



Confluence of Har Ghar Tiranga, Vande Mataram announcement of new era: LG Sinha

Leads massive rally in Sgr; says 'martyrs defended nation with blood, today's generation must defend it with character, honesty, hard work, unity, service'

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Aug 12: Asserting that confluence of Har Ghar Tiranga and Vande Mataram is not merely the meeting of two campaigns but the announcement of a new era, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said that martyrs defended the nation with their blood, today's generation must defend it with character, honesty, hard work, unity, and service.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) led a Tiranga Yatra—a momentous celebration of national pride in Srinagar—and while addressing the citizens reaffirmed the immortal spirit of India's unity



Pic: Jahangeir Shah (KNO/KT)

and the indomitable courage of its people. The event marked the confluence of two monumental celebrations, the mass movement of Har Ghar Tiranga

and the 150th anniversary of the national song Vande Mataram. The Lieutenant Governor said, "The confluence of Har Ghar Tiranga and Vande Mataram is

not merely the meeting of two campaigns but the announcement of a new era."

LG Sinha urged citizens to reflect on their contribution to building the India envisioned by the nation's forefathers. "While martyrs defended the nation with their blood, today's generation must defend it with character, honesty, hard work, unity, and service," he said, adding, "This is the symbol of a Jammu Kashmir filled with self-confidence and marching firmly toward the future where 'Vijayi Vishwa Tiranga Pyara' is a life's resolve in every citizen's heart, where every home is a centre of patriotism and where every heart beats in rhythm with the pulse of national unity." The Lieutenant | [More on P6](#)

Autumn session of J&K Assembly to begin Sep 21

LG Manoj Sinha summons House; committee meetings suspended



Pic: Jahangeir Shah (KNO/KT)

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Aug 12: The autumn session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly will commence on September 21, with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha summoning the House to meet at 10:00 AM in Srinagar.

In a bulletin released today, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Assembly

Secretariat quoted the LG's order: "I, Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, in exercise of the powers conferred upon me under Section 18(1) of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, do hereby summon the Legislative Assembly for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to meet at Srinagar on Monday, | [More on P6](#)

Row erupts over question quota in J&K Assembly

Sajad Lone slams move to curtail 'rightful' quota, asks Speaker to review decision

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Aug 12: A controversy has erupted over the question quota of MLAs in the upcoming autumn session of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly, with Peoples Conference legislator Sajad Gani Lone charging the Speaker with restricting the rightful quota of legislators.

In a post on X, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Lone cited the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the J&K Legislative Assembly and said that the move to reduce the number of questions sets a bad precedent and defeats the purpose of legislative oversight. He urged the Speaker to restore the quota in line with the rules. "I urge Speaker Sahab, who is the custodian of the House, to kindly review his decision and restore the rightful question quota of members, in accordance with Rule 45," Lone said. Rule 45 provides | [More on P6](#)

Chhari Mubarak rituals begin as Amarnath Yatra enters final phase

Holy mace taken to Shankaracharya Temple for prayers

Traditional journey to cave shrine to begin Aug 22

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Aug 12: The traditional rituals marking the final phase of the annual Amarnath Yatra began in Srinagar on Wednesday with the holy Chhari Mubarak, the sacred mace of Lord Shiva, taken to the historic Shankaracharya Temple for special prayers.

The Chhari Mubarak, led by its custodian Mahant Deependra Giri, was taken to the hilltop temple as part of the traditional rituals associated with the annual pilgrimage to the Amarnath cave shrine in south Kashmir.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), special prayers were offered at the temple amid the chanting of Vedic hymns and blowing of conch shells, with sadhus accompanying the holy mace participating in the rituals.

The rituals at Shankaracharya Temple mark an important stage in the traditional Chhari Mubarak pilgrimage, which will continue with a visit to the Sharika Bhawani Temple at Hari Parbat on August 13.

The holy mace will then be taken to the Amareshwar Temple at the Dashnami Akhara in Srinagar, where Chhari-Sthapana rituals are scheduled for August 15, followed by Chhari-Pujan on August 17, on the occasion of Nag Panchami.

The main traditional journey of the Chhari Mubarak towards the Amarnath cave shrine is scheduled | [More on P6](#)

J&K on maximum alert ahead of Independence Day

Surveillance intensified along LoC, IB; drones, sniffer dogs, additional checkpoints deployed across districts; DIGs review security preparedness in North, South Kashmir

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Aug 12: Security has been strengthened across Jammu and Kashmir ahead of Independence Day celebrations, with police, Army and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) intensifying surveillance, vehicle checking, frisking, area domination and search operations.

A senior security official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that security arrangements have been particularly stepped up in sensitive areas, including major towns, district headquarters, vital installations, vulnerable locations and key entry and exit points, as the administration and security agencies prepare for the national celebrations.

He said a multi-layered security grid has been activated



across all districts, with additional deployments made at important locations and around venues where Independence Day functions will be held.

"Security personnel are maintaining heightened vigil to prevent any attempt to disrupt the celebrations," the official said, adding, "Security forces

have also intensified area domination and patrolling, while search operations and sanitisation exercises are being carried out in vulnerable areas."

