

**DENGUE WARNING SIGNS**

Many people with dengue can be cared for at home with adequate rest and hydration. But, if you experience any warning signs, go immediately to the nearest medical center.

**Watch out for dengue warning signs!**

A drop in body temperature accompanied by any of the following symptoms:

- Severe and continuous abdominal pain
- Diarrhoea
- Persistent vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or vomit

If you have any of these symptoms, go to the nearest medical center IMMEDIATELY.

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## SSP Udhampur's Young daughter passes away suddenly

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, AUG 3

A wave of shock and grief swept through Udhampur on Saturday after the young daughter of Senior Superintendent of Police, Udhampur, Amod Ashok Nagpure, passed away unexpectedly following a brief illness.

Sources said the child had been suffering from mild fever for the last couple of days and collapsed suddenly at home on Sunday morning.

Despite immediate efforts, she could not be saved.

The sudden death has left the family devastated, with condolences pouring in from police officers, civil administration, and members of the public.

## LG expresses condolence on passing of SSP daughter

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, AUG 3

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has expressed his heartfelt condolences on the untimely demise of daughter of Amod Nagpure Ashok, SSP Udhampur.

In a message, the Lieutenant Governor has said: "Shocked and heartbroken by the tragic news of the passing of the daughter of SSP Udhampur Amod Nagpure Ashok, my deepest condolences to the grieving family. May the Almighty give them courage and strength to bear this irreparable loss. I pray for peace to the departed soul. Om Shanti."

## Youths in border village of Ladakh look towards stars for their future

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
HANLE (LADAKH), AUG 3

Youths in a border village in Ladakh are looking up towards the dark night sky for their future, with the stars shining bright down on their hopes and expectations.

They are the 'astro-ambassadors' at Hanle, the country's first dark sky reserve, who have taken up stargazing as a profession, giving astronomy enthusiasts and tourists a glimpse into the vast, deep universe through their telescopes.

"The Indian Astronomical Observatory (IOA) is located here, which has been a driving point for the declaration of the Hanle Dark Sky Reserve (HDSR). The local administrations came together with them to set this concept of 'astro-ambassadors' rolling," Rangdol Dorjey, one of the youths enrolled in this initiative, told PTI here.

The region around Hanle, along the border with China, has one of the darkest skies in

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## LG addresses Viksit Bharat-Yuva Connect Programme's Valedictory Event at Jammu University

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, AUGUST 3

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha addressed the Viksit Bharat-Yuva Connect Programme's valedictory event at University of Jammu.

Aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, Yuva Connect Programme leverages My Bharat platform to promote dialogue, empowerment and active



participation of youth and bridges the gap between young citizens and policy-makers.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor called upon the young minds to harness the potential of knowledge and contribute towards social transformation and economic growth of the nation.

"The 21st century is India's century."

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## We are determined to preserve our heritage and strengthen cultural, spiritual and historical identity: LG



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, AUGUST 3

National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) through its Regional Office Jammu, and Relief and Rehabil-

itation Commissioner (M) Office, J&K today signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Development of Bhadrakali Temple as Cultural Heritage Centre at Village Thalwal, Jammu

Shri Manoj Sinha presided over the MoU signing ceremony at Raj Bhawan. He lauded the initiative of NHPC under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme.

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## Anti-Terror operation in Kulgam enters third day

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, AUG 3

The anti-terrorist operation in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir entered the third day on Sunday as security forces tightened the noose around the ultras engaged in the gun battle with them.

"The encounter has entered third day as intermittent exchange of firing has been going on since Sunday morning," an official said.

He said the security forces were using all



means, including drones, to track down the terrorists.

Two terrorists have been killed in the encounter which began on Friday after security forces

launched a cordon and search operation in a forest area at Akhal in the south Kashmir district, following specific intelligence inputs

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## Lieutenant Governor unveils the teaser of Basohli Utsav-2025

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, AUGUST 3

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today unveiled the teaser and the brochure for the forthcoming Basohli Utsav-2025, at Raj Bhawan.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated and extended his best wishes to the Administration; Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA), Vishwasthali organisation and other stakeholders associated with Basohli Utsav for their collective endeavour to celebrate the unique creative tradi-



tions of Basohli and historical heritage of the region.

The 3rd edition of 'Basohli Utsav' is scheduled to be held from 28 September to 02 October 2025. This year's event will focus on the traditions of the Ramayana.

The festival will feature Ramayana-themed exhibitions and booklets; Folk

arts Exhibitions, National competitions of folk dance and singing, Local sports competition and a host of art and cultural activities. The mega event will also honour local folk artists, artisans and litterateurs.

The Lieutenant Governor said Basohli has its unique cultural and

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## PM Modi meets President Murmu

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, AUG 3

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday called on President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here.

Details of the meeting were not immediately available.

"Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan," the Rashtrapati Bhavan said on X.

## Two Killed as SUV falls into gorge in Kathua

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, AUG 3

Two people lost their lives and three others sustained critical injuries when the SUV they were travelling in skidded off the road and fell into a gorge in the Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir early Sunday, police said.

All five passengers were members of a community kitchen service for the Amarnath Yatra from Punjab. They were

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## Udhampur Airport proposal to be implemented in 2 Phases: Dr Jitendra

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, AUG 3

Udhampur Airport proposal is to be implemented in two phases.

This was disclosed here today to the media by Union Minister and Member of Parliament from the Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency Dr Jitendra Singh following a series of meetings he has held over the last two days with Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu, Union Secretary Civil Aviation Samir K. Sinha and members of the Airport Authority of India. Earlier, he also



discussed the issue with Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir Omar Abdullah and officially wrote to him, in response to which the CM's response was also received. He has also taken the concerned

Indian Air Force authorities and the local administration on board.

Efforts to commence civil flight operations from the Udhampur Air Force Station in Jammu &

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## From Ideology to Income: The new Social Media Game in Kashmir

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, AUG 3

Security agencies have uncovered a new trend among some youngsters in the Kashmir Valley of using social media to glorify separatist and terrorist figures not out of ideological conviction, but as a calculated tactic to gain followers and earn money from advertisers.

Srinagar police, which has been making every effort to track social media sites to counter the radicalisation process, found out about this modus operandi after detaining

some youth behind such accounts.

During interrogation, the youngsters allegedly admitted that the employment of inflammatory imagery – such as that of slain terrorist Burhan Wani of the banned Hizbul Mujahideen – was a calculated plan to gain a high and active fan base.

This engagement farming subsequently enabled them to capitalise on their social media accounts by receiving payment from advertisers for endorsements.

After gaining a number of followers, especially

from across the border and overseas, the account handlers used to replace these pictures with other images such as mountains or Chinar trees, the officials said.

The officials added that the emerging trend may be unsettling as the online propaganda environment within the region is blurring the lines among political opposition, radical elements and opportunists seeking online renown and wealth.

While the police are determined to intensify their surveillance

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## NEET-PG Exam conducted across 301 cities; over 2,42,000 candidates appear

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, AUG 3

More than 2,42,000 candidates on Sunday appeared for the NEET-PG exam, which is conducted by the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) for admission to various post graduate medical courses.

The exam was conducted in a single shift on the computer-based platform across 301 cities and in 1,052 test centres, official sources said.

This is the largest computer-based exam in India



in terms of number of candidates which has been conducted in a single shift.

The NBEMS had engaged more than 2,200 faculty members from

various medical colleges and accredited hospitals to ensure zero tolerance towards use of unfair means cases.

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## Dalai Lama lays foundation stone of new Chowkhang Vihara Monastery in Ladakh

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
LEIH, AUG 3

The Dalai Lama on Sunday here laid the foundation of the Chowkhang Vihara for reconstruction. The event drew a large gathering of religious leaders, local dignitaries, and community members.

At the Chowkhang Vihara, the 14th Dalai Lama was received by Ladakh Buddhist Association president Chering Dorjay Lakruk. The reception featured traditional Ladakhi music and ceremonial offerings of



khattaks.

"Let this not be a place for only ritual prayers and idle chatter but a centre for deep study and debate

on Buddhist philosophy, a wellspring of wisdom for generations," the 14th Tibetan spiritual

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## Three rusted artillery shells found in Samba

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBA, JAMMU, AUG 3

Three rusted artillery shells were found and subsequently destroyed in a controlled explosion in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, police officials said.

Police were informed by locals about the abandoned shells along the banks of Basantar river near village Palth

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## BJP leaders chart roadmap to boost Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat in J&K

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, AUG 3

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir General Secretary and "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" Campaign Convener Baldev Singh Billwaria chaired a meeting on "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" campaign at BJP Headquarters, Jammu. The meeting was addressed by J&K "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" campaign co-charge Ajendra Kumar Sharma, J&K General Secretary Sanjita Dogra, Gopal Mahajan. The meeting highlighted the party's commitment to strengthen national unity and promote cultural integration across India. Addressing the meeting, Baldev Singh Billwaria discussed strategies to increase the reach and impact of the "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" campaign in J&K. He said that the transparent initiative "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi aims to promote mutual understanding among citizens of different states and union territories. He called for focusing on promoting the spirit of unity and harmony among diverse communi-



ties by encouraging cultural exchanges and collaborative initiatives. He said, "Our goal is to build a stronger and more integrated India by celebrating the rich diversity of each state and promoting mutual understanding." He further said that with a vision to build a prosperous and integrated India, the BJP actively works to promote inclusive growth and cultural unity across the country.

Ajendra Sharma elaborated on the BJP's active participation in promoting inter-state relations through various activities such as music, theatre, food festivals, language learning and historical exchanges. He also made a special appeal to the pravasi population, especially the people of Bihar to visit their native cities and participate in the upcoming state assembly elections. He said, "Assembly elections are not just a political process but it

is an important occasion for our society and development. I request all the people of Bihar to stay connected to the roots of their homes, visit their villages and cities and raise their voice through voting." He also said that participation in elections is the only way to progress Bihar towards development and better governance. The upcoming assembly elections will play a decisive role in shaping the future of Bihar, hence participation of every citizen is necessary. He urged people to be aware of their duties and rights.

Sanjita Dogra said that 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' is not just a slogan but a shared responsibility of all Indians, which will promote social harmony, economic development and cultural prosperity in the country. She said, "Our aim is to create an India where every citizen gets equal opportunities and everyone gets a chance

to contribute to the progress of the nation." Under this ideology, the BJP is running several social and economic programs aimed at eliminating various regional and linguistic differences and strengthening the unity of the country.

Gopal Mahajan shared detailed information of the activities being carried out under the campaign in the Union Territory. He highlighted several successful initiatives that have enhanced cultural connect between the people of Jammu and Kashmir and other regions. He emphasized that such contacts between people are helpful in breaking regional barriers and promoting national integration.

Co-incharge of Jammu Administrative District Brijeshwar Rana, incharge of District Samba Jai Ram Sharma and incharge of District Border Akash Chopra were also present in the meeting.

## G M Saroori says Article 370 abrogation snatched rights of J&K people

JINNEWS SERVICE  
SOPORE, AUG 3

A day-long convention of the Indian National Congress was held at Adipur Sopore in North Kashmir's Baramulla district, where senior Congress leaders, including G. M. Saroori, Haji Abdul Rashid Dar, Advocate Irfan Hafeez Lone (MLA Wagoora-Kreeri), Channi Singh strongly condemned the abrogation of Article 370, calling August 5 a "Black Day" for Jammu and Kashmir.

The convention was organised by senior Congress leader and former minister Haji Abdul Rashid Dar, and witnessed participation from District Congress President Baramulla and senior leaders including Mir Iqbal, Abdul Gani Khan, Fayaz Ahmed Mir, Ravees Ahmed, as well as hundreds of party workers.

Addressing the con-

vention as the keynote speaker, senior Congress leader and former minister G. M. Saroori said, "August 5, 2019, will always remain a black day in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. The BJP-led central government unilaterally revoked Article 370 and bifurcated the state without the consent of its people. This act was unconstitutional, undemocratic and a betrayal of the promises made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

Saroori added that the abrogation had led to disempowerment, political alienation, and economic slowdown in the region. "We had a state with its own identity, rights, and constitution. That was snatched away in a single stroke. Our slogan today is 'Hamari Riyasat, Hamara Haq' we demand restoration of full statehood and constitutional guarantees," he said and also criticised

the silence of democratic institutions and appealed to civil society and political parties to raise a collective voice for the restoration of democratic rights.

Congress leaders Haji Abdul Rashid and Channi Singh in his address emphasised the need for unity across regions and religions to safeguard democratic values. "The people of Jammu and Kashmir must come together beyond party lines to challenge the politics of division and denial," they said.

MLA Wagoora-Kreeri and noted advocate Irfan Hafeez Lone also spoke during the convention and termed the move of August 5 as a legal and constitutional assault on federalism. "The matter is sub judice in the Supreme Court, but the delay in justice is only adding to public frustration. We must educate the youth and masses

about their constitutional rights and fight the battle both legally and politically," he asserted.

The convention witnessed significant grassroots participation. Party workers raised slogans demanding restoration of statehood and resumption of democratic processes. District Congress President Baramulla and other senior leaders, including Mir Iqbal, Abdul Gani Khan, Fayaz Ahmed Mir, and Ravees Ahmed, also addressed the gathering and reaffirmed the Congress party's commitment to the people of Kashmir.

The convention concluded with a resolution to organise protest meetings and awareness programmes across Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, marking it as a Black Day against the abrogation of Article 370 and downgrading of Jammu and Kashmir into a Union Territory.

## BJP's J&K policy delivering results, not failing: Rekha Mahajan hits back at Mehbooba

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, AUG 3

Strongly countering the recent remarks made by PDP President Mehbooba Mufti, senior BJP leader and J&K BJP Vice President Rekha Mahajan asserted that the policies of the BJP-led government in Jammu and Kashmir have brought unprecedented peace, stability, and development to the region, especially under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Speaking at a public outreach programme in Gadigarh, Rekha Mahajan described Mehbooba Mufti's allegations of BJP's "policy failure" as misguided, politically motivated, and disconnected from ground realities.

She said, "Contrary to Mehbooba Mufti's claims, the BJP's approach in Jammu & Kashmir has not failed. In fact, it has delivered on the long-standing aspirations of the people—ensuring peace in the Valley, neutralizing separatism, curbing terrorism, and integrating the region into the national main-



stream like never before." Highlighting the peaceful atmosphere in Kashmir, Rekha noted that stone pelting, hartals, and bandhs have become things of the past.

"Today, tourists are flocking to Kashmir in record numbers, students are attending schools without fear, and development projects are progressing without disruption. Is this not evidence of a successful policy?" she asked Mehbooba Mufti.

Praising the Modi government's bold steps, including the abrogation of Article 370 and the reorganization of Jammu & Kashmir, Rekha Mahajan said these decisions have liberated the people from dynastic politics, corruption, and stagnation.

"The days when a few political families held the

region hostage to their interests are over. The people of Jammu and Kashmir are now breathing the air of true democracy," she said.

She also highlighted the BJP's peace initiatives, saying that security forces have successfully dismantled terror networks, and cross-border infiltration has been curbed significantly.

"The Modi regime's firm stance on internal security and diplomatic strategy with Pakistan has isolated anti-national elements," she added.

Rekha also praised the Union Government's push for development in border areas, healthcare, tourism, infrastructure, and digital governance.

"From AIIMS in Jammu to road networks in the farthest villages of Kash-

mir, the Modi-led government is building a new, progressive J&K," she said.

Criticizing Mehbooba Mufti for indulging in divisive politics, she remarked, "Leaders who once sympathized with separatists cannot digest the region's peaceful transformation. Her statements only reflect political frustration and loss of relevance."

The event in Gadigarh witnessed enthusiastic participation from locals, party workers, and community representatives. Residents hailed BJP's development-centric vision and lauded the peace that has returned to their lives under Modi's leadership.

Concluding her remarks, Rekha Mahajan urged people to stay vigilant against misinformation and support ongoing efforts for long-term peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

"BJP's Jammu & Kashmir policy is not just a political stance—it is a commitment to the people, and the results speak for themselves," she said.

## Ashok Koul leads 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign by planting sapling in Jammu

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, AUG 3

In an initiative to honour motherhood and promote environmental conservation, BJP Jammu & Kashmir General Secretary (Organization), Ashok Koul, today planted a sapling under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign in Jammu. The campaign is part of a nationwide initiative launched at the call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, encouraging citizens to plant trees in tribute to their mothers.

Joining him in the plantation drive was Naresh Singh Jasrotia, President of BJP Jammu-South District, along with party workers and local residents.

Speaking on the occa-



sion, Ashok Koul said, "This campaign beautifully connects emotion with ecology. By planting a tree in our mother's name, we not only express our gratitude but also take

a responsible step towards preserving nature. I urge every citizen of Jammu & Kashmir to join this noble initiative and contribute to a greener, healthier future."

He added that such initiatives reflect the deep cultural values of the nation and reinforce the sense of personal responsibility towards environmental sustainability.

## NC leaders urge PM Modi to fulfil promise of statehood restoration

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, AUG 3

Ankush Abrol, Provincial Joint Secretary JKNC today reiterated his demand for restoration of Statehood to Jammu & Kashmir and urged the Hon'ble Prime Minister to fulfil his promise, which he made with the people of Jammu & Kashmir earnestly waiting for his constructive action sans further delay.

Addressing youths during a meeting, Abrol said that Statehood is not just a political necessity but a constitutional and moral obligation held out to people of J&K that must be fulfilled at the earliest. The time for delays and empty promises is over as the people demand positive action," he asserted.

The meeting was organised by Vikshay Vashist and graced by Ankush Abrol, Joint Secretary JKNC, as the Chief Guest, while Dr Vikas Sharma, Coordinator Jammu District and Secretary of the Central Zone of JKNC was the Guest of Honour.

