

Good Morning

Kashmir

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‘Resignation Will Come,’ Says Ruhullah

Writes Open Letter To Senior Abdullah



**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** Srinagar MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Friday wrote a letter to party president Farooq Abdullah and questioned party’s leadership position on the restoration of Article 370.

In a letter dated August 28, 2026, addressed to the party president, Mehdi referred to remarks made during a press statement on August 25 in which the leadership had questioned how long people would “be a slave” and urged them to stand on their feet.

Mehdi said those remarks resonated with the frustration felt by many in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly over the perception that the region’s demands were being pursued from a position of supplication before the BJP-led government at the Centre.

However, he questioned why the same political position was being criticised when he raised similar issues. “I refuse to believe that your statement is merely ‘hollow posturing’ for ‘public consumption’, while your politics reflects

**Set To Resign From NC, Parliament**

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** After months of speculation, member of parliament from Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency and senior National Conference leader Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi has confirmed he will resign from both the party and Parliament in November.

“I have decided to resign from the party and Parliament in

Devotees Throng Hazratbal On Friday Following Eid-e-Milad

Dargah Has Always Been A Place Of Faith And Peace, Say Devotees

REHAN QAYOOM

**SRINAGAR:** An ocean of devotion swept through Dargah Hazratbal on Friday as thousands of devotees gathered at the revered shrine for congregational prayers following Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW, commemorating the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

The shrine, located on the banks of Dal Lake, witnessed a flow of devotees from different parts of Kashmir, who joined congregational prayers and religious gatherings amid recitations of Durood-o-Azkar.

According to details obtained, the Holy Relic believed to be of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was displayed at the shrine, drawing devotees who offered prayers and sought blessings.

The atmosphere around Hazratbal remained deeply spiritual, with devotees filling the shrine premises and adjoining areas as religious scholars and preachers spoke about the life, teachings and message of



the Prophet, stressing peace, compassion, brotherhood and mutual respect.

National Conference president and former Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah also joined the congregational prayers at Hazratbal along with thousands of devotees. Several Milad gatherings, prayers and religious programmes were also held at mosques and shrines across Srinagar and other parts of the Valley, with men, women and children participating in large numbers.

Manzoor Ahmed, a devotee from Soura, Srinagar, said Hazratbal has always been a place of faith and peace for him.

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESIDENT AND FORMER CHIEF MINISTER DR FAROOQ** Abdullah also joined the congregational prayers at Hazratbal along with thousands of devotees. Several Milad gatherings, prayers and religious programmes were also held at mosques and shrines across Srinagar and other parts of the Valley,

■ IMD Predicts Dry Weather

**J&K Sees Above-Normal Temperatures,**



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Weather remained largely dry across Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, with Srinagar recording a maximum temperature of 33.5 degrees Celsius, 4.2 degrees above normal.

According to the India Meteorological Department data accessed, the minimum temperature in Srinagar was recorded at 18.3 degrees Celsius, 1.6 degrees above normal, while no rainfall was recorded in the city during the past 24 hours. Qazigund recorded a maximum temperature of 32.6 degrees Celsius, 5.4 degrees above normal, while Pahalgam recorded 27.3 degrees Celsius, 2.6 degrees above normal. Kupwara recorded a high of 33.5 degrees Celsius, followed by Kokernag at 31 degrees Celsius and Gulmarg at 23.8 degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 34.6 degrees Celsius, 1.6 degrees above normal. Katra recorded 32.5 degrees, while Banihal and Batote recorded 30.4 and 28.1 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Counter-Terrorism Operations To Remain Top Focus In Kashmir: IGP



**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** Sujit Kumar, the newly appointed Inspector General of Police for the Kashmir Zone, Friday underscored that anti-terror and counter-insurgency efforts will remain the top priority for the Kashmir Police.

Making his inaugural field visit to the summer capital since taking over the reins on Thursday evening, Kumar assessed the on-ground security posture and inter-departmental synergy at key venues anticipated to draw sizeable crowds in

observance of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW).

When asked about the recent uptick in operational activity across the valley, IGP reiterated the force’s unwavering stance. He noted that security personnel have conducted numerous successful missions in various districts over recent days, yielding substantial seizures. “Operations have remained our first priority in the past and will continue to remain our first priority,” Kumar told reporters.

“I joined you yesterday, and today we are here first to assess the

J&K Sets Target Of 11,000 MW Hydropower Capacity By 2035

CS Reviews Project-Wise Milestones To Realise The Goal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu & Kashmir is set to witness a major transformation in its power landscape, with the Government charting a comprehensive, time-bound roadmap to raise its operational hydropower generation capacity to 10,969.65 MW by December 2035, more than three times the present installed capacity of 3,540.15 MW.

The ambitious roadmap, aimed at strengthening energy security, reducing dependence on external power and creating the foundation for long-term economic growth, was reviewed in detail during a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today.

The meeting besides

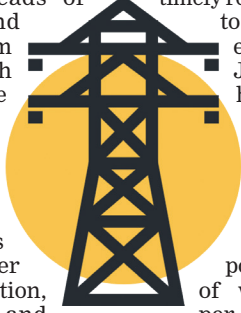
ACS Power was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Law; Secretary, Revenue; MD, JKPCIL; concerned Deputy Commissioners; Heads of Power Projects and Representatives from NHPC along with senior officers from the Power Development Department.

The meeting focused on the physical and financial progress of major hydropower projects under execution, their construction and commissioning schedules, as well as the milestones required to ensure timely addition of generation capacity over the coming decade.

The Chief Secretary stressed the need for sustained inter-departmental coordination, rigorous project monitoring and timely resolution of bottlenecks to maintain the pace of execution and unlock J&K’s considerable hydropower potential.

The ACS, PDD, Ashwani Kumar took this occasion to remark that Jammu & Kashmir has an identified hydropower potential of 14,635 MW, of which around 24.21 per cent has so far been harnessed across the UT, Central Sector and Independent Power Producer (IPP) projects.

He added that Chenab Basin constitutes the



Raksha Bandhan Celebrated Across Kashmir With Fervour

REHAN QAYOOM

**SRINAGAR:** Raksha Bandhan was celebrated across Kashmir Valley on Friday, with devotees visiting temples, offering prayers and seeking blessings on the occasion.

The festival, which celebrates the bond between brothers and sisters, was marked by religious ceremonies and family gatherings at various places across the Valley.

At the historic Shankaracharya Temple in Srinagar, devotees turned up in large numbers and were seen standing in long queues to enter the hilltop shrine and offer prayers.

Arun Kumar, a resident of Maharashtra who is visiting Kashmir with his family, said that they decided to celebrate the festival by visiting the temple.

“Raksha Bandhan is a special occasion for us. We



came here to offer prayers and seek blessings for the happiness, peace and well-being of our families. This is our first Raksha Bandhan in Kashmir, and we are enjoying it,” he said.

Another devotee, Amit Singh, said the peaceful atmosphere at the shrine made the occasion special. “The atmosphere here is very peaceful. Visiting the temple on Raksha Bandhan and offering prayers gives us a sense of spiritual fulfilment,” he said.

Raksha Bandhan is traditionally observed on the full-moon day of the Hindu month of Shravan,

Third Vande Bharat On Jammu-Srinagar Route Soon: Jitendra Singh

‘Railways Approves Udhampur Halt Following Public Demand’

RAJA SYED RATHER

**JAMMU:** Union Minister of State for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr Jitendra Singh, on Friday said that the third Vande Bharat train between Jammu and Srinagar will be launched soon, terming it a major development for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a video message shared by Singh and accessed , he said that the Ministry of Railways has also approved a halt at Udhampur following a demand raised by the public.

He said the approval for the Udhampur halt was particularly significant as it was earlier believed that a stop there would not be feasible.



Singh also thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Ministry of Railways and the Railway Minister for the development.

Reflecting on the expansion of the railway network in Jammu and Kashmir,

Singh said that when the Jammu railway station was established in 1972, it took nearly five decades for the railway network to advance further into the region.

He said the expansion gained momentum after Narendra

Modi became Prime Minister, with railway connectivity extended to Kathua and subsequently to Udhampur and the Kashmir Valley.

Singh further said that railway connectivity to the Kashmir Valley was once considered difficult because of the mountainous terrain, but the project was completed despite several challenges.

He also highlighted the construction of the world’s highest railway bridge over the Chenab River in Reasi as a major engineering achievement. He said the railway journey has also emerged as an attraction for tourists, with many visitors travelling by train from Jammu to Srinagar to experience the scenic beauty along the route—(KNO)

MK Sinha Takes Charge As New J&K CID Chief

KNO DESK

**SRINAGAR:** MK Sinha took over the charge as Additional Director General (ADG) of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) from Nitish Kumar, who has been transferred as ADG Armed Police J&K.

According to a statement, he held a meeting with senior officers of CID J&K and reviewed the overall functioning of intelligence wing after assuming the charge.

Sinha is an IPS officer of 1996 batch and was functioning as ADG (HQR) PHQ J&K, while Kumar is an IPS officer of 1999 batch and was functioning as ADG CID/Director SIA J&K.

Senior officers of CID J&K welcomed Sinha and assured him full cooperation and commitment in discharging their duties, the statement said.

They also wished a successful tenure for the outgoing ADG Kumar for his new assignment as ADG Armed J&K, it added—(KNO)

Nepal Flash Floods

Death Toll Rises To 579; Fear Of Fresh Floods Looms

MEA Says At Least 320 Indians Remain Missing



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KATHMANDU:** At least 579 people have died after a powerful flood surge and landslides swept through Nepal’s Bhotekoshi and Trishuli river regions earlier this week. In China, five people have died and 558 remain missing after flooding along its border with Nepal in Tibet. Rescue teams continue to search for survivors.

The death toll is expected to rise further as rescue

operations continue in the worst-hit areas. As of Thursday night, 290 Indians remained uncontactable in Nepal, while 84, including 63 workers from the Trishuli-I project and 21 from Tamil Nadu, were rescued.

Nepal had warned rescuers and residents to move to safer, higher ground after a dam upstream in Tibet burst, police said Friday. About 100 people are reportedly trapped in a hydropower tunnel. Rescue operations are



## CS sympathises with Rakesh Sharma on his mother's demise



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the demise of the mother of Shri Rakesh Sharma, Deputy Secretary, who passed away Friday.

In his condolence message, the Chief Secretary conveyed his heartfelt sympathies to Shri Rakesh Sharma and the

bereaved members of his family on their irreparable loss.

Dulloo described the passing away of a mother as a deeply painful personal loss, leaving an irreplaceable void in the lives of her children and family members.

He said that words can hardly provide solace at such a difficult moment, but the support and prayers of colleagues and well-wishers stand with the bereaved family in this hour of grief.

The Chief Secretary prayed to Almighty God to grant eternal peace to the departed soul and give Shri Rakesh Sharma and his family the strength, courage and fortitude to bear this irreparable loss.

## CUK's DMS observes World Lake Day 2026

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA:** Department of Management Studies (Rachrav Club), Central University of Kashmir (CUK) in collaboration with the Soroptimist International, Srinagar, with the active support of the district administration, Bandipora and the Wular Development Authority observed the World Lake Day at Wular Lake on Thursday.

As part of the observance, approximately 600 meters of the lake area were cleaned through the participation of students from MBA 1st and 3rd Semesters and BBAH 3rd and 5th Semesters.

The initiative was undertaken with the objective of promoting environmental awareness, civic responsibility, and community engagement among students, while sensitizing them towards the importance of preserving and protecting our natural water bodies. A key aim of the activity was to instill a sense of responsibility among students and nurture them as environmentally conscious and responsible citizens who actively contribute to society and the well-being of their communities.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Mir Insha Farooq, whose efforts facilitated the successful conduct of the initiative.

## Two hand grenades recovered during naka checking in B'la

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BARAMULLA:** Two hand grenades were recovered from a man during a naka checking operation in Kunzer area of Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district on Friday, officials said.

The recovery was made at Wussan Bangil by a joint team comprising personnel from Police Station Kunzer, SOG Kunzer, CRPF's 176 Battalion and the Army's 2 Rashtriya Rifles, they said.

According to officials, the security personnel were conducting checks of vehicles and pedestrians when a man allegedly tried to flee after noticing the naka party.

He was apprehended at the spot and identified as Shakir Nabi Lone, a resident of Hardu Aboora in Kunzer, officials said.

