

Good Morning

Kashmir

17th
Year Of Publication



GMK

Srinagar • Saturday 15, August 2026 • Vol: 17 • Issue No: 194 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 2/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

President's I-Day Speech

Govt Taking Steps To Curb Paper Leaks: Prez Murmu



GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Underlining that students are the "architects of India's future," President Droupadi Murmu on Friday said the government is taking comprehensive steps to reform public examinations to completely curb paper leaks and unfair means, making the system transparent, secure, and trustworthy.

In her address to the nation on the eve of the coun-

try's 80th Independence Day, the president stressed that just as government and society remain united to ensure national security, everyone must contribute through joint and concerted efforts to safeguard the present and future of students.

"Public examinations become gateways to opportunities for our students. The government is undertaking comprehensive steps to reform these examinations. The objectives

J&K Set To Scale New Heights Of Prosperity: LG Sinha

Extends Warm Greetings, Good Wishes To People On 80Th Independence Day

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said Jammu and Kashmir has firmly set out on a path of rapid socio-economic growth and exuded hope that the Union Territory would scale new heights of prosperity in the near future.

In his message on the occasion of the 80th Independence Day, LG Sinha, extended warm greetings and good wishes to the people of Jammu and Kashmir

He paid homage to the leaders, freedom fighters and martyrs of India's freedom struggle and expressed gratitude to the Armed Forces, paramilitary forces, police and other agencies working to protect the country's



sovereignty and integrity.

"We honor the supreme sacrifice of the brave hearts who laid down their lives in the line of duty," LG Sinha said.

LG Sinha also felicitated the farmers, workers, business community, scientists, teachers, innovators, craftsmen, civil society groups, Nari Shakti and

Yuva Shakti of Jammu and Kashmir, saying they had played a vital role in raising the stature of the Union Territory.

He said the diversity of Jammu and Kashmir must be cherished while protecting the country's unity and integrity.

"This is the core message of Independence Day," LG Sinha said.

He said Jammu and Kashmir had witnessed remarkable progress over the past few years, with the Union Territory receiving a "powerful developmental boost".

The Lieutenant Governor said several mega projects in J&K are nearing completion, while work on key infrastructure initiatives was

J&K Set To Observe 80Th I-Day Today
CM To Lead Main Function In Srinagar

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir is all set to celebrate 80th Independence Day today with elaborate arrangements in place across the Union Territory and heightened security to ensure peaceful and incident-free functions.

An official said that the civil administration and security agencies have completed preparations for the August 15 celebrations, with functions scheduled at district, sub-divisional and block levels across Jammu and Kashmir.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah will preside over the main

Rain, Hailstorm Lash J&K Parts

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Hailstorm accompanied by intense rain lashed several parts of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, damaging orchards in parts of Shopian district, while flash floods hit Pahalgam after a spell of heavy showers.

According to the details available, the hailstorm, with hailstones reportedly measuring around 2-3 cm or more in some areas, caused damage to fruit crops across parts of Shopian, with orchardists reporting

PM Modi Hails President Murmu's Address To Nation

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday

said President Droupadi Murmu's address to the nation on the eve of the 80th Independence Day inspired the country to work with renewed determination for a 'Viksit



'Partition Remembrance Day' Build Bridges Of Trust, Don't Repeat Mistakes Of Past: LG To Youth

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday urged the youth of the Union Territory to learn from the painful memo-

ries of Partition, reject enmity and communal bitterness, and ensure that the mistakes of the past are never repeated.

Addressing a gathering at Tagore Hall here

Scar of Partition is a gift from Congress: Amit Shah

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said August 14 stands witness to one of the most brutal chapters in history and the scar of the country's partition, "which is a gift

from the Congress", will never be forgotten by history.

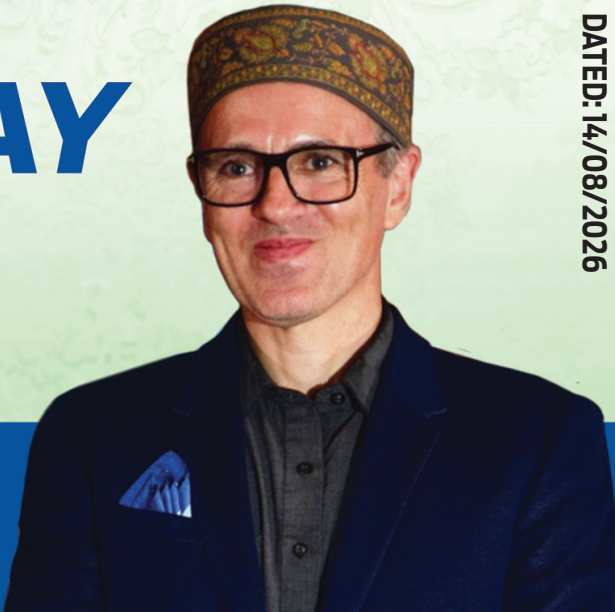
In a message posted on microblogging site X, Shah said August 14, 1947 stands witness to one of the most brutal chapters in history, in which millions of people had to lose



th

HAPPY
INDEPENDENCE DAY

GREETINGS TO THE PEOPLE OF
JAMMU & KASHMIR



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

DIPK-4606/26 DATED: 14/08/2026

LCMA Vice Chairman reviews conservation, dredging works in Gilsar

Directs timely completion of navigational channel cleaning works

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Vice Chairman, J&K Lake Conservation & Management Authority (JKLCMA), Khurshid Ahmad Shah, Friday conducted a comprehensive field inspection of Gilsar to review the ongoing conservation, restoration and navigational channel cleaning works.

He was accompanied by Collector, Executive Engineer, Lake Division Ist /2nd /Mechanical, AEEs and other field staff of the Authority.

During the inspection, the Vice Chairman reviewed the progress of dredging and cleaning of navigational channels in both water bodies. He was informed that dredging of two major channels from Saidapora Bridge towards Firdousa Abad and Sazgaripora have been completed. Work on opening and cleaning the remaining interior channels is currently underway.

The Vice Chairman also inspected the Water-



master recently deployed in the area and reviewed its utilization for cleaning, opening and maintaining navigational channels.

The concerned officers briefed the Vice Chairman on the progress achieved so far, the challenges encountered during execution and the measures being taken to ensure timely completion of the remaining works.

The Vice Chairman directed the concerned officers and field staff to ensure that all ongoing works are executed efficiently and within the stipulated timelines. He stressed the importance of regular field monitoring, optimum utilization of available machinery and close coordination among the field teams to restore navigational con-

nectivity and improve water circulation in Khushalsar and Gilsar.

He further emphasized that all conservation and restoration interventions must be carried out with due care to safeguard the ecological health of the water bodies while ensuring improved navigation, water flow and overall functionality of the interconnected water bodies.

Gawran Cloudburst

Senior officers visit bereaved families, extend condolences



GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Following a cloudburst incident at Gawran, a team of senior officers from District Administration Anantnag led by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Dr. Muzamil Maqbool immediately visited the Gawran Village where two boys lost their lives in the unfortunate incident that occurred on Thursday evening.

The ADC was also accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Tariq Ahmad Malik, Tehsildar Larnoo, Syed Muiz Qadri, police officers and other officials.

During the visit, the

ADC consoled the grieving families and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed souls. He expressed solidarity with the affected family members in this hour of grief and extended heartfelt condolences to them.

Interacting with the affected families, the team of officers assured them of all possible support and relief from the administration.

Later, the team visited the healthcare facility where the injured are currently undergoing treatment. The officers inquired about their well-being and instructed the healthcare authorities to ensure the best possible medical care is provided to them.

Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign

Partition Horrors Remembrance Day observed across Anantnag



GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: As part of the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign 2026, Partition Horrors Remembrance Day was solemnly observed Friday across District Anantnag to commemorate the sacrifices and struggles of millions during the 1947 Partition of India.

The main commemorative event, organized at Town Hall, Municipal Council Anantnag, was attended by Deputy Commissioner (DC), Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, alongside Additional Deputy Commissioners (ADCs), ACR, CPO, ACD, DSEO, and senior officers from the District Administration. Officials from various line departments, local youth,

prominent civil society members, and citizens gathered in large numbers to mark the day.

The ceremony commenced with the playing of the National Song followed by the National Anthem. As a key feature of the program, poignant documentaries were screened showcasing the circumstances, consequences and horrors of the Partition on August 14, 1947.

The program concluded on a reverent patriotic note with the playing of the National Song and National Anthem.

Similar remembrance events were also held across various public offices, educational institutions, and other important places of the district.

SKUAST-K, NIFT sign MoU to strengthen Research, Innovation

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) and the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Srinagar, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen collaborative research, innovation, product development and academic exchange, with a special focus on adding value to Jammu and Kashmir's rich fibre resources.

The agreement was signed at SKUAST-K, Shalimar, in the presence of Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, and Prof. Monica Gupta, Director, NIFT Srinagar, along with senior university officials, faculty members and representatives of both institutions.

The collaboration seeks to combine the scientific and technical expertise of SKUAST-K with NIFT Srinagar's strengths in design, fashion technology, product development, and market-oriented innovation to develop value-added,



ed, commercially viable products.

A key outcome of the partnership will be the formulation of a collaborative research program on the value addition of J&K's fiber resources including wool, pashmina and silk, with a focus on the fiber-to-fabric value chain.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai said the partnership should translate institutional expertise into tangible outcomes for local resources and communities. He directed the relevant faculty and officers to develop a focused, collaborative research program to improve value realization from the region's fiber resources.

The Vice Chancellor

emphasized that such institutional partnerships should go beyond conventional academic collaboration to yield new technologies, innovative products, livelihood opportunities, and greater economic value for local stakeholders.

Director, NIFT Srinagar, said the collaboration offered significant potential for integrating NIFT Srinagar's expertise in design and product innovation with SKUAST-K's scientific and technical capabilities. She expressed confidence that the partnership would generate meaningful outcomes in value-added products and market-oriented innovation.

Dr. Asif Hassan, Head, Division of Livestock Prod-

ucts Technology (LPT), SKUAST-K, outlined the objectives of the MoU and said it would provide a broader framework for joint research and development, faculty and student exchange, collaborative academic programmes, sharing of research facilities, and joint seminars and workshops.

Earlier, Prof. Monica Gupta visited the SKUAST-K Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (SKIE) Centre, where she interacted with Dr. Naveed, CEO, SKIE Centre, and his team. Discussions explored opportunities for joint work to strengthen the innovation ecosystem, promote student-led enterprises, support start-ups, and facilitate the commercialization of technologies and products.

