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HEADLINES TODAY
Voice To The Voiceless



Lightning Claims Two Lives in Anantnag, Cloudburst Blocks Zojila Road

BRO Clears Debris on SSG Road as MeT Warns of Heavy Rain, Intense Showers Across J&K From August 16–19

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 13: Two teenagers were killed and two others injured after lightning struck Gawran Nard in South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Thursday, as widespread rain and thunderstorms swept parts of Jammu and Kashmir and a cloudburst blocked a vital road near Zojila.



The tragedy came amid unsettled weather across the Union Territory, with rain and thundershowers reported from Budgam, Poonch, Rajouri, Shopian, Kulgam, Reasi, Udhampur and the Banihal-Ramban belt, besides several areas of central and north Kashmir.

SEE ON P-2

Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign is Strengthening Patriotism and Reinforcing Spirit of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat : Amit Shah

Home Minister Hoists Tricolour at Delhi Residence, Urged Citizens to Display the National Flag and strengthen the spirit of national unity



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 13: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday hoisted the Tricolour at his residence in New Delhi as part of the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign-2026, urging citizens to join the nationwide initiative by displaying the National Flag at their homes.

SEE ON P-2

Artists Are Guardians of India's Collective Memory : President Murmu

President honours eminent artistes with Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Awards, calls for preservation of endangered folk traditions



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 13: President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday presented the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Awards for 2024 and 2025 to eminent artistes in New Delhi, describing them as guardians of India's collective memory and creators of its vision for the future. She stressed the need to preserve folk and tribal art forms facing the threat of extinction and called for greater efforts to train the next generation through the Guru-Shishya tradition. The President of India, Droupadi Murmu presented Sangeet

SEE ON P-2

New Labour Codes to Strengthen Workers' Welfare in J&K : Chief Secretary

Atal Dulloo reviews financial and social-security benefits for private-sector employees under four new labour laws



HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 13: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Thursday reviewed the implementation of the Four New Labour Codes in Jammu and Kashmir, focusing on wage protection, social security, retirement benefits and financial entitlements for private-sector workers. The reforms seek to consolidate 29 erstwhile labour

laws into a unified framework while extending greater statutory protection to fixed-term, unorganised, gig and platform workers.

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chaired a meeting to review the employee-centric financial and social security benefits emerging from the implementation of the Four New Labour Codes for the workforce in

SEE ON P-2

IGP Urges People to Join Independence Day Celebrations in Large Numbers

Security arrangements strengthened across Kashmir; public urged to remain vigilant over social-media threats



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, August 13: Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Zone, on Thursday appealed to people across the Valley to participate in Independence Day celebrations in large numbers as security arrangements were strengthened ahead of August 15. Full-dress rehearsals and security drills have been conducted across districts, while police urged the public to remain cautious about threats circulating

on social media and cooperate with security agencies.

): Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir Zone, on Thursday said security arrangements have been strengthened across the Valley ahead of the Independence Day celebrations on August 15, with full-dress rehearsals being conducted in different districts. The IGP said rehearsals for the main Independence Day programmes,

SEE ON P-2

J&K Security Grid Put on High Alert Ahead of Independence Day

DGP Nalin Prabhat directs intensified patrolling, naka checking and surveillance across vulnerable locations

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 13: Jammu and Kashmir Police and other security agencies have intensified security preparations ahead of Independence Day, with DGP Nalin Prabhat on Thursday reviewing the overall arrangements at Police Control Room Kashmir. He directed officers to strengthen area domination, night patrolling, naka checking, intelligence-based operations and inter-agency coordination, with special attention to major venues including Srinagar's Bakshi Stadium.): Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat on Thursday chaired a security review meeting at Police Control Room Kashmir to assess preparedness for the Independence Day celebrations across the Union Territory. The meeting was attended by



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HT BOTTOM NEWS

High Court Sets Aside Shopian Magistrate's Show-Cause Notice to DC

Justice Rahul Bharti directs fresh levy warrant and recovery of maintenance dues through prescribed legal mechanism

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 13: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has set



aside a show-cause notice issued by a Judicial Magistrate First Class, Shopian, to District Collector Shishir Gupta over recovery of maintenance dues, holding that the Magistrate had exceeded the jurisdiction

available under law. Justice Rahul Bharti, in an order passed on August 7, directed issuance of a fresh levy warrant and recovery of the dues through

Collector over non-compliance with directions concerning recovery of maintenance, holding that the Magistrate had exceeded the jurisdiction available under law.

Justice Rahul Bharti passed the order on August 7 while hearing a petition filed by Shishir Gupta, IAS, presently posted as District Collector Shopian, against Ufaira Gulzar and others.

The case arose from maintenance proceedings initiated by the wife and daughter of the respondent No. 3 under Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. The proceedings were instituted on April 20, 2023, and were finally disposed of by the Judicial Magistrate on December 4, 2025, directing

SEE ON P-2

MP Er Rashid Raises Srinagar Airport Development, Taxi Union Issues

Civil Aviation Ministry directs airport authorities to engage with taxi representatives and address concerns

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 13: Baramulla MP Engineer Rashid on Thursday raised issues concerning the development, infrastructure and aesthetics of Srinagar



Airport with the Union Civil Aviation Ministry, besides seeking intervention over long-pending grievances of the airport taxi union. Following his intervention, the ministry directed the concerned authorities, including the Srinagar Airport/AAI

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Lightning Claims

clear the debris and restore traffic. Authorities continued to monitor the affected stretch and urged commuters to exercise caution, particularly in vulnerable hilly areas.

The Meteorological Centre warned that brief spells of intense rainfall could lead to flash floods, landslides, mudslides, shooting stones and waterlogging, especially in mountainous and low-lying areas.

The weather is expected to remain unsettled over the next several days. Rain and thundershowers are likely at many places on August 14 and 15, while August 16 to 19 could bring several spells of rain and thunderstorms, with heavy rain or brief intense showers possible in a few districts.

The Jammu division is likely to witness the more intense activity, while one or two districts of the Kashmir Valley may also receive intense showers during the period.

The Meteorological Centre has advised people, particularly those living or travelling in vulnerable areas, to remain alert and avoid unnecessary movement during periods of intense rainfall.

Two persons were killed and two others injured in a lightning strike in South Kashmir's Anantnag District on Thursday as rain lashed several parts of Jammu and Kashmir, with the Meteorological Centre predicting spells of heavy rain and thundershowers across the region between August 16 and 19.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the lightning struck the Gawran Nard area of Anantnag district, killing Faizan Ahmad, 18, son of Mohammad Yaqoob Chard, of Gawran, and Bilal Ahmad Battana, 16, son of Nazir Ahmad, of Redwani Gawran.

Sajad Ahmad Battana, 15, son of Sai Battana, and Shareef Ahmad Battana, son of Jumma, both residents of Redwani Gawran, were injured in the incident and shifted to PHC Larnoo for treatment.

RAIN, THUNDERSHOWERS LASH SEVERAL AREAS
Meanwhile, rain and thundershowers were reported from several areas, including Budgam, Poonch, Rajouri, Shopian, Kulgam, Reasi, Udhampur and the Banihal-Ramban belt, besides parts of central and north Kashmir, the Meteorological Centre said.

The weather office said brief spells of intense rain were reported or were likely in Poonch, Rajouri, Budgam, Gulmarg and adjoining areas, Shopian, Kulgam, Anantnag, hilly areas of Ganderbal, Reasi, Ramban, Udhampur and Doda.

A cloudburst over the higher reaches of the Zojila area also led to the accumulation of debris and blockage of the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri (SSG) Road near Ranga Mode, disrupting traffic on the strategic route.

Teams of the Border Roads Organisation were mobilised to clear the debris and restore traffic, officials said. Authorities were monitoring the situation and advised commuters to exercise caution while travelling through the affected stretch.

The Meteorological Centre cautioned that intense showers could trigger localised flash floods, mudslides and landslides in hilly areas, besides shooting stones at vulnerable locations.

According to the forecast, another spell of rain and thundershowers is likely at many places in the Jammu division during the early morning and morning hours on August 14, followed by a brief spell at many places across J&K in the afternoon.

On August 15, light to moderate rain and thundershowers are likely at many places during late night and early morning hours, followed by another brief spell in the afternoon.

From August 16 to 19, several spells of light to moderate rain and thundershowers are expected at many places, with heavy rain or brief intense showers likely in a few districts during the early morning and afternoon hours.

The weather office said heavy rain or brief intense showers could occur in a few districts of the Jammu division and intense showers in one or two districts of the Kashmir Valley during the period.

Light rain and thundershowers are likely at scattered places between August 20 and 22, it said.

The Meteorological Centre advised people to remain cautious as torrential rain and brief intense showers may trigger flash floods, landslides, mudslides and waterlogging in low-lying areas.

Authorities and commuters have been advised to remain alert in vulnerable hilly areas, particularly along roads prone to landslides and shooting stones—(KNO)

Har Ghar Tiranga

Shah said the campaign was strengthening patriotism and national pride while reinforcing the spirit of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah on Thursday hoisted the Tricolour at his residence in New Delhi as part of the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign-2026, urging citizens to join the nationwide campaign and display the National Flag at their homes.

In a post on X, Shah said the campaign, launched under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was strengthening the sentiment of patriotism and pride among Indians.

He said crores of citizens were connecting with the Tricolour and reinforcing the spirit of “Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.”

In another post, the Home Minister said the Tricolour represented the pride Indians take in their nation and the strength of their unity.

Shah appealed to citizens to join the campaign by hoisting the National Flag at their homes and uploading a selfie on the official Har Ghar Tiranga website.

The campaign is being held ahead of Independence Day on August 15, with citizens, institutions and communities across the country participating in Tiranga rallies, flag-hoisting programmes and other activities to promote national unity and patriotic spirit. (PIB)

J&K Security Grid

senior officers of the J&K Police, Army and Central Armed Police Forces, including Spl DGP Coordination, ADGP CID, IG BSF, IG CRPF, IGP Kashmir and Jammu,

IGP Security, IGP Railways and IGP Traffic, besides range DIGs, district SSPs and other senior officers.

During the meeting, Prabhat reviewed the overall operational preparedness and stressed heightened alertness, intelligence-based operations and prompt response to any emerging security challenge.

He directed officers to ensure effective deployment of manpower, enhanced area domination and close coordination among security and law-enforcement agencies to strengthen the security grid.

The DGP also reviewed security arrangements at major venues, particularly the Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar, where the main Independence Day function will be held.

He emphasised effective traffic regulation and parking management around the venue and directed officers to ensure seamless coordination so that people attending the celebrations face minimal inconvenience and have adequate access to facilities.

Detailed discussions were held on deployment of personnel, intelligence inputs, traffic management and security arrangements at venues across J&K.

Prabhat directed officers to intensify night patrolling and naka checking, particularly at vulnerable locations and along inter-district borders, and stressed close surveillance and effective area domination to prevent any untoward incident.

He also reviewed access control, anti-sabotage measures, frisking, route security, deployment and surveillance arrangements at various venues.

The DGP directed all security and law-enforcement agencies to maintain close coordination and ensure strict adherence to standard operating procedures (SOPs).

The meeting concluded with a resolve to ensure foolproof security, effective inter-agency coordination and the smooth and peaceful conduct of Independence Day celebrations across Jammu and Kashmir. (KNS).

New Labour

the private sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs; Secretary, Labour & Employment; Director General, Codes; Labour Commissioner and other concerned senior officers.

The meeting undertook a detailed assessment of how the new labour law framework would strengthen wage protection, social security, retirement benefits and financial entitlements of employees, besides simplifying compliance for employers.

The Labour & Employment Department made a comprehensive presentation on the Code on Wages, 2019; Industrial Relations Code, 2020; Code on Social Security, 2020; and Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code, 2020, which together consolidate 29 erstwhile labour laws into a unified framework.

The Chief Secretary stressed that the new framework should be viewed not merely as a compliance exercise but as an important step towards creating a more equitable, transparent and financially secure employment ecosystem for workers in J&K.

He observed that such provisions would provide greater financial security to employees working under fixed-term arrangements and strengthen the principle of parity in statutory benefits.

He directed the Labour & Employment Department and other concerned departments to ensure that the implementation framework adequately communicates the financial and social security benefits available to employees, while creating necessary awareness among employers and workers.

The Chief Secretary emphasised the importance of ensuring that the evolving nature of employment is adequately reflected in the implementation framework so that workers outside traditional permanent employment arrangements are not left outside the ambit of social security.

On this occasion the Secretary, Labour & Employment, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan apprised the meeting that one of the significant reforms under the new framework is the move towards universal wage protection, with minimum wage provisions extended across employments, replacing the earlier scheduled-employment approach.

The Codes also provide for a National Floor Wage framework, ensuring that minimum wages fixed by States/UTs cannot fall below the applicable national floor wage.