Two hand grenades were recovered from his possession during a personal search, they said.

A case under FIR No. 115/2026 has been registered at Police Station Kunzer under relevant provisions of law.

Further investigation into the matter is underway, officials said.

## Chota Amarnath Yatra Flagged Off from Kaloosa Bandipora



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA:** The annual Chota Amarnath Yatra was flagged off Friday from Sharda Mandir, Kaloosa, Bandipora, marking the beginning of the revered pilgrimage to the Chota Amarnath Holy Cave.

The Yatra was flagged off from Sharda Mandir, Kaloosa, by Senior Superintendent of Police Bandipora, Ajaz Ahmad Zargar, and Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl, in the presence of devotees, volunteers and local residents.

The Yatra holds deep spiritual significance for devotees of Lord Shiva and reflects the district's rich tradition of commu-

nal harmony and peaceful coexistence. Pilgrims embarked on the sacred journey with devotion and faith, seeking blessings at the holy cave.

Members of the Muslim community from the area were also present on the occasion and warmly welcomed the Yatrīs, extending their heartfelt greetings and best wishes for a peaceful, safe and blessed Yatra.

The District Administration, in coordination with the Police and other concerned departments, had put in place necessary arrangements for the smooth and safe conduct of the pilgrimage. The arrangements included track development, sanitation facilities, langar

services, medical support, security deployment and provision of safe drinking water along the route.

The 15-kilometre Yatra proceeds from Arin-Dardpora through Shamphan and culminates at the Chota Amarnath Cave. Adequate security personnel, medical teams and volunteers were deployed at key locations to facilitate the pilgrims and ensure a safe and hassle-free journey.

Among others, Additional Superintendent of Police Mir Murtaza Hussain Sohail, Assistant Regional Transport Officer Bandipora Mukhtar Ahmad Sofi and other officers of the district administration, volunteers, devotees and local residents were present on the occasion.

## DDC Kupwara directs stringent Enforcement of Tobacco Control Laws



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KUPWARA:** A comprehensive review meeting of the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) and the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA)-2003 was held Friday at the District Administrative Complex, Kupwara.

The meeting was chaired by District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse wherein the district's overall performance under the programme was reviewed threadbare and a roadmap for stringent enforcement and mass awareness was laid down.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Kupwara made a detailed presentation

before the chair, apprising the meeting about the achievements made so far, challenges being faced, and enforcement statistics under COTPA-2003 across all blocks of the district.

The DDC directed all enforcement officers and concerned departments to intensify anti-tobacco drives and improve the rate of COTPA challans within their respective jurisdictions.

He further directed all participating officers to submit regular monthly progress reports on COTPA challans and other enforcement measures to the CMO Office, Kupwara, without fail.

The DDC also directed for installation of prominent Information, Education and Communication (IEC) mate-

rial, containing provisions and health warnings under NTCP and COTPA, at all high-footfall public places across the district.

The meeting set a target of declaring 100 villages of the district as complete Tobacco-Free Villages by the end of the current year. The DDC further directed that all educational institutions, including schools and colleges, shall be made 100 percent Tobacco-Free Campuses by the end of December 2026.

The meeting was attended among others by SDM Lolab, Dr Mudasir Ahmad, CMO Kupwara, DYSP Har Kupwara, all Block Medical Officers (BMOs), Food Safety Officer, besides other concerned officers and officials.



## NITI Aayog Member Dr. M. Srinivas Visits CSIR-IIIM Srinagar

Reviews Science, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Ecosystem

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Member, NITI Aayog, Dr. M. Srinivas, visited the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Srinagar, and reviewed the institute's ongoing work in scientific research, innovation, entrepreneurship and societal outreach initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr. Srinivas was accompanied by Shri Subhash Chandra Meena, Economic Adviser, NITI Aayog; Dr. Muniraju S.B., Deputy Adviser, NITI Aayog; and Ms. Sumaya Yousuf, Pro-

gram Lead, Atal Innovation Mission. The delegation interacted with scientists, scholars, startups and officials and reviewed a range of science-led initiatives being undertaken by CSIR-IIIM and its innovation ecosystem.

As part of the visit, Dr. Srinivas toured the AIC-IIIM Bioinnovation Foundation, the Atal Incubation Centre housed at the institute, and reviewed its incubation and entrepreneurship activities. He was briefed on the support being extended to innovators and startups through mentorship, institutional

guidance, technology development and enterprise creation.

Interacting with scientists and researchers, Dr. Srinivas appreciated the breadth of research being carried out at CSIR-IIIM, including work in phytochemicals, medicinal and aromatic plants, floriculture and healthcare-related research. He highlighted the importance of translating scientific discoveries into technologies, products and solutions that can generate wider societal benefits and improve quality of life.

## Joint Operation against Illegal Brick Kilns conducted in Khansahib



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM:** A joint enforcement operation was conducted Friday by the Police and Sub-Divisional Administration Khansahib against illegal brick kilns operating without requisite permissions in various areas of the sub-division.

The joint team, led by SDM Khansahib, Jahangir Ahmad Giri, along with SDPO Khansahib, Sakib Gani, Tehsildar Khansahib, Moin Azhar Kakroo, concerned SHO's and other officials, carried out inspections of brick kilns found operating without

valid permissions and requisite clearances.

During the inspection, the concerned operators were directed to immediately stop all operations and were warned against carrying out any further activity in violation of the prescribed rules and regulations.

The operators were also instructed to clear the dues of the labourers and disengage them at the sites and completely cease operations within one day. The enforcement team made it clear that failure to comply with the directions would invite strict legal and administrative action, including demo-

lition/removal of illegal structures and assets established in violation of the law.

The administration reiterated that such enforcement measures are aimed at ensuring strict compliance with government regulations, protecting public resources and maintaining environmental and administrative discipline across the sub-division.

The Sub-Divisional Administration further warned that no unauthorized brick kiln activity will be permitted and that strict action will be taken against violators as per the applicable rules.

### Raksha Bandhan

## Women tie Rakhis to DC Anantnag, Officers at Prachin Shiv Temple



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**ANANTNAG:** On the auspicious occasion of Raksha Bandhan (Shravan Purnima), Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, Friday visited the ancient Prachin Shiv Temple at Thajiwara, Bijbehara, joining a large congregation of devotees during the celebrations.

The DC was accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Tariq Ahmad Malik, Tehsildar and SDPO, Bijbehara, officers from line departments, and representatives of the temple management.

A large number of devotees visited the revered temple with enthusiasm and traditional fervor to pay their obeisance, offer prayers, and perform sacred rituals including tying of Rakhis, marking the culmination of the month of Shravan.

During the visit, the DC participated in the ceremonial observances alongside

the devotees and expressed hope that the festival would bring prosperity, harmony, and happiness to people's lives. He observed that traditional festivals like Raksha Bandhan present an ideal opportunity to strengthen bonds of love among siblings as well as between different communities. As a gesture of mutual love and respect, women present at the venue tied Rakhis to the Deputy Commissioner and other officers.

Interacting with the gathering, the DC extended his warm greetings, stating that the historic temple has long stood as a symbol of brotherhood that defines the region's rich heritage. He appreciated the enduring spirit of unity among the people and urged everyone to continue preserving the area's cultural and religious traditions.

On the occasion, the DC reviewed the overall arrangements and directed the concerned departments to ensure all basic

facilities including uninterrupted power and water supply, sanitation, traffic management, and medical care remain available to the devotees. He instructed officials to keep all services fully operational throughout the festivities so that the celebrations proceed smoothly and hassle-free.

Reiterating the district administration's commitment to the seamless conduct of such vibrant events, Dr. Bilal directed all departments to maintain close coordination with temple representatives, address emerging issues promptly, and extend full support to the devotees. Furthermore, he directed officials from the executing agency to expedite ongoing repair and renovation works at the temple.

The devotees and other participants expressed their gratitude to the district administration for its proactive support and the elaborate arrangements provided during the festival.

## Ministry of MSME holds first-ever CBP at Tangdar, Keran

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** In a significant initiative aimed at extending the reach of entrepreneurship development and MSME schemes to the remotest areas of Jammu & Kashmir, the Branch MSME Development & Facilitation Office (DFO), Srinagar, Ministry of MSME, organized entrepreneurship awareness and capacity-building programmes at Tangdar and Keran, two border areas of Kupwara district.

The programmes, organized with the active support and coordination of the District Administration, Kupwara, mark the first-ever such capacity-building and entrepreneurship awareness initiatives undertaken by the Ministry of MSME in these remote border areas. The initiative was conceived with the objective of taking information about Government schemes and programmes directly to the people residing in areas where access to formal entrepreneurship-support mechanisms



and institutional guidance remains limited.

The programmes focused on creating awareness regarding various schemes and initiatives of the Ministry of MSME and other Government departments aimed at promoting self-employment, entrepreneurship, skill development and enterprise creation. Particular emphasis was laid on schemes such as the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), PM Vishwakarma, and other entrepreneurship and livelihood-oriented initiatives of the Union Government and the Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

The sessions provided participants with information regarding the eligibility criteria, application procedures, financial

assistance, credit-linked support, skill development opportunities and other benefits available under various schemes. Officials also interacted directly with participants and addressed their queries regarding starting and expanding small enterprises.

The response from both locations was encouraging. At Keran, a large number of students participated enthusiastically and showed keen interest in understanding various avenues available for entrepreneurship, self-employment and enterprise development. The interaction highlighted the aspirations of the younger generation in remote border areas and their willingness to explore opportunities beyond traditional

employment avenues.

At Tangdar, the programme witnessed particularly encouraging participation from women, who expressed considerable interest in entrepreneurial activities and in understanding Government support available for starting small businesses and income-generating activities. The interaction underlined the considerable potential for promoting women-led enterprises and strengthening household livelihoods through entrepreneurship in remote areas.

The programmes were graced by A.K. Tamaria, Joint Director and Head of Office, MSME DFO Jammu, who interacted with the participants and highlighted the importance of developing an entrepreneurial ecosystem that reaches every section of society, irrespective of geographical location. He further motivated participants to avail benefits of the scheme implemented by the Centre and UT government.

Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Director, Branch MSME DFO Srinagar, Saheel Alaqband, emphasized the importance of taking Government schemes to the last mile.

"The objective of such programmes is not merely to conduct awareness activities, but to ensure that information about Government schemes reaches those who need it the most. People living in remote and border areas often have limited opportunities and limited access to institutional guidance. It may be challenging to organize programmes in such locations, but that is precisely why such initiatives are important. If opportunities cannot reach these communities through conventional means, we must take the opportunities to their doorstep," he said.

The initiative reflects the Ministry of MSME's continued commitment towards inclusive enterprise development and last-mile delivery of Government schemes.



# Article 371 will protect Ladakh’s unique culture, safeguard its interests: Rijiju

Says PM Modi to visit Ladakh; GoI laying strong foundation for region’s future

RAJA SYED

**LEH:** Asserting that Article 371 would help protect unique culture of Ladakh and safeguard its interests, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju on Friday said that Government of India is committed to providing special provisions to the region.

Addressing a gathering in Leh, Rijiju, said, “Union Home Minister Amit Shah has given a commitment to the people of Ladakh regarding special provisions under Article 371.”

“This is a very big commitment. Article 371 has special provisions for certain states. The process of providing special provisions for Ladakh, following the announcement by Home Minister Amit Shah and with the blessings of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is now taking shape,” he said.

Rijiju said the earlier provisions related to autonomous councils did not provide the same level of empowerment, adding that preparations were also underway for the cre-



ation of seven districts in Ladakh.

“Earlier, there were only two districts, Leh and Kargil. Now, with seven districts, there will also be seven councils. This is aimed at empowering people at the grassroots level and strengthening democracy,” he said.

The Union Minister said, “PM Modi-led government is committed to the development of Ladakh and has assured its people that all necessary facilities, including road connectivity and telecommunications in border areas, will be provided in a time-bound manner.”

“We had said that in your border areas, com-

plete road connectivity, telecommunication and all other facilities will be provided in a time-bound manner, one after another. The work being carried out under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is progressing in this direction,” he said.

Rijiju said the work being undertaken by the Government of India would lay a strong foundation for Ladakh’s future, adding that development would continue in a phased manner.

“Everything cannot be done at once. The work will continue, but the commitment of our government towards Ladakh will always remain spe-

cial,” he said.

