library's print and digital resources to broaden their knowledge and enhance their academic capabilities. He also

appreciated the efforts of the Campus Library in embracing technological advancements and providing students and faculty with modern and accessible library services.

The programme commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, followed by a floral tribute to Dr. S. R. Ranganathan.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Chherring Tandup, In-charge, Library, highlighted the important role of libraries in supporting education, learning and research. Sharing his personal experiences, he spoke about the role of the library in shaping his academic and professional journey and emphasized the importance of developing regular reading habits among students. He encouraged students to make effective use of the library and its resources and to make library use a regular part of their academic life.

Dr. Kuljit Singh, Academic Coordinator, in his address, emphasized the integral role of libraries in strengthening the academic environment of an institution.

DIPR Cultural Unit Jammu presents Patriotic Cultural Programme at Bahu Plaza

■ **HT News Network**

JAMMU, AUGUST 12: As part of the ongoing Independence Day celebrations, the Cultural Unit of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Jammu today organised a vibrant patriotic cultural programme at Central Park Bahu Plaza.

The programme featured a series of patriotic songs, cultural presentations and musical performances by the artists of the Cultural Unit. The artists presented soulful and inspiring patriotic items, creating an atmosphere of



national pride and devotion among the audience.

Officers and officials of the Department of Information and Public Relations, including Deputy Director PR Moksha Dogra; Deputy Director Headquarters Ashu Kumari; Cultural Officer Rajinder Kumar Digra and Youth Information Officer Monika Sambyal were

present on the occasion.

The programme highlighted the spirit of patriotism, national unity and the sacrifices made by the freedom fighters in the struggle for India's independence. The performances also conveyed the message of unity in diversity, brotherhood and commitment towards nation-building.

Three-Day Student Induction Programme commences at Kathua Campus (JU)

■ **HT News Network**

JAMMU, AUGUST 12: A three-day Student Induction Programme for the newly admitted students of BCA (Data Science), BBA, B.A. English, MCA, and MBA programmes commenced today at Kathua Campus, University of Jammu. The programme has been designed to welcome the new students to the university environment and acquaint them with the academic, co-curricular and institutional ecosystem of the campus.

On the occasion, Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Rector, Kathua Campus, University of Jammu in his message welcomed the

newly admitted students and extended his best wishes for their academic journey. He encouraged the students to make effective use of the academic and other facilities available at the campus and to remain focused, disciplined and actively engaged in their studies and overall development.

The first day of the induction programme featured a series of engaging activities aimed at helping the students become familiar with the campus, interact with faculty members and peers, and understand the academic framework of their respective programmes.

GCOE Jammu observes International Youth Day 2026

■ **HT News Network**

JAMMU, AUGUST 12: The Red Ribbon Club of Government College of Education, Jammu, as part of the scheduled activities to commemorate International Youth Day 2026, organised an Awareness Rally to sensitise students and the general public about HIV/AIDS prevention, awareness and the importance of responsible health practices.

The rally was organised under the esteemed patronage of Principal Government College of Education Jammu Dr. Jyoti Parihar and under the guidance of Prof. Roopa Kumari, Convener and members of the Red Ribbon Club. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of students and faculty members, who carried awareness placards and raised slogans conveying meaningful messages related to HIV/AIDS prevention, healthy lifestyles, responsible citizenship, youth empowerment and social awareness. This rally provided an effective platform for spreading the message of Youth for a healthy and responsible society. Addressing the participants, the Principal appreciated the efforts of the Red Ribbon Club for organising such socially relevant programmes. Further she highlighted the importance of youth engagement in addressing critical health issues.

Women artisans sensitised about branding, aesthetic packaging of handmade products

Handicrafts Dept partners NIFT to organize capacity building workshops

■ **HT News Network**

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 12: The Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, in collaboration with the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Srinagar, today organised a one-day capacity building programme for artisans and weavers under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Programme.

As many as 100 artisans participated in the workshop, which focused on branding and aesthetic packaging of Geographical Indication (GI) and One District One Product (ODOP) handcrafted products.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Director (Trainings), Tahira Tabassum, said the capacity building programmes form part of the Government's ongoing efforts to strengthen the craft ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. "The NIFT faculty delivered a session



highlighting the advantages of creative packaging and how such interventions enhance the branding of handmade products from Kashmir," she stated.

This workshop is the first in a series of ten programmes being organised with NIFT under RAMP. The series aims to equip artisans with practical skills and insights into the importance of aesthetic packaging

and branding, enabling them to compete more effectively in both domestic and international markets.

The majority of participants belonged to Noor Ari Producer Company, a women-led collective of nearly 600 members dedicated to women's empowerment and the creation of sustainable livelihoods.

Three-day Student Induction Programme commences at JU's Kathua Campus

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In his message, Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Rector, Kathua Campus, University of Jammu, welcomed the newly admitted students and extended his best wishes for their academic journey. He encouraged them to make effective use of the academic and other facilities available at the Campus and remain focused, disciplined and

actively engaged in their studies and overall development.

The first day of the induction programme featured a series of engaging activities aimed at familiarising students with the Campus, facilitating interaction with faculty members and peers, and providing an understanding of the academic framework of their respective programmes.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Sourabh Shastri, I/c Head, Department of Computer Science and IT, Kathua Campus, who welcomed the newly admitted students and motivated them to make the most of their university life. This was followed by an interaction with Dr. Rajani Sarangal, I/c Head, Department of Management School; Dr. Meenakshi Thakur; Dr. Surekha Phakwrya; Dr. Bharti Rana; and



Dr. Nisha Chaudhary, who addressed the students and encouraged them to actively participate in academic as well as extracurricular activities.

An expert lecture was also organised as part of the day's programme, providing students an opportunity to gain valuable insights and broaden their

understanding beyond the classroom. Sh. Jasbir Singh, Senior Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science and IT, University of Jammu, was the

resource person.

Interacting with the students, Sh. Jasbir Singh motivated them to develop a strong academic foundation and emphasised the importance of strengthening their fundamentals and building a sound conceptual understanding from the beginning of their programmes. He encouraged the students to remain curious, cultivate a habit of continuous learning and make consistent efforts towards their academic and professional growth.

The students were also apprised of the academic structure, rules and regulations governing their respective programmes, enabling them to understand the academic requirements, framework and responsibilities associated with their courses. The interaction also provided them an opportunity

to seek clarification regarding their academic journey and university life.

The expert lecture was followed by an introduction session, during which the newly admitted students introduced themselves to the faculty members and their batchmates. The activity provided an opportunity for the students to interact with one another and develop a sense of belonging to the Campus community.

The students were also taken on a guided Campus visit to familiarise them with various facilities and important locations. Dr. Reemani Verma coordinated the overall programme. Lt. Amit Sharma, Dr. Sunny Sharma, Dr. Nomita Sharma, Dr. Ritu Sharma and Dr. Princy Verma were also present during the programme.



HT EDITORIAL

When a Fake Tax Notice Masquerades as the State

The circulation of a forged Income Tax Department notice demanding 6,000 from a taxpayer is not merely another instance of online deception. It is a disturbing reminder of how cybercriminals are increasingly exploiting public trust in government institutions to turn fear, confusion and official credibility into instruments of fraud.

The fabricated notice reportedly carries government-style branding, official-looking particulars and a purported tax liability running into lakhs of rupees. Such details are deliberately designed to create an impression of authenticity. For an ordinary taxpayer, receiving what appears to be an official tax communication can immediately trigger anxiety and a desire to comply without asking questions. That is precisely where the danger lies.

Digital fraud has evolved far beyond crude messages and obvious scams. Fraudsters are now capable of reproducing the appearance and language of legitimate government communications with remarkable precision. By invoking the authority of institutions such as the Income Tax Department, they seek to bypass the natural suspicion that people might otherwise exercise when confronted with an unsolicited demand for money.

Taxpayers are particularly vulnerable because tax notices are associated with legal obligations and possible penalties. A person who fears that failure to pay could result in proceedings, interest or punishment may act hastily. A small payment demanded in the name of a much larger liability can therefore become an effective psychological trap.

The incident should prompt both citizens and authorities to treat digital impersonation as a serious public-interest issue. Citizens must develop the habit of independently verifying every unusual tax communication before making a payment, clicking a link, opening an attachment or sharing financial information. An official logo, letterhead or seemingly authentic website address should never be regarded as proof of legitimacy.

At the same time, government departments must continue strengthening their public communication and verification systems. Citizens should be able to establish quickly and easily whether a notice is genuine. Regular awareness campaigns, prominent warnings against impersonation and efficient mechanisms for reporting fraudulent communications can help prevent thousands of potential victims from being deceived.

There is, however, a broader concern. India's transition towards digital governance has placed enormous amounts of public interaction online. This has brought convenience, efficiency and transparency, but it has also created new opportunities for those seeking to exploit institutional trust. Cybersecurity, therefore, cannot be viewed merely as a technical matter. It is increasingly a matter of public confidence.

The answer is neither fear nor distrust of digital government. The answer is verification.

A genuine tax obligation should withstand scrutiny. A suspicious demand should not. Before paying a single rupee, citizens must verify the source through official channels. And before trusting a document simply because it looks governmental, they should remember a basic rule of the digital age: an official appearance is not proof of official authenticity.



Sahil Manzoor

Health is the most precious gift of nature. There is nothing more valuable in the world than good health. Unfortunately, many people damage their health by consuming drugs, smoking, and eating unhealthy and unhygienic food. Today, junk food is widely available everywhere, from cities to villages. Barbecues, fast foods, and many processed food items have become common. However, excessive consumption of such foods can lead to serious health problems. Therefore, we should prefer organic and home-made food, which is healthier and more beneficial for our well-being.

