

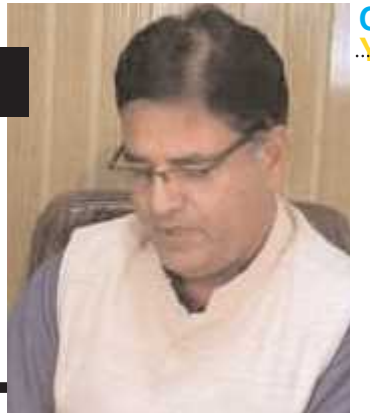


Gautam Bhai always tells me /..... **P-5**

DAILY

BOLD NEWS

9th YEAR OF PUBLICATION



LS adjourned amid Oppn uproar over..... **P-7**

Follow us: [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [g](#) [+](#) **Bold News**

Reach us: www.boldnewsonline.com

RNI No. JKENG/ 2017/ 73131 VOL. No. 09 ISSUE No. 197 JAMMU, THURSDAY AUGUST 14, 2025 8 PAGES POSTAL REGD. NO. L-29/JK-577/19-21 PRICE Rs. 1/-

INDIA CAN CONSTRUCT ON TRIBUTARIES OF INDUS, JHELMUM, CHENAB UNDER IWT : COURT OF ARBITRATION



BN CORESPONDENT NEW DELHI, AUG 13

The Permanent Court of

Arbitration at the Hague has, in an Award on Issues of General Interpretation of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT), said

India is permitted by the Treaty to construct on the tributaries of the Indus, Jhelum and Chenab ("Western

Rivers") even though the general rule is that India shall "let flow" the waters of the Western Rivers for Pakistan's use.

The Court in an Award on August 8, said that even though the "general rule" is that India shall "let flow" the waters of the Western Rivers for Pakistan's use, there are certain specified exceptions to this rule, including in relation to the generation of hydroelectric power.

In the Award the Court did not address the application of its findings to the specific circumstances of the Kishenganga Hydro-Electric Plant ("KHEP") or Ratle Hydro-Electric Plant ("RHEP"), two Indian projects presented in Pakistan's Request for Arbitration.

■Contd on P-6

Supreme Court to hear plea for restoring J&K statehood today



NEW DELHI, AUG 13

The Supreme Court would on Thursday hear a plea for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

A bench of Chief Justice of India B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran is likely to hear the matter, according to the causerlist.

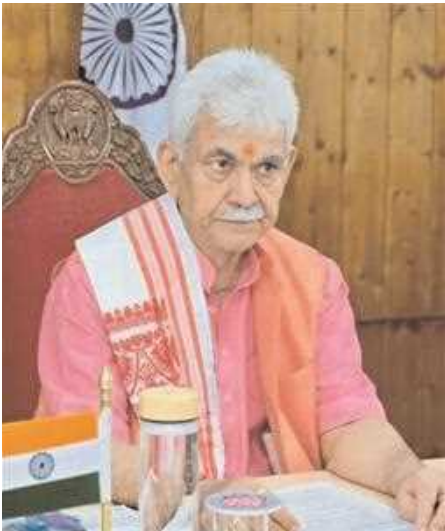
On December 11, 2023, the

Supreme Court unanimously upheld the revocation of Article 370, even as it ordered that assembly elections be held in Jammu and Kashmir by September 2024 and its statehood be restored "at the earliest".

Last year, a plea was filed in the top court seeking directions to the Centre for the restoration of

■Contd on P-6

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



BN CORESPONDENT NEW DELHI, AUG 12

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today attended the Trophy unveiling ceremony of Bijbehara Premier League (BPL) at Anantnag. The Lieutenant Governor interacted with the players and officials and congratulated the organisers of the Bijbehara Premier

League. "Bijbehara Premier League is widely considered as the most prestigious cricket tournament in J&K UT which also serves as a platform to showcase talent and earn their place at national and international level," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the Bijbehara Premier League is far more than an ambitious competition for the youth of Anantnag and its neighbouring districts. This tournament has also made a major contribution to improving the quality of sports throughout Jammu and Kashmir, he added. The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, J&K UT has made its rightful place in the Indian sporting landscape.

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

■Contd on P-6

Our relationship with both India and Pakistan is 'Good': US

BN CORESPONDENT NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, AUG 13

America's relationship with both India and Pakistan is "good", the US State Department has said, asserting that the diplomats are "committed to both nations".

Speaking at a briefing on Tuesday, State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce said that the US working with both nations is good news for the region and the world, and will promote a beneficial future.

"I would say that our relationship with both nations is as it has been, which is good. And that is the benefit of having a President who knows everyone, talks to everyone, and that is how we can

bring differences together in this case. So it's clear that the diplomats here are committed to both nations," Bruce said.

She was responding to a question on the possibility of increased U.S. assistance to Islamabad in terms of arms sales following Pakistan Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir's meeting with Mr. Trump, and whether this was coming at the cost of Mr. Trump's relationship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Referring to the May conflict between India and Pakistan, Ms. Bruce added, "Obviously, we had an experience with Pakistan and India when there was a

■Contd on P-6

Ahead of PM Modi's likely trip to China, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang to visit India on Aug 18



JAMMU, AUG 13

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi is set to visit India on Monday to hold border talks with NSA Ajit Doval, days ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's planned trip to China to attend the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation

Organisation (SCO). The Chinese foreign minister is visiting India primarily to hold the next round of Special Representatives (SR) dialogue on the boundary question, authoritative sources said on Wednesday.

Wang and Doval are the designated special representatives for t

■Contd on P-6

Operation Sindoor provided opportunity for successful use of technology: Jitendra Singh



BN CORESPONDENT JAMMU, AUG 13

Union minister Jitendra Singh gave credit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday for the use of technology in the defence sector and safeguarding the country, and said Operation Sindoor provided an opportunity to put this technology into use successfully.

Drawing a contrast between the time when Modi himself risked his life to go to Srinagar's Lal Chowk to hoist the national

flag and today, Singh said every hand in the valley now holds the tricolour.

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

Singh, who led a Tiranga rally in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, referred to Operation Sindoor as India's response

■Contd on P-6

CS for transforming KKGs into 'Instruments of Change' for farmers



SRINAGAR, AUG 12

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

Chairing a high-level meeting held to review the functioning of

■Contd on P-6

Kathua DISHA Meeting: Dr Jitendra issues strict instructions to check illegal mining, Ujh project revived



BN CORESPONDENT KATHUA, AUG 13

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, has issued strict instructions to the administration to check the illegal mining in the

district Kathua.

Chairing the DISHA meeting of the district administration and various departments he said that the illegal mining is threatening the erosion of the foundations of some of the vital infrastructure

projects including Keerian Gadiyal bridge and expressway corridor. He said these are some of the precious and historic projects of national importance which have been obtained with direct intervention and patronage of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and therefore it would be a matter of shame if for some petty vested games and individual business interests these projects are allowed to get eroded and lose their functional value.

The Minister asked the SSP and the district Mining Officer to furnish a report about how many illegal mining cases have been brought to work. He also asked

■Contd on P-6

Smart fence system, robotic mules, all terrain vehicles boost border security along LoC in J&K



BN CORESPONDENT SUNDERBANI (J&K), AUG 13

Keeping pace with the chang-

ing security scenario driven by rapid advancement in AI-powered technology, the Army has

gone high-tech with the introduction of state-of-the-art equipment like smart fence system, robotic mules and all-terrain vehicles to fortify security along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said.

The newly-introduced equipment, including quadcopters, advanced surveillance tools, bulletproof vehicles, modern weapons and night-vision sights, were all successfully tested during Operation Sindoor between May 7 and May 10, when Indian armed forces carried out missile strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in the wake

■Contd on P-6

Tiranga Yatra:Salute to Bharat Mata, freedom heroes and brave soldiers, says CM Yogi



LUCKNOW, AUG 13

As India marks 78 years of Independence, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has cautioned against forces attempting to fracture social unity through divisions based on society, region, language or caste and urged that such elements be exposed.

Launching the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign from his official residence yesterday, he called upon every home to proudly hoist the tricolor as a symbol of national pride and respect for soldiers.

Inspired by Prime Minister

Narendra Modi's appeal, the August 13-15 campaign, along with Tiranga

Yatras across villages, towns and districts, aim at spreading reverence for the Constitution, national symbols, freedom fighters and great leaders during Amrit Kaal, he remarked.

"From villages to towns and districts, Tiranga Yatras are setting an inspiring example. In Uttar Pradesh too, people are enthusiastically participating in 'Har Ghar Tiranga' and 'Selfie with Tiranga campaigns'," he said.

The Tricolor, Yogi added, stands as a symbol of the

nation's pride and respect for its soldiers and should adorn every Indian household.

The Chief Minister led the Tiranga Yatra amid the tunes of patriotic songs and flagged off the march from his residence. Highlighting India's global standing the Chief Minister said, "The world has witnessed India's courage, strength during Operation Sindoor. This recognition also places a responsibility on every Indian to uphold the nation's honour."

He appealed to 140 crore citizens to rise above personal interests, dedicate themselves to the nation, hoist the Tricolor in every home and participate actively in the grand celebration of independence.

Referring to the ambitious goal of 'Viksit Bharat Atmanirbhar Bharat' by 2047 set by the Prime Minister, CM Yogi reaffirmed his commitment to making 'Viksit Uttar Pradesh Atmanirbhar Uttar Pradesh' a guiding mantra for life.

Meanwhile, with the Tricolor in hand and chants of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and 'Vande Mataram', CM Yogi marched alongside his cabinet colleagues and public representatives, leading the Tiranga Yatra through the streets of Lucknow.

Before flagging off the march from his residence, he interacted with and took selfies with school children, NCC cadets, scout guides and enthusiastic youth.

Orissa High Court commutes death penalty to life term of 2019 double murder convict

BHUBANESWAR, AUG 13

The Orissa High Court today ordered the death sentence of a man be commuted to life imprisonment for commission of a brutal double murder case in 2019, saying that

"it is well settled law that the possibility of reformation and rehabilitation of the convict is an important factor which has to be taken into account as a mitigating circumstance before sentencing him to death".

A Division Bench of Justice B.P. Routray and Justice Chittaranjan Dash taking note of the positive report of authorities of the jail regarding the convict Niranjan Mallik in death row commuted the capital punishment awarded by a lower court to life term.

"Taking into consideration the report of the jail authority in entirety, it cannot be said that there is no possibility of the convict being reformed and rehabilitated, foreclosing the alternative of a lesser sentence", the Bench observed.

"We are therefore inclined to convert the sentence imposed on the appellant (convict) from death to life, but taking note of the severity of the offences including murder of two persons we are of the view that the convict deserves life imprisonment for the rest of his life, the Division Bench ordered in the judgment.

The convict Niranjan on the intervening night of 16 and 17 January 2019 let loose a reign of



terror at Odagaon vegetable market in Nayagarh district and committed cold blooded murder of a night watchman, Lochan Sethi, and a 70-year-old woman, Badani Pradhan inside her house. Three other persons including the deceased Pradhan's daughter also sustained grievous injuries in the attack.

The commission of two murders, one attempt to murder and two grievous hurts with lurking house trespass were charged against the convict under different heads prescribed in the Penal Code. A court in Nayagarh district after examining 27 witnesses and adduced 94 documents had awarded death sentence to Mallik on April 27, 2024.

Upon thorough examination of socio-economic background of the convict in the present case, it appears that he hails from the poor economic strata of society

without having any criminal antecedent and adverse report against his conduct.

As per the report of the Jail authority submitted before this court he is cordial to others and no one spoke evil of him in his village, his conduct inside the jail is normal and cordial to other inmates. Nothing on his conduct as per the report of the jail authority would constitute an aggravating factor against him to confirm the death sentence.