The presentation highlighted the employer's EPF contribution at 12 per cent of wages, subject to the applicable statutory wage ceiling, thereby strengthening the employee's accumulated retirement savings. The ESI framework provides for an employer contribution of 3.25 per cent of gross wages for eligible employees within the prescribed wage ceiling, in addition to the employee contribution prescribed under law.

Under the framework presented by the Department, fixed-term employees become entitled to pro-rata gratuity after one year of continuous service, calculated at the applicable rate of 15 days' wages for every completed year of service, subject to the statutory provisions and prescribed ceiling.

It was highlighted that the new framework provides, for the first time, dedicated provisions for social security for gig and platform workers, alongside a broader institutional architecture for unorganised workers and building workers.

Moreover the fixed-term employees are going to receive greater protection under this new laws. The law now recognises fixed-term employees as a formal category. Under this framework, fixed-term employees are to receive statutory benefits at par with permanent employees for the period of their employment, including the applicable gratuity benefit after one year as prescribed.

This is expected to bring greater financial certainty and formalisation to employment arrangements in the private sector while providing employees with clearer statutory rights and benefits.

The Four Labour Codes also envisage a simplified and technology-driven compliance ecosystem, including single registration, single licence and unified annual returns, along with mandatory appointment letters

for employees.

The meeting was informed that the reforms have implications across a wide spectrum of employment arrangements, including contractual and fixed-term employment, unorganised workers and emerging categories such as gig and platform workers.

The meeting concluded with emphasis on ensuring that the Four Labour Codes translate into a stronger social security net, better wage protection, enhanced financial security and greater formalisation of employment for workers in the private sector across Jammu and Kashmir, while maintaining a simplified and transparent compliance environment for employers.

Artists Are

Natak Akademi Fellowships and Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards to the eminent artists for the year 2024 and 2025 in New Delhi on Thursday

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the performing artists honoured today collectively present a cultural map of India—a map woven with stories and songs native to this soil; a map that encompasses the dances and festivals of this diverse land and holds the memories of its languages and dialects, shaped over centuries.

The President said that we possess a multitude of musical traditions, dance styles, and countless forms of folk theatre. Indian culture is deeply rooted in the land. Its diverse culinary traditions, attire, dance forms, and music are all inspired by nature. Artists draw inspiration from chirping birds, babbling waterfalls, trees and foliage, clouds, and rivers to showcase their dance and music. This bond between diversity and unity is one of the greatest strengths of our arts.

IGP Urges

including security arrangements, have been carried out across various districts of Kashmir.

“We have rehearsed in different districts of the Valley. We have also rehearsed the security arrangements so that we can carry out our main programme on August 15,” he said.

Asked about a report linking the November 25 blast, in which Dr Omar was killed, to Al-Qaeda, the IGP said it would not be appropriate to comment on the matter at this stage.

“I don't think this is appropriate at this time. If there is anything, we will convey it. As of now, we don't have anything like this in our knowledge,” he said.

On security arrangements following recent attacks, the police chief said investigations were underway and security agencies were making necessary arrangements.

High Court Sets

payment of monthly maintenance of 18,000, comprising 10,000 for the wife and 8,000 for the daughter. The maintenance was ordered to take effect from the date of institution of the proceedings.

When the respondent failed to pay the recurring maintenance as well as arrears, the wife and daughter filed an execution application on December 9, 2025.

The High Court noted that the execution proceedings

remained stalled as notices issued to the respondent repeatedly went unserved. The Court observed that the Judicial Magistrate had not resorted to the available legal mechanism of issuing bailable or non-bailable warrants to secure the respondent's appearance.

Instead, on February 20, 2026, the Magistrate issued a levy warrant to the District Collector, Shopian, for recovery of the maintenance amount.

The High Court explained that under the relevant provisions of the CrPC, an amount awarded as maintenance can be recovered through a warrant for levy of the amount as a fine. Once such a warrant is issued to the Collector, recovery proceedings shift to the Collector, who can proceed against the movable or immovable property of the defaulter.

The matter took another turn when the Judicial Magistrate subsequently directed the District Collector to furnish details of the movable and immovable properties standing in the name of the maintenance defaulter.

According to the High Court order, the Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Shopian, furnished a detailed report on June 4, 2026 identifying immovable property belonging to respondent No. 3.

The Magistrate, however, appeared to take exception to the report because it identified only immovable property and did not identify movable assets. A show-cause notice dated July 10, 2026 was consequently issued to the District Collector, prompting the Collector to approach the High Court.

The High Court found fault with this course of action.

Justice Rahul Bharti observed that after issuing the levy warrant to the Collector on February 20, 2026, the Magistrate had subsequently issued another levy warrant on July 4, 2026 for service upon the defaulter through the SHO, Police Station Shopian.

MP Er Rashid

director, to hold discussions with taxi representatives and address their genuine concerns in a time-bound manner.

: Baramulla MP Engineer Rashid thursday met the Union Minister for Civil Aviation, in the presence of the Secretary, Civil Aviation in Parliament Chamber and discussed a range of issues concerning Srinagar Airport, particularly its development, infrastructure, aesthetics and other long-pending concerns.

According to a statement issued, , MP Engineer Rashid also strongly raised the issues being faced by the Srinagar Airport Taxi Union and sought the intervention of the Union Civil Aviation Ministry for their resolution.

Following the intervention and request of MP Engineer Rashid, the Ministry directed the concerned authorities, including the Director, Srinagar Airport/AAI, to hold a meeting with the representatives of the Taxi Union and address their genuine concerns.

In compliance with the directions and following the intervention of MP Engineer Rashid, a meeting was subsequently held between the Taxi Union representatives and the concerned authorities at Srinagar Airport.

Engineer Rashid has stressed that the issues of local stakeholders associated with Srinagar Airport must be addressed in a fair and time-bound manner, while ensuring the airport's development and services keep pace with the growing needs of the people of Kashmir. (KNS)

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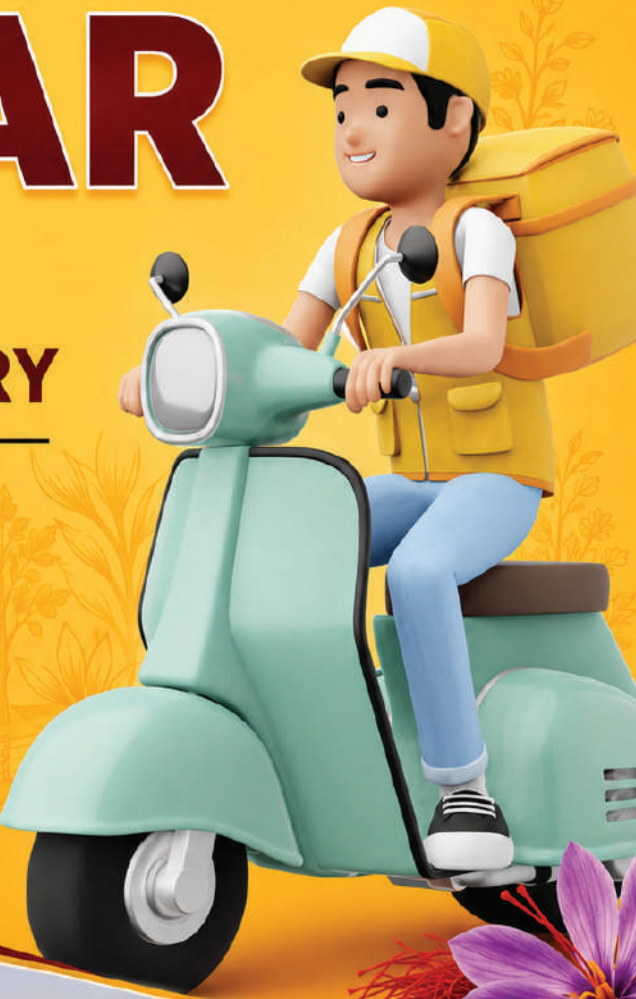
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Srinagar Admin felicitates meritorious Civil & Police Officials in the run up to Independence Day Celebrations

DC Srinagar, SSP, SMC Commissioner honour Officials with District Administration's Excellence in Public Services Award

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 13: The District Administration Srinagar today organised a felicitation-cum-award ceremony at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to recognise and honour officers and officials of the District Administration, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) and District Police for their distinguished, dedicated and meritorious services with the District Administration Srinagar's Excellence in Public Services Award in the run up to Independence Day Celebrations.

The ceremony was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo, Commissioner SMC Faz Lul Haseeb and Senior Superintendent of Police Srinagar Sandeep Chakraborty, who presented Commendation Certificates and Mementos to the awardees in appreciation of their exemplary contribution and commitment to public service.

The event was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Srinagar Rifat Aftab Qureshi, Additional Deputy Commissioner Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Additional Deputy Commissioner Aadi Fareed, IAS Probationer Alfred Thomas, Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar, SDM West Irfan Bahadur, SDM East Zubair Ahmad, besides senior officers of the District Administration, district and sectoral



officers and other concerned officials.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner congratulated all the awardees and appreciated their commitment, professionalism and dedication towards their respective duties.

The DC observed that sincerity, hard work and dedication are the foundations of professional excellence and play a vital role in building an efficient and responsive public service delivery system. He lauded the awardees and all officials whose sustained efforts have contributed towards ensuring effective, prompt and citizen-centric administration in the district.

Emphasising the importance of institutional coordination, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the need for close synergy among the District Administration, SMC and Police for ensuring seamless execution of public duties and effective delivery of services to citizens. He added that the ceremony served as a recognition of the collective efforts of Officers and Officials across various Departments and reaffirmed the District Administration Srinagar's commitment to promoting a culture of excellence, teamwork, accountability and citizen-centric governance.

The Commissioner SMC, in his address,

appreciated the coordinated efforts of various departments and emphasised that teamwork and mutual cooperation are essential for creating a positive and result-oriented work environment.

He stated that felicitation also provided an opportunity to acknowledge the important role played by frontline Officials and Departmental teams in ensuring the smooth and successful conduct of major public events and in strengthening public service delivery across the district.

SSP Srinagar, while addressing the gathering, commended the awardees for their dedication, discipline and outstanding contribution to public service. The Officers and Officials honoured during the ceremony included Nodal Principal, Kashmir Division Colleges, Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz, Joint Commissioner SMC (Admin) Nuzhat Qurashi, Executive Engineer, KPDC, Er. Nisar Ahmad, Executive Engineer, R&B, Er. Fareed Ahmad Khan, Executive Engineer SMC, Er. Akhter Hussain Raina, Executive Engineer SMC, Er. Asif Nazir Bhat, Assistant Labour Commissioner Adnan Tariq, DIO, NIC, Shahnaz and District Tuberculosis Officer Dr. Abdul Rouf. The Hospitality and Protocol Team, comprising Joint Director Fayaz Ahmad Parry, Deputy Director Saddam Iqbal and Assistant Director Showkat Ahmad was also felicitated for its dedicated contribution.

Khan Sahib Budgam erupts in Tricolour Spirit as Mega Tiranga Rally draws enthusiastic participation

HT News Network



BUDGAM, AUGUST 13: As part of the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign-2026, the Sub-District Administration Khan Sahib today organised a Mega Tiranga Rally featuring ATVs and cars to promote patriotism, national unity and pride in the Tricolour. The rally was flagged off from Primary School Bithpora Rayar towards Higher Secondary School Hardupanzoo, witnessing enthusiastic participation from officials, students, local residents and people from different sections of society. At Hardupanzoo, a Tiranga Pad Yatra and students' rally was also organised, with large participation of students. The Pad Yatra was led by SDM Khan Sahib, Jahangir Ahmad Giri, along with ZEO Hardupanzoo, G. R. Nasir. Carrying the Tricolour and raising patriotic slogans, the participants spread the message of unity, peace and national pride, creating a vibrant atmosphere along the rally route. The events highlighted the importance of collective participation, particularly among the youth, in celebrating the spirit of the nation and strengthening the bonds of unity among citizens.

Secretary RDD chairs meeting to finalize career progression framework for Panchayat Accounts Assistants

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 13: Secretary, Rural Development (RDD) and Panchayati Raj Department, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, today chaired a meeting to finalize the structured, transparent and merit-based career progression framework for the Panchayat Accounts Assistants (PAAs).

The meeting was attended by Director, Rural Development, Kashmir, Riyaz Ahmad Wani; Director, Rural Development, Jammu, Shahnaz Akhtar; Director Finance, Umar Khan; Additional Secretary Waseem Raja; Deputy Legal Remembrancer Parmjeet Singh and other senior officers.

The Secretary directed the officers to formulate the framework based on verified data regarding sanctioned



strength, vacancies, deployment and financial implications. He emphasized exploring rationalization and restructuring of existing posts to create meaningful promotional avenues.

Aijaz Asad also directed for creation of a comprehensive electronic database of existing posts and vacancies. He called for a comparative study of career progression structures followed by other departments, States

and UTs.