The MoU marks a step towards building stronger institutional linkages between science, design, technology and entrepreneurship, with the potential to create new value chains around Jammu and Kashmir's indigenous fibre resources.

150 YEARS OF VANDE MATARAM

Partition Horrors Remembrance Day observed in Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: District Administration Kulgam, in collaboration with DIPR, NIC, Education and other departments Friday observed Partition Horrors Remembrance Day in the district.

The solemn observance was chaired by the Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, who paid tribute to the countless individuals who endured unimaginable suffering during the Partition of 1947.

In his address, the DC called upon citizens to draw strength from that painful chapter of history and to uphold the core values of compassion, unity and brotherhood that form the foundation of our nation and emphasized that remembering the horrors of Partition is not about reopening old wounds, but about reaffirming our col-



lective commitment to harmony and to ensuring that such divisions never find space in our society again.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam, Vikar Ahmad Giri also addressed the gathering and spoke on the important lessons to be learnt from the Partition Horrors and urged the younger generation to carry forward the message of peace, tolerance and national integration.

The event saw active participation from district officers and officials, students, civil society members and citizens from diverse communities.

Department of Informa-

tion and Public Relations, Kulgam in association with District Informatics Office, Kulgam curated a moving photo and document exhibition depicting the human stories, resilience and sacrifices of 1947.

A short film on the Partition was screened to sensitize the audience about the cost of division and the value of unity.

A student troupe from the Education Department and artists of DIPR Kulgam presented soulful patriotic songs and cultural performances that filled the venue with the spirit of patriotism.

DIPR Kulgam and

Municipal Council Kulgam installed dedicated selfie points with tricolor backdrops. Citizens gathered to take selfies, express love for the nation and mark their participation in the Independence Day celebrations.

The collaborative effort by departments ensured wide outreach and meaningful engagement across age groups.

In the second session, screening of movie on the Horrors of Partition was witnessed by DC Kulgam, ADC, Kulgam, district officers and officials alongwith good gathering of collage and higher secondary students, faculty members and citizens.

The event was also attended by ADDC, Altaf Ahmad Khan, ACR, Reyaz Ahmad Shah, CPO, Malik Suhail, DIO, Showkat Husain Ganie, CEO,Fayat Ahmad, CEO MC, LDM, and other district officers.=

Tiranga rides high at LOC

Grand Motorcycle Rally held from Kaman Post Aman Setu



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: The spirit of patriotism resonated along the Line of Control as a vibrant Tiranga Motorcycle Rally commenced Friday from LOC Kaman Post, Aman Setu, as part of the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga campaign and celebrations of the 80th Independence Day.

The rally was led by SDM Uri, Prince Kumar,

along with SDPO Uri, and witnessed enthusiastic participation from officers, officials and citizens. Participants rode motorcycles proudly carrying the Tricolour, creating a spectacular display of national pride and patriotic fervour.

The rally aimed to inspire greater public participation in the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign and reinforce the message of unity, patriotism and

national pride. The sight of the Tricolour fluttering at the LOC added a distinctive and inspiring dimension to the Independence Day celebrations.

The enthusiastic participation of citizens and officials reflected the collective spirit of Uri and their shared commitment to celebrating the nation's 80th Independence Day with pride, unity and patriotic fervour.

Sopore rides high on Patriotism with unique Tonga Tiranga Rally

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: A unique Tonga Tiranga Rally was organised in Sopore as part of the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign, evoking a strong sense of patriotism and national pride among the people.

The rally was jointly flagged off by Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore, Dr. S.A. Raina and Superintendent of Police, Sopore, Safaraz Bashir from Chankhan Bridge Sopore, witnessing enthusiastic participation from government employees, traders, students, youth and a large



number of local residents.

The rally presented a colourful spectacle as participants marched with the National Flag and raised patriotic slogans. The massive public participation reflected the enthusiasm of the people of Sopore towards the Independence Day celebrations.

The event underscored the

message of unity, patriotism and national pride, while reaffirming the collective commitment towards the progress, peace and development of the nation. The rally passed through the heart of Sopore town and concluded peacefully at Fruit Mandi, Sopore, amid patriotic fervour and enthusiasm.

SWD Srinagar organizes Vocational Training Programme

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Social Welfare Department (SWD), through SANKALP-HEW Srinagar, organised a vocational training and entrepreneurship orientation programme at Amar Singh College, Srinagar, with the objective of sensitising and empowering participants regarding opportunities in skill development, entrepreneurship and self-employment.

The programme witnessed the participation of resource persons from the District Industries Centre (DIC), Srinagar, and the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Srinagar), who engaged with the participants and provided valuable guidance on various avenues for



enterprise development and sustainable livelihoods.

During the programme, the resource persons apprised the participants about various Government schemes, programmes and institutional support mechanisms available for promoting entrepreneurship, skill development and self-employment. They provided insights into opportunities for establishing small enterprises, accessing financial and technical assistance, and availing benefits under different government-spon-

sored initiatives.

The session also focused on developing entrepreneurial skills, identifying viable livelihood opportunities and encouraging participants to become self-reliant.

The resource persons explained the procedures involved in accessing support from DIC Srinagar and JKEDI and addressed queries raised by the participants, providing practical guidance on the available schemes and assistance mechanisms.

The Department of Social

Welfare emphasised that such vocational training and entrepreneurship-oriented programmes play an important role in enhancing employability, promoting economic independence and facilitating the sustainable socio-economic empowerment of beneficiaries. Such initiatives also provide participants with greater awareness of available institutional support and encourage them to explore self-employment as a viable career option.

The programme concluded with an interactive session, during which participants actively engaged with the resource persons, sought clarifications regarding various schemes and opportunities, and expressed their appreciation for the initiative and the guidance provided.

'Unprecedented transformation'

Rajnath hails fourfold rise in defence production in message to soldiers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: "The Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is accord- ing the highest priority to the modernisation of the defence forces driven by a self-reliant and future- ready defence sector," said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in his address to the soldiers through Akash- vani on the eve of 80th Independence Day on August 14, 2026. Highlight- ing the transformative shift witnessed by the defence sector in the last 12 years due to the initiatives such as 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make-in-India', Raksha Mantri asserted that India has become a nation which is effectively catering to its own security needs, while emerging as a



global defence manufactur- ing hub and a net defence exporter.

Singh emphasised that the domestic defence pro- duction, which stood at just Rs 46,000 crore in 2014, has skyrocketed to a record Rs 1.78 lakh crore in the Financial Year (FY) 2025-26, nearly a four-fold increase

over the last decade. This achievement, he said, is a testament to the struc- tural changes that have taken place in the defence sector. He pointed out that Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) and other public sector entities accounted for approxi- mately 76% of the total

defence production, with the private sector contrib- uting 24%, up from 22% in the previous fiscal year. This growing participation of the private sector signals a continuously improving business environment within the defence sector, he said.

Defence Minister added that defence exports, which stood at a mere Rs 686 crore in FY 2013-14, surged to an all-time high of Rs 38,424 crore in FY 2025-26, an increase of over 5,500%. He described the feat as the most compelling evidence of Aatmanirbharta in the defence sector. "Today, India has 145 defence exporters, and our products are being exported to over 80 coun- tries. I am confident that we will achieve our defence exports target of Rs 50,000 crore by 2029," he said.

He also pointed out that the defence budget has risen from Rs 2.53 lakh crore in FY 2013-14 to Rs 7.85 lakh crore in FY 2026- 27, which is a reflection of India's growing com- mitment to future defence technologies. "Capital expenditure has grown from Rs 94,588 crore to Rs 2.19 lakh crore. Our focus on Research & Develop- ment has also intensified. The R&D budget, which stood at Rs 15,283 crore in FY 2014-15, has increased by 90% to Rs 29,100 crore in FY 2026-27," he said.

Defence Minister added that over the past year, the Defence Acquisition Council has granted Acceptance of Necessity for projects worth over Rs 8.75 lakh crore, which highlights the Govern- ment's emphasis on defence modernisation. He listed

the fundamental reforms undertaken in defence pro- curement to accelerate this modernisation process, including a two-fold increase in financial ceiling for Field Commanders to strengthen operational efficiency, and facilitation of procurement worth more than Rs 1.25 lakh crore through the revenue route to boost indigenisation.

On the successful test of Active Cooled Full- Scale Scramjet Combustor for over 1,200 seconds, Rajnath Singh stated that the feat has placed India among the select group of nations capable of devel- oping hypersonic missile technology. He added that the nation's air defence capabilities have been fur- ther bolstered by the first successful test of the indig- enous Kusha' Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile.

CM meets legislators, delegations, individuals at Raabita



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minis- ter Omar Abdullah Friday met several public repre- sentatives, delegations and individuals at Raabita here and discussed various issues pertaining to differ- ent areas and sectors.

Member of Legislative Assembly from Inder- wal, Pyare Lal Sharma, and MLA from Akhnoor, Mohan Lal, called on the Chief Minister and apprised him of various developmental issues con- cerning their respective constituencies. The Chief Minister took note of the issues raised and assured due consideration.

The Chief Minister also met Commissioner Secretary, Information, Ms. R. Alice Vaz, who apprised him of the progress made towards organising the first International Film Festi- val of Jammu and Kash- mir, scheduled to be held in September.

A delegation of HDFC Life, comprising MD & CEO Mrs. Vibha Padalkar, Executive Director Vineet Arora and Chief Banca Assurance Offi- cer Lavneesh Gupta, also called on the Chief Min- ister and discussed mea- sures to expand HDFC Life's operations across Jammu and Kashmir.

CM Omar felicitates winners of competitions organized by Floriculture Deptt

Says competitions harness creativity to promote J&K's iconic flower gardens



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Min- ister Omar Abdullah Friday felicitated 12 win- ners of various competi- tions organised during the Tulip Show and Badam- wari Spring Festival, recog- nising their creativity, artistic talent and innova- tive use of digital media in promoting J&K's iconic spring gardens and floral heritage.

The winners, who included a large number of students, particularly from Government Schools, were presented cash prizes and certificates of participa- tion by the Chief Minister at a felicitation ceremony held here.

The awards covered three categories—paint- ing, Instagram reels and photography—with win- ners securing the first, second and third posi- tions in each category. In the painting competi- tions, Farhan Ali Bhat, Soleha Tanveer and Roja Fayaz secured the first, second and third positions respectively in the Tulip Festival 2026 competition, while Ahmreen Bashir, Mir Maryam Zaffar and Hanzala Shafiq bagged the top three positions in the Badamwari Almond Festi-

val 2026 painting competi- tion.