Rijiju said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to visit Ladakh again and would share his thoughts and plans with the people during the visit.

He said the Prime Minister has given special attention to the Himalayan regions, including Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir and the North-east, noting that these regions have distinct geographical and climatic conditions and require special focus from the government.

Rijiju also urged the youth of Ladakh to remain connected with their traditional values, culture and language.

“I am a Buddhist and we live according to our traditions. Our Rinpoches, Lamas, His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Lord Buddha guide us from time to time. Our way of life is passed from one generation to another,” he said.

He expressed concern that young people were increasingly learning about American and European lifestyles through the internet while becoming less connected with their elders and traditional values.

“The internet is good for information, education and communication, but we cannot learn our way of life from the internet. If I am from Ladakh, I must live according to the traditions and way of life of Ladakh. The Ladakhi language should always remain my mother tongue,” Rijiju said.

He also appealed to the youth to exercise restraint and not get provoked by content circulating on the internet.

“Peace and non-violence are the teachings of Lord Buddha,” he said—(KNO)

## Army foil infiltration bid in Rajouri



YOGESH

**JAMMU:** Army foiled an infiltration attempt from across the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu’s Rajouri sector on Friday.

A source said that soldiers noticed suspicious movement of an infiltrator along the LoC this morning. The intruder was challenged. “He opened fired which was retaliated to. The infiltrator is believed to be hiding in the area. Massive operations have been launched to spot the intruder and his accomplices,” the source added.

“Searches are underway in the Rumlihdara area of Nowshera and senior officers are monitoring the situation,” he said—(KNO)

## President promulgates regulation for setting up HC bench in Ladakh

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** Days after the Union Cabinet approved the establishment of a Bench of the in Ladakh, the President of India has promulgated the Union Territory of Ladakh (Sitting of Bench of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh in Ladakh) Regulation, 2026 to implement the decision.

According to the Regulation, the Judges and Division Courts of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh may also sit at such place in the Union Territory of Ladakh as the Chief Justice may, with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, appoint.

The Regulation further provides that the Chief Justice of the High Court may, at his discretion, order that any case or class of cases arising in the Union Territory of Ladakh shall be heard at Srinagar or Jammu, as the case may be.

It also specifies that the principal seat of the common High Court shall remain at the same place where the principal seat of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh was located prior to the commencement of this Regulation.

The President of India has the power under Article 240 of the Constitution to make regulations for Union Territories that don’t have legislatures. Such regulations, once promulgated, carry the force of law, equivalent to an Act of Parliament, and are binding within the respective Union Territory—(KNO)

## Woman’s body recovered from Jhelum near Nawa Kadal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** An unidentified woman was found dead in the River Jhelum near Nawa Kadal area of Srinagar on Friday, officials said.

An official SAID that the woman was found in the river near Nawa Kadal and was retrieved by locals. He said she was soon shifted to a hospital, where doctors declared her brought dead on arrival.

The official said the identity of the deceased could not be ascertained immediately, while further proceedings have been taken up—(KNO)

‘Even Lamps Don’t Work’

## LoC Village in Gurez Struggles With Low Voltage, Unreliable Power

AGENCIES

**BANDIPORA:** Residents of Refugee, the last inhabited village along the Line of Control in the Bagtore area of Gurez Valley, are facing severe difficulties due to extremely low electricity voltage and an unreliable power supply.

Villagers said the voltage remains so weak that even basic electrical appliances, including lamps, often fail to function properly. They said despite regularly paying their electricity bills, the village continues to receive inadequate and unreliable power.

The situation has left residents frustrated, with locals questioning how a remote border settlement continues to struggle with basic electricity requirements at a time when access to reliable power has become essential for education, communication



and everyday life.

According to locals, the village earlier received comparatively better electricity through a diesel generator. They said the situation deteriorated after the settlement was connected to the transmission line from Bandipora.

Abdul Hamid Lone, a resident of the village, said Refugee is the last inhabited settlement along the LoC in Block Bagtore and has been facing the low-voltage problem for a considerable period.

“Our village is situated along the Line of Control, and despite being a border

village, we continue to face severe low-voltage problems. The supply is so weak that even basic electrical appliances cannot function properly. We request the authorities to understand our difficulties and provide us with a proper and reliable electricity supply,” he said.

Residents have appealed to the Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora, and concerned power authorities to intervene and resolve the issue. They have specifically demanded installation of a dedicated transformer for the village to ensure stable electricity supply. [KNT]

## Doctor shortage at PHC Tukroo leaves over 30 villages worried about healthcare

JAHANGEER GANAIE

**SHOPIAN:** The Primary Health Centre (PHC) at Tukroo in south Kashmir’s Shopian district is facing a shortage of doctors and other medical staff, leaving residents of the surrounding areas worried about the availability of healthcare, particularly during emergencies and night hours.

Residents said that the health centre caters to people from more than 30 villages and serves as an important first point of medical care for a large rural population. However, they alleged that the shortage of manpower has affected the functioning of the facility, with patients often facing difficulties in accessing medical attention when they need it most.

Locals said the absence of a doctor during night hours is particularly concerning, as patients requiring urgent medical attention are forced to look for alternatives or travel to hospitals in other areas.

“People come to the PHC with the expectation that they will receive immediate medical attention, but the shortage of doctors and staff becomes a major problem, especially at night. In an emergency, even a short



delay can create serious difficulties for a patient,” a local said.

Another resident said the problem becomes more difficult for elderly people, children and patients from remote villages who cannot easily arrange private transport to reach bigger health-care facilities.

“The PHC is catering to a large number of villages, so it cannot function effectively with inadequate staff. The authorities need to ensure that doctors and other essential staff are available round the clock,” he said.

Residents also highlighted the absence of a dedicated ambulance at the health centre, saying the facility is unable to provide timely transportation to patients who require referral to higher-level hospitals.

“An ambulance is not a luxury for a health centre serving so many villages.

During an emergency, families have to arrange private vehicles, which wastes precious time and can also put an additional financial burden on them,” another resident said.

Locals said patients requiring specialised treatment are often referred to higher health institutions, making an ambulance service particularly important for safe and timely transportation.

Residents have now urged the Health Department to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the PHC’s manpower requirements and fill vacant positions on priority.

They have also demanded that a doctor be made available during night hours and that a dedicated ambulance be stationed at the health centre and emergency support available when they actually need it,” a resident said.—(KNO)

## 14 JKAS officers inducted in Indian Administrative Service

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** As many as 14 officers from Jammu & Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) have been inducted in the prestigious Indian Administrative Service (IAS).

The Department of Personnel & Trainings on Friday notified the list of officers of Jammu & Kashmir inducted into the AGMUT cadre of IAS under promotion quota.

As per the notification, the President has approved the select list of 2019 and 2020.

The 10 officers finding place in 2019 select list

include Babila Rakwal (Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology Department), Shabnam Shah Kamili (Commissioner Secretary, ARI& Trainings Department), Rachna Sharma (Secretary in Department, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj), Leena Padha (Mission Director, Skill Development Mission), Rajinder Singh Tara (Secretary in the Department, Forest, Environment & Ecology), Tariq Hussain Ganai (Managing Director, J&K Medical Supplies Corporation), Munir-ul-Islam (Secretary in the Department, Information Department), Sajad

Hussain Ganai (Mission Director, ICDS), Anoo Malhotra (Director General, Rural Sanitation), and Nitu Gupta (Secretary in the Department, Agriculture Production Department).

According to the notification, four officers have been inducted against vacancies of 2020.

The officers include Prediman Krishan Bhat (Commissioner State Taxes), Bhawani Rakwal (Project Director, Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan), Smitha Sethi (Managing Director, J&K Housing Board) and Anuradha Gupta (DG, Youth Services & Sports)—(KNO)

## MBBS interns across J&K to protest from Aug 31, demand Rs 30,000 stipend

JAHANGEER GANAIE

**SRINAGAR:** MBBS interns across Jammu and Kashmir have announced a united protest from August 31, demanding an immediate revision of their monthly internship stipend from the existing Rs 12,300 to Rs 30,000.

According to the interns, those participating in the protest will refrain from joining their duties from August 31 until their demand is addressed by the authorities.

The interns, said the proposed protest is not confined to any particular medical college but represents a collective demand of MBBS interns across Jammu and Kashmir. They have appealed to their colleagues to remain united and participate in the agitation peacefully.

The interns maintain that their present stipend does not adequately reflect the nature of their work, clinical responsibilities and the increasing cost of living. “During the compulsory internship, we are routinely posted in emergency departments, wards, operation theatres and other hospital services, where we assist senior doctors and remain involved in patient-care activities,” they said.

They argue that despite being an important component of the public healthcare system, their remuneration has remained unchanged at a level they consider inadequate.

Health activist Dr Mohammad Momin Khan questioned the delay in revising the internship stipend in Jammu and Kashmir, saying that young doctors should receive fair compensation for the responsibilities they shoulder during their internship.

“If Uttar Pradesh can enhance the internship stipend to Rs 30,000, why is Jammu and Kashmir still delaying a fair revision for its medical interns? Our interns deserve dignity, recognition and fair compensation for their contribution to the healthcare system,” Dr Khan said.

The demand has received support from resident doctors at several government medical colleges.

The Resident Doctors Association (RDA), GMC Doda, expressed concern over what it termed the persistent delay by the J&K Government in revising the stipend. The association said medical interns perform demanding duties and the existing remuneration has become inadequate in view of present economic conditions.

RDA GMC Doda urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and the Health Minister to intervene and direct the authorities to revise the stipend without further delay.

Similarly, the Resident Doctors Association of GMC Rajouri extended its support, describing MBBS interns as an integral part of healthcare delivery. “Fair remuneration is not a privilege but a right,” the association said.

The residents at GMC Srinagar also extended their “full and unwavering support” to MBBS interns and their proposed strike. They said interns currently receive Rs 12,300 and are demanding Rs 30,000, noting that interns work in emergency departments, operation theatres and ICUs, often putting in long hours while shouldering significant clinical responsibilities.

“Interns deserve dignity, justice and recognition,” the GMC Srinagar residents said, reiterating their solidarity with the intern doctors.

The interns have reiterated that they are seeking a timely decision from the government and a stipend that would fairly acknowledge their contribution during the compulsory internship period—(KNO)

## 'Prime Business Voice' Launched to Amplify Kashmir's Entrepreneurial Story

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** A new quarterly business publication dedicated to showcasing Kashmir’s entrepreneurs, enterprises, and emerging economic potential was formally launched Friday here in Srinagar.

Prime Business Voice, founded by media veteran Rouf Majid who brings nearly 15 years of international media experience to the venture, aims to serve as an authoritative editorial platform for the region’s commercial and professional ecosystem. The launch ceremony convened a distinguished audience of business leaders, government officials, healthcare practitioners, architects, engineers, legal professionals, and hospitality stakeholders.

Conceived as an editorially led publication covering business, technology, policy, and economic affairs, the magazine will highlight the innovation, resilience, and growth driving businesses across the Kashmir Valley. Its mandate covers critical conversations surrounding investment, tourism, environmental issues, governance, corporate social responsibility, legal frameworks, and emerging market opportunities.

“Kashmir possesses a remarkable community of entrepreneurs and professionals whose contributions often remain under-reported,” said Rouf Majid, Editor and Publisher of Prime Business Voice. “This platform is created to bring those stories into focus while providing credible analysis of the region’s economy. We aim to encourage an informed discourse, one that celebrates achievement, addresses challenges transparently, and explores future growth with a national and global perspective.”



Javid Ahmad Tenga, President of Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry, emphasized the magazine’s strategic role, stating: “Prime Business Voice arrives at a pivotal moment for our business community. By providing clear analysis and a platform for dialogue between entrepreneurs and policymakers, it will strengthen the voice of commerce, help our members navigate regulatory landscapes, and build connections that drive sustainable growth.”

Dr. Salim Wani, prominent urologist and transplant surgeon, noted the vital connection between healthcare and economic policy: “Healthcare thrives when medical professionals stay connected to broader developments in policy and business. This magazine will support our community by examining the intersection of healthcare delivery, innovation, and economic realities, helping us advocate effectively for a more resilient health ecosystem.”