Drones and other surveillance equipment are being used to monitor sensitive locations and event venues, while sniffer dogs are | [More on P6](#)

J&K has 25,568 Waqf properties uploaded on UMEED portal: Centre

'25,248 properties approved; 223 initiated for entry'

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Aug 12: As many as 25,568 Waqf properties from Jammu and Kashmir have been uploaded on the UMEED Central Portal-2025, with 25,248 properties approved by the designated approver, the Centre informed the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

The information was provided by Union Minister of Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4115, raised by Shri Imran Masood, regarding the digital platform for monitoring disputed Waqf properties.

According to the State/UT-wise data, Jammu and Kashmir has 223 Waqf properties initiated for entry by the Maker, while 34 properties have been

submitted by the Maker and are pending with the Checker. Another 10 properties have been submitted by the Checker and are pending with the Approver.

The data, accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), further shows that five Waqf properties in Jammu and Kashmir have been rejected by the Approver, while none have been rejected by the Checker. As many as 48 properties have been returned to the Maker.

The Centre said the Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development (UMEED) Act, 1995, as amended by the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, came into force on April 8, 2025. Under Section 3(ka) of the UMEED Act, the | [More on P6](#)

Wet weather to persist across J&K; heavy rain likely from Aug 16-19

Sgr records 31.7°C, Jmu 35.4°C as temps remain above normal

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Aug 12: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness light to moderate rainfall and thundershowers at many places over the next week, with brief intense showers expected at a few locations, the Meteorological Centre said on Wednesday.

The weather office, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) predicted light to moderate rain and thundershowers at many places across the Union Territory between August 13 and 15, with brief intense showers likely during early morning and late afternoon to evening hours.



From August 16 to 19, similar weather is expected at many places, with heavy rain or brief intense heavy showers likely at a few districts of Jammu division and isolated intense showers in

Kashmir division.

The Met Centre has warned that torrential rain and brief intense heavy showers could trigger flash floods, landslides and mudslides, particularly in vulnerable areas.

It has advised people, especially those travelling through hilly and landslide-prone areas, to remain cautious during periods of intense rainfall.

Between August 20 and 22, light rain or thundershowers are likely at scattered places, according to the forecast.

Several areas received significant rainfall in the 24 hours ending Wednesday morning, with Pulwama | [More on P6](#)

J&K poised to script new cinematic chapter with maiden Int'l Film Festival

CS calls for world-class arrangements to showcase region as premier film, tourism destination

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Aug 12: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Wednesday chaired a meeting of senior officers of the Civil Administration and Police Department to review and give detailed shape to the arrangements for the successful conduct of the maiden International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK-2026), scheduled to be held from September 7 to 10, 2026.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister; Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Principal Secretary, Home; Commissioner, Information; Commissioner, Secretary, Transport; Divisional



Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; SSP Srinagar as representative of DGP J&K, Director, Information; Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages; Director, Hospitality & Protocol; Joint Director, Information (Headquarters); Joint Director, Information (Kashmir Division) and other senior officers from the concerned departments and agencies.

The Chief Secretary observed that IFFJK-2026 is the first festival of its kind in Jammu & Kashmir and, therefore, its inaugural edition should set a benchmark for its future editions. He emphasized that the event is envisaged as an annual affair from this year onwards, requiring meticulous planning and execution so that every edition becomes more professionally curated and memorable.

He directed all concerned departments to walk through the entire festival process in advance right from the arrival of guests and participants to the conclusion of the event to identify gaps, streamline procedures and ensure seamless co-ordination. He maintained that the smooth conduct of every component is what ultimately makes an event memorable, professionally accomplished and worthy of appreciation.

The Chief Secretary laid particular emphasis on providing befitting reception and hospitality to all invited dignitaries, filmmakers, artists and other participants. He directed that designated nodal officers be put in place by the General Administration Department at major | [More on P6](#)

J&K to advertise around 800 para-medical posts in Dec: Health Min

Jahangeer Ganaie

Jammu, Aug 12: Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Masood Itoo on Wednesday said the Jammu and Kashmir Government is set to launch another major recruitment drive in the health sector, with around 800 para-medical posts expected to be advertised in December this year.

The announcement came during the inauguration of a newly established CT Scan facility at Shri Maharaja Gulab Singh (SMGS) Hospital, Jammu, where the minister underlined the government's efforts to strengthen both healthcare infrastructure and manpower across the Union Territory.

Talking to reporters after the inauguration Itoo, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said the recruitment of para-medical staff was being pursued in view of the shortage of trained manpower in government hospitals and health institutions.

The Minister said she has taken up the issue with the Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC). "Recruitment of around 800 paramedics is expected to begin in December," the Minister said, adding that the move would help address staff shortages and improve the delivery of healthcare services.

She said the government has



already recruited around 900 doctors and is simultaneously working to augment the paramedical workforce. According to her, strengthening manpower was essential alongside the creation of new infrastructure to ensure that facilities could be

utilised effectively and patients receive treatment without unnecessary delays.

Speaking about the newly inaugurated CT Scan facility at SMGS Hospital, Itoo said patients were earlier being referred to other hospitals because of the non-availability of the diagnostic facility at the hospital. "Now they won't face any problems."

She said the government is committed to ensuring that patients, particularly those belonging to economically weaker sections, did not have to depend on private hospitals for essential diagnostic services.