Regular exercise reflects discipline and helps keep us fit, active, and healthy. In today's fast-paced world, people often suffer from stress, anxiety, obesity, fatty liver disease, high cholesterol, and many other health-related issues. To overcome these problems, we must adopt a disciplined lifestyle by following a balanced diet, exercising regularly, and undergoing routine medical check-ups.

Our body performs countless functions such as digestion, blood circulation, and waste removal. These complex processes remind us of the wonders of creation. We should always be grateful to Almighty Allah for blessing us with life, health, and intelligence.

A healthy body is the foundation of a successful life. While people often focus on wealth, fame, and achievements, health should always remain the top priority. Exercise not only improves physical fitness but also enhances mental well-being, confidence, and productivity.

Health is wealth

The Importance of Exercise and Home Gyms



Schools, colleges, and communities should encourage physical fitness by establishing gym facilities and promoting sports activities. Such initiatives can help create awareness about healthy living and contribute to building a stronger and healthier society.

One effective way to maintain fitness is by setting up a home gym. A home gym allows individuals to exercise regularly without the need to travel. Even a small room equipped with basic fitness equipment can help people stay active and healthy. As financial conditions improve,

more equipment can be added gradually.

Based on my personal experience, regular exercise and bodybuilding bring positive changes in life. They increase energy levels, reduce fatigue, improve physical appearance, and promote a positive mindset. Gym activities also help young people stay away from harmful habits such as smoking and drug abuse. Schools, colleges, and communities should encourage physical fitness by establishing gym facilities and promoting sports activities. Such initiatives can help create awareness about healthy living and contribute to building a stronger and healthier society.

In conclusion, exercise is not merely a physical activity; it is an investment in our future. By adopting healthy eating habits, exercising regularly, and encouraging fitness culture, we can create healthier individuals, stronger communities, and ultimately a healthier nation.

Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

Raiyar -Jch

sahilmanzoor9419@gmail.com

Life amidst potholes, open manholes and broken roads –when will citizens be safe?



Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

Death is unknown when, where, and how it will come. In our lives, even as the seemingly ordinary are rife with potholes. Roads are riddled with potholes, uneven roads and streets, unsealed drains, unopened sewer manholes, and damaged roads and bridges. In some areas, school roofs collapse on children, while hospital roofs or slabs collapse on patients and staff. School buses overturn, vehicles coming from the opposite direction suddenly swerve, turning streets into death traps for children. Animals roam the streets and harass elderly pedestrians. After heavy rains, children become stranded on a normal road, turning it into a death trap.

The death of an eight-year-old boy in Rohtak, who drowned in waterlogging after nearly six inches of rain, has once again raised a worrying question: What is the value of a citizen's life? The monsoon season comes once a year. Cities are flooded every year. Drainage and sewerage systems, drains, and roads remain a perennial problem. Officials claim they are prepared and improvements are made every year. However, just a few hours of rain are enough to expose the truth of these claims, as administrations fail to manage them, and rainwater overflows onto the roads. This isn't just a case of one child's death. This is a system where preventable tragedies are often dismissed as accidents,

mere coincidences, "fate," and the blame is placed "elsewhere." This is a system where preventable tragedies are often dismissed as "an accident." "It wasn't our fault," or "What else could we have done?"

It's not just the failure of civic infrastructure, but the manner in which it's failing that's deeply worrying. The change is that citizens now accept failure as natural. There's a pothole in the road, and people say it's "always been there." There's a pothole on the sidewalk, and people say, "Be careful." There's waterlogging, and people say, "This happens after rain." Cattle are straying on the road, and people say, "What can anyone do?" A school building is clearly unsafe, and people think the authorities should address it. There's a government hospital in poor condition, and people say, "This is how government hospitals are." This attitude is dangerous because it becomes the norm and a way of life. If citizens begin to accept risk as a normal part of their lives, the pressure on the administration to improve also decreases.

We must stop treating any preventable tragedy as an accident. When people die because of a pothole that has existed on a road for months, the question isn't just what happened, but why the road remains a hazard. If authorities are aware of an open manhole but fail to take steps to secure it, and a child falls into it, it's not appropriate to call it "misfortune." The unnecessary collapse of a school building shouldn't be considered just a bad incident. The same applies to hospital safety, the condition of school buses, bridge maintenance, drainage systems, and road quality, as well as stray animal control in schools. These are not administrative matters, but matters of public safety and people's lives. But the tragedy of our public discourse is that we

repeatedly turn a blind eye to these real questions. Any statement with a religious connotation can spark outrage in society. This results in thousands of social media posts, hours of TV studio debates, and political rhetoric. Issues of hurt sentiments, identity, and national honor are discussed. However, the sustained public outrage over accountability for the death of such a child is missing. Why? Does religious controversy diminish the value of an ordinary person's life? Is a child drowning in an open sewer merely local news? Is the death of a farmer, laborer, elderly person, or student on an unsafe road merely a matter of misfortune? Does it seem that challenging the country to demand answers from the government is forcing it to respond to their demands?

Absolutely not. The government is accountable to the public. People pay taxes and expect safe roads, clean cities, quality healthcare, safe schools, efficient transportation, and basic civic infrastructure. These are not luxuries. They are fundamental factors necessary for a dignified life. Patriotism is not an excuse to conceal any government mistakes. Nationalism does not mean labeling everyone who exposes the country's shortcomings as anti-national. A responsible citizen is one who wants to see the country progress and therefore raises tough questions. Not demanding the repair of a broken road is not anti-national. Demanding that an unsafe school be made safe is not an insult to the nation. Not questioning the safety of a hospital is not anti-establishment. Any criticism of corruption and administrative negligence is not evidence of a foreign conspiracy.

(Dr. Priyanka Saurabh, PhD

(Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

Today's Youth Torchbearers Of Tomorrow



BY-MOOL RAJ

On this International Youth Day, India's and the world's young have already shown they know the way. The rest of us would do well to follow them.

Every year on August 12, the world pauses to mark International Youth Day, and this year's UN theme, "Different Contexts, Common Aspirations," could not be more apt. From the Swedish schoolgirl's solitary protest to the dusty protest grounds of Jantar Mantar, young people keep proving that age is no barrier to conscience, and conscience, once lit, becomes a torch that others follow.

Consider Malala Yousafzai. Shot by the Taliban at fifteen for daring to demand an education, she turned near-death into a global campaign, becoming, at seventeen, the youngest Nobel Peace Prize laureate in history. More than a decade on, she still travels the world to education forums, insisting that a girl's right to a classroom is non-negotiable, whatever her country or circumstance.

Then you have another torchbearer, Greta Thunberg, who at fifteen sat alone outside the Swedish parliament with a hand-painted sign, and within a year had inspired millions of students worldwide to walk out of classrooms under the banner of Fridays for Future, forcing climate change onto the agenda of governments that had long treated it as tomorrow's



problem.

India needs no borrowed examples. This July, a satirical social media page named the Cockroach Janta Party, its name a defiant rejoinder to a jibe dismissing the country's youth as parasites, grew within weeks into a nationwide movement against examination paper leaks that had shaken millions

of students' faith in fairness. It ended with the resignation of India's Union Education Minister, a rare instance of a leaderless youth movement altering the calculus of the world's largest democracy.

These are not aberrations. With nearly two-thirds of Indians under thirty-five, and roughly one in five of the world's under-25 population living here, India's youth are not a demographic statistic waiting to be harvested. They are increasingly the authors of the national conversation, and a growing presence well beyond it too, building start-ups, staffing research labs, and filling classrooms and boardrooms.

Yet the environment they must navigate is unforgiving: a job market reshaped overnight by automation and AI, examinations that too often reward rote memory over reasoning, a climate crisis they did not create but must inherit, and a digital world that monetises their anxiety as readily as their attention. Mental health strain among the young, in India and abroad, is no longer a private matter but a public one. Coping with this is not about grim endurance. It is what Malala, Greta and the Cockroach Janta Party all understood instinctively: organise instead of despairing, question loudly but build carefully, and treat setbacks as data, not verdicts. Institutions, schools, employers, governments, owe young people the same seriousness they demand of them. Torchbearers do not merely carry light; they choose where to walk.

The Author Is A Regular Columnist And Freelance Writer

RAHAT INDORI : The Poet Who Turned Every Verse into a Voice of the People

Five years after his passing, the legendary Urdu poet's fearless words, powerful imagery and unmistakable style continue to resonate far beyond the world of mushairas



By ABU HASNAIN

There are poets whose verses are read, poets whose verses are recited, and then there are poets whose words become part of the public voice. Rahat Indori belonged to the rarest of these categories. His poetry carried the pulse of the street, the anguish of the common man, the warmth of love and the courage to question the world around him. Even after his death, his verses continue to circulate across generations, finding new life on stages, in books and across the digital world.

Born as Rahatullah Qureshi on January 1, 1950, in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, Rahat Indori rose from a modest background to become one of the most recognisable voices of contemporary Urdu poetry. His father, Rafatullah Qureshi, and mother, Magbool-un-Nisa Begum, worked at a textile mill in Indore. He was the fourth of their children.

His early education began at Nutan Higher Secondary School in Indore. He later graduated from Islamia Karimia College in 1973 and obtained a master's degree in Urdu literature from Barkatullah University, Bhopal, in 1975. His academic journey culminated in a PhD in

Urdu literature from Bhoj University, Madhya Pradesh, where he researched the tradition and evolution of mushairas.

But academic qualifications alone could not explain the extraordinary popularity that followed him. Rahat Indori's real classroom was the mushaira—the traditional Urdu poetry gathering where the poet and audience engage in an almost immediate conversation. His commanding delivery, dramatic pauses and unmistakable voice transformed his recitations into memorable performances.