Ar. Imtiyaz Ahmad Chiloo, a prominent architect-engineer, highlighted

the value of knowledge-sharing: “Progress in architecture and engineering depends on forward-looking ideas. Prime Business Voice will serve as an invaluable resource by showcasing sustainable construction practices, innovative design, and the realities of delivering complex projects while inspiring the next generation of professionals.”

Najeeb A. Siddiqui, a representative of the hospitality sector, remarked: “Kashmir’s tourism story relies on a vast network of hoteliers, transport providers, suppliers, and service workers. Giving these businesses structured visibility in media like Prime Business Voice will help demonstrate the true scale and economic contribution of the sector.”

Sajad Ahmad Mir, CEO of Sajad Mir and Associates, observed: “Urban mobility, public infrastructure and legal literacy have a direct bearing on commercial outcomes. Constructive public discourse that brings governance and business perspectives together remains essential. I am sure platforms like Prime Business Voice will facilitate informed discussion on these issues and can play a meaningful role in strengthening understanding and collaboration across sectors.”



Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

# When Expectations Outrun Governance

There is a strange confusion gripping public life today: people are demanding answers, while the system of governance often appears busy explaining why answers cannot come immediately. Between the two stands a widening gap, and in that gap, many burning public issues continue to smoulder. Public expectations have changed dramatically. People want roads repaired without endless correspondence, hospitals functioning without excuses, schools staffed without repeated inspections, civic services delivered without citizens having to chase officials from one office to another. They are no longer satisfied with announcements, assurances and review meetings. They want visible results. Governance, however, often continues to operate at a slower, more bureaucratic pace. A problem is identified. A meeting is held. Another meeting follows. A committee is constituted, a report is sought, a file moves from one table to another, and by the time a decision finally emerges, the original problem has often acquired several new dimensions. This is where the confusion becomes dangerous. The public increasingly expects government to act as a problem-solver. The administration, meanwhile, is frequently constrained, or perceived to be constrained, by procedures, jurisdictions, financial approvals and institutional boundaries. None of these are insignificant. But to an ordinary citizen facing a broken road, an overcrowded hospital, an erratic utility service or an unresolved civic grievance, bureaucratic explanations offer little comfort. What makes matters worse is the tendency to mistake activity for governance. A review meeting is not a solution. A press statement is not implementation. An assurance is not delivery. And a file marked "under process" does not necessarily mean that the public problem is being addressed. At the same time, citizens too must recognise that every demand cannot be converted into an overnight government order. Public expectations have to be realistic, lawful and financially sustainable. Governance requires priorities, procedures and resources. Democracy is not simply the art of demanding everything; it is also the discipline of understanding what can be delivered, when and how. But the greater responsibility rests with those who govern. The administration must learn to distinguish between what is urgent and what is merely routine. Burning issues cannot be treated like ordinary files. A water crisis, a health emergency, a dangerous road, a failing public facility or a livelihood-threatening delay demands a different sense of urgency. The government does not necessarily need more committees. It needs clearer accountability. Someone must be responsible for taking a problem from identification to resolution. Departments must communicate honestly about timelines. Officers must be empowered to act within their jurisdiction. And when an issue cannot be resolved immediately, citizens deserve a clear explanation rather than an endless chain of assurances.

Breaking The Silence

# Ending The Stigma Around Youth Mental Health



Mental health has become one of the most important issues affecting young people in the modern world. For many teenagers and students, life is no longer limited to attending school or college, preparing for examinations and planning a career. They are also dealing with academic competition, family expectations, social media pressure, uncertainty about the future and the constant desire to succeed. Behind the smiles seen in classrooms and on social media, many young people may be experiencing stress, loneliness or emotional difficulties that are not always visible to others. This is why mental health deserves the same attention and seriousness as physical health. A healthy mind is not a luxury; it is the foundation of a healthy life. Academic pressure is one of the most common sources of stress among students. Examinations, entrance tests, competition for limited opportunities and worries about careers can make young people feel that one result will decide their entire future. In some families, students may also feel pressure to meet expectations or achieve results that do not match their own interests and abilities. Education is important, but constant fear of failure can turn learning into a source of anxiety rather than an opportunity for growth. Social media has created another challenge. Platforms such as Instagram, YouTube, Facebook and other digital networks allow young people to communicate and learn, but they can also expose them to unrealistic portrayals of success, appearance and lifestyle. People generally share the happiest or most impressive parts of their lives online, which can make others believe that everyone else is living a perfect life. Comparing real life with carefully selected online content can affect confidence and create unnecessary pressure. Cyberbullying is another serious concern. Hurtful comments, rumours, harassment and public embarrassment can follow a young person beyond the classroom and into their home through a phone or computer. Unlike traditional bullying,



online harassment can potentially reach a large audience very quickly. This makes responsible digital behaviour and effective support systems increasingly important. Loneliness is also an issue that should not be ignored. A person can have hundreds of online followers and still feel disconnected in real life. Genuine friendships, family communication and supportive communities remain essential for emotional well-being. Simply telling a young person to "be happy" or "stop worrying" may not solve the problem. Sometimes what they need first is someone who will listen without judging them. Sometimes the most powerful form of support is simply being willing to listen. Another major barrier is the stigma surrounding mental health. In some communities, people still hesitate to discuss emotional difficulties because they fear being labelled weak, dramatic or attention-seeking. As a result, some young people keep their problems to themselves. This attitude needs to change. Asking for help is not a sign of weakness; it is a responsible step toward taking care of oneself. Schools and colleges can play a major role in improving mental health awareness. Along with academic education, students should have access to information about stress management, emotional well-being and healthy coping strategies. Teachers can create an environment where students feel comfortable discussing difficulties,

kindness and a sense of purpose. Success should not come at the cost of well-being. We should not teach young people only how to succeed; we should also teach them how to cope, recover and ask for help." Governments, educational institutions, healthcare systems, families and communities all have a role to play. Mental-health services should be accessible, awareness programmes should be encouraged and harmful stereotypes should be challenged. At the same time, social media companies, schools and families can work together to promote safer online environments for young users. It is important to remember that not every difficult day means that someone has a mental-health disorder. Feeling worried, disappointed or stressed can be a normal part of life. However, when emotional difficulties become persistent or begin to interfere with everyday activities, relationships or education, they should not simply be ignored. Professional support can help people understand what they are experiencing and find appropriate ways forward. Mental health is not a problem that belongs only to individuals. It is a responsibility shared by society. Every supportive conversation, every safe school environment and every effort to remove stigma can help create a world in which young people feel less alone. A young person's future is built not only through education and opportunity but also through hope, support and the belief that they matter. The conversation about youth mental health must therefore continue. Young people deserve an environment where they can talk about their struggles without shame, seek help without fear and pursue their dreams without believing that they must sacrifice their well-being to achieve them. A truly successful society is not one where everyone appears strong all the time, but one where people are given the support they need when life becomes difficult. Protecting mental health today means building a healthier, stronger and more compassionate generation for tomorrow.

Abroo Mushtaq is an author and anthology contributor whose work is rooted in a deep love for literature and creative writing. A dedicated student and storyteller, she is author of "The Voice I Hold" and continues to explore the intersection of narrative and emotion in all her work. She can be mailed at [abroomushtaqwani@gmail.com](mailto:abroomushtaqwani@gmail.com)

## OTHER SIDE

# The Moral Ecology Of A Disaster

"Sometimes Nature Does Not Speak Through Words; It Speaks Through Silence, Storms And The Tremors Of The Earth."



The devastating floods in Nepal may be explained by scientists through heavy rainfall, changing climatic patterns, rapid glacial melt, deforestation, unplanned construction and the fragile ecology of the Himalayan region. These scientific explanations are necessary and help us understand the physical processes behind such disasters, yet beyond the language of science there is another dimension that deserves our attention, the language of philosophy, morality and spirituality. A scientist may ask, "What caused the disaster?" while a philosopher may ask, "What does the disaster teach us?" and a spiritually conscious person may ask, "What have we forgotten?" These questions become particularly significant for us in Jammu and Kashmir, a land whose identity is inseparably connected with the Himalayas. The mountains of Nepal and Jammu and Kashmir are not merely geographical formations; for centuries, the Himalayan landscape has been associated with contemplation, meditation, solitude and spiritual awakening. These majestic mountains provided shelter to sages, saints, mystics and seekers who came to these serene surroundings to withdraw from the noise of worldly life and elevate their inner selves. Kashmir, in particular, has a remarkable tradition in which nature and spirituality have existed in a beautiful relationship. Its mountains, springs, forests and rivers have inspired generations of poets, philosophers, saints and



spiritual seekers. The natural landscape was not merely admired for its beauty; it was regarded as a means of discovering something deeper within oneself. But today, we appear to be losing that legacy. The mountains that once inspired meditation are increasingly becoming sites of commercialisation. Forests are cleared, slopes are disturbed, rivers are encroached upon, and fragile landscapes are burdened with unplanned construction. Tourism, when responsible and sustainable, can benefit communities, but when driven purely by commercial interests, it can place enormous pressure on an already vulnerable ecosystem. The question, therefore, is not whether development is necessary, it certainly is, but what kind of development we seek. Development that destroys the very environment upon which human life depends cannot be called genuine progress. Roads, buildings and tourism infrastructure have their place, but they must respect the carrying capacity of the mountains and the delicate balance of Himalayan ecology. There is also a moral dimension to our environmental crisis. Modern civilisation has given us extraordinary scientific and technological achievements, yet it has also encouraged an increasingly materialistic outlook. We often measure success through possessions, wealth, status and consumption. In this race, values such as simplicity, compassion, restraint, contentment and collective responsibility can easily be pushed into the background. Our ancestors understood something that modern society sometimes forgets: nature is not merely a resource; it is a trust. A river was not simply water to be exploited, a forest was not merely timber, and a mountain was not simply land waiting for construction. Nature was approached with reverence. Religious, social and cultural traditions taught people to live within certain limits, to take from nature, but not to destroy it. This wisdom is particularly relevant to Jammu and Kashmir. Our rivers, wetlands, forests, meadows, springs and mountains constitute not only our natural heritage but also our cultural identity. The Jhelum, Dal Lake, Wular Lake, traditional springs and the forests of the Himalayan ranges are more than geographical features; they are woven into the collective memory of Kashmir. The experience of floods in Kashmir has already taught us how vulnerable our region can become when natural systems are disturbed. Encroachments, destruction of wetlands, deforestation, unplanned urbanisation and disregard for natural drainage systems can increase the consequences of extreme weather. Climate change may intensify these challenges,

temperature and glacial changes. But wisdom asks us how we should respond to that knowledge. Perhaps the greatest crisis facing humanity is not a shortage of knowledge but a shortage of wisdom. We have learned to reach the highest mountains, but have we learned to lower our arrogance? We have learned to transform landscapes, but have we learned to respect their limits? We have developed powerful technologies, but have we developed enough compassion and restraint to use them responsibly? The Himalayas have stood silently for thousands of years, witnessing generations rise and disappear. They have been places of meditation, pilgrimage and spiritual discovery. Perhaps they still have a lesson for us. The mountains do not ask us to abandon progress; they ask us to pursue progress without destroying the soul of the landscape. For Jammu and Kashmir, the message is particularly urgent. We must protect not only the physical Himalayas but also the cultural and spiritual heritage that grew around them. If Nepal's tragedy can awaken us to the vulnerability of the Himalayan ecosystem, then perhaps it can also inspire a renewed commitment to protect our own mountains, rivers and forests. Because ultimately, nature is not our enemy; it is our home. And when we repeatedly disturb the balance of our home, nature does not need to punish us; the consequences of our own actions may be enough. The real question before Jammu and Kashmir is therefore not simply how we will develop, but whether we will develop wisely. Perhaps the time has come to listen again to the ancient silence of the Himalayas.

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## Women's Equality

# A Journey From Suffrage To Dignity And Opportunity

The Women Who Fought For Suffrage Changed American History. Islamic Teachings Established Principles Of Human Dignity Centuries Ago. Kashmiri Women Have Contributed To Families, Culture And Society Across Generations And Are Now Entering New Fields With Growing Confidence.



RAKSHANDA GUL

Every year, August 26 is celebrated as an important date in the history of women's rights. US observes this day to remember the struggle that led to the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. On August 26, 1920, the amendment was certified, marking a major moment in the long campaign for women's right to vote.