Regardless of the heinous crime committed by him, his conduct inside jail is quite satisfactory as per the report of the Superintendent of Jail and he had also no other antecedent than the present one to be counted against him to justify his death sentence, the Division Bench stated in the 53-page order.

Haryana grants legal land rights to one lakh Prajapati families



CHANDIGARH, AUG 13

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini today handed over land entitlement certificates to Prajapati families, and called on the community to strengthen their traditional pottery craft by embracing modern technology and aligning their products with market demand.

Speaking at a state-level function in Kurukshetra, the CM urged them to adopt new techniques, avail government schemes, and enhance the quality and appeal of their creations.

The Chief Minister personally handed over certificates to beneficiaries, while similar events were held simultaneously in all 22 districts.

This historic initiative benefited around one lakh families across 1,700 villages, granting them collective legal rights for soil excavation under the Gram Shamlat Bhumi Niyamawali, 1964.

"These certificates will not only give the Prajapati community legal authority to carry out their work without hindrance but will also help them give new direction to their art, fulfil their aspirations, and manufacture products locally," the Chief Minister said.

This fulfils the commitment made by Mr. Saini during the Daksh Prajapati Jayanti celebrations in Bhiwani on July 13, demonstrating the government's resolve to match words with action.

Describing the Prajapati community as hardworking, honest, and highly skilled, Saini noted that the art of making earthen pots has been a vital part of India's cultural heritage. However, over time, this craft did not receive the respect, opportunities, or resources needed to connect future generations to it.

The Chief Minister alleged that during Congress rule, land meant for the Prajapati community's work was encroached

upon, and ill-conceived policies disrupted their livelihood. "In every village, there was adequate land for sourcing soil, but instead of protecting it, the previous government carved out plots from the very land where the community earned its living," he said.

In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas," Saini said the government's goal is not merely to provide land but to create an ecosystem for the community's skills to flourish.

He highlighted the establishment of the Mati Kala Board to promote artisans, incentives for pottery and clay art, and an increase in the creamy layer income limit for backward classes from ₹6 lakh to ₹8 lakh.

Saini urged citizens to join the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign by planting and nurturing a tree on every important occasion and to actively support the Prime Minister's Swachhata Abhiyan. He said that over one lakh families have already been given houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, with the pace of the scheme set to increase.

Our relationship with both India and Pakistan is ‘good’: US



NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, AUG 13

America's relationship with both India and Pakistan is "good", the US State Department has said, asserting that the diplomats are "committed to both nations".

Speaking at a briefing on Tuesday, State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce said that the US working with both nations is good news for the region and the world, and will promote a beneficial future.

"I would say that our relationship with both nations is as it has been, which is good. And that is the benefit of having a President who knows everyone, talks to everyone, and that is how we can bring differences together in this case. So it's clear that the diplomats here are committed to both nations," Bruce

said.

She was responding to a question on the possibility of increased US assistance to Islamabad in terms of arms sales following Pakistan Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir's meeting with Trump, and whether this was coming at the cost of Trump's relationship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Referring to the May conflict between India and Pakistan, Bruce added, "Obviously, we had an experience with Pakistan and India when there was a conflict, one that could have developed into something quite horrible."

She said that there was "immediate concern and immediate movement" with Vice President J D Vance, President Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio in "addressing the nature of what was happening....we described the nature of

the phone calls, the work that we did to stop the attacks and to then bring the parties together so we could have something that was enduring."

She also claimed that top leaders in the US were involved in "stopping that potential catastrophe."

New Delhi has been maintaining that India and Pakistan halted their military actions following direct talks between their militaries without any mediation by the US.

Bruce added that the recent peace agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan "follows negotiated peace arrangements between Cambodia and Thailand, Israel and Iran, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, India and Pakistan, Egypt and Ethiopia and Serbia and Kosovo."

Meanwhile, in an interview on Tuesday, Rubio said that "credit goes to" Trump for helping bring several conflicts around the world to an end.

Trump says he wants "to be the President of peace. And so any time we see a conflict where we think we can make a difference, we get involved, and we've had good success in that regard. India-Pakistan, Thailand-Cambodia, the peace deal with Azerbaijan and Armenia, just a few days ago," he said in an interview with 'Sid and Friends in the Morning'.

Tennessee town approves deals to turn closed prison into immigration detention facility

MASON (US), AUG 13

Officials in a rural Tennessee town voted on Tuesday to approve agreements to turn a former prison into an immigration detention facility operated by a private company, despite loud objections from upset residents and activists during a contentious public meeting.

The five-member Board of Aldermen in Mason, plus Mayor Eddie Noeman and Vice Mayor Reynaldo Givhan, met in a fire station garage to discuss converting the closed West Tennessee Detention Facility into a US Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention centre run by CoreCivic Inc.

Also present were a few dozen vocal, angry members of the public who oppose allowing ICE to house immigrants in Mason who have been taken into custody as President Donald Trump pushes for mass deportations. Trump has touted a Florida detention facility where allegations of mistreatment of detainees have drawn lawsuits from civil rights advocates and environmental groups.

The first vote of the meeting resulted in approval for a contract with CoreCivic to resume operating the facility, which was closed in 2021 after President Joe Biden ordered the Department of Justice to stop renewing contracts with private detention facilities. Trump reversed that order in January. The second vote, to approve an agreement with ICE, also passed.

It is not immediately known when the facility will reopen.



The mayor points to job-generating potential.

Noeman said he wanted to reopen the shuttered prison to bring jobs and economic development to the town, which has struggled with financial problems and needs infrastructure improvements.

With a population of about 1,300, Mason is located about 60 kilometres northeast of Memphis. When it was open, the prison was the town's largest employer and an important economic engine.

Noeman, an Egyptian-American immigrant and a long-time business owner in the town, called turning the closed prison over to CoreCivic and ICE a "win-win situation," which led to a cascade of loud boos.

"It's nothing personal about any immigrant," Noeman said, adding moments later that "to give jobs to the people is what I'm looking for."

At times, Noeman argued with attendees, questioning whether they live in Mason and telling them, "You don't know what you're talking about."

Before the meeting, board member Virginia Rivers told The Associated Press that she does not support turning the prison into an ICE facility because "I don't like what ICE stands for, how they treat the people."

During the meeting, she noted that some immigrants without criminal records are being swept up by immigration agents and separated from their families. She said approving the contracts would make Mason "complicit in the abusive treatment of immigrants."

"We, as officials of the town of Mason that were elected by the citizens, should consider the consequences and the hurt that this would cause our local community, our neighbours, Tennessee schools and many

Pak's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa govt announces relief package for people displaced due to military op



PESHAWAR, Aug 13

Over 20,000 families have taken shelter due to an ongoing military operation against militants in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, officials said Wednesday, as the provincial government declared a special relief package for those affected.

Security forces launched a three-day targetted operation on Monday against militants in Lowi Mamund and War Mamund tehsils in Bajaur district of the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a former stronghold of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

Each of the displaced families

from the affected areas will receive Rs 50,000, with an additional Rs 25,000 to be paid after the completion of the targetted operation, the provincial cabinet decided on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, Additional Deputy Commissioner Bajaur Saeed Ullah Jan said that 9,132 people - 1,976 men, 2,015 women and 5,141 children - are currently housed in 116 schools and colleges.

The Sports Stadium camp alone accommodates 434 families, totalling 2,497 people, while around 20,000 families have taken refuge with relatives, with registration still in progress as of Wednesday morning.

Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Zulfiqar Hameed said travel from Dera Ismail Khan to Quetta is now possible due to the improved security situation. Best vacation packages

In view of the targetted operation, around 55,000 people have been displaced since August 9 in the Bajaur district.

The authorities have not yet released information about the number of militants killed.

MLA Surinder leads vibrant Tiranga Rallies in Marh Constituency



**BN CORESPONDENT
JAMMU, AUG 13**

As part of the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign, MLA Surinder Kumar today participated in grand Tiranga rallies organized in Marh Mandal, Mandal Gho Manhasa and Mandal Phalain within the Marh Assembly constituency. The rallies were filled with patriotic slogans and the national flag, symbolizing the participants' love for their country. The rallies saw enthusiastic participation from party workers, students, senior

citizens in these rallies, citizens demonstrate their love for their country and commitment to its sovereignty and integrity.

MLA Surinder emphasized the importance of Tiranga Yatras in Jammu and Kashmir. These events have become a symbol of national unity and patriotism, bringing citizens together to celebrate the country's independence and sovereignty. Tiranga Yatras promote national unity by bringing citizens together to celebrate the country's independence and sovereignty. These events instill patriotism and national pride among citizens, particularly the youth, encouraging them to take pride in their national identity, added MLA.

MLA Surinder further said that Tiranga Yatras promote social cohesion by bringing people together from different backgrounds and communities, fostering a sense of belonging and unity. In regions like Jammu and Kashmir, Tiranga Yatras serve as a powerful symbol of national unity, countering separatist ideologies and promoting integration with the rest of the country. The Tiranga Yatras have had a significant impact on Jammu and Kashmir, promoting national unity and patriotism in the region. These events have become an essential part of the country's celebrations, demonstrating the region's commitment to national unity and development, added MLA.

citizens, and local residents, showcasing their patriotism and national pride. The event highlighted the significance of the Tiranga rallies in fostering national unity and pride among citizens. MLA Surinder Kumar's presence demonstrated his commitment to promoting national unity and patriotism in the region.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Surinder said the Tiranga rallies are part of the larger "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign, aimed at promoting national pride and unity across the country. By par-

ABRSM Ramban Welcomes ATD, Raises Teachers' Issues

**BN CORESPONDENT
JAMMU, AUG 12**

The Akhil Bharatiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh (ABRSM) District Unit Ramban, led by District President Dr. Ramparshad Singh Manhas, on Tuesday met the newly posted Chief Education Officer (CEO) Mohd. Mukhtar Manhas. During the meeting, the delegation appreciated the recent transfer drive and the posting of subject-specific teachers to hanging schools in the district, while also highlighting pressing issues concerning the education sector.

Welcoming the CEO with a bouquet, organizational calendar, and magazine, Dr. Manhas lauded the recent Annual Transfer Drive (ATD) in which 196 general line teachers were posted to new stations, terming it a positive step towards uplifting education standards in far-flung areas.

District General Secretary Pawan Kishore urged that the transfer policy be implemented



annually in sync with the academic calendar, while District Media Prabhari Rakesh Kumar emphasized the need for special initiatives in the hilly district to strengthen grassroots education.

Dr. Manhas also pointed out certain concerns arising from the recent ATD list, including repeated postings of teachers in hard zones, non-transfer of staff despite long service in the toughest zones, and the creation of

vacancies without replacements after transfers. He further raised issues related to BLO transfers and other teacher-specific grievances.

The CEO assured the delegation of timely redressal of genuine grievances. The meeting was attended by Rakesh Kumar, Dist. Media Prabhari, Media Vipin Sharma, Jeep Singh, Paramjeet Singh, Gareeb Singh, Sanjay Katoch, and others.

Ban on pro-secessionist literature long-overdue and welcome: GL Raina



**BN CORESPONDENT
JAMMU, AUG 13**

In a long-overdue and welcome decision, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has ordered the forfeiture and ban of 25 books that openly propagate secessionism, glorify terrorism, and undermine national integrity. This move is not only timely but essential to safeguard public order and protect impressionable minds from malicious propaganda, said Girdhari Lal Raina, Former MLC & BJP Spokesperson, Jammu & Kashmir UT.

A notification (S.O. 203) issued by the Home Department on August 5, under Section 98 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, declared these

books "forfeited," citing their false narratives and dangerous influence in misguiding the youth of Jammu & Kashmir, recalled Raina. The decision followed a detailed content review and intelligence inputs that revealed their systematic distortion of historical facts, vilification of security forces, and promotion of violence. These findings are not speculative—they are evidence-based, rooted in thorough investigations and credible security assessments, he added.