While interacting with youth both maintained that the Central Government must understand



that without restoration of Statehood, the process of ensuring Development, Peace and Prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir would remain as day dreaming and injustice with the people here, they apprehended.

Ankush urged the people to strengthen the hands of the National Conference enabling it to continue serving the people and fulfilling their hopes and aspirations. He emphasized that the National Conference led government under Omar Abdullah is dedicated to holistic development and pro-people governance.

Dr Vikas Sharma in his address slammed the BJP for adopting policies which are anti-poor, anti-youth, and anti-down-trodden class pushing

the region into economic degradation, administrative chaos and confusion as well as developmental apathy.

He said that the people of Jammu had high hopes from the BJP, but the party failed on all fronts and insulted its mandate by breaching trust of the common masses in Jammu.

Raising a red flag over employment policies, Dr Vikas expressed strong concern over the appointment of non-locals in the education sector, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir's universities. "This trend is blocking employment opportunities for highly qualified local youth and creating a sense of discrimination among the educated youth of Jammu

and Kashmir," he noted. He demanded a fair and transparent recruitment policy with preference to local candidates.

He urged the people to see through the BJP's false promises and support the National Conference in its mission to bring stability, progress, and justice to Jammu & Kashmir.

Other prominent present on the Meeting included Abhishek Uppal, Vineet Gupta, Sanjay Anand, Zeeshan Ali Rather, Ashfaq Ahmed Adil, Sajid Malik, Amit Gupta, Ashfaq Ahmed, Gourav Chibber, Mayank Bali, Nikhal Parihar, Ankush Sharma, Muneeb ul Islam, Nishar Ali, Pankaj Sharma, Sourav Thakur, Veer, Vikas Sharma, Sahil Sharma, Ankush and others.

## Dr. Manyal launches sanitary complex projects in Rajpura

JINNEWS SERVICE  
RAMGARHI, AUG 3

Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, Hon'ble MLA Ramgarh and Former Minister for Health and Medical Education, Jammu & Kashmir, today formally kick-started the construction work of Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs) at three strategic locations in Rajpura Block Near Ram Mandir, Rajpura, Near Gurudwara, Rajpura, Near Power House, Rajpura

The initiative, undertaken under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), aims to provide clean and



accessible sanitation facilities for the general public, especially in high-traffic areas of the community. These complexes are envisioned to improve hygiene standards and promote behavioral change towards sanitation practices in

rural areas.

Inaugural programme was attended by Ms. Shivali Choudhary JKAS BDO Rajpura, Sh. Radha Sham, Former BDC Chairman, Rajpura, Smt. Asha Rani, President, Rajpura

Speaking on the occa-

sion, Dr. Manyal emphasized the significance of sustainable sanitation infrastructure in rural development and urged the community to actively participate in maintaining these public utilities. He reiterated his commitment to strengthening grassroots development through focused interventions in health, hygiene, and civic infrastructure.

The initiative reflects a broader vision of inclusive and clean rural governance, aligning with national priorities under the Swachh Bharat Mission.

## Restoration of complete Statehood our right not a favor, Congress committed to safeguard people's rights: Karra

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, AUG 3

The J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President Tariq Hammed Karra on Sunday led an impressive public outreach programme in connection with Party's movement "Hamari Riyasat Hamara Haq" in Shalteng area of Srinagar district and addressed a largely attended public meeting while highlighting the party's tireless efforts to restore dignity and honour of people of J&K, which are under assault under the BJP rule at Centre.

Speaking on the occasion JKPCC President Tariq Hameed Karra laid emphasis over further intensifying the movement under the banner Hamari Riyasat Hamara Haq, besides conducting public outreach programmes across J&K in all the districts and appealed the people to fully join Congress Party's struggle for restoration of complete statehood.

Statehood is our right not a favour. our jobs, land, natural resources,



cultural identity are our rights, which cannot be compromised, in any case. We will do everything to protect these, for that matter the entire Congress party under the leadership of Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and LOP Rahul Gandhi are committed to ensure restoration of Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, dignity and honour of people. It is the Congress

Party alone which stands guarantee to protection of public rights, he said.

Congress has launched a tireless campaign under the banner Hamari Riyasat Hamara Haq, it will not stop till the Centre restores the complete statehood, Congress Party will be observing hunger strike from 9 August, all District Congress Committee leaders and workers will reach Srinagar to join as per the scheduled finalized, similarly the hunger strike will be observed in Jammu District wise at Centre place, as scheduled. Karra elaborated.

people across J&K to fully join upcoming public outreach programme in the districts for protection of their rights, JKPCC President said.

Congress won't be cowed down by the challenges and the malicious propaganda unleashed by BJP and its proxies aiming to divert attention of the people from the Statehood campaign, we (Congress) and the people of J&K will defeat such nefarious designs, Karra added.

Hamari Riyasat Hamara Haq has become a household name, it will not stop till the Centre restores the complete statehood, Congress Party will be observing hunger strike from 9 August, all District Congress Committee leaders and workers will reach Srinagar to join as per the scheduled finalized, similarly the hunger strike will be observed in Jammu District wise at Centre place, as scheduled. Karra elaborated.

Senior Congress Leader Nissar Ahmad Munday, Dr. Waleed Karra, Yasir Nissar and others also spoke on the occasion.

## BJP leadership rallies cadre to make 'Har Ghar Tiranga' a resounding success

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, AUG 3

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir unit, organized a one-day workshop at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, to mobilize and strategize for the upcoming 'Tiranga Yatra' campaign under the broader initiative of 'Har Ghar Tiranga'.

The workshop was addressed by J&K BJP President Sat Sharma, General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul, National Secretary and MLA Dr. Narinder Singh, along with General Secretaries Sanjeeta Dogra, Baldev Singh Billawaria, and Gopal Mahajan.

BJP State Office Bearers, Mocha Presidents, District Convenors and Co-convenors of the campaign, and other senior leaders participated in the workshop.

Sat Sharma, in his keynote address, emphasized the importance of full commitment from every BJP leader and worker to



ensure the success of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign. Stressing upon the instructions of BJP National President JP Nadda, he urged the cadre to carry the symbol of national pride 'Tiranga' to every rooftop in their respective areas. He called for detailed planning and effective training of workers through workshops at various levels. He invoked the call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for active public participation, stating that the 15th of August should reflect a nation bathed in the colours of the Tiranga. Cautioning against those who once raised arms against patriotic citizens waving the

Tiranga, he said that the campaign should also serve as a strong message of unity and strength to those safeguarding the nation.

Ashok Koul, while addressing the workshop, shared a comprehensive outline of the forthcoming events under the campaign. He stressed the need for grassroots planning from the booth level to mandal and district levels to ensure that the Tiranga adorns every household. He also announced the organization of grand Tiranga Rallies and Padyatras as part of the celebrations. Importantly, he called upon all to remember the

tragic aftermath of India's Partition and observe 14th August as 'Vibhajan Vibhishika Diwas' to honour the victims of the holocaust.

Dr. Narinder Singh urged for massive public participation, especially from the youth, underlining that these programmes are meant to instill a deeper sense of patriotism. He stressed the importance of connecting with security personnel and their families, recognizing and honoring their sacrifices for the nation. Highlighting the historic success of Operation Sindoor, Singh stated that this Independence Day carries special emotional and patriotic significance across the nation.

Gopal Mahajan conducted the proceedings and gave a detailed introduction to the workshop's objectives. Baldev Singh Billawaria extended the vote of thanks and encouraged all leaders and workers to ensure the grand success of the Abhiyan.

## Pawan welcomes successful launch of NISAR, Hailing India's Growing Space Prowess

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, AUG 3

Pawan Sharma, State Secretary, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, today extended heartfelt congratulations to ISRO and the entire Indian scientific community on the successful launch of NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) – a landmark mission jointly developed by ISRO and NASA.

Describing the achievement as a matter of immense national pride, Sharma said.

"The successful deployment of NISAR underscores India's rising stature as a trusted and capable



space-ferrying nation. This mission not only cements our position on the global space map but also demonstrates the remarkable strides made by our scientific community in pushing the frontiers of knowledge for the collective betterment of humanity."

He praised the collaborative effort between NASA and ISRO, calling it

a symbol of international cooperation for scientific advancement, and expressed confidence that the data from NISAR will be a valuable asset in tracking climate change, disaster response, and environmental protection – issues that directly impact millions of lives.

Sharma further stated that such achievements reflect the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, under whom science, technology, and innovation have been given national priority and strategic momentum.

"From Chandrayaan to NISAR, India's space story is now being written in bold letters across the sky. Our scientists are scripting a new destiny for Bharat – one that is rooted in ancient wisdom and powered by modern innovation," he added.

He also commended the young scientific minds of Jammu & Kashmir and encouraged them to take inspiration from such historic milestones, pursue STEM education, and contribute to India's knowledge economy.

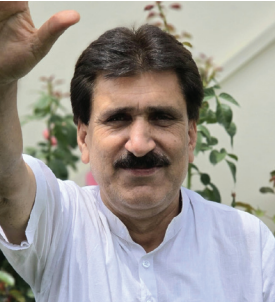
The launch of NISAR stands as a testament to India's technological self-reliance (Atmanirbharta) and its rising role in global scientific missions aimed at safeguarding the planet and humanity.

## Operation Sindoor will wipe out Terrorism from J&K: Altaf lauds forces after major successes

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, AUG 3

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir spokesperson Altaf Thakur today hailed the relentless and coordinated efforts of the security forces under Operation Sindoor, asserting that the ongoing counter-terror drive is dismantling terror networks across the length and breadth of the Union Territory.

Thakur described the elimination of three foreign terrorists in the Dachigam forest area of Srinagar as a "monumental success" and a reflection of seamless synergy between the Jammu and Kashmir Police,



Indian Army, and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). He also pointed to the recent operation in south Kashmir's Kulgam, where two more terrorists were neutralised, and a previous crackdown in the Jammu region—all part of the same operation.

"These back-to-back successes are proof that

Operation Sindoor is a decisive, full-spectrum effort to hunt down terrorists hiding in any nook or corner of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Thakur reiterated that the crackdown reflects the unwavering policy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to eliminate terrorism from the region. "It is a clear message: the government will not rest until the last terrorist is wiped out," he added.

He lauded the security forces for their courage, discipline, and unflinching commitment. "From the jungles of Dachigam to the towns of Kulgam and

the hinterlands of Jammu, our brave jawans have displayed extraordinary professionalism. Their efforts are restoring peace and rebuilding public confidence," Thakur said.

Urging people to support the armed forces in their mission, he emphasised that ending terrorism would pave the way for true development, increased tourism, and overall prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Operation Sindoor is not just about bullets and encounters—it's about securing the future of Jammu and Kashmir. It is a war for peace and progress, and India is winning it," he concluded.

## Hakeem Yaseen slams JKNC, Congress for double standards, raises questions on 9th August silence

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, AUG 3

Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) President and former Minister Hakeem Mohammad Yaseen on Saturday accused Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) and Congress of political hypocrisy and selective outrage, questioning its decision to observe August 5 as a Black Day while conveniently ignoring August 9, the day when Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah was arrested in 1953 by the then Congress-led government.

Addressing a well-attended party convention in Wetrod Kachwari, Khansahib, Yaseen said that while the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, deserves condemnation and resistance, JKNC's silence on the betrayal of its own founder in 1953 reflects a double standard driven by political convenience rather than principle.

While addressing a daylong party convention at Wetrod Kachwari in Khansahib, Yaseen



questioned the selective outrage of JKNC and Congress, stating that although the party is preparing to observe August 5 as a Black Day which he acknowledged as genuine and justified due to the abrogation of Article 370 they have conveniently forgotten August 9, a day they once also marked as Black Day to protest the arrest of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah in 1953.

"It is true that August 5 should be observed as Black Day, as Article 370 was snatched from us. We also urge Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to restore the statehood of

Jammu and Kashmir with full dignity and honour. But why this selective memory when it comes to August 9? Who was responsible for that Black Day? Why is JKNC silent now?" Yaseen asked.

Hakeem recalled that it was on August 9, 1953, that Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah was dismissed and arrested by the Congress-led government, and rallies used to be held annually by JKNC to mark that day. He demanded to know why that practice has now been discontinued.

"If JKNC and Congress observe August 5 against BJP, why don't they observe August 9 against the Congress, which jailed their tallest leader, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah? Was that democratic or undemocratic? Was the Constitution of J&K not violated back then?" he said, adding that the twin faces of JKNC and Congress must be exposed.

Yaseen also criticized Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's recent visit to Gujarat, stating that while interactions and

observations of developmental models outside J&K are welcome, it is more important to focus on long-pending developmental issues within the Union Territory.

"Seeing Gujarat is good, but seeing our own Jammu and Kashmir is more important. There are areas in our region waiting for decades for attention," he said.

Hakeem also raised the issue of long-delayed infrastructure projects, particularly the proposed Tangmarg-Drung National Highway, which would connect Mandi Poonch via Doodhpathri, Yousmarg, and Tosamaidan.

He said the project, approved in 2012, is yet to see any tangible progress as tenders have not been floated so far.

"This highway would serve as an alternative link between the Kashmir and Jammu regions and significantly boost trade, tourism, and local connectivity. The government must take this project on a priority basis. The region has been neglected for too long," Yaseen stressed.

## 5 August 2019: A Historic Turning Point for Jammu & Kashmir: Rajni Sethi

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, AUG 3

5th August 2019 will always be remembered as a historic and transformative day for Jammu and Kashmir. On this day, the Government of India took a bold and decisive step by abrogating Articles 370 and 35A, thereby integrating Jammu and Kashmir completely with the rest of the country. This move, led by the Modi Government, was not just about constitutional change; it was about justice, equality, and long-awaited development for the people of our Union Territory, stated Rajni Sethi, Spokesperson, J&K BJP.

Before 5 August 2019, the situation in Jammu and Kashmir was far from normal. Shops, schools, and government offices would remain closed frequently due to bandh calls issued by separatist leaders or threats by terrorist groups. The fear psychosis created by these anti-national elements had crippled normal life and economic progress. Citizens were hostage to a system that denied them basic democratic rights and equal opportunities.

Article 370 and 35A, which were meant to be



temporary provisions, had over time become tools of discrimination and separation. Under these articles, many fundamental rights that citizens in other parts of the country enjoyed were not applicable to the residents of Jammu and Kashmir. People from outside the state could not settle, invest, or work freely here. Women who married outside the state lost their rights. Dalits and other marginalized communities were denied reservation benefits. Even basic rights like education, property ownership, and equal job opportunities were limited. It was a clear case of injustice perpetuated by previous governments who either lacked vision or the will to bring change.

After the abrogation of Article 370, Jammu and Kashmir has started walking on the path of equality, growth, and stability. Every citizen now has the

same rights as citizens in the rest of India – be it in terms of voting, education, employment, or property ownership. Laws related to gender equality, child protection, minority welfare, and employment generation have been extended to the region. Young people are finally getting access to opportunities that were denied to them for decades.

However, not everyone has welcomed this change. Many political parties – both regional and national – have opposed this development. These parties, who once ruled the state, are now calling for protests, observing 'Black Day', and spreading negativity about the decision. From Kashmir to Jammu, and even at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, they are staging protests for vote bank politics. These same leaders must answer what they did during their long rule. What was the condition of education, health-care, employment, infrastructure, and law and order during their tenure? Did they really care about the common people or just used Jammu and Kashmir as their political playground?

The people of Jammu and Kashmir are now

witnessing the benefits of the abrogation. Roads are being constructed in remote areas, schools and colleges are being upgraded, tourism is returning, investors are showing interest, and most importantly, peace is slowly but surely being restored. The fear of terrorists and stone pelters has reduced significantly. The dream of a Viksit Jammu and Kashmir and Naya Jammu and Kashmir is becoming a reality.

We must remember that progress is never easy. There will always be forces who try to stop development, who thrive in chaos, and who want to divide people for political gains. It is the duty of every responsible citizen to think wisely, understand the ground reality, and support the right vision for the future.

Today, Jammu and Kashmir stands at a crossroads – one path leads back to the old days of fear, division, and backwardness; the other leads to growth, peace, and prosperity. The choice is ours. Let us stand united and support the transformation that began on 5 August 2019. Let us build a future that is bright, equal, and inclusive for all.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

## LG addresses Viksit...

It is written in stone. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India is moving forward to regain its position as a world leader and our young generation will make the greatest contribution in this journey.

Our prime objective is to empower youth to become informed and action-oriented citizens and drive J&K's growth and development. The innovative ideas of youth, their dreams, aspirations and their inclination for change will play a crucial role in societal transformation," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor entrusted the youth to understand the needs of the society, dedicate themselves to fulfil it and be prepared to sacrifice everything for the goal of Viksit Bharat.

"The human mind is the greatest miracle and the most powerful force in this universe and our youth can utilise this strength to achieve the goal of building Viksit Bharat.

To create Viksit Bharat, you will have to try to live your endeavour to its fullest. You have to chart the path of the future. Along with modern inventions, you have to keep alive the thirst to achieve new dimensions of consciousness," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor lauded the University of Jammu for its revolutionary initiatives and enabling the students to realize their true potential.

He also called upon the educational institutions to adopt a global approach to education to keep pace with the change. "Our immediate goal should be to make India the third largest economy," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor felicitated the winners of pre- activities under Viksit Bharat-Yuva Connect Programme. Viksit Bharat Shapath was also administered on the occasion.

Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu gave a detailed overview on the pre-activities organised by the University under Viksit Bharat - Yuva Connect programme.

Senior officials, Heads of Departments, faculty members, staff and students were present at the valedictory ceremony.

## We are determined...

Bhadrakali Temple, nestled on the banks of the Nikki Tawi river in Thalwal, Jammu, is a revered shrine holding profound significance, particularly for the Kashmiri Pandit community. It stands as a powerful symbol of their enduring faith and the preservation of their cultural heritage. The temple is regarded as a new home for the deity, mirroring the historical Bhadrakali temple in Wadipora, Handwara, Kashmir.