He began writing poetry while still in college, reportedly at the age of 19. From the outset, his poetry carried an

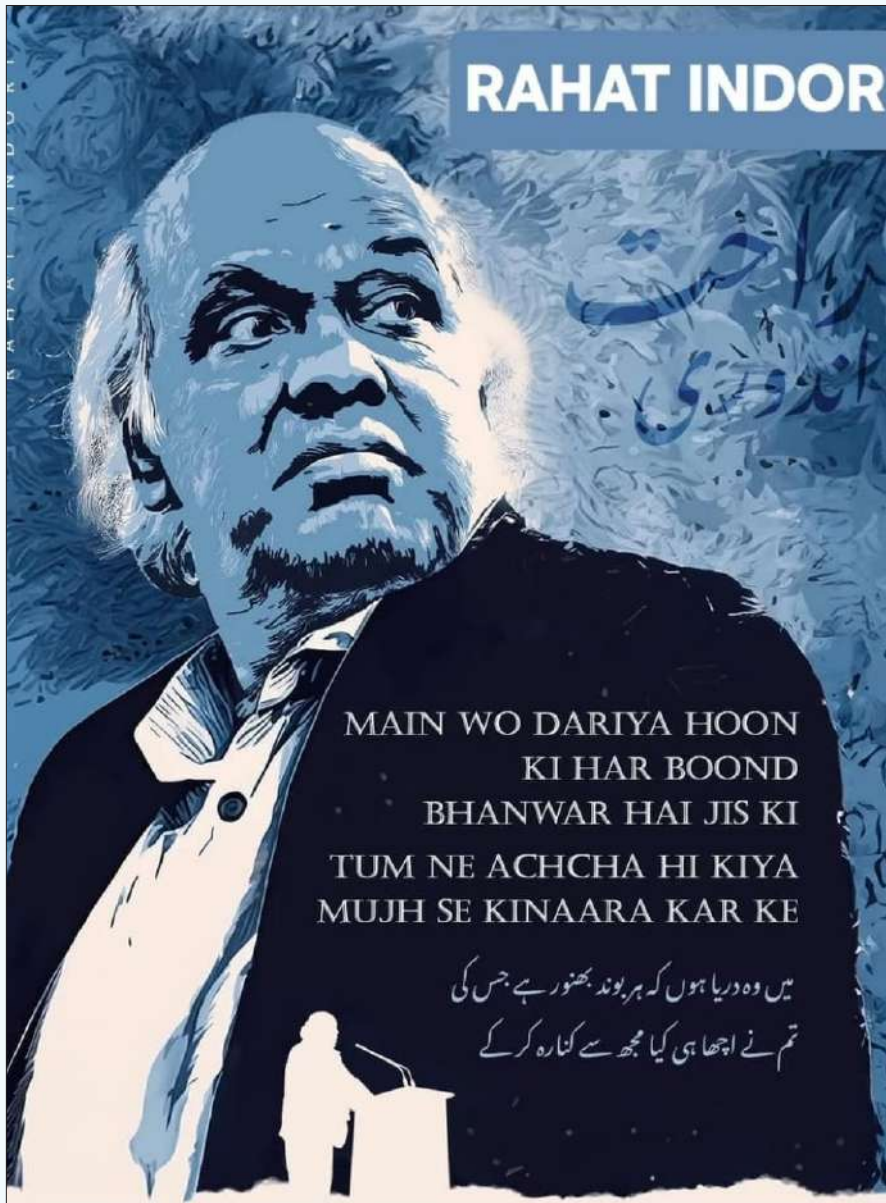
element of freshness and rebellion. He was not interested in decorating his verses merely with sophisticated vocabulary. Instead, he preferred directness. His language was often simple, but the ideas behind it could be strikingly profound.

That simplicity became one of his greatest strengths.

Rahat Indori wrote about love and separation, hope and disappointment, loneliness and society, but he was equally comfortable confronting injustice and speaking about the anxieties of his times. His poetry often possessed a sharp political and social edge without losing its literary character. He could make an audience smile with one couplet and leave it thinking deeply with the next.

His popularity also crossed the conventional boundaries of Urdu literature. At a time when poetry increasingly competed with cinema, television and social media for public attention, Rahat Indori remained a powerful stage presence. His verses reached audiences who might never have opened a conventional volume of Urdu poetry.

His literary contribution was complemented by an equally successful association with Indian cinema. Rahat Indori wrote lyrics for several Hindi films, bringing his poetic sensibility into



popular culture. His work was associated with films such as Munnabhai M.B.B.S., Mission Kashmir, Murder, Meenaxi, Kareeb and Ishq. Through cinema, his words reached millions of listeners beyond the traditional Urdu-speaking audience.

Yet cinema never overshadowed the poet. His books, including 'Rup,' 'Panchwan

Darvesh,' 'Naraz' and 'Lamhe Lamhe,' established his literary identity independently of his film work. His poetry retained a distinct personality—contemporary in subject, traditional in its command of Urdu poetic expression and unmistakably his own in voice.

Away from literature, Rahat Indori had another passion that reflected a different side

of his personality. During his school and college years, he was associated with football and hockey and served as captain of teams at both levels. This sporting background perhaps contributed to the confidence, energy and stage presence that later became hallmarks of his public performances.

Over the decades, Rahat Indori received numerous honours and awards in recognition of his contribution to Urdu literature. But perhaps his greatest achievement was not a formal award. It was the extraordinary connection he established with ordinary people.

His couplets became instantly recognisable. His performances were widely shared. His lines were quoted in conversations, written on walls, circulated on social media and repeated by audiences who often knew the verses by heart. In an era of rapidly changing cultural tastes, he remained remarkably relevant.

On August 11, 2020, the literary world suffered a profound loss when Rahat Indori died in Indore at the age of 70 after testing positive for COVID-19 and suffering a cardiac arrest. His death brought an outpouring of grief from writers, artists, politicians and admirers across India and beyond.

Five years later, however, the passage of time has done little to diminish his presence.

The reason is simple: Rahat Indori did not write only for his own time. He wrote about emotions and questions that remain timeless. His poetry carried anger without losing humanity, romance without becoming sentimental, and resistance without abandoning beauty.

That is why Rahat Indori's legacy cannot be measured merely by the number of books he published, songs he wrote or awards he received. His true legacy lives in the voices of those who continue to recite his poetry.

A poet may leave the world once, but when his words continue to speak to successive generations, his departure is never complete. Rahat Indori is gone. The voice remains.

From Books to Reels: Changing Priorities of the Young



Dr. Vijay Garg

Every generation grows up with its own symbols of aspiration. For one generation, a good education, a degree, a stable career and social respect represented success. For another, professional achievement and financial independence became the primary goals. Today, a new generation is growing up in a world where visibility, followers, likes, views and viral content have become powerful measures of popularity.

The journey from books to reels is not merely a technological change. It reflects a deeper transformation in the way young people consume information, define success, spend their time and seek recognition.

Books once demanded patience. Reels demand seconds.

Books encouraged concentration. Reels often reward instant attention.

Books offered depth. Reels often offer speed. The question is not whether reels are good or bad. The real question is whether the growing dominance of short-form digital content is changing the priorities of young people—and whether education, reading and long-term goals are losing their place in this rapidly changing environment.

From reading to scrolling

For generations, books were among the most important sources of knowledge and imagination. Students read textbooks, newspapers, magazines, novels, biographies and reference books. Reading required time and concentration. A reader had to stay with an idea long enough to understand it.

Today, a young person can move from one piece of content to another with a simple swipe. A few seconds may bring a comedy clip, a dance video, a motivational message, a news item, a product advertisement or an educational explanation.

This convenience has transformed the information environment.

The problem begins when scrolling replaces sustained reading.

A short video may explain a concept quickly, but education is not always about receiving information. It is about developing the ability to question, connect ideas, analyse evidence and

think independently. These abilities require patience.

If young minds become accustomed only to rapidly changing images and short messages, long-form reading may begin to feel difficult or boring. That can have consequences for education, attention

earlier generations could not have imagined. A talented young person can display music, art, writing, photography, science experiments, entrepreneurship or public speaking to a global audience.



and intellectual development.

The attraction of instant recognition
One reason reels are so powerful is that they can provide immediate feedback.

A student who spends months preparing for an examination may receive recognition only after achieving a result. A creator, however, may upload a short video and receive thousands of views within hours.

Likes, comments, shares and followers provide visible signals of attention.

This can create a new definition of success: being seen rather than being accomplished.

There is nothing wrong with wanting appreciation. Young people naturally seek recognition. The concern arises when online popularity becomes more important than developing knowledge, skills and character.

A viral video can disappear from public attention within days. A good education can influence a person's entire life.

Young people need to understand the difference between temporary visibility and lasting achievement.

When popularity becomes a goal
Social media has created opportunities that

This is an important positive development.
The problem is not creativity. The problem is when creativity becomes controlled entirely by the desire for views.

A young person may begin asking:

"Will this get likes?"
"Will this go viral?"

"What will attract more followers?"

These questions can gradually replace more meaningful ones:

"What can I learn?"
"What can I create?"
"How can I improve?"
"What problem can I solve?"

When external validation becomes the main source of motivation, learning itself can lose its value. The changing value of a degree

For a long time, a degree was considered one of the strongest indicators of educational achievement and professional preparation.

Dr. Vijay Garg: Retired Principal | Educational Columnist | Eminent Mathematician Academic Editor, Online Magazine WnB Street Kour Chand, MHR Malout,

India at 80: The Spirit of Freedom Lives On



— SAYED MOBASHAR ALI —

"India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States." These words are not just the opening line of our Constitution, they express the identity of our nation. India is a land where countless cultures, traditions, languages, and beliefs have lived together for centuries. On 15 August 2026, as we celebrate the 80th Independence Day, we remember the sacrifices of millions of brave men and women who gave us the priceless gift of freedom.

Independence is more than the end of foreign rule. It is the freedom to think, to speak, to dream, and to live with dignity. A truly independent nation is one where people are free not only in body but also in mind. The freedom to express ideas, ask questions, and think differently is the true strength of a democracy.

