

# Good Morning Kashmir

16th Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K  
@OfficeOfLGJandK



Successful conduct of holy pilgrimage of Shri Amarnath Ji this year with unwavering determination of all the stakeholders has shown that we are second to none in the world. It is also a vindication of our steadfast commitment to selfless service & a symbol of resurgent India.

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## Full Dress Rehearsals For I-Day 2025 Held Across Kashmir



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** In a vibrant display of patriotism and unity, full-dress rehearsals for the upcoming 79th Independence Day celebrations unfolded today across Kashmir. The rehearsals held at all district headquarters marked the culmination of weeks of preparation, offering a glimpse into the grand festivities set to light up the Valley on August 15. On the occasion, heartfelt tributes were paid to the nation's leaders, freedom fighters, and martyrs whose sacrifices paved the way for India's independence. Their unwavering dedication was honored as the foundation of the freedom enjoyed by the country today. At Srinagar, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri hoisted the National Flag at Bakshi Stadium, inspected the parade contingents, took salute at March past and addressed the participants.

Earlier, Div Com paid floral tribute to the martyrs of the nation, who laid their lives in the line of national duty, at Balidan Stambh, Pratap Park. He was accompanied by IGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Birdi, DC Srinagar Akshay Labroo, and other officers of civil administration & security agencies. Addressing the participants at the Bakshi Stadium, the main venue for the celebration of Independence Day in J&K, Div Com highlighted developmental and socio-economic achievements of the government. Div Com said that terrorists who massacred

## J&K Has Made Its Rightful Place In Indian Sporting Landscape: LG Sinha

Interacts With Players At Bijbehara Premier League (BPL) At Anantnag

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BPL IS WIDELY** considered as the most prestigious cricket tournament in J&K UT

J&K UT has made its **RIGHTFUL** place in Indian sporting landscape: LG Sinha

In the past five years, we have **INVESTED** in creating modern sports infrastructure

**UT SINCE 2020** had adopted player-centered approach to develop players, maximise their ability



**ANANTNAG:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday hailed the remarkable achievements of Jammu and Kashmir in the field of sports, stating that the Union Territory has "rightfully earned its place in India's sporting landscape." Attending the Trophy unveiling ceremony of Bijbehara Premier League (BPL) at Anantnag, LG Sinha emphasized the region's rising contributions to national and international sports, crediting the dedication of athletes and the government's push for infrastructure development. His remarks come as J&K continues to produce top-tier talent across various disciplines, reinforcing its position as an emerging hub for sporting excellence. The Lieutenant Governor

interacted with the players and officials and congratulated the organisers of the Bijbehara Premier League. "Bijbehara Premier League is widely considered as the most prestigious cricket tournament in J&K UT which also serves as a platform to showcase talent and earn their place at national and international level," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor observed that the

## LG Felicitates Langar Organisations For Amarnath Yatra Contributions

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KATRA:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday felicitated the Langar organisations for their significant contribution during Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025. At a felicitation ceremony held at Spiritual Growth Centre Katra, the Lieutenant Governor congratulated and expressed his deep appreciation to the Langar organisations for their selfless service to the devotees of Baba Amarnath. "Today's felicitation of Langar Organisations at Katra also carried a message that nothing can beat the spirit of India. Successful conduct of holy pilgrimage of Shri Amarnath Ji this year with unwavering determination of all the stakeholders has shown that we are second to none in the world." The Chief

## President Murmu To Address Nation Today



**NEW DELHI:** President Droupadi Murmu will address the nation on Thursday, August 14, on the eve of the 79th Independence Day. The address will be broadcast at 7 p.m. on the entire national network of Akashvani and telecast on all Doordarshan channels — first in Hindi, followed by the English version. Regional language broadcasts will then be aired by Doordarshan's regional channels, while Akashvani will carry the regional versions at 9.30 p.m. on its respective networks, a government statement said. On Friday morning, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver his traditional Independence Day speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort. India observes Independence Day every year on August 15 to commemorate its freedom from over two centuries of British colonial rule in

## In PM Modi's Rule Tiranga Flying High In Kashmir: Dr Jitendra



YOGESH

**JAMMU:** Recalling the time when a massive campaign had to be organised just to hoist the Tiranga in Srinagar, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Wednesday said that in PM Modi's rule tricolour is flying high in Kashmir. Singh, who led a Tiranga rally in Kathua district, while talking to reporters said, "There was also a time when Prime Minister Modi

himself risked his life to go to Lal Chowk to hoist the flag. The incident at that time was such a big event that it was discussed all over the country." Drawing a contrast between the time when PM Modi himself risked his life to go to Srinagar's Lal Chowk to hoist the national flag and today, Singh said every hand in Kashmir now holds the tricolour. Pertinently, PM Modi in 1991 took out

## PM Modi Likely To Visit New York For UNGA Session Next Month

AGENCIES

**UNITED NATIONS:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to address the annual high-level session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September, according to a provisional list of speakers issued by the UN here.

The 80th session of the UNGA will open on September 9. The high-level General Debate will run from September 23-29, with Brazil as the traditional first speaker of the session, followed by the US.

US President Donald Trump will address world leaders from the iconic UNGA podium on September 23, his first address to the UN session in his second term in the White House.

According to the provisional



list of speakers for the high-level debate of the 80th session of the General Assembly, India's "Head of Government (HG)" will address the session on the morning of September 26. The Heads of Government of Israel, China, Pakistan, and

Bangladesh are also scheduled to address the UNGA general debate on the same day. Modi had travelled to the US in February this year for a bilateral meeting with Trump in the White House in Washington, DC. In a joint statement

## CS For Transforming KKGs Into 'Instruments Of Change' For Farmers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Wednesday directed the Agriculture Production Department (APD) to transform Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) into vibrant multipurpose centres in villages, positioning them as "instruments of change" for the farming community across Jammu & Kashmir.

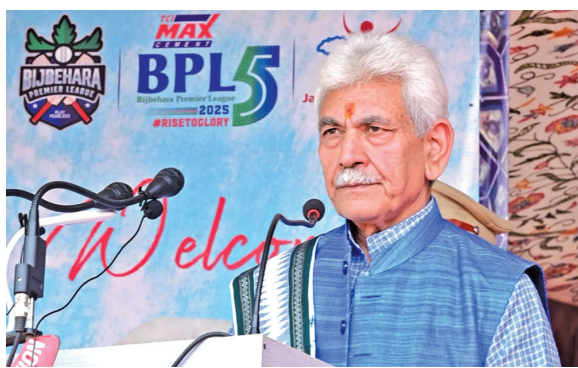
Chairing a high-level meeting held to review the functioning of KKGs across the districts, the Chief Secretary described the initiative as a "phenomenal programme" conceptualised by the leading national experts, with the potential to accelerate agricultural growth, enhance farmer awareness

and promote best farming practices. He emphasised that every farm family should have at least one member registered with a KKG. He highlighted the unique role of these centres in delivering timely advisories, customised guidance and awareness on modern, scientific farming techniques. To enhance their utility, the Chief Secretary directed for integrating the additional services into KKGs, including recognition as Common Service Centres (CSCs) for delivering various government services online, functioning as custom hiring centres for farm machinery and acting as Direct Selling Agents (DSAs) for banks to facilitate financial access. The Chief

## Provide Appointment Letters To Youth Selected Under Sports Quota: LG To CM

JAHANGEER GANAIE

**ANANTNAG:** Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir has carved a place in sports arena under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday expressed concern over the delay in appointments of 235 sports persons selected under sports quota, urging the Chief Minister and Sports Minister to expedite the process without further delay. Addressing a gathering at the trophy unveiling ceremony of Bijbehara Premier League (BPL) here in south Kashmir, LG Sinha said, "No appointments had been made under the sports quota in J&K since 2014 due to matter being sub judice. A new sports policy was framed, and 235 candidates—talented sports persons of our region—were selected purely on the basis



of merit. Highlighting the plight of the selected athletes, he said they had been knocking on doors in the hope of securing their appointment letters. "I urge the sports minister to meet these youngsters. They have tried meeting me, but I have told them to meet the minister and the chief minister. I hope their appointment letters are issued without any further delay," the LG stressed. Referring to the remarkable progress made in the

sports sector during the past few years, LG Sinha said, "In the past five years, we have invested in creating modern sports infrastructure, cultivate suitable environment for players and focussed on strong strategy and effective execution at grass roots level to foster sports culture." The Lieutenant Governor said the remarkable progress in J&K's sports sector is due to hard work and unwavering determination of our sportsper-

sons, dedicated coaches and tireless efforts of officials of Sports Council. "J&K UT since 2020 had adopted a player-centered approach to develop players and maximise their ability. It has also been ensured that children and youth are provided with ample opportunities to participate in sports activities. This widespread reach reflects our commitment to inclusive sports development across the entire Union Territory," he said. LG Sinha said, "Five years ago, just 2.5 lakh youth were taking part in sports activities in J&K. Today, that number has touched 40 lakh. This is not just a statistic - it reflects the energy, talent, and determination of our youth." He noted that sports activities are now being conducted in every corner of Jammu and Kashmir, including national-level tournaments.

## Tricolour Flies High At Lal Chowk Ahead Of I-Day

Police Replace Flag At Historic Ghanta Ghar In Sgr

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

**SRINAGAR:** In a symbolic gesture ahead of the Independence Day celebrations, Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday hoisted the Tricolour at the historic Ghanta Ghar (Clock Tower) in Lal Chowk, Srinagar. The flag was replaced and



unfurled amid tight security arrangements as part of preparations for the August 15 festivities. Eyewitnesses present on the occa-

sion told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO)—that the change of flag at Lal Chowk drew attention from both locals

## 'Operation Akhal In Kulgam' Hunt For Terrorists Nearing End: IGP Birdi

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

**SRINAGAR:** Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, V K Birdi, on Wednesday said the ongoing hunt for terrorists in Kulgam district has entered its final stages, while full dress rehearsals and security drills for Independence Day have been successfully carried out across the valley. Speaking to reporters at the Bakshi Stadium here after reviewing the rehearsals, IGP Birdi, said



the search operation in the Akhal forest area of Kulgam — which began on August 1 — is in its final stage and the details will be shared accordingly, if necessary. "The Akhal operation

## Army Soldier Dies In Exchange Of Fire With Terrorists In Uri

WARIS FAYAZ

**SRINAGAR:** An Army soldier lost his life in an exchange of fire with terrorists along the Line of Control (LoC) in North Kashmir's Uri sector on Wednesday. Officials said, that the exchange of fire took place in Churanda village near the LoC. The fallen soldier was identified as Havildar Ankit Kumar, who was on operational

# Committee on Subordinate Legislation meets in Srinagar

Discusses fair land compensation, rehabilitation, mutations



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Committee on Subordinate Legislation Wednesday convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar to examine and review the rules and regulations framed by the Revenue Department.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chair-

man, Hasnain Masoodi and attended by members including Reyaz Ahmad Khan, Shabir Ahmad Kullay, Hilal Akbar Lone, Satish Kumar Sharma and Rajeev Kumar.

The Committee conducted a detailed examination of various rules, sub-rules, regulations and bye-laws of the Revenue Department. An in-depth discussion was

held on issues pertaining to fair land compensation, rehabilitation of affected persons and the process of mutations.

Chairman Hasnain Masoodi emphasized the importance of land laws in ensuring justice and equity, reaffirming the Committee's commitment towards safeguarding the public welfare. He urged

members to contribute constructively towards the betterment of all sections of society.

During the meeting, members shared valuable suggestions and raised pertinent issues within the Committee's jurisdiction, reiterating their resolve to uphold transparency and accountability in subordinate legislation.

## KVK-Budgam held 'KSA- Rural Credit Workshop' at Aarigam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Budgam, in collaboration with the department of Agriculture and allied sectors, Wednesday organized the Kisan Sampark Abhiyan Rural Credit Workshop under the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture & Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP) at Aarigam, block Khansahib Budgam.

MLA Khansahib, Saif-ud-Din Bhat presided over the event as the chief guest. In his address, he highlighted the benefits of the mega programme in improving farmers' access to institutional credit, promoting entrepreneurship, and strengthening the agricultural economy of the district.

He also urged the farming community to take full advantage of JKCIP-IFAD and other schemes available with Agriculture and allied departments for socio-economic upliftment and self-reliance.

He commended SKUAST-K and its partner departments for "working shoulder to shoulder with farmers at the grassroots to make agriculture a sustainable commercial enterprise."

Dr. Bilal Ahmad Lone,

Prof. & Head, KVK-Budgam, emphasized the importance of such initiatives in bridging the gap between farmers and financial institutions, and enabling farmers to benefit from government schemes aimed at enhancing productivity and income.

He also highlighted that the workshop reflects SKUAST-K and KVK Budgam's commitment to doorstep delivery of technology, improved agricultural practices, and farmer-oriented interventions to drive economic growth.

The event brought together officials from agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, sheep husbandry, and fisheries departments, along with representatives from RBI. More than 100 participants, including members of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), progressive farmers, and Agri-entrepreneurs, took part in the programme.