"We are determined to preserve our heritage and strengthen cultural, spiritual and historical identity," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The works to be executed under the project costing Rs 6.60 cr include Development of Ghats, Construction of Parking, Construction of Yagya Shala, Construction of protection wall and Compound wall, Finishing of existing building and providing of Gate.

Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Dr. Arvind Karwani, Relief and Rehabilitation (M) Commissioner, Jammu; Shri Pankaj Vashistha, General Manager (Civil) and other senior officials of NHPC were present.

## Anti-Terror operation...

about the presence of terrorists there. After an initial exchange of fire between the two sides on Friday evening, the operation was halted for the night, the officials said.

The cordon was strengthened, and additional reinforcements were rushed to the area.

Firing resumed on Saturday morning, during which two terrorists were killed, the officials said.

The identity and group affiliation of the slain terrorists are being ascertained, they added, noting that the operation is still underway. (Agencies)

## Lieutenant Governor unveils...

artistic heritage and IGNC is making efforts to promote its uniqueness across the country.

"The rich artistic tradition of the region is most extraordinarily seen in the Basohli painting which was granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2023. I hope people from across the country will come to visit Basohli Utsav," the Lieutenant Governor further added.

Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Shri Shakti Kumar Pathak, Director Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), J&K; Ms Shruti Awasthi, Regional Director, IGNC, and members of IGNC and Vishwasthali organisation were present.

## Two Killed as...

en route to the campsite at Chanderkote along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway when the accident occurred near Kainta Morh on the Kathua-Basohli road around 12.40 am, officials stated.

Following the vehicle's plunge into the deep gorge, local volunteers promptly initiated a rescue operation. All five individuals were subsequently taken to the Government Medical College Hospital in Kathua.

Mohinder Paul (60) and Pawan Madhan (50) were declared brought dead by the doctors upon their arrival at the hospital. The three injured - Anil Monga, Sunny Arora, and Sudhir - were admitted for treatment, officials said.

## Udhampur Airport...

Kashmir have now taken a significant step forward, with the Airports Authority of India (AAI) completing a site feasibility assessment and initiating formal processes for the development of a new Aviation Enclave.

This marks the second major civil aviation initiative in the region attributed to Dr. Jitendra Singh's tenure as MP. Earlier, his efforts were instrumental in getting

an Airport for Kishtwar included in the UDAN scheme plan, aimed at enhancing air connectivity in the far flung hill region.

The present move follows a sustained follow-up by Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister and Member of Parliament representing the area.

The proposal, which aims to connect Udhampur to the national civil aviation network, was initially triggered by a reference from Dr. Jitendra Singh to the Airports Authority of India. Acting on this, a technical team comprising officials from various directorates of AAI visited the Air Force Station at Udhampur on March 28 and 29, 2025. The visit included a joint review with the Indian Air Force, evaluation of existing infrastructure, and consultations with the district administration and defence authorities.

In a phased plan now under consideration, Phase 1 of the project involves initiating civil flight operations within the existing premises of the Air Force Station. The Indian Air Force has, in principle, agreed to allocate 2,200 square metres for developing a terminal building, which will have the capacity to handle up to 150 passengers and accommodate ATR-72 or Q400 type aircraft. This arrangement is intended as an interim measure to begin operations at the earliest.

Phase 2 of the plan proposes the establishment of a permanent Civil Enclave outside the boundaries of the Air Force Station. A land parcel of approximately 27.6 acres has been identified by the district administration for this purpose. The proposed enclave will cater to larger aircraft such as the Airbus A321 and will include a new terminal, apron, taxiway, and related civil aviation infrastructure.

Following the site visit, Dr. Jitendra Singh formally reached out to the Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir Omar Abdullah, requesting support for land transfer and administrative facilitation. The Airports Authority of India has subsequently forwarded a request to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, seeking its intervention in obtaining the identified land parcel free of cost and free from encumbrances, as per the provisions of the National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP) 2016.

Dr. Jitendra Singh has also spoken to the Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu and held a detailed discussion with the Civil Aviation Secretary Samir Kumar Sinha, underlining the strategic importance of the project for the region. These high-level engagements have helped expedite the inter-ministerial coordination required for moving the proposal forward.

This marks the second major civil aviation initiative in the region attributed to Dr. Jitendra Singh's tenure as MP. Earlier, his efforts were instrumental in getting an Airport for Kishtwar included in the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) scheme plan, aimed at enhancing air connectivity in far flung hill region.

If realised, the Udhampur Civil Enclave is expected to improve connectivity for both residents and tourists in this part of Jammu and Kashmir, while also easing pressure on the Jammu airport.

## From Ideology to...

and take strict action against those who exploit sensitive security situations for personal gain, efforts are also being made to make the families understand about the implications of this on the future of their children.

As many as seven children, who had been detained recently by police, were released after counselling in front of their parents, the officials said.

Officials feel that the motivations behind the rise of social media influencers using provocative imagery in the Kashmir Valley are financial, and in the digital landscape, where monetising content is the new goal, the pursuit of engagement and revenue has led to a murky grey area.

The officials said most of these influencers relied on brand partnerships on social media platforms, where they either promote products or integrate them into their content.

According to two prominent influencers operating on three social platforms, the revenue-sharing model remains opaque despite its blue-tick verification system.

One influencer, requesting anonymity, described the process as "unclear," noting that the factors determining the frequency and amount of payments are a mystery.

While understanding the digital gold rush as to how social media monetisation works, the probe into young Kashmiris using separatist imagery for follower growth shows a deeper, more complex story about the modern digital economy.

The quest for online celebrity is frequently overtly linked with the aim of monetisation - a process that is sometimes easy or not necessarily guaranteed.

Monetisation on large platforms such as Instagram, Facebook and YouTube is a combination of direct advertising income, subscriptions and brand deals with their own regulations and barriers. While another social media demands to have a professional account and ought to have 10,000 followers and thousand minutes of watched content within 60 days.

The strategy of using provocative content to boost follower counts in Kashmir, therefore, appears to be a direct consequence of this unstable digital economy. (Agencies)

## NEET-PG Exam conducted...

The NBEMS had also written to the chief secretaries, DGPs of all the states to ensure adequate law and order, cyber security and uninterrupted power supply at all the test centres. Assistance had also been sought from district administration and police in this regard.

In order to prevent any kind of cyber scam at test centres, NBEMS took assistance from the Indian Cyber-crime Coordination Centre (I4C), Ministry of Home Affairs.

Around 300 cyber commandos fanned out to various exam centres, especially the sensitive ones, to prevent any kind of cheating at these test centres, officials said.

NBEMS deployed more than 200 personnel at its office to continuously view the live CCTV feed in a real time manner which has been received from all Senior

## PM-KISAN Samman Samriddhi programme organized at KVK Shopian

JINNEWSERVICE  
SHOPIAN, AUGUST 3

A district-level event under the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi initiative was conducted at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Shopian.

The programme witnessed the enthusiastic participation of over 150 progressive farmers from across the district and was graced by prominent dignitaries including MLA Shop-

ian, Shabir Ahmad Kullay, District Development Council (DDC) Members, Senior Scientist and Head KVK Shopian, Prof Zaffar Afroz Badri, other scientists and staff of KVK Shopian.

MLA Shopian, applauded the Kendra's efforts in strengthening the agricultural ecosystem through technical training, innovative practices, and direct farmer engagement.

Prof. Badri highlighted

the centre's role in providing technical support, building farmer capacity, and disseminating knowledge under various flagship schemes.

Live demonstrations and farmer success stories showcased the tangible benefits of the PM-Kisan scheme and allied initiatives.

A special highlight of the event was the live virtual interaction of the Prime

Minister with farmers across the nation, where he reiterated the vision of "Samriddhi through Samman", encouraging farmers to adopt climate-resilient and sustainable farming techniques.

Several farmers shared their positive experiences under the PM-Kisan scheme, which provides Rs.6,000 annual direct income support to small and marginal farmers.

## Har Ghar Tiranga campaign commences with patriotic zeal in schools across Ganderbal

JINNEWSERVICE  
GANDERBAL, AUGUST 3

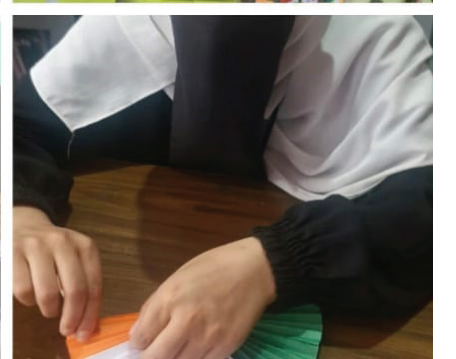
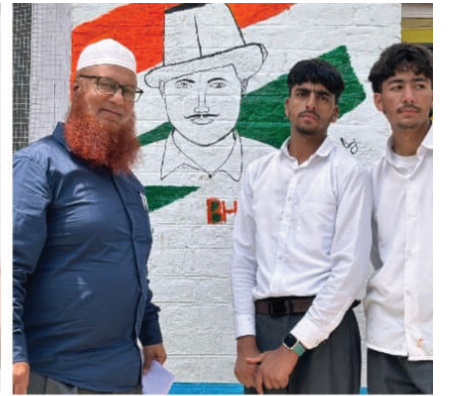
Under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Har Ghar Tiranga campaign commenced today across all educational institutions of district Ganderbal with great patriotic fervor.

As part of the scheduled activities leading up to the Independence Day 2025, a Wall painting event was organized, reflecting the artistic spirit and deep national pride of students and staff alike.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, and heads of Institutions, who came together to creatively express their love for the nation through vibrant wall art.

Adding to the enthusiasm, Chief Education Officer Ganderbal, Oneel Kumar Bhat, and Deputy CEO, participated in the activity at BHSS Ganderbal, where they actively contributed to the wall painting and interacted with students, encouraging them through their presence and participation.

This wall painting activity marks the beginning of a series of events



planned from August 2nd to August 15th, as part of

the larger national campaign to instill a spirit of

patriotism under the Har Ghar Tiranga movement.

faculty members, Dean/Director of Medical Colleges and NBEMS governing body members visited the exam centres as a flying squad.

Mobile signals at all the test centre were blocked by installing adequate number of mobile signal jammers.

NEET-PG is held for admission to various postgraduate medical courses like MD, MS and PG diploma. (Agencies)

## Dalai Lama lays foundation...

leader said after laying the foundation.

Lakruk called the event a historic moment for the region. He said a request had been made to his holiness to come for the event some three months back.

"This is perhaps the greatest blessing we could receive. The whole of Ladakh is touched by auspicious winds today," he said.

The temple, constructed in 1957, is up for reconstruction after developing cracks and other damage due to floods.

The Dalai Lama reached Leh on July 12 on a month-long tour of the region. (Agencies)

## Three rusted...

following which a bomb disposal squad was rushed to the scene, the officials said.

They said the shells were later destroyed in a controlled explosion without causing any damage.

## Youths in border...

the country and is home to the IAO of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA, Bengaluru).

A region of about 22 km radius around Hanle, inside the Changthang Wildlife Reserve, was declared as the HDSR in December 2022.

It is the first dark sky reserve in the country, and is being operated through an MoU between the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh, Ladakh Autonomous Development Council (LAHDC) Leh, and IIA.

"After the different stakeholders came together, they asked the 'Nambardar' (village headmen) to collect applications from willing youths to train as astro-ambassadors. About 40 applicants applied for it, with 24 of us getting selected," another 'astro-ambassador' Kesang Dorjey said.

The selected youths are from the seven hamlets that together form Hanle village, with 70 per cent of

the astro-ambassadors being women, Tsering Yangdol added.

Rangdol said they were imparted training for 15 days by the IIA on how to operate a telescope, look for the celestial bodies, etc, and also provided with an 8-inch telescope each, funded by UT Ladakh.

He said the area draws tourists for the IOA, the world's tenth highest optical telescope in the world at present, located in the village, and Khardung La, the world's second highest motorable pass, which is also nearby.

Tourists also came for wildlife spotting as the village is located within the wildlife reserve, Rangdol added.

With the declaration of HDSR, the area is now receiving tourists for stargazing also, Yangdol said.

She said favourites among the tourists are spotting the milky way, looking for Saturn, Jupiter and pole star, with the stargazing done mostly between 9 pm to 11 pm. Dark moon nights are best for spotting the celestial bodies, she added.

"Generally, the skies are clear here. But if there are clouds, we continue till past midnight also, as the skies clear out soon," Yangdol said.

Though stargazing is not in itself a means of income to sustain a family at the moment, tourist footfalls have been increasing with this facility in Hanle gaining popularity through social media, Kesang said.

"Some of us also run homestays to add to our income. Source of income is limited here, and being selected as 'astro-ambassador' has definitely helped increase our income," he said.

Along with the rise in tourist arrivals, issues of sustainability are also being addressed by all stakeholders, including the IIA, administration and astro-ambassadors. A HDSR Light Management Plan, which prescribes rules, guidelines and measures to keep light pollution inside HDSR to a minimum, complements astro-tourism. Equipment like thick curtains, warm light bulbs, lamp shades, etc, are being provided to each house inside the region by UT Ladakh.

"Sustainable tourism committees have been formed, which hold regular community meetings. Light pollution has to be manageable, and we are also working on awareness among the local people and visitors to maintain the uniqueness of the region," Rangdol said.

The astro-ambassadors are looking to beat any challenges that may come in the way and find their future among the stars twinkling away in the dark, night sky in this remote village.

## Natrang stages Urdu play 'Kissa Badal Gaya'

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, AUG 3

Natrang presented an Urdu play 'Kissa Badal Gaya' which has been written by Showkat Thanvi and ably directed by Neeraj Kant in its weekly theatre series 'Sunday Theatre' at its Studio Theatre.

The play 'Kissa Badal Gaya' presents story of a household where the owner of the house 'Zafar' and his wife 'Jameela' are shown scolding their servants 'Rahim' and 'Naseeban' over an issue of breaking crockery and also for not rendering their services properly. In the course of discussion, it was also disclosed that both of them imitate their masters and buy similar commodities like shoes, clothes and make-up etc. One day, 'Zafar' purchases an expensive lottery ticket,



'Rahim' also purchased the same by selling his wife's ear-rings. 'Zafar' gets furious to know this but the story takes a turn when 'Rahim' wins the lottery and becomes a millionaire and thus the servants turned masters and masters became servants. But for 'Rahim' and 'Naseeban', it was very difficult to get out of their mentality. They can't resist their

previous habits. Even 'Zafar' and 'Jameela' tell them that now when they are millionaires they have to maintain a status. But giving a deaf ear to their suggestions, they start blaming the couple for one reason or the other as they both used to do when they were masters. Getting the taste of their own medicine, masters turned servants, 'Zafar' and 'Jameela'

decided to leave the couple at the mercy of God, but both of them started begging before them to not leave them as they could not survive without them. On this, they decided to live happily together, giving due respect to each other.

Today's play was decorated with the participation of Pawan Verma (Recipient of J&K State Award and National Fellowship from Ministry of Culture) who performed brilliantly. Others who have significant performances included Kananpreet Kaur, Palshin Dutta, Prerna Sharma and Kushal Bhat. The lights of the play were executed by Neeraj Kant whereas the sound was rendered by Kartik Kumar. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen and the presentations were done by Aryan Sharma.

## Silent Warnings, Deadly Outcomes: Know the Signs of a Heart Attack Before It's Too Late: Dr Sushil

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, AUG 3



As part of his ongoing mission to spread cardiac health awareness Head Department of Cardiology GMCH Jammu Dr Sushil Sharma held a day long cardiac awareness cum health check up camp at Play Way House Higher Secondary School Pouni Chak, Block Marh Jammu with focus in educating people to recognize the early signs and symptoms of cardiovascular ailments so that timely intervention is feasible at early stages before its too late.

While interacting with the people Dr Sushil stated that cardiovascular diseases including heart attacks, strokes, and heart failure, remain the leading cause of death globally. Yet, despite their high prevalence, many individuals fail to recognize the early warning signs. Often subtle or mistaken for less serious ailments, these symptoms can progress quickly and lead to life threatening events. Early detection and timely medical intervention can be the difference between life and death, making it crucial for individuals to be

informed about the symptoms that may indicate a serious heart condition.

He highlighted several key symptoms that individuals should never ignore like Chest Discomfort or pain which may feel like pressure, fullness, or squeezing in the center of the chest. Shortness of breath, which can occur with or without chest discomfort. Pain radiating to the arms, jaws, back and abdomen. Fatigue, particularly in women which can be an early sign of heart problem. Palpitation and irregular heartbeats which may indicate arrhythmias or other cardiac conditions. Sweating, especially cold sweats unrelated to heat or exertion. Nausea, indigestion or stomach pain which can be mistaken for gastrointestinal issues. Swellings in the legs, ankle or abdomen, indicating possible congestive heart failure.

Dizziness, lightheadedness or fainting which may result from sudden drop in blood pressure or poor blood flow to the brain. If you or someone around you experiences such symptoms suggestive of a heart attack particularly chest discomfort, shortness of breath, pain radiating to the arm or jaw, or unexplained nausea and sweating do not delay. Call emergency services immediately. Quick intervention, such as clot-busting medication or angioplasty, can save heart muscle and lives.

In addition to recognizing warning signs, Dr Sushil emphasizes the importance of adopting a heart healthy lifestyle to reduce the risk of cardiovascular diseases. This includes regular exercise and physical activity, balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables and whole grains, Stress management

techniques, such as meditation or yoga, Regular checkups and screenings to monitor cardiovascular health. He urges the public to take proactive steps towards heart health by being aware of the warning signs and adopting a heart healthy lifestyle. "In matter of the heart, awareness is power, he says. Be alert, be informed never ignore what your heart is trying to tell you."