"There is no compromise on patient care and everyone must get proper | [More on P6](#)

Worm infections can turn children tired, anemic, malnourished, say doctors

'Timely deworming, proper nutrition, hygiene can prevent complications'

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Aug 12: Medical experts in Jammu and Kashmir have cautioned parents against overlooking worm infections among children, saying untreated parasitic infections can contribute to anemia, malnutrition, weakness and impaired physical and cognitive development.

Doctors said children suffering from intestinal worm infections may not always show obvious symptoms in the early stages. However, prolonged infection can affect the body's



ability to absorb essential nutrients and, in some cases, lead to blood loss, leaving children tired, weak and less attentive in school.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), doctors said timely detection and regular deworming can significantly reduce the health burden associated with intestinal worms. They urged parents to pay attention to changes in a child's appetite, weight, energy levels, abdominal health, concentration and overall growth.

"Deworming is a simple, safe and effective intervention. A single dose of appropriate medicine can substantially reduce the worm burden in an infected child," doctors | [More on P6](#)

Rural sanitation, solid waste management reviewed in Budgam

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, AUGUST 12: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, on Wednesday reviewed the sanitation and cleanliness arrangements under SBM (G) and stressed the need for sustained efforts to keep rural areas clean, hygienic and free from waste.

The Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, directed officers to strengthen cleanliness measures across all Panchayats and ensure regular door-to-door collection of household waste. He called for proper mapping and deployment of hoppers and other sanitation resources to ensure efficient collection and transportation of waste from villages.

He stressed the importance of maintaining clean surroundings in villages and directed the concerned officers to ensure timely lifting and proper disposal of accumulated and legacy waste. He also called for greater community participation and awareness to discourage littering and promote responsible waste disposal practices.

The DC issued strict directions for protection and cleanliness



of water bodies and urged the public not to dump garbage or any waste material in streams, roadsides, open spaces or other vulnerable areas.

Emphasising that cleanliness requires sustained collective efforts, he directed the concerned agencies to intensify

sanitation drives and ensure regular monitoring of cleanliness in rural areas.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Vivek Agarwal, SDMs, ACR, JD Planning, ACD, ACP, BDOs and other concerned officers.

DC Anantnag reviews progress under Mission YUVA

KT News Desk

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 12: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat Wednesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress and implementation of various components under Mission YUVA at the DC Office.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Principals of all Government Degree Colleges, Principal Government Polytechnic College Anantnag, Superintendents of Government ITI Anantnag and Seer Hamdan, Employment Officer, DE&CC, Career Counselling Officer, DE&CC, Cluster Heads, Circle-I and Circle-II, Lead District Manager (LDM) Anantnag, District Programme Manager (DPM), NRLM, Block Programme Managers (BPMs), NRLM, and representatives of SBDU/BHD under Mission YUVA.

During the meeting, a detailed review, as per an official statement, of all major parameters under Mission YUVA was undertaken, including progress achieved in respect of application processing, sanction, disbursement, training and other key indicators.

The Deputy Commissioner



expressed satisfaction over the progress achieved in the sanction and disbursement of Mission YUVA cases. Detailed deliberations were held with the Cluster Heads regarding pending cases and they were directed to closely monitor the pendency and ensure disposal of all pending cases in a time-bound manner, in coordination with the concerned banking institutions.

The District Programme Manager, NRLM, was directed

to intensify efforts towards increasing the participation of Lakhpati Didis and facilitating their conversion into viable entrepreneurial beneficiaries under Mission YUVA, particularly through the Udyam Jagriti 5.0 campaign.

Emphasis was laid on greater mobilisation, handholding and convergence between NRLM and Mission YUVA for achieving the desired outcomes.

The DC also directed all Principals of Government

Degree Colleges, Government Polytechnic College and Superintendents of Government ITIs to ensure effective and smooth implementation of the Udyam Jagriti 5.0 campaign, scheduled to commence from 17th August, with active participation of students and prospective entrepreneurs.

The Employment Department and Mission YUVA functionaries were directed to intensify their efforts and improve overall performance across all parameters, with particular focus on indicators where progress remains comparatively low. The concerned officers were asked to undertake regular monitoring and coordinated follow-up to ensure that the targets are achieved within the stipulated timelines.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed upon all stakeholders to work in close coordination and adopt a result-oriented approach for strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the district and ensuring effective implementation of Mission YUVA at the grassroots level.

The meeting concluded with directions for continuous monitoring of progress and timely submission of updated status on the identified parameters.

2-day training for Census 2027 Phase-II concludes in Kathua

KT News Desk

KATHUA, AUGUST 12: The two-day training programme for Census 2027 Phase II, with special focus on enumeration in snow-bound and difficult-to-access areas, concluded Wednesday at Kathua.

The concluding session was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Kathua and Principal Census Officer Rajesh Sharma, who emphasised the need for meticulous planning, accurate enumeration and strict adherence to the prescribed Census procedures to ensure complete and reliable coverage of the population in snow-bound areas.

Addressing the participants, the Principal Census Officer, as per an official statement, stressed the importance of advance preparedness and effective field-level coordination, particularly in view of the logistical and operational challenges involved in conducting enumeration in remote and snow-bound areas. He urged the Census functionaries to discharge their assigned responsibilities with utmost diligence and ensure accuracy at every stage of the enumeration process.