It is a matter of record that decades of death and destruction in Jammu & Kashmir have been fuelled by a well-oiled propaganda machinery that thrives on falsifying history, manufacturing grievances, and romanticizing terrorism, Ex MLC underlined. Such literature does not merely reflect opinion; it strategically implants a culture of victimhood and heroism for those who take up arms against the state. The sustained internal circulation of such material has been a significant driver of radicalization among sections of Kashmiri youth, he stressed.

Unsurprisingly, the affected individuals and their broader ecosystem have reacted with predictable outrage, invoking freedom of speech and expression as an absolute right. They conveniently overlook the fact that Article 19 of the Constitution of India guarantees this freedom

subject to reasonable restrictions in the interest of sovereignty, integrity, security of the State, public order, decency, morality, contempt of court, defamation, incitement to an offence, or the protection of the interests of Scheduled Tribes. Free speech in any constitutional democracy is never a license to promote secessionism, glorify violence, or wage psychological warfare against the nation, GL Raina asserted.

Those who are now lamenting the ban would do well to examine their own record. They remained silent—or worse, complicit—when books like Genocide of Hindus in Kashmir, Lajja, Gandhi Vadh Kyon, or works by authors such as Ram Swarup, Salman Rushdie, and Taslima Nasrin were banned. Even films and serials, songs and poems critical of earlier regimes were banned on flimsy grounds, he reminded. The booklet Genocide of Hindus in Kashmir, published by Suruchi Prakashan for the Jammu Kashmir Sahayata Samiti, documented the horrific atrocities committed against religious minorities in Kashmir during 1989-90. Yet not a single self-proclaimed defender of free speech raised a voice against its suppression, Raina regretted.

This selective outrage is not about constitutional morality—it is about preserving a narrative monopoly, he opined.

Modi Ji's vision has turned neglect into progress for Gandyal Panchayat: Pawan Sharma

**BN CORESPONDENT
JAMMU, AUG 13**

In a spirited display of commitment to environmental conservation and community development, BJP Jammu and Kashmir State Secretary Pawan Sharma today actively participated in a tree plantation ceremony at Shiv Temple, Gandyal Panchayat, Kathua, under the leadership of Smt. Suman Bala, President, Lakhanpur Mandal and coordinated by Shingara Singh District President Minority Morcha and Akshay Bharti, former District secretary Kathua. The event formed part of the nationwide campaign "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam", inspired by the call of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to connect every citizen with the cause of a greener India.

Addressing on the occasion Sharma said, "The 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative is not just a plantation drive — it is an emotional bond with our roots. When we plant a tree in the name of our mother, we plant a living tribute that will serve the environment for decades."

Sharma took the occasion to remind the people of the transformation Gandyal Panchayat has witnessed in the past decade. "This panchayat remained neglected by successive state governments for



decades. It was only after Modi Ji took charge in 2014 that long-pending dreams began to turn into reality. Thanks to the initiative of Dr. Jitendra Singh, MoS PMO and our MP from Udhampur-Kathua, a 2165 crore mega project was sanctioned, connecting Keediyian and Gandyal panchayats with Kathua district headquarters. This has not just improved connectivity, but has also boosted local trade, transport, and livelihood opportunities," he said.

Praising the vision of Prime Minister Modi, Sharma added, "Under Modi Ji's leadership, villages like Gandyal are no longer

forgotten dots on the map. They are now part of India's growth story. This is true 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, and Sabka Prayas' in action."

Residents of the panchayat expressed heartfelt gratitude to the central leadership for the unprecedented focus on infrastructure, environment, and rural empowerment. The event concluded with participants taking a pledge to plant and protect more trees, ensuring that the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' movement becomes a permanent habit rather than a one-day event.

Karra, Bhalla, other Senior leaders also joined Dharna



**BN CORESPONDENT
JAMMU, AUG 13**

Senior Congress leaders and prominent activists of the party from district Ramban and District Reasi today observed day long hunger strike at Jammu today as part of the Chain hunger strike of the party for the restoration of statehood movement.

JKPCC Chief Shri Tariq Hameed Karra, Working President Raman Bhalla, Former minister Mula Ram, Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, Yogesh Sawhney (Ex-Minister), Former MLC Ved Mahajan, Former Minister Yash Paul Kundal, Rajnish Sharma, Kanta Bhan, Ex MLA Ashok Dogra, DCC Presidents Bhupinder Singh Jamwal (Reasi), Shri Pravez Wani (Ramban), Zahida

Khan, Rajesh Sadotra, Farroz Khan, M.R. Salalia, Vijay Sharma (Seva Dal), Ajay Lakhotra (NSUI), Anjurudh Sawhney (PYC), Smt. Parveen Akhtar, Smt. Anuradha Sharma, Smt. Bimla Salathia (Mahila Congress) & other senior leaders at Shaheedi Chowk Jammu.

A large number of Congress leaders and workers of Reasi and Ramban districts today held a day long dharna and hunger strike in front of party HQ at Shaheedi Chowk Jammu, today as per schedule of days for respective districts to carry on the chain hunger strike by the Pradesh Congress in Jammu, while similar protest hunger strike by the respective district leaders continued their hunger strike for the cause at Srinagar headquarter too. They raised slogans "Hamari Riyasat Hamara

Haq", restore full statehood, statehood is right of 1.40 cr of J&K residents etc.

The prominent leaders form these districts who observed hunger strike in Jammu today included S/Shri Rajesh Soni, Rajinder Kumar, Suram Singh, Sunil Kumar, Sanjay Sharma, Mohinder Singh, Vinod Kumar, Kewal Singh, Rohit Sharma, Rakesh Kumar, Shankar Singh, Shankar Chand, Satish Kumar, Sahil Ahmed, Sahil Jamwal, Neeraj Andotra, Shob Sharief, Kulbir Singh, Tilak Raj, Thinku Kumar, Bodh Raj, Arjun Kumar, Ashok Kumar, Jagan Nath, Kanta Chand, Rakesh Kumar, Mohinder Singh, Anu Radha, Pawan Khajuria, Ansh, Bansari Ram, Madan Lal, Raj Kumar, Mohd Rafiq, Balvinder Kumar, Basharat Ali, Abdul Majid, Sh. Yash Pal, Parwaiz Ahmed, Ashok Dogra, Zahid Khan, Sumezra Raja, Omkar Singh, Irfan Rumzal, Ankur Dogra, Mohd Javad, Balvinder Singh, Jasbir Singh, Jagdish Singh, Janak Singh, T.S. Khajuria, Luqman Ahmed, Arif Wani, Farooq Khan, Nasir Malik.

Speaking to the gathering, JKPCC Chief Tariq Hameed Karra said that Congress party shall continue its struggle for the restoration of statehood in different modes and take it to the grass root level to make it a mass movement till the centre government grants the full statehood status to Jammu and Kashmir. He demanded that BJP Government should fulfill the promise without delay in the current session of the Parliament and any delay would expose BJP for its falsehood and hollow promises.

MLA Rajiv Jasrotia leads vibrant Tiranga Yatras in Dinga Amb Mandal



**BN CORESPONDENT
JASROTA, AUG 13**

Jasrota Constituency witnessed a surge of patriotism as MLA Rajiv Jasrotia led Tiranga Yatras at various locations in Dinga Amb Mandal. The yatras saw enthusiastic participation from local residents, Sarpanchs, Panchayat members, and other dignitaries. The yatras witnessed massive participation from local residents, including students, youth, and senior citizens, who marched through the streets, proudly carrying the national flag. The event highlighted the significance of Tiranga Yatras in J&K, fostering a sense of national unity and pride among citizens.

Mandal Pradhan Dinga Amb Deepak Sharma, Mandal Prabhari Vidya Sagar, Sarpanchs Kuldeep Gupta, Rocky Sharma, Rakesh, Gandharb Singh, Sagar Singh, Surjit Singh, Sanjay Singh, Satish, Panch Bishan, Sethi Sharma, Sanjeev, Mukesh, Ravi Abrol were present, demonstrating their support for the initiative.

Speaking on the occasion, Jasrotia said that the Tiranga Yatras in J&K hold immense significance as they foster national

unity by promoting the national flag and patriotic spirit. He said Tiranga Yatras help to strengthen the bond between citizens and the nation. The yatras inspire citizens to take pride in their national identity and celebrate the country's independence and sovereignty. By bringing people together from different backgrounds and communities, Tiranga Yatras promote social cohesion and a sense of belonging among citizens, added Jasrotia.

Jasrotia further said that the yatras demonstrate the region's resilience and determination to counter terrorism, showcasing the people's commitment to India's unity and integrity. The yatras encourage community participation, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility among citizens in promoting national pride and unity. By promoting national symbols and values, Tiranga Yatras contribute to strengthening national integration and unity in Jammu and Kashmir, said Jasrotia.

Jasrotia claimed that the Tiranga Yatras in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in Kashmir, demonstrate a significant shift in the region's dynamics, reflecting growing acceptance and enthusiasm for the PM Modi government's policies and

programs. These events have become a powerful symbol of national unity and patriotism, with widespread participation from citizens across the region. Citizens, including youth, students, and community members, have enthusiastically participated in Tiranga Yatras, showcasing their patriotism and national pride, added Jasrotia.

Jasrotia maintained that the yatras signify a departure from the region's past, where separatist sentiments were prevalent, and now, people are embracing the national flag and celebrating India's independence. The Lieutenant Governor and Chief Minister have actively participated in and promoted the Tiranga Yatras, demonstrating the government's commitment to national unity and development.

Jasrotia said abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 marked a significant turning point, paving the way for peace, prosperity, and development in the region. The region has witnessed a surge in tourism, with crores of tourists visiting the valley every year since then, reflecting growing confidence and investment in the region. The Tiranga Yatras in Jammu and Kashmir reflect the region's transformation under PM Modi's vision, showcasing a new era of national unity, patriotism, and development, said Jasrotia.

Later, MLA Rajiv Jasrotia addressed an impressive public gathering at Mangloor in Jasrota Constituency. During the gathering, he listened to public grievances and assured citizens that their genuine concerns would be addressed in a time-bound manner on a priority basis.

The event showcased MLA Jasrotia's commitment to public service and his dedication to addressing the needs and concerns of his constituents. By engaging with citizens and listening to their grievances, he reinforced his pledge to work tirelessly for the betterment of Jasrota Constituency.

BOLD NEWS

J&K GLOWS WITH PATRIOTISM

Every year, as the tricolour flutters in rehearsal before the formal Independence Day celebrations, Jammu and Kashmir becomes a living canvas of national identity in action. The elaborate full-dress rehearsals are more than logistical dry runs; they are symbolic reaffirmations of a shared story that bridges generations. In the districts and towns across the Valley, the sight of marching contingents, the sound of patriotic songs, and the meticulous coordination of civil and security forces create an atmosphere that transcends routine officialdom. These events, carefully planned and widely attended, stand as reminders that patriotism is not confined to a single day, but is nurtured through visible acts of remembrance and participation.