Prominent members of the area Anita Koul, Arun Ambaradar, Sanjay Sharma, Mohinder Sharma, Mohit Sharma, Dhivam Sharma, Harsh Sharma, Anisha Thakur appreciated the efforts of Dr Sushil and his team for conducting cardiac awareness cum health check up camp in their area and shows their heartfelt gratitude.

Others who were part of this camp includes Dr Venkatesh Yellupu, Dr Neeraj Kumar Mishra and Dr Aditya Sharma. Paramedics and volunteers includes Rajkumar, Ranjeet Singh, Rajinder Singh, Vikas Kumar, Gourav Sharma, Paramveer Singh, Sandeep Kohli, Mukhtar Malik, Manoj Sharma Shubham Sharma, Makhan Sharma and Nirvair Singh Bali.

## GLDM Degree College organises awareness programme titled 'Mental Well-Being'

JINNEWS SERVICE  
HIRANAGAR, AUG 3

Recognizing the growing stress levels among students and young professionals, Red Ribbon Club of Govt. GLDM Degree College, Hiranagar organized a seminar/ awareness program titled "Mental Well-Being: Navigating Stress from Classroom to Workplace". The initiative aimed to address mental health challenges across academic and professional settings while promoting practical strategies for emotional resilience.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students Through panel discussions, interactive workshops, and counselling sessions, the program explored the transition-related anxieties students face as they step into the workplace and the mental toll of



managing high expectations in competitive environments.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Neha Sharma, Medical Officer at Govt. Hospital, Hiranagar, emphasized, "Stress is not limited to boardrooms or classrooms. It follows us through every transition in life. Equipping individuals with the tools to manage stress early on is key to ensuring mental well-being and sustained productivity." The program also featured real-life testimonials from students and young professionals

who have successfully navigated mental health struggles, reinforcing the message that seeking support is a strength, not a weakness.

Dr. Pragya Khanna, Principal of the College, highlighted, "Mental health awareness must be deeply integrated into our education system and workplace culture. Preparing youth to handle transitions with confidence and care is our collective responsibility."

This initiative served as a timely reminder that mental wellness must be nurtured not just in

personal life, but across educational and professional spaces. The event was coordinated by Prof. Roopali Jamwal, Convener of the Red Ribbon Club. Dr. Bharat Bhushan member, RRC concluded the event by extending the vote of thanks. Prof. Rakesh Sharma along with the members of RRC felicitated the speaker of the occasion.

Outcome: By participating in the event, the students learned awareness, decision making and responsibility among the youth.

## Crime Branch booked SBI Bank Manager & a former cop among 11 for big frauds involving huge amount of Rs 3.12 Crore

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, AUG 3

Crime Branch has booked SBI Bank Manager and a police official (now voluntarily ret'd.) among eleven individuals in five separate FIRs for big frauds like MBBS seat scam, visa fraud, Govt jobs & land scams, involving huge amount of Rs 3.12 crore.

CB registered an FIR against SBI Bank Manager Javid Ashraf Bhatti S/o Ashraf Bhatti R/o Bahu Apartment Gandhi Nagar Jammu and others on two separate written complaints wherein it is alleged that Javed Ashraf Bhatti duped the complainants of huge amount of Rs.1.78 crore on the pretext of selling petrol pump

at Kalakote Rajouri under the name and style of Kala Kote Filling Station, of which he was not the owner.

Crime Branch has also registered an FIR against SgCt Paramjeet Singh (now voluntarily ret'd.) S/o Sham Singh R/o Preet Nagar Digiana Jammu on three written complaints wherein it is alleged that Paramjeet Singh, who was a police official, duped the complainants of Rs. 72.93 lakh on the pretext of selling off land at Birpur & Jammu and a residential house at Gangyal Jammu, of which he was not the owner.

CB registered another case against notorious fraudster Fayaj Ahmad Rather @ Raja Fayaj

(Prop. of Fayaj International Education Consultancy located in Gandhi Nagar Jammu) S/o Ghulam Hassan Rather R/o 111 Aglar Chirat Zainapora, Shopian for duping Rs 40.00 lakh from the complainant Anil Gupta on the false promise of arranging admission of his son in MBBS course in ASCOMS Sidhra, Jammu.

Crime Branch has registered yet another FIR against five accused namely Mohd Issaq & Mukhtiar Ahmad of Zanhari Thathri Doda, Tariq Hussein & Mudassar Hussein of Hatmulla Distt Kupwara and Sher Mohd. of Halaor Gandoh Doda for duping Rs 12.70 lakh from four complaints on the pretext of providing

government jobs. CB has also registered a case against Sahil Bhagat S/o Vijay Kumar R/o 222 Shaheed Bharat Sigh Nagar Sujanpur, Pathankote and others for duping Rs 36.89 lakh from seven complainants of Bishnah Jammu and Swankha Samba on the pretext of sending them abroad on work visa. The fraudsters also provided fake visas, purportedly for Itali & Australia, to the complainants.

Senior Superintendent of Police Crime Jammu, Benam Tosh confirmed that five cases viz. FIRs No. 39,40,41,42 & 43 of 2025 have been registered at P/S EOW Crime Branch Jammu and investigations are underway.

## BTSM constitutes Kishtwar District Unit, Omkar nominated as president

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, AUG 3

The Bharat Tibet Sahyog Manch (BTSM) announced the formation of its Kishtwar District unit today. Omkar Singh has been nominated as the President, while Shri Desraj as the General Secretary.

The announcement was made by Dr. Charanjeet Singh, State Secretary of J&K UT and in charge of Kishtwar District, after consulting with Dr. Vivek Sharma, President of J&K and Ladakh UT. Additionally, Satish Thakur and Ashish Parihar were appointed as Secretaries of the Kishtwar District Unit.

The executive members of the District unit include Ashish Sharma, Ranjeet Singh, Subash Khajuria, Sanjeet Charak, and Roshan Singh.

Activists from the Kishtwar District reaffirmed their commitment to liberating Lord Shankar's sacred home, Kailash Mansarovar. They expressed their support for the Tibetan cause and called for the restoration of free access to the holy sites of Kailash and Mansarovar,



which hold great spiritual significance for Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and followers of Bon.

In his address, Dr. Charanjeet Singh emphasized that their mission is to reach every household in Kishtwar District. He announced plans to organize major protest rallies, seminars, and public processions to raise aware-

ness about the plight of Tibet and Tibetans and to highlight India's role in the matter.

Dr. Vivek Sharma, President of J&K and Ladakh UT, congratulated all the newly appointed office bearers, expressing optimism that they will be valuable assets in strengthening the organization. He condemned China as a nation that dis-

regards human values and continues to create tensions globally. He stressed that no sense of humanity can be expected from China.

Dr. Sharma also stated that the ultimate mission of BTSM is to restore freedom for the Tibetan people and facilitate the dignified return of Tibetan refugees to their homeland.

## JP World School hosts grand finale of JKCA Inter-School U-14 Boys Cricket Tournament

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, AUG 3

JP World School had the honour of hosting numerous prestigious tournaments at district, state, and national levels over the years. Upholding its tradition of promoting sports and holistic development, the school proudly conducted the JKCA Inter-School U-14 Boys Cricket Tournament on its home ground, culminating with the grand final match.

The much-anticipated final was played between JKCA Team and Jodhamal School. In an exciting clash filled with competitive spirit, JKCA scored 68 runs, while Jodhamal School managed 58 runs, falling short despite a spirited chase. The match kept spectators thoroughly engaged with high-quality cricket and brilliant performances. Man of the match was



Chaitanya Dogra. Best all rounder was Saksh Gupta. Best batsman was given to Rahat Raina. Best bowler was given to Ali Bilal (Man of the series).

The closing ceremony was honoured by the presence of: Mr. Mithun Manhas, Member, Cricket Operations and Development (JKCA), Brigadier Anil Gupta, Member, Administration (JKCA),

Mr. Ashok Singh Manhas, Trustee Member, JP World School and Mr. Abhiman Singh, Trustee Member, JP World School.

The Principal of JP World School, Ms. Aparana Kohli expressed her gratitude to JKCA for the opportunity to host such a prestigious event. She shared, "It is a matter of immense pride for us to provide a platform where

young talents can showcase their skills and passion. JP World School remains committed to nurturing future champions, both in academics and on the sports field."

JP World School continues to set benchmarks in nurturing talent and promoting a balanced, all-round development for students.

## EDITORIAL

## Bridging the Digital Divide in Jammu & Kashmir's Education

THE latest Ministry of Education (MoE) report paints a sobering picture of the digital learning landscape in Jammu and Kashmir. At least 64 percent of school students lack access to essential technology—laptops, desktops, or tablets—at home, severely limiting their ability to engage with modern educational resources. While smartphones are more prevalent, with 60 percent of students using them for learning, they are no substitute for the efficiency and versatility that dedicated learning devices offer.

Equally concerning is that only 66 percent of students have internet access at home, and while the same proportion of schools are connected to the internet, this connectivity often does not translate into meaningful integration of digital tools in classrooms. The absence of adequate computers and tablets in 38 percent of schools further compounds the challenge. This gap in resources is not merely about technology; it's about equity and the future readiness of an entire generation.

The report rightly emphasizes that strengthening access to personal learning devices at home and enhancing digital integration in classrooms can transform learning outcomes. Technology is no longer a luxury—it is the foundation of modern education, essential for research, collaboration, and skill-building. Yet, without targeted policy interventions and investment, the digital divide will continue to widen, deepening educational inequality between urban and rural, rich and poor.

Encouragingly, most schools in the region are equipped with basic infrastructure—functional toilets, clean drinking water, and proper ventilation—which reflects progress on some fronts. However, the lack of functional laboratories, especially for Grade IX students, reveals another critical gap in practical, hands-on learning. The fact that 17 percent of students drop out after Grade 10 to take up jobs or family work underscores the urgent need for holistic reforms that go beyond infrastructure—addressing socio-economic barriers, vocational training, and flexible learning options.

If Jammu and Kashmir is to prepare its youth for a knowledge-driven world, the government, private sector, and community must work together to ensure every student has access to affordable internet, personal learning devices, and digitally trained teachers. This is not just about keeping pace with the rest of the country—it is about empowering young minds to break free from cycles of poverty and limited opportunity.

The digital divide is not an inevitable reality—it is a policy choice. Choosing to bridge it now will decide the future trajectory of education, employment, and social progress in the Union Territory.

# When the Guns Fell Silent: A Fragile Hope for Kurdish Recognition and Reconciliation

NILANTHA ILANGAMUWA

When Syrian President Bashar al-Assad fled to Moscow to evade imminent death — a moment that signalled the collapse of his regime's grip on power — the repercussions extended far beyond Syria's internal turmoil. For years, Damascus had offered refuge and covert support to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), leveraging the group to exert pressure on Ankara. Assad's escape thus marked a decisive rupture in the regional dynamics that had sustained such insurgent alliances. The PKK, a principal actor in the Kurdish struggle and long engaged in armed confrontation with the Turkish state, announced a deliberate transition away from armed resistance. The disarmament ceremony held on 11 July 2025 in Sulaymaniyah was neither triumphant nor final, but marked a meaningful moment in a decades — long conflict that has claimed over 40,000 lives and left a profound imprint on Kurdish political identity and collective memory.

The ideological development of the PKK, as shaped by Abdullah Öcalan, represents a significant departure from orthodox Marxism towards a synthesis of Kurdish nationalism, cultural self-determination, and democratic confederalism. Öcalan himself articulated this shift in his prison writings, emphasising the centrality of culture and identity as the foundation for political liberation. In *Prison Writings: The Roots of Civilisation*, he stated, "The liberation of the Kurdish people cannot be achieved by military means alone; it requires a revolution of consciousness grounded in history, language, and tradition."

Further distancing himself from classical dialectical materialism, Öcalan rejected the conventional nation-state model, advocating instead for "a democratic system in which multiple identities and autonomies coexist without domination" (Manifesto for a Democratic Civilisation). This ideological transformation has drawn both acclaim and criticism, yet remains key to understanding the PKK's persistence beyond its military activities.

Yet what unfolded in Sulaymaniyah was not the triumph of ideology but its abdication — or perhaps, its transformation. Twenty-six guerrillas and four commanders set alight their arms before Kurdish regional officials, international observers, and a cynical press corps. Öcalan's voice, still echoing from the penal archipelago of Imrali Island, declared: "This represents a voluntary transition from the phase of armed conflict to the phase of democratic politics and law." In doing so, he invited a critical historical question: is the voluntary end of armed struggle an act of ideological maturity, or merely a concession to exhaustion?

There are no clean answers. For four decades, the PKK embodied both resistance and rupture — resistance to cultural erasure, rupture from normative political channels. Its armed campaign emerged not from abstraction but from concrete dispossession: the enforced assimilation of Kurds, the ban on the Kurdish language, the razing of Kurdish villages, and a carceral architecture designed to extinguish collective identity. The visceral cost of this repression remains inscribed in the psychic life of Kurdish society, not least in the sacrifice of individuals like Mazlum Dogan, who in 1982 set himself ablaze in Diyarbakir Prison. His final words — "Surrender leads to betrayal. Resistance leads to victory" — transcended martyrdom to become a doctrine of ontological refusal.

Zeynep Kinaci (nom de guerre: Zilan), the first female suicide bomber linked to the PKK, carried out her attack in 1996. In her farewell letter, she wrote: "The body is an instrument; the soul is the rebellion. I give one to save the other." Her words reflect the PKK's internal logic — where sacrifice and identity were inseparable from its mode of resistance. These narratives complicate any simplistic reading of the PKK's disarmament as a redemptive denouement.

They raise the spectre of what Giorgio Agamben has termed "bare life": individuals reduced to bodies whose only agency lies in choosing the manner of their disappearance. In this context, disarmament may signal not only an institutional recalibration but also a painful decoupling of political meaning from historical memory. Even as the Turkish state publicly embraces the symbolic act, its deeper posture remains fraught with ambiguity. President Erdogan's statement that "Turkey began to close a long, painful and tear-filled chapter" may sound conciliatory, but it contrasts sharply with the ongoing application of anti-terrorism laws, the removal of elected Kurdish municipal officials, and the imprisonment of representatives from the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP). While a parliamentary commission has been announced to oversee the legal dimensions of reintegration, there is little indication

that foundational constitutional reforms — namely, the legal recognition of Kurdish identity and language will follow.

This ambivalence is not lost on PKK leadership. Murat Karayilan, vice commander of the movement, stated unequivocally: "Legal steps and changes must be taken... Legal reforms must come first. Otherwise, it will be very difficult." His phrasing — moderate in tone, urgent in implication — articulates the central tension of this new phase: disarmament without enfranchisement remains an incomplete peace.

The legacy of the PKK makes it necessary to disentangle the justness of its grievances from the problematic tenor of its methods. While the organisation was born in response to systemic negation, its own internal structures mirrored the authoritarianism it opposed. Dissent within the ranks was often met with punitive measures. Child recruitment, internal purges, and ideological absolutism were documented even by sympathetic observers. In attempting to forge a new Kurdish identity, the PKK at times jeopardised the very plurality it claimed to safeguard. Yet it would be myopic to equate insurgency with illegitimacy. The Kurdish movement cannot be understood solely through the metrics of security and insurgency; it is a sociopolitical phenomenon rooted in a longue durée of exclusion. Armed resistance, in this context, was not the first choice — it was the terminal option following the foreclosure of all others. The current peace process, then, represents not a capitulation but a recalibration, predicated upon shifting geopolitical tectonics in Syria, Iraq,

and within the Turkish polity itself. What follows from this transition remains precarious. The promise of democratic confederalism, if not rendered into constitutional scaffolding and civic inclusion, risks collapsing into abstraction. The reintegration of former combatants, the revocation of draconian security decrees, and the cultivation of pluralistic Kurdish political representation remain prerequisites — not guarantees — for a sustainable peace. Therein lies the enduring lesson: rebellion, particularly one born from marginalisation, tends to absorb the moral vocabulary of its oppressors unless consciously tempered. The PKK, in choosing to disarm, now engages in a high-stakes experiment of historical re-narration — one where its legacy may shift from martyrdom to civic transformation, if permitted by the state to do so.

Peace, in such contexts, does not arrive as a formal treaty or a public ceremony. It arrives in the ability of former combatants to walk unarmed into towns where they once hid in shadows. It arrives in textbooks printed in Kurdish. It arrives in elections where mayors are not replaced by bureaucratic trustees. And it arrives, above all, in the state's willingness to no longer see its own citizens as existential threats. The plight of being rebellion is not only to fight and suffer, but to surrender the very instruments of that suffering with no guarantee of reciprocity. The disarmament of the PKK marks a potentially luminous moment — but only if the silence that follows is filled not with erasure, but with recognition.

(The writer is a Colombo based columnist)

## From Texas to Telangana: A Planet in Peril, But Who's Listening?

BK SINGH

Catastrophic flooding in central Texas on July 4 killed 88 people and 41 still remained unaccounted on the fifth day of rescue and relief has been the deadliest in hundred years of US history. The flooding began when months' worth of rain fell in matter of hours, causing Guadalupe river to rise by eight meters in 45 minutes. Back home in India, cloud bursts in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand have caused landslides and flooding claiming nearly hundred lives in last one month. The flash floods due to incessant rains have also made life difficult in other parts of the country from north east to Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Odisha etc.

Three labourers were buried alive under landslide debris, while carrying out mining operations in manganese mine in Baitarani Reserve Forests, in Odisha's Keonjhar district. Why were no precautions against flooding and landslides taken in an operational mine during the rainy season? Business as usual is not going to work in the warming world. As against this, the countries of southern Europe like Spain, Portugal, France, etc are reeling under heat waves with maximum temperatures rising above mid-forties, an all-time high. Instances of human death are also reported from among the vulnerable population, who work outdoors for municipal cleaning and construction.