The technical session featured a farmer-scientist interface, where KVK experts, including Dr. Sabia Akhter, Dr. Shabeer Ahmad Ganie, Dr. Iram Farooq, Dr. Kavita Rani and Dr. Irfan Ahmad, provided on-the-spot solutions to farmers queries.

## DDC B'la reviews progress of works under District Capex Budget



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BARAMULLA:** District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, Wednesday chaired a meeting at the DC office meeting hall here to review the progress of works under various components of District Capex Budget 2025-26, including BDC, DDC, PRI, SSS, Aspirational Block, Aspirational Panchayat, and other related sectors of public importance.

During the meeting, DDC conducted a detailed, sector-wise assessment of the progress on deliverables outlined in the 2025-26 district CAPEX budget, covering all concerned departments viz. R&B, Animal Husbandry, Revenue, Education, and others.

Through the powerpoint presentation, department heads briefed the DDC in detail on the works allotted and tendered, as well as the progress and completion status of works across

various sectors.

After reviewing the work progress of each department individually, Minga Sherpa urged the concerned heads to take all necessary measures to expedite the pace of work during the summer months.

Meanwhile, DDC instructed the officers to achieve the developmental targets set for the 2025-26 financial year within the stipulated time frame and to ensure optimum utilization of funds by the end of the quarter.

Furthermore, Minga Sherpa instructed the department heads to coordinate effectively in resolving any bottlenecks and other matters that might impede the progress of development initiatives.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Superintendent Engineer R&B, Chief Education Officer, besides all officers of concerned departments.

## Meeting of Panel Lawyers held at G'bl, stress laid on effective delivery of LAS

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**GANDERBAL:** Pursuant to the calendar of activities for the month of August 2025, a meeting of panel lawyers was conducted Wednesday in the office chamber of the Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal.

The meeting, chaired by Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal, Sheikh Babar Hussain, brought together panel lawyers from DLSA Ganderbal, TLSC Ganderbal, and an objective to discuss challenges in case management and sharing best practices, ensuring high standards in the provision of effective legal representation,

addressing issues and challenges faced by panel lawyers in representing vulnerable populations.

During the meeting, Secretary, DLSA emphasized the importance of regularly updating cases assigned to panel lawyers on the LACMS/LSAMS NALSA portal. He stressed that timely updates would ensure transparency, efficiency, and effective monitoring of cases, ultimately contributing to the delivery of quality legal aid services.

Secretary stressed panel lawyers to ensure providing high-quality, client-focused legal aid services while upholding the highest standards of professionalism and integrity.

## MD JJM asks PHE divisions for providing information on Rural Piped WSSs

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), J&K, Khurshid Ahmad Shah, Wednesday convened a review meeting with all districts of J&K through virtual mode.

The MD enquired about the details of Rural Piped Water Supply Schemes where multiple schemes are providing water supply to common villages or habitations.

The Mission asked the divisions to provide information on these mother-child schemes so that single IDs are created for these schemes as directed by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, National Jal Jeevan Mission. He was assured



that the requisite information in this regard will be provided soon.

The Mission Director also reviewed the division wise status of Har Ghar Jal reported and certified villages. He gave instructions regarding physically completed schemes which need to be reported in the first instance. He was informed that the gap between Func-



tional House Hold Tap connection (FHTC) completed villages and Har Ghar Jal reported villages will be bridged.

The MD directed the districts to certify the Har Ghar Jal Reported villages by holding special Gram Sabha's from 15th August to 2nd October 2025, on the directions of Ministry of Jal Shakti.

The MD also reviewed the creation of IDs for Panchayat Secretaries for district online Dashboards under JJM.

The Mission Director directed the divisions to expedite the process of onboarding of Panchayat Secretaries on District Water & Sanitation (DWSSM) Dashboard being hosted by the Deputy Commissioners in their respective districts.

The meeting was attended by Superintending Engineers (Hydraulic), Executive Engineers of all Divisions, Technical Officers with Chief Engineer, PHE Jammu/Kashmir and officers of Mission Directorate, Jal Jeevan Mission, J&K.

## CS SWD reviews ICDS, Poshan Schemes in Anantnag



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BIJBEHARA:** Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare Department (SWD), Sarmad Hafeez, Wednesday visited Anganwadi Centers (AWCs) in Poshan Project Bijbehara.

The visit included an interaction with staff and a review of implementation of various centrally sponsored schemes.

The District Programme Officer briefed the Commissioner Secretary on the progress of key initiatives, including the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) and the Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP). The

discussion also covered the regular health check-ups of Poshan beneficiaries, which are crucial for monitoring the nutritional health.

The Commissioner Secretary emphasized upon the officers and officials to ensure these schemes are effectively implemented at the ground level.

Special focus was laid on reviving and strengthening the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) in all Anganwadi Centers to provide a strong foundation for young children. He interacted with the beneficiaries during the visit and received feedback.

## Director Homeguards Kashmir organises Tiranga Rally

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** In a vibrant display of National pride ahead of Independence Day-2025, Director Homeguards Kashmir Wednesday organized a spirited Tiranga Rally.

The rally, led by Director Homeguards Kashmir, Ramesh Kumar Angral, commenced from the office premises of Director Homeguards Kashmir Bema Srinagar and drew enthusiastic participation from Police Personnel and Homeguard Volunteers of Homeguards Unit Srinagar.

Participants carried the Tricolor and marched from the office premises of Director Homeguards Kashmir to main Chowk

Bemina National Highway Srinagar, echoed with patriotic songs and slogans, creating a striking visual of unity and devotion to the nation.

This initiative aimed to spread the message of patriotism, communal harmony, and collective responsibility towards building a stronger India. With every step, participants reaffirmed their commitment to uphold the values of the constitution and the dignity of the National Flag.

The Tiranga Rally concluded on a note of pride and resolve, as the officers/officials and HG Volunteers pledged to work together for peace, unity, and progress in the Nation.

## MoHA- Gol invites applications for posts of AD on deputation basis

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India, invites applications for filing of posts of Assistant Director (Disaster Management) in Disaster Management Division on deputation

(including short-term contract) basis.

The particulars of the post, eligibility criteria, conditions etc can be accessed on the official website of Ministry of Home Affairs https://www.mha.gov.in/en/notifications/vacancies.

**Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir**

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION URI

### NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

eNIT No.31 of 2025-26/3395-3403/R&B Uri e-tendering DATED: 12-08-2025

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

S. No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/DOC (In Rupees)	E./Money (In Rs.)	Time for completion of work	Time & Date of opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M.H of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
01	Upgradation by way of earth work and protection work and RCC Drain at Balkote Khan Mohalla	12.89	600/-	25800/-	40 days	19.08.2025	BEE CEE DEE	District Sector
02	Construction of Road from Seakothi to marthan by way of earth work, construction of R/B walls	9.73	600/-	19470/-	30 days	19.08.2025	CEE DEE	District Sector
03	Construction of CC Drain at Beigh Mohalla to Balkote road near High School Balkote.	3.18	200/-	6370/-	25 days	19.08.2025	DEE	District Sector

Project Authority: District Development Commissioner BaramullaAA/TS: Accorded/Granted

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	12.08.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	12.08.2025 from (11:00AM) to 18.08.2025 (04:00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	12.08.2025 from (11:00 AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	18.08.2025 (04:00 PM)
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	19.08.2025 (11:00 AM) in the office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Uri

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan debited under M.H-0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date)
- At the time of tendering, all the bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/ pledged to the tender receiving authority i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri (The date of Earnest money should be between Date of Start of bid and bid submission End date). The successful (1st lowest) bidder will have to provide Performance security @ 5% of Allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR at the time of contract award. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of performance security of 5% of the total allotted cost which will be released after successful completion of the DLP.
- (a) Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarment of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.
- (c) The Earnest Money/Performance Security shall be forfeited If:
  - Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.
  - Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period before issue of letter of intent.
  - Successful Bidder fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
  - If at any stage of work, the Bidder back up from the contract, again the Performance security/EMD as well as work done claim will be forfeited.

No.: 2025-26/3395-3403  
Dated: 12-08-2025  
DIPK-5146-25  
DT: 13/08/2025

Sd/-  
(Er. FayazKumar)  
Executive Engineer,  
R&B Division, Uri.

# CS reviews progress under 'TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan' in J&K



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the progress of the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and assess the measures being taken to achieve the goal of a tuberculosis-free Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Health & Medical Education (H&ME); Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM); Director, SKIMS; Principles of Government Medical Colleges (GMCs); Director, Coordination (Medical Colleges); Director, Health Services, Jammu/Kashmir; HoD, Chest Medicine, GMC Srinagar; and senior faculty members from medical colleges across the UT.

Reviewing the current scenario, the Chief Secretary called for intensified screening drives, particularly targeting vulnerable

sections of the population, to curb the spread of TB.

He directed for vigorous contact tracing and mandated that each doctor should adopt at least two TB patients to provide personalised guidance and ensure adherence to treatment protocols. He stressed the importance of home visits by ASHA workers to extend 'at-home' support to patients and enhance recovery rates.

The Chief Secretary also interacted with all Deputy Commissioners to review the availability and utilisation of diagnostic equipment, screening mechanisms, and treatment facilities in their respective districts. He urged them to optimise resources to deliver timely and quality treatment.

He further reviewed the action taken on directives issued earlier by the Lieutenant Governor, emphasising their strict

implementation in letter and spirit.

Providing departmental updates, Secretary H&ME, Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah, informed that CBNAT machines would be deployed to high-need areas for advanced screening. He divulged that the central government has allocated 16 handheld X-ray machines for the UT under the Abhiyan, while additional machines are being procured under Capex to strengthen diagnostic infrastructure.

He assured that all District TB Centres (DTCs) are adequately equipped to meet screening targets, and necessary steps are being taken to ensure patient adoption by doctors and regular ASHA worker visits.

Mission Director, NHM, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, informed that around 5.25 lakh individuals were

screened for TB in 2024, while 2.59 lakh have been screened so far in 2025. He shared that the presumptive testing ratio stands at 3,692 per lakh population in Jammu division and 3,890 per lakh in Kashmir division.

The meeting was apprised that Rs2.29 Cr has been disbursed to TB patients under the NikshayPoshan Yojana, and 7,891 patients are currently undergoing treatment. Of these, 6,618 have been linked to NikshayMitras for additional support, with the total number of such Mitras in J&K reaching 6,728.

Reiterating the UT administration's commitment to eradicating TB, the Chief Secretary urged coordinated action, community engagement, and optimal utilisation of resources to achieve the objectives of the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

## CCIK Delegation Calls on Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** A delegation from the Chamber of Commerce and Industries Kashmir (CCIK), headed by President Tariq Ghani, met with Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo at the Civil Secretariat Wednesday to discuss pressing issues affecting Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, the CCIK apprised the Chief Secretary of several urgent concerns, highlighting the recent discovery of rotten food items in the valley, particularly meat and chicken. The delegation called for strict action against individuals involved in selling such products. They urged authorities to name and shame those responsible to deter further malpractice and safeguard the interests of the broader business community.

President Ghani emphasized the necessity of continuing raids on businesses selling rotten meat until the practice is completely banned. He further raised concerns over other consumable food items, including



bakery products, citing complaints from the public about expired goods and unsanitary bakery practices.

The CCIK also requested action against vendors selling fake drugs and substandard milk, stressing that those compromising the quality of essential commodities should not be spared. Additionally, the issue of rising rents at government marriage halls was brought to the Chief Secretary's attention, as increased costs have made them unaffordable for common people.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo gave a patient hearing to the delegation and assured that all issues raised would be considered seriously and taken up with relevant authorities to protect the interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

## Minga Sherpa felicitates health workers, Panchayat Secretaries of TB-Free panchayats

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BARAMULLA:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, Wednesday felicitated health workers, Panchayat Secretaries, and ASHA workers of recently declared TB-free panchayats from Medical Blocks Uri, Tangmarg, and Boniyar at Boys Degree College Baramulla.

Speaking on the occasion, DC stressed the importance of TB testing of the maximum possible population to sustain the district's progress. He said,

"Over the past several months, we have accelerated testing, and the results are encouraging. However, more testing is essential so that the district can achieve TB-free status. We are hopeful of receiving more testing machines soon."

He also urged all BMOs to ensure that every TB patient receives proper treatment and nutritional support under the Nikshay Poshan Yojana, along with continued care and assistance through the Nikshay Mitra initiative, to ensure faster and sustainable recovery.

## DIG CRPF leads Tiranga rallies in Srinagar

Events at Shivpora School, CRPF camp promote unity, patriotism

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** Under the guidance of DIG (Administration) CRPF, the 61 Battalion organised Har Ghar Tiranga rallies in Srinagar as part of Independence Day celebrations.

"On August 12, officers and jawans of the battalion participated in a rally within the camp premises, while today, the event was held at Blooming Buds

Kindergarten GMS School in Shivpora and surrounding areas," details available said.

Students, teachers and CRPF personnel joined hands to carry the Tricolour and spread messages of nationalism, brotherhood, and unity.

The initiative is part of a nationwide campaign encouraging citizens to proudly hoist the national flag at their homes—(KNO)

## DG, RPF meets Chief Secretary to discuss railway safety in J&K



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Director General, Railway Protection Force (RPF), Sonali Mishra, Wednesday called on Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo to review and deliberate upon critical aspects of railway security in Jammu & Kashmir, including safeguarding the assets and ensuring passenger safety.