The participation of schoolchildren, youth groups, cultural troupes, and security contingents underscores the intergenerational dimension of these rehearsals. For many younger participants, it is their first direct engagement with a tradition that carries the weight of history. For elders, it is an occasion to see their own memories of struggle and sacrifice reflected in the faces of a new generation. This transfer of sentiment, from those who have lived through the turbulence of history to those who are just beginning to shape their own, is what gives the rehearsals their deeper resonance. The symbolism embedded in these rehearsals is potent. When the national flag is unfurled at Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar or at district grounds and beyond, it is not merely a ceremonial act. It is a reaffirmation that the sacrifices of martyrs and the perseverance of countless citizens remain central to the region's collective narrative. Floral tributes at memorials, speeches honouring the fallen, and cultural performances steeped in patriotic themes all serve to weave history into the present moment, making the event as much about reflection as it is about celebration. The rehearsals also reveal the administrative precision and civic cooperation necessary to make such large-scale events possible. From security arrangements to cultural programming, from traffic control to public participation, the rehearsals demonstrate the capability of diverse institutions to work in unison. In a region where security concerns and political complexities have often shaped public life, these moments of disciplined coordination offer a powerful counter-narrative, one that projects stability, confidence, and shared purpose. At the same time, the rehearsals serve as platforms for the government to highlight developmental achievements and address contemporary challenges. References to infrastructure improvements, social welfare initiatives, and security successes are woven into official addresses, connecting the spirit of independence to ongoing efforts to improve citizens' lives. These linkages help frame the celebrations not just as commemorations of the past, but as commitments to a future defined by progress, peace, and inclusivity. What makes the rehearsals uniquely impactful in Jammu and Kashmir is their ability to merge the ceremonial with the emotional, the administrative with the symbolic. The act of marching, saluting, singing, and spectating becomes a collective performance of identity, one in which every participant, whether in uniform or in the crowd, plays a role in reaffirming the values the national flag represents.

Independence Day rehearsals in Jammu and Kashmir are not merely practice sessions for a ceremonial event; they are affirmations of belonging, resilience, and hope. In their precision and pageantry, they tell the enduring story of a people who, despite challenges, continue to come together under a shared flag, determined to carry forward a legacy that belongs to all generations. Jai Hind.

The ceding of academic freedom in universities

DEEPAK NAYYAR

Everyone engaged in higher education recognises that academic freedom is primary because universities are the places for raising doubts and asking questions about everything. Exploring ideas, debating issues and thinking independently are essential in the quest for excellence.

After all, knowledge develops only if we question existing knowledge. This means that students must have the freedom to ask questions just as faculty must have the freedom to question received wisdom in their respective disciplines. Indeed, universities, as institutions, must have the freedom to raise questions, express opinions or articulate criticisms in the wider context of economic, social and political spheres.

In fact, the development of knowledge is central to university education. Students enter the world of higher education to learn. Understanding existing knowledge is a first step. The ability to ask relevant questions, a capacity to critique conventional wisdoms, and the confidence to resist the authority of the spoken — even printed — word are the next successive steps. Of course, learning is a continuous process that never stops. Thus, it is for universities to decide what is taught to students, which must not be controlled from elsewhere.

There should be no restrictions on who is invited to address a student audience. Circumscribing this space, in any way, can only stifle learning, which, in turn, can hurt economic and social progress.<

The world of research needs similar freedoms. It is for universities to decide their research priorities. It is for faculty members to decide their research agenda. Of course, financial support for research must be based on peer review without preference or prejudice. Dissenting opinions or unorthodox thinking, irrespective of disciplines, should be encouraged for that is how knowledge develops. In fact, fundamental research needs far more in terms of not only freedoms but also resources and time. Such an environment is essential for brilliant scholars or thinkers to surface, blossom and flourish.

The disturbing reality in India

The unfolding reality in India is disturbing. Curricula

are regulated and straitjacketed. Readings are prescribed. Indeed, what is excluded or what is included in prescribed reading lists is decided elsewhere, not necessarily by the teachers. Some readings are explicitly excluded. Promising research, which departs from the mainstream, particularly in social sciences or humanities, is stifled. Research funding is controlled, directly or indirectly, by the central government through its research councils and departments. In this milieu, fundamental research in universities in India is rare if not impossible. It is no accident that our universities have not produced any Nobel laureates.

Even the freedom for students and teachers to organise discussions or debates on campus, which are perceived as critical of the Bharatiya Janata Party or its governments at the Centre and in States where it rules, is circumscribed everywhere, often by administrative fiat or penal action. Freedoms are curbed further, as social media posts sometimes lead to disciplinary action by universities or legal action by governments.

At many central Universities, if a faculty member applies for duty leave to participate in a conference abroad, he/she has to provide a written undertaking which says: "I will not participate in any anti-Government activities...while I am abroad whether on official duty or a personal visit, I shall be subject to all the provisions of Government Servants Conduct Rules including those relating to connection with the press and criticism of Government...Further I understand that...any breach of these provisions whether committed in India or abroad shall render me equally liable to disciplinary action."

Such intrusion, in different forms, is now being extended to private universities. Dissenting or critical voices of students or faculty members are silenced with disciplinary action. In some cases, it goes much further, essentially because risk averse promoters fall in line, since they do not wish to displease or antagonise the central government, or the State governments where their universities are located.

Autonomy and accountability

Just as important, the autonomy of university spaces is also sacrosanct in the wider context of political democracy,

where universities perform an important role in addition to imparting higher education. In the economy, they are a source of ideas for science, technology, research and development, innovation, and economic or social policies. In society, they are the conscience-keepers as public intellectuals, from among the faculty, who engage with the public domain, informing citizens in their columns or lectures. In the polity, their evaluation or assessment of the performance of governments fosters accountability.

Of course, this autonomy must have a corresponding accountability. But it is essential for governments to recognise that the provision of resources to universities does not endow them with a right to exercise control.

The resources are public money for public universities, which are accountable to students and society through institutional mechanisms that exist or can be created. For this purpose, it is imperative that structures of governance in universities are appropriate for, and conducive to, accountability. Good governance is necessary but not sufficient. There must also be checks and balances in the public domain.

Rankings of universities perform an important role in this context. Such rankings, despite their limitations, provide students, their parents and society at large, such an institutional mechanism for accountability.

It is absolutely essential that regulatory structures provide complete autonomy — administrative, financial and academic — to universities. Liberation from the shackles of the University Grants Commission is a necessary condition.

The existing parliamentary or legislative acts that created our universities also have many constraints and fetters. Thus, as an approach, it would be far better to reform regulatory structures, provide autonomy to universities and ensure accountability through systems — rather than interventions or controls — to create an environment that encourages freedom of thought and is conducive to learning.

The quest for uniformity is the worst enemy of thinking, creativity, understanding and knowledge, which can thrive only in open societies. One-size-fits-all is a flawed presumption. Indeed, diversity and differentiation are an integral part of the quest for excel-

lence in higher education.

Governments and their quest to control

Academic freedom in universities is circumscribed not only in India but also in countries such as Argentina, Hungary and Türkiye which have democratically elected governments.

Of course, academic freedom is highly restricted in countries that are ruled by dictators in Africa and Asia. It is also curbed in countries that have one-party rule, for example, China, Russia and Vietnam. China is somewhat different. Even if the freedom for academics — especially in the social sciences and humanities — to write or to speak in the public domain is highly restricted, there is no compromise, driven by preference or prejudice, in the quality of academic appointments at leading universities and research institutions.

The real surprise is the United States, where academic freedom in universities has been sacrosanct for more than a century. The federal government of U.S. President Donald Trump is slashing research grants and imposing curbs on its leading public universities. If this continues, the leading edge of American universities in education, research, science, technology and innovation is bound to erode.

Governments seek to control universities essentially because they are worried about criticism or dissent. Just as important, there is a sense of discomfiture, if not insecurity, since universities, empowered by academic freedom, ask questions that are perceived as difficult. Of course, in some countries, governments just want ideological conformity. Most universities cede their autonomous space because they are largely dependent on government grants to support their teaching and research. The reasons why academics, as individuals, are often silenced are because of fear or compromise, while a few are willing to trade their beliefs for rewards.

The moral of the story is simple. The absence of academic freedom in universities will inevitably harm the teaching-learning process just as it will stifle thinking and creativity in research. Students and teachers will obviously be the worse-off. Ultimately, however, the economy, society and polity will be the losers.

Bullets, bombs, starvation are killing Gaza's children

KAILASH SATYARTHI

Today, I am angry. I am disappointed. I write because my children are dying. Your children are dying. Our children are dying in Gaza. I can hear their cries. I can feel their pain. Why can't you?

Every day, around 30 children are killed — by bombs, missiles, and deliberate, systemic deprivation. Only two days ago, 83 Palestinians lost their lives in the Gaza Strip. Families are going days without food, leaving their orphaned children behind. Health systems have completely collapsed. Supplies have crumbled. Water is scarce. Fuel is gone. Hope is dying. Starving infants are perishing in their mothers' arms, while aid trucks sit blocked at borders. This is the gruesome face of a war that has no moral justification.

This is not merely a tragedy — it is a moral apocalypse and a brutal crime against humanity. And the world's institutions? The UN? Governments? They are failing.

Recent reports from the United Nations have been alarming and frightening. Gaza stands on the brink of a famine. A quarter of the population are already facing famine-like conditions and over 3,20,000 children, the entire population under five, are at risk of acute malnutrition. In Gaza City alone, child malnutrition rate has quadrupled in the last two months.

I am not an expert on the historical conflict between Israel and Palestine, nor a scholar of geopolitics and neither an authority to propose a definitive solution. Certainly, the captivity and killing of innocent Israelis at the outset was unacceptable. But that does not justify the brutal retaliation on Gaza or any violence.

In 2023, when Hamas had held innocent Israelis hostage and a war-like situation had just about begun, I knew that the repercussions would be worse than we could ever imagine. I couldn't sit back and immediately called my fellow Nobel Laureate friends, reminding them that the call for peace must come from us. On October 30, we 104 Nobel Laureates jointly made an appeal to every single Head of



State and urged international organisations and governments to ensure the safety and well-being of all Israeli and Palestinian children. Our call to action undoubtedly had some impact. The international media covered it extensively and it echoed in the political and global discourse for a few months. We were hopeful. But sadly today, leaders are ignoring the grave situation and failing the children.

Transcending borders

The suffering of Gaza's children transcends borders, ideologies and conflicts. Children bear no responsibility for war. They do not drop bombs or launch rockets. They do not set policies. They hold no historical grievances. So why must they pay the ultimate price for the failures and hatred of adults? Is it their crime to be born in a particular piece of land or into a family of a certain faith? Why should these innocents suffer for the acts, right or wrong, of their ancestors? Why is the lens with which we are viewing people today, and our emotions and judgments so coloured by religious politics?

This is the moment to speak out clearly. We must demand an immediate ceasefire to stop the killing of innocent civilians. Restrictions on food, water, fuel, and medical

aid must be lifted immediately. Local food and grocery supply systems, bakeries, farms must be urgently restored and small vendors should be allowed to function without any fear of threats. Aid workers must be protected, never targeted or obstructed. Those weaponising starvation, blocking aid, or denying access to basics needed for survival must be held accountable under international law.

The time for merely expressing concern, hosting seminars, showing sympathy, or issuing press statements is over. We must choose between complicity and compassion. And I mean compassion not as a soft emotion or a feeling, but a transformative force born from feeling the suffering of others as one's own and taking mindful action to end that suffering. Contrary to popular belief, compassion is not a moral ideal, but a practical and effective strategy for resolving conflicts.

There is a sliver of hope when, last month, the UK, France, and 26 other countries issued a tough statement condemning Israel for depriving Palestinians of "human dignity". The streets are filled with protesters, shocked and enraged by the scale of violence and trauma being unleashed. Several countries

including Australia, France, Turkey, and Tunisia, have held demonstrations in the past few weeks. Other governments must also come together to produce a systematic, comprehensive, and concrete response. The day is not very far when we will realise that power does not lie in firing missiles; power lies in compassion.

The voices of the innumerable young war survivors from Iraq, Afghanistan, and other conflict zones who I have interacted with over the years haunt me. I vividly recall an incident from some years back when I met a 10-year-old wheelchair-bound boy in a Syrian refugee camp in Germany. He had taken shelter along with several other children, women and men, all bearing the scars of war. During our conversation, he told me that he had lost his legs — and his father — in a bomb blast. He was separated from his mother in the chaos that followed. Overcome with grief, I had asked the child what he wants to do in future. I will never forget the conviction in his voice as he replied, "I want to study and become an engineer so that I can go back to my village that was destroyed in the war, and rebuild it." There was hope in his eyes and his dream was alive.