It seems countries have not taken note of such disastrous climatic consequences and continue to expand fossil fuel consumption and favour projects requiring sacrifice of natural tree/forest covers. Forests are the best and cheapest source of absorption of Carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and the only practical way to prevent extreme climate events is to prevent deforestation and go for massive afforestation.



Let me reiterate a tale from Telangana, where continuous misuse of Forest Rights Act (FRA) has led to large-scale deforestation in the state's notified forests. Forum for Good Governance, Hyderabad, comprising some retired All India Services officers, a High Court judge and a social activist, have expressed concern over the approval of claims over lakhs of acres of forest lands in July 2023 under the FRA, before the November 2023 Assembly polls.

In a letter to the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) three months ago, the Forum has pointed out that the regularisation of 50,000 acres of forest lands by the Nizam Government in the 1940s and 2.41 lakh acres by the AP Government in the 1970s was done in undivided Andhra Pradesh before the promulgation of the FRA, 2006.

Ahead of the 2009 Parliamentary election, the state further approved claims over 3.31 lakh acres of forest land and rejected claims over 3.7 lakh acres. The clamour for clearing more forest land continued, as large-scale claims were approved by incumbent Governments before every election. After the bifurcation of states in 2014, the Forest Minister of Telangana in 2018 directed district-level forest officers not to evict any encroachment on forest land.

Minister's direction opens floodgates for deforestation on forest land. Within two days, the Head of Forest Department (HoD) wrote to the state Government asking for confirmation of the decision; the state immedi-

ately clarified that there is no such policy decision.

However, in 2023, the State's tribal department took up a special drive by deliberately omitting the documentary and scientific evidence (Satellite imagery) listed in FRA Rule 13(1) and relying only on the village elder's statement. The action of the Tribal department in manipulating the form provided under rule 11(1)(a) has violated the Central statute. Despite objections from forest officers, several district level committees (DLCs) admitted the claims, but many times there were inter-departmental clashes resulting in delay.

Chief Minister on the floor of the Assembly on 12th February 2023 promised the distribution of 11.5 lakh acres of forest land (4 lakh acres for tribal and 7.5 lakh acres for other traditional forest dwellers). To facilitate the smooth sailing by DLCs, Telangana's forest department HoD obtained facsimile signatures of district officers and shared them with respective DLCs for pasting on fabricated opinions of the Forest department on each case of the claim.

While the HoD in July 2018 referred the Minister's instruction to the Government for confirmation, another HoD in February 2023 facilitated the state to approve the ineligible claims. What a contrast! The claim of tribal totalling 4 lakh acres in the state was approved by July 2023. Thanks to the way shown by HoD. The certificates were distributed by political bosses across the state before

the Assembly election.

Though the approval of claims of other traditional forest dwellers over 7.5 lakh acres of forest land has been paused, the tree growth over these areas is already cleared, and the parcels are brought under plough. The forests have lost their carbon sequestration potential.

The story of misuse of the FRA is similar in other states like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, etc, and the latest state forest report attributed the loss of forest cover to the FRA among other factors.

However, after 150 forest rights activists objected to this, MoTA has questioned its sister ministry (MoEF & CC) and asked for proof of such attribution. The state forest reports are finalised based on the satellite imagery data, whereas DLCs have been approving claims based on the village elders' oral evidence.

It is now MoTA's turn to explain why satellite imagery data, which is more scientific than oral evidence, was overlooked.

Tree felling in Kanchara Gachibowli, a 400-acre forested area near Hyderabad Central University was undertaken by the Telangana Government in April this year. The state intended to divert the area for real estate and was clearing the tree growth at quite a fast pace, to beat the university students' protest. Finally, the Supreme Court had to step in and stop the felling.

The Court rejected the state's argument that thousands of trees already cut in 100 acres were within the exempted category of species under the Telangana Water Land and Trees Act, 2002 and did not require any prior permission for cutting. Central Empowered Committee of the Supreme Court disputed the claim of the state and said that out of 1500 trees cut in the area, only 1399 trees were of the exempted category. Such blatant

violation of the law of the land is taking place, and HoD is found to have been compromised.

The court further directed that the state should restore the 100 acres' area where tree felling is already been done.

The direction was to compensate for the damage to the environment inflicted by the state of Telangana. Compensatory afforestation has been in vogue in the Forest Department's system for a long time, and no forest land is diverted for

any non-forestry use without identifying the land for growing compensatory afforestation, as well as without recovering the cost of growing such plantations.

The court expects the state to plant 100 acres of area, where tree growth is already cleared with suitable native species. With moderate to scant rainfall in the Hyderabad region, the survival of the seedlings in barren areas would be quite challenging, and like any other compensatory plantation, this is also likely to fail, unless special provisions for protection and watering are provided.

Supreme Court in TN Godavarman case had already directed states and UTs to constitute Expert Committees to identify all wooded areas, which are non-notified forests, duly taking into account the dictionary meaning of the word 'forests', and states/UTs should treat all such areas as forests for Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. CECH has also said that Kanchara Gachibowli has all the characteristics of forests.

One of the proposals of the state of Telangana is to convert the area into an 'Eco-park'. It is a human-centric development activity and will not render the full potential ecological services it can provide. The entire area should be restored and managed as natural forests if we are to maximise its carbon sequestration potential.

(The writer is retired Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Karnataka.)

## Every 3rd Indian affected by some metabolic dysfunction, mass level awareness needed: Minister

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Every third Indian is affected by some metabolic dysfunction, said Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, while proposing a mass campaign for the prevention of Type 2 diabetes in the young.

Addressing the Foundation Day ceremony of the Research Society for Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI), Singh expressed concern that India continues to be labelled the "diabetes capital of the world".

"Every third Indian is affected by some form of metabolic dysfunction," he said.

The Minister, himself a globally renowned endocrinologist, also cautioned against diabetes disinformation, which tends to be spread, some-



times inadvertently, from certain quarters.

He debunked popular myths, such as the belief in "one meal a day", urging for a more scientific understanding of meal quality and quantity in diabetes care.

Singh reiterated the target of reducing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) by 10 per cent, particularly those associated with fatty liver, vis-

ceral fat, and obesity.

He emphasised that public health messaging must go beyond medical publications and into institutionalised outreach to common citizens.

Calling for evidence-based health awareness, Singh gave a firm dictum: "Treat diabetes before it occurs, stressing that prevention is better than cure".

Recently, Singh also launched a study led by RSSDI, which showed that yoga can reduce the risk of diabetes by 40 per cent, highlighting the potential of yoga in preventive healthcare.

The study suggested that the regular practice of yoga may reduce the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes by as much as 40 per cent in individuals predisposed to the condition.

"This is one of the first such efforts that seeks to scientifically document the prevention of the occurrence of Type 2 diabetes with yoga. As per the authors of the report, there is as much as a 40 per cent reduction in the development of Type 2 diabetes among potential individuals who practice yoga regularly," Singh said.

## Over 500 nuclear medicine facilities available in govt, private sector: Jitendra

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

More than 500 nuclear medicine facilities are available in the government and private sectors, Union Minister of State for Department of Atomic Energy Jitendra Singh informed the Parliament on Wednesday.

In a written reply in Lok Sabha, Singh shared information on nuclear energy's potential to be applied in the health sector for advanced treatment of various ailments.

"Nuclear medicine can be practiced in both diagnostics and therapeutics. In India, Single Photon Emission Computerised Tomography (SPECT), Positron Emission Tomography (PET), and Computerised Tomography (CT) are the devices through which diagnostic nuclear medicine is practiced," Singh said.

"These help in staging, restaging, and response



evaluation of cancer. There is availability of nuclear medicine facilities in the country in both the government and private sectors. There are more than 500 such facilities available," he added.

Nuclear medicine imaging provides unique information by helping doctors view how organs are functioning, which is different from X-rays or CT scans that show only anatomical structure.

Further, Singh shared that the government has taken several initiatives to augment research and

development of nuclear medicine in the country.

"R&D is ongoing in radioisotope production, purification, and development of new technologies to ensure an enhanced and uninterrupted supply of medical radioisotopes in the country," the MoS said.

This includes several indigenously produced radiopharmaceutical products developed at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC). The products have also been launched for applications like radiation synovecto-

my, therapy of neuroendocrine tumours, breast cancer, bone pain palliation, liver cancer, and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Singh said.

"BARC regularly produces radioisotopes and radiopharmaceuticals and supplies them through the Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology (BRIT) to various nuclear medicine centres across India, enabling broader availability of diagnostic and therapeutic services, including in rural and underserved areas," Singh said.

In addition, Tata Memorial Centre, an aided institute under the aegis of the Department of Atomic Energy, has established P Ramaiah Naidu Shodhika -- an advanced Nuclear Medicine Research and Treatment unit in the Advanced Centre for Treatment, Research and Education in Cancer (ACTREC) in Mumbai.

## Covid and flu viruses can wake up breast cancer cells spread in lungs: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Common respiratory infections, including Covid-19 and influenza, can awaken dormant breast cancer cells that have spread to the lungs, setting the stage for new metastatic tumours, according to a new study.

The findings published in the journal Nature, based on mouse studies as well as meta-analysis of human patients, support research showing increases in death and metastatic lung disease among cancer survivors infected with SARS-CoV-2 -- the virus that causes Covid.

"Our findings indicate that individuals with a history of cancer may benefit from taking precautions against respiratory viruses, such as vaccination when available, and discussing any concerns with their health



care providers," said Julio Aguirre-Ghiso, from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, US.

Previous evidence suggests that inflammatory processes can awaken disseminated cancer cells (DCCs) -- cells that have broken away from a primary tumour and spread to distant organs, often lying dormant for extended periods.

An increase in cancer death rates during the Covid pandemic bolstered the idea that severe inflammation may be waking up the dormant DCCs, Aguirre-Ghiso said.

The team tested the hypothesis on mice and exposed them to SARS-CoV-2 or the influenza virus -- both triggered the awakening of dormant DCCs in the lungs, leading

to a massive expansion of metastatic cells within days of infection and the appearance of metastatic lesions within two weeks.

Molecular analyses revealed that the awakening of dormant DCCs is driven by interleukin-6 (IL-6), a protein that immune cells release in response to infections or injuries. This suggested that using IL-6 inhibitors or other targeted immunotherapies might prevent or lessen the resurgence of metastasis.

Further, to understand the implications in humans, the team analysed two large databases and found that respiratory infections in cancer patients in remission are linked to cancer metastasis.

"The effect was most pronounced in the first year after infection," said Roel Vermeulen, from Utrecht University, The Netherlands.

## Drug for coeliac disease may help treat severe post-Covid syndrome in children

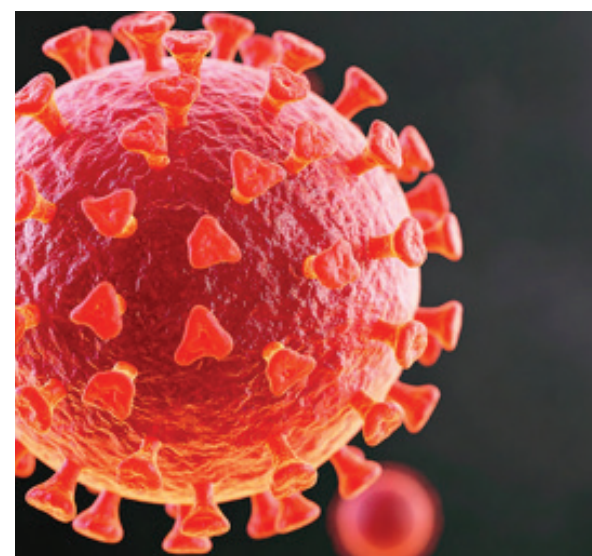
AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

A drug designed to treat coeliac disease -- an autoimmune disorder primarily affecting the small intestine -- has shown promise for children affected with severe post-Covid syndrome, according to a small study.

Covid infection, although rare in kids, leads to multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) -- a serious condition that presents as high fevers, gastrointestinal symptoms, and life-threatening cardiac injury.

The trial results, published in the journal Science Translational Medicine, showed that larazotide supported children in returning to normal activities more rapidly following Covid.

"While our study is small, its results are powerful and have implications not only for MIS-C,



sticky SARS-CoV-2 viral particles that may persist in the gut.

On the other hand is the orally administered Larazotide, which targets the gut and strengthens intestinal barriers to limit the number of materials -- like SARS-CoV-2 viral particles -- that exit the intestines and enter circulation.

To test larazotide's efficacy and safety as an MIS-C treatment, researchers conducted a double-blind clinical trial with 12 children experiencing early-stage MIS-C.

Each patient randomly received either a placebo or larazotide four times daily for 21 days, then was tracked over six months of recovery.

Children who received larazotide showed faster resolution of gastrointestinal symptoms, faster clearance of SARS-CoV-2 viral particles, and more rapid return to normal activities, the team said.

## India experienced 41 outbreaks of bird flu in 10 states in 2025: Centre

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

India has experienced 41 outbreaks of bird flu, mainly in 10 states in 2025, said the Union government, indicating the continued rise in avian activity in the country.

In a written reply to the Rajya Sabha, Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, confirmed infections caused by the bird flu virus in non-avian species like tiger, lion, leopard, and domestic cats.

This indicates a broader host range than typically expected and increases the risk of spillover events to humans.

However, compared to the last five years, 2025 has recorded fewer outbreaks from the H9N1 virus.

"Till July 24, 41 cases have been recorded this year, compared to 49 in



2024. The highest number of cases in the last five years was in 2021, with 118 reported incidents," Baghel said.

"The lowest was in 2023, with 15 reported incidents," he added.

The Minister revealed that bird flu outbreaks in domestic poultry have been reported from Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Odisha.

To address the growing threat, Baghel noted that the government has undertaken multiple initiatives aimed at prevention, surveillance, and rapid response.

The government formulated the National Action Plan for Prevention, Control, and Containment of Avian Influenza (Revised 2021) to provide comprehensive guidelines for preparedness, identification, and notification of affected areas, culling operations, and imple-

mentation of biosecurity measures, among others.

Advisories have been issued to all States/UTs to enhance preparedness ahead of the winter migratory bird season, including strengthening surveillance in high-risk areas in coordination with wildlife and health authorities.

A Poultry Disease Action Plan, 2024, has also been developed to build a resilient and disease-free poultry sector.

Further, the States/UTs are financially supported on a sharing basis for compensating affected poultry owners for the culling of birds.

Financial support is also provided for the establishment and strengthening of laboratories, research and innovation, capacity building, and training/awareness on topics like good animal husbandry practices, biosecurity/sanitary measures, timely reporting of unusual mortality events, etc.

## IIT Madras' new agri-waste-based packaging material to help reduce plastic use

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras have developed an agriculture waste-based packaging material, which can be a sustainable alternative to conventional plastic foams used in packaging.

The researchers demonstrated that mycelium-based biocomposites grown on agricultural and paper waste provide quality in packaging while being biodegradable.

The findings, published in the peer-reviewed journal Bioresource Technology Reports, offer a practical solution to two major problems -- plastic pollution and agricultural waste disposal.

By converting agricultural residues into high-strength, biodegradable packaging materials, the mycelium-based biocomposites will directly support plastic waste reduction in the country -- cur-



rently exceeding 4 million tonnes annually.

"In India, over 350 million tonnes of agricultural waste are generated annually, much of which is burned or left to decay, causing air pollution and wasting valuable resources. Our research aimed to address both challenges -- plastic pollution and agricultural waste -- by developing mycelium-based biocomposites as sustainable, biodegradable packaging materials," said Dr. Lakshmi-

nath Kundanati, Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Mechanics and Biomedical Engineering, IIT Madras.

For the research, the team cultivated fungi such as Ganoderma lucidum and Pleurotus ostreatus, which are different types of mushrooms, on agricultural and paper wastes -- cardboard, sawdust, paper, cocopith, and hay.

This approach not only diverted agricultural residues from open burning but also created fully com-

postable packaging solutions, aligning with circular economy principles, the researchers said.

"The work identifies the ideal substrate-fungus combinations that outperform conventional foams like EPS and EPE, with Ganoderma on cardboard achieving compressive strengths an order of magnitude higher than EPS (Expanded polystyrene)," said Sandra Rose Biby, Research Scholar, IIT Madras.

Replacing plastic foams like EPS and EPE with mycelium-based biocomposites can significantly reduce landfill burden, prevent microplastic formation, and cut greenhouse gas emissions associated with plastic production and waste incineration.

The mycelium composites can further be modified to cater to other engineering applications such as thermal and acoustic insulation materials, the researchers said.

## Ahead of proposed protest dharna on Aug 5, Congress intensifies outreach campaign across J&K

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, AUG 3

Ahead of its proposed protest dharna & black day on August 05, the 6th anniversary of the downgrading of the state into UT, Congress today intensified its outreach campaign across J&K holding series of meetings in different districts to give momentum to its statehood movement- 'Hamari Riyasat Hamara Haq.

JKPC President Shri Tariq Hameed Karra and other senior congress leaders held series of meetings in Srinagar city & other districts, as part of outreach campaign "Chorah-e-Pe-Charcha"

while working Working President Raman Bhalla, former ministers Mula Ram, Yogesh Sawhney, Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, I/C DCC Rural Th Hari Singh Chib, DDC T S Tony & other senior leaders held an impressive meeting at Ploura Jammu at attended by large of men & women from cross section of society including different Ravi Dass sabhas who extended full support to the statehood movement.

Addressing a gathering of prominent people at Ploura, JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla said that restoration of statehood is the basic right of people of J&K which was promised by Modi government on multiple occasions in past six years for securing votes from Jammu region but didn't fulfill it so far. He



said August 5 is the anniversary of downgrading of historical Dogra state and its a black day for all of us but BJP celebrates it every year, which is an insult to Dogra rulers who expanded the boundaries of the then dogra state to Gilgit Baltistan by their blood.