The training sessions were conducted by Sanjay Sharma and Seirin Kohli, Resource Officers from the Directorate of Census Operations, J&K, who provided detailed guidance on various aspects of Census 2027 Phase II, with particular emphasis on operational procedures, field-level preparedness and challenges likely to be encountered during enumeration in snow-bound and difficult-to-access areas.

DSEO Kathua and Additional District Census Officer, Sidharth Anand, was also present on the occasion and interacted with the participants regarding field preparations and requirements for the smooth conduct of the Census operations.

The training provided the Census functionaries an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the prescribed procedures, clarify queries and gain practical insights into the enumeration process. The participants were urged to maintain the highest standards of accuracy, ensure complete coverage and adhere strictly to the Census guidelines while carrying out their field responsibilities.

DIPR Cultural Unit Jammu presents patriotic cultural programme at Bahu Plaza

KT News Desk

JAMMU, AUGUST 12: As part of the ongoing Independence Day celebrations, the Cultural Unit of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Jammu Wednesday organised a vibrant patriotic cultural programme at Central Park Bahu Plaza.

Officers and officials of the Department of Information and Public Relations, including Deputy Director PR Moksha Dogra; Deputy Director Headquarters Ashu Kumari; Cultural Officer Rajinder Kumar Diga and Youth Information Officer Monika Sambhal were present on the occasion.

The programme highlighted the spirit of patriotism, national unity and the sacrifices made by the freedom fighters in the struggle for India's independence. The performances also conveyed the message of unity in diversity, brotherhood and commitment towards nation-building.

The entire programme was conducted under the directions of the Joint Director Information Deepak Dubey and under the supervision of Cultural Officer Rajinder Kumar Diga.

The artists and staff of the Cultural Unit worked with dedication to make the programme meaningful and engaging for the public

Women artisans sensitised about branding, aesthetic packaging of handmade products

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 12: The Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, in collaboration with the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Srinagar, Wednesday organised a one-day capacity building programme for artisans and weavers under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Programme.

As many as 100 artisans participated in the workshop, which focused on branding and aesthetic packaging of Geographical Indication (GI) and One District One Product (ODOP) handcrafted products. Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Director (Trainings), Tahira Tabassum, said the capacity building programmes form part of the Government's ongoing

efforts to strengthen the craft ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. "The NIFT faculty delivered a session highlighting the advantages of creative packaging and how such interventions enhance the branding of handmade products from Kashmir," she stated.

This workshop is the first in a series of ten programmes being organised with NIFT under RAMP. The series aims to equip artisans with practical skills and insights into the importance of aesthetic packaging and branding, enabling them to compete more effectively in both domestic and international markets. The majority of participants belonged to Noor Ari Producer Company, a women-led collective of nearly 600 members dedicated to women's empowerment and the creation of sustainable livelihoods.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR.

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

Subject: - Extension Notice.

Ref:1) This Office e-NIT No. 43/R&B/Tangmarg of 2026-27 issued vide this office endorsement No: R&B/ Divn./ Tang/3192-3202 Dated: 01-08-2026.

2) This Office e-NIT No. 44/R&B/Tangmarg of 2026-27 issued vide this office endorsement No: R&B/ Divn./ Tang/3304-14 Dated: 03-08-2026.

The tenders invited vide this office e-NIT Nos. referred above scheduled to be received by the undersigned on 11-08-2026 upto 4.00 PM and 12-08-2026 upto 4.00 PM respectively, is hereby extended upto 17-08-2026 upto 1:00 PM & the tenders will be opened on 17-08-2026 at 2:00 PM. Due to busy schedule for arrangements for Tiranga Rally & celebration of Independence Day (15th August 2026). All other terms & conditions will remain same as already advertised.

No: R&B/Divn./3683-87

Dated:11-08-2026
DIPK-4473/26
DATED: 12-08-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR (UT)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION PULWAMA.

TENDER NOTICE
Phone:-01933-295302

E-NIT No: 98/EEP/RNB/of 2026-2027/5111-21 Dated:12/08/2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT term e-tenders (In Single Cover system) are invited on %age Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Government for the following work :-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. Lacs.)	Cost of T/D (Rs.)	Earnest Money (In %age.)	Time of Completion in working Days	Class of Contract	Major Head of Accounts	Administrative Accord Approval No:	Call No:
1	Construction of road from Meer Bagh Dhogam Bridge to Pahoo Tehsil Kakapora.	19.58 lacs	800/-	2% of ADV. cost	365 working days	BEE/CEE	Road sector (New works capex Budget 2026-27).	179-SE/ PS of 2026	1st call

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	12- 08-2026
2.	Bid downloading Start Date	12- 08-2026 from 10:00 A.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	12- 08-2026 from 10:00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	20 - 08-2026 upto 04:00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	21 - 08-2026 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Div.Pulwama
6.	Submission of Performance Security(PS)	. Upload a Copy of Performance Security(PS)/ Tender Fee to be deposited in Account No.:0470010200000099 IFSC: JAKA0LALANG) Account Name: Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank PW(R&B) Zone South

In light of Circular issued by Finance department Vide No:FD-code/290/2026 Dated 22.05.2026 and circular issued by worthy Chief Engineer PW(R&B)Department South Kashmir Vide order No:CE/R&B/SK/WS/2095-2111 Dated: 05.06.2026 ,the following conditions are mentioned below:-

1.Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document/Tender Fee to be deposited in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG).
2.All the bidders must deposit Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG)
3. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value to be deposited in Cash in Pulwama MC Holding Account Executive Engineer R&B Pulwama Bearing Account no. 0054010200003470 ,IFSC: JAKA0GOLDEN), which shall be released after successful completion of DLP / maintenance period..