Divyanshu Kapoor Meets MLA Balkar Singh - A Step Forward for People's Voice, Press Freedom, and Public Welfare



BN CORESSPONDENT KARTARPUR, AUG 13

In a constructive and spirited interaction, Divyanshu Kapoor, National General Secretary of the National Federation of Journalists of Media (NFJM) and Managing Director of Voice of Pir Panjal newspaper and Jammu Kashmir Links, met with MLA Balkar Singh of the Aam Aadmi Party to deliberate on pressing public issues, developmental priorities, and the role of ethical journalism in shaping a more accountable society.

The meeting, held in a warm and collaborative atmosphere, brought together individuals who share a deep commitment to

public welfare and transparent governance. Joining the discussions were Gagan Chhabra (Lovey) and Satish Gupta - both well-known for their active social engagement and tireless work in grassroots initiatives. Their presence added depth to the conversation, as they brought firsthand perspectives on community needs and challenges.

MLA Balkar Singh extended heartfelt appreciation to Gagan Chhabra (Lovey) for his consistent dedication to social causes, praising his efforts in uplifting marginalized sections of society and responding swiftly to public concerns. He equally lauded Satish Gupta for his active role in maintaining the momentum of

public service through various local initiatives, which continue to inspire others to participate in community development.

A significant focus of the dialogue was on strengthening press freedom as a pillar of democracy. MLA Balkar Singh acknowledged the vital role of media in safeguarding citizens' rights and holding governance accountable. He praised NFJM's steadfast commitment to upholding journalistic integrity and emphasized that a free and ethical press is indispensable for an informed and empowered society. He assured his full cooperation in initiatives aimed at expanding citizens' access to accurate information and promoting transparency in public administration.

Speaking on the occasion, Divyanshu Kapoor reaffirmed NFJM's dedication to being a voice for the people, ensuring that local and regional concerns find rightful representation in the public domain. He stressed the importance of collaboration between policymakers, journalists, and community leaders to bring about meaningful and lasting change.

The meeting concluded on a note of mutual respect and optimism, with all participants expressing hope for continued cooperation in strengthening both public welfare efforts and the values of a free press - ultimately working towards a stronger, more united society.

Tiranga Rally held in Jammu to Inspire Patriotism among Students



BN CORESSPONDENT JAMMU, AUG 13

A spirited Tiranga rally was organized today with great enthusiasm at Government Sri Ranbir Model Higher Secondary School, Jammu, marking a vibrant celebration of national pride and unity. The event was ceremonially flagged off by Hon'ble MLA East Jammu, Shri Yudhvir Sethi Ji, in the presence of the school's Principal, Dr. Kishor Sharma, former corporator Shri Anil Masoom Ji, and SHO Pacca Danga, Shri Rakesh Manni. The atmosphere was charged with patriotic fervor as the tricolour fluttered proudly in the hands of hundreds of students and staff members.

The rally commenced from Parade Ground, a historic site often associated with public

gatherings in Jammu, and proceeded through the bustling lanes of Pacca Danga before culminating back at the school premises. Along the route, the streets came alive with chants of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and "Vande Mataram," while residents and shopkeepers paused to witness the colourful procession. Students, dressed in crisp uniforms and adorned with badges, ribbons, and face paint in the colours of the national flag, walked in perfect discipline, reflecting both their youthful energy and their respect for the occasion.

The purpose of the rally went beyond a symbolic display; it was aimed at fostering national unity, instilling pride in the tricolour, and reminding citizens—especially the younger generation—of the sacrifices made by

freedom fighters to secure India's independence. The tricolour, as emphasized during the event, is not just a flag but a sacred emblem of the nation's sovereignty, strength, and shared heritage.

Addressing the gathering after the rally, Shri Yudhvir Sethi highlighted the importance of patriotism, discipline, and social responsibility in shaping a strong and prosperous India. He called upon the youth to take inspiration from the ideals of the freedom movement and to actively participate in the process of nation-building. "Every citizen has a role to play in strengthening our democracy," he said, "and it begins with respect for the values enshrined in our Constitution."

The proceedings were conducted with warmth and efficiency by Rajeev Sharma, senior lecturer in chemistry, whose anchoring kept the audience engaged.

The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by Principal Dr. Kishor Sharma, who praised the students for their enthusiastic participation, discipline, and unwavering commitment to the nation's ideals. He also acknowledged the efforts of the staff, local dignitaries, and police for ensuring the smooth conduct of the rally.

The day ended on a high note, leaving behind an inspiring message of unity, pride, and the enduring spirit of the Indian tricolour—a reminder that patriotism is not just about celebration, but about living the values that

Bathindi Resonates with Patriotism as Zulfikar Ali Mumtaz Leads Grand Tricolour Rally



BN CORESSPONDENT JAMMU, AUG 13

A remarkable display of patriotism and national unity was witnessed in Jammu's Bathindi area when Zulfikar Ali Mumtaz, Editor-in-Chief of the Daily Awami Lehar, led a grand Tricolour rally that turned the city's atmosphere vibrant with the colours of the nation. The rally began from the office of Awami Lehar and moved forward in an electrifying environment filled with enthusiasm, as participants proudly carried the Indian flag and raised spirited patriotic

slogans. Thousands of people, including men, women, youth, children, elderly citizens, and people from various walks of life, participated wholeheartedly, expressing their commitment to the unity, security, and progress of the nation.

Addressing the gathering, Zulfikar Ali Mumtaz said that he has always organized similar rallies with the same passion in his hometown Mendhar, whether on Independence Day (15 August) or Republic Day (26 January), and that today's rally in Bathindi stands as another shining example of public solidarity. He

extended special thanks to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, for raising the prestige of the Indian flag across the globe and instilling pride and confidence in the hearts of every Indian. Zulfikar Ali Mumtaz also expressed heartfelt gratitude to the dignitaries, youth, local Panchs and Sarpanchs, social activists, and media personnel whose presence and cooperation added grandeur to the event.

Throughout the rally, the air resonated with national songs, the sight of countless Tricolours fluttering proudly, and the glow of patriotism shining on participants' faces, making it evident that this was more than just a procession—it was a living embodiment of unity, pride, sacrifice, and shared national identity. Thousands took part with pride to honour the national flag, which stands as a symbol of India's hard-earned freedom and collective strength.

Participants affirmed that the Tricolour is not merely a flag but their identity, and they remain ever ready to protect its dignity and honour. The rally concluded with a resounding message that when it comes to the motherland, all stand united as one, and the Tricolour will always fly high above their heads.

Kunwarani Dr. Ritu Singh honoured as Best Educationist & Philanthropist 2025

BN CORESSPONDENT JAMMU, AUG 13

The prestigious Leadership Conclave & Powerful Women Awards 2025 – Season 5, hosted at Radisson Blu, Dwarka, New Delhi, celebrated the vision, purpose, and progress of India's most inspiring women leaders. Among the nation's most distinguished achievers, Kunwarani Dr. Ritu Singh was conferred with the coveted title of Best Educationist & Philanthropist 2025.

She was also honoured as a distinguished panellist at the event, where she shared her insights on the theme "Youth, Mental Health & Social Well-being" alongside eminent leaders



from diverse fields.

This recognition is a resounding testament to Dr. Singh's trailblazing role in shaping the educational landscape of Jammu & Kashmir and beyond. Her pioneering vision, unwavering dedication, and transformative initia-

tives in education and social welfare have touched countless lives—empowering communities, uplifting youth, and setting benchmarks of excellence.

The conclave brought together over 40 exemplary women changemakers from diverse fields, each celebrated for their courage, purpose, and leadership. Dr. Singh's honour reflects not only her outstanding accomplishments but also her enduring influence as an ambassador of hope, a champion of change, and a catalyst for the generations to follow.

Her legacy continues to inspire—proving that leadership is not merely about titles, but about creating a movement that leaves an indelible mark on society.

FICCI FLO JKL Completes Three-Day STEM Education Drive



BN CORESSPONDENT JAMMU, AUG 13

Building on its earlier launch, FICCI FLO Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh (JKL) has successfully concluded its three-day STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) workshop series under the National Initiative to promote STEM education among girls. The program aimed at addressing the gender gap in STEM fields, where societal stereotypes often discourage young women from pursuing careers in science

and technology.

Curated by Chairperson Aarti Chowdhary in collaboration with Collegify, the initiative sought to challenge prevailing perceptions, broaden horizons, and inspire young girls to see themselves as future leaders in innovation and research. In the absence of the Chairperson, FLO JKL was ably represented by Varuna Anand, National Initiative Head – Partnerships & Collaborations; Nandita Mehta, Secretary; Sonu Mehta, Treasurer; and Rupika Sahai, Vice Chairperson.

Over the course of the work-

shops, six leading schools in Jammu — G.D. Goenka, K.C. Public School, Model Academy, Heritage School, J.K. Public School, and Jodhamal Public School — were covered, reaching nearly 1,500 girl students. The sessions were facilitated by Collegify's expert team comprising Richa Taneja, Regional Manager & Head of Enrollments; Ilakshee Nath, Senior Admission Specialist; and Taarika Kakkar, Senior Admission Specialist – Careers & Programs.

Adding depth to the program, renowned STEM speakers — Dr. Poonam Abrol (August 11), Prof. Tuhina Dey (August 12), and Dr. Shelley Saigal (August 13) — shared inspiring real-life stories, career insights, and guidance on breaking gender barriers in STEM.

The impact was immediate and visible — students actively engaged in discussions, explored innovative career paths, and walked away with renewed confidence to pursue their aspirations in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This outreach marks another milestone in FLO JKL's mission to advance education, skill development, and gender equality across the region.

Bali Bhagat slams Pakistan over anti-India remarks, warns against terror support



BN CORESSPONDENT JAMMU, AUG 13

Senior BJP leader and former Minister Bali Bhagat strongly criticised Pakistan's leadership for their recent anti-India statements, asserting that "water and blood cannot flow together." Speaking to reporters, Bhagat dared Pakistan to stop its support for terrorism in Jammu and

Kashmir, warning that India would respond firmly to any hostile actions.

He reminded Pakistan's leaders of India's decisive military operations in the past, pointedly asking whether they had forgotten "Operation Sindoor," a testament to India's resolve in defending its sovereignty.

Bhagat reiterated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country would never compromise on national security and would continue to act decisively against any threats emanating from across the border.

Bali Bhagat said that India today is more secure, assertive, and respected on the global stage than ever before.

Bhagat accused Pakistan of continuing its policy of cross-border terrorism and propaganda against India, despite repeated diplomatic outreach from New Delhi.

"Pakistan has consistently failed to curb terrorism emanating from its soil and has shown no intent to foster peace in the region," Bhagat said. "For decades, it has tried to destabilise Jammu & Kashmir through violence and misinfor-

mation. But under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decisive leadership, India has given a clear message that it will not tolerate any threat to its sovereignty and integrity."

Bali Bhagat further stressed that India's security forces have been given a free hand to deal with terrorist threats. "Surgical strikes, Balakot airstrikes and Operation Sindoor were examples of India's new policy — not to just defend but to strike back when provoked. This is the Modi doctrine, and it has restored our pride as a nation," he asserted.

"From improved road connectivity and better healthcare facilities to new educational institutions and massive investments in tourism, J&K is witnessing transformation. This progress is the best reply to Pakistan, which wants to keep our youth trapped in conflict," Bhagat noted.

"We have to strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Modi, who has made India's voice heard in every corner of the world. From G20 leadership to space missions, from economic reforms to national security, Modi ji has proven that he is the leader India needs in the Amrit Kaal," he said.

Neelam Langeh leads massive Tiranga Rallies at Batote, Ukhral

BN CORESSPONDENT RAMBAN, AUG 13

A vibrant and massive Tiranga rallies were organized today at Batote and Ukhral under the leadership of Neelam Langeh, former MLA and District President of BJP Ramban.