The beauty of India is reflected in both its people and its landscape. The snow-covered Himalayas, green valleys, flowing rivers, peaceful lakes, majestic waterfalls, deserts, forests, and long coastlines make our country one of the most beautiful in the world. Kashmir, often called Paradise on Earth, reminds us of nature's finest creation. Every region has its own story, its own language, and its own traditions, yet together they form one India.

Our diversity is our greatest strength. Different religions, festivals, customs, and cultures do not divide us, they complete us.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru rightly described India as a living example of "Unity in Diversity."

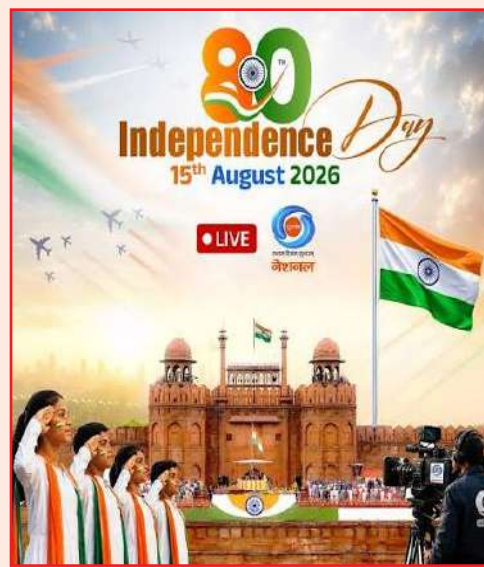
The spirit of Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb teaches us that mutual respect, love, and harmony are the foundations of our society. Every faith gives the message of peace, compassion, and humanity.

The Constitution of India reflects these values by promoting justice, liberty, equality, fraternity, integrity, and the dignity of every individual. These are not just words written on paper; they are values that should guide our daily lives. They remind us that every citizen has both rights and

responsibilities.

One unique quality of Indians is the courage to question and debate. Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen, in his book The Argumentative Indian, beautifully explains that discussion and reasoning have always been part of India's civilization. Constructive criticism is not against the nation, it strengthens democracy. A country grows when its citizens participate, question, and work together to solve problems.

As we celebrate eighty years of independence, let us remember that the responsibility of protecting India now rests with us. Our duty is



not only to honour the sacrifices of our freedom fighters but also to preserve the values they fought for. Let us keep alive our culture, our constitutional ideals, our unity, and our spirit of brotherhood. Let us build an India where every citizen is respected, every voice is heard, and every dream has the freedom to grow.

Let freedom live in every thought, let every dream take flight,

For truth and hope together keep our nation's future bright.

Jai Hind! Happy 80th Independence Day!

Bio: I am Sayed Mobashar Ali, from jammu and kashmir, I have done my graduation in Psychology hons from jamia Millia islamia new delhi. I am interested in



PUBLIC NOTICE

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR HANWARA NORTH, S/O

SUBJECT: ONE & THE SAME PERSON CERTIFICATE

NOTICE is hereby given that this office has received an application from one person namely **Bashir Ahmad Dar S/o Abdul Rahim Dar, Hanthoo, Hanwar, Srinagar**, for issuance of One & The Same Person Certificate for himself.

As per field verification and staff verification, the name **Bashir Ahmad Dar S/o Abdul Rahim Dar** pertains to the same person.

Now, the said applicant intends to obtain One & The Same Person Certificate.

In this regard, if any one has any objection, he/she may intimate this office within seven (7) days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after the stipulated period.

COLLECTION PERIOD: 7 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF PUBLICATION

Sd/ Naib Tehsildar Hanwar North, S/o

ISSUED IN PUBLIC INTEREST

PUBLIC NOTICE

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR HANWARA NORTH, S/O

SUBJECT: ONE & THE SAME PERSON CERTIFICATE

NOTICE is hereby given that this office has received an application from one person namely **Qasim Muhammad Hussain S/o Bashir Ahmad Dar R/o North Baramulla, Hanwar, S/o**, for issuance of One & The Same Person Certificate for himself.

As per field verification and staff verification, the name **Qasim Muhammad Hussain S/o Bashir Ahmad Dar** pertains to the same person.

Now, the said applicant intends to obtain One & The Same Person Certificate.

In this regard, if any one has any objection, he/she may intimate this office within seven (7) days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after the stipulated period.

COLLECTION PERIOD: 7 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF PUBLICATION

Sd/ Naib Tehsildar Hanwar North, S/o

ISSUED IN PUBLIC INTEREST

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the name of the undersigned has been incorrectly mentioned in the Aadhaar Card as "Asmat Ishaq". The correct name of the undersigned is **Aushmuath Ishaq D/o Mohd Ishaq Malik, R/o Guloor, Langate, District Kupwara, Jammu & Kashmir 193302**. Henceforth, "Aushmuath Ishaq" shall be treated as the correct name for all official, legal, and other purposes. The name "Asmat Ishaq" appearing in the Aadhaar Card is due to an inadvertent error and refers to the same person. If any person has any objection regarding this correction, the same may be communicated within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Otherwise, no objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Aushmuath Ishaq
D/o Mohd Ishaq Malik
R/o Guloor, Langate, Kupwara, J&K 193302

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Umar Jan, son of the late Ali Mohammad Tantray, resident of Darashpora, Handwara, hereby inform the general public through this notice that Shop No. 85, situated at the Fruit and Vegetable Market, Baripora, Handwara, was originally allotted in the name of Late Ali Mohammad Tantray. Since Ali Mohammad Tantray passed away on 09/02/2026, we, the legal heirs, intend to have the allotment holder rights of the said shop transferred and recorded in the name of Umar Jan, son of Late Ali Mohammad Tantray. If any person or persons have any objection or claim regarding this transfer, they are requested to submit their objection in writing to the Horticulture Planning & Marketing Office, Fruit Mandi, Baripora, Handwara, within one week from the publication of this notice. No objection or claim shall be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period.

Umar Jan Son of Late Ali Mohammad Tantray Resident of Darashpora, Handwara District Kupwara

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to general public that Wrongly My name Umar Rehman Mir and Date of Birth 03-01-1995 have been entered in my Aadhar Card. Main While my real name is Ommer Rehman Mir and date of birth 31-03-1996, now I want to get it corrected. If anyone has any excuse or objection in this regard, please submit it to the concerned office within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Ommer Rehman Mir
S/o Lt Abdul Rehman Mir
R/o Chandrigam Aishmuqam

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Gulam Nabi Bhat, son of Noor Mohammad Bhat, resident of Maloora, Shalteng Srinagar, Kashmir, am the absolute legal owner of the commercial shop located at Maloora Srinagar. A smart electricity connection with Consumer No: (0203050006769) is currently registered under the name of my former tenant, Latif Ahmad Khan. Since the tenant has vacated the premises and left the shop, I have applied to the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) for the transfer of the said electricity connection/meter to my name. I have applied to the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), Sub-Division Zainakote, for the transfer of ownership of the said electric connection/smart meter into my name. If any person, department, or financial institution has any objection regarding this ownership transfer, they should file their objection in writing with the office of the Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE), KPDCL, Sub-Division Zainakote, within eight (8) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections will be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period.

Applicant: Gulam Nabi Bhat
Contact Number: 7006618616

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohammad Aslam Bhat, son of Mohammad Abdullah Bhat, resident of Sultanpora Kandi, Tehsil Chandoosa, District Baramulla, intend to apply for a D-Class Contractor Card. If any person has any objection regarding my application for the said contractor card, they may submit their objection, along with valid documentary proof, within three (3) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection received after the stipulated period shall be entertained.

Name:- Mohammad Aslam Bhat
S/O:- Mohammad Abdullah Bhat
R/O:- Sultanpora Kandi Chandoosa

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am applying for TOUR AND TRAVEL under the name of ARU ALTITUDE TOURS situated at GOSHUGH PATTAN. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file in the office of concerned authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name.....SUHAIL NAZIR MIR
S/O NIZAR AHMAD MIR
R/O.....LOLIPORA PATTAN

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that my name has been incorrectly mentioned in my Aadhaar Card as AMANAT ASHRAF KHAN bearing Account no 217340925830 while my correct name is MOHAMMAD AMANAT KHAN S/O MOHAMMAD ASHRAF KHAN which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office concerned adhaar authority of India within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name.....MOHAMMAD AMANAT KHAN
S/O.....MOHAMMAD ASHRAF KHAN
R/O.....DOLIPORA Tehsil Kreeri Distt....BARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

My daughter's name has been wrongly mentioned as AISHA in her date of Birth certificate issued by SDH Kreeri bearing Registration No.B-20231-0526-1-000980 While her correct name is AASHIA which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of SDH/BMO office KREERI within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name...GHULAM NABI SHEIKH F/O...AASHIA
R/O...HAIL JAGIR Tehsil...KREERI DISTT...BARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

My daughters mother's name has been wrongly mentioned as SUMAIRA in her Date of Birth certificate bearing Registration NO B-202401902380001066 while her correct Mother's name is SUMAIRA MANZOOR as per adhaar card which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of SDH/BMO Kreeri within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name.....SHOWKAT AHMAD KHAN F/O.....MEHREEN SHOWKAT R/O.....JAHANGIRPORA SHRAKWARA

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection name has been wrongly registered on GHULAM NABI WANI bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040005063 while my correct name is GHULAM NABI BHAT S/O HABIBULLAH BAHT. If anybody has any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name ..GHULAM NABI BHAT S/O...HABIBULLAH BHAT R/O.....PUTHAR RESHPORA BLOCK.....WAGOORA

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Gulam Nabi Bhat, son of Noor Mohammad Bhat, resident of Maloora, Shalteng Srinagar, Kashmir, am the absolute legal owner of the commercial shop located at Maloora Srinagar. A smart electricity connection with Consumer No: (0203050006769) is currently registered under the name of my former tenant, Latif Ahmad Khan. Since the tenant has vacated the premises and left the shop, I have applied to the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) for the transfer of the said electricity connection/meter to my name. I have applied to the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), Sub-Division Zainakote, for the transfer of ownership of the said electric connection/smart meter into my name. If any person, department, or financial institution has any objection regarding this ownership transfer, they should file their objection in writing with the office of the Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE), KPDCL, Sub-Division Zainakote, within eight (8) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections will be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period.