The Secretary stressed that progression should correspond to higher responsibilities, enhanced duties, competence and accountability while safeguarding the legitimate interests and promotional prospects of existing employees. An examination- and assessment-based mechanism was also discussed.

Pertinently, a committee, headed by Director Rural Development Kashmir, has already been constituted to finalize the Assured Career Progression framework in light of the observations of the Finance Department and submit its recommendations in a time-bound manner.

The proposed framework is expected to benefit around 1,700 PAAs recruited through JKSSB.

Mega Tiranga Rally organised at Kangan

HT News Network

GANDERBAL, AUGUST 13: As part of the ongoing 'Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign-2026', a Mega Tiranga Rally was held at Kangan, Ganderbal, celebrating patriotism, unity and pride in the National Flag.

The rally, led by SDM Kangan, Dr. Nazir Ahmad and SDPO Kangan, Rajeev Raina, commenced from Government Degree College Kangan, culminating at Boys Higher Secondary School Kangan.

The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation of officers and officials of the Civil Administration and Police, students and a large number of local citizens. Carrying the Tricolour and raising patriotic slogans, participants marched through the designated route, creating a vibrant atmosphere of national unity, patriotism and pride in the National Flag. The enthusiastic participation of the local community and students reflected the strong public spirit and collective ownership of the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign, with citizens coming together to celebrate the Tricolour and reinforce the message of national unity and integration.

The Mega Tiranga Rally formed part of the series of activities being organised across District Ganderbal from August 09 to 17, 2026, with active participation of government departments, educational institutions, youth and the general public.

Three-Day Capacity-Building Programme on Art-Integrated Learning concludes at DIET Shopian

HT News Network

SHOPIAN, AUGUST 13: A three-day Capacity-Building Programme on Art-Integrated Learning, which commenced on 10 August 2026, concluded successfully on 12 August 2026 at the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), Shopian, with enthusiastic participation from teaching staff representing various schools across District Shopian.

The programme was formally inaugurated by Neetu Gandotra, Principal, DIET Shopian. In her inaugural address, she emphasized the need to move towards creative, activity-based and experiential approaches to teaching and learning. She highlighted the importance of incorporating artistic methods into classroom instruction to make the learning process more engaging, meaningful and effective for students.



The programme was coordinated by Dr. Mohd Yousuf Bhat, Senior Lecturer, DIET Shopian, who conducted practical sessions demonstrating innovative approaches for the seamless integration of art into the teaching and learning of Science.

The training programme focused on key aspects of Art-Integrated Learning, including the project-based approach to

experiential learning, vocationalization of elementary and secondary education, integration of art with Social Studies and Mathematics, and development of experiential learning projects.

These sessions were facilitated by resource persons who shared practical strategies and classroom-oriented methodologies with the participating teachers.

CS directs preparation of shelf of projects under SASCI & reform-linked funding for next year

Reviews Capital, CSS expenditure and revenue mobilisation across departments

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 13: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting of all Administrative Secretaries and Deputy Commissioners to undertake a comprehensive sector-wise and department-wise review of expenditure under the Capital Expenditure (CAPEX), Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) and NABARD-funded projects, besides reviewing the position of revenue generation across different sectors.

The meeting was attended by Administrative Secretaries, Deputy Commissioners, DG, Resources; DG, Budget; Director, Resources and other senior officers and HoDs of the Finance and Planning Departments.

At the outset, the Chief



Secretary directed departments to prepare a shelf of projects under SASCI for the next financial year, with all requisite formalities like securing of Administrative Approval, Technical Sanction, Tendering process completed well in advance. He stressed that these prerequisites should be completed beforehand so that capital works are allotted immediately upon release of funds and completed at a brisk pace. He observed that advance preparation of projects would enable departments to utilise the available funding window

more effectively and accelerate creation of public infrastructure.

The Chief Secretary further directed departments to make dedicated efforts towards implementation of all incentive-linked reforms prescribed under SASCI, observing that successful completion of these reforms could enable J&K to secure additional funding under this component of this scheme.

He also called upon departments to identify suitable works that could be taken up through this additional funding so that the reform-linked resources are translated into

tangible infrastructure and development outcomes.

The Chief Secretary specifically urged departments including School Education, Jal Shakti, Higher Education, Culture, Science & Technology, Irrigation and Power, among others, to start identifying priority works capable of being taken up under these funding opportunities. Reviewing the progress of works under UT and District CAPEX, the Chief Secretary directed the Planning Department to submit a weekly report on works tendered and allotted by departments and districts. He called upon all Administrative Secretaries and Deputy Commissioners to ensure that each approved work is allotted within the least possible timeframe, stressing that budgetary allocations and approvals must translate into actual execution on the ground.

Satish Sharma meets delegations, reviews issues concerning Food Supplies, Transport, Sports and CSCs

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 13: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FS&CA), Information Technology (IT), Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today met several delegations at Srinagar and had detailed feedback on a wide range of issues concerning the public service delivery and departmental functioning across Kashmir.

During the interaction, various delegations apprised the Minister of issues pertaining to Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, transport connectivity, sports infrastructure and promotion of sporting activities in different areas of Kashmir. The representatives highlighted their local requirements and sought the Minister's intervention for addressing the issues affecting the people in their respective areas.



Several delegations projected issues related to availability, distribution and supply of essential commodities besides matters concerning the functioning of the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department. The Minister sought details regarding the concerns raised and emphasised the importance of ensuring regular and adequate availability of essential commodities, particularly in areas where

people may face logistical or geographical challenges. He directed that genuine public grievances be examined at the appropriate level and stressed that the delivery mechanism should remain responsive, transparent and people-centric.

The delegations also raised issues related to public transport services and connectivity to different areas of Kashmir, including the need for strengthening existing services

and addressing gaps in connectivity.

Satish Sharma emphasised that an efficient public transport network is critical for students, employees, traders, patients and the general public, particularly in areas where the people have limited alternatives. He called for assessment of the existing transport requirements and stressed the need for better route planning, rational deployment of available resources and strengthening of services wherever necessary.

The Minister maintained that transport services should be aligned with the actual requirements of the people and that areas facing inadequate connectivity should receive due attention.

Sports infrastructure and facilities discussed issues concerning the sports infrastructure, availability of playing facilities and promotion of sports activities were also projected before the Minister.

JU hosts One-Day Conference on Biotechnology for Societal Development, Start-ups, Innovation and Entrepreneurial Skills

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, AUGUST 13: The School of Biotechnology (SBT), University of Jammu, in collaboration with the J&K Science, Technology & Innovation Council (JKST&IC), on Thursday organized one-day conference on "Biotechnology for Societal Development, Startups, Innovation and Entrepreneurial Skills" on 13th August 2026 at University of Jammu. The conference aimed to provide participants with an understanding of emerging opportunities in biotechnology, with emphasis on innovation, startups, entrepreneurship and translating biotechnological research for societal development.

The programme commenced with the welcome address by Prof. Madhulika Bhagat, Director, School of Biotechnology, University of Jammu. The event was funded by the Jammu & Kashmir Science, Technology and Innovation Council (JKST&IC) and Ms. Shruti Khanna, Deputy Director, JKST&IC



and Co-convenor of the event graced the occasion. This was followed by an overview of the conference presented by Dr. Yash Pal Khajuria, Organising Secretary, School of Biotechnology, University of Jammu. Ms. Ishita Choudhary, Accounts Officer, JKST&IC, also attended the event. The programme

Chief Guest of the event, Prof. J.P. Singh Joorel, Dean Academic Affairs, University of Jammu, emphasized the importance of

all scientific disciplines that includes agriculture, biotechnology, plant genetics, microbiology and biochemistry, in promoting social and community development. He highlighted that researchers across disciplines are working towards the conservation of existing crop varieties as well as development of improved varieties for the benefit of society. He further stressed that scientific advancements should focus not only on improving health, productivity

and quality of life, but also on ensuring environmental sustainability. Prof. Joorel underlined the need for sustainable agricultural practices and innovative technologies that can enhance farm productivity and improve the economic well-being of farmers. He emphasized that interdisciplinary research and collaboration are essential for achieving sustainable and inclusive development. The technical session commenced with the invited talk by Mr. Vikrant Dogra, Chairman, Unati Agri Allied and Marketing Multistate Cooperative Society Limited (UAMMCL) who emphasised the importance of translating scientific research into practical applications for societal welfare. He highlighted the potential for introducing Chilli Thorm (Therma), a traditional crop of Ladakh, in Jammu and Kashmir and stressed the role of biotechnologists in its propagation through modern techniques. Sharing his experience with the Unnati programme, he described his journey from initial challenges.

NFACG Artists Participate in 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Rally



■ HT News Network

Srinagar/August:13 Artists and members of the Nishat Foundation and Cultural Group "NFACG" participated enthusiastically in the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' rally organised from the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) Srinagar. The rally witnessed participation from various cultural groups and concluded at the Botanical Garden. The rally was led by LG of J&K and Shri Manoj Sinha. Artists associated with the Nishat Foundation and Cultural Group 'NFACG' along with other participants carried

and waved the National Flag and conveyed a strong message of patriotism, national unity, harmony and brotherhood. Speaking on the occasion, the organisers said that the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign aims to encourage citizens particularly the younger generation to develop a sense of respect and pride for the National Flag and strengthen the spirit of national unity and integrity. The organisers of NFACG said that such programmes play an important role in promoting patriotism, national responsibility, unity and harmony among the younger generation.

Departments at Jammu University Mark 80th Independence Day

■ HT News Network

Jammu, August 13: In a spirit of patriotism and national pride, the Department of Journalism and Media Studies (JMS), Department for Strategic and Regional Studies (DSRS), Dept of Foreign Languages (DFL) and School of Hospitality and Tourism Management (SHTM), University of Jammu, jointly organised a flag hoisting ceremony on Thursday ahead of the 80th Independence Day of the country.

The ceremony provided an opportunity for faculty members and students to come



together and remember the valour, sacrifices and struggles of the freedom fighters who played a pivotal role in India's journey towards independence. The gathering also reflected upon the values that form the foundation of the nation, including unity, freedom, responsibility, service, commitment to the ideals of democracy and the role of university in realising the vision

of Yuva Shakti for Viksit Bharat @2047 as given by the Prime Minister. On the occasion the faculty students and staff pledged their commitment towards the theme of "Innovation for Freedom's Next Chapter" focusing on leveraging emerging technologies and modern systems to protect, expand and redefine human autonomy in the digital age as enshrined in the ancient Indian Civilization and strength rooted in self-reliance. The event also reaffirmed the vision of Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, towards empowering the youth.

Unity March, Tiranga Rally held at GDC Kastigarh ahead of 80th Independence Day

■ HT News Network

DODA, AUGUST 13: Government Dy. SP Aman Thakur Degree College, Kastigarh, organised a vibrant Unity March and Tiranga Rally to mark the 80th Independence Day celebrations. The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, faculty members and staff, who marched together carrying the National Flag and spreading the message of national unity, patriotism and brotherhood.

The rally was marked by an atmosphere of pride and patriotic fervour, with students raising inspiring patriotic slogans and singing patriotic

songs throughout the march. Carrying the Tricolour with pride and respect, the participants highlighted the values of unity in diversity, national integrity and responsible citizenship. The student contingent was led by Sandeep Singh, Randhir Singh and Ariba Banoo, students of the college. Their enthusiastic participation added to the spirit and vibrancy of the rally. Principal Prof. Koshal Kumar Mangotra appreciated the enthusiastic participation of the students, faculty members and staff and emphasised the importance of remembering the ideals and sacrifices of the freedom struggle.

Legal Awareness Programme Held at Nagabal on Tribal Day, Participants Educated About Rights and Legal Services

■ HT News Network

On the occasion of Tribal Day, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam, in collaboration with

elaborated on the constitutional and legal rights available to members of the tribal community. She stressed that awareness about legal rights and timely access to legal assistance



the Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC) Charar-i-Sharief, organised a special legal awareness programme at Government High School Nagabal under the NALSA Samvad Scheme 2025. Secretary DLSA Budgam Tabassum Qadir Paray and Chairperson, Tehsil Legal Services Committee Charar-i-Sharief and Munsiff Judge Aiman Amin attended the programme. A large number of students, local residents and other stakeholders participated in the event and were sensitised about their legal rights, various government schemes and legal services available to them. During the programme, students of Government High School Nagabal presented a colourful cultural programme featuring traditional and cultural performances along with patriotic songs. The impressive performances were appreciated by the participants and received a warm response. The cultural segment added vibrancy to the event while highlighting the students' talent, national unity and spirit of patriotism. Speaking on the occasion, Secretary DLSA Budgam Tabassum Qadir Paray

are essential for ensuring justice. She also apprised the participants about free legal aid and other legal services available to the public.