In the Instagram Reel Competition organised in connection with the Tulip Show 2026, Salman Ahmad Wani, Shazeeb Iqbal and Ayush Anand secured the first, second and third positions respectively. In the photography competi- tion, Umair Wani, Saba Reshi and Sharafat Khan emerged winners, securing the first, second and third positions respectively.

Speaking on the occa- sion, the Chief Minister said that the objective of these competitions was not only to encourage artistic and creative talent among students and young people but also to garner greater public attention to J&K's major floral attractions through contemporary platforms.

The Chief Minister highlighted the main floral events in the annual floriculture calendar while appreciating that Badam- wari, Tulip Garden and newly added Chrysanthemum festival witnessed great public participa- tion and that these events get further visibility and attention through competi- tions in painting, pho- tography and social media content creation.

Javed Rana meets delegations, assures swift resolution of development issues

GMK NEWS NETWORK

POONCH: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today met a number of delegations and public representatives at Surankote and Poonch who apprised him of various development-related issues pertaining to their respective areas.

The visiting delega- tions raised a range of issues concerning the availability and improve- ment of essential public services, development of infrastructure and expediting ongoing works. They also brought to the Minister's attention the urgent need for restora- tion of public services and infrastructure damaged due to the recent flash floods and landslides.

The delegations sought intervention of the gov- ernment for restoration

of damaged roads, water supply schemes and other essential infrastructure.

Giving a patient hearing to the delegations, Javed Rana assured them that their genuine concerns are taken up with the concerned departments for appropri- ate action. He directed the officers to ensure close coordi- nation and timely follow- up so that the issues raised by the people are resolved without unnecessary delay.

The Minister said that resolution of people's issues remains a priority of the government, adding that all necessary steps are being taken to ensure prompt redress of public grievances and restora- tion of essential services affected by the recent natu- ral calamities.

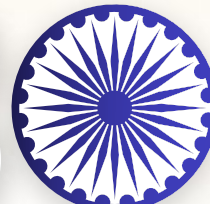
Javed Rana assured the delegations that their concerns would be followed up with the concerned agen- cies for swift and effective resolution.



सत्यमेव जयते
Government of India

Heartfelt greetings to all fellow citizens on the

8th



Independence Day



“

I extend my best wishes to all of you on this great festival of Independence. There's only one mantra for 140 crore Indians - Viksit Bharat. To build a Viksit Bharat, we will neither stop nor bow down, and we will build a Viksit Bharat in 2047.

— Narendra Modi

”

Live telecast of the Independence Day celebrations from the ramparts of the Red Fort on Doordarshan Network from 6:30 AM onwards.

CBC 22201/13/0019/2627

CMYK

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Homestays Can Take J&K Tourism Beyond The Beaten Track

Jammu and Kashmir's tourism story has long been dominated by a handful of established destinations. Srinagar, Gulmarg, Pahalgam and a few other popular tourist circuits continue to attract the bulk of visitors, while hundreds of lesser-known villages and scenic areas remain largely outside the mainstream tourism map. The renewed Homestay Policy offers an opportunity to change that equation. Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo's emphasis on making homestays the "bedrock" of tourism in unexplored destinations is both timely and strategically important. In a region where ecological fragility, unemployment and uneven tourism distribution remain major challenges, community-based tourism can provide a more sustainable alternative to unchecked commercial expansion.

The numbers underline the potential. Jammu and Kashmir already has 2,802 homestay units with an accommodation capacity of 20,514 beds. These are not merely additional rooms for tourists; they represent thousands of households that can potentially become direct participants in the tourism economy. The greatest strength of the homestay model is its local character. A visitor staying with a family is likely to experience the food, culture, traditions and hospitality of the place in a way that a conventional hotel cannot always provide. For remote villages, this can create a new economic ecosystem involving farmers, artisans, transporters, guides, cooks and local producers.

But policy announcements alone cannot guarantee success. The government must ensure that prospective homestay owners receive sustained handholding rather than one-time training. Hygiene, hospitality, digital bookings, food safety, waste management, emergency preparedness and basic communication skills should form an integral part of capacity-building programmes.

Equally important is access to affordable finance. Renovating a house, creating additional rooms, installing sanitation facilities or improving water and electricity infrastructure can be beyond the means of many families. Banks and financial institutions therefore have a crucial role to play. The renewed policy will achieve its intended purpose only if financing is accessible, transparent and simple for ordinary households.

The introduction of the Bed & Breakfast model is another welcome step. Allowing secondary residential properties to be registered for tourist accommodation can bring vacant and underutilised houses into the tourism economy. It can simultaneously increase accommodation capacity without encouraging large-scale construction in ecologically sensitive areas. However, expansion must not come at the cost of regulation. The government will have to maintain strict standards relating to safety, hygiene, waste disposal, fire protection and structural suitability. A homestay should not become a licence for unregulated commercial activity in residential areas.

There is also a larger question of geographical balance. If homestays are concentrated only around already popular destinations, the basic objective of the policy will be defeated. Incentives, promotion and infrastructure support should therefore favour genuinely unexplored and economically weaker areas.

J&K's tourism future cannot depend entirely on adding more hotels to already crowded destinations. It must increasingly be about taking tourism to communities and allowing communities to benefit directly from it.

The renewed Homestay Policy can become an important instrument in achieving precisely that. If implemented with transparency, financial support, professional training and effective monitoring, it can transform ordinary homes into gateways to rural Kashmir and Jammu—while transforming local residents from spectators of tourism into its principal stakeholders. That would be a more inclusive tourism model, and perhaps a more sustainable one too.

Independence At 80

Towards A Credible Republic



DR. REYAZ AHMAD

As India prepares to celebrate its 80th Independence Day on 15 August 2026, the nation will once again be covered in the colours of the tricolour. Schools will organise cultural programmes, government offices will hold flag-hoisting ceremonies, political leaders will deliver speeches, and citizens will proudly remember the sacrifices of those who fought against colonial rule. These celebrations are necessary, meaningful and emotionally powerful. Yet Independence Day must be more than a yearly ritual. It must also be an occasion for honest national reflection.

India's freedom was not won by one region, one religion, one caste or one political ideology. It was the result of collective sacrifice. Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Dalits, tribal communities, workers, peasants, students, intellectuals and countless unnamed citizens participated in the freedom struggle. The independence they achieved therefore belongs equally to every Indian. No individual, party or community can claim exclusive ownership of the nation or of patriotism.

Seventy-nine years after independence, India has made remarkable progress. It has built strong institutions, expanded education, developed advanced scientific and technological capabilities, improved infrastructure, emerged as a major global economy and strengthened its international influence. India's achievements in space research, digital technology, entrepreneurship, pharmaceuticals and democratic participation deserve recognition. However, the true spirit of Independence Day requires us to ask a difficult but necessary question: has political independence translated into social, economic and constitutional freedom for all citizens?

Freedom from foreign rule was only the beginning. The larger national struggle is freedom from poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, corruption, discrimination, communal hatred and fear. A citizen who has the right to vote but cannot find dignified employment is not fully empowered. A student who studies for years but loses hope because of examination leaks, delayed recruitment or unfair selection cannot feel completely free. A family that falls into debt because of medical expenses cannot experience the full promise of independence. A minority citizen who feels compelled to repeatedly prove loyalty to the country cannot feel equal in the republic.

The Constitution provides the moral and political foundation of modern India. It promises justice, liberty, equality and



fraternity. These are not decorative words to be recited on national occasions; they are obligations that must guide governance and public life. Respect for the national flag must be accompanied by respect for the constitutional values represented by that flag. Patriotism cannot be limited to slogans, songs and ceremonies. It must be visible in the protection of citizens' rights, in the equal application of the law and in the dignity with which the weakest sections of society are treated.

A healthy democracy requires both a responsible government and a strong opposition. The government must have the authority to govern, but it must also remain accountable. The opposition must question, criticise and challenge the government, but it must do so constructively. Parliament should not become a permanent theatre of shouting, disruption and personal accusation. It must remain a place where laws are debated, policies are examined and the concerns of citizens are represented with seriousness.

The credibility of public institutions is another central test of freedom. Elections, courts, Parliament, investigative agencies, public-service commissions and educational bodies must be trusted by citizens. Institutions must not only act fairly; they must also be seen to act fairly. When people begin to believe that institutions are influenced by political pressure, selective application of law or lack of transparency, democracy loses moral strength. Institutional independence is not a favour to the opposition, nor is it a threat to the government. It is a protection for the entire nation.

India's young population is often described as its greatest strength. But young citizens need more than motivational speeches. They need reliable examinations, transparent recruitment, affordable education, relevant skills and meaningful employment. Their frustration over unemployment, paper leaks and delayed appointments should not be dismissed as impatience. It is a warning that the country's demographic advantage can turn into disappointment if opportunities are not created fairly and quickly.

A nation cannot call its youth its future while forcing them to spend years moving from one competitive examination to another without certainty. Independence Day should

therefore become an occasion to renew the national commitment to education reform, examination integrity, skill development, entrepreneurship and job creation. The dignity of labour must also be respected. Every honest profession, whether academic, agricultural, technical, industrial or service-based, should offer security and social respect.

Economic growth is essential, but growth alone is not enough. The benefits of development must reach ordinary citizens. New highways, airports, digital platforms and corporate investments are signs of progress, but they must be matched by better schools, affordable healthcare, secure livelihoods and support for farmers, workers, women and small businesses. Development must not be judged only by national income or stock-market performance. It must also be measured by whether children are learning, whether families can afford treatment, whether farmers receive fair returns and whether young people can build stable lives.

Social harmony is equally important. India's diversity is not a weakness to be managed; it is a civilisational strength to be protected. Religious polarisation, caste hostility, regional prejudice and hate speech damage the nation from within. A country does not become stronger when one community feels dominant. It becomes stronger when every community feels secure.

The rights of minorities are therefore not a secondary issue. They are a test of democratic maturity. Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Dalits, tribal communities and all vulnerable groups must be able to live with dignity and confidence. Equal citizenship is not a political concession. It is a constitutional guarantee. No citizen should be judged by religious identity before being recognised as an Indian.

At the same time, citizens must understand that criticism of a government is not hatred of the nation. Governments change; the country remains. A responsible citizen may support one policy, oppose another and still remain deeply patriotic. Democracy becomes stronger when journalists, teachers, students, writers and ordinary people can ask difficult questions without fear. However, criticism must be based on facts, constitutional principles and non-violence. Deliberate misinformation, communal provocation and personal abuse cannot be

defended in the name of freedom of expression. Political leaders also carry a special responsibility. Their words shape public behaviour. When leaders use insulting language, spread suspicion or reduce political disagreement to personal hatred, society imitates them. India urgently needs a more dignified political culture in which debates focus on policies, evidence and national priorities. The government and opposition may differ sharply, but they must not encourage citizens to treat one another as enemies.