Applicant: Gulam Nabi Bhat
Contact Number: 7006618616

Javed Rana interacts with forest dwellers, activists

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 12: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today held a detailed interaction with social activists and representatives of forest-dwelling communities from different parts of the Valley and discussed issues relating to forest rights, conservation, environmental protection and development of forest-fringe areas. The interaction was held at Banquet Hall, M.A. Road here and was attended by senior officers of the Tribal Affairs, Forest, Jal Shakti and Irrigation & Flood Control Departments. During the interaction, the participants projected a range of issues being faced by forest dwellers in different areas and sought effective measures for their redressal. The activists also deliberated upon matters relating to forest conservation and increasing environmental degradation and called for long-term and sustainable interventions to protect the fragile forest ecosystem.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohammad Aslam Bhat, son of Mohammad Abdullah Bhat, resident of Sultanpora Kandi, Tehsil Chandoosa, District Baramulla, intend to apply for a D-Class Contractor Card. If any person has any objection regarding my application for the said contractor card, they may submit their objection, along with valid documentary proof, within three (3) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection received after the stipulated period shall be entertained.

Name:- Mohammad Aslam Bhat
S/O:- Mohammad Abdullah Bhat
R/O:- Sultanpora Kandi Chandoosa

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Nissar Ahmad Bukhari father of Syed Ayaan Nissar Bukhari resident of Kreeri District Baramulla want to inform the general public through this notice that my name and my wards name has been mistakenly mentioned in the school records Syed Ayaan Nissar son of Syed Nissar Ahmad Bukhri instead of Syed Ayaan Nissar Bukhari son of Nissar Ahmad Bukhari. Now I want to correct it. In this regard if anybody has any objection they may contact the Principal SRM Welkin Educational Trust Sopore with in seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

Nissar Ahmad Bukhari
Father of Syed Ayaan Nissar Bukhari
R/O:- Kreeri District Baramulla

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

Office of the Executive Magistrate 1st Class Narbal District Budgam

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified that the applicant namely Mohammed Amin Dar S/o Assadullah Dar R/o Russu Tehsil Narbal District Budgam applied for the issuance of Birth certificate of his son Ayan Amin S/o Mohammed Amin Dar. They intend to register the Date of Birth of his Son according to School record / vaccination card 25/10/2017. If anybody has any objection in this regard, they may contact the office of the Executive Magistrate 1st Class Narbal within the period of seven days. After said days, no objection will be entertained.

Dated 12/08/2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

Office of the Executive Magistrate 1st Class Narbal District Budgam

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified that the applicant namely Abdul Hameed Wani S/o Abdul Gani Wani R/o Russu Tehsil Narbal District Budgam applied for the issuance of Birth certificate of his own Abdul Hameed Wani S/o Abdul Gani Wani. They intend to register the Date of Birth of his Son according to School record / vaccination card 01/01/1965. If anybody has any objection in this regard, they may contact the office of the Executive Magistrate 1st Class Narbal within the period of seven days. After said days, no objection will be entertained.

Dated 12/08/2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

Office of the Executive Magistrate 1st Class Narbal District Budgam

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified that the applicant namely Abdul Rashid Mir S/o Ghulam Mohammed Mir R/o Nadigam Tehsil Narbal District Budgam applied for the issuance of Birth certificate of his son Mohammed Aslam Mir. They intend to register the Date of Birth of his Son according to School record / vaccination card 16/09/2013. If anybody has any objection in this regard, they may contact the office of the Executive Magistrate 1st Class Narbal within the period of seven days. After said days, no objection will be entertained.

Dated 12/08/2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

Office of the Executive Magistrate 1st Class Narbal District Budgam

PUBLIC NOTICE

hereby notified the applicant namely Ishrat Maqbool D/o Late Mohammed Maqbool Wani R/o Narbal Tehsil Narbal District Budgam had online applied for the issuance of dependant certificate. The Applicant consists of 1 family members. The family members details are below -

Sno 1) Ishrat Maqbool D/o Mohammed Maqbool Wani R/o Narbal, Age 48, Home maker, relation with applicant self.

If anybody has objection regarding it, convince office of the Executive Magistrate 1st Class Narbal District Budgam with the period of seven days. After said period, no objection will be entertained.

12/08/2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI

(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Application of MOHD YOUSUF SHEIKH S/O AB GANI SHEIKH R/O SHEIKHPORA Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of RBA in his/her their favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of SHEIKHPORA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the SHEIKH community having annual income 155000/- the details of family of the applicant are as follows

1...MOHD YOUSUF SHEIKH Father 59 years Labour
2...MUGLI BEGUM Mother 70 years H/W
3...AIJAZ AH SHEIKH brother 34 years Labour
4...MOHD RAFIQ Brother 31 years Labour
5...BILAL AHMAD TELI Applicant 26 years student
6...AAJAT YOUSUF self applicant 25 years student
if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate 1st Class KREERI

J&K Govt rolls out 'JK Karigari' to take UT's authentic handicrafts to national, global markets

■ HT News Network

NEW DEHLI, AUGUST 12: The Jammu and Kashmir government today launched "JK Karigari", the official marketplace for authentic products from Jammu and Kashmir during the Bharatiya Vyapar Mahotsav which commenced here at Delhi. The move is a major step towards connecting the region's centuries-old handcrafted heritage directly with the national and global buyers. Launched as an initiative of the Housing & Urban Development Department under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), JK Karigari

has been designed to empower the urban women Self Help Groups, preserve traditional crafts and create sustainable livelihoods across the Union Territory. Present on the occasion were MPs Chowdhary Mohammad Ramzaan, Sajjad Kichloo and Gurvinder Singh Oberoi, Commissioner Secretary Housing and Urban Development Department Mandeep Kaur and her entire team including Vikas Sharma, MD NUDM, Shabir Hussain Bhat VC Srinagar Development Authority, Kapil Sharma, Director Urban Local Bodies Jammu, Mridhu Salathia, MD NULM, Ankush Kapoor, Chief Information Security Officer,

HUDD, JK, SHG women and other officers of State Urban Development Agency (SUDA). The platform will showcase 100 percent authentic Kashmiri handicrafts including Pashmina, Kani and Sozni shawls, papier-mache, walnut wood carving, crewel embroidery, carpets and organic local produce and Jammu handicrafts including Chabri, Macrame Home & Devotional Decor besides traditional food products and woodcraft, all made by skilled artisans and SHGs. Every product listed on JK Karigari will carry a QR code with artisan details, district and GI tag to ensure secure and transparent shopping, with payments going directly

to the artisan groups and no middlemen involved. The Commissioner Secretary termed the launch a "game changer for urban women artisans" and said the initiative will provide them a dedicated, government-backed platform to reach customers beyond local markets. She informed that presently the department has 4000 SHGs with about 50,000 women members associated with DAY-NULM across J&K. She said the government is actively exploring ways to encourage more interstate collaborations to further boost the business of SHGs and give their products a wider national footprint.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

Office of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.

Ground Water Division Srinagar

Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.

E-mail:- hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in

Tel./Fax No:- 0194-2411285

Extension Notice 2nd.

Subject: 1. Construction of 25 No. 125 mm dia Machine Drilled hand Pump wells at various spots within Bandipora Assembly Constituency. (Additional 05 No. of wells)

2. Construction of 01 No. 125mm Dia Machine Drilled Hand Pump Well at New Colony Kahadoora Panchayat Halqa Venkura in District Baramulla.

Reference: This office e-NIT No. **31/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27**, issued vide endorsement No: **JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/4643-59**, dated: 14-07-2026. Bearing Tender ID No. **2026_PHE_316833_1 & 2.**

Due to **"NO Response"** for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and **Tender ID No's** under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till **12-08-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM** are extended as per the details given below:-

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Last date & Time of submission of bids	25-08-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM
2.	Date & Time of opening of tenders	26-08-2026 11:00 AM

NOTE:

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.

Sd/=
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

DIPK-4494/26
Send Dated: 12-08-2026.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION GANDERBAL

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 49/EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl of 2026-27 under Endorsement No. 6039-44 Dated:- 11-08-2026

For and behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, UT of J&K, e-tenders are invited on Percentage Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of the Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Est. TDOO (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of Completion	Class Of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
01	Construction of drain from H/o Gk. Rasool Mir to school Wamhama.	Rs.2.03 Lacs	Rs.200/-	Rs.4060/-	20-Days	DEE
02	Improvement of road from Sumad Khan to Band at Patti Shalghul-B.	Rs.3.11 Lacs	Rs.200/-	Rs.6220/-	20-Days	DEE
03	Renovation of CAHO & LDO Office Ganderbal.	Rs.27.34 Lacs	Rs.1100/-	Rs.54,680/-	45-Days	BAA/AAV

Major Head: PRI Grants, Capex Budget.

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	11-08-2026
2.	Period of Downloading of Bidding Documents	11-08-2026
3.	Bid Submission Start Date	11-08-2026 from 04:00 PM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	17-08-2026 upto 04:00 PM
5.	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids (Online)	18-08-2026 at 10:00 AM in the Office of PWR(R&B) Division Ganderbal.

NOTE:- The Date of Treasury Challan and CDR must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-Responsive.

2. The Bidders shall upload earnest money equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG at the time of tendering pledged in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal.