Later, an interaction programme with members of the community was held under the chairpersonship of Tabassum Qadir Paray. During the interaction, local residents raised various issues and difficulties faced by them. The concerns were heard patiently, and the participants were assured of all possible assistance for taking up their issues with the appropriate authorities and forums. Chairperson TLSC Charar-i-Sharief and Munsiff Judge Aiman Amin also spoke in detail about various legal aid and welfare schemes and the rights available to tribal communities. She urged the people to remain aware of their rights and make use of available legal aid services whenever required. On the occasion, Advocate Latif Ahmad Khan, Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel, Advocate Nazir Ahmad Wagay and Nisar Ahmad also sensitised the participants about various legal schemes and services available for the public.

Mass Singing of Vande Mataram Held at Oasis Educational Institute, Srinagar

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, August 13: As part of the Independence Day celebrations 2026, a mass singing of the national song 'Vande Mataram' was organised by 25 Battalion CRPF at Oasis Educational Institute, Gogji Bagh, Srinagar. Students and teachers of the institute participated in the programme with great enthusiasm and patriotic spirit. Sh. Kaping Gil, Commandant, 25 BN CRPF, along with other officers and officials, was present on the occasion. Addressing the students, the Commandant motivated them to work hard, pursue successful careers and contribute towards the progress and betterment of the country. The programme concluded with a strong display of patriotic spirit among the students and staff.



Cultural Unit Srinagar conducts Patriotic Programme at GGHSS Tailbal in connection with Independence Day Celebrations

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 13: As part of the ongoing Independence Day Celebrations, 2026, the Cultural Unit Srinagar of the Information Department conducted a patriotic and educational programme at Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS), Tailbal, Srinagar, featuring Painting, Speech, Quiz and Singing activities. The programme witnessed enthusiastic and wholehearted participation of students, who showcased their creativity, talent and patriotic spirit, while the activities sought to foster patriotic consciousness and reinforce the values of freedom, unity, sacrifice, national integrity and responsible citizenship among the younger generation. Abdul Raqib Bhat, Cultural Officer, Kashmir, and Syed Shakeel Shah, AECCO, graced the programme



and appreciated the students for their enthusiastic participation and commendable efforts. They also acknowledged the cooperation

extended by the school authorities, which contributed significantly to the smooth and successful conduct of the programme.

NIT Srinagar begins UG admissions; 90 candidates enrol on first day

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Aug 13: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Thursday commenced admissions to its undergraduate programme, with around 90 candidates completing the admission process on the first day. The admissions will continue over the next few days.

The first phase of admissions began for the Civil Engineering programme, with 90 students completing their admission formalities on Thursday.

Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. B.A. Mir, said the Institute has put in place comprehensive arrangements to ensure a smooth and hassle-free admission process for students and their parents.

"Our teams are working tirelessly from 8:30 AM to 6:30

PM to ensure a hassle-free experience for students and parents. The process has been streamlined so that all necessary facilities and services are available under one roof," he said.

Prof. Mir further said that Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, is in constant touch with him and closely monitoring the admission process.

He said the Director has been providing guidance and necessary support to ensure that the entire process remains smooth and hassle-free for students and their parents.

Prof. Mir also appreciated the efforts of the Associate Dean Examination, Associate Dean PG, Associate Dean Academic Affairs, Associate Dean ERP and Assistant Registrar Academic Affairs, ERP officials, staff members and other teams involved in the admission



process for ensuring efficient coordination and timely completion of formalities.

He also acknowledged the support extended by the Dean Students Welfare, administration

and essential service units, including the Health Centre, sanitation and security teams, which collectively facilitated the smooth conduct of the admissions.

Meanwhile, Registrar Prof

Atikur Rehman and In-charge Director Prof. Roohie Naaz also personally inspected the admission arrangements and interacted with the teams and students during the process, providing further encouragement to the officials engaged in the admissions.

Earlier this week, the Institute also completed the postgraduate admission process, with 194 candidates selected for admission under various PG programmes.

Several parents appreciated the arrangements made by the Institute for the students on the campus.

Rajesh Kumar from Punjab, whose son secured admission to NIT Srinagar, said the process was systematic and convenient.

"From verification of documents to the final admission formalities, everything was handled efficiently.

The staff members were helpful and guided us at every stage," he said.

Gomti Aggarwal, a parent from Hyderabad, whose son was admitted to Civil Engineering, also appreciated the arrangements.

"We were guided properly throughout the process. Having different facilities available at one place made the admission process much easier for students and parents," she said.

Another parent, Ram Seni from Rajasthan, said the Institute had made adequate arrangements to manage the rush of students and parents.

"The arrangements were very good, and the staff was cooperative. We completed the formalities without any unnecessary delay," he said. He also acknowledged the support extended by the Dean

Students Welfare, administration and essential service units, including the Health Centre, sanitation and security teams, which collectively facilitated the smooth conduct of the admissions.

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HT EDITORIAL

A Cleaner Srinagar,
Without Killing Its
Street-Food Soul

Srinagar’s move to establish designated street food zones is a timely and potentially transformative step towards bringing greater order to the city’s rapidly evolving public spaces. The initiative by the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) deserves appreciation not simply as a regulatory exercise, but as an attempt to reconcile three legitimate interests—the livelihood of street vendors, the right of citizens to clean and accessible public spaces, and the city’s responsibility towards food safety and urban hygiene.

Street food is an integral part of Srinagar’s social and economic landscape. For many vendors, it is a modest but vital source of income; for residents and tourists, it provides affordable and distinctive food experiences. Any policy concerning this sector must therefore begin with recognition rather than exclusion. Regulation should bring dignity and predictability to vending, not push vendors from one location to another in search of customers.

The proposed designated zones, including areas around Dalgate, Badamwari, Rajbagh, Magarmal Bagh and JVC Bemina, offer an opportunity to create precisely such an organised environment. Properly planned food zones can reduce roadside congestion, protect pedestrian movement, improve waste management and make enforcement of food-safety standards considerably more practical.

But the real test lies in implementation.

A policy can be progressive on paper and counterproductive on the ground if allotments are opaque, enforcement is selective or designated spaces lack basic infrastructure. The SMC must therefore ensure that allocation of vending spaces is transparent, competitive where necessary and based on clearly defined criteria. Carrying capacities should be scientifically determined and strictly adhered to.

Food safety must also remain central to the initiative. Clean water, hygienic preparation, waste segregation, wastewater disposal and fire-safety measures cannot be treated as optional requirements. Yet compliance should be accompanied by facilitation. Many small vendors may lack the resources or technical understanding needed to immediately meet elaborate standards. Training, awareness programmes and reasonable transition mechanisms would make regulation more effective and less punitive.

There is another important dimension: Srinagar must not lose the character that makes its street-food culture distinctive. Excessive standardisation should not turn every food cart into an indistinguishable commercial unit. Cleanliness and safety can coexist with local identity, traditional recipes and the informal charm that attracts both residents and visitors.

The Corporation should also establish an effective grievance-redressal mechanism and maintain regular dialogue with vendor associations. Such participation can prevent misunderstandings and ensure that the policy evolves in response to practical realities.

Srinagar is witnessing growing pedestrian movement, increasing vehicular pressure and a steady rise in tourism. Its public spaces consequently require better management than ever before. But urban management cannot mean eviction as the first response to every problem. A modern city is one that creates space for livelihoods while protecting the common good.

The designated street food zones can become a model of inclusive urban governance if they are implemented with transparency, adequate infrastructure and sensitivity towards vendors. The objective should not be to remove street food from Srinagar’s streets, but to give it a cleaner, safer and more dignified place within the city.

Srinagar does not need to choose between cleanliness and livelihoods. With thoughtful planning and honest implementation, it can have both.

The Weaponisation Of Azi And Fazi

A New Low in Kashmir's Political Mud



PEERZADA MASARAT SHAH

Political competition is a natural and necessary feature of any society. Ideologies will collide, parties will clash, and leaders will and should-face rigorous public scrutiny. Healthy, vigorous debate is the bedrock of democracy. But when political rivalry loses its moral compass, it threatens to destroy the very social fabric it claims to represent.

In Kashmir’s increasingly hyper-polarized digital age, a disturbing line has been crossed: the drag-and-drop culture of weaponizing mothers and women for political gain.

Names like Fazi and Azi (or Faxi and Axi) are far more than targets for cheap online banter or political slogans. They represent every mother across our valleys and towns who has nurtured, sacrificed, and loved unconditionally. When mothers—regardless of whose family they belong to—are reduced to objects of public ridicule, political mudslinging, or viral mockery, it is not just an insult to an individual. It is an assault on the core ethics that keep a community civilized.

The Collapse of Public Restraint:

In the years following the constitutional shifts of 2019, Kashmir’s socio-political environment has seen a wave of newly minted social media commentators, self-styled activists, and digital commentators. While technology has democratized speech, it has also unleashed an unprecedented culture of personal degradation.

Ideas should be challenged; policies should be questioned, leaders must be held accountable. Yet today, courage is often confused with crudeness, and intelligence is replaced by the sharpness of one’s insults.



The Messenger of Allah warned humanity of this exact moral breakdown:

"If you have no shame, then do as you wish."

When shame vanishes from public discourse, respect is the first casualty. And once respect is lost, reason gives way to malice.

Women as Instruments of Propaganda:

Perhaps the most alarming symptom of our current climate is the ease with which women are deployed as collateral damage. Mothers, sisters, and daughters are dragged into digital arenas, stripped of their human dignity, and converted into political tools for cheap clicks and partisan cheerleading.

A society that allows its women to be used as props for humiliation exposes its own inner decay. Every individual who types or shouts an insult directed at someone else’s mother ought to ask

themselves a basic question:

Would I accept this exact language if it were directed at my own mother or sister?

If the answer is no, then no ideological commitment, no political frustration, and no invocation of "freedom of expression" can justify it.

Civilisation Survives Through Dignity:

Kashmir has already paid a heavy toll over decades of political instability and blind obedience to loud slogans. We cannot afford to raise a generation conditioned to believe that any moral compromise is acceptable so long as it scores a point against a political opponent.

Democracy survives through healthy disagreement, but civilisation survives through dignity.

Leadership—whether in governance, opposition, or public commentary is not defined by how low one can drag an adversary. True leadership enlightens minds rather than poisoning hearts. It seeks to build ethical boundaries, even in the heat of conflict.

The Enduring Standard:

Elections come and go. Governments rise and fall. Political victories are fleeting moments in history. But the moral values a society upholds during its hardest tests are what define its legacy for generations.

The honour of a mother is not a political bargaining chip; it is an absolute moral principle. Long after today’s headlines fade and current political rivalries are forgotten, one truth will remain:

A society that fails to protect the dignity of its mothers has already begun to lose its humanity.

(PEERZADA MASARAT SHAH is a Srinagar-based journalist who frequently writes on critical socio-cultural issues. He serves as the Editor of Barwaqth and Sub-Editor at Heaven Mail newspapers. Through his dedicated editorial work, he consistently advocates for responsible journalism, human dignity, and ethical public awareness in the digital age.)

The Power Of The Subconscious Mind



Surinderpal Singh

effort. This demonstrates one of the most important principles of the mind that repetition turns many conscious actions into automatic habits.

his principle has profound implications for everyday life.

Our repeated thoughts and behaviours can gradually become mental habits. A person who repeatedly tells himself, I cannot do this and he may begin to approach challenges with hesitation. Conversely, someone who repeatedly thinks, I can learn this if I practise and this person may become more willing to make an effort. Positive thinking alone cannot guarantee success, but constructive thinking can influence motivation, persistence and behaviour.

This is why our internal dialogue matters.

Human beings frequently speak to themselves mentally. Unfortunately, many people are far more critical of themselves than they would ever be of another person. I am useless. I always fail. I cannot change. Nothing good will happen to me. Repeated often enough, such statements can become powerful psychological barriers. But a thought is not necessarily a fact.

Instead of saying, "I cannot do it we can say I have not learned it yet. Instead of interpreting failure as proof of personal weakness, we can treat it as information about what needs improvement. This small change in mental language can encourage a healthier response to difficulty.

However, the growing popularity of the subconscious mind has also produced many exaggerated claims. Some people suggest that merely imagining wealth, success or happiness can automatically make those things appear. Such claims confuse psychological influence with magic.

The subconscious mind does not eliminate the need for education, hard work, discipline, planning and

opportunity. Thoughts do not substitute for action. They influence the action we take.

A student cannot pass an examination simply by visualising a high score. But visualising success while studying seriously may improve confidence and reduce anxiety. An athlete cannot win a competition merely by imagining victory. Yet mental rehearsal, combined with rigorous training, can help prepare for performance. This distinction is crucial.

The real power of the subconscious lies in the relationship between thought, behaviour and habit.

Our environment also plays a significant role. The people we spend time with, the conversations we repeatedly hear and the information we consume can influence our attitudes. Constant exposure to anger, pessimism, criticism and cynicism can gradually make negativity seem normal. In contrast, an environment that encourages learning, discipline, kindness and constructive thinking can strengthen healthier patterns. This responsibility becomes particularly important in education.