India's federal character must also be respected. The Union and state governments may be controlled by different political parties, but public welfare must remain above party rivalry. Education, healthcare, disaster management, employment and infrastructure require cooperation. Citizens should not suffer because of political conflict between different levels of government.

The digital age has created another challenge: misinformation. Fake news, edited videos, communal rumours and organised online propaganda can create fear within minutes. Freedom in the digital era requires media literacy, responsible journalism and accountability for those who knowingly spread falsehoods. Citizens must learn to verify information before sharing it, and political parties must resist the temptation to manipulate public opinion through deception.

Yet responsibility does not belong to politicians alone. Citizens must vote thoughtfully, reject corruption, respect public property, oppose communal hatred, pay taxes honestly and hold representatives accountable. Democracy weakens when citizens become permanent supporters of parties and stop judging performance objectively. National interest must remain higher than political loyalty.

As India looks towards 2047, when it will complete one hundred years of independence, it must decide what kind of republic it wants to become. A developed India cannot be defined by economic size and technology alone. It must be a country where no child is excluded from education, no youth is denied opportunity because of corruption, no citizen fears discrimination, no family is ruined by healthcare costs and no institution loses public trust.

On 15 August 2026, India should celebrate its achievements with pride. But it should also have the courage to confront its unfinished responsibilities. The truest tribute to the freedom fighters will not be louder speeches, larger flags or more elaborate ceremonies. It will be an India where power remains accountable, institutions remain credible, disagreement remains democratic, young people find opportunity and every citizen can live with dignity and without fear.

The flag will truly fly high when the constitutional promise beneath it reaches every Indian.

The author is math faculty member at
Department of General Education, HUC,
Ajman, United Arab Emirates

FCRA Bill

Need For Balance And Restraint In Regulating Foreign Contributions

LALIT GARGG

August 12, 2026, was a significant day for the Indian Parliament, as the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, popularly known as the FCRA Bill, was referred by the Lok Sabha to a 31-member Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC). This decision is not merely about moving a bill to the next stage of the parliamentary process; it provides an opportunity for a much broader debate encompassing national security, transparency in foreign funding, the autonomy of religious and social institutions, the role of civil society, and democratic freedoms.

Referring the Bill to the JPC also offers the government and the Opposition an opportunity to transform an immediate political confrontation into a substantive parliamentary deliberation. The history of the FCRA Bill underlines the seriousness of this debate. The first law was enacted in 1976 in view of concerns that foreign funds could be used to exert external influence on India's political and social life. In 2010, it was replaced by a new FCRA law, and its provisions were subsequently tightened at various stages, including in 2020. Today, the law is no longer merely a mechanism for maintaining accounts of the receipt and utilisation of foreign contributions; it has also become an important component of the discourse surrounding national security and sovereignty.

The figures indicate the scale of the issue. According to PRS, as of July 15, 2026, 14,449 FCRA registrations were active, while 22,498 had been cancelled and 15,212 had expired. Between 2019 and 2022, as many as 13,520 organisations received approximately 55,741 crore in foreign contributions. These figures naturally raise an important question: where was such a substantial amount of money utilised, for what purposes, and under what level of oversight? But an equally important question must also be asked: Can the cancellation or expiry of an organisation's FCRA registration,

by itself, be treated as evidence of financial or criminal wrongdoing? Even according to the government's own explanation, there can be several reasons for the expiry or cancellation of a registration, and it would therefore be inappropriate to equate every such case with misconduct.

This brings us to one of the most sensitive aspects of the proposed amendment. The Bill proposes the creation of a "designated authority." If an organisation's FCRA registration is cancelled, voluntarily surrendered, or expires because its certificate is not renewed, the foreign contribution and assets created from such funds may initially be placed under the temporary control of this authority. If the registration is not restored within the prescribed period, the assets may subsequently vest permanently in the authority, with provisions for their use or sale for public purposes. The proceeds from such sale, along with any unutilised foreign contribution, are proposed to be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India.

India has witnessed several instances in which questions have been raised over the misuse of foreign funding, financial irregularities, or activities allegedly inconsistent with national interests. Therefore, the fundamental objective of the FCRA, to ensure that foreign contributions remain transparent, accountable and restricted to lawful purposes—is neither unreasonable nor anti-democratic. However, there must also be a clear line between the legitimate requirements of national security and the expansion of administrative powers. That is where the real test of this Bill lies. If an organisation has used foreign funds for terrorism, violence, separatism, forced or inducement-based religious conversion, political destabilisation, or activities that undermine India's sovereignty, the strongest possible action should be taken. Such firmness is essential in the national interest. On the other hand, if an organisation is running a hospital, providing education to the underprivileged, protecting the environment, working for women and children, or providing relief during



natural disasters, the possibility of years of social work and assets created through foreign contributions coming under immediate government control merely because of a technical or procedural lapse can certainly be a matter of concern.

This is precisely why referring the Bill to the JPC is a positive opportunity. Passing legislation by a parliamentary majority is an essential part of the democratic process, but laws that can affect thousands of organisations, millions of beneficiaries and the wider civil society deserve careful and comprehensive scrutiny. The JPC can provide a forum where the Opposition can place its concerns, the government can explain its rationale, and the views and experiences of legal experts, social organisations, religious institutions, financial specialists and security agencies can be examined. The Bill also contains an important balancing provision concerning religious places. The religious character of a place of worship would have to be preserved. The designated authority would not be permitted to convert such a place for another purpose or extinguish its religious character. In addition, the affected organisation would have the right to seek a review within 90 days and to appeal before a District Judge. The government has also stated that, once registration is restored, assets temporarily vested in the authority and unutilised funds would be returned. These provisions are welcome. However, the crucial question will be whether these safeguards and remedies

are genuinely independent, accessible and effective in practice.

Another significant change relates to renewal of registration. Under the 2026 rules, utilisation of at least 10 lakh in foreign contributions during the preceding two financial years has been prescribed as an indicator of an active organisation. The framework also provides for more detailed information regarding activities, State-specific registration and utilisation of funds. Such requirements may help in identifying and regulating dormant organisations. However, the JPC must also examine whether spending 10 lakh is a practical benchmark for every small but genuinely active social organisation. Social utility cannot be measured merely by the amount of money an organisation spends. The FCRA debate should not be reduced merely to a binary contest between "the government and the Opposition" or between "nationalism and civil liberties." The real question is much larger: How should India receive foreign resources, and how can it ensure that such resources serve the interests of Indian society rather than becoming instruments for influencing India's policies, institutions or social fabric? At the same time, it must be ensured that regulatory powers do not become so expansive that legitimate dissent by independent social organisations is itself viewed with suspicion.

In a vast and diverse democracy like India, civil society is not an adversary of the government; it is a vital partner in a healthy democratic system. Thousands of non-governmental organisations are doing valuable work in healthcare, education, rural development,

environmental protection, women's empowerment, disability welfare and disaster relief. Every organisation receiving foreign contributions must maintain transparency, proper accounts and full compliance with Indian law. But the government must also ensure that regulation is aimed not at controlling such organisations, but at ensuring the proper and lawful utilisation of foreign funds. The greatest challenge before Parliament and the JPC is therefore to establish this delicate balance. There should be no place for anti-national activities under the cover of foreign funding, just as there should be no exemption for financial irregularities committed in the name of social service. Equally, legitimate social work should not be placed under suspicion merely because of ideological disagreement with the government or the prevailing establishment. The law must embody two principles simultaneously: firmness against wrongdoing and sensitivity towards legitimate social service. Both must go hand in hand.

The FCRA Amendment Bill represents a major opportunity for India's governance framework. If the JPC examines the issue by rising above political accusations and counter-accusations and evaluates it on the basis of facts, law, national security and civil rights, the Bill could become much more than legislation regulating foreign contributions. It could lay the foundation for a more transparent, accountable and healthy civil society in India. The expectation now is that the JPC will neither accept governmental rigidity unquestioningly nor treat the Opposition's apprehensions as the final word. Instead, it should examine the facts in depth and recommend a balanced legal framework—one that safeguards national security, ensures complete transparency in foreign funding and preserves the legitimate freedom of social service. That is the real test of the FCRA: foreign money must be regulated, but public service must not be restrained.

The author can be mailed at
lalitgarg11@gmail.com

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

Good Morning

Kashmir

Editor, Owner, Printer, Publisher

Javed Ashraf Shah

Associate Editors

Mir Suhail

Sulaiman Muhammed Shah

Legal Advisor

Bashir Sidiq

Bureau Chief Jammu:

Harbans Nagokay

R.N.I No: JKENG/2010/36998

Regd No: 109555

Office No: 0194-3593724

Email:

goodmorningkashmir@gmail.com

Office Address:

B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir

Chowk, Srinagar-190001

Printed at:

Khidmat Offset Printing

Press, The Bund, Srinagar

Published From:

Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat,

Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023

Layout Designer

Aijaz Ahmad Dar

■ India's 80Th Independence Day

Transforming Freedom Into Opportunity



DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

India's Independence Day has never been merely a celebration of the past. Every 15 August is an occasion when the nation looks simultaneously backward and forward, remembering the sacrifices that secured freedom and asking what that freedom should achieve in the future. The 80th Independence Day on 15 August 2026 acquires a particularly evocative significance. India stands at an important point in its journey towards the centenary of independence in 2047, and the national imagination is increasingly shaped by two powerful ideas: "Yuva Shakti" or Youth Power, as the driving force behind the vision of Viksit Bharat, and the commemoration of 150 years of "Vande Mataram," Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's immortal invocation of the motherland.

These two themes may appear to belong to different historical worlds. Vande Mataram emerged in nineteenth-century colonial India, while Yuva Shakti speaks to the aspirations of twenty-first-century India. Yet they are deeply connected. One represents the emotional awakening of a nation struggling for freedom; the other represents the energy of a young nation determined to transform that freedom into development, opportunity and global leadership. One awakened the spirit of patriotism; the other must translate that spirit into nation-building.

The story of Vande Mataram is inseparable from the evolution of Indian nationalism. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay composed the song in the nineteenth century, and it later became an enormously influential expression of patriotic feeling during the freedom movement. Its words transformed the idea of the motherland into an emotional presence. India was no longer simply a geographical territory; she became Mata, a mother deserving love, sacrifice and reverence.