3. The 1 st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of Allotted Cost as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal within 03 days before Fixation of contract and shall be released after completion of DLP and the 2% EMD shall be released in favour of successful bidder only after the receipt of 5% Performance Security.

4. Unbalanced Bid:- As per the Circular Instructions of Finance Department Vide No. (Principal Secretary to Government Finance Department's circular issued under endorsement No: FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated:- 08.08.2025), which is reproduced as:-

Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee/security percentage shall be Incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

Where the bid price is 20% or more below of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee percentage shall be Incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

The additional performance guarantee percentage shall be rounded off to the next lower percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is below 0.5% or next higher percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is 0.5% or more.

The additional performance security shall be treated as part of the performance security.

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on the website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Website in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal.

6. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bids.

7. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-

a). Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b). Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c). Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

8. Instruction to Bidders regarding e-tendering process:-

a) Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

b) To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

c) The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned.

e) Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original photocopies of documents related to the bid be submitted physically by registered post/through courier before the date specified.

Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including tender documents fee in terms of soft copies and all other documents required as per NIT with technical bid. No document (s) which has/have not been uploaded shall be entertained for technical evaluation in the form of hard copy. However in case of any clarification the bidders all have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

DIPK-4477/26
Send Date: Aug 12 2026

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWR(R&B) Division Ganderbal





J&K poised to script a new cinematic chapter with maiden International Film Festival

CS calls for world-class arrangements to showcase J&K as a premier film and tourism destination

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, AUGUST 12: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired a meeting of senior officers of the Civil Administration and Police Department to review and give detailed shape to the arrangements for the successful conduct of the maiden International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK-2026), scheduled to be held from September 7 to 10, 2026.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister; Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Principal Secretary, Home; Commissioner Secretary, Information; Commissioner Secretary, Floriculture; Secretary, Transport; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; SSP Srinagar as representative of DGP J&K, Director, Information; Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages; Director, Hospitality & Protocol; Joint Director, Information (Headquarters); Joint Director,



Information (Kashmir Division) and other senior officers from the concerned departments and agencies.

The Chief Secretary observed that IFFJK-2026 is the first festival of its kind in Jammu & Kashmir and, therefore, its inaugural edition should set a benchmark for its future editions. He emphasized that the event is envisaged as an annual affair from this year onwards, requiring meticulous planning and execution so that every edition becomes more

professionally curated and memorable.

He directed all concerned departments to walk through the entire festival process in advance right from the arrival of guests and participants to the conclusion of the event to identify gaps, streamline procedures and ensure seamless coordination. He maintained that the smooth conduct of every component is what ultimately makes an event memorable, professionally accomplished and worthy of appreciation.

The Chief Secretary laid particular emphasis on providing befitting reception and hospitality to all invited dignitaries, filmmakers, artists and other participants. He directed that designated nodal officers be put in place by the General Administration Department at major boarding airports, including Mumbai and Delhi, besides ensuring seamless reception and facilitation at the airports in Jammu and Srinagar. He underlined that IFFJK provides a significant opportunity to showcase Jammu & Kashmir's immense potential as both a film destination and a premier tourist destination. He called upon Tourism, Handicrafts, Floriculture, Culture and other concerned departments to make comprehensive arrangements to showcase the region's rich heritage, crafts, culture, landscapes and artistic traditions through curated tours, craft safaris, heritage experiences and other activities for visiting guests.

HDFC Bank Urges Citizens to Stay Vigilant Against 'Boss Scam'

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Aug 12, KNT: HDFC Bank has cautioned businesses and employees about a growing form of impersonation fraud known as the "Boss Scam", in which criminals pose as senior executives or trusted colleagues to manipulate employees into transferring money or sharing sensitive information.

According to the bank, fraudsters typically approach employees through email, social media or messaging platforms while impersonating senior company executives, including CEOs and other top-level officials. In some cases, they may also pose as regulators and claim that the organisation has violated a regulatory requirement.

The messages are designed to create urgency and pressure the recipient into acting without carrying out normal verification.

The bank said fraudsters may send a ZIP file presented as a compliance or security document. Opening the file can allegedly install malware on the device, allowing criminals to compromise the executive's laptop or mobile phone and gain access to their genuine messaging account.

Once an account has been compromised, the fraudsters can use it to contact finance or accounts personnel and issue apparently

genuine instructions for urgent, high-value payments.

In some cases, according to HDFC Bank, criminals may even use their own phone numbers under the CEO's name on the compromised device, making subsequent fraudulent instructions appear authentic.

Manish Agrawal, Senior Executive Vice President, Credit Intelligence and Control, HDFC Bank, said the fraud combines social engineering, malware and impersonation to target organisations and their authorised signatories.

"The fraudsters are using Boss Scam incidents to defraud organisations where the employees from the accounts department are induced to make payment on pretext of fake instructions received from the senior executive of the organisation," Agrawal said.

He said organisations should strengthen controls over software installation, conduct regular employee awareness programmes and ensure that payment requests are independently verified before transactions are processed. The bank has advised employees to independently verify any urgent payment instruction or request to change a beneficiary account by directly contacting the executive concerned through a known telephone number or through face-to-face confirmation.



India Exim Bank forecasts merchandise exports at \$131.2 bn, non-oil exports at \$113.8 bn for July-Sep

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

Mumbai, Aug 12 (UNI) India Exim Bank forecasts India's total merchandise exports at \$131.2 bn, or a 17.6% Y-o-Y growth and while non-oil exports to rise 20.3% to \$113.8 bn in the Q2 of FY2027. Non-oil and non-gems and jewellery exports are projected at \$105.8 bn, with a Y-o-Y growth of 20.5% during the same quarter.

Despite global uncertainties, the growth in exports could be as a result of increasing geographical diversification along with favourable prospects arising from recent trade agreements with major trading partners, supported by buoyant demand in partner countries.

India's positive export outlook is expected to be driven by sustained expansion in domestic manufacturing and exchange rate movements. However, there are downside risks emanating from geopolitical conflicts, and volatility in international commodity markets.

Forecast of growth in India's total merchandise exports, non-oil exports and non-oil and non-gems & jewellery exports are released by Exim Bank on a quarterly and based on its Export Leading Index (ELI) model. As part of its continued research initiatives,



Exim Bank has developed an in-house model to generate an Export Leading Index (ELI) for India to track and forecast the movement in India's exports on a quarterly basis. Despite global uncertainties, the growth in exports could be as a result of increasing geographical diversification along with favourable prospects arising from recent trade agreements with major trading partners, supported by buoyant demand in partner countries.

India's positive export outlook is expected to be driven by sustained expansion in domestic manufacturing and exchange rate movements. However, there are downside risks emanating from geopolitical conflicts, and volatility in international commodity markets.

AI can assist lawyers, but legal judgment must remain human: Corporate legal expert

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

Bengaluru, Aug 12 (UNI) Artificial Intelligence can dramatically expand the reach of corporate legal departments, but the final call on legal risk must remain with human lawyers, corporate legal expert Balanand Menon said here on Wednesday. Speaking at a discussion on the future of corporate legal functions, Menon said AI was already proving useful in gathering evidence and processing information from multiple data sources, but organisations should not confuse technological efficiency with legal judgment.

"AI is best suited for evidence gathering," he said, stressing that the technology could collect and organise information but could not yet determine, from an organisational context.

Tata Group stocks suffer bloodbath after Chandrasekaran's exit, Rs 68,119 cr wiped out in single day

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

New Delhi, Aug 12 (UNI) Tata Group stocks witnessed a sharp sell-off on Wednesday after the sudden announcement of Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran's resignation at the company's AGM, triggering a broad decline across major listed companies of the conglomerate.

The combined market capitalisation of Tata Group companies declined by 2.52 per cent, resulting in erosion of around Rs 68,119 crore in a single trading session. The sell-off was



led by declines in some of the group's most valuable and widely held companies, including Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Tata Motors, Titan, Tata Steel and Tata Consumer Products.

Among the major losers, TCS shares plunged 5.70 per cent, while Tata Motors declined 4.11

percent. Tata Consumer Products also witnessed selling pressure, falling 2.85 per cent during the session. The sharp movement in Tata stocks came against the backdrop of the unexpected leadership development at Tata Sons, with investors reacting to the uncertainty surrounding the group's future leadership and its potential implications for the conglomerate's businesses. The selling pressure was not restricted to a single company, with weakness seen across several Tata Group counters, leading to a substantial decline in the overall market.

Stock markets end lower after selling intensifies in Tata Group stocks

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

New Delhi, Aug 12 (UNI) Indian stock markets on Wednesday ended lower for second consecutive session after the selling pressure intensified in Tata Group stocks. Stocks came in pressure after N Chandrasekaran announced not to seek re-appointment as the Chairman.

At close, the Sensex was down 187.90 points, or 0.24%, at 77,966.35, while the Nifty fell 35.75 points, or 0.15%, to 24,435.95. Nifty Midcap 100 spiked 0.3%, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 ended marginally lower.

In terms of sectors, Nifty



PSU Bank rose 2.05%, Nifty Media was up by 1.05%, while Nifty Bank advanced 0.77% and Nifty Metal added 0.54%. Further, Nifty IT fell 1.54%, and Nifty FMCG slipped 0.73%.

On Nifty, the key gainers were Hindalco, Bharti Airtel, SBI, Jio Financial, UltraTech Cement while on the losing side were TCS, Max Healthcare, Apollo Hospitals, M&M, Tata Steel.

More than 160 stocks touched 52-week high including Finolex Cables, Aditya Infotech, Aarti Industries, Apar Industries, Belrise Industries, Bosch, Ather Energy, Sai Life Sciences, Anand Rathi Wealth, Welspun Corp, KEl Industries, Siemens, Dr Lal Path Labs, Pidilite Industries, Divi's Laboratories, Lenskart Solutions and Aether Industries, among others. Indian rupee ended higher at 95.33 per dollar on Wednesday against Tuesday's close of 95.44. Tata Sons stocks faced losses after Chandrasekaran announcement as TCS led the losses, falling 4%, followed by Tata Technologies and Tata Elxsi, which declined 2.2% and 1.8%, respectively.