The both rallies, held as part of nationwide patriotic celebrations, witnessed overwhelming participation from locals, party workers, and students, all carrying the Tricolor high with pride.

The procession showcased the spirit of unity and nationalism, with enthusiastic participants raising slogans of Jai Hind,

Bharat Mata Ki Jai, and Vande Mataram.

Prominent leaders accompanying Neelam Langeh included Balbir Singh Bali, Raj Singh (ex-Sarpanch), Sanjay Singh, Dheeraj Singh (General Secretaries), Ajab Singh (Mandal Pradhan), Mohd Danish, Narad Singh, and Raghbir Singh. Their presence amplified the message of patriotism and community participation.

Addressing the rally, Neelam Langeh emphasized the importance of the Tiranga as a symbol of India's unity, strength, and diversity.

He urged the youth to actively

participate in nation-building and instill values of discipline, responsibility, and service to the country.

"The Tiranga is not just a flag—it represents the sacrifices of countless heroes who fought for our freedom. Every citizen must honor it and contribute to a stronger India," he said.

Participants expressed pride in being part of the both massive rallies, which spanned several kilometers, connecting the communities of Batote and Ukhral. The event was organized with meticulous planning to ensure maximum engagement and adherence to safety protocols.

India can.....

"This arbitration concerns the interpretation and application of the Indus Waters Treaty to certain design elements of the run-of-river hydro-electric plants that India is permitted by the Treaty to construct on the tributaries of the Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab Rivers (the "Western Rivers").

About the overall Approach to the Interpretation of Article III and Part 3 of Annexure D the general rule is that India shall "let flow" the waters of the Western Rivers.

However, there are certain specified exceptions to this rule, including in relation to the generation of hydroelectric power, the Court said.

India's primary objection to the IWT arises out of from concerns about Pakistan's support for cross-border terrorism and its implications for India's national security and water resource management. India has linked the issue of water sharing with the broader context of bilateral relations, asserting that "blood and water cannot flow together".

India stresses the need to re-negotiate the treaty because of climate change and its impact on water availability. The Treaty, signed in 1960, does not adequately address the challenges posed by climate change, necessitating a renegotiation of its provisions. India argues that the Treaty's restrictions on hydropower projects, particularly on the Western Rivers (Chenab, Jhelum, and Indus), need to be revisited in light of modern dam engineering and the need for increased water storage and management.

India has formally notified Pakistan to seek modifications to the IWT, citing the need to address the issues of climate change, security concerns, and disputes over hydropower projects. India's request for modifications in and renegotiation of the Treaty based on Article XII (3) of the IWT, is being resisted by Pakistan, fearing reduction in its water share.

India does not accept the court's jurisdiction and insists on using a neutral expert mechanism. Pakistan has welcomed the Court's Award and threatened India with serious consequences if the IWT was "touched".

Supreme.....

statehood to Jammu and Kashmir within two months.

The application was filed by Zahoor Ahmad Bhat, an academician, and Khurshaid Ahmad Malik, a socio-political activist.

"It is submitted that the delay in the restoration of statehood would cause serious reduction of democratically elected government in Jammu and Kashmir, causing a grave violation of the idea of federalism which forms part of the basic structure of the Constitution of India," the application said.

The assembly elections and the Lok Sabha polls were conducted peacefully in Jammu and Kashmir without any incident of violence, disturbance or any security concerns being reported, it said.

"Therefore, there is no impediment of security concerns, violence or any other disturbances which would hinder or prevent the grant/restoration of the status of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir as had been assured by the Union of India in the present proceedings," the plea said.

The non-restoration of the status of statehood of Jammu and Kashmir, the plea said, would result in a lesser form of elected democratic government to the state, particularly given legislative assembly results were declared on October 8, 2024.

Despite the apex court's directions for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir "at the earliest and as soon as possible", no steps have been taken by the Centre to provide any timeline for the implementation of such directions, it claimed.

"Jammu and Kashmir is being operated as a Union Territory for a period of almost five years now, which has caused many impediments and grave losses to the development of Jammu and Kashmir and has affected the democratic rights of its citizens," the plea added.

In its December 2023 verdict, the apex court held that Article 370, which was incorporated in the Indian Constitution in 1949 to grant special status to Jammu and Kashmir, was a temporary provision. The President of India was empowered to revoke the measure in the absence of the Constituent Assembly of the erstwhile state whose term expired in 1957, the court said. (Agencies

J&K UT.....

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

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

The Lieutenant Governor commended the Bijbehara Premier League for its emergence as a powerful anti-drug movement, successfully channelizing the energy of youth by connecting them with sports. The Lieutenant Governor also congratulated the people of Anantnag and South Kashmir for the successful conduct of Shri Amarnath ji Yatra.

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

Our relationship.....

conflict, one that could have developed into something quite horrible." She said that there was "immediate concern and immediate movement" with Vice President J.D. Vance, President Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio in "addressing the nature of what was happening....we described the nature of the phone calls, the work that we did to stop the attacks and to then bring the parties

together so we could have something that was enduring." She also claimed that top leaders in the U.S. were involved in "stopping that potential catastrophe." India has been maintaining that India and Pakistan halted their military actions following direct talks between their militaries without any mediation by the U.S.

Ms. Bruce added that the recent peace agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan "follows negotiated peace arrangements between Cambodia and Thailand, Israel and Iran, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, India and Pakistan, Egypt and Ethiopia and Serbia and Kosovo." Meanwhile, in an interview on Tuesday, Mr. Rubio said that "credit goes to" Mr. Trump for helping bring several conflicts around the world to an end.

Mr. Trump says he wants "to be the President of peace. And so any time we see a conflict where we think we can make a difference, we get involved, and we've had good success in that regard. India-Pakistan, Thailand-Cambodia, the peace deal with Azerbaijan and Armenia, just a few days ago," he said in an interview with 'Sid and Friends in the Morning'. (Agencies)

Ahead of PM.....

he boundary talks. The NSA travelled to China in December last and held the SR talks with Wang, weeks after Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping decided to revive various dialogue mechanisms between the two sides at a meeting in the Russian city of Kazan. It is learnt that Wang will also hold a separate meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

Modi is expected to travel to China later this month to attend the SCO summit. As per the plan, Modi will embark on a visit to Japan around August 29 and after concluding the trip, he will travel to the northern Chinese city of Tianjin for the summit to be held on August 31 and September 1.

Modi's visit to China is being planned amid efforts by the two sides to repair their bilateral ties which came under severe strain following the deadly clashes between Indian and Chinese troops in Galwan Valley in June 2020. The military standoff in eastern Ladakh began in May 2020 and the clashes at the Galwan Valley in June that year resulted in a severe strain in ties.

The face-off effectively ended following completion of the disengagement process from the last two friction points of Demchok and Depsang under an agreement finalised on October 21 last year. The decision to revive various dialogue mechanisms was taken at the meeting between Modi and Xi in Kazan on October 23, 2024. The Modi-Xi meeting came two days after India and China firmied up a disengagement pact for Depsang and Demchok.

The two sides also initiated a number of initiatives to rebuild the ties that included resumption of Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and New Delhi restarting issuance of tourist visas to Chinese nationals. Both sides are also discussing modalities to resume direct flight services between the two countries. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visited China in the last two months to attend SCO meetings. China is the current chair of the SCO.

Operation Sindoor.....

to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

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

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

Referring to the Tiranga rallies sweeping the country, Singh said this programme is running for the last four years. "It is the result of Prime Minister Modi's vision and thought process. Such events are organised in every corner of the country ahead of Independence Day. This is the fourth time that this is being held," he said.

The Union minister added that these rallies are creating a festival-like atmosphere across India.

Praising the prime minister's efforts in ensuring peace and normalcy in the region, he said in Srinagar too, such rallies were taken out on Tuesday.

Drawing a comparison between the past and the present, Singh said, "There was a time when a massive campaign had to be organised just to hoist the national flag and it required a great deal of struggle. There was also a time when Prime Minister Modi himself risked his life to go to Lal Chowk to hoist the flag. The incident at that time was such a big event that it was discussed all over the country."

Modi took out the Ekta Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir in 1991 despite terror threats and unfurled the tricolour at Lal Chowk.

CS for transforming.....

KKGs across the districts, the Chief Secretary described the initiative as a "phenomenal programme" conceptualised by the leading national experts, with the potential to accelerate agricultural growth, enhance farmer awareness and promote best farming practices. He emphasised that every farm family should have at least one member registered with a KKG. He highlighted the unique role of these centres in delivering timely advisories, customised guidance and awareness on modern, scientific farming techniques.

To enhance their utility, the Chief Secretary directed for integrating the additional services into KKGs, including recognition as Common Service Centres (CSCs) for delivering various government services online, functioning as custom hiring centres for farm machinery and acting as Direct Selling Agents (DSAs) for banks to facilitate financial access.

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

Reviewing the status of KKGs established under Phases I and II, he sought updates from each Deputy Commissioner on their operational readiness, including availability of IT infrastructure such as desktops, printers and broadband, as well

as licenses for sale of seeds, fertilisers and pesticides by eligible KUs.

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

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

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

Under Phase II, 297 new centres are ready for launch in Jammu Division and 287 in Kashmir Division, significantly expanding the programme's outreach and impact. The Chief Secretary underlined that the success of the KKG initiative reflects the collaborative efforts of the administration and the farming community, aiming to strengthen the agricultural sector through technology-driven, farmer-centric solutions. By offering integrated services, knowledge dissemination and business opportunities, KKGs are poised to play a transformative role in improving farmer livelihoods across Jammu & Kashmir.

Kathua DISHA.....

why the fine had been reduced on the illegal miners, which has a limit of upto 50,000, and why it has been reduced to a minimal amount which has encouraged the illegal miners to carry on with the crime because when their stakes are in lag, they may not mind paying a small amount.

Dr Jitendra Singh said anybody found involved in illegal mining, whether he is a political high up or holding a high position, should not be spared. And should not only be booked under law, but also be publicly named and shamed.

The Minister also came out heavily on the spreading menace of drug addiction and suggested that a joint community be constituted consisting of the district administration, the police authorities,

R&R Commissioner holds grievances redressal camp at TRT Migrant Camp Nagrota

JAMMU, AUG 13

A public grievance redressal camp was held under the chairmanship of Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), J&K Dr. Arvind Karwani at TRT Migrant Camp Nagrota. Jammu to review the ongoing development works in the migrant camps at Jammu besides taking stock of the various day to day issues being faced by the inmates of the migrant camp.

Deputy Commissioner (Relief), Vijay Kumar Sharma, CAO (Relief), Shiwani Bhan, Assistant Commissioner (Relief) Sanjeev Kumar and senior officers from various line departments viz. Jal Shakti Department, Public Works Department, Power Development Department, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Youth Services & Sports Department, Department of Floriculture, Gardens & Parks, Department of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, Jammu & Kashmir e-Governance Agency, Health Department, Education Department, Urban Environmental Engineering Department, Revenue Department, J&K Bank officer / Tehsildars/ Camp Commandants of Relief Organization attended the camp.

Dr. Karwani patiently listened to the grievances of the public, which mainly included making medical dispensary functional, repair/renovation of flats, maintenance of parks, development of playground, construction of community hall, regular water and power supply.

He emphasised upon all the

JAMMU, AUG 13

In line with its commitment to inclusive development and women's empowerment, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) marked the 79th Independence Day with a special initiative aimed at fostering self-reliance among women. As part of the series of activities organized to celebrate the national festival, the Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr. Devansh Yadav today distributed sewing machines among 175 women in a programme held in collaboration with Mission Shakti.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from women across different wards of Jammu Municipal Corporation, many of whom expressed gratitude for receiving the equipment that would enable them to begin or expand their home-based tailor-

ship and public representative, and members of the civil society to check this rapidly spreading drug abuse at different levels.