For many women at that time, voting was more than simply putting a mark on a ballot. It meant having a voice in decisions that affected their families, their work, their communities and their future. For decades, women had questioned why laws could be made about their lives while they had little opportunity to influence the people making those laws.

The road to that achievement was long. During much of the 19th century, American women faced serious restrictions in their personal, economic and political lives. Married women did not have much influence regarding property and finances in many states. Career opportunities were also not many, and women were mainly supposed to keep up with the activities at home. Politics was seen as something that concerned only men.

But women did not simply accept this situation. They met in private homes, churches, and other venues. They discussed their experiences and rights and motivated each other to come out in public. Most of these initial activities were quite modest in scale, but eventually turned into a national movement.

The Seneca Falls Convention of 1848 emerged as one of the landmark events in history. The Declaration of Sentiments adopted in this convention demanded increased equality for women and called for the acknowledgement of their political rights, which included suffrage. Such demands were highly controversial at the time.

There was considerable opposition to the movement. Women speaking about suffrage and political involvement were ridiculed. Critics said that the place for a woman is at home and

that political involvement would ruin the family. Women were accused of being too emotional and too ill-educated to make decisions in politics.

The suffragists continued anyway. They organised marches, collected signatures, wrote articles, delivered speeches and approached lawmakers. Some were arrested. Others faced public criticism and pressure from their own communities. Their campaign was built not only by famous leaders but also by thousands of ordinary women whose names never became widely known. Among the better-known figures were Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Anthony travelled extensively, organised campaigns and spoke across the country. She was even arrested after voting illegally in 1872. Using writing and public speaking to formulate arguments about women's rights, Stanton was an influential participant of the Seneca Falls Convention.

The women's rights movement also included African-American women who had to struggle due to their race. Sojourner Truth advocated for both women's and racial rights. Another prominent example is Ida B. Wells, a journalist and an advocate of racial justice and women's suffrage. The struggle for political rights was different for each woman.

Finally, when the 19th Amendment was ratified in 1920, it was a great success for the women's rights movement. However, it does not mean that all women suddenly gained the right to vote. Black women and other women of colour continued to encounter discriminatory laws and practices in different parts of the country. The amendment was therefore an important milestone, but it was not the end of the struggle.

This history also raises a broader question: what does equality actually mean? Many would associate equality with political rights and equality of opportunities as well as freedom from discrimination. However, each culture and tradition viewed the dignity and obligations of men and women in their own historical and religious contexts. Islamic religion does not view the dignity of women as a relatively new concept. The Qur'an refers to men and women as humans being created by Allah and bestows spiritual duties on them equally. In Surah Al-Hujurat (49:13), Allah says that humanity was created from a male and a female and that people were made into nations and tribes so that they may know one another. The verse also makes clear



that honour before Allah is connected with righteousness, not simply with gender, wealth or social position.

The Qur'an repeatedly addresses believing men and believing women together. Surah Al-Ahzab (33:35), for example, mentions believing men and believing women, truthful men and truthful women, patient men and patient women, and promises them forgiveness and a great reward. The life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad also provide an important perspective. He emphasised good treatment of women and recognised their rights and dignity. Women in the early Muslim community were not absent from social, economic and intellectual life. Khadija (RA) was a respected businesswoman and Aisha (RA) became a respected repository of knowledge and hadiths.

This does not mean that there is no difference between Islam and the modern Western notion of equality since they were formed under different conditions. However, there is one thing in common: women deserve respect and recognition of their contribution to society.

This discussion has relevance for Kashmir as well. Kashmir has its own long history of women's contribution to family, culture and society. Women have worked in agriculture, handicrafts, education, household enterprises and traditional crafts. Today, their role has been becoming more evident. Girls and women are getting educated, joining professional sectors, setting up enterprises, learning skills, and engaging in community and social activities. Education is very vital during this period of transition. With education, the girl gains not only personal benefit but also makes a contribution towards improving her family economics and education for future generations.

However, while celebrating Women's

Equality Day, an important question should also arise: are women today treated with equality and respect or have the day turned into only celebration of the past? In Kashmir, progress in education and women's participation is encouraging, but concerns about women's safety remain serious. Incidents of sexual harassment and assault in addition to rape are very distressing and disturbing regardless of whether they happen at institutions of learning, workplace or public areas. An incident of this sort not only traumatizes the victim but also causes fear in other women and girls. Women should be free to study, work and even access public spaces without fearing any form of abuse. Equality cannot be meaningful if women have opportunities on paper but do not feel safe enough to use them.

This is why women's empowerment must go together with safety, awareness and accountability. Families, educational institutions, workplaces, communities and authorities all have a role in creating an environment where women are respected and where complaints of harassment are taken seriously. From an Islamic perspective, protecting human dignity and honour is a serious responsibility. Respectful conduct, modesty and justice are principles that apply to both men and women. The teachings of Prophet Muhammad also emphasise kindness and good treatment. These values should encourage communities to ensure that women are treated with dignity and protected from abuse.

Kashmir's conversation about women's equality therefore needs to go beyond celebrating achievements. It should also ask what remains to be done. Better education, employment, financial independence and leadership

opportunities are important, but so are safe institutions, safer public spaces, awareness about harassment and effective mechanisms for addressing complaints. Women's Equality Day should consequently be both a celebration and a moment of reflection.

The women's right to vote in America was an accomplishment made possible after many years of struggle. It should be noted that many women fought for this right but died before the 19th Amendment was passed into law. This fact illustrates that major change usually originates from the work of ordinary people who will not stand for silence anymore.

Similarly, for Kashmir, the message remains the same. A teacher who inspires a girl to study more, a family that backs up a woman in her professional life, a community which offers opportunities to women, or an institution that provides a safe environment may seem to be insignificant acts. Women's Equality Day 2026 can therefore be viewed from several perspectives. In America, it recalls the struggle for women's voting rights. In Islam, it reminds us of the dignity, moral responsibility and rights of both men and women. In Kashmir, it provides an opportunity to recognise women's growing contribution while honestly discussing the challenges that still affect their safety and participation.

The goal should not be equality as a slogan for one day. It should be a principle reflected in everyday life. Women should have access to education, opportunities, dignity and justice. They should be able to contribute to their families, communities and society without fear. The women who fought for suffrage changed American history. Islamic teachings established principles of human dignity centuries ago. Kashmiri women have contributed to families, culture and society across generations and are now entering new fields with growing confidence. Women's Equality Day should honour these different journeys while reminding us of one responsibility: building a society where every woman and girl can live with dignity, safety and meaningful opportunity.

The Author is a Writer and Social commentator with a Master's in Food Science and Technology and a B.ED. Writes on themes related to women's empowerment, rural livelihoods, entrepreneurship, health, and changing social realities in the Kashmir Valley.

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## Needs Or Market-Made Desires?

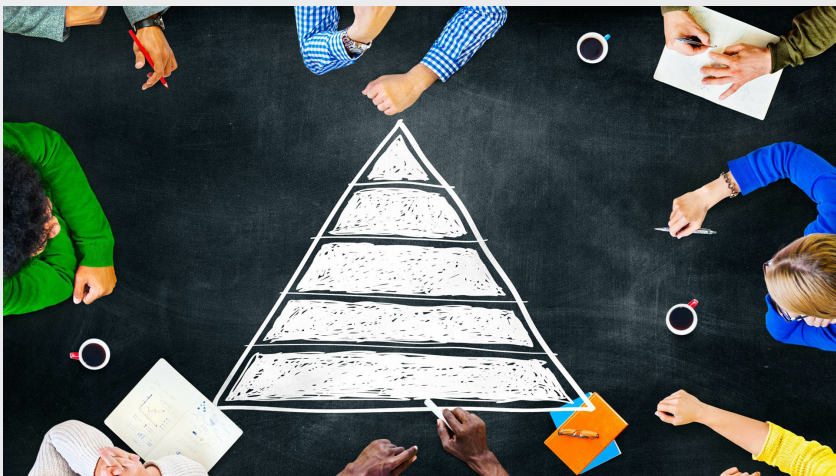


ABID HUSSAIN RATHER

We live in a world where people do not simply buy things because they need them; rather things persuade people to buy them. The marketplace has changed from a place where we fulfil our needs into a powerful system that creates new desires in us every day. From the moment we wake up until we go to sleep, advertisements surround us. They appear on our phones, television screens, roads, newspapers and social media. They tell us what to wear, what to eat, which car to drive, which mobile phone to carry and even what kind of life we should desire.

The most powerful word in this entire commercial world is perhaps "new." A new model has arrived. A new design has been introduced. A new version is available. A new lifestyle is waiting for you. Slowly, we have allowed the word "new" to become almost synonymous with "better." This is where the real problem begins. Something does not become better simply because it is newer. A new product may be useful but at the same time it may also be unnecessary. An old product may be outdated, but it may also be perfectly functional. The real measure should be quality, usefulness, necessity and durability—not merely freshness or newness. But advertisements rarely encourage us to think in this way.

Consider the mobile phone in our hands. It may be working perfectly. Its



battery may be good, its camera may satisfy our needs and it may perform every task we require. Then a new model appears. Suddenly, the phone that served us so well yesterday begins to look old. We are made to feel that our device is no longer fashionable even though nothing has actually changed in its usefulness. This is the subtle power of consumerism. The market does not always sell us a product; sometimes it first creates a feeling of inadequacy and then sells us the product as a solution. We are made to believe that our lives are incomplete, our appearance insufficient, our homes unimpressive or our personalities somehow behind the times. Then a product is placed before us as the answer.

When we feel that a new dress will make us attractive. A new car will make us respectable. An expensive watch will make us successful. A particular mobile phone will make us modern. Gradually, the product stops being an object of utility and becomes a symbol of identity. This is where the magic of brands becomes even stronger. A brand is no longer merely a name printed on a product. It has become a story. We

associate certain brands with success, elegance, wealth, sophistication and social status. Sometimes two products of similar quality are placed before us, but we are willing to pay considerably more for the famous name. Why is it so? Because we are not always buying the object. We are buying the image attached to it. A branded shirt becomes a symbol of status. A particular car becomes a symbol of achievement. A luxury watch becomes a statement about personality. A smartphone becomes a sign of modernity.

The most successful advertisement is therefore not the one we see on television. It is the one that continues to operate inside our minds after the advertisement has disappeared. When a person begins to think, without seeing an advertisement, that he is inferior without a particular brand, that he is unsuccessful without an expensive possession, or that he is falling behind without the latest model, the advertisement has achieved its ultimate victory. It has moved from the screen into the mind.

This phenomenon deserves particular attention in the age of social media. Today, advertisements do not merely

tell us what to buy; they show us how other people are supposedly living. Perfect homes, fashionable clothes, expensive holidays, luxurious cars and carefully designed lifestyles appear before us every day. We compare our ordinary lives with these carefully constructed images and begin to feel that something is missing. But the truth is that much of what we see is an advertisement disguised as a lifestyle.

The another casualty of this culture is contentment. The more we possess, the more we sometimes feel that we lack. Our wardrobes are full, yet we complain that we have nothing suitable to wear. Our homes contain countless objects, yet we constantly search for more. We replace things that still work simply because newer versions have arrived. In this endless race, satisfaction becomes temporary. The excitement of a new purchase lasts for a while, and then another desire appears.

In the race of chasing new things and new models we forget that there is something particularly beautiful about old things that the modern marketplace can't sell. That beautiful thing is the memories associated with old things. An old watch may remind us of our father. An old chair may carry the memory of a grandparent. An old book may remind us of our youth. A simple piece of clothing may be connected to an unforgettable occasion. Such things may have little commercial value, but they can possess enormous emotional value.

A new object can be purchased with money, but a memory cannot. This does not mean that everything old must be preserved. Things that are broken, useless or unnecessarily occupying space should certainly be discarded. But an object should not be rejected merely because a newer version has entered the market. We need to recover the ability to ask ourselves a simple question before buying: Do I really need this? This question may sound ordinary,

but in a world built around constant consumption, it is a powerful question.

Parents have an especially important responsibility here. Children are growing up in a world where advertisements begin influencing them at an extremely young age. They must be taught that expensive does not necessarily mean superior, famous does not necessarily mean valuable, and new does not necessarily mean better. They should learn that the value of a thing lies in its usefulness, quality and genuine necessity rather than in its newness.