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.

Head Draftsman

DIPK-4463/26
DATED: 12-08-2026

Technical Officer

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Pulwama

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS SOPORE

In the case of: Hilal Rasool Bhat S/o: Gh Rasool Bhat R/o: Krankshivan.
Versus
C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore
(Registrar of Birth and Death)

...Non Applicant

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Daughter namely Amina Hilal D/o: Hilal Rasool Bhat as 23-02-2018 at M.C.H Sopore.

Whereas through the medium of this proclamation the public at large is informed that in case any one has any objection for issuance of direction with respect to the registration of aforementioned Birth event he /she shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 days from the date of the publication of this proclamation.If the date fixed is declared holiday,the matter will be taken on the next working day.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Sopore

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS SOPORE

In the case of: Rubeena Begam S/o: Farooqi Ahmad Lone R/o: Wajub.
Versus
C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore
(Registrar of Birth and Death)

...Non Applicant

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Daughter namely Maryam Farooq D/o: Farooq Ahmad Lone as 13-05-2019 at M.C.H Sopore.

Whereas through the medium of this proclamation the public at large is informed that in case any one has any objection for issuance of direction with respect to the registration of aforementioned Birth event he /she shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 days from the date of the publication of this proclamation.If the date fixed is declared holiday,the matter will be taken on the next working day.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Sopore

CM Omar approves Rs 5.15 Cr project for Gurudwara



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Aug 12: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has approved a Rs 5.15 crore project for the comprehensive development of the historic Gurudwara Charan Kamal Sahib at Bakhta in Kathua district.

The project

envisages the construction of a new Langar Hall and Prayer Hall, besides provision of modern civic amenities for devotees visiting the revered shrine. The initiative marks another significant step towards strengthening pilgrimage infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir

while ensuring the preservation of the region's sacred cultural and spiritual heritage.

The development of the historic Gurudwara will provide improved facilities for devotees and further contribute to the conservation and promotion of Jammu and Kashmir's rich and diverse heritage.

Delegations call on LG Sinha



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Aug 12: Dr Anuj Vaid, Executive Member, Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) Jammu Chapter called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday and lauded the widespread impact of Nasha Mukh Jammu Kashmir campaign. In the meantime, International

Para Athlete S. Chandeeep Singh called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated Chandeeep Singh on his extraordinary achievement of covering 7,452 km from Jammu to Kanyakumari and back—setting the record for the longest car journey driven using feet by a differently-abled individual.

MLA Baramulla flags shortage of construction material

Urges LG Sinha, CM Omar to intervene

Waris Fayaz

Baramulla, Aug 12: MLA Baramulla Javid Hassan Baig has urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and senior administration and police officials to intervene over the shortage and restricted availability of stone, sand and other construction material, saying the issue is affecting major developmental projects in the district.

Talking to reporters, Baig made an earnest appeal to LG Sinha, CM Omar, Deputy Chief Minister, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla and SSP Baramulla to review the situation and ensure that genuine developmental works do not suffer because of restrictions aimed at curbing illegal extraction.

"People of Jammu and Kashmir's expectation is development. We have never seen developmental projects of such a large scale before," Baig said.

He questioned how projects sanctioned under different heads could be completed if the required construction material was not available.

"In curbing the illegal, legal ones too are suffering like anything. How are these

projects going to be completed? From where should we get the construction materials?" he asked

Baig said authorities had a responsibility to prevent the misuse and abuse of natural resources, in line with observations of the Supreme Court, but maintained that restrictions should distinguish between illegal extraction and legitimate requirements for development works.

"Stopping misuse and abuse is our responsibility, but if genuine use is also hit, how could works happen? How would projects be through?" he said.

The MLA said the situation on the ground is concerning and called for a mechanism that could prevent illegal extraction while ensuring uninterrupted supply of construction material for legitimate projects.

"Government has to make ways for development and resolve the issues," Baig said, adding that continued delays could affect public confidence.

Baig urged the authorities to address the issue at the earliest so that sanctioned developmental projects do not face further delays due to the non-availability of construction material—(KNO)

From The Parliament

3,673 landless households identified in J&K

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Aug 12: As many as 3,673 rural landless households have been identified as eligible under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) in Jammu and Kashmir, of which 498 have been provided land, while 3,175 are yet to be allotted land, the Centre informed the Lok Sabha. The information was provided by Union Minister for Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan in reply to a starred question raised sby Lok Sabha members Benny Behanan and Anto Antony regarding housing for landless households under PMAY-G.