Schools do more than transfer information. Teachers influence students through their words, expectations and behaviour. A teacher who tells a struggling student, You can improve with practice may encourage perseverance. A teacher who repeatedly labels a child as weak or incapable may unintentionally create a belief that becomes difficult to overcome.

Parents face a similar responsibility. Children learn not only from what adults tell them but also from what adults repeatedly do.

Surinderpal Singh
Faculty In Science Department
Sri Amritsar Sahib Punjab.

The Flight of Courage
Beyond the Limits of Age



Dr. Vijay Garg

Age is often regarded as a measure of a person’s abilities. Society frequently assumes that youth is the ideal time to dream, learn, innovate, and achieve, while old age is associated with slowing down and stepping aside. However, history and everyday life tell a very different story. Time and again, individuals have demonstrated that determination, passion, and resilience matter far more than the number of years they have lived. Age may count the years, but courage defines the journey.

Every stage of life brings unique opportunities. Childhood is a period of curiosity, youth is a time of exploration, adulthood is marked by responsibility, and later years offer wisdom gained through experience. None of these stages is superior to another. Instead, each provides a different foundation for growth and contribution. People who continue to learn, adapt, and embrace challenges

discover that life remains full of possibilities regardless of their age.

Throughout history, many remarkable achievements have been accomplished by people well beyond what society considered their "prime." Writers have produced masterpieces in their later years, scientists have continued groundbreaking research after retirement, entrepreneurs have launched successful businesses in their sixties and seventies, and athletes have inspired millions by remaining active long after conventional expectations. These examples remind us that determination does not retire.

The modern world has transformed the meaning of ageing. Better healthcare, improved nutrition, and increased life expectancy have enabled people to remain active for much longer than previous generations. Retirement is no longer viewed merely as the end of a career; for many, it marks the beginning of a new chapter filled with opportunities for volunteering, teaching, writing, travelling, entrepreneurship, or pursuing long-forgotten dreams. Many senior citizens today are learning digital skills, attending online courses, and contributing meaningfully to society in ways that were unimaginable just a few decades ago.

At the same time, youth alone does not guarantee

success. Many young people possess energy but may lack perseverance, discipline, or direction. Success belongs to those who are willing to work consistently, learn from failure, and remain committed to their goals. A determined sixty-year-old may achieve more than a distracted twenty-year-old because success is built on dedication rather than age.

One of the greatest barriers people face is not physical ageing but mental limitation. Statements such as "I'm too old to learn," "It's too late to start," or "My time has passed" often become self-imposed obstacles. In reality, the human brain retains the ability to learn throughout life. Whether it is mastering a new language, learning to play a musical instrument, starting a business, writing a book, or pursuing higher education, the capacity to grow remains alive as long as curiosity and determination endure.

Society also has a responsibility to rethink its perception of ageing. Older adults are too often viewed only as recipients of care rather than valuable contributors. Their decades of experience, practical knowledge, and emotional maturity make them exceptional mentors, teachers, volunteers, and community leaders. By creating opportunities for active participation, societies can benefit enormously from the wisdom and expertise of their senior citizens.

Dr Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational
columnist Eminent Educationist street kour Chand
MHR Malout Punjab -152107 / Mob 9465682110

The Silent Epidemic

Why Mental Health Can No Longer Be Ignored.

By Dr. Uzma Naqash



Mental health has become one of the defining public-health concerns of the twenty-first century. In a rapidly changing world shaped by technological pressures, economic uncertainty, social expectations and demanding academic and professional environments, emotional well-being is being tested in ways that often remain invisible.

While significant progress has been made in preventing and treating physical illness, mental health still receives comparatively less attention. Stigma, misinformation, lack of awareness and limited access to appropriate care continue to prevent many people from seeking help.

Mental health is not simply the absence of mental illness. It is an essential part of overall well-being, enabling individuals to cope with everyday challenges, develop their abilities, maintain relationships and contribute meaningfully to society.

The Invisible Crisis

Behind successful careers, academic achievements and carefully curated social-media profiles, many people may be struggling with anxiety, depression, chronic stress, burnout, loneliness, grief or emotional exhaustion.

Young people may face academic competition, career uncertainty and social-media comparison. Adults may struggle with financial pressures, workplace demands and family responsibilities, while older adults may experience loneliness,

bereavement and social isolation.

Experiencing stress, sadness or worry is a normal part of life. The concern arises when such feelings become persistent or overwhelming, or begin to interfere with daily life, relationships, education or work. Mental-health difficulties can affect anyone, regardless of age, gender, profession or socioeconomic background.

Recognising this reality is an important step towards building a more compassionate society.

Breaking the Culture of Silence

One of the greatest barriers to better mental health remains stigma. Many people hesitate to discuss emotional difficulties because they fear being judged as weak, incapable or unstable. Others are told to simply “be strong” or

“move on,” while misconceptions about counselling and psychological treatment discourage them from seeking professional support.

This culture of silence must change.

Seeking help is not a sign of weakness. Just as we consult a doctor when we experience physical symptoms, seeking professional support for psychological distress should be regarded as a responsible step towards recovery and well-being.

Families, schools, workplaces and communities can help create environments where people feel safe discussing their concerns without fear of ridicule or discrimination.

Why Mental Health Matters

Mental well-being influences almost every aspect of our lives. It affects how we think, make decisions, learn, work, maintain relationships and respond to adversity.

Untreated psychological distress can affect

academic performance, professional productivity, family relationships and even physical health. Mental health, therefore, is not merely an individual concern; it has consequences for families, institutions, workplaces and communities.

Investing in mental health means investing in human potential.

Workplaces, too, must recognise that employees are human beings, not simply resources. Reasonable workloads, respectful communication, healthy working environments, appropriate leave and access to support can contribute significantly to well-being.

At a broader level, policymakers and health systems must ensure that quality mental-health

However, self-care should never become another source of pressure. People experiencing persistent or severe emotional difficulties may need professional support, and seeking that support should be encouraged rather than discouraged.

Resilience does not mean never feeling sad, anxious or overwhelmed. It means developing the ability to face difficulties, adapt to change and recognise when support is needed.

From Silence to Understanding

Mental-health awareness should not be limited to occasional campaigns or awareness days. It needs to become part of everyday conversations about health and well-being.

We must teach children that emotions are nothing to be ashamed of. We must encourage young people to seek help without fear. Workplaces should

allow employees to discuss mental-health concerns without discrimination, and communities should respond to vulnerability with compassion rather than judgement.

Most importantly, we need to understand that mental health is everyone's concern.

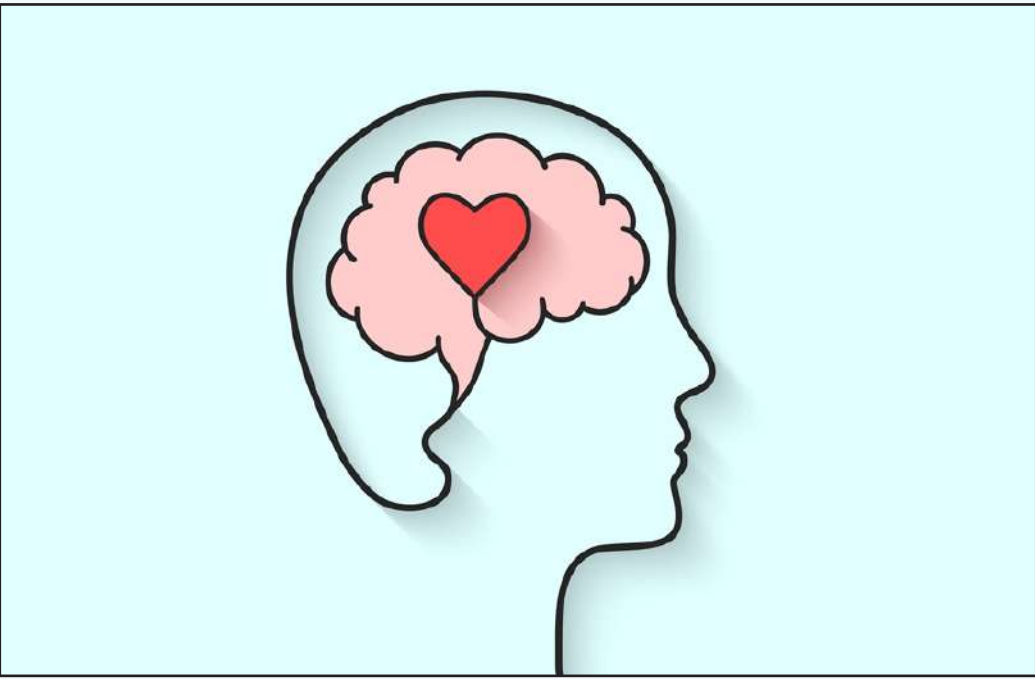
Conclusion

Mental health shapes how we think, feel, learn, work, lead and connect with others. Yet countless people continue to suffer in silence because of stigma, inadequate awareness or difficulty accessing appropriate care.

The time has come to move mental health from the margins of public discussion to the centre of our understanding of health.

By promoting awareness, encouraging open conversations, reducing stigma and strengthening access to quality mental-health care, we can build healthier individuals, stronger families and more resilient communities.

Sometimes, the most important thing we can do for someone's mental health is simply to listen, understand and remind them that they do not have to face their struggles alone.



A Shared Responsibility

Families are often the first source of emotional support. Listening without immediately judging or offering solutions can make a meaningful difference. Children and young people should be encouraged to express their emotions and seek help when difficulties become overwhelming.

Schools and universities also have an important role. They can promote emotional literacy, healthy coping strategies and awareness of available support services while creating safe spaces where students can discuss academic pressure, bullying, loneliness and other challenges.

services are accessible, affordable and available to those who need them.

Building Everyday Resilience

Mental health cannot be protected through a single intervention. It requires attention to everyday habits and meaningful social connections.

Adequate sleep, regular physical activity, nutritious food, supportive relationships, time away from excessive screen use and opportunities for relaxation can all contribute to emotional well-being. Mindfulness, prayer, reflection, hobbies and spending time with supportive people may also help manage everyday stress.

Senior Responsible Citizens: The Architects of Youth and the Guardians of Society



KHAN SG

Kashmir has always been known as a civilization where knowledge, wisdom, and respect for elders form the foundation of society. Our cultural traditions teach us to honour parents, teachers, scholars, and community elders because they are responsible citizens who illuminate the path for future generations. In today's rapidly changing world, where young people are surrounded by both opportunities and challenges, the role of senior responsible citizens has become more vital than ever.

The youth possess energy, ambition, creativity, and courage. However, energy without direction can easily be misled. That is why it becomes obligatory on experienced and responsible senior citizens of the society to guide the youth in a proper direction in various fields. Their wisdom, patience, and practical understanding of life can transform youthful enthusiasm into constructive leadership.

From an Islamic perspective, nurturing the younger generation is not merely a social responsibility it is an act of worship. Allah Almighty says in the Holy Qur'an:

"Cooperate with one another in righteousness and piety." (Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:2)

The Prophet Muhammad said:

"Each of you is a shepherd, and each of you is responsible for those under your care." (Sahih al-Bukhari & Sahih Muslim)

This profound teaching reminds every elder, parent, teacher, scholar, public servant, and community leader that they are accountable before Allah for the all they provide to the next generation.

One of the greatest gifts senior citizens can offer the youth is not wealth but character. Young people carefully observe the conduct of their elders. If they witness honesty, humility, justice, discipline, kindness, punctuality, sincerity, and compassion, these virtues naturally become part of their own personalities. On the other hand, if elders teach values but fail to practise them, their advice loses its impact.

Today's youth face various challenges. Social media influences their thinking, misinformation spreads

rapidly, unemployment creates depression and they fell in such a biased rishtadaar fraternity where there is only frustration. In such circumstances, criticism alone cannot solve these problems. Young people need mentors who listen patiently, understand their struggles, encourage their talents, and gently guide them towards the right path.

Kashmiri society has always flourished through strong family bonds and vibrant communities. Parents, grandparents, teachers, retired professionals, religious scholars, social workers, civil servants, and respected community members possess decades of experience that should not remain confined within their homes. Their knowledge must become a living resource for society through mentoring programmes, career counselling, value-based education, skill development, environmental campaigns and voluntary community service.

Educational institutions should actively invite experienced citizens to interact with students, not merely as guest speakers but as lifelong mentors. Religious institutions and community centres can become centres of moral education, social harmony, and youth empowerment. These institutions must work together to promote unity, mutual respect, and responsible citizenship.

Our beloved Prophet Muhammad transformed an entire generation not through authority alone but through compassion, wisdom, patience, and exemplary conduct. He built individuals before building institutions. This timeless model remains relevant today. Every elder who inspires a young person towards honesty, education, service, and faith contributes to building a stronger society.

Responsible citizenship also means encouraging young people to obey the collective societal law, protect public property, preserve the environment, reject corruption, uphold communal harmony, and serve society beyond personal interests.

A true leader is one whose love for the society is reflected through integrity, service, and respect for every fellow citizen regardless of religion, language, caste, or category.