Ultimately, the problem is not the existence of advertisements, brands or new products. These are natural parts of modern economic life. The problem begins when they start making decisions on our behalf. We should use the market without becoming its slaves. We should enjoy material comforts without allowing them to define our worth. We should buy new things when they genuinely improve our lives, but we should also have the confidence to keep the old ones when they continue to serve us and are useful to us. After all, a human being is more valuable than the things he owns. The real freedom of a consumer is not the freedom to buy everything. It is the freedom to say "I do not need this" even when the entire market is telling him that he does. Perhaps the day we learn to distinguish between need and desire, quality and fashion, and usefulness and status, the spell of advertising will begin to weaken. And perhaps then we will discover an important truth: we do not need to own everything that the world tells us to desire in order to live a meaningful life. Things should serve human beings. Human beings should never become servants of things.

*(The author teaches Geography at GDC Anantnag and can be reached at rather1294@gmail.com)*



## ‘Resignation Will

something entirely different,” Mehdi said in the letter, adding that such a situation would be personally disappointing to him.

Referring to the statement that “you want 370, but you beg from Delhi,” Mehdi argued that the demand for Article 370 restoration was not an unreasonable political position.

He pointed out that restoration of Article 370 had also featured in the BJP’s 2024 Assembly election manifesto, while the Supreme Court had recognised the constitutional history surrounding the provision.

According to Mehdi, the JKNC’s position should therefore not be treated as fundamentally different from the position it had itself taken earlier.

He further argued that accepting statehood as the outer limit of Jammu and Kashmir’s political aspirations could amount to legitimising and normalising what he described as the constitutional changes made in August 2019.

Mehdi said the party had come to power with commitments relating to the restoration of Articles 370 and 35A, but was now increasingly presenting statehood as the principal political objective.

He referred to the argument that “the very regime which abrogated Article 370 will never restore it,” and questioned whether such an argument was sufficient justification for abandoning the larger demand.

He said the issue was not simply about political positioning but concerned the dignity, constitutional guarantees and rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Mehdi also raised broader concerns over employment opportunities, land, natural resources, religious rights, traditions, language and environmental protection.

He noted that a large proportion of Jammu and Kashmir’s population is young and said uncertainty over employment and opportunities was becoming a major concern.

“Our job as elected representatives is to fight this constant degradation and dehumanisation — and not to adjust our aspirations to what the BJP is willing to concede,” Mehdi said.

The Srinagar MP said elected representatives had a responsibility to ensure that the political and constitutional changes of August 2019 did not become accepted as the “new political normal.”

He also argued that restoration of statehood should not be presented as an adequate substitute for the constitutional provisions and protections that were altered in 2019.

Defending his position, Mehdi said Article 370 was shorthand for the struggle to restore the “dignity, honour, constitutional guarantees and liberties” of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He also referred to unemployment and lack of opportunities for young people, land and resource issues, pressure on religious rights, traditions and language, and environmental degradation.History

Mehdi further questioned why Abdullah, who was chief minister when the erstwhile state Assembly passed the Autonomy Resolution, had now demanded his resignation over his position on constitutional guarantees.

“Why, then, has the mere mention of constitutional guarantees for Jammu-Kashmir now become so offensive that you felt compelled to publicly demand my resignation?” he asked.

He said his resignation would come, adding that it would have come even without Abdullah asking for it, but maintained that “before that must come accountability”.

Responding to Abdullah’s reported remarks asking who he was before joining the NC, Mehdi said he was “the inheritor of a long tradition of martyrdom” and the son of a martyr. He also reminded Abdullah that it was he who had personally invited him to join the party.

## Set To Resign From

November,” Mehdi said.

Mehdi shared the decision with close aides earlier this week, one of them confirmed, saying he plans to step down both as MP for the Srinagar constituency and as a member of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference.

Earlier Mehdi had said that he has made up his mind to resign from the party soon, accusing its leadership of choosing a “path of surrender”.

Since the Narendra Modi government scrapped Jammu and Kashmir’s special constitutional status in August 2019 and downgraded the erstwhile state into a Union territory, Mehdi has consistently advocated for the restoration of special status and greater autonomy. His party, however, has primarily focused on securing the restoration of statehood.

Mehdi has been stressing on the party leadership to change its course of action and address people’s issues, primarily demanding the restoration of special status.

Last week, JKNC president Farooq

Abdullah had dared the Srinagar MP to resign from the Lok Sabha and seek a fresh mandate from the electorate. “If you think people voted for you, resign and go back to them. We will see how many votes you get,” Abdullah had said.

Reacting to this statement, Mehdi had said that it is not possible that “Doctor Sahib asks me for something and I don’t give it to him. It is not possible that I send him back empty-handed,” he said.

“He has asked for something at this age. I respect him. I don’t want him to ask me for something, and I return it to him empty-handed... I will answer in a few days,” he said.

The divergence between Mehdi and the National Conference leadership has widened over the years, with the Srinagar MP repeatedly taking positions that have put him at odds with his party. Since NC returned to power in Jammu and Kashmir in 2024 with a majority mandate, Mehdi has continued to publicly question the government’s approach on the restoration of statehood and implementation of the party’s manifesto.

Mehdi has been criticising the NC’s focus on statehood, arguing that the party had moved away from its earlier position on restoring the constitutional protections and guarantees that Jammu and Kashmir had under Article 370. “The rights that were snatched from us, the protections, the constitutional guarantees which were given to us through Article 370 and were snatched from us is our objective and we will fight for that,” he had said.

In an interview, he had said that in this kind of a situation “when you want to betray the mandate and betray the trust and go away from the line you committed to, you can’t tolerate a person who asks for accountability. He becomes an irritant. In that sense, I meant that I’m not needed.”

## Devotees Throng

peaceful and spiritual. People have come from different places to remember the Prophet and seek blessings,” he said.

Congregations were also reported from other districts, including Bandipora, Baramulla, Kupwara, Pulwama, Shopian, Kulgam and Anantnag, where devotees participated in prayers and Milad programmes. Several areas of Srinagar, including parts of the old city and uptown, also witnessed religious gatherings and processions as people marked the occasion.

IGP Kashmir Zone Sujit Kumar reviewed security arrangements around Hazratbal and other key locations, with police and other security personnel deployed to facilitate the smooth and peaceful movement of devotees.

The district administration had made arrangements for the gathering, including medical facilities near the shrine, while Traffic Police implemented route plans and diversions to regulate vehicular movement in and around Hazratbal.

Many people were also seen enjoying the famous halwa-paratha outside Hazratbal, giving a boost to the business of local vendors—(KNO)

## J&K Sees Above-

The IMD forecast mostly fine weather across Jammu and Kashmir on August 29 and 30, though isolated areas, particularly in the Jammu region, may receive thundershowers.

From August 31 to September 2, there is a possibility of thundershowers at some places in Jammu and Kashmir, but the weather is expected to remain dry for most of the period. No major wet spell is expected, the forecast said.

However, high-intensity showers are possible at a few places during August 31-September 2, leading to a possibility of flash floods, it said.

Mostly fine weather is expected on September 3 and 4, with isolated thundershowers possible, particularly during the early morning and late afternoon hours. The forecast for these dates remains uncertain and may undergo changes, the IMD said.

The weather advisory also suggested orchard spraying in parts of Kashmir on August 29 and during morning hours on August 30. Spraying has been advised against from August 31 to September 2 due to the possibility of thundershowers.

The weather office advised people, particularly those in vulnerable areas, to remain alert to the possibility of flash floods during the period of intense showers—(KNO)

## Counter-Terrorism

coordination of our police team and other agencies,” he explained.

Acknowledging the inconvenience caused, he remarked, “Many people are offering prayers today, so we seek your cooperation. We understand that movement is difficult for the public.”

Reaffirming the commitment of the

Kashmir Zonal Police, Kumar assured the citizenry that the force remains steadfast in its duty to safeguard lives and property while implementing all necessary measures to uphold tranquility and stability across the region. “I congratulate everyone and want to assure the people that the Zonal Police is always there for you,” he concluded.

## J&K Sets Target

largest share of the identified potential with 11,283 MW (77.1%), followed by the Jhelum Basin with 3,084 MW (21.1%) and theRavi Basin with 500 MW (3.4%). Emphasising that the Departmenthas now put in place a phased capacity-addition strategy to systematically tap this vast potential and move J&K towards a position of greater energy self-reliance and eventual power surplus.

Giving out the details the Managing Director (MD), Jammu & Kashmir Power Corporation Limited (JKPCL), Rahul Yadav revealed that under the roadmap, the first major capacity additions are targeted by the end of 2026, when 1,636 MW is slated to be added through the commissioning of 1,000 MW Pakal Dul HEP, 624 MW Kiru HEP and 12 MW Karnah HEP, taking the cumulative installed capacity to 5,176.15 MW by December 2027, commissioning of the 37.5 MW Parnai HEP is scheduled to take the cumulative capacity to 5,213.65 MW, he added.

The MD further elucidated that the year 2028 will mark another significant jump, with 1,390 MW targeted through the 540 MW Kwar HEP and 850 MW Ratle HEP, raising the cumulative capacity to 6,630.65 MW.

By December 2029, a further 500 MW is expected from Central Sector projects, including 260 MW Dulhasti Stage-II and 240 MW Uri-I Stage-II, taking the total generation capacity to 7,103.65 MW, Rahul explained.

Moreover it was highlighted that the subsequent phase, covering 2031–2035, will see progressive commissioning of major projects in the pipeline, including 820 MW Kirthai-II, 390 MW Kirthai-I and the 1,856 MW Sawalkote HEP. With these additions, J&K is envisaged to reach an installed hydropower capacity of 10,969.65 MW by December 2035.

Reviewing the progress of projects presently under construction, the Chief Secretary called for close monitoring of construction milestones and coordinated resolution of issues affecting project execution so that the targeted commissioning schedules are adhered to.

He took detailed stock of each undergoing HEP from its Project Head. It was divulged that the 1,000 MW Pakal Dul HEP has achieved 85 per cent physical progress and 77.54 per cent financial progress. Filling of the Concrete Face Rock-Fill Dam (CFRD) has reached 89 per cent, while testing and commissioning of Units 3 and 4 is scheduled for March 2027, followed by Units 1 and 2 in May/June 2027.

The 624 MW Kiru HEP has recorded 88.75 per cent physical progress and 73.21 per cent financial expenditure. Dam concreting up to the deck slab has reached 98.99 per cent, with final testing and commissioning targeted for March 2027.

The 540 MW Kwar HEP has achieved 37.82 per cent physical and 42.11 per cent financial progress. Excavation of the power house cavern is 99.6 per cent complete, placing the project on course for commissioning by March 2028.

The 850 MW Ratle HEP, meanwhile, has registered 31.53 per cent physical progress, with excavation of its underground power house cavern completed. The revised contractual milestones envisage full commissioning of the project by November 2028.

Among UT-sector projects, the 12 MW Karnah HEP has reached 93 per cent completion and is on track for wet commissioning, while the 37.5 MW Parnai HEP has achieved 72.5 per cent physical progress, with 98 per cent excavation of its Head Race Tunnel (HRT) completed.

The planned expansion is expected to have far-reaching implications for Jammu & Kashmir’s development trajectory, providing a stronger and more reliable energy base for industry, infrastructure, tourism, services and emerging economic activities.

The decade-long roadmap thus represents a significant step towards transforming Jammu & Kashmir from a power-constrained economy into a more energy-secure and self-reliant region, with hydropower emerging as a key driver of its future economic growth.

## Raksha Bandhan

with sisters tying rakhis on their brothers’ wrists and praying for their well-being—(KNO)

## Death Toll Rises

underway. However, rescue operations resumed after risks from an overflowing lake were found to be manageable, easing

fears of fresh devastation.

Earlier, a damming lake upstream of China’s Gyirong border port has started to overflow. Authorities in Beijing have temporarily suspended rescue operations, China’s state broadcaster CCTV reported.

UN agency warns of 17,000 children in urgent need of assistance as aid reaches some Nepal survivors.

Aid began to reach some survivors in Nepal on Friday (August 28, 2026) following the catastrophic flash floods that swept through the mountainous border region between Nepal and China, as the full scope of the devastation continued to emerge and survivors sought shelter at makeshift army relief centres.

Children who have been separated from their families are being given shelter as attempts are made to reunite them with families.

The U.N.’s agency for children said at least 17,000 children are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, while 18 schools have been destroyed and another 20 damaged.