The song travelled beyond the pages of literature and entered the streets, meetings and political imagination of a people seeking freedom. The 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram therefore invites us to reflect on the extraordinary power of literature and culture in shaping national consciousness. Before political independence became a reality, there had to be a psychological liberation, a realisation that India belonged to her people and that they possessed the moral right to determine their own destiny. Songs, poems, novels, speeches and newspapers played an enormous role in creating that consciousness.

The freedom struggle was powered not only by political strategies but also by imagination. A nation had to imagine itself as a nation before it could become one. Vande Mataram contributed to that imaginative process. Its historical importance lies in its ability to turn patriotism into a deeply felt emotional experience. Today, however, the meaning of patriotism must be expanded from sacrifice for freedom to responsibility for development. The generation that fought colonial rule had a clear objective: independence. The generation of 2026 faces a different challenge.

Political independence has been achieved; the task now is to ensure that freedom produces prosperity, dignity, equality, knowledge and opportunity for every citizen. This is where Yuva Shakti becomes crucial. India possesses one of the world's largest young populations. This demographic reality can become a tremendous national advantage if young Indians are educated, skilled, healthy, innovative and socially responsible. But youth power is not simply a matter of numbers. A large youth population becomes a demographic dividend only when young people have access to quality education, productive employment, entrepreneurship, technology and opportunities for meaningful participation in national life.

The Viksit Bharat vision for 2047 must therefore be, above all, a youth-centred vision. The India that reaches its centenary of independence will largely be built by the young people



of today. They will become scientists, teachers, entrepreneurs, engineers, doctors, artists, administrators, farmers, researchers, soldiers, writers and social leaders. Their imagination will determine what kind of India emerges in 2047.

The most important investment India can make is therefore an investment in its young people. Education must occupy the centre of this national transformation. The education system of the future cannot be limited to preparing students for examinations. It must prepare them for an unpredictable world in which artificial intelligence, automation, biotechnology, robotics, climate

and innovation can transform the country's economic landscape. From a village-based enterprise to a technology company working on global problems, every young Indian should have the possibility of turning an idea into an opportunity. Technology has already altered the meaning of youth power. A young person in a small town can now communicate with the world, acquire knowledge from global sources, build a digital enterprise or collaborate with people thousands of kilometres away. The smartphone and the internet have created unprecedented access to information. But information alone is not knowledge, and knowledge alone is not wisdom. The challenge before young India is to use technology intelligently rather than become enslaved by it.

Artificial intelligence will intensify this challenge. It will create new professions and transform existing ones. The youth of India must therefore become technologically literate without losing their humanity. Machines

cannot. Contemporary writers, poets, filmmakers, musicians and digital creators therefore have a major responsibility. They can help young Indians understand that patriotism does not require uniformity. One can love India precisely because India contains many voices.

The celebration of 150 years of Vande Mataram should thus become an opportunity to rediscover India's literary heritage. Bankim Chandra's song belongs to a historical moment, but its larger question remains relevant: Yuva Shakti must become a force for green development, renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, responsible consumption, cleaner cities and conservation of natural resources. The Viksit Bharat vision must also be judged by social justice. A developed country is not merely one with high GDP or advanced infrastructure. It is one where citizens can live with dignity. Poverty, hunger, discrimination, unemployment and educational inequality weaken the

generation can make national integration a lived experience through friendship, collaboration and cultural exchange. The 80th Independence Day therefore offers a remarkable symbolic convergence. 150 years of Vande Mataram reminds India of the emotional power that helped awaken national consciousness. Yuva Shakti reminds India that the future cannot be inherited; it must be created. Between the two lies the entire journey from freedom to development. The freedom fighters gave India political independence. The youth of today must give that independence a fuller social and economic meaning.

The India of 2047 should be an India where a child receives excellent education regardless of birthplace; where healthcare is accessible; where women feel safe and empowered; where farmers benefit from technology and fair opportunities; where cities are liveable and villages are connected; where scientific research flourishes; where entrepreneurs can innovate; where the environment is protected; and where every citizen feels that the nation belongs to them. Such an India cannot be built by government alone. It requires a partnership among government, institutions, industry, universities, civil society and, above all, citizens.

The young must not remain passive beneficiaries of development. They must become active participants in it. Perhaps that is the deepest meaning of Yuva Shakti. Youth power is not merely youthful enthusiasm. It is energy disciplined by knowledge, ambition guided by ethics, innovation guided by responsibility and patriotism expressed through service. And perhaps that is the contemporary meaning of Vande Mataram. Viksit Bharat 2047 can become the destination. The journey from Vande Mataram to Viksit Bharat is therefore not a journey away from the past. It is a journey in which the sacrifices, dreams and cultural memory of the past are transformed into the knowledge, courage and creativity of the future.

On this 80th Independence Day, India's message should be clear: the freedom earned by yesterday's heroes must become the opportunity of tomorrow's youth. The patriotic song of the past must become the developmental commitment of the present. And the India imagined by generations of freedom fighters must become the India built by millions of young citizens. "Vande Mataram is the voice of India's awakening." Yuva Shakti is the energy of India's becoming. Viksit Bharat is the promise of India's future. May the tricolour continue to fly not only above our heads but also within our hearts, and may every young Indian become a builder of the India that will celebrate its centenary of independence in 2047.

International Tagore Awardee multilingual writer Dr. Ratan Bhattacharjee is a former Affiliate Faculty of English Virginia Commonwealth University Richmond and President of Kolkata Indian American Society India. He can be reached at prof-ratanbhattacharjee@gmail.com

The story of Vande Mataram is inseparable from the evolution of Indian nationalism. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay composed the song in the nineteenth century, and it later became an enormously influential expression of patriotic feeling during the freedom movement. Its words transformed the idea of the motherland into an emotional presence.



can process information, but compassion, moral judgment, imagination and the capacity to understand human suffering remain profoundly human qualities. The Viksit Bharat of the future should be technologically sophisticated but ethically sensitive. Youth power must also extend beyond metropolitan India. India's villages, small towns and border regions contain enormous reservoirs of talent.

The same spirit must extend to India's linguistic and cultural diversity. Young Indians should be able to embrace modernity without abandoning their cultural roots. India's strength lies in its extraordinary plurality. Bengali, Assamese, Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam, Marathi, Kashmiri, Punjabi, Telugu, Kannada, Odia and many other languages enrich the national imagination. Youth power should therefore become a bridge between India's traditions and its global future. This is especially relevant when we reflect upon Vande Mataram. Its endurance reminds us that language can become a force of collective identity. Literature has the ability to reach where political slo-

foundations of development. Young Indians must therefore be encouraged to see nation-building as a moral enterprise.

Volunteering, social entrepreneurship, community service and civic participation can transform patriotism into everyday action. India's youth must also understand that democracy is not merely the right to vote. It involves dialogue, tolerance, constitutional responsibility and respect for disagreement. A confident young India should be capable of debating fiercely without hating those who disagree. The Constitution's ideals of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity must become lived values rather than merely words in a textbook.

There is also an important relationship between Yuva Shakti and national unity. India's diversity can sometimes appear complicated, but it is precisely this complexity that makes India unique. Young Indians travelling, studying, working and interacting across state and linguistic boundaries can build bridges that politics alone cannot create. The young



FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Govt Taking Steps

of these reforms are to completely curb the use of unfair means in public examinations, make the examination system more transparent, more secure, and more trustworthy for the youth," she said.

Her remarks assume significance in the backdrop of recent nationwide Gen Z and student-led protests demanding systemic overhauls, fast-track investigations, and stringent legal action following high-profile paper leak irregularities in competitive examinations.

Highlighting the spirit of enterprise among young citizens, she said youths are increasingly embracing a culture of job creation rather than job seeking.

"Many of our youth are embracing the culture of job creation as they pursue the path of self-employment. The participation of young entrepreneurs has led to the creation of a strong start-up ecosystem in our country. Major global enterprises are impressed by the talent and dedication of Indian youth and entrust them with leadership roles," she added.

The president said such achievers have enhanced the reputation of India's youth power globally and reaffirmed her faith in the country's bright future.

Turning to holistic development, the president said that the physical and mental well-being of the youth forms the cornerstone of the nation's future, adding that families and society share the collective responsibility to motivate them.

She highlighted sports as a key vehicle for youth development and nation-building under the flagship 'Khelo India' programme.

"Under the Khelo India programme, a sports ecosystem is being developed across the country, from the grassroots to the national level. The government is making unprecedented investments to promote sports, yielding remarkable leaps in the achievements of our sportspersons in international tournaments," she said.

President Murmu also lauded the "unmatched valour" of the Indian Armed Forces, saying Operation Sindoor demonstrated the country's capability to execute precision counter-terror operations and sent a firm message that terror elements and their backers will face consequences regardless of where they hide.

She recalled the anniversary of the military action alongside historic observances like Kargil Vijay Diwas, reaffirming India's tradition of overcoming forces hostile to humanity.

"On the 26th of July, we observed Kargil Vijay Diwas. Earlier, on the 7th of May, we commemorated the completion of one year since the launch of Operation Sindoor. We remembered the unmatched valour of our Armed Forces. That historic operation against terrorism demonstrated the capability of the Indian Armed Forces to act with precision," she said.

She said the operation delivered an unequivocal warning to enemies. "It sent a clear and firm message to terrorists and those who support them, that no matter where they hide, they will have to face the consequences of their actions."

The President also highlighted the strategic measures accompanying the counter-terror posture, describing the decision to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty with the nation harbouring terror networks as a "decisive step in the interest of our nation, especially the farmers."

On internal security, she termed the eradication of Naxalism a monumental achievement for the country after decades of struggle.

"For decades, Naxalism posed a serious challenge to the nation. Making India Naxal free is a major achievement. Today, enthusiasm prevails in the areas once affected by Naxalism," she said, pointing to all-inclusive development efforts and active local participation in initiatives like the Bastar Olympics and the Bastar Pandum festival.

Highlighting the nation's civilisational heritage, the President said that Sarnath, the site of Lord Buddha's first sermon, was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List this year, following the listing of 12 Maratha military forts last year.

She stated that India proudly balances monuments of deep spirituality with historic symbols of military strength and resilience.

Addressing foreign policy, she reiterated that peace, dialogue, cooperation, and the ideal of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (the world is one family) remain the bedrock of India's international relations.

"We believe in a rules-based international order. Our endeavour is to ensure that the global community receives appropriate representation in the United Nations and other multilateral organisations," she stated, noting India's growing stature among Global South nations.

The President also touched upon senior care, pointing out that alongside the world's largest young population, India is also seeing a rise in senior citizens and noted that about six crore senior citizens aged 70 and above can now avail of free healthcare services up to Rs 5 lakh per year under government initiatives, urging society to remain sensitive and uphold their dignity.