JKTPO organises virtual E-Commerce Seller Awareness cum Onboarding Drive on ONDC; Over 300 stakeholders join virtually

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, AUGUST 12: The Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), under the aegis of the Industries & Commerce Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, today organized a Virtual E-Commerce Seller Onboarding Drive on the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) with the objective of facilitating digital market access and enabling MSMEs, artisans, startups, sellers and other business enterprises of Jammu & Kashmir to leverage digital commerce platforms for expanding their market reach.

The virtual programme witnessed the

participation of more than 300 stakeholders through the virtual platform and webcast, comprising entrepreneurs, MSMEs, artisans, sellers and other stakeholders interested in expanding their businesses through digital commerce.

The programme was organized as part of JKTPO's continued efforts towards promoting digital adoption, strengthening market linkages and facilitating greater visibility and market access for enterprises from the Union Territory.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Managing Director JKTPO Sudershan Kumar. He welcomed the participating entrepreneurs and



stakeholders and highlighted the importance of embracing digital commerce in the rapidly evolving business environment. He emphasized that digital marketplaces provide enterprises with an opportunity

to move beyond conventional geographical limitations and connect with a much wider customer base.

Director Handloom & Handicrafts Jammu Sheikh Nazir highlighted the immense

potential of e-commerce in promoting the traditional products, handicrafts and handloom products of Jammu & Kashmir. He emphasized that digital platforms can play an important role in providing artisans and traditional product manufacturers with wider market access, enhanced visibility and opportunities to reach customers beyond the local and regional markets.

The technical and knowledge session was conducted by Nandita Sharma from ONDC, who briefed the participants about the ONDC Network and its functioning and explained how businesses can leverage the network to access digital commerce opportunities. During the session, Ms.

Sharma provided an overview of the various tools and platforms available for enterprises to establish and strengthen their digital presence. Particular emphasis was laid on digital cataloguing, with participants being introduced to various tools and mechanisms that can be utilized for creating and managing digital product catalogues. The session highlighted the importance of having accurate, attractive and comprehensive digital catalogues for effectively presenting products to online customers.

The participants were also briefed about Digi Haat and its role in facilitating seller onboarding and strengthening the digital presence of enterprises.

JKEDI Pulwama organises Entrepreneurship Development Programmes at Abhama under RAMP

■ HT News Network



PULWAMA, AUGUST 12: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir National Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKNRLM), organised two six-day Entrepreneurship Development Programmes at Abhama, Pulwama, under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme. The programmes were designed to equip rural youth and aspiring entrepreneurs with practical skills in business planning, opportunity identification, financial management, marketing, and enterprise sustainability. These initiatives form part of JKEDI's ongoing efforts, in partnership with JKNRLM, to promote self-employment and strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem in rural areas of the Union Territory. District Nodal Officer, Rayees Manzoor attended the programs and interacted with the participants. Addressing the gatherings, he encouraged the trainees to embrace entrepreneurship as a viable career option and urged them to take their businesses to the next level. Course trainers Iftakhar Bashir Lone and Mohd Yasir conducted interactive and hands-on sessions to help participants convert ideas into viable and sustainable enterprises.

Awareness-cum-Training Programme on POSH Act held at Pulwama

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, AUGUST 12: An Awareness-cum-Training Programme on the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act) was organised today at Government Degree College (GDC), Pulwama, by the District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW), Mission Shakti, Pulwama, in collaboration with the Internal Complaints Committee of Govt. Degree College Pulwama. District Social Welfare Officer Pulwama, Azhar Amin, in his welcome address, highlighted the importance of creating safe, respectful and inclusive workplaces and urged all stakeholders to contribute towards preventing sexual harassment and ensuring dignity and equality for women.



Sun-tanned cauliflower and knobbly spuds - the heatwave veg that's good to eat

Would you buy a cauliflower that looks like it's been sunburnt or a cucumber that's curled back on itself?

Farmers across the UK are grappling with one of the driest, hottest growing seasons in decades. Repeated heatwaves after a warmer than usual spring have led to predictions of the worst harvest since records began.

The heat is not only affecting how much produce is grown, but also how it looks.

Retailers usually reject fruit and vegetables that don't meet strict guidelines on size, shape and colour. But with supplies under pressure, many are now expected to loosen those rules rather than risk empty shelves.

That means shoppers could start seeing smaller, wonkier or oddly coloured veg on the shelves in the coming weeks - and sellers and growers say it's still good to eat.

'Sun-tanned' cauliflowers

Cauliflower is one of the most affected vegetables in hot weather because it needs lots of water.

Its heads are usually shielded from sunlight by the leaves, but in this year more light is reaching them and turning them yellow.

Emilie Vanpoperinghe, co-founder of Oddbox, a subscription company that sells surplus produce that supermarkets reject, said it is "purely a cosmetic defect" and the plants taste exactly the same.

She said Oddbox acquired 6,000 cauliflower heads last week that were too dark for supermarkets to sell.

Growers are reporting that their water reserves are depleted, Vanpoperinghe said, which means the cauliflower and broccoli family of brassicas will experience slower growth, leading to shorter supplies.

That short supply means retailers may soon start stocking "sun-tanned" cauliflower because "their biggest nightmare is empty shelves", she said. "They want to make sure that they've got availability of produce all the time."

Curly cucumbers

Growers are also reporting cucumbers that are coming out misshapen, with some bending back into a spiral.

That is because the plants are grown in greenhouses which overheat in the high outdoor temperatures, causing the plants to become

stressed, Vanpoperinghe said.

"Even if they get the irrigation then it's just extreme heat, which means the plant is not able to grow anymore."

Holey pak choi

John Harper, a farmer in Worcestershire, grows pak choi for Sainsbury's, Aldi and Co-op, and has discarded more produce than usual this year because of tiny holes made by pests.



if the drought continues. All these veg still taste great, but like many of us in a heatwave, they might just look a little less than perfect."

Not every gap can be filled this way though. Andrew Opie, the director of food and sustainability at the British Retail Consortium, said supermarkets are also importing more food from abroad as UK supplies run short.

"Retailers face the dilemma of supporting British farmers, but



Flea beetles thrive in hot, dry conditions, and farmers are no longer allowed to use as many pesticides as before, meaning net covers are Harper's only defence.

Supermarkets' strict cosmetic rules mean "one tiny little hole can render the plant useless", he said, but some have temporarily loosened the rules.

"We've been working with them through this hot period and in general they sort of get it," he added.

Harper said the vast majority of affected pak choi is still edible - even if "it seems to be quite tasty" for the beetles too.

Knobbly potatoes

Lucy Munns, a potato farmer in Cambridgeshire, said the hot weather will stunt the root vegetable's growth, leading to oddly shaped tubers that supermarkets and chip shops, which she supplies, wouldn't normally buy.

When the weather gets cooler after a hot period, instead of the main potato tuber growing "it tends to grow a little knobble on the end". "Trying to find people that will accept potatoes like that is very difficult. So that ultimately means a lot of wastage for us," Munns added.

"It's criminal, to be honest, to be chucking that much food away."

Those "knobbly and misshapen potatoes" however are absolutely fine to eat, she said.

"The only difficulty is peeling them, but just cut the knobbly bit off and peel it separately."

'A challenging period'

Supermarkets including Sainsbury's, Tesco, Morrisons and Waitrose already have dedicated lines for wonky vegetables.

Calum Kelly, Waitrose's produce technical manager, said in demanding weather conditions "we relax size and shape guidelines for key veg to avoid waste and provide more income to our growers and farmers".

"Baking potatoes might be a little smaller than usual this harvest

also making sure that we, as customers, have what we expect to buy when we go in the shop," he said.

"It's going to be a challenging period right through into the autumn. We're hearing potentially it could affect things like cherries as well."

British summers are getting hotter and drier as the climate changes and heatwaves like this one are becoming more frequent.

That means a season like this one may become less of a one-off, and more of a preview of what British farming has to deal with regularly.

Many farmers will either have to accept more waste, invest in better irrigation and water storage systems, or find a way to sell more wonky produce to consumers.

Munns, the potato farmer, said more people should try buying imperfect veg if they see it in the supermarket aisle this year.

People should "be a bit less picky" about fresh produce, she said. "We've been too spoilt in the UK ... In other less fortunate countries we wouldn't have a choice."

(BBC NEWS)



'Women feel guilt & anger' after taking epilepsy drug that harmed babies

Pregnant women who took an epilepsy drug and say they were not warned of possible birth defects, feel a mix of "guilt" and "anger," one mother has said.

Sodium valproate, which is also used to treat bipolar disorder, can cause physical harm in the womb and children can be born with a cleft palate and spina bifida as well as neurodevelopmental disorders.

The medicine now carries warnings about use during pregnancy, but Susan Jamison, now 60, said she was not told about the possible consequences when she was expecting babies in 1990s.

A 2020 review recommended compensation to those affected, and a subsequent report in 2024 said there was an "urgent" need for redress for those harmed.

When Susan Jamison was diagnosed with epilepsy as a teenager in 1986, sodium valproate felt like a lifeline.

"It was fantastic - I could carry on going to college, going out with my friends. The seizures stopped," she told BBC News NI.

When she moved to England, got married and became pregnant she asked her doctor if her medication would be an issue.

"I was told 'absolutely not'. He said: 'If you need any more as you're having extra seizures take some more'.

However, Susan's children were born with symptoms of foetal valproate syndrome. Her daughter Anna, who also has epilepsy, has autism, ADHD and learning difficulties as well as pains in her bones.

It is thought thousands of children in the UK have been left with disabilities caused by valproate since the 1970s.