He said there's a good news to share that the Ujh Multipurpose Project, which was conceived nearly 100 years ago in 1920s by the then Maharaja, has been now revived and coordination working group has been constituted of the JK UT officers and the Central UT officers. He said that the project has also received a flip because of the intervention of the Home Ministry and the Defense Ministry, who are also now keen to wake up the project in order to check the infiltration route through the river Ujh. He added that once this project becomes functional, it will provide irrigation to thousands of hectares of land, which could go up to even 90,000 hectares. For the surplus water not to be allowed to flow into Pakistan an alternate plans is also being jointly prepared by J&K, Punjab and Central Governments.

The minister informed that the last phase of Shahpur Kandi project, which is a national project that was also revised after four decades with the intervention of Prime Minister Modi, will be completed by 15th of September and the water will start flowing through that for the generation of electricity.

He emphasized that the industrial biotech park in Barnoti, which is the 11th such industrial park in the country and first in North India, will become functional in the next few weeks with the involvement of public private participation. This will create avenues of jobs, manufacturing and business for the youngsters in various areas of bio-manufacturing and hospital instruments. He added that the Government Medical College, is presently providing day care, cancer, treatment facility and there is an exercise going on to upscale this and also provide radiation treatment facilities through the experts and security of Tata Memorial Center, Mumbai.

He highlighted that the long-standing demand of Bala Sundri tunnel and the route will also be getting addressed as the government has taken up a road project from Lakhampur to Doda via Chattra Gala Tunnel, will include this route. Once this plan is complete, the travel distance from Kathua to Billawar will be reduced only to 30, 40 minutes.

The minister said that Kathua is the first district to come up with family bunker system in the border villages, covering about 2,000. The other border areas are also now following this as a role model. Meanwhile, 1048 additional bunkers have also been proposed which will bring the total number of family bunkers in the Kathua border areas to nearly 3,000.



officers to ensure due adherence to the recent directions issued by the General Administration Department, wherein responsibilities of Transit Migrant Camps at Jammu and Kashmir have been assigned to various Government Departments.

Dr Karwani instructed the site engineers to ensure close supervision on ground to ensure the quality of works being executed and time bound completion, as per the stipulated deadlines.

The Deputy Commissioner Relief and Assistant Commissioners Relief were asked to ensure weekly visits in the camps assigned to them as per the roster of duty and take stock of all development works/ concerns of migrants, including grievances related to immovable properties in Kashmir Valley. They were asked to maintain close coordination with the Additional Deputy Commissioner of the concerned districts, appointed as Nodal Officers for the purpose in terms of a Government Order in this regard recently.

The Health Department was

asked to deploy doctors on rotation to the migrant camp and make the dispensary fully functional with an ambulance. The PWD(R&B) was asked to take steps for urgent repairs/renovation of HSS Jagti and HSS Nagrota.

The Department of Youth Services & Sports was directed to develop a proposal for the maintenance of open spaces/ playground at Migrant Camp Nagrota.

The Floriculture, Gardens & Parks Department was asked to expedite the proposal for development of open spaces and undertake maintenance of existing parks. The officers of the Jal Shakti Department were asked to do the quality testing of water samples.

Dr Karwani emphasised on identification of potential beneficiaries of various social sector schemes. He appealed to youth to avail benefit of various self employment schemes and asked the departments to give wide awareness about the schemes in the migrant camps and arrange more outreach programmes.

JMC empowers women with Sewing Machines on 79th Independence Day

ing businesses. The programme was not just a ceremonial distribution but part of a broader vision to equip women with practical tools to generate sustainable livelihoods.

Highlighting the transformative potential of such initiatives, Dr. Yadav said that our aim is to create opportunities for women to stand on their own feet, earn with dignity, and become active contributors to the economic fabric of our city. With these sewing machines, we are not just giving equipment—we are giving wings to aspirations," he added.

The Commissioner explained that women can organize themselves into self-help groups to collectively take on larger tailoring orders, diversify their skills, and expand their customer base. This approach would not only improve household incomes but also foster a spirit of collaboration, leadership, and entrepre-

neurship among women.

Dr. Yadav announced that Jammu Municipal Corporation, in partnership with various government schemes and missions, is preparing to roll out more women-centric programmes in the coming months. These will include skill development workshops, access to microfinance facilities, and marketing support to help women sell their products to a wider audience.

The initiative marking Independence Day stands as a testament to JMC's ongoing commitment to empowering marginalized sections of society and ensuring that women have equal opportunities to participate in the city's economic growth. By combining skill development with tangible resources, the Corporation is working to create a future where every woman in Jammu has the tools and confidence to build her own path to success.

Rohit Sharma rises to second spot in ODI batting rankings amid retirement reports



DUBAI, AUG 13

Australia's power-hitter Tim David and South Africa's swash-buckler Dewald Brevis made massive gains in the ICC T20I rankings. On the other hand, Pakistan's premier batter Babar Azam dropped to number three, allowing India's ODI captain Rohit Sharma to occupy the second spot.

The 38-year-old last made an international appearance for team India in the ODI format on March 9, 2025. It was the ICC Champions Trophy Final against New Zealand, where the stylish-opener scored a match-winning 76 off 83 deliveries.

David, who is the leading run-scorer after the two fixtures against South Africa, jumped six spots to achieve a new career-high 10th position in the Men's

T20I Batting Rankings. His compatriot Cameron Green also gained six spots to soar to 17th in the same list.

For South Africa, young Brevis blazed his way to the 21st spot after sitting outside the 100 rankings, courtesy of his record-shattering exploits in Darwin. He exploded with a rollicking 125 to help Proteas level the three-match series at 1-1.

With his maiden T20I ton, Brevis dazzled with the highest score posted by a player for South Africa, in his ninth appearance for his nation in the format. His fellow teammate Tristan Stubbs jumped 12 spots to equal 27th in the T20I batters list.

In the T20I Bowling rankings, Australia's Josh Hazlewood moved up three spots to 20th. Meanwhile, South Africa speed-

sters Kagiso Rabada progressed 15 places to equal 44th and Lungi Ngidi jumped 14 rungs to 50th in the same standings.

Coming to the Men's Test rankings, a host of New Zealand players savoured success following their commanding 2-0 series sweep over Zimbabwe away from home.

Experienced quick Matt Henry was adjudged the Player of the Series after he scythed 16 wickets at a sheer average of 9.12. He leapfrogged to his new career-high rating and improved one place to third overall in the Test Bowling Rankings, forcing Australia captain Pat Cummins to slip to number four.

In the batters category, Rachin Ravindra (up 15 places to 23rd), Devon Conway (up seven spots to 37th) and Henry Nicholls (up six rungs to 47th) were rewarded for their clinical outing in Zimbabwe.

In the ODI list, Pakistan's top order star Babar slipped to the third spot in the batters' standings after his underwhelming show against the West Indies. Babar, known for his refined technique, struck 56 runs across three matches at 18.66.

In the ODI Bowling Rankings, West Indies spinner Gudakesh Motie jumped five spots to 12th after picking up a wicket in each of the first two matches of the series. His teammate and Caribbean side's pace spearhead Jayden Seales progressed 24 places to 33rd. Meanwhile, Pakistan's frontline spinner Abrar Ahmed moved up three



PSG's Achraf Hakimi kicks the ball during a training session in Udine ahead of Wednesday's UEFA Super Cup soccer match between Paris Saint-Germain and Tottenham Hotspur.

Gautam Bhai always tells me you are not aware of your own talent': Akash Deep

NEW DELHI, AUG 13

A coach who believed in him more than himself, a captain who supported when the chips were down and conditions that felt more like home than away – Indian pacer Akash Deep says his maiden but impactful tour of England was rather smooth.

A 10-wicket match-haul in one game and a very important half-century in another, both in winning causes, summed up Akash Deep's performance that has made him an overnight star but he can't forget what head coach Gautam Gambhir told him after his 66 at the Oval.

"Tumko khud pata nahi tum kya kar sakte ho. (You aren't aware of your capabilities). See, I was telling you, you can do it. You have to play with this dedication always," the 29-year-old recollected in an interview to PTI.

"Gautam bhai is a very passionate coach. He always motivates us. He believes in me more than I believe in myself, both in my batting and bowling," he gushed after having earned the vote of confidence from his coach.

Having made his Test debut under Rohit Sharma and now playing under Shubman Gill, the adjustment has been easy for the Bengal speedster, who terms the new skipper as someone who is calm yet brimming with on-field ideas.

"He is a very good captain. It's not like he is a new captain. He has already been an IPL captain for a couple of years, which is a big platform. That experience does count," he said.

Also Read - Khalid Jamil Signed a Two-Year Contract, Will Serve as Full-Time India Coach: AIFF

"With Shubman as captain, I didn't feel like I was playing for the first time. He's very supportive. When a captain supports you and understands things well, especially when you are down, it makes a big difference.

"I have played Duleep Trophy under his captaincy last year so it wasn't the first time. He is a cool customer with a lot of ideas and when someone is calm, it helps in taking good on-field decisions," Akash Deep explained.

Although it was his first time in England, Akash Deep, for the better part of the series, felt that he was playing on sub-continental tracks with negligible movement for quick bowlers.

"In Australia, there was a lot of bounce and carry and I tried keeping it slightly back of length or at times pitch it up. However, in four out of the five Tests that we played in England, it didn't



resemble the typical English wickets that we have traditionally heard of or seen over the years.

"If you see, the ball wasn't seaming or swinging a lot at times and we had to hit the India length, fuller one. We had to make that adjustment which, if you have played enough cricket, you should be able to do it."

Akash Deep then dwelled on his net routines and visualisation techniques before going into an actual match.

"Practice sessions are very important for me in terms of execution. I am always trying to think about the main opposition batter that I am supposed to bowl," he revealed.

"Bhale hi main Yashasvi ko nets pe ball daloon, plan mera (Ben) Duckett aur (Joe) Root ke liye hota tha. (I might be bowling to Yashasvi in nets but my plan was for Duckett or Root)."

When asked about concerns around his fitness after he missed games in both the tours of Australia and England due to niggles, Akash Deep said he is doing his best to be in good shape.

"The on-field impact injuries can't be avoided. If you have to dive to save a boundary, you have to do it. You can't think that I will hurt my shoulder and all. Yes, if it is fitness and training related injuries, the aim is to minimise them as much as possible," he said.

Till now, Akash Deep has played 10 Tests and taken 28 wickets. When asked if he has been zeroed in only for the longer version of the game, Akash Deep said that he hasn't been told anything in specific.

"We can't just go and talk to selectors. They are experienced people and when they feel that they need me for any format, they would summon. My job is to perform and be ready for call

ups." Before the tour of England, his sister Akhanda Jyoti was diagnosed with cancer and it was a particularly tough time for family. Once he landed back in India, he first went to Lucknow to meet his sister.

"She was very happy. The treatment is a bit tough for all the patients. There are complications but with the series on for nearly two months and a family member playing, it kept her interested.

"I was thinking even if she felt the pain at times because she is keenly following my performance, at times you don't think about it and good performances always makes one happy. When you are happy, even if there are multiple complications in the body for some time, you tend to forget," he said.

Another task he completed after returning was buying his dream car, a luxury SUV.

It was a massive moment for the players who was a tennis ball cricketer in Bengal's Durgapur Town, playing second division club cricket for a pittance. The cricketer, who hails from Bihar's Sasaram, said he has gone with the flow in life and never planned anything.

"I have always tried to stay in present and improve and work upon my skills everyday, the endeavour was to be the better version of myself every single day. Yes, good things are a part of life but the heart of my life is cricket, and that's what is my focus," he said.

"The fancy car makes you happy, I won't deny but that's very transient. It doesn't stay after some time. Yes, my family would find joys in these achievements and I find happiness in seeing them smile. But to tell you the truth, I have never put a lot of thought into what I want to achieve," he concluded.