She said the country is moving steadily towards building a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, driven by economic resilience, massive digital infrastructure, and empowered youth and women.

She stressed that guided by the spirit of 'Antyodaya', the core resolve of the nation remains ensuring the fruits of development reach every individual, even as global warfare and instability present severe economic headwinds worldwide.

"Even in such trying circumstances, our economy is moving ahead as the fastest growing major economy in the world. According to economic projections, the growth rate of the Indian economy is expected to be more than twice the average global growth rate.

"Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' has further strengthened the foundation of our economic progress and national security," she said.

Highlighting internal welfare milestones over the past decade, the President said that more than 25 crore people have been lifted out of poverty and added that nearly 59 crore account holders have

joined the banking system under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, with over 32 crore of these account holders being women, while food security has been ensured for over 80 crore people through free rations.

Underlining India's technological leap, she pointed out that the country has developed the world's largest and best digital infrastructure, accounting for more than half of global real-time digital transactions.

Highlighting the demographic dividend, the President said that 65 per cent of the country's population is below the age of 35, describing the youth as India's "most valuable asset."

She commended young entrepreneurs for driving a robust startup ecosystem and lauded young innovators, citing a recent space exploration milestone led by a team with an average age of just 28 years.

Women's empowerment remained a central theme of her address. Celebrating achievements ranging from rural self-help groups to high-altitude defence, she said that the initial target of creating three crore 'Lakhpati Didis' has been achieved, with the government now pushing towards a goal of creating three crore more.

"Our girls are performing exceptionally well in education and diverse sectors, from the Drone Didi enhancing agricultural productivity to the Fighter Combat Leader in the Air Force. In the recently concluded Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, women won 8 out of India's total tally of 13 gold medals," she said.

The President also highlighted political inclusion, pointing out that the enactment of the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' in 2023, which reserves 33 per cent of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies, will make Indian democracy more inclusive. Politicalanalysis

Speaking on sustainable development, she asserted that India is playing a leading role globally in protecting the environment, having achieved several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030 ahead of schedule.

Reciting a Santali language poem penned by Pandit Raghunath Murmu, she urged citizens to remain committed to preserving nature and human values, linking individual action to national initiatives such as 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' and 'Lifestyle for Environment' (LiFE).

The President also paid homage to freedom fighters, Mahatma Gandhi, B R Ambedkar and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel for integrating over 550 princely states. She also solemnly remembered those who lost their lives or faced displacement during partition, observed on August 14 as 'Vibhajan Vibheeshika Smriti Divas'.

She invoked Telugu writer Gurajada Apparao's lines, "A nation is not just its land, a nation is all its people", urging every citizen to contribute wholeheartedly to transforming independent India into a fully developed nation by 2047.

PM Modi Hails

Bharat'.

In a post on X, the PM said the President's thoughts "reflect the strength of our nation and the aspirations of every Indian".

Modi said the address was motivating and thoughtful.

"Her message inspires us all to work with renewed determination for a Viksit Bharat," the prime minister said.

Underlining that students are the "architects of India's future", President Murmu said in her address that the government is taking comprehensive steps to reform public examinations to completely curb paper leaks and unfair means, making the system transparent, secure, and trustworthy.

She stressed that just as the government and society remain united to ensure national security, everyone must contribute through joint and concerted efforts to safeguard the present and future of students.

J&K Set To Scale

progressing at a swift pace. "The government wants to ensure that the benefits of development reach every corner of the region," he said. "I am confident that we will scale new heights of prosperity in the near future."

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the people of Jammu and Kashmir to renew their commitment to collectively build a strong, self-reliant and developed Union Territory.

He urged citizens to join hands in safeguarding peace and prosperity, saying the day was fast approaching when Jammu and Kashmir would emerge as one of the leading developed regions in the country and make a significant contribution to the vision of a developed India.

LG Sinha concluded his message by extending Independence Day greetings to the people, "Jai Hind!"

Build Bridges Of

during the observance of 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day'. Sinha said Partition was not merely a chapter of history but a living memory of millions of families, and called upon the youth to "build bridges of trust".

"The youth of Jammu Kashmir must ensure that the mistakes of the past are never repeated in the future. Where walls were once raised, you must build bridges of trust and construct a Viksit Bharat that is inclusive," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that the wound of partition continues to exist as a pain in the collective consciousness of every Indian.

"Decades after the partition, their sacrifice reminds us that the wound remains unhealed, lingering as a generational pain in India's collective

soul. On Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, we are not merely recalling the past but we are giving voice to those millions whose voices were taken away from them. I wish to reiterate with firm resolve that we will not allow their pain to be buried in the dust of history.

Remembering them is fulfilling our duty towards humanity. We will preserve their memories. Remembering them with complete truthfulness, honesty, and utmost sensitivity is the most sacred tribute. I believe that their stories are an indelible chapter of our national consciousness, and their sacrifice will forever remain alive in the soul of Mother India," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor urged the people of UT of Jammu Kashmir to treat this day as an occasion of introspection and national resolve. He called upon the youth, farmers, workers, and women to rise with courage and determination, to turn the pace of time towards progress and harmony.

The Lieutenant Governor praised the resilience of people who rebuilt their lives with courage and enriched the country's social fabric and cultural heritage with historic traditions and values.

"Today's occasion is an opportunity to acknowledge the pain of the past and strengthen our unwavering commitment to peace, harmony and national unity. This day reminds us that only the lessons of history can make the future secure and humane," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He noted that the partition divided families and displaced communities from Pakistan-occupied Jammu Kashmir and Chhamb. He paid tribute to those who faced decades-long discrimination within the UT due to Article 370. The Lieutenant Governor said that Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ended their suffering and granted them equal rights like any other citizen of the country.

The Lieutenant Governor also paid tribute the countless families who sacrificed during the tribal invasion months after partition.

"Within a few months of partition, enemies of the nation carried out terror attack under the cover of tribal invasions. Indian army and people fought bravely. The struggle and sacrifice of countless families are an integral part of the collective memory of Jammu Kashmir. Today, I humbly pay tribute to the patience, hard work, and unbroken patriotism of all those families," he said.

Addressing the youth, the Lieutenant Governor emphasized that partition is not merely history but a living memory of millions of families. He urged them to learn from the experiences of the past, to reject enmity and communal bitterness, and to build bridges of trust. He called upon them to construct a developed India that is inclusive and empowered.

"The youth of Jammu Kashmir must ensure that the mistakes of the past are never repeated in the future. Where walls were once raised, you must build bridges of trust and construct a Viksit Bharat that is inclusive," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor reminded the gathering that India's strength lies in its diversity. From Kashmir to Kanyakumari, from Gujarat to Goa, from Assam to Arunachal Pradesh, India is a confluence of languages, cultures, traditions, and beliefs, he said.

"Through partition, enemies of the nation tried to destroy this spirit of unity in diversity, but India has continuously moved forward with pride and confidence. We must take a pledge to acquaint future generations with the pain of partition, to strengthen peace and harmony, and to ensure that such a tragedy is never repeated. Building a self-reliant Jammu Kashmir is a shared duty and national unity remains the bedrock of our strength, security and collective progress," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor visited the photo exhibition on Partition Horrors Remembrance Day. A Two-minute silence was observed in the memory of those who lost their lives during the Partition of India.

The event also featured a moving theatrical performance by the artists that brought to light the trauma, hardship, and displacement experienced by millions during the Partition.

Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson, J&K Waqf Board; Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Shri Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, Shri Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary Culture; Shri Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organisation) BJP J&K; senior officials, prominent citizens from different walks of life and youth in large number were present.

Scar of Partition is

their lives enduring inhuman suffering, and tens of millions were forced to abandon their homes, property, and loved ones and become displaced.

"This scar of the country's partition, which is a gift from the Congress, will never be forgotten by history. I pay my respectful homage to all those who lost their lives in this catastrophe and to those who struggled against the atrocities," he said.

Shah said through Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, the Modi government is reaching the memories of this tragedy to the youth, so that the forces seeking to divide the country again can never succeed and 'One India, Excellent India' becomes our supreme goal.

J&K Set To Observe

Independence Day function at Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar, while Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary will lead the main celebration at Maulana Azad Stadium in Jammu, the official said, adding that the administration has made arrangements for the ceremonial functions, including parades, cultural programmes and other activities, while full dress rehearsals have been conducted at various venues ahead of the celebrations.

He said that security has been strengthened across Jammu and Kashmir, particularly around major venues, sensitive installations, highways,

entry and exit points and vulnerable areas along the Line of Control and International Border.

The security grid has been reinforced along stretches of the LoC, including Gurez, Uri, Karnah and Tangdhar sectors of North Kashmir and the Sunderbani area of Jammu, the official said.

He said that additional surveillance and area domination measures have also been put in place along the International Border in the Jammu region, with security personnel maintaining round-the-clock patrolling and monitoring sensitive locations.

Another official said that troops deployed along the LoC have intensified patrolling and surveillance and are maintaining close coordination to detect and respond to any suspicious movement or possible infiltration attempt. "Security forces have also deployed modern surveillance equipment, including drones and quadcopters equipped with high-resolution cameras and night-vision capabilities, in difficult and vulnerable areas. Smart fencing and electronic surveillance systems have been strengthened at vulnerable points to supplement physical barriers and improve detection capabilities along the borders," he said, adding, "Rapid response teams and specialised units have been kept ready for quick deployment to sensitive locations, while bulletproof and all-terrain vehicles are being used to facilitate movement in mountainous and difficult terrain."

The official said that security forces have also conducted operational exercises to sharpen their response to possible infiltration attempts and attacks on forward positions.

Recently, troops in the Sunderbani sector conducted drills simulating infiltration and attacks on fortified positions to test coordination, firepower and rapid-response capabilities.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police have intensified checking and surveillance in sensitive and border areas besides strengthening security at key entry and exit points, he said.

"Security agencies are maintaining close coordination and sharing intelligence inputs to prevent any attempt to disrupt the Independence Day celebrations or exploit increased movement during the occasion," the official added.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has appealed to people across the Union Territory to participate in the Independence Day celebrations in large numbers and attend functions being organised at district and other levels.

Officials said the public participation would add to the spirit of the national celebration and make the programmes across Jammu and Kashmir more inclusive.

The administration has urged people to join the celebrations peacefully and observe Independence Day with enthusiasm and patriotic spirit.

With security arrangements and civil preparations completed, authorities said all necessary measures have been put in place for smooth conduct of the August 15 functions across Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

Rain, Hailstorm

significant losses.