Of the estimated 20,000 people across the UK affected about 500 to 600 are in Northern Ireland.

"All the women feel guilty," said Susan.

"The government knew that it [sodium valproate] caused problems and it was still continued to be licensed for usage for pregnant women," she said.

In June, England's first patient safety commissioner, Dr Henrietta Hughes, wrote to then Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer expressing disappointment that there had not been a "substantive response" from the government to the calls for redress. She has still not received a response to her 16 July deadline. The UK government has told the BBC it will respond to recommendations in Cumberlege and Hughes Report "in due course".

Back living in Northern Ireland, it was only after the 2020 publication of the Cumberlege Report, that Susan says she got "closure".

But six years on from the initial report, families are waiting for redress.

"I'm angry. Parents are not getting any younger and we need to set out a care path for our children. It needs to be sorted quickly," Susan said.

"If I am no longer here Anna will have proper housing and medical care which she will need all her life," she added.

Anna, 32, is also angry on behalf of her mum.

"I have tried to convey her we don't hold any grudge. I am grateful to her - it's not her fault. They should have been more honest with her," she added.

The work of retired Belfast neurology consultant Dr Jim Morrow in

monitoring the effects of the drug on pregnant women with epilepsy has been key to exposing the effects of sodium valproate.

He established the UK Epilepsy and Pregnancy Register in 1996 and said it is a "scandal" that the government had not taken any action on redress.

It was found that valproate use was causing about 10% of pregnancies to result in physical abnormalities and more than 30% had special educational needs, speech and learning difficulties.

Morrow said some women who want to start a family are faced with a difficult decision because some types of epilepsy "only respond to sodium valproate".

"Having seizures is awful. People can fall, they can injure themselves," he said.

He feels the onus should be on the UK government to help families.

"This drug has been around for about 50 years and the problems weren't recognised for 30-40 years, with another 10 years before any recommendations were made, so the doctors weren't informed so they couldn't really inform the patients," he explained.

He said while a redress scheme is not a devolved matter: "Northern Ireland were the leaders in exposing this scandal" so "why can't Northern Ireland take the lead and start a redress scheme independently?"

He said a redress scheme would be more than financial and also focus on providing carers, adaptations to the home and special educational needs.

Sinn Féin MLA Órlaithí Flynn has been contacted by families who want answers and action.

"The mothers I have been working with are carrying massive guilt and shame and pain and hurt as a result of something that was not their doing," said Flynn.

"What is crystal clear is that the families are not receiving the proper help and support that they need - they live with life long disabilities."

She also said NI's Department of Health must do more to "capture the data and numbers who have been harmed" and provide more support for families on a local level.

One family who reached out to Flynn was a mother and her 25 year-old daughter from west Belfast, who wish to remain anonymous.

The woman was prescribed sodium valproate in the 90s for seizures, and was taking it during two of her four pregnancies. The children born while she was taking sodium valproate have health issues, the others don't.

(BBC NEWS)

Kuldeep has been a match-winner, deserves a longer run, says Kartik

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, AUG 12: Former India spinner Murali Kartik believes Kuldeep Yadav needs consistency and a clearly defined role in the Test side as the team prepares for a crucial two-match series against Sri Lanka, with Ravindra Jadeja entering the twilight of his career.

India are fifth in the World Test Championship standings after four wins and four defeats in the current cycle. They will look to revive their campaign after a 0-2 series loss to South Africa, beginning with two Tests in Sri Lanka. They will then tour New Zealand for two Tests in November before hosting Australia for a five-Test series in January-February.

"This series is critical with the view of the WTC if we are serious about Test cricket, we are at number 5, our fortunes haven't been great in red ball cricket of late, which is well-documented and everyone knows it," Kartik said in a virtual media interaction organised by Sony Sports Network.

The Sri Lanka series is also expected



to be a significant examination of India's spin resources. Kartik feels the transition in India's spin department makes Kuldeep's role particularly important.

"The series will be test for the spinners as well. Jadeja – as good as he has been for Indian cricket – is in his twilight years. Manav Suthar with the way he made his debut against Afghanistan was very heartwarming for any old-school spinner."

However, Kartik feels Kuldeep has

not received the sustained backing during the Rohit Sharma-Rahul Dravid era that can allow a bowler of his quality to flourish in Test cricket.

Since Gautam Gambhir took over as coach in July 2024, Kuldeep has played six Tests.

"Kuldeep has been a match-winner for India but unfortunately for him it played out differently when he had Rohit Sharma and Rahul Dravid and now he's not got that kind of a run in,"

he said.

Kuldeep's omission from India's five-Test tour of England had also raised questions over his place in the red-ball setup, despite his reputation as a wicket-taking spinner.

"When you think of what happened in England, everybody kept saying during the course of those five Test matches, where is Kuldeep, where is Kuldeep? And Kuldeep didn't play, he was sitting out," Kartik said.

"So it's very important from that point of view, now that Jadeja is in his twilight of his career, is he the leader, or is it going to be someone else."

Kartik also dismissed the notion that Kuldeep's batting limitations should weigh heavily in selection decisions, arguing that his primary value remains his ability to take wickets.

"He's not a rabbit with the bat. He can definitely hold the bat—we've seen him bat as nightwatchman and occupy the crease for long periods. Maybe he doesn't have the hitting ability of Jadeja and Ashwin, but I wouldn't look at him from that angle."

Rahane makes test commentary debut on Sony Sports Network

United News Of India

MUMBAI, AUG 12: Former India Captain Ajinkya Rahane is set to make his Test commentary debut on the Sony Sports Network during India's upcoming tour of Sri Lanka, from August 15 to 27.

Rahane recently brought the curtains down on an illustrious career spanning nearly 18 years since his first-class debut. He will now take on a new role in the commentary box, bringing his wealth of experience and perspective to the two-match Test series, which will be broadcast on the Sony Sports Network and streamed on Sony LIV. A veteran of 85 Tests for India, Rahane amassed 5,077 runs, including 12 centuries and 26 half-centuries. His deep understanding of red-ball cricket, match



situations and the nuances of the game will add a unique dimension to the broadcast, as he breaks down key moments, strategies and contests to give fans a closer look at what goes into shaping a Test match.

Former Australia allrounder Henriques begins new innings with Portugal



United News Of India

BENGALURU, AUG 12: Former Australia and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) all-rounder Moises Henriques has been appointed captain of the Portugal cricket team for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup European sub-regional qualifiers.

The 39-year-old Henriques, who recently retired from Australian domestic cricket, will lead Portugal in the qualifiers to be held in Finland from August 14 to 20.

Born in Madeira, Portugal, Henriques moved to Australia with his family at a young age and went on to represent Australia across all three formats. He played four Tests, 16 ODIs and 24 T20Is for Australia, besides enjoying a successful domestic career with New South Wales and Sydney Sixers. Portugal are placed in Group B of the European Sub-Regional Qualifier C, alongside Israel, Germany, Greece and Czechia. The group winner will face the

winner of Group A in the final on August 21. The overall winner of the sub-regional qualifier will progress to the European Regional Final, where Scotland, Jersey and Denmark await. The top two teams in the regional final will qualify for the 2028 T20 World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

Portugal are currently ranked 37th in the ICC Men's T20I rankings, making qualification a challenging task for Henriques and his new team. Henriques also has considerable IPL experience, having represented Kolkata Knight Riders, Delhi Daredevils, RCB, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Punjab Kings between 2009 and 2021.

He was part of the RCB squad in 2013 and later featured for Sunrisers Hyderabad when they defeated RCB in the 2016 IPL final. The Portugal captain's international comeback comes five years after his last appearance for Australia and shortly after his retirement from Australian domestic cricket.

Finland set to host final ICC Men's T20 World Cup Europe sub-regional qualifier

United News Of India

HELSINKI, AUG 12: The final stage of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Europe Sub-Regional Qualifiers gets underway in Finland this week, with 10 nations set to compete from August 14–21 for a place in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Europe Qualifier in 2027.

The teams will be split into two groups, with the group winners progressing to the Final.

The eventual champion will secure the final available place at the Europe Qualifier next year and shot at reaching the Global Qualifier for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2028 in Australia and New Zealand.

Hosts Finland will be joined in Group 1 alongside Bulgaria, Isle of Man, Luxembourg and Spain. Group 2 consists of Czechia, Germany, Greece, Israel and Portugal.

Finland, who first hosted an ICC Sub-Regional Qualifier in 2022, the tournament represents a major opportunity to showcase the growth of cricket in the country and welcome some of Europe's leading emerging cricket nations.

Those ambitions have been bolstered by the ICC providing Finnish commentary for each of Finland's matches, and for the very first time, on ICC.tv and YLE Areena, the online streaming and catch-up service of the Finnish Public Broadcaster. Those and all other matches from the tournament will be streamed live globally on ICC.tv.

Three Days to Go: Pen-pictures of the Indian Women's Squad for FIH World Cup 2026



United News Of India

NEW DELHI, AUG 12: The Indian Women's Team is set to make its eighth appearance at the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026, returning to the global stage with ambition and determination as one of the challengers for the trophy.

To be played in the Netherlands and Belgium, the tournament will see the world's top 16 teams fighting it out.

Led by captain Salima Tete and having Dutchman Sjoerd Marijne as the Chief Coach, India will look to make an early impact in Pool D, where they have been drawn alongside China, England and South Africa, setting

up an exciting campaign from the outset.

The team's campaign will begin on August 16 against China.

At the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup Belgium and Netherlands 2026, the Indian Women's Hockey Team has been placed in Pool D alongside China, South Africa and England. India will begin their World Cup campaign against China on August 16, followed by a challenging encounter against South Africa on August 18. The team will then face England on August 20 in their final pool-stage match.

All three of India's pool matches will be played at the Wagener Hockey Stadium in Amstelveen, Netherlands.

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