The Chief Secretary and the DG RPF held an in-depth discussion on the prevailing security scenario, recent upgrades in the security apparatus and measures undertaken

in light of Kashmir's railway integration with the national network.

The deliberations also covered operational and security arrangements for freight trains, which are set to ply regularly on the newly connected railway line. Both sides acknowledged the strategic importance of this connectivity in boosting trade, tourism, and commerce in the region.

It is noteworthy that this was the first meeting between the Chief Secretary and the DG RPF Sonali Mishra, that adds significance to the occasion.

## TURNING TRASH INTO POWER

# SKIMS launches Biogas Plant for Clean Energy

Satish Sharma inaugurates pilot project converting food waste into renewable energy

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** Food waste will now help power clean energy at the Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), with Minister for Science & Technology, Youth Services and Sports, Food & Civil Supplies, and ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma Wednesday inaugurating a pilot biogas plant at the institute.

Sharma said the Omar Abdullah-led government remains committed to advancing the "waste-to-wealth" mission through sustainable, innovative solutions. "The mini biogas plant at SKIMS is a true representation of this vision," he remarked, urging schools and colleges to adopt similar initiatives to instill environmental responsibility in young minds.

Commending SKIMS for leading the way in clean energy adoption, Sharma



said such projects demonstrate a forward-looking approach to environmental management.

SKIMS Director, Prof. (Dr) Ashraf Ganie, said the plant would promote environmental conservation while improving institutional energy efficiency. He revealed that plans are in motion for a complete solar rooftop installation at the institute. "These projects will make us energy-efficient and enable us to serve patients more effectively and compassionately," he said.

Arvind Kaul, Channel Partner of Mailhem Icos Environment Pvt. Ltd., explained that the patented mini biogas system uses anaerobic digestion to turn organic waste into biogas and organic manure. Compact and portable, the plant requires minimal civil work, making it ideal for institutions, communities, and industries.

The process involves shredding waste, forming a slurry, and digesting it in a modified Upflow Anaerobic Sludge Blanket (UASB)

digester. The biogas produced can be used for cooking or power generation, while the leftover sludge becomes a high-quality fertilizer. Kaul noted that the system is cost-effective, reduces waste transport expenses, and supports both environmental and energy conservation goals.

The SKIMS pilot plant is expected to serve as a model for similar projects across Jammu and Kashmir, promoting cleaner environments and renewable energy adoption—(KNO)

## Haj 2026 Low response puts all applicants in line for selection

Against quota of 7963, HCoI receives 5154 applications from J&K



MUBASHIR ALAM WANI

**SRINAGAR:** All pilgrims from Jammu & Kashmir who applied for Haj 2026 are expected to be selected this year, as the number of applications received is far below the UT's allotted quota.

Officials privy to the development informed that, against a total quota of 7,963 pilgrims, including a basic share of 5,963 (4.9% of the national allotment) and a special quota of 2,000, the Haj Committee of India (HCoI) has received only 5,154 applications from J&K.

"This is well within the sanctioned limit and guarantees selection for all who applied before the cut-off date," an official

said. "The digital random selection (Qurrah) process is expected to be completed on or around August 13, 2025."

For Haj 2026, the all-India quota is projected at 175,020, of which 70 per cent (1,21,701) falls under the HCoI share.

The official added that pilgrims have been advised to prepare for the first instalment payment of Rs 1,52,300 per head by August 20, 2025, followed by the second instalment of Rs 1,25,000 in October and the final payment in December.

The authorities have urged applicants to keep their travel documents ready and attend upcoming training sessions—(KNO)

## Rotten meat seizures likely due to demand-supply gap: Div Com

Says such issues also happen with milk, other food products



REHAN QAYOUM MIR

**SRINAGAR:** Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, V.K. Bidhuri, on Wednesday said the recent rotten meat seizures in the Valley cannot be the result of a single day's lapse, but are likely connected to a demand-supply gap.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the full dress rehearsal for Independence Day celebrations at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar, Div Com Bidhuri said the Chief Minister has already held a meeting on the matter and directed for action.

He urged people to remain alert and cautious. "This is not only about meat—such issues can also happen with milk

and other food products. We all need to pay attention because it is a serious matter," he said.

Pertinently, the statement comes as authorities investigate the seizure of over 11,000 kilograms of rotten meat across the Valley.

Officials are also looking into reports that the meat may have been treated with formaldehyde, a harmful chemical used to preserve dead bodies, though lab test results are still awaited.

Meanwhile, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) officials said samples are being collected from various parts of Kashmir and inspections will continue to ensure public safety—(KNO)

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir (U.T.)

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION VAILLOO

#### NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NITNo.34/ of R&B/Vailloo/2025-2026/e-tendering/ DATED:12/08/2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory J&K e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S. No	Name of Work	Approved Amount (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. in form of Treasury challen/ Receipt (In Rs)	Earnest Money (2% of Adv.Cost) (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Project Intending Department	Class of Contractor	Major Head of account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Repairing of Left Out Japanese Bridge at B.G Kokernag	2.499	200	4998	30 Days	Floriculture	DEE Class	MnR
2	Construction of 02 No Culverts with other Allied Works At Shangus Interior	19.641	800	39282	60 Days	Revenue	BEE/CCE Class	District Capex Budget

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

1. Date of Issue of Tender Notice	12.08.2025
2. Period of Downloading of bidder documents.	From 12.08.2025 04.00pm
3. Bid submission Start Date	From 12.08.2025 04.00pm
4. Bid Submission End Date	To 19.08.2025 04.00pm
5. Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	20.08.2025 at 10.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Vailloo

Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD in favor of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Vailloo(Tender inviting Authority) (NIT No. and Name of Work/Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt ( If the Nit comprises of only one item, Name of work/Item No is not mandatory) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Vailloo(Tender receiving Authority).(The Date of EMD(CDR/FDR) should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date and the validity at the time of opening of bids shall be for a period of 45 days beyond bid validity of 120 days)

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

-Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
PWD (R&B) Division Vailloo

DIPK-5155-25 DT: 13/08/2025

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

## Mutton Scam Is A Public Health Catastrophe In The Making

The recent revelations surrounding the mutton scam in Kashmir have shaken not only the public conscience but also the very foundation of trust between consumers and those entrusted with ensuring food safety. What has come to light is not just a case of food fraud, but a criminal betrayal, one that has now triggered a slow-burning public health crisis across the region.

The sale and distribution of rotten mutton and chicken is not a mere lapse in standards, it is a direct assault on the health and dignity of the people. What began as whispers of irregularities has snowballed into a scandal with devastating implications: patients presenting with foodborne illnesses, gastrointestinal infections, and long-term health complications. Medical practitioners, already stretched thin, are raising red flags over a growing tide of symptoms and cases linked directly to the consumption of contaminated meat.

Where were the regulators? Where were the checks? The Food Safety Department, municipal authorities, and law enforcement have a collective responsibility to answer for their failure. This is not about isolated negligence, it is about systemic rot. It is about how profit was prioritized over people, how silence was bought and sold, and how corruption found its way onto the plates of unsuspecting families.

It is chilling to imagine that in a place already burdened with political and economic volatility, citizens now have to fear the very food they consume. For a region where mutton is a dietary staple and part of cultural heritage, the breach of trust is not only nutritional but emotional.

Let us be clear: this is not just a scandal; this is a public health emergency in the making. Authorities must treat it with the urgency it deserves. Immediate measures must include, swift prosecution of those involved in the supply chain of rotten meat, suspension and investigation of any complicit officials in food inspection departments, free medical checkups and treatment camps for those who may have consumed contaminated meat, and a complete overhaul of the meat procurement and supply chain, with modernized inspection protocols and real accountability.

But most importantly, this is a wake-up call to the people: silence enables decay. Consumer activism, awareness, and demand for transparency must rise from the ground up. We must stop accepting corruption and shortcuts as everyday realities. If Kashmiris cannot trust what's in their kitchens, how can they trust what's being done in their name? The meat may be rotten, but what's worse is a system that allows it.

## Article 370 Abrogation

# Kashmir Growth Story Going Steady For 6 Years



ADITYA RANGROO

Six years after the central government revoked Article 370 on August 5, 2019, which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir, the restoration of peace, influx of tourism, and large-scale developmental activities are among the major accomplishments of the government.

After nearly four decades of turmoil, the valley is witnessing a changed social, economic, and political scenario, which promises the advent of an era of development and prosperity for all sections of Kashmiri society. It is particularly palpable in the youth of Kashmir who are finding new avenues of enhancement of educational, training, skill and job opportunities.

Kashmir owes this vital change essentially to the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A of the Indian Constitution. Though these two Articles were meant to be temporary, sections of local political circles with vested interests obstructed their annulment lest the entry of Kashmir into the political mainstream dealt a blow to their designs of blackmail and subterfuge.

Abrogation of these obstructive provisions threw heavy responsibility on the Union government. The action had to be justified. Thanks to the people of Kashmir, who patiently waited for the union government to initiate the task of overall development. Today, six years down the line, we find Kashmiris proudly considering themselves as the citizens of the paradise on earth.

Improved security scenario Kashmir has been targeted by our adversary right from the day of independence. When three wars did not help them, they tried to subvert her laudable tradition of communal harmony. Some among the naïve youth of Kashmir fell hapless prey to malicious indoctrination. Thus, security forces, whenever required to handle a tedious situation, achieve a high percentage of success by interacting with parents and elders and making them aware of the government's compulsion to enforce law and order so that the vast majority of innocent people enjoy their rights and freedom.

One significant implication of the abrogation of Article 370 is the prevention of loss of innocent lives in Kashmir, as during protests and stone-pelting incidents from August 5, 2016 to August 5, 2019, security and police forces liquidated about 124 people. However, there hasn't been a single incidence of this kind in the last six years.

The data culled out from declassified sources of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) shows that the number of stone-pelting incidents has drastically fallen from 618 in January-July 2019 to almost zero in 2024.



The number of wounded civilians and security personnel reported by the print media has also considerably reduced. The organised stone-pelting incidents decreased from 2,654 in 2010 to nil in 2024. In 2010, there were 132 instances of organised strikes; however, in 2024, there were none.

Likewise, just about 28 terrorists have been killed so far in 2025, compared to 67 in 2024. From 129 in 2019, local recruiting has sharply declined to just 1 this year. There are no longer any instances of stone throwing, hartals, kidnappings, or weapon thefts. Not only Kashmir, but the Jammu region also reports a significantly small number of encounters after three years of cross-border incursions and repeated attacks on security forces.

The figures shown above speak of commendable job done by the security forces in curbing terrorism and insurgency. The government has lived up to its commitment of restoring peace in the valley and contributing significantly to the curbing of terrorist activities in Kashmir, barring the recent tragic terror incident of Pahalgam.

The Pahalgam carnage has been owned by a Pakistan-based terrorist organisation called The Resistance Front (TRF), which has been active in J&K for some time. Only recently has the UN Security Council designated it an international terrorist organisation.

Boost to developmental activities Several notable infrastructural projects have come into full swing in the post-Reorganisation Act 2019. Among these, Chenini and Zojila Tunnels, internal rail and road connectivity in the valley and the Chenab Railway Bridge, all of historical significance, will immensely improve economic and defence logistics of the state. These facilitate access to border regions. They carry much importance from a national security and strategic viewpoint.

Another important milestone reform post the repeal of Article 370 comes in the form of direct implementation of central schemes like Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and Jal Jeevan Mission, and digital rollout. These were directly expedited by the UT administration without any hindrance or interference by vested or subversive elements.

In addition, there has been a significant

industrial and economic revival with the likes of the construction of industrial parks in Budgam, Samba, and Kathua, as well as legislative initiatives like the New Industrial Policy 2021, which have drawn significant investment offers.

Jammu & Kashmir's tax revenues have also risen significantly. Between 2022 and 2024, total non-tax income increased by 25%, excise taxes jumped by 39%, and GST collection increased by 12%. From Rs 1.17 lakh crore in 2015-16 to Rs 2.45 lakh crore in 2023-24 and Rs 2.63 lakh crore in 2024-25, the state's GDP doubled.

Furthermore, the Home Ministry outlined that when Article 370 was repealed, J&K saw a significant influx of investment reaching Rs 5,656 crore across a number of sectors. Last year, Manoj Sinha, the lieutenant governor of J&K, announced that the J&K government had received proposals for private investment of Rs 66,000 crore in the last two years.

Unprecedented growth in tourism sector Historically, tourism has been one of the key features of the Kashmir economy, especially its hospitality. The scenic beauty of Kashmir, the abundance of nature's benevolence, lush green meadows and snow-covered mountains have mesmerised tourists from across the globe. Tourism has significantly contributed to the Valley's economic output, and following the revocation of Article 370, the tourist industry has surged as the mainstay of the Kashmir economy. In 2024, the Union Minister of State for Home, Nityanand Rai, said, "The tourism sector has recorded an annual average growth rate of 15.13 per cent during the last three years".