He asked people to question BJP for its anti dogra celebrations on 5th August every year and join the black day against downgrading of the dogra state and to seek restoration of statehood as per SC directions.

He said that Congress will fight for restoration of statehood, till it is achieved and sought the support of all sections rising above political considerations.

Former minister Shri Mula Ram also echoed the same sentiments and charged BJP of ruling J&K by proxy, despite losing mandate and an elected government ten months taking over of the affairs of UT over nine months back. BJP has committed fraud with the Jammu electorate and has no intention to transfer power back to people unless movement is intensified.

Former minister Yogesh Sawhney lashed out BJP for betrayal of the commitments made to the people on several occasions especially before Supreme Court and during Assembly elections but thereafter it has become another Jumla.

He asked people to fight for the basic right of statehood and safeguard of the rights to land, jobs, natural resources of their future generations.

Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma advocate termed the delay as a contempt of the directions of Supreme Court and blamed BJP of not obeying the constitutional institutions. He demanded a legislation in the current session of Parliament to restore full statehood.

Th Hari Singh Chib who organised the function hailed the leadership of JKPC Chief Tariq Hameed Karra for launching the statehood movement for over seven months throughout the length and breadth of UT. He appealed people to rise above to seek back our dogra state.

T S Tony, Satish Sharma and Several others spoke

on the occasion and asked people to fight for their basic identity status and rights and support Congress movement for the benefits of all citizens.

Former corporator Dwarka Chaudhary, Media Coordinator, Neeraj Gupta, Rajinder Singh Randhawa, PYC Leaders Anirudh Sawhney, Raghav Khajuria & BCC Som Nath, Om Parkash President Ravi Dass Sabha Ploura, Mela Ram President Domana Sabha Som Nath, Dr. Raj Kumar Retd. Director, Faqir Chand, Suman Preet & others attended.

Several similar outreach programmes were held including in Kathua by Ch Lal Singh Ex MP, DCC President Pankaj Dogra & ors, in Samba by DCC President Sanjeev sharma and working President Babbal Gupta, In Kishtwar by DCC President Asif Nazeeb besides Senior leaders P L Shan and Irshad Sheikh.

Congress has announced black day and Sit in Dharna on August 05 at Maharaja Hari Singh statue besides launching of hunger strike from August 09 for seeking restoration of statehood.

## Frontline to Frontbench: IIT Jammu students briefed on Operation Sindoor

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, AUG 3

As part of the Indian Army's National outreach and awareness campaign, a talk on Operation SINDOOR was given by Commander, Chenab Brigade at the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu on 02 August 2025. The interaction was organised under the aegis of Tiger Division and was attended by the Director, faculty members and students of IIT, Jammu.

The initiative aimed at spreading awareness about India's whole-of-nation approach to coun-



ter-terrorism, the professionalism of the Armed Forces, and the strategic clarity that underpinned Operation SINDOOR,

which was launched in response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

The session concluded with a Q&A where stu-

dents expressed keen interest in national security, strategic affairs and the evolving nature of warfare.

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, REW POONCH TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 45 of REW POONCH 2025-26 Dated:-01-08-2025 1st Call

For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, the Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch, as his representative invites tenders by e-tendering mode from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Union Territory Govt/CPWD/MES for the following work under:

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estt. Cost (Rs in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor	Position of Funds
1	Community Compost Pit at Panchayat Mastandara Block Buffliaz Under SBM Year 2025-26	Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	0.77	200	1540	20 days	(1000 Hrs) on or after 13-08-2025 in the office of Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	DEE	Partially Available/ Demanded
2	Community Compost Pit at Mohalla Tandi Upper Panchayat Fazlabad Upper Block Buffliaz Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
3	Community Compost Pit at Madrasa Buffliaz-B Panchayat Buffliaz-B Block Buffliaz Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
4	Community Compost Pit W.No. 1 Panchayat Bhunikhait Block Buffliaz Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
5	Community Compost Pit at Parkote Nr. L/o Gakhar Rayaz Panchayat Behrangalla Block Buffliaz Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
6	Community Compost Pit W.No. 3 Bathrooni Nr. Mohd Hamid Panchayat Fazlabad Lower-B Block Buffliaz Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
7	Community Compost Pit at Salani Panchayat Salani Block Mankote Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
8	Community Compost Pit at Magyad Kani Panchayat Magyad Kani Block Mankote Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
9	Community Compost Pit Near H/O Jhangir Ch. W.No.7 Panchayat Kehnu Kalani Block Sathra Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
10	Community Compost Pit Near H/O Khadam Hussain Moh. Takki W.No.3 Panchayat Jandrolla Block Sathra Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
11	Community Compost Pit Near Ziarat Mohalla Firdous Abad W.No. 5 Panchayat Kanuyian Lower Block Poonch Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
12	Community Compost Pit at Moh. Awana Bieran W.No. 8 Nr. L/o Altaf Ahmed Panchayat Battalkote Block Loran Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
13	Community Compost Pit Moh. Bagh Wall Naka Nr. L/o Mohd Rashid W. No. 6 Panchayat Surankote Upper Block Surankote Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
14	Community Compost Pit Moh. Moori W.No. 03 Panchayat Lassana Upper Block Lassana Under SBM Year 2025-26	Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	0.77	200	1540	20 days	(1000 Hrs) on or after 13-08-2025 in the office of Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	DEE	Partially Available/ Demanded
15	Community Compost Pit Near Post Office Mohra Bachal Panchayat Mohra Bachal Lower Block Lassana Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
16	Construction of Community Compost Pit at W.No. 08 Moh. Dullian Panchayat Sakhi Maidan Block Mendhar Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
17	Construction of Community Compost Pit at W.No. 02 Moh. Mukasar Wali Panchayat Narol Block Mendhar Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
18	Construction of Community Compost Pit at W.No. 07 Nr. Shopping Complex Jallari Kalaban Panchayat Kalaban Block Mendhar Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
19	Community Compost Pit at Khatyala W.No.1 Panchayat Dhargaloon Upper Block Balakote Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
20	Community Compost Pit at Thara Panchayat Dharati Block Balakote Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			

NOTE: No PRI member shall be allowed to take part in Tendering process

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	01-08-2025.
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 01-08-2025 to 12-08-2025, 1855 Hrs
3	Bid submission Start Date	01-08-2025 from 1800 Hrs onwards
4	Bid Submission End Date	12-08-2025 up to 1855 Hrs
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) (in case of holiday, the bid shall be opened on next day)	13-08-2025 on or after 1000 Hrs in the Office of the Executive Engineer REW, Poonch
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) (of only successful technical bidders)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if-
  - a) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
  - b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period.
  - c) In case contractor fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

No:- XEN/REW/P/565-79

Dated:-01-08-2025

Executive Engineer  
Rural Engineering Wing  
Poonch

DIP/J-4187/25

Date: 2-7-25

## Shiv Sena Hindustan holds meeting to discuss ban on Chinese Manja

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
ARNIA, AUG 3

Shiv Sena Hindustan, Jammu Kashmir, held a meeting in Arnia Town under the chairmanship of State President Pt Rajesh Kesri to discuss the issue of Chinese Manja (Gattu) being used for kite flying. The meeting was attended by members from various villages, including Kalyana, Jagwal, and Murar Chak. The meeting concluded that the use of Chinese Manja is hazardous and can cause harm to humans, especially during festivals like Raksha Bandhan and Janmashtami.

The meeting was attended by prominent members of Shiv Sena Hindustan, including Arnia President Balwant Saini, Border President Sanjeev Sharma, and State Vice President Balveer Kumar.



Kesri appealed to the public, shopkeepers, and vendors to refrain from selling and buying Chinese Manja. He suggested promoting the use of traditional Manja made from threads, which is safer and more eco-friendly.

Kesri thanked the Jammu district police and administration for their efforts in banning Chinese Manja and ensuring public safety. The use of Chinese Manja has raised concerns about public safety, especially during festivals. The meeting

emphasized the need for awareness and action to prevent accidents and injuries caused by this hazardous material. The organization is committed to promoting public safety and awareness about the risks associated with Chinese Manja, said Kesri.

Kesri has demanded a total ban on Chinese Manja, citing its life-threatening nature. He has called for severe punishment for those selling and buying this hazardous material to deter others from engaging in this

hazardous activity. Kesri emphasized the need for public awareness campaigns to educate people about the dangers of Chinese Manja and the importance of using safer alternatives.

Chinese Manja has been linked to numerous accidents and injuries, particularly during festivals like Raksha Bandhan and Janmashtami. The material's sharp edges and metal composition make it a serious threat to human life and safety, said Kesri.

Shiv Sena Hindustan's demand for a total ban on Chinese Manja reflects its commitment to public safety and well-being. The organization urges the authorities to take immediate action to implement this ban and protect the people of Jammu Kashmir from the dangers of Chinese Manja, added Kesri.

## Indian Army conducted a Medical Patrol at Gunda, Rajouri

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, AUG 3

As part of its ongoing efforts to address the basic needs of people residing in remote areas of Rajouri, the Indian Army conducted a Medical Patrol at Gunda on 03 August 2025. This initiative, particularly focused on the Gujjar and Bakkarwal communities aims to provide essential healthcare services in



regions that lack adequate medical infrastructure. Through these Medical Patrols, Indian Army

troops not only ensure the safety and security of the local populace but also extend vital medical

assistance. During the patrol in Gunda, a total of 41 civilians benefited from the services provided. The local residents expressed deep gratitude and appreciation towards the Indian Army for their continued support and humanitarian outreach. This initiative reflects the Army's unwavering commitment to the welfare and development of the people in far-flung and underserved regions.

## JKBS holds general body meet, emphasized importance of literacy, inter-community harmony

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, AUG 3

A general body meeting of the Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha was held at Shahzad Pur today. The meeting was chaired by Ex Corporator Nai Subedar Rashpal Bhardwaj and attended by a large number of Batwal community members hailing from different areas.

The meeting deliberated on various challenges and problems faced by the community members in different fields, and discussions were held to find solutions and ways to address these issues.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr R.L.Kaith emphasized the importance of spreading literacy in the community. He said, "Literacy is the only catalyst that can develop our people, take them from darkness to light, bring prosperity, and dignity."



Advising the community members, Kaith stressed the importance of maintaining good relations with sister communities. Quoting the phrase "United we stand, Divided we fall," he said, "We remain at a loss due to our mutual grievances. It is essential for us to foster harmony and unity with other communities to achieve collective progress."

The meeting appointed Ex Corporator Naib Subedar Rashpal Bhardwaj as Incharge of Guru Gyagi Mandir Committee and passed a resolution that

Guru Gyagi's birthday celebrations will now be organised by the Guru Gyagi Mandir Committee instead of the Guru Gyagi Birth Celebration Committee. "This change aims to streamline the commemoration process and ensure a more effective and coordinated celebration of Guru Gyagi's birthday", stated the JKBS members.

The meeting expressed its heartfelt gratitude to DDC Balbir Lal and Ex Corporator Naib Subedar Rashpal Bhardwaj for the development work executed at Guru Gyagi Ashram under

their initiative.

Prominent among the esteemed members who were present included JKBS' President Racchpal Ram, Senior Vice -Cum-Additional General Secretary Birender Kumar, Joint Secretary G. Bhardwaj, Subedar Major Ram Paul (Retd), Ex Panch Rattan Lal, Ex Panch Bishan Dass, Ex Panch Laju Ram, Poli Devi, Dhian Chand, Darshan Kumar, Rashpal Targotra, Ramesh Kumar, Tarsem Lal, Chuni Lal, Sewa Ram, Rajinder Kumar, Sohan Lal, Sodagar Lal, Meeda Ram, Yash Pal and Ram Lal.

## Dozens join BSP in Jammu North, strengthening party base

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, AUG 3

Large number of people left BJP and other political parties and Joined Bahujan Samaj Party(BSP) who were welcomed by the party JK UT President Darshan Rana and other party leaders. Welcoming the people who joined the party on this occasion, BSP' state chief Darshan Rana said that today dozens of people belonging to Jammu North Assembly constituency have joined BSP and their joining the party will strengthen the party a lot. Rana said



that people are continuously joining the party after being influenced by the policies of BSP and in the coming days, more and more people will be connected with the party by organizing such programs. During

this program organized at the party office in Sattari, party's state vice president Charanjeet Chargotra, Coordinator Poonch Rajouri Haji Shak Mohammad General secretary Sardar Raja Singh and District president

JAMMU Tarsem Lal along with other party leaders were also present. On this occasion, state president Darshan Rana said in his address that more and more people are joining BSP in Jammu Kashmir and in the coming days, efforts will be continued to reach the party's policies to the common people. At the same time, the people who joined the BSP said that only the Bahujan Samaj Party talks about the welfare of the backward and Dalit class people, due to which they have decided to join the Bahujan Samaj Party today.

## Indian Army inspires students in remote areas to join defence services

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI, AUG 3

Keeping in view of Indian Army's core objective of maintaining cordial relations with local citizens and with the aim of motivating the future of the nation, the school children, towards joining Armed Forces and to instill a sense of patriotism, Indian Army organised a 'Motivational Talk on How to Join Armed Forces' on 03 August 2025 at Bafliaz and Hasplot. The aim of the event was to spread awareness amongst students about how to join armed forces and various initiatives taken by Govt. During this event, representative of Indian Army gave a motivational lecture on the subject matter for school students and local populace of Bafliaz and Hasplot. The representative also conveyed to the teachers that tremendous potential in terms of talented and academically



bright students is available in the region, however, due to lack of proper guidance, they fail to harness their full potential. Keeping same in perspective, the interaction was aimed to tap the raw potential from these students and to urge them to join armed forces through Sainik Schools, other education institutions and through pre commissioning training academies. A total strength of 65 persons (including 05 x Teachers,

14 x Boys and 20 x Girls at Bafliaz and One Teacher, 10 x Boys, 13 x Girls and Two Ladies at Hasplot) attended the event. The event helped in spreading awareness amongst the students about significance of education and its role in growth of society. Representative of Indian Army also advised the children to pursue their aim in respective fields and contribute towards environment, society and country as a responsible

citizen. He motivated and assured them of all possible guidance and assistance from Indian Army for their future endeavours. This initiative is part of outreach program to build awareness, instill confidence and encourage young minds in the region to pursue careers in the defence services. The children and locals appreciated the initiatives taken by Army for the welfare of local populace and students. This endeavour by Indian Army to reach out to the population residing in remote areas, where civil administration has limited accessibility, will go a long way in developing and strengthening trust between JAWAN and AWAM. The event also served as a platform to strengthen the bond between Army and the people of this region. It showcased Army's commitment towards service to the nation.

## Live streaming of release of 20th instalment of PM Kisan held in meeting hall of Sub Division Agriculture Office Udhampur

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, AUG 2

A programme for viewing live streaming of release of 20th instalment of PM Kisan Saman Nidhi Scheme by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was arranged by Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department Udhampur, which was attended by DDC Chariman Sh. Lal Chand, Additional District Development Commissioner Sh. Rajinder Singh, Ex Sarpanches, and farm-

ers of adjoining villages. Chief Agriculture Officer Udhampur Sh. Harbans Singh in his welcome address told that 54527 farmers of District will be benefited by transfer of 10.90 crore through DBT in their account for purchase of various Agriculture inputs. He also instructed the officers for ekyc and NPCI of all eligible farmers.

Chairman District Development Council Sh. Lal Chand told that 9.70 crore farmers will be benefitted through out

country with the transfer of more than 20500 crore directly in their accounts and stressed for covering all the eligible beneficiaries. He said PM Kisan scheme has already provided significant benefits to the farmers across the country and latest instalment will further boost the income and contribute to the growth of agriculture sector. About 100 farmers attended the programme. Similar events were also held at various block head quarters which were attended by DDC

members, Ex BDC Chairman and Ex PRI members and farmers where they watched the live streaming of release of 20th Pm Kisan instalment.

The programme was attended by District Agriculture Officer (Ext) Sh. Sudhir Manhas, Sub division Agriculture office Sh. Ajay Sharma, Sub Matter Specialists, Agriculture Extension Officer and officials and finally concluded with the vote of thanks by Sh. Sudhir Manhas District Agriculture Officer (Ext) Udhampur.

## Preparatory meeting held for 79th Independence Day celebrations at Billawar

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
BILLAWAR, AUG 3

In view of the forthcoming 79th Independence Day celebrations, a preparatory meeting was held today at the PWD Guest House, Billawar, under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Billawar, Vinay Khosla (JKAS).

The meeting witnessed the participation of key officials including Tehsildar Billawar Surinder Singh (JKAS), BDO Mandli Swati Salathia (JKAS), EO MC Billawar Varinder Singh, BMO Billawar Dr. Harvinder Singh, Xen PMGSY Zameer Hussain, Deputy CEO Chaman Lal, TSWO Vishav Bandhu Sharma, TSO Ram Murti, and 1/c



Principal GHSS Billawar Surinder Kumar, among other officers from various departments.

During the meeting, the ADC informed that the main Independence Day function will be held at the premises of Model Higher Secondary School, Billawar. He emphasized the need for seamless coordination and issued key directives to ensure proper arrangements.

The Electricity Department was instructed to ensure uninterrupted

power supply on 13th and 15th August, while the Jal Shakti Department was directed to ensure adequate drinking water arrangements at the venue. The Municipal Committee was tasked with cleanliness of the venue and bus stand area.

The Block Medical Officer was asked to deploy an ambulance, a medical team with a first aid kit and essential medicines at the site. The Police Department was directed to ensure proper security

and parking arrangements.

To streamline the preparations, various committees including Coordination, Refreshment, and others were constituted, each entrusted with specific responsibilities to ensure the smooth conduct of the event.

The ADC also directed that all officers and staff of concerned departments must remain present at the venue on the day of the celebration. He further informed that a Full Dress Rehearsal will be held on 13th August.