Meanwhile, Flash floods were also reported from Pahalgal following an intense spell of rain. Nallah Awoora overflowed, washing away a makeshift road constructed in the Awoora area. The same route had earlier been washed away during a cloudburst.

Pertinently, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Srinagar had earlier issued a warning for several areas, forecasting heavy rain and brief intense showers over Anantnag, Pahalgal, Tral, Pulwama, Kulgam, Banihal-Ramban and Shopian.

The warning, issued at 2:46 pm, remained valid until 5:46 pm and cautioned that the intense showers could trigger flash floods, landslides and mudslides, particularly in Pahalgal, Shopian, Kulgam, Anantnag and Ramban districts.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar said rain was recorded over many parts of Rajouri, Shopian, Kulgam, eastern parts of Srinagar, Anantnag, Banihal-Ramban, Kishtwar and adjoining areas.

It predicted that the ongoing spell of rain and thundershowers could continue over many places, with brief intense heavy showers likely over Ganderbal, eastern Srinagar, the Hazratbal-Zakura axis, Shopian, Kulgam, Anantnag, Tral, hilly areas of Ganderbal, Ramban, Udhampur, Reasi, Doda and Kishtwar during the following three to five hours.

The weather office warned that intense showers could generate localised flash floods, mudslides and landslides in hilly areas. It also cautioned of possible shooting stones and landslides at some vulnerable locations.

In the past 24 hours, significant rainfall was recorded at several stations, with Kathua receiving 62.4 mm, Bhaderwah 62.2 mm and Reasi ARG 34.5 mm, according to the Meteorological Centre.

The weather office said a spell of rain and thundershowers was expected at many places on Friday, with brief intense showers likely towards the afternoon.

On Saturday, light to moderate rain and thundershowers are expected at many places of Jammu and Kashmir during the late night and early morning hours, followed by another brief spell towards the afternoon.

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

The Meteorological Centre has warned of the possibility of heavy rain and brief intense heavy showers in some districts of the Jammu division during this period, along with brief intense showers in one or two districts of the Kashmir division.

Such torrential or intense showers could trigger flash floods, landslides, mudslides and waterlogging in low-lying areas, it said.

From August 20 to 22, light rain and thundershowers are expected at scattered places across Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

ADDRESS:- SADAT MARKET, NEAR PNB, SHADIPORA SUMBAL



+91- 9906230114- 6006600834

DAR MATTING SHOP

DEALS IN:- BLANKETS, BED SHEETS, BED COVERS, PILLOW COVERS, DOOR MATS, ROOM SHEETS, GRAPHICS, LINING, ROTTERY & MUCH MORE

CS reviews measures to strengthen J&K’s handicrafts, handloom sector

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: With nearly 5 lakh artisans and weavers now registered and handicraft exports running in billions, Jammu & Kashmir is steadily expanding the institutional and market ecosystem around its traditional crafts, with Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Friday taking stock of the initiatives underway to further consolidate this momentum across the Union Territory.

The review meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Director, Industries, Jammu; Director, Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir/Jammu; Managing Director, J&K Handicrafts & Handloom Corporation (JKHHMC); and senior representatives of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Srinagar, Craft Development Institute (CDI) and Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT), Srinagar.

The Chief Secretary undertook a detailed assessment of the initiatives aimed at upgrading laboratories, developing craft villages and Common Facility Centres (CFCs), strengthening wool processing and testing facilities, promoting quality assurance and GI-tagging, besides improving market linkages and access to institutional credit for artisans and weavers.

The Chief Secretary directed the Department



to expedite completion of all ongoing projects in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions, observing that the benefits of these investments should reach artisans and the wider craft ecosystem on the ground without delay.

He laid particular emphasis on strengthening the quality-testing and certification ecosystem, including upgradation of laboratories, development of craft villages, CFCs for dyeing and other specialised activities, wool processing facilities, testing infrastructure and GI-tagging of finished products.

Dulloo called for introduction of vocational and skill-oriented courses at NIFT Srinagar, including diploma and certificate programmes, to provide local youth greater access to the national-level institution. He observed that such courses could also contribute towards preservation and revival of traditional and dying crafts by creating a new generation of skilled artisans.

On GI-tagged products,

the Chief Secretary stressed the need for an effective traceability and tracking mechanism to establish the authenticity of products reaching the market. He directed the Department to ascertain and maintain a clear record of the number of GI-tagged products manufactured and labelled so far.

The Chief Secretary further called for leveraging Internet of Things (IoT)-based technology to determine the working hours and effort involved in producing individual craft products. He observed that such data could help ensure that remuneration paid to artisans is commensurate with the time and skill invested, thereby protecting their earning potential and making traditional crafts economically viable for the younger generation.

Earlier the Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh highlighted that the sector has maintained a strong export trajectory, with handicraft

exports reaching ₹817.39 Cr during FY 2025-26 and ₹73.85 Cr already been recorded during the first quarter of ensuing financial year.

He further divulged that a substantial expansion of the sector’s institutional base, with 4,61,381 artisans and weavers registered across Jammu & Kashmir with another 13,264 artisans been registered, including 7,919 in Kashmir and 5,345 in Jammu this year.

Giving further details a presentation was made by Director, Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, Mussarat-ul-Islam, apprising that the Department is actively promoting the Credit Card Scheme for Artisans/Weavers, under which beneficiaries can avail credit support of up to ₹2 lakh, backed by 7 per cent interest subvention for five years.

Adding that during the current financial year, 2,750 cases have been sponsored this year resulting in disbursement of ₹688.60 lakh so far to the artisans of the UT.

It was made out that the Department has analysed 1,63,875 artisans in Kashmir and 34,520 in Jammu for credit coverage. While around 56 per cent have been covered under credit schemes, the remaining 44 per cent have been identified for focused financial onboarding.

The process of data synchronisation and automated interest subsidy is also being strengthened through J&K Bank API integration and Aadhaar seeding, facilitating more efficient delivery of financial benefits.

The meeting was also apprised about the progress made under the Department’s capital expenditure programme. It was revealed that at Sonpah Craft Village, Budgam, a formal land transfer order has been issued to the Industries & Commerce Department. Against the total project cost of ₹10 Cr, the first tranche of ₹4.50 Cr has already been released.

The Pashmina Testing & Quality Certification Centre (PTQCC) has been substantially upgraded with five advanced equipment categories, including a Projection Microscope, OFDA-4000, two High-Resolution Digital Microscopes and a Scanning Electron Microscope. The enhanced infrastructure has increased testing capacity nearly three-fold, reduced the testing waitlist by around 40 per cent to 30-45 days and raised throughput to 120-140 tests per day.

SBSP organises Tiranga Rally in Srinagar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP), Jammu & Kashmir, organised a grand Tiranga Rally in Srinagar under the leadership of Shri Vivek Bali, State President, SBSP J&K, to promote patriotism, national unity, and pride in the National Flag.

The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation from senior party leaders, party workers, members, and supporters, who came together to honour the Tiranga and reaffirm their commitment to the unity, integrity, and sovereignty

of the nation.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Vivek Bali said that the Hon’ble Prime Minister has also called upon citizens to promote and participate in the “Har Ghar Tiranga” campaign, encouraging every household to proudly display the National Flag. He said that the Tiranga is a symbol of India’s unity, dignity, and national pride, and that every citizen should come forward to uphold its honour.

Shri Bali further stated that the Tiranga Rally was organised to spread the message of patriotism, unity, and brother-

hood among the people of Jammu & Kashmir. He urged citizens, especially the youth, to actively participate in Har Ghar Tiranga and celebrate the spirit of national unity.

Senior party leaders, dedicated party workers, members, and supporters participated in the rally with great enthusiasm, making the programme a significant occasion for the SBSP in Srinagar. Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) J&K reiterated its commitment to strengthening national unity, social harmony, and the spirit of patriotism across Jammu & Kashmir.

Rather greets people on Urs of Hazrat Sultan Ali Aali Balkhi (RA)

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, has extended warm greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of the Urs of Hazrat Sultan Ali Aali Balkhi (RA), which is scheduled to commence from August 15.

In his message, the Speaker highlighted the deep spiritual and reli-

gious significance of the occasion. He said that the annual observance of this religious festival holds immense importance for the devotees across Jammu and Kashmir and beyond. He said that a large number of devotees are expected to visit the revered shrine of Hazrat Sultan Ali Aali Balkhi (RA) at Pakherpora during the 20-day-long Urs.

The Speaker particularly underscored that major

religious gatherings are expected on the 11th and 13th days of the Islamic calendar, with Poshak Bandi on August 25 and Shab Khawani on August 27.

In view of the anticipated heavy footfall, he stressed the need for meticulous advance planning and coordinated arrangements to ensure that the devotees are able to participate in the religious gatherings peacefully, safely and conveniently.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ghulam Mustafa Wani, son of Ghulam Rasool Wani, resident of Kreeri, Baramulla, hereby inform the general public that the electricity connection bearing Consumer ID No. 0212040000034 is currently registered in the name of my father, Ghulam Rasool Wani, resident of Kreeri, Baramulla. Now, I intend to transfer the said electricity connection into my own name, i.e., Ghulam Mustafa Wani, son of Ghulam Rasool Wani, resident of Kreeri, Baramulla. Upon transfer, all future rights, responsibilities, and liabilities related to the above connection shall rest solely with me. If any person has any objection to this proposed transfer, they may contact concerned department within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No claims or objections shall be entertained after the expiry of the said period.

Ghulam Mustafa Wani
Son of Ghulam Rasool Wani
Resident of Kreeri, Baramulla

Government of Jammu and Kashmir OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER HOMSHALIBUGH

Subject: - Provisional merit list of applicants for the post of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helper) advertised vide this office: - 01- CDPO HSB of 2026 dated: - 06-01-2026, 02- CDPO HSB of 2026 dated: - 30-05-2026, 03- CDPO HSB of 2026 Dated: - 29-06-2026 and 4- CDPO HSB of 2026 dated: - 06-07-2026.

(PUBLIC NOTICE)

In pursuance to Government Order No: -222-JK (SWD) Of 2022 Dated: - 30.11.2023 and order No: - 103 - JK - (SWD) of 2023 Dated: - 28.04.2023, and Approval has been accorded by Mission Director Poshan J&K vide letter No: - MD/Poshan /47205-12 Dated: 24-12-2025 and forwarded by District Programme Officer Poshan Projects Kulgam vide letter No: DPO/POSHAN/KUL/ 2025-26/555 Dated: - 29-12-2025 issued by District Programme Officer Poshan Kulgam and MD/Poshan/22255-62 Dated: - 18-06-2026. The Provisional merit list of eligible Sahayikas (AWHs) framed by this office is placed at annexure "A".