The Minister added that between January and June 2024, 1,08,41,009 tourists travelled to Jammu and Kashmir, with 2,11,24,674 visitors in 2023—the highest number to date—followed by 1,88,64,332 visitors in 2022, 1,13,14,884 visitors in 2021, and 34,70,834 visitors in 2020.

Such a surge in tourism can be attributed to the central government's implementation of the Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Policy, 2020. The policy aims to establish the region as a premier all-season tourist destination. Its main objectives are to draw in investment, create jobs locally, and advance eco-friendly travel strategies.

Initiatives like this by the central govern-

ment have changed the makeup of Kashmir, and as a result, the local businesses thrive naturally with the influx of tourists. Another positive outcome from tourism is the assimilation of local culture with the visitors coming to Kashmir from other parts of the country. This paves the way for deeper national integration and it gives Kashmir an enviable position in the national construct.

Kashmiri Pandits as IDPs of Kashmir About forty thousand families of Kashmiri Hindus (Pandits) were forced out of their homes and hearths in 1990 as a result of ethnic cleansing and genocide. They have dispersed in different parts of the country, with some concentration in Jammu, where a temporary township has been created for the more deprived.

In this regard, the government is taking a number of steps for relief and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits. The government has approved the construction of 6,000 transit accommodations in the valley at a cost of Rs. 920 crore and the creation of 3,000 additional state government jobs for Kashmiri migrants at a cost of Rs 1,080 crore as part of the Prime Minister's Development Package, 2015. This is on top of the 3,000 state government jobs, the 725 transit accommodations that were previously approved, the financial aid for the construction of migrant housing, the 5,242 two-room tenements that were built in Jammu (Purkhoo, Muthi, Nagrota, and Jagti), and the 200 apartments that were built in Sheikhpora in the Budgam district.

What future holds? The union territories of Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh have been completely incorporated into the national fabric following the constitutional amendments and restructuring of the former State of Jammu-Kashmir. As a result, the people of Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh now have access to all the rights guaranteed by the Indian Constitution as well as the advantages of all Central Laws enjoyed by the citizens of India. In particular, mention must be made of granting Indian and state citizenship to several lakhs of people from the PoK who had sought refuge in Jammu and elsewhere in the State. They had suffered deprivation for nearly seven decades.

Both Ladakh and J&K have experienced socio-economic progress as a result of the shift. A few of the significant changes that are guiding both of the new union territories towards peace and advancement are the empowerment of people, the repeal of unfair laws, the introduction of equity and fairness to those who have been discriminated against for long and are now receiving justice and are sharing comprehensive development.

Going further, the return of normalcy, economic rise and several developmental projects initiated by the central government in Kashmir is a hallmark of the PM Modi's government policy towards the valley post Article 370 abrogation. The growth chapter of Kashmir will continue in the coming years, with more concrete plans.

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## MANOJ SINHA'S VISION

# A New Era For Jammu And Kashmir

VINOD CHANDRASHEKHAR DIXIT

Recently I watched Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's interview on Aaj Tak with Rajat Sharma that has been an impactful in conveying his vision for Jammu and Kashmir and addressing various concerns. He shared his thoughts on the progress made in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370. He highlighted the significant years of peace and development, as well as the challenges still faced by the region. This is the reason why Manoj Sinha, the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, is considered one of the best governors due to his effective leadership and governance. He is known as a hard taskmaster who is also easily accessible to both officers and the public.

On August 6, Manoj Sinha has completed five years as the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, capping a turbulent term that ranged from bureaucratic overhaul to resurgence of violence. Appointed in the aftermath of Article 370's abrogation, Sinha, an MTech holder in engineering, was tasked with stabilising and integrating a politically fractured region. A seasoned politician and former Union minister, 66-year-old Sinha brought order to a chaotic administrative landscape. Known for his calm and technocratic style, Sinha's record in governance and delivery in the Union Territory drew praise even from his critics. He has been credited with several achievements during his tenure, which might make a strong case for him being consid-

ered effective in his role. He has prioritized development in Jammu and Kashmir, accelerating projects like the Srinagar Smart City and improving road networks, tunnels, and railway lines. He has emphasized the importance of women's empowerment and upliftment of weaker sections of society, ensuring all segments have a stake in the region's development.

Delivering a lecture at Gandhi Smriti in the national capital, the Lieutenant-Governor rightly point out that Jammu and Kashmir's economy had more than doubled over the past five years and the Union Territory has been making rapid strides on the path of peace and prosperity under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, achieving all-inclusive growth and social justice, since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

He has pointed out that under the Prime Minister's visionary leadership, the region was now connected to other parts of the country through railways. There was a massive increase in the influx of tourists with more than 5,000 new hotels constructed over the past four years in Kashmir valley itself. Several infrastructure projects were being implemented and many social welfare programmes launched.

He is a seasoned politician and administrator. He has demonstrated strong leadership skills, earning recognition as one of the most honest members of Parliament. He is known for utilizing his MPLAD funds effectively for public welfare, showcasing his commitment to development and community service. Despite his prominent positions, Sinha maintains a low-profile image, focusing



on his work rather than seeking to draw attention to himself.

Having enjoyed a rapport with PM Narendra Modi for almost four decades now, Sinha's commitment on the slogan of Vikas looks so religious that he has set the deadline for completion of pending projects. Both Sinha and CM-Abdullah have emphasized the need for development in Jammu and Kashmir. Sinha has highlighted the region's progress, citing increased tourist footfall and development projects, while Abdullah has stressed the importance of restoring statehood and addressing the region's unique challenges. He has ensured accountability in public institutions, eliminating corruption and supporting terror victims' families with financial assistance, government jobs, and property restoration. Sinha maintains a low profile while focusing on delivering results, earning recognition as a statesman who measures legacy in outcomes, not applause. He has laid stress on education, health, and infrastructure, preparing a roadmap for universities to improve functioning and leveraging the National Education Policy 2020 for Jammu and Kashmir's benefit.

An agriculturist at heart,

Sinha's connection to the land and its people has likely influenced his approach to governance. His love for travel has taken him across India, broadening his perspectives and understanding of diverse cultures. There is no doubt that his involvement in philanthropy reflects his compassionate side and commitment to giving back to society. As Lieutenant Governor, Sinha has been instrumental in various initiatives like unveiling the statue of General Zorawar Singh at Jammu University and inaugurating the online booking facility for the passenger ropeway from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan to Bhairon ji.

Sinha has brought stability and security to the region, which was previously plagued by terrorism and unrest. He has worked closely with the security forces to deliver crushing blows to the terror ecosystem. Under his tenure, Jammu and Kashmir have witnessed significant development projects, including infrastructure development, new roads, colleges, water supply projects, and entrepreneurial initiatives. He has prioritized inclusive governance, ensuring that all segments of society have a

stake in the region's development. He has emphasized the importance of women's empowerment and upliftment of weaker sections of society.

He oversaw peaceful and successful elections in Jammu and Kashmir, including the Lok Sabha polls and assembly elections, which saw significant voter participation. He has shown empathy and compassion towards the victims of terrorism, providing support and rehabilitation to the families of terror victims. He has taken initiatives to provide justice and relief to terror victims, including financial assistance, government jobs, and support for self-employment. A special cell has been created to address the concerns of terror victim families and provide them with assistance. He has encouraged the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to lead India's development journey and provide innovative solutions to the nation's pressing challenges. He believes that the youth will create a brighter future for the region and ensure long-lasting peace and prosperity.

Overall, Manoj Sinha's leadership has transformed Jammu and Kashmir, bringing hope and development to the region. His commitment to good governance, security, and inclusive development has earned him recognition as one of the best governors. There is no doubt that Manoj Sinha's qualities as a leader, administrator, and individual have shaped his approach to governance and development in Jammu and Kashmir.

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IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN AND MAY NOT BE FOUND IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR

# Hazrat Roup Reshi (RA): A Sufi Saint Of The Valley



MOHAMMAD ARFAT WANI

**K**ashmir, also referred to as the paradise on earth, is a place where nature's majesty rubs shoulders with the spirituality of its depths. Its white-capped mountains, meandering streams, and verdant valleys are not just marvels of creation but also quiet testaments to the footprints of saints who trod this earth with hearts aglow with divine love. The valley has been blessed through history with great friends of Allah whose company made its soil a sanctuary of belief.

Among the myriad of saints who illuminated here, the likes of Hazrat Amir Kabir Mir Syed Ali Hamadani (RA), Hazrat Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani Nund Reshi (RA), Baba Naseebuddin Ghazi (RA), Baba Shakeruddin (RA), Baba Reshi (RA), Hazrat Zainuddin Wali (RA) light up the spiritual galaxy of Kashmir. Among such giants, the name of Hazrat Roup Reshi (RA) shines with a unique brilliance, as his life was the ideal reflection of piety, humility, and nearness to Allah, and his miracles still inspire belief in millions of hearts.

The sacred shrine of Hazrat Roup Reshi (RA) is in the peaceful village of Kuchmulla in Tral, where each stone bears the scent of his memory and each gust whispers blessings from his aura. Being a village dweller, I have seen how individuals from far and wide come to his shrine with hope in their eyes and prayers in their hearts and depart with an inner peace that defies expression in words. Historical records state that there were two saints by the name of Roup Reshi, one lying at Habbah Kadlah in Srinagar and the other in Kuchmulla, both contemporaries of Baba Naseebuddin Ghazi (RA) and highly respected by the people of those times.

Hazrat Roup Reshi (RA) was born in the village of Largam, which is only two kilometers from Kuchmulla. From



his very childhood, he renounced worldly pleasures and immersed himself in the remembrance of Allah. He was a shepherd, but his actual profession was day and night zikr, and his proximity to the Almighty was so intimate that even a lion would guard his flock, a miraculous occurrence still retold in wonder by the elders. He trod the path of Owaisi, guided by divine wisdom from Allah Himself, without any earthly teacher, a special boon reserved only for the purest of souls. As a member of the Rishi fraternity, he spurned luxuries and eschewed meat, fish, and eggs in his entire life. Even today, on his Urs, the Kuchmulla folk revere this practice by not taking these foods to recall his selfless example of austerity and dedication.

Historical accounts such as Tarikh-i-Hassan report his years in intense withdrawal in the Kali Paadin forest, not far from Largam, where he would fast for long months and worship, at times fasting only for three days and subsisting on the bare minimum. His love was for Hazrat Sheikh Nooruddin

Noorani (RA), whose poems he memorized and recited to propagate divine love. His miracles are still imprinted in the valley's memory.

One of them is the well-known tale of the Sheikh family of Kuchmulla, who accepted Islam through his favors. Their forefather, Ziyon, a blind Hindu, was taken to the saint, and Hazrat Roup Reshi (RA) instructed his mother that if she let her son accept Islam, he would regain his eyesight. She consented, and through the will of Allah, the blind man recovered his sight, embraced Islam as Sheikh Inayatullah, and established himself in Kuchmulla. His offspring remain there to this day, ever proud of their heritage. The Sheikh family then rose to prominence as Zaldars, influential landlords and respected leaders vested with power.

Hazrat Roup Reshi (RA) passed his last days in Kuchmulla, in which he realized union with his Creator. Legend has it that when the inhabitants of Largam came to claim his blessed body, the villagers of Kuchmulla had already laid him to

rest in their land, where his shrine presently stands amidst an ancient graveyard and a mosque, both silently testifying to his eternal presence. His Urs is celebrated annually on the 26th of Safar with deep faith. Strongly it is held that at this period meat, fish, and eggs should not be cooked, for when a family broke this custom their kitchen was set alight. Even now, it is told in awe that a lion comes to pay his shrine a visit on Thursday nights, bowing as in worship, a living testament to his spiritual might.

In 1983, Roup Islamia High School was founded in Kuchmulla in his honor, as an epitome of knowledge to the generations and as a remembrance of his name forever with dignity. His life taught people selflessness, chastity, and love for Allah, and that humanity has to learn that true greatness never consists of riches and dominance but of devotion and sincerity. His teachings inform us that love and trust are the real treasures of existence.

Now, when the world is drowning

in materialism and divine ignorance, the teachings of Hazrat Roup Reshi (RA) are radiating like a lamp, showing the lost hearts the way towards the light of Allah. His mausoleum is still a refuge where hearts find peace, prayers receive solutions, and souls feel the warmth of divine love. His legacy reminds us to purge our hearts of hate, to accept love and humility, and to live in faith and service to mankind. The atmosphere of Kashmir still carries the scent of his graciousness, and as long as this valley remains, his name shall keep on shining like a beacon illuminating believers' hearts and reminding us of the fact that the way to success is the one that ends at Allah.

This is the tale of Hazrat Roup Reshi (RA), the illustrious Sufi of Kashmir, the very figure of piety, the miracle saint whose name and deeds shall never die.

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## Breaking Mental Barriers

# How Youth Can Switch On, Act, And Inspire Change

RAMEEZ RASOOL MIR

**I**n today's fast-paced world driven by technology, many of us have unknowingly put ourselves on 'airplane mode'—mentally, emotionally, and even spiritually.

Although everything around us seems to be functioning just fine, and all the "signals" of life are strong, we often forget to turn off this internal airplane mode.