Two more glacial lakes have formed in Nepal, near the apparent source of the ice-rock avalanche that triggered flooding in Nepal’s Bhote Koshi-Trishuli river system on Wednesday (August 26, 2026).

While the formation of the lakes is known, information on the potential water outflow is unavailable, said Krishna Vatsa, Member and Head of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

“One is 19.80 hectares, and the other is 7.28 hectares. We don’t have any estimates of the volume, but there are moraines [piles of debris deposited by a moving glacier],” he said.

The devastating flash floods and mudslides swept away buildings, roads and bridges in the mountainous region. Among the missing are more than 100 tourists from India, 54 from the United States, 33 from the United Kingdom and over 100 Nepali nationals, according to the Nepal Tourist Board.

“My family was swept away in front of me,” a woman told local media, saying she and her son survived by climbing to a rooftop. She was not named.

The disaster struck an area frequented by trekkers and pilgrims. Dozens of police officers, army personnel and power workers also were unaccounted for, officials said.

In Tibet, Chinese state media reported three dead and 265 missing. China Central Television aired footage showing a torrent of water and debris slamming into buildings at a border crossing.

Authorities initially suspected an earthquake may have triggered a landslide, but the U.S. Geological Survey said Monday that “seismic energy was instead generated by a landslide.”

Nepal police said multiple teams, including a canine unit and four drones, had been deployed to the flood-affected area to search for survivors, distribute relief and document deaths. According to a police statement, 28 officers in the Rasuwa district remained missing.

Authorities urged the public not to approach riverbanks, flood zones or other dangerous areas and to follow instructions from the government and security agencies.

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# KGP Srinagar achieves landmark global placement success

10 Students selected by UAE Conglomerate

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** In a significant achievement for technical education in Jammu and Kashmir, Kashmir Government Polytechnic College (KGP), Srinagar, has recorded a landmark success with 10 of its students being selected during a prestigious campus placement drive while still pursuing their studies.

The selected students are set to join the renowned Easa Saleh Al Gurg Group (ESAG) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, marking a major milestone in the college's efforts to bridge academic learning with global industry opportunities.

The campus recruitment drive was organised by the Training and Placement Cell of KGP Srinagar in collaboration with ESAG, providing fifth-semester students from multiple engineering branches an opportunity to secure positions with a leading UAE-based conglomerate having a legacy of over six decades across retail, real estate, technology and industrial sectors.

The recruitment process involved a rigorous selection procedure com-



prising company presentations, online registration, Computer-Based Tests (CBT) and interviews. Following the selection process, the candidates were offered positions as Assistant Supervisors in the Mechanical, Civil, Electrical and Electronics streams.

The selected students expressed their gratitude to Principal, Dr. Shafquat Ara, along with the Heads of Departments and In-charges, for their guidance, encouragement and continuous support throughout their academic journey

at KGP Srinagar.

The successful placement of the students stands as a testimony to the college's commitment to academic excellence, industry-oriented education and preparing students for high-impact global careers.

The achievement is expected to further strengthen the profile of Kashmir Government Polytechnic College, Srinagar, while inspiring future batches of students to pursue excellence and explore opportunities on the international stage.

# FSSAI proposes to roll out front-of-pack red warning on food, drinks high on sugar, salt, or fat

IAN5

**NEW DELHI:** The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has proposed to roll out a front-of-pack red warning label for processed food items and beverages that are high in sugar, salt, or fat content so that consumers can make an informed choice.

"The warning label shall indicate the applicable declaration, such as 'HIGH FAT', 'HIGH SUGAR', 'HIGH SALT' and/or 'HIGHLY SWEETENED BEVERAGE' ... to enable consumers to readily identify products high in the specified nutrients," according to a Reuters that cited an FSSAI filing in the Supreme Court.

The submission was



made in the Supreme Court as it is hearing petitions from health activists calling for the introduction of warning labels on the lines of Western countries. The Supreme Court had told the FSSAI at a hearing ear-

lier this month to expedite the introduction of these labels.

Big Food companies such as Nestle, PepsiCo, and Coca-Cola have been opposing the move as it is expected to hit sales.

## India steps up humanitarian assistance to Nepal, third flight to carry more relief material

IAN5

**KATHMANDU / NEW DELHI:** India is stepping up its humanitarian assistance to Nepal following the devastating flash floods that has left hundreds dead, with a third aircraft carrying relief supplies expected to depart for the neighbouring country Friday evening, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated.

Addressing a bi-weekly press briefing in New Delhi on Friday, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the flight would carry 12-13 tonnes of essential supplies, including portable generators, dignity kits, food, water purification tablets and medicines, based on requirements conveyed by the Nepali side.

"As this tragedy unfolded, the same day we mobilised our humanitarian assistance efforts and we had one aircraft; the first aircraft departed on 26th August in the evening. It carried 10 tonnes of relief materials, which included temporary shelters, blankets, hygiene kits, solar lamps and medicines. Thereafter, there was a second departure which happened yesterday, 27th August at around 10.30 am in the morning. This particular flight carried 37.5 tonnes of relief material, which included tents, blankets, hygiene kits, solar lamps, dewatering pumps, kitchen sets, gen sets, medicines and food



items," Jaiswal stated.

"And then we are considering the third flight to be leaving this evening, expected to be leaving this evening... The items that this particular flight will be carrying will include portable gen sets, dignity kits, food, water purification tablets, medicines, and things that have been requested by the Nepali side to us... The total load of this particular flight would be something around 12 to 13 tonnes... overall keeping in mind that this flight also takes off we would have sent 60 tonnes of relief materials to Nepal through our humanitarian assistance," he added.

Jaiswal also said that India was preparing additional support for Nepal, including a tunnel rescue team, with a recce team being flown in first to assess the ground situation and the equipment required for the operation.

"As requested by Nepal, we are preparing to send a tunnel rescue team, for which a recce team is being flown in first to assess the on-ground situation and what sort of equipment will be required. We are also sending a medical team to Nepal. In addition, we have also offered Bailey bridges along with associated technical teams so that connectivity can be restored quickly in the affected parts of Nepal and we can help in rescue and relief efforts... One Bailey bridge is already in Nepal and can be deployed for relief and connectivity efforts," the MEA spokesperson mentioned.

The catastrophic flash floods in Nepal's Bhote Koshi River have led to the death of nearly 550 people while 977 still remain out of contact.

The floods, believed to have been triggered by an avalanche on a trans-boundary river between Nepal and China upstream of the Bhote Koshi River, left a trail of destruction along the river banks downstream, sweeping away several human settlements, roads, hydropower projects and transmission infrastructure, among other facilities.

## Congress backs Shashi Tharoor's 'resilient democracy' remark; BJP says 'stays among communists'

IAN5

**NEW DELHI:** The Congress on Friday defended its MP Shashi Tharoor after he hailed India's resilient democracy amid Gen Z protests, calling it the party's "gift" to the country, while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) remarked that he "stays among communists" in Kerala.

A day before, Congress MP Tharoor praised India's democratic resilience, stating that the "Indian system bent, didn't break" in the face of recent Gen Z protests.

Reacting to it, Congress spokesperson Atul Londhe said: "I will proudly give the credit for this to Congress. If we have given something to the country in 70 years, that is a strong democracy and strong democratic institutions despite attempts being made to weaken these in the past 12 years, whether it is the RBI, judicial system, bureaucracy or use of ED, CBI etc."

"Despite these efforts (of the ruling alliance), the students kept democracy alive. Only because of a strong democracy, students could react like this; otherwise, we have seen in other countries how



people violently react after their trust in the system breaks... So whatever he (Tharoor) said is right," he told IANS.

Meanwhile, BJP MP Dinesh Sharma claimed: "Shashi Tharoor's thoughts are different; he stays among the communists in Kerala."

Speaking to IANS, he referred to Gen Z as that "dream of the BJP whose wholesome development has been the target since Prime Minister Narendra Modi first took oath (as Prime Minister) in 2014".

"Today initiatives like Startup India, Stand-Up India, Make in India and Digital India have become the biggest platforms for the welfare of the youth," Sharma added.

He said that though people may have differing opinions, but the party is constantly working in favour of Gen Z, "who also represent the 'Bal Swayamsevak' of the RSS and youth wing members of the BJP".

On Thursday, while speaking at the NDTV World Anviksha Summit, Tharoor offered a detailed comparison of how political systems across South Asia responded to youth-led agitations over the past decade.

He noted that six major South Asian countries, including Pakistan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and India, have witnessed significant protests by their young populations in recent years.

"The difference among them is in the political systems in these countries and how the political establishment responded and dealt with them," he observed.

## India's forex reserves hit record \$729.3 billion on strong dollar inflows

IAN5

**NEW DELHI:** India's foreign exchange reserves surged to a record high of \$729.3 billion in the week ended August 21, providing the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) with greater firepower to manage pressure on the rupee amid elevated oil prices and global economic uncertainties.

According to data released by the RBI on Friday, the country's forex reserves increased by \$12.4 billion during the week, surpassing the previous record of \$728.5 billion registered in February.

The sharp rise in reserves has been supported by strong foreign currency inflows following measures introduced by the central bank in June to attract overseas capital. These included a special deposit programme aimed at overseas Indians and other non-resident customers.

The measures have attracted around \$72.8 billion in inflows through August 21, helping strengthen India's external position and reducing the risk of a third consecutive year of a deficit in the country's broadest measure of capital flows.

The increase in reserves also gives the RBI greater room to intervene in the foreign exchange market and support the rupee if necessary. The Indian currency has recovered around 1.7 per cent from its record low

reached in May, but remains under pressure, particularly because of higher crude oil prices and the country's heavy dependence on imported fuel.

However, the strategy of attracting overseas deposits comes at a significant cost for the central bank. Under the special diaspora deposit programme, the RBI is bearing the hedging costs incurred by banks, allowing lenders to offer more attractive interest rates to overseas customers.

The cost of raising these funds has become particularly high as US interest rates remain significantly above the levels seen in 2013, when the RBI last turned to overseas residents to shore up foreign exchange reserves.

Analysts have pointed out that the RBI generally invests the dollars raised through such programmes in relatively low-yielding assets. The return on these assets can be considerably lower than the cost of raising the funds, creating what has been described as a "carry cost" for the country.

The annual cost of this arrangement could be around \$5.7 billion, according to estimates cited in the analysis.

Earlier this month, the RBI unexpectedly advanced the closure of the special diaspora deposit programme, with Governor Sanjay Malhotra saying that inflows had been stronger than anticipated.

## Ex-mill sugar prices fall 20 per cent, retail prices too start declining: Govt

IAN5

**NEW DELHI:** Ex-mill sugar prices in India have declined by around 20 per cent, while retail sugar prices have also started coming down, and given the normal transmission of changes through the supply chain, retail prices are expected to follow the downward movement in prices shortly, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution said on Friday.

The government has been closely monitoring sugar prices, stocks and movement across the country and has taken a series of proactive measures to ensure that the benefit of adequate availability reaches consumers. The downward trend in ex-mill and retail prices reflects that the sharp spike in prices witnessed recently was primarily on account of hoarding and speculation, although the country carries adequate stocks of sugar, the ministry statement said.

A nationwide drive for physical verification of sugar stocks at mills has reaffirmed the comfortable availability position. In several cases, sugar mills were found to be holding stocks



higher than those declared in their monthly returns submitted to the government. The verification exercise has established that there is no shortage of sugar in the country and there is no justification for panic buying or excessive stocking, it said.

In some cases, sugar mills were also found to be resorting to "short selling", which means selling less sugar than the quantity allocated to them under the monthly quota. Such practices tend to unnecessarily constrain market supplies despite adequate physical stocks, the statement said.

The government has also observed that, in certain cases, sugar sold by mills at the beginning of the month was being dispatched or lifted by buyers only towards the end of the month.

## Defence sector reforms aim to boost India's military hardware exports

IAN5

**NEW DELHI:** The Department of Defence Production has undertaken a comprehensive set of reforms to simplify the Defence Export Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and the Open General Export Licence (OGEL) framework with the aim of making India a reliable, competitive and trusted global defence manufacturing and export partner, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Defence on Friday.

These reforms, in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Make-in-India vision, seek to reduce procedural requirements, facilitate faster access to international

markets and enable Indian defence companies to respond more effectively to global business opportunities, while ensuring that national security considerations remain fully safeguarded, the statement said.