Later, the ADC also convened a meeting with prominent citizens of Billawar to seek their support and cooperation for the successful and inclusive organization of the 79th Independence Day celebrations.

## IIT Jammu and CSIR-IIIM Enter into Strategic Tripartite MoU to nurture Start-ups to Drive Regional Innovation

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, AUG 3

The Indian Institute of Technology Jammu today formalized a landmark collaboration by signing a Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding with the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu, and three pioneering start-ups—Biogreen Projects Pvt. Ltd., Evlogia Eco Care Pvt. Ltd., and Crop Domain Pvt. Ltd. This alliance aims to accelerate translational research, foster technology-driven entrepreneurship, and bolster regional economic development.

With the strategic leaderships of Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur, Director, IIT Jammu, and Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, Jammu, both the institutions inked a landmark pact to jointly nurture the three start-ups—Songbaran Chatterjee (Biogreen Projects), Manigandan Kumarappan (Evlogia Eco Care), and Dr. Mahadeva Swamy (Crop Domain).

Inspired by "Startup India and Stand-Up India" the clarion call given by Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi and further guided by Hon'ble Union Minister for S&T and Vice President CSIR, Dr. Jitendra Singh, this is a transformative step forward to promote



the Startup ecosystem in the region. This forward-looking collaboration marks a pivotal step in fostering entrepreneurship, translational research, and interdisciplinary technology-driven solutions in the fields of biotechnology, agriculture, and sustainable product innovation.

Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur remarked, "This tripartite alliance exemplifies IIT Jammu's commitment to bridging cutting-edge research with societal impact. By combining our engineering capabilities with CSIR-IIIM's life-science expertise and dynamic start-ups, we will fast-track the development and commercialization of solutions that benefit our region and beyond."

Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, highlighted "The importance of this collaboration, stating that this initiative will strengthen the innovation and startup ecosystem and enable faster translation of scientific and engineering research into commercially viable tech-

nologies for the benefit of society".

Key pillars of the partnership include:

- Joint Research & Product Development: Leveraging CSIR-IIIM's strengths in natural product discovery and drug development alongside IIT Jammu's engineering expertise to co-develop market-ready technologies.
- Technology Incubation & Mentorship: CSIR-IIIM-TBI and IIT Jammu's I3C incubator will provide mentoring, prototyping facilities, and investor connect to nurture these ventures.
- Training & Capacity Building: Organizing workshops, industry-oriented training programs, and knowledge-exchange events to cultivate local talent and generate new employment opportunities.
- Commercialization & Scale-up: Streamlining pathways for laboratory innovations to reach commercial deployment in healthcare, sustainable materials, and agri-biotech sectors.

About the Start-ups:

- Biogreen Projects Pvt. Ltd. (Songbaran Chatterjee) develops 100% compostable bioplastics—eco-friendly carry bags, disposable cutlery, and biohazard waste solutions.
- Evlogia Eco Care Pvt. Ltd. (Manigandan Kumarappan) offers patented "Leafy Straws" made from fallen coconut leaves, plus rice-bran biodegradable plates and lids.
- Crop Domain Pvt. Ltd. (Dr. Mahadeva Swamy) delivers climate-smart biopesticides, biofertilizers, and agro-waste decomposers for sustainable farming.

Dr. Saurabh Saran, Principal Scientist at CSIR-IIIM-TBI, highlighted existing incubation support, while Dr. Arvind, CEO of IIT Jammu's I3C, outlined the Institute's role in empowering early-stage innovators. Senior officials from both organizations underscored the MoU's potential to transform Jammu into a hub of scientific and entrepreneurial excellence.

The collaboration will be jointly governed by senior leadership from IIT Jammu and CSIR-IIIM, in close partnership with the three start-ups, fostering an ecosystem where science, technology, and entrepreneurship intersect to drive India's innovation-led growth.

## Sainik School Nagrota marks Vanmahotsava with 500 Saplings

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
NAGROTA, AUG 3

Sainik School Nagrota celebrated Vanmahotsava - 2025 with a spirited plantation drive aimed at fostering environmental consciousness among cadets. The event highlighted the school's commitment to sustainability and nature conservation.

The occasion was graced by Shri Shashikant Lakhanpal, General Secretary, Arogya Bharti, and Dr. Yashpal Sharma, Director, Arogya Bharti. Also present were Shri Neeraj Gupta, Range Officer, District Social Forestry, along with officials from the Forest Department and the Department of AYUSH.

Cadets, guided by the

guests and staff, planted saplings across the campus, symbolizing their pledge to protect and nurture the environment. Over 500 saplings were planted across the school campus, including a vibrant mix of flowering plants, fruit-bearing trees, and medicinal species, reflecting a thoughtful approach to biodiversity and sustainability.

Principal Capt (IN) Shibu Devasia expressed his gratitude to the Forest Department for their support and encouraged cadets to care for the saplings as a life-long responsibility. He also appreciated the presence of dignitaries from Arogya Bharti whose support further motivated the cadets in their environmental endeavour

## Monsoon fury in Himachal leaves 179 people dead; Mandi, Kullu, Chamba remain worst-hit districts

AGENCIES  
SHIMLA (HIMACHAL PRADESH), AUGUST 3

Himachal Pradesh continues to reel under the devastating impact of the monsoon season, with severe disruptions across vital public utilities and a mounting death toll.

According to the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA), Himachal Pradesh, a total of 179 people have lost their lives since June 20, including 101 in rain-related incidents



such as landslides, flash floods, and cloudbursts, and 78 in road accidents attributed to treacherous weather conditions.

As of the evening of August 3, the disaster has rendered 296 roads impassable, 134 power distribution transformers

out of service, and 266 water supply schemes disrupted, highlighting the widespread infrastructural damage caused by torrential rains across the hill state.

Among the worst-hit districts are Mandi, Kullu, and Chamba, which together account for a major share of road blockages and public service breakdowns. National Highway-505 in Lahaul-Spiti also remains closed due to landslides and flash floods, cutting off vital access routes.

## Day 2: Zero claims, objections by all political parties to draft electoral rolls in Bihar, says EC

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 3

Amid the claims over deletion of names from the voters' list in Bihar, the Election Commission of India (ECI) on Sunday said that not a single claim or objection has been filed by any political party since the publication of the draft electoral rolls on August 1.

"From 1 August 2025 (3 PM) till 3 August (3 PM), all political parties put together have filed zero claims and objections for the addition of the names of eligible electors and deletion of the names of ineligible electors," said the Election Commission in a press note.



ECI released the draft electoral rolls for Bihar on Friday afternoon, following the completion of the Enumeration Phase under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) 2025. It said the public has one month to

submit claims and objections, assuring that "no name will be removed from the draft voter list without a stated reason."

Earlier in the day, Congress MP Manickam Tagore alleged that the

names flagged out of the draft voter list in Bihar were "disproportionately high" in areas considered opposition strongholds, demanding a discussion on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Bihar.

Sharing an X post, he wrote, "Massive voter deletion drive in Bihar? @ECIS-VEEP's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) has flagged 65 lakh voters—8.3% of the total electorate—for possible deletion ahead of the 2025 Assembly elections. #StopVoterDeletion #Bihar. This is not a routine update. Voter flagging is disproportionately high in districts considered opposition strongholds and battlegrounds."

## "Extremely tragic": President Murmu condoles loss of lives in Gonda accident

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 3

President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday extended condolences over the death of 11 pilgrims after their vehicle plunged into a canal in Uttar Pradesh's Gonda district, calling the incident "extremely tragic".

President Murmu prayed for the speedy recovery of those who were injured.

At least eleven people were killed after a vehicle carrying pilgrims fell into a canal in the Gonda district of Uttar Pradesh on Sunday. The incident occurred under the limits



of Itia Thok Police Station.

In a post on X, Murmu wrote, "The news of the deaths of many people in a vehicle accident in Gonda, Uttar Pradesh, is extremely tragic. I express my deep condolences to the bereaved families. I pray for the speedy recovery of

those who were injured."

Soon after the incident, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed deep sorrow and called the incident "extremely heart-wrenching." The Chief Minister announced an ex-gratia

of Rs 5 lakh each for the families of the deceased and directed officials to ensure immediate medical attention for the injured.

In a post on X, CM Yogi wrote, "The loss of life in the unfortunate accident in the district of Gonda is extremely tragic and heart-wrenching. My condolences are with the grief-stricken families. Instructions have been given to provide financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh to the kin of those who lost their lives in this accident, and to the district administration officials to immediately take the injured to the hospital for their proper treatment."

## "NDA will form govt in Bihar under leadership of Nitish Kumar...": Union Minister Giriraj Singh

AGENCIES  
SIAMARHI (BIHAR), AUGUST 3

Exuding confidence over the outcome of the upcoming Assembly elections in Bihar, Union Minister Giriraj Singh on Sunday said that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) will form the government here under the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

"Today, I can say with confidence that the next government in Bihar will be formed by the NDA under the leadership of Nitish Kumar and PM Modi," Giriraj Singh told reporters.

Union Minister applauded the work done under the leadership of Prime



Minister Narendra Modi and mentioned that 17 bridges have been constructed over Bihar's Ganga river since 2014.

Ever since Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister, 17 bridges have been built over the Ganga river in Bihar. Not only that, today there is no part in Bihar where there are no proper roads. The Modi government is the one which gave development

to Bihar. It is only under the NDA government that people in Bihar have been employed, he said.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Saturday said that it will double the remuneration for Booth Level Officers (BLOs), enhance remuneration for BLO Supervisors and give honorarium to Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and Assistant Electoral Registration

Officers (AEROs).

"Pure electoral rolls are the bedrock of democracy. The electoral roll machinery, consisting of Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), BLO Supervisors and Booth Level Officers (BLOs), do a lot of hard work and play a pivotal role in preparation of impartial and transparent electoral rolls. The Commission has therefore, decided to double the annual remuneration for BLOs & also enhanced the remuneration of BLO Supervisors involved in the preparation and revision of electoral rolls" it said in a press release.

## NEET-PG 2025 exam conducted across 301 cities, more than 2.42 lakh candidates appeared

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 3

The National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS), an autonomous body of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, on Sunday conducted National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Postgraduate) (NEET-PG).

According to an official release, the exam was conducted in a single shift on the computer-based platform across 301 cities and in 1052 test centres for more than 2,42,000 candidates. This is the largest computer-based exam in India in terms of the number of candidates,



which has been conducted in a Single Shift.

NBEMS had made elaborate arrangements to ensure the safe, smooth & secure conduct of NEET-PG 2025, restoring the faith of lakhs of medical graduates in the examination system.

NBEMS had engaged more than 2200 faculty members from various medical colleges and NBEMS-accredited hospitals to appraise the conduct of the exam and to ensure zero tolerance towards the use of unfair means. NBEMS had also writ-

ten to the Chief Secretaries, DGPs of all the states, to ensure adequate Law & Order, cyber security and uninterrupted power supply at all the test centres. Assistance had also been sought from the District Administration and Police in this regard.

In order to prevent any kind of cyber scam at Test Centres, NBEMS took assistance from the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C), Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt of India. Around 300 cyber commandos fanned out to various exam centres, especially the sensitive ones, to prevent any kind of cheating at these test centres.

## West Bengal government plans to set up mini-cinemas to promote Bengali films

AGENCIES  
KOLKATA (WEST BENGAL), AUGUST 3

The West Bengal government has taken a new step to promote the Bengali film industry by streamlining the process of setting up mini-cinema halls across the state.

A recent order from the Office of the Chief Secretary highlights that such proposals, especially those focused on screening Bengali films and content, have the potential to boost local culture and help small businesses grow.

According to the order, District Magistrates and



the Commissioner of Police in Kolkata will serve as the main authority for evaluating and clearing

applications to establish mini-cinema infrastructure. These officers will act as single-point con-

tacts, ensuring fast-track approvals.

"Over the recent past, we are in receipt of a few proposals for setting up of infrastructure for screening of mini-cinema (with particular focus on Bengali cinema and content). This has the potential to work as a catalyst for development of Bengali film industry and the business model suggests that it might also benefit local businesses to grow further," the letter reads.

The initiative aligns with the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the West Bengal Cinemas (Regulation of Public Exhibition) Rules, 1956.

## Delhi Crime Branch cracks year-old murder mystery; woman, her boyfriend held for killing husband, dumping body in Haryana's Sonapat

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 3

The Delhi Crime Branch has solved a year-old blind murder case with the arrest of a woman and her boyfriend for conspiring to kill her husband and disposing of his body in Haryana's Sonapat, officials said on Sunday.

The accused have been identified as Soniya (34), a resident of Delhi's Alipur, and her partner Rohit, a resident of Jaji village in Sonapat.

According to Crime Branch officials, the case



dates back to July 2024, when the decomposed body of an unidentified man was found in a drain

near Agwanpur village under Gannaur police station in Sonapat. A case of murder was registered

but remained unsolved as the deceased could not be identified.

The breakthrough came when the Delhi Crime Branch, led by Inspector Sandeep Tushir, started investigating the long-standing disappearance of one Pritam Prakash (42), a proclaimed offender and a history-sheeter from Alipur.

His wife, Soniya, had lodged a complaint on July 20, 2024, stating that her husband had gone missing on the intervening night of July 5-6.

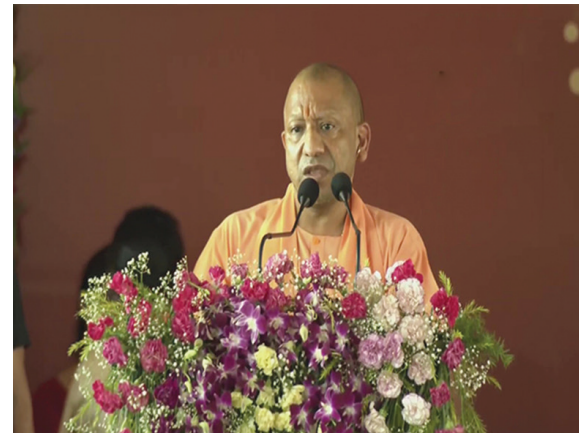
## CM Yogi Adityanath forms 'Team 11' to lead flood relief ops in Uttar Pradesh

AGENCIES  
LUCKNOW (UTTAR PRADESH), AUGUST 3

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath formed 'Team 11' to oversee flood relief operations at the affected areas.

Members of the team will visit the affected areas and stay the night there. CM Yogi has directed that the lives of people should be prioritised; all districts have been ordered to be in alert mode.

19 boats and motorboats have been deployed in Prayagraj. About 88 'flood chowkis' have been established. Two teams of PAC have been deployed, each



with one team of SDRF and NDRF. 1375 people have been relocated to safer locations, a release said.

In Jalaun, 62 boats and 31 motorboats have been

deployed. About 27 'flood chowkis' have been established. Similarly, in Auraiya, 26 boats and motorboats have been deployed. About 9 'flood chowkis'

have been established.

In Hamirpur, eight boats and motorboats have been deployed. About 17 'flood chowkis' have been established. 1330 people have been relocated to safer locations. Two boats and motorboats have been deployed, and about 47 'flood chowkis' have been established in Agra.

As per the release, seven boats and motorboats have been deployed in Mirzapur. Similarly, in Varanasi, 23 boats have been deployed. In Kanpur Dehat, 30 boats have been deployed. In Ballia, 10 boats have been deployed. In Banda, 43 boats have been deployed.

## He wasn't thinking at all: Ponting lambasts Siraj for costly fielding blunder

AGENCIES  
LONDON [UK], AUGUST 3

Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting offered no clemency to Mohammed Siraj, who was the culprit of dropping Harry Brook during the final hour of the morning session of Day 4 of the fifth Test against England at The Oval on Sunday.

Harry Brook and Joe Root started to threaten India's chances of leveling the series by orchestrating a fierce riposte. Prasidh Krishna offered a way out for India to avoid the misery that Brook was capable of unleashing while relying on his



skillset.

On the first delivery of the 35th over, Brook topped his pull, and Prasidh started celebrating as soon as the ball shot sky high. Siraj arrived at the landing position, completed the catch. However, to his and India's agony, he took

a step back and touched the boundary rope, turning the wicket-taking delivery into a maximum.

He sunk his face in his hands, trying to fathom the gravity of his blunder. Brook made the most of the unprecedented lifeline and returned unbeaten

after the end of the opening session. Ponting wondered what went through Siraj's mind when the situation didn't demand that he move his body.

"What was he thinking? He wasn't thinking at all. He didn't have to move to take the catch, so how costly might that be? Brook is still in and reads the bowlers so well. He bats in a Test match, how you would try and read a bowler in a T20," Ponting said as quoted from Sky Sports.

Former India head coach and cricketer Ravi Shastri enjoyed the seesaw confrontation with both teams scuffling for control

## U19 Asian Boxing Championships: Shivam, Mausam Suhag advance to next round with contrasting victories

AGENCIES  
BANGKOK [THAILAND], AUGUST 3

India's Shivam and Mausam Suhag registered contrasting victories to advance in their respective weight categories at the U19 Asian Boxing Championships 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand on Sunday.

In the men's 55kg category, Shivam dominated all three rounds against Turkmenistan's Bezirgen Annayev to earn a unanimous verdict, as per a press release from the Boxing Federation of India



(BFI).

Later in the day, Mausam showed resilience under pressure from Kazakhstan's Nurkablyluly Mukhit in the 65 kg category to carve out a 3:2 win.

The U19 and U22 Asian Boxing Championships

provide India's rising stars a platform to showcase their skills and determination against some of Asia's toughest opponents. India has fielded a strong contingent of 40 boxers -- 20 in each age group -- with a perfect mix of proven champions and

potential talents who have impressed in the domestic circuit. However, the Indian contingent could not make it a perfect day in the U19 age group as Shubham suffered a 0:5 loss against Kazakhstan's Tortubek Adilet in the 60kg bout. Three Indian boxers will also be in action in the U22 age group later in the day.