We tend to believe that things are impossible—just like a phone on airplane mode that can't make calls or connect with the outside world. In the same way, we start thinking: "I can't do this, I can't travel, it takes too much effort, I'm not as capable as others." These thoughts cut off our ability to send or receive the signals of growth and opportunity.

In this state, we unknowingly distance ourselves from the world, from learning, and from the possibility's life has to offer. We lose touch with our inner potential—our strengths, passions, creativity, and energy. We may look to mentors or experts for answers, but the truth is, the answers often lie within us.

Dear reader, everything you need already exists inside you. You have the power to shape your life, to become an inspiring mentor, a capable guide, and so much more. All it takes is the decision to turn off that airplane mode.

When you do, you'll reconnect—with life, with purpose, and with pride. Use technology meaningfully, guided by strong values. Learn new skills, explore new spaces, embrace your faith, and grow. Let your online life reflect positively in your real life.

You are not disconnected—just paused. Now's the time to resume and rise.

**Fix Yourself, Fix the World Around You:**

It is not in our control—we often think that our village is polluted and our societies are becoming increasingly materialistic. We lack a positive sense of responsibility, such as avoiding throwing waste into fresh water streams. Many of us even connect kitchen waste drains to these streams, abusing nature from all sides. Whenever we find a peaceful and relaxing place, we call it "heaven." But after some time, due to human interference and various crises,



these places lose their charm.

I connected this reflection with the book *Atomic Habits*. When we go through this book, we learn how small, positive habits can lead to impactful and remarkable changes. This becomes possible when we take action, when we move, become smart, and act responsibly.

Believing that only the lucky, rich, or powerful can succeed is a major fault in our thinking. Many of us say, "I cannot do anything good for society because I have no money or resources." That may be partly true—but you still have the ability to become a change-maker by changing your habits and attitude. This alone can become impactful and helpful for your society.

We often say politics is bad, yet we dream of becoming prime ministers or key post-holders—without ever trying to learn

the basic skills, discipline, or strategies that make a good politician. We are stuck in "airplane mode"—disconnected from action and unaware of our true potential.

**"Kree kus bulbula azaad channes manz, cxee naala chukh — cheh panei des tei panen mushkelen asaan paidaa ker"**

Meaning: Peerzada Ghulam Ahmad Mahjoor is highlighting the inner chains that bind us — not external forces. Even in freedom, people often feel imprisoned because of their thoughts, habits, ego, or fear. He encourages self-reflection and inner liberation.

**When we take responsibility for our actions, anything becomes achievable:**

Often, it's not the world that's wrong—it's our perspective that needs adjusting. Our thoughts and behaviors may be dis-

connected from ethical values. But once we begin to build better habits, act with discipline, respect our elders, and contribute positively to society—while also challenging the flawed systems around us—we naturally start to feel more empowered and fulfilled, knowing we're making a difference.

Discipline plays a crucial role in shaping our lives.

A disciplined approach often shields us from failure. Every religion emphasizes the importance of discipline, respect, and leading a meaningful, guided life.

Let's always remember that we are human—created with reason, kindness, and dignity. We should help others, let go of materialistic attitudes, act wisely, and follow the path shown by our beloved Prophet (PBUH).

Religious teachings offer light for us and for the world. By embracing them, we can create positive change.

Forget procrastination and overthinking. Focus on consistent effort and discipline—then leave the outcome to Allah, who is the best of planners. Have hope. Never believe you're powerless.

Guide others with kindness. Love sincerely. Read and reflect on what is good. Observe beauty, enjoy nature, and explore the world around you. The universe is stunning—just imagine the beauty of its Creator.

Choose joy. And most importantly, switch off your airplane mode—reconnect with life.

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## Full Dress Rehearsals

innocent people at Pahalagam tried to create fear and division among the people but the general public strongly condemned the heinous and drastic act of terrorism in one voice.

He remarked that operation Sindoor was a befitting reply to dismantle the bases of terrorism while operation Mahadev delivered justice to the actual perpetrators of Pahalagam killings.

Bidhuri said the government successfully executed Hajj pilgrimage despite the prevailing situation during operation Sindoor. He also credited civil & security departments for peaceful and smooth conduct of annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra.

Different contingents of BSF, CRPF, ITBP, SSB, JKAP, IRP, Women contingent, SDRF, Fire & Emergency, Forest Protection Force, NCC contingents, Pipe band, Brass band and students from different schools participated in march past parade.

IGP, Kashmir, DIG Central Kashmir, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, SSP Srinagar, SSP Traffic Srinagar, SSP Traffic Rural, SSP Security, Senior officers and other security agencies including CRPF, BSF, NDRF besides HODs & offices all civil departments were present on the occasion.

The colourful cultural programmes enacted on the occasion by students & artists demonstrated the fervor for Independence Day celebration.

At Anantnag, A full dress rehearsal for the upcoming Independence Day 2025 celebrations was held today at the Shaheed Himayun Muzzamil Memorial, Government Degree College (Boys), Anantnag.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Anantnag, Sandeep Singh Bali, hoisted the National Flag and took the salute at the march past which was presented by the contingents from the CRPF, J&K Police, Home Guards, Fire & Emergency Services, NCC, and various schools.

Addressing the gathering, ADDC highlighted the district's significant achievements in key sectors including education, healthcare, agriculture, rural development under schemes like MGNREGA and Jal Shakti, women and youth empowerment, macadamization and road connectivity, and self-employment initiatives.

On the occasion, colorful and vibrant cultural items on patriotic themes and rich local heritage and traditions were presented by students from different educational institutions.

The rehearsal was attended by ACR, SP, Executive Engineer R&B, CEO, DIO and other district officers, Tehsildar Anantnag, and officers from police and engineering wings, officials from other departments alongside a large gathering of the general public.

At Ganderbal, A full dress rehearsal for the forthcoming 79th Independence Day was held today at Qamaria Stadium, Ganderbal, showcasing the district's readiness to celebrate the national event with patriotic fervor.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Ganderbal, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, hoisted the Tricolor, took the salute at the ceremonial march-past, inspected the parade, and expressed satisfaction over the arrangements made by various departments to ensure smooth conduct of the celebrations.

The impressive march-past was presented by contingents of JKP, JKP (Ladies), CRPF, SSB, PTS Manigam, SPO Ganderbal, Home Guard, Forest Protection Force, and students from various schools.

In his address, ADDC underscored the significance of Independence Day celebrations and highlighted that in 2025, Ganderbal district successfully showcased its best administrative capabilities during major events such as the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, Kheer Bhawani Mela, Urs of Syed Qamar-u-Din Bukhari, and other religious gatherings of Sufi saints.

He emphasized that the district administration ensured world-class facilities, robust security, and a welcoming atmosphere for millions of pilgrims, reflecting Ganderbal's legacy of religious harmony, cultural tolerance, and effective governance.

Highlighting the district's developmental progress, the ADDC noted the administration's focus on improving rural roads, bridges, public infrastructure, water and power supply, digital learning facilities, and strengthening the healthcare sector with modern equipment and specialist doctors. He also stressed on eco-friendly tourism development in Sonamarg, Naranag, and Manasbal.

The event also featured a vibrant cultural programme with patriotic songs and traditional folk dances performed by schoolchildren.

Among others, SSP Ganderbal, Khalil Ahmad Poswal, ADC, Syed Fahim Bihqi; ASP, ACR, and other senior officers from civil and police administration attended the event.

At Kulgam, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kulgam, Altaf Ahmad Khan, hoisted the Tricolour, took the salute at the march-past, and inspected the parade during the full dress rehearsal function held at District Police Lines, Kulgam.

The march-past was presented by contingents of JKP, CRPF, JKAP, Home Guard, the women contingent, NCC, and students from various schools.

In his address, ADDC highlighted the historical significance of the day and the achievements and progress made under various schemes and programmes by different departments in the district. He also spoke about measures taken to curb the drug menace.

On the occasion, a vibrant cultural show was presented by students on patriotic songs besides folk dances.

The event was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Vikar Ahmad Giri; ACR, ACD, A-SP, CEO, DySPs, Executive Engineer, besides other district and sectoral officers, and members of the public.

At Shopian, Full Dress Rehearsal for the upcoming 79th Independence Day celebrations was today held at District Police Lines (DPL), Shopian with patriotic enthusiasm and vibrant participation of the public.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone hoisted the Tricolour, took salute at the march past and inspected the parade.

Impressive march past was presented by contingents of J&K Police, CRPF, JK Ladies Police, Home Guard, FPF and school children.

In his address, ADDC highlighted the district's progress, outlining major developmental activities completed and underway including construction and upgradation of roads to improve connectivity in rural areas, implementation of employment generation and welfare schemes, agricultural and allied sector initiatives under HADP and promoting socio-economic upliftment.

He reaffirmed the administration's commitment to ensure inclusive growth and good governance to improve the quality of life for all residents.

The event concluded with patriotic and cultural performances by school children depicting India's freedom struggle and rich cultural heritage, drawing applause from the audience.

Officers of district administration, school children and a large number of people attended the programme.

At Baramulla, Full Dress Rehearsal for the Independence Day 2025 was held today with patriotic fervour at Showkat Ali Stadium, Khawaja Bagh, Baramulla.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Baramulla, Syed Altaf Hussain Musvi hoisted the National Flag and took the salute at an impressive march past presented by contingents

of Jammu & Kashmir Police, CRPF, BSF, NCC cadets and students.

In his address, ADC said that the Full Dress Rehearsal is not only a run-up to the grand celebrations on 15th August but also an occasion to remember the sacrifices of the martyrs and the struggle that secured our nation's freedom.

He urged all citizens to participate actively, hoist the tricolour at their homes, and pass on the legacy of freedom to the younger generation.

Senior Superintendent of Police Baramulla, Gurinderpal Singh; Additional Superintendent of Police Baramulla, Feroz Yahya; District Youth Services and Sports Officer Baramulla, besides Engineers from R&B, JKPDCL, and Jal Shakti Department and other departments, besides a large gathering of citizens, officials, students, and dignitaries attended the function.

The event also featured vibrant cultural performances by school students, including patriotic songs, traditional dances, and speeches, which were warmly received by the audience. Meanwhile, the Police Band Baramulla added to the patriotic ambience with spirited musical performances.

At Budgam, the full dress rehearsal function in connection with Independence Day 2025 was held today at sports stadium Budgam.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Budgam, Mehraj-ud-din Shah, hoisted the National flag, took salute at the march past besides inspecting the parade of contingents.

The contingents that participated in the march past parade included Police, JKAP, CRPF, NCC and students besides contingents from various schools of district Budgam.

Besides, artists and other troupes, students performed colorful cultural programmes amid the patriotic songs and local popular songs which enthralled the audience and invoked huge applause.

Among others present were ASP Budgam, Syed Sajjad Bukhari; GMDIC, POICDS, CEO, ACD, CHO, CAO, Heads of all line departments, senior police officers, students, media persons besides officers of CRPF and other security agencies.

At Pulwama, A full dress rehearsal for the Independence Day 2025 celebrations was held today at the District Police Lines (DPL), Pulwama.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Pulwama, Dr. S.M Ashraf hoisted the National Flag and took the salute at the march past.

The parade, attended by senior officers from the district administration and security forces, featured impressive contingents from various security agencies and local schools. The participants demonstrated excellent marching skills and discipline, reflecting the spirit of patriotism and unity.

The rehearsal was followed by a vibrant cultural programmes presented by local artists and school students. These performances highlighted the rich cultural heritage of the region and added a festive charm to the occasion.

In line with this, a full dress rehearsal was also held at DPL Awantipora, featuring contingents from security forces and students, along with cultural performances, to ensure that all arrangements are in place for the smooth conduct of the Independence Day celebrations on August 15, 2025.

At Kupwara, The full dress rehearsal for celebration of 79th Independence Day was held today at District Police Lines (DPL) Zangli Kupwara where Additional Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad took salute on the march past.

The parade consisted of contingents from JK Police, JKAP, CRPF, BSF, and Forest Protection force and school students. Pipe and Brass bands of BSF, JKP, JKAP and Army played tunes to the march past.

On the occasion, various cultural programmes were also presented by the school children. The cultural items depicted, national integration, unity in diversity, harmony and composite culture of Jammu Kashmir UT, Government initiatives besides featured patriotic songs, folk music and dance.

ASP Kupwara, Javaid Ahmad; ACR Kupwara, Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad and other district officers were present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, full dress rehearsal functions were also held at District Police Lines Handwara, Mini Secretariat Tangdar and GDC Sogam where concerned Tehsildars hoisted the tri-colour and took salute at the march past.

Officers from civil & police administration were present on the occasion. Colorful cultural programmes were also presented by students from different educational institutions. Information department Kupwara also organized folk and cultural items.

At Bandipora, Ahead of Independence Day celebrations, full dress rehearsals were held today across Bandipora district.

The main event was held at S. K Stadium Bandipora where Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawal accompanied by ASP Bandipora, Ruhail Mircha hoisted the National flag and took salute at the march past presented by the contingents comprising JKP, NCC cadets and contingents from various schools.

Senior officers of civil administration, J&K Police, and paramilitary forces were also present at the full dress rehearsal.