According to the statement laid before the House, a total of 5,61,919 rural landless households have been identified as eligible under PMAY-G across the country. Of these, 3,26,183 have been provided land, while 2,35,736 households are yet to be provided land by the respective States and Union Territories.

For Jammu and Kashmir, the data shows that out of 3,673 identified landless beneficiaries, 498 have been provided land, leaving 3,175 households awaiting land allotment.

The government has also reported 3,41,644 PMAY-G houses as the overall target for Jammu and Kashmir. Against this, 3,34,597 houses have been sanctioned and 3,26,860 have been completed, while 14,784 houses remain incomplete against the allocated target.

At the national level, the Centre said that as on August 6, 2026, a total of 1.05 crore houses remained incomplete against the overall PMAY-G targets. The government has approved Phase-II of PMAY-G for completing an additional two crore houses by March 2029.

The Ministry said delays in completion may be due to several reasons, including unwillingness of beneficiaries, permanent migration, disputed succession of deceased beneficiaries, delay in allotment of land to landless beneficiaries, delays in updating credit confirmation from State IFMIS, elections and unavailability of building materials.

To accelerate construction, the government said it has taken measures including timely allocation of targets, release of funds to States and UTs, regular review of progress, monitoring through a dashboard, workshops with States and Union Territories and Rural Mason Training programmes.

The figures also show that Ladakh has a PMAY-G target of 3,004 houses, all 3,004 have been sanctioned and completed, with no houses reported as incomplete against the target—(KNO)

MUDRA scheme boosts J&K Handloom with Rs 39 Cr



Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir has received 2,299 loans amounting to around Rs 39.36 crore under the Concessional Credit/Weaver MUDRA Scheme since 2021-22, while 54 upgraded looms and accessories, 32 individual workshops and 145 lighting units have been provided under the National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP), the Centre informed the Lok Sabha.

The details were provided by Union Minister of State for Textiles Pabitra Margherita in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3786, raised by Adv Dvesh Kuriakose regarding Handloom Producer Companies, upgraded looms, workshops, lighting units and Weaver MUDRA loans.

According to the government data, J&K received 781 Weaver MUDRA loans worth Rs 704.91 lakh in 2021-22, followed by 947 loans worth Rs 983.90 lakh in 2022-23. In 2023-24, 627 loans amounting to Rs 794.59 lakh were sanctioned, while 365 loans worth Rs 521.58 lakh were sanctioned in 2024-25.

During 2025-26, the number stood at 281 loans involving Rs 437.10 lakh, while up to June 30, 2026, another 63 loans worth Rs 93.94 lakh had been sanctioned.

Taken together, the figures show 3,064 sanctioned loans in J&K during the period covered by the government's year-wise table, involving around Rs 35.36 crore.

Under the NHDP, the government said need-based financial

support is provided for interventions including upgraded looms and accessories, construction of workshops, lighting units and product and design development.

For Jammu and Kashmir, the Annexure-A data records 54 upgraded looms and accessories, 32 individual workshops and 145 lighting units provided between 2021-22 and 2025-26.

At the national level, the government said 237 Handloom Producer Companies were formed under NHDP between 2020-21 and 2025-26. It described these companies as an institutional mechanism for organising handloom weavers into professionally managed, member-owned enterprises.

The Ministry said the Concessional Credit/Weaver MUDRA Scheme is a component of NHDP aimed at providing timely financial assistance to the handloom sector for term loans and working capital. Margin money assistance is provided at 20 per cent of the loan amount, subject to prescribed ceilings.

The government further said a centralised online claim disbursement system, the "Handloom Weaver Mudra Portal", has been developed in association with Punjab National Bank to facilitate timely disbursal of margin money and interest subsidy—(KNO)

49,810 ration cards deleted in J&K over five years

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Aug 12: As many as 49,810 ration cards were deleted in Jammu and Kashmir during the five-year period from 2021 to 2025 under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), according to data presented by the Government of India (GoI) in the Lok Sabha.

The information was provided by Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Nimuben Jayantibhai Bambhaniya in reply to Unstarred Question No. 4135, raised by Dr Shivaji Bandappa Kalge regarding families identified under the NFSA and deletion of ration cards.

According to the State-wise data placed before the House, Jammu and Kashmir recorded the deletion of 33,677 ration cards in 2021. The number stood at 2,927 in 2022, 5,403 in 2023, 4,767 in 2024 and 3,036 in 2025, taking the five-year total to 49,810.

The data shows that the highest number of deletions in J&K during the period was recorded in 2021, after which the annual figures remained substantially lower.

At the national level, the government data shows 29,02,794 ration cards were deleted in 2021, 63,80,274 in 2022, 41,99,373 in 2023, 48,85,259 in 2024 and 41,41,385 in 2025.

The government was also asked about biometric authentication failures, server downtime

and other digital verification-related glitches at Fair Price Shops in Maharashtra that resulted in denial or delay of foodgrain distribution. The Ministry said no such instances had been reported to the Department.

The Centre said multiple authentication modes have been provided under the Public Distribution System, including Single Finger, Fusion Finger, IRIS and Aadhaar-based OTP authentication. In cases where authentication of one household member fails, other eligible family members linked to the ration card can authenticate and draw foodgrains. A nominee facility is also available in exceptional cases.