Youth development is not solely the responsibility of governments or educational institutions. It begins at home, grows within communities, and flourishes when experienced citizens willingly invest their time, knowledge,

and compassion in the next generation. Every conversation, every social interaction and every opportunity that encourages patience becomes a seed

for a brighter future.

History remembers those generations in which the wisdom of elders and the energy of youth walked together. If we aspire to build a peaceful, progressive, and morally strong society, our senior citizens must rise beyond the role of spectators and become mentors, guides, and society-builders.

The future of youth will not be shaped only in classrooms or government offices. It will be shaped in homes where grandparents tell stories of sacrifice, in schools where teachers inspire integrity, in places of worship where faith strengthens character, and in communities where elders lead by example.

The greatest danger facing society is not merely the generation gap; it is the communication gap.

When elders stop listening and youth stop respecting, the bridge collapses.

We need elders who understand the language of the young and young people who understand the value of the old.

The elder carries the memory of yesterday, the youth carries the possibility of tomorrow.

Society needs both.

Let every senior responsible citizen ask himself a simple question: "What legacy am I leaving for the youth?" If the answer is faith, integrity, knowledge, compassion, and service, then the future of our society is secure.

A society that respects its elders preserves its memory.

A society that invests in its youth protects its future.

But a society that connects its elders with its youth builds a civilization.

A Call to Our Senior Citizens

To every senior citizen who has spent decades serving a family, institution, village, community, or nation: your journey is not over.

Retirement from employment should never mean retirement from responsibility.

Your experience can still educate.

Your kindness can still heal.

Your words can still inspire.

Your mistakes can still become lessons for others.

Your prayers can still give strength.

And your example can still shape an entire generation.

A society prospers when the wisdom of its elders guides the dreams of its youth, and when the youth honour that wisdom with action, responsibility, and hope.

Living in the Age of Invisible Algorithms



Wani Arfat

Once upon a time, we made our decisions through dialogue, observations, and introspection. We discussed ideas with other people, observed the world around us, and thought about what to do next on our own. Now, something has happened; the transition was gradual enough for us not to notice it. We make decisions the same way, but the thing is, more and more of our decisions are being made for us in advance.

It is the era of algorithmic living.

The screens become active from the very first morning. Looking at one's phone, we receive news, watch videos, read messages, and see various kinds of recommendations. All of that seems normal. However, if we think carefully, we will ask ourselves why we have been shown certain things instead of something else. Here comes the answer—the algorithms monitor our activity online and offline. They know what we like to read, what we prefer not to, how much time we spend on the Internet, etc., and choose the content we would be more interested in. There is some comfort in this. It is easier for people to live when there is less confusion around their decisions. They do not need to search long and hard for something. Everything will come to them effortlessly. However, the problem is that there is a price for such convenience. When a person filters out everything that may complicate their life, the surrounding world becomes narrower and narrower. Eventually, this will not only affect a person's habits but also their mindset. When a person is bombarded with the same information, views, and way of living all day long, it will be hard for him or her to imagine that things could be different. This person's mind will be locked in a box that he or she does not even realize exists.

This can be clearly seen amongst young people. Hours are being spent endlessly scrolling, going from post to post, video to video. While what seems to be a means for passing idle time is actually a well-thought-out mechanism designed specifically for capturing your attention. There will always be more posts, more videos, more activities which make you reluctant to turn off the phone. But

gradually, without realizing it, your day becomes largely wasted on social media.

Consequences of such behavior are even more profound than one may think. One loses the capacity to concentrate. Silence seems unbearable. Constantly stimulated by different stimuli, one finds it hard to endure silence and concentrate on one's thoughts. On top of that, there comes another pressure, imposed by social media unconsciously. The pressure of comparing oneself to others. People get accustomed to looking at only the best moments of other people's lives which are presented to them regularly through social networks. Consequently, reality begins to pale before virtuality. At the same time, there is the problem associated with data—something that none of us ever thinks of when using technologies on a regular basis. The truth is that everything that we do in the digital world becomes a record. We are monitored, analyzed, predicted, and controlled by the same technology we enjoy using for different purposes. Even though that improves the interaction experience significantly, one cannot help but wonder what price we have to pay. Another problem associated with these platforms relates to their ability to maintain impartiality. As much as we would like it, the algorithms are imperfect and they work based on what exists today, thus reproducing whatever is already present out there. In such conditions, certain voices tend to resonate louder than others. Not necessarily because of their importance but due to being more engaging indeed.

On top of the individual, this change has brought transformations within society itself. In today's world, businesses must be visible through digital mediums. The chances of success might depend upon visibility in opaque systems. Everything from work, communication, to personal relations has been altered to an extent that is highly dependent upon automation and algorithms. Although this transformation has brought in efficiency, speed, and reach, there is one subtle point of concern here, which is the lack of control left for us. It must be mentioned at this stage that technology is not the adversary. Technology has changed our lives in several positive ways. It has brought people closer despite distances; made learning accessible, and given new avenues of success.

(Mohammad Arfat Wani is a writer, social activist, and nursing student from Kuchmulla, Tral. He writes on social issues, culture, and public concerns with the aim of raising awareness and inspiring positive change. Email: wania6817@gmail.com)



PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Gh Ahmad sheikh S/o Jum Sheikh do hereby notify the general public that I am the registered consumer of electricity connection bearing Consumer No. 0206050002644. I have decided to transfer the said electricity connection in the name of Gh Mohi ud din Ganie S/O Gh Ahmad Ganie. If any person has any objection regarding this transfer, he/she may file the same in writing before the Concerned AEE/Executive Engineer, PDD Sub-Division within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained and the transfer shall be processed as per rules.

Gh Mohi ud din Ganie
S/O Gh Ahmad Ganie

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

It is hereby notified that my name has been incorrectly mentioned in my Adhaar card as AMANAT ASHRAF KHAN bearing Account no 2173 4092 5830 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 Kreeeri
Dist.....BARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Name wrongly mentioned in my Passport bearing passport no T 2381992 as Umar Gulzar Tali instead of Umar Gulzar per Adhaar record which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he / she may file his / her objection in the passport office srinagar within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name...UMAR GULZAR
S/O ..GULZAR AHMED TALI..
R/O ..KREERI BARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Abid Hameed Padder wants to change the name of my son mentioned in his DOB certificate as "Ibrahim Bin Aabid" to "ZAIR AABID PADDER" S/O- Abid Hameed Padder R/O- Pehroo, Anantnag, J&K 192101. Anybody having any objection may contact municipal council Anantnag within a period of seven days.

New name- ZAIR AABID
PADDER

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS SOPORE

In the case of MOHD RAFEEQ PARRAY S/O MUSHTAQ AHMAD PARRAY R/O NOORBAGH

C E O MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SOPORE /BDO SANGRAMA /BDO SOPORE
Non applicant
NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

whereas the above case titled case is under process in this court there in to the non applicant u/s 13 (3) of the registration of Birth & Death Act 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant/ applicants SON namely MOHD HAIDER S/O MOHD RAFEEQ PARRAY as 29/06/2021 (dd/ mm/ yy) at GURO Hospital

Whereas through the medium of this proclamation the public at large informed that in case anyone has any objection for the issuance of direction with respect to the registration aforementioned Birth event he/she shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within seven days from the date of publication of this proclamation if the date fixed is declared holiday the matter will be taken on the next working day

EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS SOPORE

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS SOPORE

In the case of FERQZ AHMAD PARRAY S/O MUSHTAQ AHMAD PARRAY R/O NOORBAGH applicant
C E O MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SOPORE /BDO SANGRAMA /BDO SOPORE
Non applicant
NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

whereas the above titled case is under process in this court there in to the non applicant u/s 13 (3) of the registration of Birth & Death Act 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant/ applicants DAUGHTER namely BUSHRA FERQZ D/O FERQZ AHMAD PARRAY as 21/06/2017 (dd/ mm/ yy) at M C H SOPORE

Whereas through the medium of this proclamation the public at large informed that in case anyone has any objection for the issuance of direction with respect to the registration aforementioned Birth event he/she shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within seven days from the date of publication of this proclamation if the date fixed is declared holiday the matter will be taken on the next working day

EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS SOPORE

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION NEW CAMPUS, BEMINA SRINAGAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed/ appeared in SSE (Class 10th) under Roll no 139090039; Session: -2025 oct_nov session through The Jammu & Kashmir board of School Education. The error has been committed by the institute/parents against my Mothers name as RIFAT instead of RAFIYA JAN. Now I have applied for correction in The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education New Campus, Bemina, Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates Kashmir Division within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained. This is published for the information of the general public. The correct particulars be recorded as under:-

NAME: SHEIKH ELHAAM MANZOOR
Father name: MANZOOR AHMAD SHEIKH
Mother's Name: RAFIYA JAN
Date of Birth: 12-04-1952
Residence: shalteng usman abad lane no 3
Mob no 7006689053

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Nissar Ahmad Bukhari father of Syed Ayaan Nissar Bukhari resident of Kreeeri 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 within seven days after that no objection will be entertained

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am applying for TOUR AND TRAVEL under the name of ARU ALTITUDE TOURS situated at GOSHBUGH 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...LLOIPORA PATTAN
Contact8899240430

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 Kreeeri within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name....SHOWKAT AHMAD KHAN
F/OMEHREEN SHOWKAT
R/O...JAHANGIR PORA SHRAKWARA

Tiranga Concert at Manasbal celebrates Patriotism through Music and Cultural Performances

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, AUGUST 13: As part of the ongoing 'Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign-2026', a Tiranga Concert was organised today at the Open Air Theatre, Manasbal Park, bringing together students, youth, government officials, civil society members and a large number of members of the general public to celebrate patriotism, national unity and pride in the Tricolour. The concert featured soulful live performances and patriotic renditions by the Rooh Band, which received an enthusiastic response from the audience. The musical performances created an atmosphere of patriotic fervour and collective celebration against the picturesque backdrop of Manasbal. Adding to the vibrancy of the programme, students presented colourful cultural performances on patriotic themes and songs, showcasing their talent and expressing their love for the nation through music, dance and cultural expression. The performances were warmly appreciated by the audience and added a special dimension to the celebrations. The event provided a unique platform for celebrating the spirit of the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign through music and cultural expression, with the audience joining the performers.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shabir Ahmad Kar S/o Habibullah Kar R/o Lawaypora do hereby notify the general public that I am the registered consumer of electricity connection bearing Consumer No. 0206050016767 installed at Lawaypora. I have decided to transfer the said electricity connection in the name of Imtiyaz Ahmad Khan S/o Gh. Ahmad Khan R/o Lawaypora with mutual consent.

If any person has any objection regarding this transfer, he/she may file the same in writing before the Concerned AEE/Executive Engineer, PDD Sub-Division Lawaypora within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained and the transfer shall be processed as per rules.

Imtiyaz Ahmad Khan
S/o Gh. Ahmad Khan R/o Lawaypora

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 tehsil office 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 tehsil office 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 Nadiagam 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 tehsil office 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 (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 KREEERI

(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Application of MOHD YOUSUF SHEIKH S/O AB GANI SHEIKH R/O SHEIKHPORA Tehsil KREEERI 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 KREEERI and belongs to the SHEIKH community having annual income 15500/- 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...AAYAT YOUSUF self/ applicant 25 years student
if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate 1st Class KREEERI

Manasbal Lake comes Alive in Tricolour as Mega Shikara Rally held under ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ Campaign

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, AUGUST 13: As part of the ongoing 'Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign-2026', a Mega Shikara Rally was organised today at the picturesque Manasbal Lake, with enthusiastic participation of students, youth, government officials and a large number of members of the general public.

The Shikara Rally was led by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, and witnessed a vibrant display of the National Flag as a fleet of Shikaras, adorned with the Tricolour, sailed across the waters of Manasbal Lake.

The rally provided a unique expression of patriotism against the scenic backdrop of Manasbal, with participants carrying the



National Flag and joining in patriotic celebrations. The sight of the Tricolour across the lake created a striking visual representation of national unity, pride and collective participation. A 2-kilometre-long National

Flag was also displayed along the venue, adding a spectacular dimension to the celebrations and symbolising the collective spirit of the people towards the National Flag and the nation. The rally witnessed

enthusiastic participation of the general public, students, youth, officials and other stakeholders. The participation of citizens in large numbers reflected the growing public enthusiasm towards the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign and their collective expression of patriotism and national pride.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal appreciated the enthusiastic participation of the public, students and all stakeholders. He called upon citizens to continue participating in the various activities being organised under the campaign and urged the youth to take an active role in promoting the values of patriotism, unity, harmony and respect for the National Flag.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (U T) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara Mechanical & Hospitals Engineering Department, Kashmir. email: xenmhd-handwara@jk.gov.in Corrigendum 02 (Extension-I)

Name of work:- Annual Operation and Comprehensive Maintenance of Oxygen Generation Plants at DH Bandipora for the year 2026-27

Reference: 1) e-NIT No: - MHDH/TS/2026-27/e NIT/32

Tender ID No.: 2026_PWDJK_316327_2

Due to poor response, the critical dates of the above referred NIT is hereby rescheduled as under.