China's Shang wins women's freestyle parkour gold after scoring reversal at Chengdu World Games

CHENGDU, AUG 13

China's Shang Chunsong clinched the women's freestyle parkour gold at The World Games 2025 on Wednesday after a dramatic scoring reversal that turned her initial second-place finish into a victory.

Competing alongside the Xinglong Lake, the former captain of China's national women's gymnastics team delivered a series of high-difficulty tricks, including 360-degree aerial flips.

A small flaw in her second rotation cost her points, but the crowd erupted in applause at the end of her routine.

Shang's difficulty score came in at 13.5 points, with an initial execution score of 9.2. That gave her a provisional total of 22.7, 0.2 points behind Japan's Nene Nagai, placing her second.

"I knew there was a mistake, but after landing I was confident I'd still be the gold medalist," said the 29-year-old, who last year became the first Chinese athlete to win both the World Cup and World Championship in parkour.

Tears flowed when



Shang saw the scoreboard. But the turnaround came just before the medal ceremony.

Officials informed her there had been an error in judging, and she was in fact the champion, with an adjusted total of 24.7 points. Nagai took silver, while Sara Banchoff Tzancoff of Argentina got bronze.

"There were blind spots in the venue, and some referees couldn't see certain movements," said referee Zhou Jun.

"Three points were deducted for what was judged as a mistake, but after video review

we unanimously agreed the penalty was too high and corrected it."

Despite the win, Shang didn't show much excitement. "The score wasn't posted immediately, and honestly I didn't perform as well as I can," she said.

"In training I usually score 24 to 25, and have gone above 27."

Her coach, Sun Jie, said Shang can perform a 720-degree rotation - a move almost no female parkour athlete worldwide can execute.

"She's a very talented athlete starting a new journey in parkour," he said. Shang, who switched from gymnastics to parkour out of "pure love" for the

sport, said the gold medal carries special meaning.

"It completes my parkour Grand Slam," she said. "I want to show that Chinese parkour is strong, and I hope this inspires more people in China to join this amazing sport."

Sun, who has spent nearly 20 years promoting parkour in China, believes the sport has entered its best era yet in the country.

"Twenty years ago, few people was doing parkour here. Now we have professional clubs, young enthusiasts, and national competitions. I believe it will one day be part of the Olympics," he said.

GSTAT passes order against Subway franchisee for not passing rate cut benefit to customer



NEW DELHI, AUG 13

In its first order in profiteering case, the newly constituted GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) has held Urban Essence, a franchisee of Subway Ltd, guilty of not passing GST rate cut benefit of Rs 5.47 lakh.

The Goods and Services Tax Appellate Authority (GSTAT) order dated August 5 upheld

the Directorate General of Anti-profiteering (DGAP) report that Urban Essence has profiteered to the extent of Rs 5.47 lakh by not passing on a commensurate reduction of the prices of food products to customers.

The order in this regard was passed by GSTAT President Justice (Retd) Sanjaya Kumar Mishra.

The appellate tribu-

nal directed the Pune-based entity to deposit a sum of Rs 5,45,005 along with an 18 per cent interest from November 15, 2017 and deposit the same in the consumer welfare fund in Maharashtra within 3 months.

The case pertained to a customer complaint against Urban Essence for not passing the benefit of reduction of GST rate, on restaurant

services, from 18 per cent to 5 per cent with effect from November 15, 2017.

The GSTAT also looked into the issue of whether the entity was eligible to claim input tax credit (ITC) on some invoices.

The DGAP, which investigated the case, had covered the period from November 15, 2017 to October 31, 2019, to check whether the GST rate cut benefits were passed to consumers.

On December 1, 2022, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) was given the responsibility to decide on anti-profiteering cases under GST. Such cases were earlier decided by the National Anti-Profiteering Authority (NAA).

From October 1, 2024, the Principal Bench of GSTAT has been empowered to

examine anti-profiteering cases.

AMRG & Associates Senior Partner Rajat Mohan said the DGAP vs Urban Essence decision marks the first final order from the GSTAT's anti-profiteering division, signalling that the division is now fully operational, with the President himself conducting hearings and delivering orders.

"This sets the tone for a more structured and authoritative approach to anti-profiteering enforcement under Section 171. The Tribunal's stance—upholding DGAP's findings across all products and rejecting cost-based justifications—reinforces that GST rate cut benefits must be directly passed on to consumers, backed by strong documentation, or face decisive action," Mohan added.

Sensex climbs 304 pts, Nifty closes above 24,600 as steady US inflation fuels global rally

MUMBAI, AUG 13

Stock markets rebounded on Wednesday with benchmark Sensex closing higher by 304 points on buying in metal, auto and pharma shares as steady US inflation data propelled a sharp rally in global markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 304.32 points or 0.38 per cent to settle at 80,539.91. During the day, it jumped 448.15 points or 0.55 per cent to 80,683.74.

The 50-share NSE Nifty edged up by 131.95 points or 0.54 per cent to 24,619.35.

Analysts said retail inflation slowing to an 8-year low of 1.55 per cent in July led to the positive trend in domestic equities.

"Indian equities experienced a broad-based optimism as CPI hit an eight-year low, boosting hopes for a revival in discretionary spending, led by autos and metals. Globally, sentiment improved on the extension of China's tariff deadline and easing oil prices."

"Despite uncertainties around Trump's trade stance and global risks, India's growth-inflation dynamics remain favourable for FY26

with risk to marginal downgrade based on tariff updates. India looks forward to the Trump-Putin meet dated 15th August," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

Among Sensex firms, Bharat Electronics, Eternal, Mahindra & Mahindra, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tata Motors and Power Grid were the gainers.

However, Adani Ports, ITC, UltraTech Cement and Titan were among the laggards.

Retail inflation slowed to an 8-year low of 1.55 per cent in July, falling below the Reserve Bank's comfort zone for the first time since January 2019, helped by subdued prices of food items, according to government data released on Tuesday.

Among Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled sharply higher. European markets were trading in the green.

The US markets ended significantly higher on Tuesday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.36 per cent to USD 65.88 a barrel.

CS for transforming KKGs into 'Instruments of Change' for farmers



**BN CORESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, AUG 13**

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

Chairing a high-level meeting held to review the functioning of KKGs across the districts, the Chief Secretary described the initiative as a "phenomenal programme" conceptualised by the leading national experts, with the potential to accelerate agricultural growth, enhance farmer awareness and promote best farming practices. He emphasised that every farm family should have at least one member registered with a KKG. He highlighted the unique role of these centres in delivering timely advisories, customised guidance and awareness on modern, scientific farming techniques.

To enhance their utility, the Chief Secretary directed for integrating the additional services

into KKGs, including recognition as Common Service Centres (CSCs) for delivering various government services online, functioning as custom hiring centres for farm machinery and acting as Direct Selling Agents (DSAs) for banks to facilitate financial access.

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

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

Principal Secretary, APD, Shailendra Kumar, directed the

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

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

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

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

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

JK Super Cement launched in Kashmir, Strengthening Presence in Northern Markets



**BN CORESPONDENT
JAMMU, AUG 13**

Saifco Cements Pvt. Ltd, a subsidiary of JK Cement Ltd - one of the leading cement companies of India, today announced the launch of JK Super Cement brand in Kashmir, marking a significant milestone in the journey ahead. This move signals the operational rollout of JK Cement's recent acquisition in the region and aligns with its broader ambition to support infrastructure and economic growth in Jammu & Kashmir.

JK Super Cement, the company's flagship grey cement brand known for its superior strength and durability, will now be manufactured and made available across key districts of Kashmir, to improve the availability for local infrastructure projects and consumers.

Speaking on the occasion Dr. Raghavpat Singhania, Managing Director, JK Cement Ltd said "JK Super Cement's entry into the Kashmir market is a natural extension of our long-term strategy in the North. With the region witnessing a surge in public infrastructure projects and housing development, local production allows us to serve this demand efficiently. Further, Mr. Madhavkrishna Singhania, Joint

Managing Director and CEO, JK Cement Ltd, added. "More importantly, it allows us to translate our vision of sustainable and inclusive growth into tangible action. By investing in local manufacturing capabilities, building skills, and creating employment opportunities, we're ensuring that the benefits of this launch extend well beyond cement supply. This is about strengthening the local economy, empowering communities, and building the kind of self-reliant ecosystem that will support Kashmir's growth for decades to come."

Saifco Cements will begin full-scale distribution in key districts including Baramulla, Kupwara, Bandipore, Srinagar, Budgam, Ganderbal, Anantnag, Kulgam, Shopian & Pulwama of Kashmir. With plans for deeper market penetration through a strong channel partner network and direct engagement with builders, contractors, and public sector stakeholders, the on-ground team has also been ramped up to provide technical support, quality assurance, and training to local builders and contractors to ensure smooth adoption. By producing and distributing locally, the company is creating new employment opportunities across the value chain.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Suhail Manzoor Guna, Director, Saifco Cements Pvt. Ltd said "This is a proud moment for us. Launching JK Super Cement brand in Kashmir is not just a business move-it's a step towards demonstrating our commitment to building a stronger, more self-reliant Jammu & Kashmir." Further, Mr. Dawood Altaf Guna, Director, Saifco Cements Pvt Ltd, added, "We are committed to supplying top-quality cement to support the region's growing construction and infrastructure needs while also generating meaningful employment and contributing to local economic development."

Aligned with the 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' vision of the Government, JK Cement's investment in local manufacturing reflects its deep commitment to building self-reliant infrastructure capabilities. The launch of JK Super Cement in Kashmir builds on JK Cement's ongoing efforts to expand across India, following recent market entries in Bihar and capacity enhancements in several other states. The company now boasts of a growing presence in various markets of India, reinforcing its position as a leading force in the country's cement and construction ecosystem.

Commissioner Secretary SWD reviews ICDS, Poshan Schemes in Anantnag

**BN CORESPONDENT
BIJBEHARA, AUG 13**

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

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

The District Programme Officer briefed the Commissioner Secretary on the progress of key initiatives, including the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) and the Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP). The discussion also covered the regular health check-up of Poshan beneficiaries, which are crucial for monitoring the nutritional health.

The Commissioner Secretary



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

Special focus was laid on reviving and strengthening the Early Childhood Care and

Education (ECCE) in all Anganwadi Centers to provide a strong foundation for young children. He interacted with the beneficiaries during the visit and received feedback.

MD Jal Jeevan Mission asks PHE divisions for providing information on Rural Piped WSSs



**BN CORESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, AUG 13**

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

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

habitations. The Mission asked the divisions to provide information on these mother-child schemes so that single IDs are created for these schemes as directed by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, National Jal Jeevan Mission. He was assured that the requisite information in this regard will be provided soon.

The Mission Director also reviewed the division wise status

of Har Ghar Jal reported and certified villages. He gave instructions regarding physically completed schemes which need to be reported in the first instance. He was informed that the gap between Functional House Hold Tap connection (FHTC) completed villages and Har Gar Jal reported villages will be bridged.

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

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

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

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



**JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT
OF UNITY, FREEDOM & PROGRESS**

TIRANGA MAHOTSAV 2025

14th August, 2025 | From 6:45 AM onwards

**Let's honour the past, celebrate the
present, and inspire the future –
together as one nation**

Gulshan Ground Jammu to Maharaja Hari Singh Park


Event Highlights

- Tiranga Yatra
- Exhibition on National Heritage
- Tiranga Concert

- Cultural Performances
- Display of National Unity, Heritage & Progress

**Let's come together for Tiranga Mahotsav 2025 –
Celebrating the spirit of Har ghar Tiranga with
pride and patriotism**

Department of Information & Public Relations, J&K

 @informationprjk
 Information & PR, J&K
 @diprjk
 @dipr_jk