In his speech, ADC threw light on the celebrations of Independence Day and highlighted the developmental activities carried out in the district.

The cultural programs by various schools were also presented to enthral the audience. Cultural programs presented on the occasion depicted the country's rich cultural heritage and economic, women empowerment and social progress.

Similar full dress rehearsal functions were also held at subdivision Sumbal and Gurez, where respective Tehsildars hoisted the National Flag.

The full dress rehearsal functions were also held across the district at Block Level, panchayat level, and in all schools and colleges.

## J&K Has Made

Bijbehara Premier League is far more than an ambitious competition for the youth of Anantnag and its neighbouring districts. This tournament has also made a major contribution to improving the quality of sports throughout Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, J&K UT has made its rightful place in the Indian sporting landscape.

"In the past five years, we have invested in creating modern sports infrastructure, cultivate suitable environment for players and focussed on strong strategy and effective execution at grass roots level to foster sports culture," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said the remarkable progress in J&K's sports sector is due to hard work and unwavering determination of our sportspersons, dedicated coaches and tireless efforts of officials of Sports Council.

"J&K UT since 2020 had adopted a player-centered approach to develop players and maximise their ability. It has also been ensured that children and youth are provided with ample opportunities to participate in sports activities. This widespread reach reflects our commitment to inclusive sports development across the entire Union Territory," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the Bijbehara Premier League for its emergence as a powerful anti-drug movement, successfully channelizing the energy of youth by connecting them with sports.

The Lieutenant Governor also congratulated the people of Anantnag and South Kashmir for the successful conduct of Shri Amarnath ji Yatra.

Shri Satish Sharma, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, IT, Youth Services & Sports and ARI & Trainings; Shri Bashir Ahmad Shah Veeri, MLA Srigufwara – Bijbehara; Shri Sarmad Hafeez, Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare; Shri Javid Iqbal Matoo, DIG South Kashmir; Shri Syeed Fakhruddin Hamid, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag; Shri Amritpal Singh, SSP Anantnag; Ms Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council; Shri Parvez Rasool, International Cricketer; senior officials of Civil and Police Administration, prominent sports personalities and youth in large number were present.

## LG Felicitates Langar

It is also a vindication of our steadfast commitment to selfless service and a symbol of resurgent India," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also lauded the entire team of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, administrative officials, Police & Security personnel, service providers, NGOs, Volunteers, health professionals, and all stakeholders for working tirelessly 24x7 during the Yatra.

"Daily real-time feedback from Yatrins on both the axis was ensured through Rapid Assessment System and 95% pilgrims had rated the services as 'Very Good'. We can also see many emotional images and visuals where our police and security personnel can be seen carrying the pilgrims in need of assistance on their shoulders like their own family members," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the voluntary organizations associated with langar (Community Kitchen) have always made an unprecedented contribution in this spiritual gathering and they have worked with devotion and dedication in making the holy pilgrimage of Shri Amarnath Ji a grand success every year.

He also emphasised that all the stakeholders must play their part in maintaining a safe and secure environment.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated that the Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board is making dedicated efforts to enhance the facilities for the devotees. He said the day is not far when devotees can travel through ropeway from Baltal and pay their obeisance to the holy cave. 122 Langars provided free of cost service to the pilgrims in the Yatra area.

Dr Mandep K. Bhandari, CEO, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Shri Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Shri Sachin Kumar Vaishya, CEO Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Ms Nidhi Malik, Deputy Commissioner Reasi; Shri Rahul Singh, Additional CEO, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board; Shri Rajan Kapoor, President, Shri Amarnathji Yatra Bhandara Organisation; senior officials of Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, Civil and Police administration and members of Langar Organizations were present at the felicitation ceremony.

## President Murmu

1947. The occasion is marked by flag-hoisting ceremonies, cultural programmes, and tributes to the nation's freedom fighters.

While past years have seen the government announce an official theme for the celebrations — focusing on unity, patriotism, social progress, and sacrifice — no theme has been declared so far this year.

In the run-up to the celebrations, iconic locations across the capital will host live performances by the Armed Forces bands, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) bands, Railway Protection Force (RPF) bands, and the National Cadet Corps (NCC). These events aim to infuse patriotic fervour and offer citizens a chance to enjoy stirring tunes and disciplined artistry.

Security arrangements have been intensified in Delhi, with traffic restrictions in place around key areas including India Gate, Mandi House, and Mathura Road. Vehicles without parking labels have been advised to avoid these stretches.

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has also made special arrangements for August 15, announcing that train services will start at 4 a.m. on all lines to facilitate the movement of guests, invitees, and the public attending the Red Fort ceremony.

From 4 a.m. to 6 a.m., trains will run every 30 minutes, after which normal schedules will resume, DMRC said.

## In PM Modi's Rule

the 'Ekta Yatra' in Jammu and Kashmir despite terror threats and unfurled the tricolour at Lal Chowk.

Replying to a reporter's question on Pakistan repeatedly resorting to threats, he said, "There is not much need for me to comment on this as the Ministry of External Affairs will take cognisance of it."

He said that the "Operation Sindoor" provided an opportunity to put technology into use in defence sector. "Credit to use technology goes to PM Modi," he added.

Attributing the success of "Operation Sindoor" to technology, the Union minister said, "Whatever achievements came from Operation Sindoor were the result of the technology that has been adopted in the last 10 years."

He said the use of this technology began after PM Modi came to power. "Under the core principle of an indigenous and self-reliant India, it was inducted into the country. Operation Sindoor also provided an opportunity to put this technology into use successfully," he said—(KNO)

## PM Modi Likely To

issued after their meeting, Modi and Trump had announced plans to negotiate the first tranche of a mutually beneficial, multi-sector Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) by the fall of 2025.

Even as trade negotiations were ongoing, Trump imposed tariffs totalling 50 per cent on India, including 25 per cent for New Delhi's purchases of Russian oil that will come into effect from August 27.

Responding to the tariffs, India's Ministry of External Affairs has said that the targeting of the country is unjustified and unreasonable.

"Like any major economy, India will take all necessary measures to safeguard its national interests and economic security," it said.

Last week's announcement of Trump's executive order imposing the additional 25 per cent tariff came at a time when a team from the US is scheduled to visit India from August 25 for the sixth round of negotiations for the proposed bilateral trade agreement.

The two countries are aiming to conclude the first phase of the pact by fall (October-November) this year.

The UNGA list of speakers for the General Debate is provisional, and there is a possibility of changes in schedules and speakers over the next few weeks. The list will continue to be updated accordingly.

Considered the "busiest diplomatic season" of the year at the United Nations Headquarters, the high-level session opens in September annually.

The session this year comes amid the continued Israel-Hamas war as well as the Ukraine conflict.

Trump has said that in the six months of his second presidential term, he has solved several wars, including a peace agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan, Cambodia and Thailand, Israel and Iran, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt and Ethiopia, and Serbia and Kosovo.

Trump has repeatedly claimed credit for stopping the May conflict between India and Pakistan. (PTT)

## CS For Transforming

Secretary also asked the MD, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), to prepare a comprehensive list of agriculture-related business ventures that Krishi Udhayam (KUs) can establish at these centres. He asked the Deputy Commissioners to circulate success stories from the existing centres to inspire replication by others.

Reviewing the status of KKGs established under Phases I and II, he sought updates from each Deputy Commissioner on their operational readiness, including availability of IT infrastructure such as desktops, printers and broadband, as well as licenses for sale of seeds, fertilisers and pesticides by eligible KUs.

Principal Secretary, APD, Shailendra Kumar, directed the Deputy Commissioners to set strict timelines for operationalising newly established centres, noting that KUs had already been engaged. He asked for provisioning of essential IT equipment, adoption of Point of Sale (PoS) machines for fertiliser sales and proactive public outreach to boost farmer registrations and service uptake.

MD, HADP, Sandeep Kumar, informed the meeting that under Phase I, 500 KKGs have been made operational across J&K, supported by a dedicated mobile application. Nearly, 5 lakh farmers have registered on the KKG platform, with 1.25 lakh app downloads, 96% on Android devices. Rajouri district leads in farmer registrations with over 84,000 users.

The KKG app now offers advanced features, including a decision-support system for cherry and apple growers, grievance ticket management and push notifications for advisories. A gamification-based registration system is also in place, with 23% of registered farmers achieving Level 2 registration.

Under Phase II, 297 new centres are ready for launch in Jammu Division and 287 in Kashmir Division, significantly expanding the programme's outreach and impact.

The Chief Secretary underlined that the success of the KKG initiative reflects the collaborative efforts of the administration and the farming community, aiming to strengthen the agricultural sector through technology-driven, farmer-centric solutions. By offering integrated services, knowledge dissemination and business opportunities, KKGs are poised to play a transformative role in improving farmer livelihoods across Jammu & Kashmir.

## Provide Appointment

with young players not only pursuing games as a passion but also as a professional career path.

The LG credited PM Modi for supporting the upgradation of J&K's sports infrastructure under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) and highlighted the implementation of a new sports policy.

"In order to achieve a drug-free Jammu and Kashmir and to fulfil all your dreams, the government has been working with full dedication. I believe your participation and courage will continue to take J&K towards a more peaceful environment," he said.

## Tricolour Flies High

and visitors.

"This is not just a ceremonial act; it is a moment that reflects the unity and spirit of the nation," said a police official at the spot.

He said Lal Chowk has witnessed many chapters of history and today it stands adorned in the colours of our freedom.

Notably, the City has been decked up with bunting, lights and national flags, while security forces have been deployed in key areas to ensure the smooth conduct of the celebrations—(KNO)

## Hunt For Terrorists Nearing

is in its final stage and further details will be shared in due course," the Kashmir Police Chief added.

It is worth mentioning that the Akhal Kulgam operation has been one of the longest anti-terror operations in recent years, during which two army personnel were killed and ten soldiers were injured. A local terrorist was also neutralised.

On Independence Day preparations, the IGP said all contingents participated smoothly in rehearsals across districts. "In Srinagar, where the main event will take place, we have made multi-tier security arrangements with the police and Central Armed Police Forces. High-rise spotters are in place to ensure proper security coverage," he said.

Birdi urged the public to participate in the August 15 celebrations in large numbers.

Regarding the recent infiltration attempt in Uri, the IGP said the matter is under investigation as part of an ongoing counter-insurgency operation—(KNO)

## Army Soldier Dies

duty when the incident took place.

In a post on X, the Army's Chinar Corps paid tribute to the fallen soldier, writing, "Chinar Corps honours the supreme sacrifice of Braveheart Havildar Ankit Kumar, who laid down his life while undertaking operational duty along the Line of Control in Uri, Baramulla.

Chinar Warriors salute his immense valour and sacrifice, express deepest condolence and stand in solidarity with the bereaved family"—(KNO)

# Russia accuses Ukraine of stepping up attacks ahead of Trump-Putin meeting

**IAN S**  
**MOSCOW:** Russia on Wednesday accused Ukraine of ramping up attacks ahead of the August 15 meeting between the US President Donald Trump and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Alaska.

In a statement shared on X, the Russian Foreign Ministry stated that 22 people have been killed and another 105 injured due to Ukraine's shelling and drone strikes over the past week. The ministry also shared a map marking the attacked areas in the Russian territory.

"With the Russia US Summit approaching, the Kyiv regime has stepped up its terrorist activity against Russian regions. Over the last week, 127 Russian citizens suffered from shelling and drone attacks. 22 died, 105 were wounded," said Alexei Fadeev, the Russian Foreign Ministry's Deputy Spokesperson.

Earlier in the day, the Russian Defence Ministry accused the Ukrainian government of planning a provocation aimed at disrupting the upcoming meeting between Trump and Putin. In a post on Telegram, the Russian Defence Ministry said, "According to available information received through several channels, the Kyiv regime is preparing a provocation to foil the Russian-American talks scheduled for 15 August 2025."

The ministry asserted that with this objective, the security service of Ukraine has sent a group of foreign journalists to Kharkiv's Chuguev, which is under the control of Kyiv, under the pretext of doing "reports on the residents of the city in the frontline zone." The defence ministry also claimed that the Ukrainian forces will carry out the strikes on the city and blame it on Russia.

"Immediately ahead of the summit on Friday, the Armed Forces of Ukraine plan a provocative strike using UAVs and missiles against one of the densely populated residential quarters or a hospital with a large number of civilian casualties, which will have to be immediately recorded by the foreign Western journalists," said the Russian Defence Ministry.

As a result, the ministry said that the Russian forces will be considered fully responsible for the strikes and civilian casualties. "This will create a negative media background and conditions for disrupting Russian-American cooperation on settling the conflict in Ukraine," the statement read.

Amid the ongoing conflict with Ukraine, Russian military units liberated the settlements



of Suvorovo and Nikanorovka in Donetsk over the past 24 hours, Russia's state-owned news agency TASS reported. According to the report, Russian air defence systems have

brought down 240 Ukrainian drones, nine aerial bombs and four HIMARS projectiles in one day. The Russian Armed Forces targeted the locations of Ukrainian formations and foreign mercenaries in 136 districts in one day.

On Tuesday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that the Russian army is "not preparing to end the war" in

Ukraine and is instead making movements that indicate preparations for new military operations. He expressed support for Trump's determination but, at the same time, called for taking

positions that will not allow Russia to "deceive the world".