ANNEXURE-A

General Merit List of Shahayika (AWHs) of Poshan Project H S Bugh

S.No	Name of the Candidate	Parentage/ Spouse	Name of AWC	Ward No	Qualification	DOB	Marital Status	Max Marks	Marks Obtained	Percentage of Marks
1	Sabeela Farooq	Irfan Manzoor Malik	Arwani-B	1	10th	15-03-1990	Married	500	315	63.00%
2	Arefa Jan	Ramiz Ahmad Wani	Trubjee-A	1	10th	25-10-1990	Married	500	208	41.60%
3	Salmah Nazir	Nazir Ahmad Ganie	Frisal-B	9	10th	01-03-2001	Un-Married	500	170	34.00%
4	Shazia Abdulah	Mohd.Abdulah Bhat	Kokergund-C	7	10th	10-03-2002	Un-Married	500	413	82.60%
5	Ruby Jan	Rameez Raja	Wanpoh-B	6	10th	03-04-1994	Married	500	358	71.60%
6	Heena Rehman	Ab.Rahman Bhat	Wanpoh_B	6	10th	15-07-1994	Un-married	500	330	66.00%
7	Igra Jan	Suhail Ahmad Bhat	Shamsipora-C	2	8th	01-12-1994	Married	500	217	43.40%
8	Ishrat Altaf	Sajad Ahmad Bhat	Khandiphari-C	5	10th	20-06-1998	Married	500	216	43.20%
9	Ruby Jan	Nazir Ahmad Sheikh	Khandiphari-C	5	10th	28-02-1989	Married	500	199	39.80%
10	Ruqia Yousoof	Mubashir Hamid	Kujar-D	6	10th	05-09-1996	Married	500	285	57.00%
11	Rani Mehke Aziz	Mohd Asif Khan	Kujar-D	6	10th	14-01-2001	Married	500	247	49.40%
12	Jacee Abdullah	Sajad Ahmad Hajam	Kujar-D	6	10th	18-11-1991	Married	500	188	37.50%
13	Shaziya Yousof	Azad Ahmad Bhat	Batapora-C	4	10th	23-03-1989	Married	500	197	39.40%
14	Shaney Khursheed	Mudasir Yousof	Uranhall-A	1	10th	02-03-1989	Married	500	200	40.00%
15	Shahzada Akhter	Gh.Rasool Dar	Batengo-B	1	8th	20-02-1989	Married	500	195	39.00%
16	Aabida Ayoub	Shahid Bashir	Hangalbusah-A	1	10th	06-03-1999	Married	500	305	61.00%
17	Nilofer Akhter	Safder Ali	Hangalbusah-A	1	10th	27-04-1995	Married	500	274	54.80%
18	Masrat Reyaz	Sartaj Ahmad Bhat	Hangalbusah-A	1	10th	05-07-1998	Married	500	205	41.00%
19	Fancy Jan	Shakoor Ali Dar	Hangalbusah-B	3	10th	10-07-1992	Married	500	265	53.00%
20	Khalida Abdullah	Suhail Rashid	Hangalbusah-B	3	10th	08-03-1999	Married	500	248	49.60%
21	Sabi Jan	Rayees Ahmad Itoo	Hangalbusah-B	3	10th	09-04-1992	Married	500	218	43.60%
22	Ulfat Jan	Aejaz Ahmad Khanday	Hangalbusah-B	3	10th	04-04-1990	Married	500	195	39.00%
23	Rizwana Farooq	Rayees Ahmad Dar	Bogund-A	5	10th	04-04-1997	Married	500	314	62.80%
24	Rassy Jan	Ab.Rashid Dar	Bogund-A	5	10th	15-08-2000	Married	500	234	46.80%
25	Sumeeta Javaid	Arshid Hussain Lone	Lalipora	3	10th	15-09-1995	Married	500	311	62.20%
26	Rufee Jan	Nasrullah Rashid	Lalipora	3	10th	09-11-1989	Married	500	266	53.20%
27	Uzmath Jan	Aliyas Mohd	Lalipora	3	10th	20-01-1999	Married	500	245	49.00%
28	Chasfeedah Hassan	Shahid Yousof Sheikh	H S Bugh-A	5	10th	01-06-1995	Married	500	207	41.40%
29	Toiba Mushtaq	Mushtaq Ahmad Lone	H S Bugh-A	5	10th	06-09-2002	Married	500	312	62.40%
30	Rabiya Mushtaq	Mushtaq Ahmad Lone	H S Bugh-A	5	10th	24-07-2004	Married	500	312	62.40%
31	Shanee Gulzar	Gulzar Ahmad Parray	H S Bugh-A	5	10th	01-01-1995	Married	500	204	40.80%
32	Mehnaza Jan	Mohd Iqbal Bhat	Nai Basti Qaimoh	2	8th	03-04-1990	Married	500	285	57.00%
33	Roomi Jan	Shabir Ahmad Rather	Frisal-C	2	10th	04-09-1996	Married	500	327	65.40%
34	Maryama Akhter	Arif Sajad Shah	Frisal-C	2	10th	20-04-1991	Married	500	201	40.20%
35	Masrat Maqbool	Mohammad Maqbool Dar	Frisal-C	2	10th	06-05-2005	Married	500	285	57.00%
36	Adfar Sikander	Shahnawaz Ahmad Shah	Mah	9	10th	07-07-1994	Married	500	339	67.80%
37	Aaliya Nazir	Aamir Hussain Wani	Mah	9	10th	02-05-1996	Married	500	250	50.00%
38	Neelofer Akhter	Bilal Ahmad Wani	Mah	9	10th	03-02-1993	Married	500	190	38.00%
39	Sabreena Amin	Tahir Rashid Dar	Kaladrung-A	2	10th	10-08-2002	Married	500	263	52.60%
40	Tabasum Ara	Aamir Mushtaq Ganie	Paljan	2	10th	06-02-1998	Married	500	350	70.00%

No: - CDPO /POSHAN /HSB/Rect./2026-27/ 373-77
Dated: - 14-08-2026

DIPK-4611-26
DT: 14/08/2026

Sd/-
Child Development Project Officer
Poshan Project H S Bugh.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER, GANDERBAL

ADDRESS: MINI SECRETARIAT, GANDERBAL-191201

Tel. No.: 0194-2416909 Fax:-0194-2416135 email:- ceo.ganderbal@jk.gov.in

Subject: - Final Seniority List in respect of Class IV including I/c Lab. Assistants and I/c Library Assistants.

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, this office issued the Tentative Seniority List of 217 No. of MTS/Incharge Lab. Assistants/ Lib. Assistants vide No. CEO/Gbl/Estt-I/NT/2026/5871-76 dated 12-06-2026 for inviting objections, if any, from the officials of the cadre within the stipulated period; Whereas, the said Tentative Seniority List was duly notified through the official WhatsApp group on the issued date and published in the daily newspaper viz The Kashmir Observer & Maqсад on 07-07-2026, providing an opportunity to all concerned to submit objections/representations, if any; Whereas, this office has received various representations/ objections from various DDOs viz Principals, ZEOs and Headmasters, with regard to the corrections in service particulars of various officials and inclusion of recently absorbed CPWs as MTS.

Whereas, these representations were considered on merit and were accordingly incorporated in the seniority list.

Now, therefore, after due consideration of the available service records and after finalizing the representations, the Final Seniority List of 237 MTS/Incharge Lab. Assistants/Lib. Assistants is hereby finalized, subject to correction of any inadvertent error and further orders, if any, issued by the competent authority.

No: CEO/Gbl/Estt-I/NT/2026/
Dated:- /08/2026

DIPK-4589-26
DT: 14/08/2026

Sd/=
Chief Education Officer
Ganderbal

RANGE POLICE HEADQUARTERS BATOTE

Email:- digdodaoff@jkpolice.gov.in | Contact:- 01998-244363

NOTICE-1

C/t. Kuldeep Singh,
PID No. EXJ-005934 S/o Rimal Singh

R/o VIII. Chachwal Tehsil Hiranagar District Kathua
(Now District Samba)

- Whereas, you were adjusted in the DKR Range vide ZPHQ Jammu Order No. 408 of 2021 dated 30.03.2021 and physically relieved from DPL Jammu on 26.05.2021 with the directions to report at this Hqrs.
- Whereas, you were repeatedly informed through the SHO, Police Station Hiranagar, vide this Hqrs. Signals No. Estt/ADJ/2021/2880-82 dated 12.06.2021, No. Estt/ADJ/2021/6744 dated 29.11.2021, No. Estt/ADJ/2021/1896-98 dated 12.03.2022, No. Estt/ADJ/2022/6556-58 dated 16.08.2022, No. Estt/ADJ/2023/3350-52 dated 24.03.2023, and No. Estt/ADJ/2023/7979-81 dated 20.07.2023, to report at RPHQ Batote for further adjustment, despite repeated communications and directions, you neither reported nor joined RPHQ Batote till date.
- Whereas, you remained un-authorized absent from duty for a period exceeding five years since 2021, such prolonged unauthorized absence constitutes grave service-misconduct and tantamount to derelictions towards duty which warranting stern departmental action against you under rules.
- Whereas, such act on your part is grave service misconduct/disobedience/carelessness/negligence attitude towards lawful duties, which is against the norms of disciplined force and loss of appointment in terms of rules 128 CSR VOL-1st read with 208 (G) J&K Police manual VOL-2nd. Now I Sargun Shukla, IPS, DIGP DKR Range called Constable Kuldeep Singh, PID No.EXJ-005934, S/o Rimal Singh R/o Vill. Chachwal Tehsil Hiranagar District Kathua (now District Samba) through the medium of this notice to show cause of un-authorized absence as to why you should not be discharged from service. You are at the liberty to explain the cause of fail to join/reported at this Hqrs. within 07 days positively from the date of issuance of this notice through SHO P/S Ghagwal. In case you fail to explain your position within stipulated time, it shall be presumed that you are not interested to serve in the department anymore and proceeding for your discharge from service shall be initiated under rules.

Hence, "Notice-1" is served upon you through your concerned Police Station i.e. Police Station Ghagwal to join/resume duties immediately otherwise stern departmental action will be initiated against you under rules.

No. Estt/Notice/Adjust/2026/13413-50
Dated: 13.08.2026

DIPK-4560-26
DT: 14/08/2026

Sargun Shukla-IPS
Dy. Inspector General of Police,
DKR Range, Hqrs. Batote.