As part of the reforms, stakeholder consultation has been dispensed with for exports of non-lethal defence items to most destinations, while appropriate safeguards have been retained for sensitive countries.

Stakeholder consultation has also been scrapped for exports of all items for international tenders and exhibitions, enabling Indian companies to showcase their products and pursue international opportunities more expeditiously.

The OGEL is a standing one-time export authorisation that enables eligible exporters to self-generate export authorisations for multiple consignments of specified defence items, without seeking a separate authorisation for each consignment. It provides greater flexibility while reducing repetitive procedural requirements.

Three existing OGEL SOPs covering major platforms and equipment, parts and components, and intra-company transfer of technology have been consolidated into one unified OGEL SOP, providing exporters with a common and simpler framework.



# Three-day National Sports Day 2026 celebrations began at NIT Srinagar



## GMK SPORTS DESK

**SRINAGAR:** The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Friday began a three-day celebration of National Sports Day 2026, being observed from August 28 to 30 under the theme “Khelega Bharat, Jeetega Bharat.”

The celebrations are being organised in line with the nationwide Fit India Movement initiative under the aegis of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. National Sports Day is celebrated annually on August 29 to commemorate the birth anniversary of legendary hockey player Major Dhyan Chand.

The “Pass the Ball” and “29 Challenge” activities held on Friday witnessed the participation of students and staff members, promoting physical activity, fitness and team spirit on the NIT Srinagar campus.

The campaign focuses on the three pillars of “Tribute, Play and Move”, encouraging students and members of the institute community to participate in sports, fitness activities and awareness programmes.

In his message, Director

NIT Srinagar Prof. Anurag Misra said sports and physical activities are an important part of holistic education and urged students to actively participate in the National Sports Day activities. He emphasised that regular participation in sports helps promote discipline, teamwork, physical fitness and overall well-being.

Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman highlighted the importance of creating a healthy and active campus environment, saying that initiatives such as National Sports Day provide students with an opportunity to balance academic pursuits with physical activity and sports.

Dr Manoj Kumar, In-charge Faculty, SAS, said the celebrations are aimed at encouraging greater participation in sports and fitness activities among students and staff. He encouraged the Institute community to make physical activity a regular part of their daily routine.

On the occasion, Mrs Kowsar Ali Mir, SAS Officer, said the National Sports Day activities provide an opportunity to bring students and staff together through sports

and fitness. She encouraged participants to take part enthusiastically in the upcoming activities and make physical activity a regular part of their lives.

Sohail Ahmad Baba, (SAS Assistant), also highlighted the importance of sports and physical fitness, saying that such activities help promote discipline, teamwork and a healthy lifestyle among students and staff.

The event was also graced by the presence Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat, Assistant Security Officer; besides the SAS staff and students. The National Sports Day celebrations will continue at NIT Srinagar through August 30.

The programme is being organised with the participation of the School of Applied Sciences (SAS), its staff and students. The activities include sports and fitness-related initiatives aimed at promoting an active and healthy lifestyle.

The nationwide campaign also encourages institutions to organise sports competitions, fitness activities, awareness campaigns, “Ek Ghanta Khel Ke Maidan Mein” and the Special Edition of Sundays on Cycle.

# 'Special shoutout to Sonal Dinusha': Gambhir praises Sri Lanka batter's gritty knock

## IAN5

**NEW DELHI:** India head coach Gautam Gambhir on Friday gave a special shoutout to Sri Lanka's break-out batter Sonal Dinusha for his exceptional, match-saving performance for the hosts in the recent second Test at the SSC Ground in Colombo.

Gambhir also praised his own side's character and mental toughness following the 1-0 series win. "Test cricket needs character, patience and mental toughness that's shown by our boys! Special shoutout to Sonal Dinusha for his exceptional performance!" Gambhir posted on his 'X' account on Friday.

The left-handed Dinusha single-handedly thwarted India's victory push in the second Test at the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC), which ended in a draw on Thursday. Despite missing out on full World Test Championship (WTC) points in the final game, India clinched the two-match series 1-0, having won the opening fixture at Galle by 165 runs.

Dinusha enjoyed a historic, record-breaking



series with the bat by accumulating 420 runs across four innings, including three centuries. Batting at number six, he scored 100 and 84 in the opening Test at Galle International Stadium, followed by 103 in Sri Lanka's first innings in Colombo.

After being made to follow on, Sri Lanka found themselves in deep trouble before Dinusha struck another heroic knock – an undefeated 133 off 264 balls and take them to a hard-fought draw on Thursday. He also joined forces with Keshara Nuwantha to stitch a 112-run seventh-wicket stand.

With that gritty batting performance, Dinusha

became the fifth cricketer and the fourth from Sri Lanka to register twin hundreds in a Test match while coming out to bat at number six or lower than that.

Dinusha also became the eighth Sri Lanka batter to score centuries in both innings of a Test after Aravinda de Silva (twice), Kumar Sangakkara (twice), Duleep Mendis, Asanka Gurusinha, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Dhananjaya de Silva and Kamindu Mendis.

He's also the eighth batter to register three centuries in a two-game Test series, the joint-most for any men's batter and just the third for Sri Lanka after de Silva (twice) and Sangakkara.

# Neeraj Chopra qualifies for Diamond League final after finishing sixth

## IAN5

**NEW DELHI:** India's two-time Olympic medallist and javelin legend Neeraj Chopra has qualified for the Diamond League final after securing a sixth-place finish in the overall standings following the end of the Zurich Diamond League.

Chopra finished sixth with 12 points from the league after participating

in only two legs and missing three, including the Zurich one.

Sri Lanka's Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage won the Zurich Diamond League meeting with a throw of 92.07m to win the leg from Anderson Peters, who threw his javelin to 86.93m, while Czech Dawid Wegner finished third with a throw of 85.16m.

Chopra skipped the Zurich Diamond League

and participated in only two legs this season. He was seen in action in the Lausanne Diamond League earlier this month, where he finished second after hurling his spear to 88.05m, behind Rumesh.

Chopra earlier participated in the Doha Diamond League and secured a fourth-place finish with a throw of 85.69m in his return from a back injury, which hampered him last year.

# Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League Season 2 Unveiled at TRC Ground

## GMK SPORTS DESK

**SRINAGAR:** The wait is over. At a special ceremony held at the TRC Ground, Srinagar the same turf where last season's final drew the largest football crowd the Valley has ever seen, reviving the football culture Kashmir was once famous for the official jerseys of all six Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League franchises and the coveted KSL trophy were unveiled today, a day ahead of National Sports Day.

The timing had punch to it. Barely 24 hours earlier, nearly 200 footballers had gone under the hammer in Season 2's player auction, with all six franchises completing their squads. Today, those same squads got the shirts they'll wear into battle and their first look at the trophy every one of them is chasing, including Season 1 champions United Elegant FC, back to defend the title they won in a penalty shoot-out thriller.

Senior government officials, sporting administrators, franchise owners, corporate partners and football stakeholders packed the ceremony, underlining how far football in Jammu & Kashmir has come and how central the corporate sector has become to



giving the region's young talent a real stage.

The jerseys and trophy were jointly unveiled by Satish Sharma, Hon'ble Minister for Sports, J&K; Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports; Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council; and Wasim Ahmed Khan, Chief of Sales & Customer Relations, Khyber Cement, said:

Speaking on Khyber Cement's larger vision and its association with the league, Umar Trambo, Director Corporate & Strategy, Khyber Cement, said:

“At Khyber Cement, we believe that the true measure of growth is not only how far a company moves forward, but how many people and communities it takes forward with it. Our association

with the Kashmir Super League reflects this belief.”

Wasim Ahmed Khan, Chief of Sales & Customer Relations, Khyber Cement, added:

“The Kashmir Super League gives us an opportunity to connect with the people of Jammu & Kashmir through something that inspires genuine passion and pride. As a brand that has grown alongside the region, Khyber Cement is committed to initiatives that create meaningful engagement. Season 2 is a step forward in that journey.”

The first season didn't just fill the stands it changed trajectories. Aazim Parvez and Abrar Ali, two of Season 1's Emerging Player award winners, have since been called up to the India Under-17 national team camp: real proof

that a league built to develop athletes is already doing exactly that. Season 2 is built to push further six competitive franchises, a stronger player pool, and growing corporate backing aimed at giving young footballers across Jammu & Kashmir an even bigger stage.

Beyond the scoreline, the league carries a wider purpose. Khyber Cement continues to back the belief that sport builds more than athletes it builds discipline, teamwork, leadership, resilience and a sense of community among young people.

Landing a day before National Sports Day, today's unveiling carried weight beyond marking the start of another season. It stood as a shared statement from government, sporting institutions, corporate partners and the wider community of intent to keep building a stronger sporting culture in Jammu & Kashmir.

Six teams are geared up. The trophy is on full display. And the defending champions know exactly who's coming for them. Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League Season 2 is ready to begin its next chapter one built on local talent, community participation and the spirit of the game.

# Hockey India announces Rs 50 lakh reward for historic World Cup finish

## IAN5

**NEW DELHI:** Hockey India on Friday announced a cash award of Rs 50 lakh for the Indian Women's Hockey Team in recognition of their historic fifth-place finish at the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup Belgium and Netherlands 2026.

Salima Tete's side sealed the milestone with a 3-1 win over World No. 5 Germany in the 5th/6th place classification match in Amstelveen on Thursday, marking India's best result at the tournament since they finished fourth at the inaugural edition in 1974. The team went through the campaign with just one defeat, holding higher-ranked sides China, England and Australia to draws and recording a 6-1 win over South Africa, before completing their run under chief Coach



Sjoerd Marijne with the win over Germany.

Congratulating the team on the achievement, Hockey India president Padma Dr Dilip Tirkey said, "This is a historic result for Indian women's hockey. To finish fifth at a World Cup after 52 years is a testament to the hard work, resilience and fighting spirit this team has shown throughout the tournament. On behalf of Hockey India, I am pleased to announce a cash award of Rs 50 lakh for the team as a token of our appreciation, and I hope this inspires the players

to keep raising the bar."

Reflecting the president's sentiments, Hockey India secretary general Bhola Nath Singh said, "Salima and her team have done the country proud with a campaign that saw them compete with, and hold their own against, some of the best sides in the world. This announcement is our way of recognising their commitment and hard work, and we hope it further motivates the team as they turn their focus towards the Asian Games."

# 'Price worth paying': ECB chair on scheduling issues caused by The Hundred

## IAN5

**NEW DELHI:** England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chairman Richard Thompson has said that the scheduling issues caused by The Hundred are "a price worth paying".

The short turnaround between The Hundred and international cricket leaves England players with very little time to regroup and, at times, adjust to the different formats. The Hundred 2026 ended on August 16, just three days before the start of the first Test match against Pakistan on August 19. The scheduling has come under scrutiny from former cricketers; however, the ECB chair looks at the positives the board gets from making those sacrifices.

"Sacrifices have got to be made," he told Sky Sports. "If we can take all of the debt out of the game, which we have, make a generation (of counties) which can reinvent themselves, that is

a price worth paying."

Last year, the ECB sold stakes in the eight franchises, which saw them raise £500m, as the ECB used the funds for the professional and domestic game.

England fast bowler Josh Tongue called the turnaround "crazy scheduling". Former England cricketer Nasser Hussain also called out the scheduling. "The schedule for the England players has repercussions," Hussain said, as quoted by Sky Sports. "You've got bowlers bowling here on a Sunday night who are travelling up to Headingley for a Test match on Wednesday.

"You've got an opening bat trying to tee off on a Sunday evening who could open the batting in a Test match on a Wednesday.

"So the schedule is an absolute nightmare - and this tournament does cause issues - but the one thing you cannot doubt is the quality of players that we've seen over the last three and a half weeks."

INOX

SRINAGAR

MOVIES

Watchlist

29 AUGUST 2026

(SATURDAY)

AWARAPAN 2

(U/A 16+)

HINDI

11:10 AM | 01:55 PM | 04:45 PM

TOXIC:

A FAIRY TALE FOR GROWN-UPS

A

HINDI

02:00 PM | 05:45 PM

HINDI ATMOS

11:00 AM | 03:00 PM | 07:00 PM

SPIDER-MAN:

BRAND NEW DAY

(U/A 13+)

ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

11:00 AM | 07:45 PM

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CMYK

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