"I am grateful to the leaders of Europe for their clear support of our independence, territorial integrity, and precisely such an active approach to diplomacy that can help end this war with a dignified peace. Indeed, we all support President Trump's determination, and together we must shape positions that will not allow Russia to deceive the world once again. We see that the Russian army is not preparing to end the war. On the contrary, they are making movements that indicate preparations for new offensive operations. In such circumstances, it is important that the unity of the world is not threatened," Zelensky posted on X.

"Issues related to the security of Ukraine and Europe are discussed by all of us together. Any decision must add to our joint security capabilities. And if Russia refuses to stop the killings, it must be held accountable. As long as they continue the war and occupation, all of us together must maintain our pressure - the pressure of strength, the pressure of sanctions, the pressure of diplomacy. I thank everyone who is helping. Peace through strength," he added.

## Chhattisgarh: Two top Maoist commanders carrying combined bounty of Rs 35 lakh neutralised

**IAN S**

**RAIPUR:** In a major breakthrough in Chhattisgarh's ongoing anti-Maoist campaign, security forces on Wednesday neutralised two senior Maoist leaders - Vijay Reddy and Lokesh Salame - in a fierce gunfight in the forested "Banda Pahad" region near Karekatta village in Manpur-Mohla-Ambargarh Chowki district.

The encounter, which took place near the Kanker border, is being hailed as a significant success in the state's intensified crackdown on left-wing extremism.

Speaking to IANS, Superintendent of Police Yashpal Singh said: "The operation was launched based on specific intelligence inputs about the presence of high-ranking Maoist cadres in the area. A joint team comprising the District Police, District Reserve Guard (DRG), and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) surrounded the forest zone at around



5 pm on Wednesday, when the Maoists opened fire, the forces also retaliated, and after a prolonged exchange of fire, both were neutralised. Once the gunfire subsided, the bodies of Reddy and Salame were recovered along with an INSAS rifle, a .303 rifle, and other materials used by the Maoists. The security forces are combing the area to search for more bodies of Maoists

that have been recovered."

Vijay Reddy, 55, a native of Andhra Pradesh, was a member of the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee (DKSZCM) and carried a bounty of Rs 25 lakh.

"Lokesh Salame, 40, a resident of Rajnandgaon district, was a divisional committee head with a reward of Rs 10 lakh. Both were key figures in the

Rajnandgaon-Kanker-Border division and had been involved in planning and executing multiple attacks over the years. Their presence had instilled fear across villages in Manpur, Madanwada, and Sitagaon police station areas," the officer told IANS.

The forest zone where the encounter occurred has long served as a strategic stronghold for Maoist operations, including training camps and weapons caches.

The official revealed that the area was being used by Company No. 5 of the CPI (Maoist) and had become a safe haven for top commanders. This operation is part of a broader campaign that has seen 229 Maoists neutralised in Chhattisgarh this year alone, with 208 of them in the Bastar division.

Despite challenging terrain and monsoon rains, security forces continue to press forward, determined to dismantle the insurgent network and restore peace in the region.

## ICICI Bank reduces minimum average balance for new savings accounts after backlash

**IAN S**

**NEW DELHI:** Facing widespread outrage, private lender ICICI Bank on Wednesday partially reversed its minimum average balance (MAB) requirements from Rs 50,000 to Rs 15,000 for new customers in Metro and urban areas.

The revision came after a pushback from customers and days after the second-largest bank in the country raised the MAB requirement from Rs 10,000 to Rs 50,000 for new customers in urban cities.

The minimum balance that new ICICI Bank customers in semi-urban areas must maintain has also been reduced to Rs 7,500 from Rs 25,000.

For rural locations, the MAB has been reduced to Rs 2,500 from Rs 10,000 as recommended earlier.

However, the bank has clarified that if customers keep a balance less than the prescribed limit in their account, then they will have to pay a penalty.



Earlier in the day, HDFC Bank followed suit by elevating MAB to Rs 25,000, effective from August 1, 2025, for new savings account holders.

As per the HDFC Bank updated terms, account holders should maintain a Rs 25,000 balance. For urban and metro bank branches, the penalty is calculated as 6 per cent

of the shortfall or Rs 600, whichever is lower.

Major lenders like SBI, PNB, and Canara Bank have removed the minimum balance requirement for savings accounts, while also removing penalty charges for non-maintenance.

Meanwhile, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra

has said that the minimum balance limit for savings accounts will be decided by banks as the decision does not fall under any regulatory jurisdiction, after India's second-largest lender, ICICI Bank, raised the monthly minimum average balance requirement for all customer segments.

He further said that some banks have fixed this limit at Rs 10,000, while some banks have kept this limit at Rs 2,000 for customers.

However, there are many banks that have completely removed it for their customers. "This decision does not fall under the regulatory domain," he clarified.

According to an earlier ICICI Bank's decision, customers at metro and urban locations who opened their savings accounts on or after August 1 had to maintain a Rs 50,000 monthly average balance to avoid penalties. The minimum average balance for older customers remained Rs 10,000.

## ECI sets Aug 21 deadline for Bengal govt to take action against four errant election officers

**IAN S**

**KOLKATA:** The Election Commission of India (ECI) had given August 21, the final deadline to the West Bengal government, for completing the process of suspension of four election officials posted with two Assembly constituencies in two districts of the state for their involvement in the wrongful addition of names in the electoral rolls of these two seats.

The commission has also directed the state government to complete the process of registering FIRs against the four election officials by the same date.

The message was conveyed loud and clear by the ECI officials at a meeting with West Bengal Chief Secretary Manoj Pant at the ECI's headquarters in New Delhi earlier, said a top

source. After the state government, earlier this week, intimated the ECI that it would not currently comply with the order from the commission to suspend four election officials, the commission on Tuesday summoned Pant to its headquarters in New Delhi by 5 p.m. on Wednesday.

At that meeting, the commission's officials made it clear that the decision on the suspension of four election officials was final and there was no looking back on it. Thereafter, the commission set August 21 as a fresh and final deadline for completing the process of suspension of these four election officials.

Now, it is to be seen how the West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee would react on Thursday after get-

ting the report from Chief Secretary Pant in the matter.

The complications on the issue of disciplinary action against the four errant election officers started from the beginning, with Chief Minister Banerjee challenging the commission's order and saying that the state government would not take any action against the four officers since all of them were state government employees.

The main charges against these four election officers are that the said officers had not only failed in performing duties as Electoral Registration Officers and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers while disposing of the applications but also violated the policy of data security while sharing their login credentials of the election registration database with unauthorised persons.

## Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to visit India next week

**IAN S**

**BEIJING/NEW DELHI:** Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi is set to visit India on August 18 for talks under the Special Representative mechanism, reports indicated on Wednesday.

The visit is scheduled to take place shortly before Prime Minister Narendra Modi travels to China to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit scheduled to take place at Tianjin later this month.

On August 8, China stated that it welcomes PM Modi's participation in the SCO Summit.

At a briefing on Friday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said: "China welcomes Prime Minister Modi to China for the SCO Tianjin Summit. We believe that with the concerted effort of all parties, the Tianjin summit will be a gather-



ing of solidarity, friendship and fruitful results, and the SCO will enter a new stage of high-quality development featuring greater solidarity, coordination, dynamism and productivity."

"China will host the SCO Summit in Tianjin from August 31 to September 1 this year. Leaders of over 20 countries, including all member states of the SCO and heads of 10 international organisations, will

attend relevant events. The SCO Tianjin Summit will be the largest summit in scale since the establishment of the SCO," he added.

PM Modi is set to travel to China to attend the SCO Summit to be held in Tianjin from August 31-September 1. This will be his first visit to China since the Galwan clash in 2020, which severely strained bilateral ties.

The breakthrough in bilateral talks, first after the Galwan Valley face-off between the soldiers of the two countries at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in June 2020, was made possible after India and China reached an agreement on patrolling along the nearly 3500-km LAC to end the four-year-long border confrontation.

In July, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar visited China to attend the Meeting of the Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Tianjin. He also held discussions with his Chinese counterpart on the sidelines of the meeting. He also called on Chinese President Xi Jinping, along with his fellow SCO Foreign Ministers.

Earlier in June, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited China to attend the SCO Defence Ministers Meeting. India had refused to endorse the joint declaration at the SCO Defence

Ministers' meeting, citing the exclusion of concerns around terrorism as a key reason.

India stated that it wanted concerns about terrorism reflected in the document, which was not acceptable to one particular country; therefore, the statement was not adopted. During his visit, Singh met his Chinese counterpart, Admiral Don Jun, and the two leaders had a "constructive and forward-looking exchange of views" on issues related to bilateral ties.

In June, National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval also visited China to attend the 20th Meeting of the SCO Security Council Secretaries. In his intervention at the meeting, he highlighted the need to shun double standards in the fight against terrorism and take decisive actions against UN-proscribed terrorists and entities like LeT, JeM and their proxies and dismantle their terror eco-systems.

**INDEPENDENCE DAY-2025**

# Full dress rehearsal held across Jammu Division

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, AUG 13:** The full dress rehearsals for celebration of 79th Independence Day 2025 held across all the districts of Jammu Division with patriotic fervour, enthusiasm and spirit of unity in diversity.

At Jammu: In preparation for the 79th Independence Day celebrations, a full dress rehearsal was today conducted at MAM Stadium, Jammu, with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour. The rehearsal demonstrated the readiness and coordination of all participating contingents ahead of the main Independence Day function.

The Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Minhas hoisted the National Flag and inspected the ceremonial parade, which showcased excellent coordination among all participating units. During the proceedings, the Deputy Commissioner paid tribute to the martyrs who made supreme sacrifice for the nation.

In his address, the Deputy Commissioner said, "We owe our freedom to the brave martyrs who laid down their lives for our independence. It is our collective duty to take our nation forward and uphold the values they fought for." He acknowledged the dedicated contribution of all departments involved in making the event successful.

The Deputy Commissioner extended special thanks to the parade participants, including contingents from security forces, various departments and educational institutions, and particularly lauded the exemplary duty performed by the Police, Traffic Police, CRPF, and Armed Police personnel for ensuring smooth conduct of the rehearsal. The Police Band and media persons were also appreciated for their valuable contribution.

The rehearsal was conducted under the command of Parade Commander SP Mohd Usman, with Deputy Commander DySP Tilak Raj Bhardwaj.

The main Independence Day function will be held on August 15 at MAM Stadium, Jammu, where the chief guest will hoist the National Flag and address the gathering. All arrangements have been finalised to ensure a memorable and dignified celebration of the nation's 79th Independence Day.

At Udhampur: Additional Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Prem Singh, today took the salute at an impressive march past during the full dress rehearsal for the 79th Independence Day celebrations held at Government PG Degree College Boys, Udhampur.

A total of 32 contingents, drawn from the J&K Police, SKPA, Home Guard, NCC and other civil troops participated in the march past.

The event was attended by Additional SP Sandeep Bhat, PO

Poshan Subash Dogra, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan, GM DIC, Kishore Singh Katoch, Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh, ACP, Ashwani Hansa and other district heads of various departments.

The full dress rehearsal commenced with hoisting of the National Flag by the ADC at 9:00 AM, followed by the singing of the National Anthem.

While addressing the gathering, the ADC extended warm greetings to the participants and the public ahead of Independence Day. He recalled the prolonged struggle against colonial rule and said that Independence Day is not merely a national celebration but a moment of unity, binding the diverse cultures of the nation into a single whole. This day reminds us of the countless freedom fighters who laid down their lives for the dignity and freedom of our motherland," he said.

Highlighting developmental achievements, the ADC informed that the Government has launched several social welfare schemes and urged people to avail their benefits. He noted that Udhampur District has emerged as a front-runner in various developmental indicators and is witnessing significant progress in multiple sectors.

The programme also featured six theme-based cultural performances presented by students from various educational institutions, including private schools adding vibrancy and patriotic fervour to the event.

At Kathua: The Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kathua, Surinder Mohan Sharma, presided over the Full Dress Rehearsal of the 79th Independence Day celebrations held at Sports Stadium Kathua.

The event commenced with the hoisting of the National Flag by the ADDC, followed by inspection of the parade and taking salute from the impressive march past comprising contingents of J&K Police, CRPF, Army, Forest Protection Force, Home Guards, NCC Cadets and students from various schools.

Addressing the gathering, the ADDC extended warm greetings to the people of Kathua on the eve of Independence Day and called upon the youth to imbibe the spirit of patriotism and contribute towards the vision of a developed and self-reliant nation. He highlighted the role of citizens, especially the younger generation, in upholding the ideals of unity, integrity and technological progress of the country.

A scintillating cultural programme featuring patriotic songs, dances and skits was presented by the students of different educational institutions showcasing India's rich cultural values, unity in diversity and paying tribute to the valour of freedom fighters.



Among others present on the occasion were ASP Rahul Charak, ADC Vishavjeet Singh, ACR Vishav Prapat Singh, district officers, senior police officers, prominent citizens and a large number of school children.