The Ministry further said e-PoS devices can function in offline mode in areas with limited or no internet connectivity and later synchronise transaction data with the PDS online system. All States and Union Territories have been advised that genuine beneficiaries should not be denied their entitled quota due to biometric or Aadhaar authentication failure arising from connectivity, linking, technical or poor biometric issues.

To strengthen monitoring of NFSA implementation and generate comprehensive empirical evidence, the Department of Food and Public Distribution has conducted a concurrent evaluation of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) during 2025-26—(KNO)

J&K has 4 software technology park units

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Aug 12: Jammu and Kashmir had four registered Software Technology Park (STP) units in each of the last three financial years, with exports through these units rising from Rs 15.14 crore in 2023-24 to Rs 19.55 crore in 2025-26, the Centre informed the Lok Sabha.

The information was provided by Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw in reply to Starred Question No. 344, raised by Shri B K Parthasarathi, regarding the Software Technology Parks Scheme.

According to the State/UT-wise data, Jammu and Kashmir had four STP units in 2023-24, four in 2024-25 and four in 2025-26.

The exports from J&K-based STP units stood at Rs 15.14 crore in 2023-24, increased to Rs 16.07 crore in 2024-25, and further rose to Rs 19.55 crore in 2025-26. The three-year cumulative exports

stood at Rs 50.76 crore.

The government data shows no imports were reported by STP units in Jammu and Kashmir during any of the three years—2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26.

The Centre said the Software Technology Park Scheme is a 100 per cent export-oriented scheme aimed at promoting software and IT-enabled services (IT/ITeS) exports from India. Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) provides statutory services through a single-window clearance system under the scheme.

At the national level, the total number of STP units stood at 2,059 in 2023-24, 2,042 in 2024-25 and 2,125 in 2025-26. Total exports through STP units increased from Rs 6,36,619.87 crore in 2023-24 to Rs 6,88,194.11 crore in 2024-25 and Rs 7,73,898.97 crore in 2025-26.

Continued on
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Rs 19.93 Cr released for SC scholarships in J&K

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Aug 12: Jammu and Kashmir received a total of Rs 15.22 crore in Central assistance under two State-wise Scheduled Caste scholarship schemes during the last three financial years, from 2023-24 to 2025-26, the Centre informed the Lok Sabha.

The information was provided by Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr Virendra Kumar in reply to Starred Question No. 332, raised by Shri Raja A, regarding scholarships for Scheduled Caste students.

According to the data, J&K received Rs 12.96 crore under the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC students during the three-year period. The Central assistance stood at Rs 4.68

crore in 2023-24, Rs 4.09 crore in 2024-25 and Rs 4.19 crore in 2025-26.

Under the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SCs and Others, J&K received another Rs 2.26 crore, including Rs 0.54 crore in 2023-24, Rs 0.82 crore in 2024-25 and Rs 0.90 crore in 2025-26.

The combined Central assistance under these two State-wise schemes therefore stood at Rs 15.22 crore for Jammu and Kashmir over the three years. At the national level, the Centre said a total of Rs 19,216.46 crore was disbursed during the last three financial years towards various scholarship schemes for Scheduled Castes. The amount included Rs 6,094.48 crore in 2023-24, Rs 6,200.59 crore in 2024-25 and Rs 6,921.39 crore in 2025-26.

Of the total national

disbursement, the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme accounted for Rs 17,224.63 crore, while Rs 1,469.92 crore was released under the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SCs and Others. The Top Class Education Scheme received Rs 304.29 crore and the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for SC and other eligible candidates received Rs 217.62 crore.

The government said the Post-Matric and Pre-Matric scholarship schemes are Centrally Sponsored Schemes, under which the Department releases the Central share through the central portal after the respective States and Union Territories release their share.

The National Overseas Scholarship and Top Class Education Scheme are Central

EDITORIAL

J&K's Food Safety Record Demands Attention

Over 4,000 non-conforming food samples in five years. Over 7,700 civil cases decided with penalties. These numbers from Jammu and Kashmir are a warning. They tell us that what we eat may not always be safe, and that enforcement is fighting a battle that is far from won. The data is sobering. Between 2021-22 and 2025-26, authorities analysed 54,169 food samples, of which 4,995 were found non-conforming. In 2025-26 alone, 664 samples out of 6,546 failed to meet standards. These are

not minor infractions. They point to widespread adulteration, contamination, and violations that put public health at risk. Yet, what is equally troubling is the enforcement gap. Jammu and Kashmir has 101 sanctioned posts for Food Safety Officers, but 22 of them remain vacant. When the army of inspectors is understaffed, how can we expect the battle against food adulteration to be won? The response of the Ministry—that vacancies are taken up regularly—is not good enough. Citizens deserve a robust enforcement

system that acts swiftly and decisively. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has done commendable work by notifying 259 accredited laboratories and 24 referral labs. But testing alone is not enough. Results must be followed by action. The 84 convictions recorded over five years, against 7,742 civil cases decided, raise questions about the effectiveness of the judicial process in dealing with offenders. Food adulteration is not a victimless crime. It is a crime against public health. When milk is diluted,

spices are contaminated, or edible oils are adulterated, it is the poor and the vulnerable who suffer the most. They have no choice but to buy what is available, often unaware of the poison they are consuming. The answer lies in strengthening enforcement, filling vacancies, speeding up trials, and creating public awareness. Citizens must demand accountability. The food on our plates should nourish us, not harm us. It is time we treat food safety as the public health emergency it truly is.