S.No.	Description	Date & Time
1	Document Submission End Date	22/08/2026 up to 1400hrs
2.	Date of Opening Cover-I	22/08/2026 at 1600hrs

All other terms, conditions and specifications of the NITs shall remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospitals Division
Handwara

DIPK-4548/26
Send Date: Aug 13 2026

Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SOPORE. NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No- 75 of RnB-Sopore of 2026-2027 e-tendering DATED: 13.08.2026.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt.CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S.N o.	Name of Work	Adv. cost	Cost of Tender Documents In Rupees	E/ Money	Time for completion of work	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M.Hof Account	Position of TS
1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
1	Upgradation of link road Ibrahim Colony Arampora near house of Ab. Rashid Changa by way of Nallah muck in patches/ stretches and WBM grade 2nd	1.50	200/-	3000/-	90 days	25.08.2026	DEE	3054 M&R	EE/R&B/Sopore 68 of 2026-27 dated: 12.08.2026
2	Upgradation of link road from old forest Mandi upto the house of Ab. Majeed Khawaja and link of Ab Rashid Khawaja (Jeda) at Seelo Sopore by way of WBM grade 1st and 2nd	3.00	200/-	6000/-	90 days	25.08.2026	DEE	3054 M&R	EE/R&B/Sopore 69 of 2026-27 dated: 12.08.2026
3	Upgradation of link road from saw Mill of Habibullah Khawaja upto the orchard of Mohd Isamil Bhat at Seelo Sopore by way of Grade 1st and 2nd	2.00	200/-	4000/-	90 days	25.08.2026	DEE	3054 M&R	EE/R&B/Sopore 70 of 2026-27 dated: 12.08.2026
4	Upgradation of inner links of Tibal Nagar, Gousia Colony Sopore by way of Providing and laying Nallah muck and WBM grade 2nd	3.50	200/-	7000/-	90 days	25.08.2026	DEE	3054 M&R	EE/R&B/Sopore 71 of 2026-27 dated: 12.08.2026

Project Authority: CE PWD (R&B) North Kashmir.

Position of funds: Available

Position of AA. Authorization by CE PWD (R&B) North Kmr. vide his order No: CE/R&B/NK/Acts/69 of 2026-27 dated: 05.08.2026

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other detail's 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	13.08.2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	13.08.2026 to 24.08.2026
3	Bid Submission start date	13.08.2026
4	Bid submission End date	24.08.2026 (4.00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	25.08.2026 (12 PM) in the office of Ex. Engineer R&B Division, Sopore

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) with NIT No. Name of work and S.No. deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released after submission of a performance security of 5% of the quoted cost which will be released after completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

3(b) Geotag Photographs Minimum 03 sets (01 set Comprising of Photograph before, during and after execution of work) of size 26 cm x 21 cm to be provided.

20. All other terms, conditions shall remain as per e-NIT No. 03 of 2026-27 and NIT No: 37 and 57 of 2026-27

21. If the contractor/HMPQ quotes rate for any item of work in his tender as free cost at the time of tendering process, his tender shall be rejected outrightly.

22. If the contractor breaches the contract, the Department reserves the right to award the remaining work to new bidders at the defaulting contractor's expense immediately after the notice of breach has been served on the defaulter. In the event of a breach of contract by the contractor, the Performance Security will be forfeited along with the termination of contract termination. Furthermore, the defaulting contractor will be barred from participating in future from participating in R&B Department in Bidding Processes for a period of one year. Any subsequent Breach shall result in process of irreversible cancellation of registration.

23. The bidder must be registered on JKPWDOMS portal, while participating in the tendering process it should be ensured that all bank account of contractors mapped on JKPWDOMS must be linked with PAN No, GST No and ADHAAR No as per the circular instructions issued by the Finance Department.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&KUT,

DIPK-4553/26
Send Dated: 13.08.2026.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Sopore





Srinagar to get designated Street Food Zones

Street food zones to balance livelihoods, food safety, sanitation and orderly public spaces: SMC Commissioner

■ **HT News Network**

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 13: Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has issued Operational Guidelines for establishment of designated Street Food Cart Zones across Srinagar, marking a significant step towards bringing street food vending under a structured, transparent and sustainable framework.

The initiative, being implemented under the leadership of SMC Commissioner, Fazlul Haseeb, seeks to create organised spaces for street food vendors while ensuring food safety, sanitation, pedestrian convenience, traffic management and responsible use of public spaces.

In the first phase, locations identified for designated food cart zones include Opposite JKTCDC Water Sports, Dalgate Bund, Badamwari, JVC Bemina, Magarmal Bagh and Rajbagh, besides an identified location along the right side of River Jhelum.

Each designated zone will have a regulated holding capacity determined on the basis of available space, pedestrian movement, accessibility, traffic conditions and fire-safety considerations.

"The objective is not merely to regulate street food vending, but to create organised, clean and dignified spaces where vendors can pursue their livelihoods while ensuring that public convenience, sanitation, pedestrian movement and the character of Srinagar's public spaces are fully protected,"



said Commissioner, SMC. The guidelines recognise street vending as an important source of employment, entrepreneurship and affordable food services, while addressing challenges associated with unregulated concentration of food carts, including traffic congestion, obstruction of pedestrian movement, inadequate sanitation and improper disposal of waste.

Under the framework, food carts will be required to conform to standardised designs and specifications and comply with prescribed requirements relating to food hygiene, potable water, waste segregation, waste water management

and fire safety. Licensed carts will also be required to prominently display applicable municipal and FSSAI permissions, along with menu and price lists. The framework provides for different categories of non-motorised and motorised food carts, based on their size and nature of operation. Motorised food vending vehicles will require applicable clearance from the Motor Vehicles Department before municipal permission is granted.

A structured mechanism has also been prescribed for scrutiny of applications and allotment of spaces, with emphasis on transparency, fairness and adherence to the carrying capacity of individual designated zones.

The guidelines have been formulated in consonance with the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, the Jammu and Kashmir Street Vendors Rules, 2020, and the Model Scheme notified in 2021.

With Srinagar witnessing substantial pedestrian, vehicular and tourist movement, the Corporation envisages the designated zones as organised and well-managed spaces where street food businesses can operate without compromising public convenience, cleanliness, traffic movement or the distinctive character of the city. "Srinagar has a vibrant street-food culture, and our approach is to organise and strengthen this sector rather than displace it. The designated zones will provide greater predictability for vendors while enabling the Corporation to maintain cleaner, safer and more accessible public spaces,"

SMVDSB and JKRLM ink MoU to promote livelihood opportunities for rural women through SHGs

■ **HT News Network**



Katra, August 13: In a significant initiative aimed at strengthening women-led rural enterprises and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for Self Help Groups (SHGs), the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) and the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) today inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at Katra. Pursuant to the directions of Shri Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble Lt. Governor, JK-UT (Chairman, SMVDSB), the initiative has been undertaken by the Shrine Board, with the objective of facilitating greater participation of eligible SHGs in the supply of Puja Samagri and Prasad items within the Shrine Board ecosystem.

The collaboration seeks to leverage the sustained market opportunities arising from the pilgrim economy in the Katra-Reasi region and adjoining district, thereby creating avenues for rural women to strengthen their enterprises, enhance household incomes and contribute more meaningfully to the local economy. The MoU provides a structured framework for the identification, empanelment and engagement of eligible SHGs.

Under the framework, eligible SHGs may be facilitated for the supply of a range of items, including Prasad items such as Fulliyani and Makhana, Patka, Head Band Patti, Dhoop, Agarbatti, Hawan Samagri, Samidha and other products as may be mutually agreed upon. The range of products may also be expanded from time to time in accordance with the requirements of the Shrine Board.

A key focus of the initiative is women empowerment through enterprise development. JKRLM will identify, vet and recommend eligible SHGs, maintain their database and performance records and provide capacity-building and skill-development support, besides facilitating financial literacy, enterprise development, bookkeeping and digital payment support. JKRLM will also explore avenues for working capital support for SHGs through appropriate institutional mechanisms to enable them to meet larger orders, wherever required. The Shrine Board, on its part, will facilitate business opportunities for eligible and empanelled SHGs in accordance with applicable procurement procedures and policies. Wherever feasible, the Board will also communicate its procurement requirements in advance to enable SHGs to plan their production and supply capacities and ensure timely availability of the required items. The partnership also seeks to encourage sustainable and environmentally responsible enterprise practices, including the use of eco-friendly packaging and biodegradable materials. Special emphasis has been placed on compliance with applicable food safety.

NIT Srinagar hosts 6th ICCBT, focus turns to AI, Data Privacy and digital transformation

■ **HT News Network**

Srinagar, Aug 13: The 6th edition of the International Conference on Contemporary Business Trends (ICCBT 2026), focusing on "AI & Digital Transformation: Driving Innovation, Sustainability and Organizational Excellence in Contemporary Business," began at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar. Organised by the Department of Humanities, Social Sciences & Management (HSS&M), NIT Srinagar, the two-day international conference has brought together academicians, researchers, scholars and industry professionals to deliberate on the rapidly changing business landscape shaped by Artificial Intelligence (AI), digital technologies, innovation and sustainability.

The inaugural session was presided over by In-Charge Director, NIT Srinagar and Dean, Research and Consultancy, Prof. Roohie Naaz, while as Director, Centre for Security, Strategy and Technology Dr Sameer Patil was the keynote speaker for the session.

The event was graced by the presence of Dean Dean Faculty Welfare Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Ahangar, Dean Alumni and International Affairs Prof. Mohd Ashraf Shah, Dean Students Welfare Prof. Mohammad Abid Bazaz, Head,



Department of Humanities, Social Sciences & Management Prof. Adnan Qayoum. The conference conveners are Dr. Nufazil Altaf, Dr. Sumaira Jan, Dr. Aijaz Ul Islam and Dr. Shah Nawaz Ahmad, while Dr. Basit Abas is the Coordinator. Dr. Tahir Ahmad Wani and Dr. Mohd. Rafiq Teli are serving as Organising Secretaries. Addressing the gathering, Prof. Roohie Naaz said that data privacy has emerged as one of the major challenges in the digital era, particularly as organisations increasingly depend on artificial intelligence and data-driven systems.

She stressed the need for responsible and secure use of data while ensuring that the benefits of technological advancement are not confined to large institutions or urban centres. Technology must reach the grassroots and address real-world challenges faced by ordinary people, making digital transformation more inclusive, accessible and socially relevant.

Rahul Sahai, Chairman ICC, Welcomes New RBI Regional Director Prabhakar Jha; Raises Key MSME Concerns

■ **HT News Network**

Jammu: Rahul Sahai, Chairman, Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Jammu Chapter, welcomed Shri Prabhakar Jha, the new Regional Director of the Reserve Bank of India for Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh, during RBI's 71st Empowered Committee Meeting held in Jammu.

Sahai congratulated Shri Jha on his new responsibility and expressed confidence that under his leadership, RBI's engagement with industry and MSMEs in J&K and Ladakh would be further strengthened. He also appreciated Shri Chander Shekhar Azad, Vibha Ji and the RBI team for their prompt and encouraging response to ICC's earlier representations.

During the meeting, Sahai submitted a detailed representation highlighting key economic and sectoral concerns of MSMEs, particularly in view of the volatile geopolitical situation in West Asia and the consequent increase and fluctuations in prices of essential raw materials. ICC Jammu sought stronger implementation of TReDS, including onboarding of eligible corporates, Government Departments and PSUs, to ensure timely payments and improve MSME liquidity. It also advocated easier and concessional financing for rooftop solar and renewable-energy projects, along with greater awareness and counselling for



MSMEs on CIBIL scores, financial discipline and creditworthiness. Sahai also highlighted the need for an early rollout of a new Industrial Incentive Policy for Jammu & Kashmir, stating that policy uncertainty was affecting fresh investments, industrial expansion and credit growth. ICC further recommended dedicated financial products for natural farming, organic agriculture, FPOs and agri-processing enterprises, besides faster MSME loan processing, flexible working-capital assessment, timely restructuring of viable stressed units, stronger grievance redressal and greater branch-level empowerment. "A responsive banking ecosystem, adequate liquidity and policy certainty are essential for MSMEs to withstand the present economic and geopolitical uncertainties. RBI's continued engagement with industry will play an important role in strengthening investment, employment.

Stock Markets recover to end flat, Nifty settles near 24,400 mark

■ **UNITED NEWS OF INDIA**

New Delhi, Aug 13 (UNI) The Indian Stock Markets on Thursday recovered from the day's lows and end largely flat in a volatile session. Nifty settled around the 24,400 mark. Selling pressure in banking, metal and pharma stocks was largely offset by buying in FMCG, IT and realty stocks. At close, the Sensex rose 113.61 points, or 0.15%, to 78,079.96, while the Nifty fell 40.10 points, or 0.16%, to 24,395.85.