At Doda: The district Doda witnessed a spectacular display of patriotism and cultural pride as the grand Full Dress Rehearsal for the upcoming Independence Day 2025 was held at the Sports Stadium Doda. Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Doda, Anil Kumar Thakur took the salute of the Tricolour in presence of Deputy Commissioner (DC), Harvinder Singh, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Sandeep Kumar Mehta, district officers, officials from various government departments, and an enthusiastic crowd of citizens.

In his address, the ADC extended heartfelt greetings to the nation and paid rich tributes to the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for India's independence. He lauded the district's remarkable progress under the leadership of DC highlighting achievements such as the smooth conduct of Parliament and Assembly elections, and advancements in health, education, social welfare, agriculture and infrastructure. Special mention was made of flagship schemes like Jal Jeevan Mission, MGNREGA, PMAY-Urban and Rural, electrification of remote areas, and modern agricultural practices benefiting farmers. He called upon the citizens to unite for nation-building and participate wholeheartedly in the upcoming Independence Day celebrations.

The event in Doda featured a vibrant cultural programme, including soulful yoga demonstrations by students, patriotic songs, and colourful folk dances depicting India's diverse heritage. The march past was a major highlight, with contingents from the CRPF, District Police, Indian Reserve Police (IRP), NCC Cadets, the Forest Band Troop of J&K Police, and students from government and private schools, displaying impeccable discipline, unity, and patriotism.

At Baderwah, the Full Dress Rehearsal was held at the New Bus Stand Kotli, where

Tehsildar Baderwah, Kamal Preet Singh, unfurled the Tricolour and took the salute at an impressive march past by contingents of JK Armed Police, NCC Senior Division, NCC Junior Division Boys and Girls Higher Secondary School Baderwah, and local schools. The event also showcased cultural performances planned for Independence Day, drawing participation from students and artists. The programme was attended by SDPO, SHO, ZEO, ZEPO Vijay Kotwal (Coordinator of the event), senior citizens and other officers.

At Reasi: The full dress rehearsal for the 79th Independence Day celebrations was today held at the General Zorawar Singh Sports Stadium, Reasi.

19 March Past Contingents from various security forces and school students from across the district participated in the event. Pipe and brass bands of Police added grandeur to the march past with patriotic tunes.

The rehearsal commenced with the hoisting of the National Flag by Additional Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Kumar followed by an inspection of the parade. A vibrant cultural programme, showcasing the rich diversity of the nation and paying tribute to freedom fighters was also presented by school and college students.

The ADC extended warm greetings to the public on behalf of the district administration and paid homage to the freedom fighters. He said that it was due to the sacrifices of these great leaders that India attained freedom, and today the nation is moving ahead on the path of progress. He expressed confidence that the country would achieve greater milestones in development in the times ahead.

At Ramban: The Full Dress Rehearsal for the 79th Independence Day celebrations was held with great patriotic fervor at the District Police Lines, Ramban. Additional Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Varunjeet Singh Charak, hoists the National Flag and took the salute from

the parade contingents.

The ADC inspected the parade and observed the march-past, which featured contingents of J&K Police, IRP and the women's contingent of J&K Police, Home Guards, Forest Protection Force, and students from various schools.

In his address, the ADC highlighted the importance of the Independence Day and "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign, urging citizens to actively participate in the celebrations. He also lauded the coordinated efforts of all departments for ensuring meticulous arrangements for the upcoming event.

The ceremony also featured vibrant cultural performances by students and local artists from different educational institutions, filling the atmosphere with patriotic zeal.

Senior officers, including Senior Superintendent of Police Ramban Arun Gupta, Additional SP Mujeeb-ur-Rehman, ACR Shokat Hayat Mattoo, CEO, Executive Engineers, and heads of various departments, were present on the occasion.

Similarly, Independence Day full dress rehearsals were held at designated venues across the district.

Later, a pledge under Nasha Mukta Abhiyan was also administered to the participants.

At Kishtwar: The District Kishtwar witnessed a vibrant and well-coordinated full dress rehearsal today at Chowgan Ground, ahead of the Independence Day 2025 celebrations. Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kishtwar, Pawan Kotwal accompanied by Additional Superintendent of Police Pardeep Singh hoisted the National Flag and took the salute to the parade contingents after inspecting them.

The parade was commanded by I/C Dy. SP DAR Kishtwar, Amit Kumar. A total of 36 contingents participated in the march past, including units from J&K Police, JKAP, CRPF, CISF, IRP, Forest Protection Force, Home Guards, NCC and school children from across the district.

Adding to the patriotic fervor, students and local artists delivered vibrant cultural performances showcasing patriotic and traditional songs, which were met with enthusiastic applause from the audience. Additionally, a large number of

school children actively participated in the celebrations.

The ADC extended warm greetings to the people of Kishtwar, emphasizing the importance of Independence Day as a reminder of the sacrifices made for the nation's freedom.

He also highlighted various developmental milestones achieved in the district and urged all citizens to stay united and dedicated towards building a progressive India.

At Poonch: Additional Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Tahir Mustafa took salute and hoisted National Flag on occasion of Full dress rehearsal Celebrations at Sports Stadium Poonch.

ADC took salute to the march past presented by the contingents of security forces including, CRPF, JKP, JKAP, J&K Ladies Police, JK Home Guard, NCC GDC, Poonch, NSS Volunteers GDC Poonch, school students and Band Party.

Dy. SP, Danish Javed Sheikh was Parade Commander while Inspector Venkatesh 2nd in Commandant.

Additional Deputy Commissioner expressed satisfaction over the performance of parade contingents and arrangements being put in place for the celebrations of the National Day.

During the programme, students from various government and private schools of Poonch city and its peripheries participated in the rehearsal of Independence Day celebrations 2025 to be held at Sport-Stadium Ground.

SSP Poonch, Shafaket Hussain Batt besides other administrative, police, sports officers and prominent citizens were present on the occasion.

Pardeep Khanna and Vijay Kumar served as the commentators for the event.

At Samba: In a vibrant prelude to the nation's 79th Independence Day, the Samba district today witnessed an impressive full-dress rehearsal under the overall supervision of Deputy Commissioner Samba, Ayushi Sudan. The event, held at the historic Rani Suchet Singh Sports Stadium, mirrored the ceremonial splendour and patriotic fervour that will mark the grand celebrations on August 15.

The proceedings commenced with the ceremonial salute, taken by Assistant Commissioner (Revenue) Samba, Ajay Bharti in the distinguished presence of Additional Superintendent of Police Samba, Garu Ram alongside senior district and sectoral officers.

Contingents of Police, NCC cadets, school students and other uniformed groups marched in synchronised precision, accompanied by the rhythmic beats of the band — a visual and auditory spectacle evoking pride, discipline, and unity.

Following the parade, Ajay Bharti extended greetings to

the people of Samba in the lead-up to Independence Day. In his speech, he lauded the enthusiasm of the participating contingents, the dedication of cultural performers, and the tireless efforts of the organising teams. He underscored the importance of patriotism as a binding force for national unity and called upon citizens to contribute towards building a stronger, more progressive India.

The cultural performances that celebrated the diversity, heritage and spirit of the nation. Patriotic songs, traditional dances and thematic skits presented by students and local artists paid heartfelt tribute to the sacrifices of freedom fighters and the resilience of the Indian people.

Officials present commended the flawless execution of the rehearsal, noting that it was not only a preparatory exercise for the ceremonial aspects of August 15 but also a reaffirmation of the values and ideals that underpin the Republic.

The day concluded with thorough checks of ceremonial arrangements, security measures and logistics to ensure that Samba's 79th Independence Day celebrations will be conducted with grandeur.

At Rajouri: The full dress rehearsal was held ahead of the Independence Day celebrations. The event was organised at the District Police Line, where Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Mohd Jhangir Khan hoisted the National Flag and took salute to the March past.

The contingents included the Police band, CRPF, IRP, JKP, PPF, NCC and school squads. The ACR inspected the parade, observed the band drill and reviewed the contingents' march past, expressing satisfaction with the arrangements made by various departments to ensure the smooth celebration of Independence Day. The Students presented colourful cultural performances, highlighting themes of patriotism, unity in diversity, cultural values, traditions and social issues, which were highly appreciated by the audience.

The ACR emphasized that true patriotism involves understanding our responsibilities towards the nation and fulfilling them. He further urged the students to perform even more skillfully on the day of the main function to ensure that the celebrations are a grand success. He also called on the public to ensure maximum participation on the scheduled day. The event was well-coordinated and managed by stage secretaries Sumit Bhargava and Professor Iqbal Raina.

Among others present at the event were Addl. SP, Vikram Kumar; CEO Education, Iqbal Hussain; DYSSO, Wali Mohd; District Culture Officer, Dr Alam Dar and Tehsildar Rajouri, Varinder Sharma.

## Khalid Jamil signs full-time contract as Indian senior men's team head coach

IAN S

**NEW DELHI:** The All India Football Federation has confirmed that Khalid Jamil has signed a two-year contract, with an option to extend for another year, as the head coach of the Indian Senior Men's National Team.

With previous head coach Manolo Marquez having taken a dual role with the national team and FC Goa, many questioned whether Jamil will take a similar role with his commitment to Jamshedpur FC.

Jamil will exclusively take charge of the national team on a full-time basis and will begin his first training camp on August 15 at the Dravid-Padukone Centre for Sports Excellence in Bengaluru.

His first assignment with the national team will be the CAFA Nations Cup, where India will face hosts Tajikistan (August 29), Iran (September 1) and Afghanistan (September



4) in Group B. In the October FIFA window, India will play two crucial AFC Asian Cup 2027 qualifying matches against Singapore (October 9 and 14).

"I am both deeply proud and immensely privileged to have been entrusted with the responsibility of leading our national team. Over the years, I've had the opportunity to train Indian players, and I've grown to understand their strengths and weaknesses intimately. These insights will be fun-

damental to everything we do as we prepare for the CAFA Nations Cup and the upcoming crucial Asian Cup Qualifiers against Singapore," Jamil said.

Jamil, the first Indian to coach the men's national team since Savio Medeira in 2012, has extensive coaching experience in the Indian Super League and the I-League, managing clubs like Jamshedpur FC, North-East United FC, Aizawl FC, East Bengal FC, Mohun Bagan AC and Mumbai FC.

He sensationally led Aizawl FC to the historic I-League title in 2016-17.

The 48-year-old's most recent spell with Jamshedpur FC saw the Red Miners reach the final of the Kalinga Super Cup 2025, and the semi-finals of the ISL Play-offs 2024-25 and the Kalinga Super Cup 2024.

He is a former India international with 15 caps to his name. A midfielder, he made his debut in the 1997 SAFF Championship in Nepal, where India emerged champions. He was part of the Indian squads for the 2002 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers and the 2001 Merdeka Tournament.

In his club playing career, Jamil won the National Football League, two Federation Cups and two IFA Shields with Mahindra United. He also donned the shirts of Air India and Mumbai FC. In the Santosh Trophy, Jamil represented Maharashtra, with whom he won the title in 1999.

## 134th Durand Cup: Shillong Lajong to start QF proceedings against Indian Navy on Saturday

IAN S

**KOLKATA:** I-League side Shillong Lajong FC will kick off the knockout quarterfinals stage of the 134th Durand Cup football tournament with a clash against Indian Navy FT at the Jawahar Lal Nehru (JLN) Stadium in Shillong on Saturday (August 16).

As per the draw unveiled by the Durand Cup Organising Committee (DCOC), the eagerly awaited quarterfinal fixtures of the 134th Durand Cup will be played across four cities on August 16 and 17.

A few hours after Shillong Lajong battle it out with the Indian Navy, another side from the Northeast and a first-time quarterfinalists, Bodoland FC, will launch their bid for a place in the semifinals against defending champions NorthEast United FC at the SAI Stadium in Kokrajhar.

The two clashes on Sunday (August 17) will see ISL side Jamshedpur



FC meet debutants Diamond Harbour FC at the JRD Tata Sports Complex in Jamshedpur, while archrivals Mohun Bagan Super Giant will take on East Bengal in another enactment of the Kolkata Derby at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK).

All matches shall be broadcast live on Sony Sports Network (Sony Ten2 HD) and streamed on SonyLiv. Kick-off times are

4 pm for the first match and 7 pm for the second.

After the Indian Navy and Bodoland FC secured their spots in the knockouts on Tuesday (August 12), the DCOC conducted a draw of lots in the virtual presence of the team representatives of the eight qualifying teams to finalise the fixtures.

Teams were divided into East and North-East zones based on group-stage venues to minimise travel;

a practice continued from last year. The draw was conducted in sync with the Indian Army's ethos of neutrality, transparency, and impartiality.

The semifinals will also be hosted in Shillong on August 19 and in Kolkata's VYBK on August 20.

The 134th edition of Asia's oldest and the world's third-oldest football tournament, organised by the Indian Army on behalf of the three Services, will culminate in the grand finale at the VYBK on August 23.

A proud symbol of the country's footballing legacy, the Durand Cup has served as a breeding ground for India's finest talent for over a century. The inaugural edition was held in Shimla in 1888, before the tournament moved to New Delhi in 1940, where it remained for more than seven decades. For the last few years, it has been held in various venues in Eastern and Northeastern India.