On Saturday, Sagar (men's 55kg) and Harsh (men's 60kg) registered dominant wins to advance to the next round of the U19 Asian Boxing Championships 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand on Saturday.

## Yash Dhull smashes first ton of DPL 2025 to power Central Delhi Kings to victory

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 3

In the ongoing second edition of the Delhi Premier League (DPL), Central Delhi Kings' Yash Dhull lit up the Arun Jaitley Stadium with a sensational century -- the first of DPL 2025 -- to guide his team to a commanding 8-wicket victory over North Delhi Strikers.

Chasing a target of 175, Dhull put on a batting masterclass, remaining unbeaten on 101 off just 56 deliveries, laced with eight fours and seven sixes. His composed yet aggressive innings ensured Central Delhi cruised to the target



with ease, marking one of the standout performances of the tournament so far, as per a press release from DPL.

The Central Delhi Kings' batters thoroughly dominated the run chase, showcasing a commanding performance against the North Delhi Strikers'

bowling attack. While Yash Dhull's unbeaten century was the highlight, he received strong support from the rest of the batting unit.

Yugal Saini played a vital hand at the top, scoring a fluent 36 off 24 balls, setting the tone for the chase with confident

stroke play. Skipper Jonty Sidhu ensured there were no hiccups, contributing a steady 23\* off 19 deliveries to guide the team safely to victory.

It was a clinical batting display by Central Delhi, underlining their depth and composure as they chased down the target with plenty to spare.

Earlier, batting first, the North Delhi Strikers also put up an impressive total of 174/7 in 20 overs, thanks to standout performances from Sarthak Ranjan, who anchored the innings with a fluent 82 off 60 balls, and Arnab Bugga, who added valuable momentum with a quick-fire 67 off 43.

## England needs "tough cricketers" for Ashes series: Nasser Hussain

AGENCIES  
LONDON [UK], AUGUST 3

Former England captain Nasser Hussain said that the UK would need "tough cricketers" during the upcoming away from home Ashes series against Australia, noting that how a series against the arch-rivals in Aussie land is not only a battle with the opposing team, but with the public and media over there as well.

England is leading in the ongoing series against India at home by 2-1, and could draw or win the series depending on whether they chase down the 374 set by India in the



fifth Test at The Oval.

Speaking on Sky Sports Cricket ahead of day four's play at The Oval, Nasser said, "I do think you need tough cricketers though and I mean people that will stand up out there because when you go out there you are not taking on 11 Australian cricket-

ers, you are taking on a nation. You will get out there, the media will be on you. Within a week of landing, they will ask, "Is this the worst England side ever to come here?" which was probably true in our case. Cannot bowl, cannot bat, cannot field, the headline will come

out. Stuart Broad is a something bloke."

"So you are taking on them, you will take on the public, not only on the ground when you move away from the ground. And if you look historically at the characters, characters not just cricketers that have done well against Australia, Darren Gough stood up to everyone, Ian Botham, Andrew Flintoff, Stuart Broad. People who will not back down in a battle because that is what the Ashes is. It is a battle for however many long, however many days, and you have to be up for the fight," he added.

## Day 3 Results: 15th Hockey India Junior Women National Championship 2025

AGENCIES  
KAKINADA (ANDHRA PRADESH), AUGUST 3

The third day of the 15th Hockey India Junior Women National Championship saw two close encounters in Division 'B' matches on Sunday.

In the first match, Hockey Uttarakhand drew with Assam Hockey. In contrast, in the second match, the Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu drew with the Hockey Association of Bihar, as per a Hockey India press release.

In the first match of the day, Hockey Uttarakhand drew with Assam Hockey



2-2, with Raeen Kehkasha Ali (25') and captain Saloni Palkhwal (6') scoring for Hockey Uttarakhand while Sagarika Barman (23') and Ashmita Tigga (58') scored for Assam Hockey to equalise the game.

The next match between Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu

and Hockey Association of Bihar ended in a 2-2 draw with Mumanja R (14, 36') scoring both the goals for Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu while Kumari Rinjhim (41') and Kumari Sanjana Bharti (45') scored a goal each for Hockey Association of Bihar.

The competition, which started on Friday, will run until August 12 and will follow the newly introduced division-based format, which was implemented earlier this year for the Senior and Sub Junior Men and Women's National Championships.

-Division Format & Pool Composition  
Division 'A' (Top-tier Championship Division): Teams will compete for the title, and the 11th and 12th ranked teams will be relegated to Division 'B'. Matches for the Hockey India Junior Women National Championship 2025, Division A, will start on August 5, 2025.

## Lexington Open 2025 Tennis: India pair Ramkumar Ramanathan, Anirudh Chandrasekar clinch men's doubles title

AGENCIES  
KENTUCKY [US], AUGUST 3

Indian pair Ramkumar Ramanathan and Anirudh Chandrasekar scripted a remarkable victory to clinch the men's doubles title at the Lexington Open 2025 ATP Challenger tennis tournament in Kentucky.

The second-seed all Indian pair trounced the Chinese Taipei duo of Yu Hsiou Hsu and Ray Ho Huang in straight sets by 6-4, 6-4 to secure the crown in a contest that lasted for an hour and



eight minutes.

Ramanathan and Chandrasekar raised the ante with their scorching serves and produced five aces throughout the contest. Across both sets,

the Indian pair kept the opposition on their toes and broke their serves to seal the fate of the final.

The victory marked Ramanathan's 11th ATP Challenger doubles title of his career, and his partner Anirudh bagged his eighth Challenger crown in Kentucky.

Ramanathan, who has a men's doubles silver medal at the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou, also holds two ATP 250 titles. Both of his victories came with the seasoned Rohan Bopanna in 2022.

In February earlier this

year, Ramanathan and Anirudh stood on opposite sides in the men's doubles event at the Bengaluru Open. Ramanathan partnered with India's Saketh Myneni, while Anirudh teamed up with Ray Ho of Chinese Taipei.

After a stellar run in the tournament, Ramanathan and Anirudh encountered each other in the semi-final to fight for the right to compete for the trophy. In a contest that went right down the wire, Ramanathan and his compatriot fell short and succumbed to a 4-6, 6-2, 8-10 defeat.

## "AB still better than half the internationals in IPL": Steyn's bold take after 41-year-old's exploits in WCL

AGENCIES  
JOHANNESBURG [SOUTH AFRICA], AUGUST 3

Former South African pacer Dale Steyn hailed AB de Villiers for his fine performances in the recently concluded World Championship of Legends (WCL), saying that the 41-year-old is "better than half the internationals at the IPL".

De Villiers lit up the UK crowd with his performances in the WCL, which concluded with South Africa Champions lifting the title after beating Pakistan Champions in the finals on Saturday. During



the title clash, De Villiers made an unbeaten 120\* in 60 balls, with 12 fours

and seven sixes, helping his team chase down 196 with nine wickets in hand.

The 'Mr 360' was imperious in the tournament, top-scoring with 429 runs in six innings at an average of 143.00, with a strike rate of 220, with three centuries and a fifty.

This year has been incredible for AB, not only did he make his return to the cricket field after three years and entertained the masses, but he also saw Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and South Africa lift their maiden Indian Premier League (IPL) and ICC World Test Championship (WTC) titles respectively, as a spectator in the stadium.

## Jason Holder surpasses Bravo to become West Indies' top T20I wicket-taker, stars in thrilling win over Pakistan

AGENCIES  
FLORIDA [US], AUGUST 3

Jason Holder delivered a match-winning all-round performance to script a thrilling 2-wicket victory for West Indies over Pakistan in the second T20I, levelling the series 1-1 in Lauderhill on Saturday. With this, the experienced all-rounder also went past Dwayne Bravo to become the highest wicket-taker for West Indies in men's T20Is.

Holder was deservedly named 'Player of the Match' for his stunning spell of 4/19 and a calm,



composed finish with the bat, an unbeaten 16 off 10 balls, which included the

match-winning boundary off the final ball of the game.

Chasing a target of 134, West Indies looked in all sorts of trouble as they kept losing wickets at regular intervals. At one point, the West Indies were 98/7 in 16.5 overs but Holder held his nerve in a tense final over, and took his team home.

With eight required off the last six balls and two needed off the final delivery, Shaheen Shah Afridi steamed in but Holder stood tall and cracked him for a boundary to seal the deal for the hosts. They secured a nail-biting win, setting up a series decider on Monday.

# 10th Century Shivling unearthed, preserved in SPS Museum for public viewing

JINNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, AUGUST 3

The Department of Archives, Archaeology & Museums is delighted to announce the discovery of an ancient Shivling, expertly carved from stone, measuring 137 cm in length and 160 cm in width.

Dating back to approximately the 10th Century AD, this remarkable artifact was recovered from the Jhelum River near the Army camp at Khanpora, Baramulla, during sand extraction by the local laborers.

This significant find sheds light on the region's rich cultural heritage and historical legacy. The Shivling has been carefully



ly preserved and will be showcased for the public to appreciate its historical significance.

After its discovery, the ancient Shivling was taken into custody by the Indian Army's 22 Medium Regiment in Baramulla.

Recognizing its historical significance, the Army handed it over to the Department of

Archives, Archaeology & Museums. The Shivling was then carefully transported and housed at the SPS Museum in Srinagar, where it will be preserved and showcased for public viewing.

This collaborative effort ensures the artifact's safety and allows the public to appreciate its cultural importance.

Speaking on the occasion, Director, Archives, Archaeology & Museums, J&K, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, stated, "The recovery of the Shivling is not only an important archaeological find but also a testament to our enduring cultural legacy. The Department is committed to the preservation and respectful showcasing of such artefact for educational and spiritual enrichment of the public."

This discovery represents a valuable addition to the cultural and historical heritage of Jammu and Kashmir, highlighting the importance of protecting and preserving the region's rich archaeological legacy.

# DC Poonch visits Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Shrine at Mandi to oversee Yatra arrangements

JINNEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, AUGUST 3

In view of the ongoing Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra, the Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal today visited the Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Shrine Complex at Mandi to oversee the arrangements and ensure the smooth conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner paid obeisance at the shrine and offered prayers for peace, harmony and prosperity of the region. He interacted with officials and stakeholders managing the yatra and reviewed facilities such as sanitation, traffic control, medical aid, water supply and lodging for pilgrims.

As part of infrastructure development for yatris, the Deputy Commissioner also visited the designated parking area and laid the foundation stone for a new toilet complex, aimed at enhancing public convenience during the pilgrimage.



age.

The district administration remains fully committed to providing a safe, well-organized and spiritually enriching experience for yatris.

DC Poonch also conducted on site inspection of proposed site for Government Degree College at Mandi

During the visit, the

Deputy Commissioner reviewed the status of land demarcation, site readiness and related infrastructural requirements. He also held detailed discussions with the Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Haveli, Aijaz Jan, focusing on coordination for the upcoming development works.

Key areas of discussion

included the demarcation of land for the college, initiation of construction activities and the development of the approach road to the site to ensure smooth accessibility.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the revenue and engineering departments to expedite the necessary groundwork and ensure timely completion of pre-construction formalities.

He emphasized that the establishment of the Degree College at Mandi is a vital step towards expanding access to higher education in this remote region and will play a pivotal role in shaping the academic future of local students.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Tehsildar Mandi and other concerned officers.

# District Administration Ramban intensifies Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign

JINNEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, AUGUST 3

In a vibrant display of patriotism and unity, the District Administration Ramban, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan, intensified the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign by organizing a series of patriotic activities throughout the district today.

As part of the campaign, a series of events were also organized at the Block, Tehsil and Sub-Division level, focusing on Swachhata Abhiyan (Cleanliness Drive), water conservation, sanitation and hygiene. These activities witnessed enthusiastic participation from the public, along with active involvement of staff from various government departments.



Educational institutions including schools, colleges and various other institutions enthusiastically took part by hosting wall painting initiatives, painting competitions, cultural programs and collective pledge-taking ceremonies. These activities aim to foster national pride and awareness about the importance of displaying the Tiranga – the National Flag – on every household and public establishment as part of the campaign's vision.

Deputy Commissioner personally participated in events at Government Higher Secondary School Ramban, High School Chanderkote, and Government Polytechnic Chanderkote.

Addressing students and faculty, he lauded their energy and encouraged their continued participation in such patriotic endeavors. Emphasizing the unifying spirit of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, he inspired students

and citizens to widen the campaign's reach by motivating friends, families and neighbors to proudly hoist the National Flag atop their homes and within markets.

During his interaction with participants, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of collective celebration of India's heritage, encouraging the public to actively contribute towards making the Har Ghar Tiranga initiative a widespread success across Ramban district.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Chief Education Officer Mukhtar Ahmed, Principal GPC Vivek Mahajan, Principal GMHSS Ramban Kewal Krishan Sharma and several other distinguished officers.

# RDD organises Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign at Palaash Children Home Boys Kishtwar

JINNEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, AUGUST 3

The Rural Development Department Trigam under the supervision of BDO Roopesh Sharma organized Har Ghar Tiranga campaign at Palaash Children Home Boys Kishtwar, here today.

Renowned singer Samridhi Sen and BDO Bunjwah Ajaz Ahmed Butt graced the event as chief guest and guest of honor, respectively.

The program began with singing of National Anthem followed by welcome speech by BDO who also highlighted the campaign's significance and the national flag's history.

He said that the District Administration Kishtwar aims to instill patriotic values among the younger generation and ensure that they grow up with respect for our nation and its glorious past.

BDO Bunjwah empha-



He further emphasized that the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign is a proud initiative to inspire a sense of patriotism and unity among every citizen.

BDO Bunjwah emphasized honoring national heroes' legacies and inspiring the younger generation. He also advised children to work hard in their studies and contribute towards development of the nation in a holistic

program concluded with a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude towards the staff of the Palaash children home Kishtwar for their unwavering cooperation and support besides other participants in making the event a grand success.

and inclusive way. Samridhi Sen sang a patriotic song, encouraging students to participate and contribute to nation-building.

A patriotic quiz competition was held, followed by distribution of gifts and refreshment among participants. The talent showcased by children applauded by the dignitaries.

The event was attended by the Superintendent of Palaash Children Home Boys Rohit Shan, RDD staff, DIPR staff, media personnel and students, fostering patriotism and national pride.

The program concluded with a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude towards the staff of the Palaash children home Kishtwar for their unwavering cooperation and support besides other participants in making the event a grand success.

# JKPCC conducts public hearing for the proposed minor mineral Block in Udhampur

JINNEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, AUGUST 3

J&K Pollution Control Committee Udhampur conducted Public hearing for the Proposed Minor Mineral Block (River Bed Material) Block-II/II of an Area of 5.02 Hectare, Tawi River upstream Vishal Bridge, District Udhampur In favour of Swarn Singh R/O Umalla, Udhampur at Panchayat Ghar Chari Udhampur.

The hearing was presided over by Tehsildar Udhampur Jai Singh.

Senior Officer and expert from J&K PCC, A B Jandial, District Mineral Officer Udhampur, Mohd.



Imtaiaz, Divisional Officer J&K PCC Udhampur, S.K Tripathi were also present during the proceeding.

Former PRI members including a large number of people from nearby villages participated in the proceedings.

Divisional Officer, J&K PCC Udhampur, highlighted the importance of

public hearings for such projects, emphasizing that these forums provide a platform for local communities to voice their concerns and suggestions.

The District Mineral Officer, Udhampur, assured that mining operations would be carried out strictly in accordance with environmental regulations

and the approved mining plan.

A senior official from J&K PCC underscored the need to address environmental concerns associated with mining activities. The official stressed that environmental protection is paramount and that all necessary measures would be taken to mitigate the project's ecological footprint.

The Tehsildar Udhampur concluded by highlighting that all aspects discussed during the public hearing would be implemented in a transparent manner, strictly adhering to environmental norms and regulations.

# Fresh flowers made available at Shri Machail Mata Temple for the first time

JINNEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, AUGUST 3

For the first time, devotees visiting Shri Machail Mata Temple in Padder have access to fresh flowers at the Bhawan.

This initiative was carried out by District Administration Kishtwar under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma and ADC Kishtwar Pawan Kumar Kotwal in coordination with the Department of Floriculture, Parks & Gardens led by Sh. Arjun Singh Parihar, Assistant Floriculture Officer Doda-Kishtwar.

Support from flower growers and the local business community of Machail, who also help arrange prasad for pilgrims, played a key role.

Lakhs of devotees visit Shri Machail Mata Temple each year during the Machail Yatra. Flowers are closely linked with religious rituals and their availability at this remote shrine has been well



received by devotees and locals.

Making flowers available at Machail was a challenge. Due to the terrain and long foot journey, ensuring fresh flowers, despite their short shelf life, was a major

task. Eight flower growers and one local youth from Padder worked to make this long-pending effort possible.

In coming years, with road connectivity expected to improve, the supply of flowers is likely

to increase. The rising demand for flowers at Machail Bhawan will open job opportunities for the local farming community through marigold and other flower cultivation, benefitting farmers, traders and vendors.

# Director Social Welfare Jammu visits Child Care Institutions in Poonch

JINNEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, AUGUST 3

Director Social Welfare Jammu, Gurpal Singh, conducted an official visit to Poonch district to review the functioning of Child Care Institutions.

During the visit,

the Director inspected "Palash" and "Parisha", key Child Care Institutions operating in the district. He interacted with the children and staff, assessed the facilities and reviewed the services being provided to ensure compliance with child protection norms and

welfare standards. The visit highlighted the department's commitment to strengthening the care, protection and development of children in institutional settings.

The Director emphasized the importance of maintaining high standards

in infrastructure, care and support services to ensure the well-being of children under institutional care.

He was accompanied by District Social Welfare Officer Poonch, Khalil A. Bandy along with the staff of the Social Welfare Department Poonch.