Among the sectors, Metal index declined 1%, Private Bank fell 0.5%, Realty gained 1% and Consumer Durables rose 0.45%.

In terms of Nifty gainers, Tata Consumer, Tata Motors PV, HUL, NTPC and Shriram Finance led while Hindalco, ICICI Bank, UltraTech Cement, Grasim and Power Grid Corp led the losses.

ICICI Prudential Life Launches 'iProtect Smart Her' Term Plan With Lifetime Premium Discount for Women

HT News Network

Srinagar:- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has launched a new term insurance product designed specifically for women, combining life protection with health and wellness benefits and additional flexibility around important stages of their lives. The product, ICICI Pru iProtect Smart Her, offers women a 15 per cent lifetime premium discount along with women-specific health management and wellness services. One of the key features is a pregnancy break option, which allows eligible policyholders greater flexibility in managing

premium commitments during pregnancy and an important transition in their lives. The plan also includes a Child Education Care option under which the death benefit can be paid to the nominee as an income for 10 years. Under the increasing income payout option, the annual payout rises by 10 per cent every year for the 10-year period. Vikas Gupta, Chief Product Officer, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, said women's financial planning requirements evolve through different stages of life and the new product had been designed around those changing needs. The health and wellness

component includes access to teleconsultations across multiple medical specialties, annual health check-ups, health risk assessments, wellness content, pharmacy and diagnostic discounts and other healthcare services. According to the company, the overall package offers benefits valued at up to 92,100, including women-specific health and wellness benefits worth up to 25,000. ICICI Prudential Life said its individual death claim settlement ratio stood at 99.3 per cent in Q1 FY2027, with an average turnaround time of one day for non-investigative individual death claims.

India needs specialised financial-security workforce as illicit finance risks grow: RRU

■ **UNITED NEWS OF INDIA**

Bengaluru, Aug 13 (UNI) India needs a specialised professional workforce capable of protecting banks, financial institutions and the wider economy from increasingly sophisticated money laundering, terrorism financing and cross-border financial crimes, Sunil Kavishwar, Director, School of Criminal Law and Military Law at Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU), told reporters replying to a set of queries here.

Against this backdrop, RRU has positioned its Master's programme in Financial and Economic Security (MFES) as a specialised academic programme aimed at creating a national cadre of professionals



in financial crime compliance, risk management and economic security, Kavishwar said.

The one-year, full-time master's programme carries a fee of Rs 3 lakh and is expected to have at least 60 students in the next cohort, with another 10-20 participants potentially coming from other countries, he said. Kavishwar said the programme was designed to address a growing gap between India's financial-security regulations and the availability of professionals with specialised

expertise to implement them.

"India needs people who understand financial crime risk and passionately take up compliance or risk management as an area," Kavishwar said, stressing the need to create a large national workforce capable of securing financial institutions against money laundering, terrorism financing, bribery, corruption and illicit transactions linked to narcotics and arms trafficking. The business implications are significant as financial-crime controls are increasingly linked to the resilience and credibility of financial systems, Kavishwar said. International assessments, including those conducted by the Financial Action Task Force,

Falcon Nursing Classes, Remarkable Initiative in Kashmir: Free Book Giveaway Winners Announced

■ **Wani Arfat**

Pulwama, August 13: Falcon Nursing Classes has taken a thoughtful and praiseworthy step to encourage nursing students and promote reading and learning. The institute recently organized a Free Books Giveaway for nursing students in Kashmir and other areas. The aim was not only to give away books but also to connect more students with useful educational content, guidance and study material. Students were encouraged to take part, share their views through meaningful comments and tag their friends so that the educational platform could reach more nursing students and benefit the wider nursing community.

A special feature of this initiative was that the books were not limited to any particular examination or semester. Whether a student is studying in any semester of nursing or preparing for any examination, they can tell Falcon Nursing Classes the name of the book they need, and the institute will provide that book as a gift. This simple and student-friendly approach makes the initiative more meaningful because every student has different academic needs. It shows that the purpose is to support students according to their requirements rather than offering the same book to everyone.

Falcon Nursing Classes also announced the three winners of the giveaway. Numan Writes (numan_

writes) secured the first position, Dearfat 01 (dearfat_01) secured the second position, while Ahmad Fazil 121 (ahmadfazil121) secured the third position. Students were encouraged to participate through good and meaningful comments and by tagging their friends. The idea was to make the activity more than just a competition and to help the platform reach a larger number of nursing students, so that more students could benefit from its educational content and learning resources.

Beyond the book giveaway, Falcon Nursing Classes is emerging as a dedicated education platform for nursing students across Jammu & Kashmir. The platform provides



quality academic content, competitive examination preparation, test series, video lectures, study materials and regular practice sessions. It focuses on examinations such as JKSSB, NORCET, AIIMS, RRB and other nursing recruitment and entrance

examinations. It also supports students pursuing B.Sc Nursing, GNM, Post-B.Sc Nursing and M.Sc Nursing, helping them prepare for both academic and competitive examinations.

With its growing digital presence through its app and online platforms, Falcon Nursing Classes aims to make accessible, affordable and quality nursing education available to students across the region. Such efforts can be particularly helpful for students who may not always have easy access to quality books, guidance and structured preparation resources. The platform's approach reflects the growing importance of digital education in helping nursing students learn, practise and prepare

from different parts of Jammu & Kashmir.

Such initiatives are especially valuable for nursing students in Kashmir, where quality books and useful study resources play an important role in a student's academic journey. A good book can provide knowledge, confidence and better preparation, while support from educational platforms can motivate students to keep learning. This initiative also reminds us that helping students does not always require a large programme. Sometimes, a single useful book given at the right time can make a real difference in a student's education and future.

On this memorable occasion, I, Wani Arfat, sincerely express my

heartfelt gratitude to the entire team of Falcon Nursing Classes for this thoughtful initiative. I am especially thankful to Inayat Sir, whose support and guidance helped connect me with this respected educational platform. I deeply appreciate the administration for understanding the needs of nursing students and supporting them with useful study resources. This initiative is not only about giving books; it reflects a beautiful spirit of supporting students, sharing knowledge and encouraging the future nursing professionals of our community. I hope Falcon Nursing Classes continues such meaningful initiatives and keeps contributing to the educational growth of nursing students in Kashmir and beyond.



Messi unsure he will play 'much longer' after father's death

United News Of India

BUENOS AIRES, AUG 13: Lionel Messi said he is unsure how much longer he will continue playing football as he posted an emotional tribute after his father's death.

Messi's father Jorge was 68 when he died last week following a long illness. Jorge had been the Argentina forward's agent since he was 14 and watched him become one of the sport's greatest ever players, according to BBC Sport.

"I don't know what I'm going to do without you," eight-time Ballon d'Or winner Messi wrote on social media.

"I don't know how to carry on. I used to just play football, and now I'm really not sure if I'll carry on doing it for much longer.

"You were by my side from the very beginning. We were so close to the end. Why didn't you hang in there just a little longer so we could finish this together?"

Messi captained Argentina as they won the World Cup in 2022 and led



them to the 2026 World Cup final, which his side lost 1-0 to Spain, before returning to club side Inter Miami.

He returned home with his family after Jorge passed away in a hospital in his hometown of Rosario, Argentina.

A private funeral took place on Sunday at a cemetery in the town of Perez, on the outskirts of Rosario.

"Dad, I still can't believe you're gone," Messi continued. "It hasn't sunk in, or rather, I don't want it to. 'It's so

hard for me to imagine that I'll never see you again, that we'll never talk again. I know you were suffering and that this is for the best, but you left too soon. We still had so much left to enjoy together."

During the World Cup, Messi was brought to tears after scoring the opening goal in Argentina's 3-0 win against Algeria because of a matter he said was "completely unrelated to football".

A statement from his family later said Jorge was dealing with a "health-related situation".

Messi added: "You kept asking me to play in one last World Cup, and just days before it started, that's when you took a turn for the worse.

"It was the first time you weren't going to be at a tournament, but Mom kept telling me you'd get better and that you'd be well enough to travel. I kept telling you that we were going to make it to the final so you could come along.

"Every time a game ended, I'd wait for and miss your message. That's when I realised how bad the situation was. "Even so, I couldn't stop thinking about going as far as

possible, to give you time to watch a game. We made it to the final, and you couldn't be there.

"I wanted to win it so I could bring the trophy to you and show you a new one. I couldn't, my legs had nothing left. This time I tried to push past my physical limits, but I couldn't. I never managed to feel right."

Sorloth muscle injury a setback for Atletico Madrid

United News Of India

MADRID, AUG 13 Atletico Madrid's start to the season has been complicated by a muscle injury to striker Alexander Sorloth, which means he will miss the opening matches of the new campaign.

"Alexander Sorloth has suffered a muscle contracture and will have to work apart from the rest of the squad," informed the Atletico website on Wednesday.

The Norwegian's injury comes at a difficult time, with the future of Argentina international Julian Alvarez still uncertain amid interest from FC Barcelona. However, even if Alvarez stays, the 26-year-old only returned for preseason training on Monday after taking his permitted three-week holiday following the World Cup



final and is unlikely to be fit for Atletico's La Liga opener against Malaga on August 19.

With Antoine Griezmann leaving the club at the end of last season to play in the United States and Atletico selling Thiago Almada to River

World Padel League: Vedanta Leopards edge past Aussie Mavericks Jaguars



United News Of India

MUMBAI, AUG 13: The opening day of the Akcel World Padel League Season 4, powered

by SpiceJet, served up a closely fought contest, with last season's finalists Vedanta Leopards defeating Aussie Mavericks Jaguars 18-16.

Season 4 follows a round-robin format, setting the stage for a series of closely fought encounters as the teams battle it out across the league. The Jaguars put up a strong fight throughout, but the Leopards held their nerve to secure the opening victory.

The first game of the day saw Alejandra Alonso and Claudia Jensen of the Jaguars face Marta Ortega and Veronica Virseda of the Leopards in a closely fought women's doubles contest, with both pairs involved in close calls and long exchanges before the Jaguars edged the opener 7-5.

The second set produced the first

tiebreak of the season, as Ignacio Piotto and Enzo Jensen faced the Deus brothers, Miguel and Nuno, with the Leopards holding their nerve to take it 7-6. The final men's doubles saw Pol Hernandez and Guille Collado of the Jaguars go up against Fran Guerrero and Javi Ruiz of the Leopards, with the Leopards closing out the deciding set 6-3 to complete the comeback and secure an 18-16 victory. Meanwhile, Hubtown Panorama Panthers produced a dominant display to defeat VB Realty Cheetahs 16-9. After losing the opening set 4-6, the Panthers turned the match around in the next two sets, winning 6-1 and 6-2 to seal a convincing 16-9 victory.

The opening set saw Juan Tello and Eduardo Alonso of the Panthers take on Lucho Capra and Jesus Moya of the Cheetahs, with both pairs involved in intense rallies before the Cheetahs held their nerve to take the set 6-4.

The Panthers responded in the women's doubles, with Marta Caparros and Marta

District Tennis Ball Cricket Championship Rescheduled to August 25-27

BARAMULLA: The District Tennis Ball Cricket Championship 2026-27, organised by the District Tennis Ball Cricket Association, Baramulla, has been rescheduled.

The championship, which was earlier scheduled to be held from August 17 to 19, 2026, at the GDC Baramulla Ground, will now take place from August 25 to 27, 2026, at the same venue.

According to the association, all other terms, conditions and arrangements for the championship will remain unchanged.

The District Tennis Ball Cricket Association has expressed regret for any inconvenience caused due to the change in schedule and requested all concerned players, teams and officials to take note of the revised dates.

Secretary District Tennis Ball Cricket Association, Baramulla



Former Liverpool head coach Arne Slot to stay in club football after Netherlands talks



United News Of India

LONDON, AUG 13: Former Liverpool head coach Arne Slot has confirmed he held talks over the vacant Netherlands job but withdrew because he wants his next job to be in club football. The Dutchman, 47, guided the Reds to their 20th league title in his debut season but finished fifth in the Premier League and was sacked on May 30, according to BBC Sport. Ronald Koeman stepped down from his second spell as Netherlands manager after they were knocked out of the World Cup by Morocco in the last-32 penalty shootout in June.

Slot denied reports he had withdrawn

from talks with the KNVB (Royal Dutch Football Association) after a dispute over his contract.

"Over the past few weeks, and particularly the past few days, various reports have appeared regarding the vacancy at the Dutch national team, suggesting that I had withdrawn from the process after lengthy negotiations, including regarding salary and contract duration," Slot told Voetbal International.

"That speculation is incorrect. We simply never reached that stage of the talks."

Slot, who won the Eredivisie with Feyenoord in 2023, did not rule out taking over the national team in the future.

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