World Elephant Day

As India observes World Elephant Day 2026, its commitment to elephant conservation remains steadfast. Every protected habitat, restored corridor and community partnership strengthens the future of the Asian elephant. Under Viksit Bharat, India continues to protect both its natural heritage and civilisational legacy for future generations.

Press Information Bureau

World Elephant Day highlights the ecological and cultural importance of elephants. India hosts nearly 60% of the world's wild Asian elephant population and has strengthened conservation through Project Elephant, Elephant Reserves and protected corridors. Scientific monitoring, technology-driven conservation and community participation further support coexistence between people and elephants. These sustained efforts reflect the Government of India's commitment to safeguarding elephants, ecosystems and India's natural heritage.

The Gentle Giant of India's Forests
India is home to nearly 60% of the world's wild Asian elephants, highlighting its vital role in global elephant conservation. Elephants hold deep cultural significance and play a vital role in healthy ecosystems. As a keystone species, they sustain forests, support biodiversity and maintain ecological balance. The Synchronous All India Population Estimation of Elephants (SAIEE) 2021-25 estimates India's wild elephant population at 22,446. These elephants are protected across 33 Elephant Reserves and 150 identified corridors.

This rich elephant heritage also brings a responsibility to address growing conservation challenges. World Elephant Day, observed annually on 12 August, highlights the need for sustained global action. India's conservation efforts address habitat loss, fragmentation, poaching, illegal wildlife trade and human-elephant conflict. The country combines legal protection, habitat conservation, scientific monitoring and community participation as part of its conservation efforts. Technology-driven measures further strengthen these efforts and support the long-term survival of elephants in the wild.

The Enduring Significance of Elephants in India

Elephants are integral to India's natural and cultural heritage. Their significance spans ecosystem health, cultural traditions and community identities.

Ecological Importance

Elephants are foundational species that shape forest structure and ecosystem functioning. They are migratory in nature, with home ranges spanning 100-3,000 km². As they move long distances, they create pathways and water holes that benefit other wildlife. Their feeding habits support nutrient cycling, and bring about seed dispersal that aids forest regeneration. This helps in connecting fragmented forests and creating favourable conditions for thriving genetic diversity. Protecting elephants therefore strengthens ecological connectivity, forest health and wider biodiversity.

Cultural and Social Importance

Elephants have shaped India's religious traditions, cultural practices and community identities for centuries. Lord Ganesha represents wisdom and the removal of obstacles in North Indian traditions. Elephants historically symbolised authority and prestige as royal emblems. Temple elephants remain part of religious rituals and festivals in South India. Communities across the Northeast worship Lord Ganesha as a manifestation of their deities and regard elephants with deep respect. Some communities traditionally view elephants as elders and symbols of wisdom. These traditions highlight the enduring place of elephants in India's cultural heritage and community life.

Counting the Giants: Where India's Elephants Stand Today

India's elephant conservation story is best told through numbers. From reserve networks to corridor restoration, each figure reflects decades of sustained institutional effort.

Project Elephant: A Comprehensive Conservation Framework

Project Elephant is the Government of



India's flagship initiative for elephant conservation. Implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), the programme provides financial and technical support to States for protecting elephant habitats, conserving captive elephants and mitigating human-elephant conflict. It also promotes science-driven conservation through AI-enabled monitoring, radio-collaring, genetic databases and early warning systems.

DNA-based Sampling

Scientific monitoring under Project Elephant has strengthened elephant population assessment. SAIEE 2021-25 used India's first DNA-based synchronised elephant census. Scientists analysed dung samples to identify individual elephants through unique genetic fingerprints. This helped detect repeat samples across landscapes and improve population estimates. SAIEE combined DNA profiling, block counts and line-transect surveys, strengthening the scientific rigour of elephant population assessment.

Securing India's Elephant Corridors

Elephant corridors play an important role in elephant conservation in India. They connect erstwhile natural habitats that have got fragmented due to human development or other reasons. The elephant corridors are habitats that have been developed to connect fragmented habitats. They are essential for maintaining healthy and genetically diverse elephant populations by enabling safe movement between fragmented habitats and helping reduce human-elephant conflict. They also support long-term population viability by maintaining ecological connectivity. Under Project Elephant, the Government has identified and validated elephant corridors across 14 elephant-range states.

According to Elephant Corridors of India, 2023, prepared with technical support from the Wildlife Institute of India, these corridors span across four regions. The East-Central region has 52 corridors, followed by the North-East (48), Southern (32) and Northern (18) regions. West Bengal has the highest number, with 26 corridors. This accounts for more than 17% of the national total. The network includes 19 inter-state corridors and six transboundary corridors connecting India and Nepal. Monitoring shows increased elephant use in 59 corridors (40%), stable use in 29 (19%), declining use in 29 (19%), and impaired conditions in 15 corridors.

Protecting these corridors strengthens

habitat connectivity, reduces conflict and supports the long-term conservation of India's elephant populations.

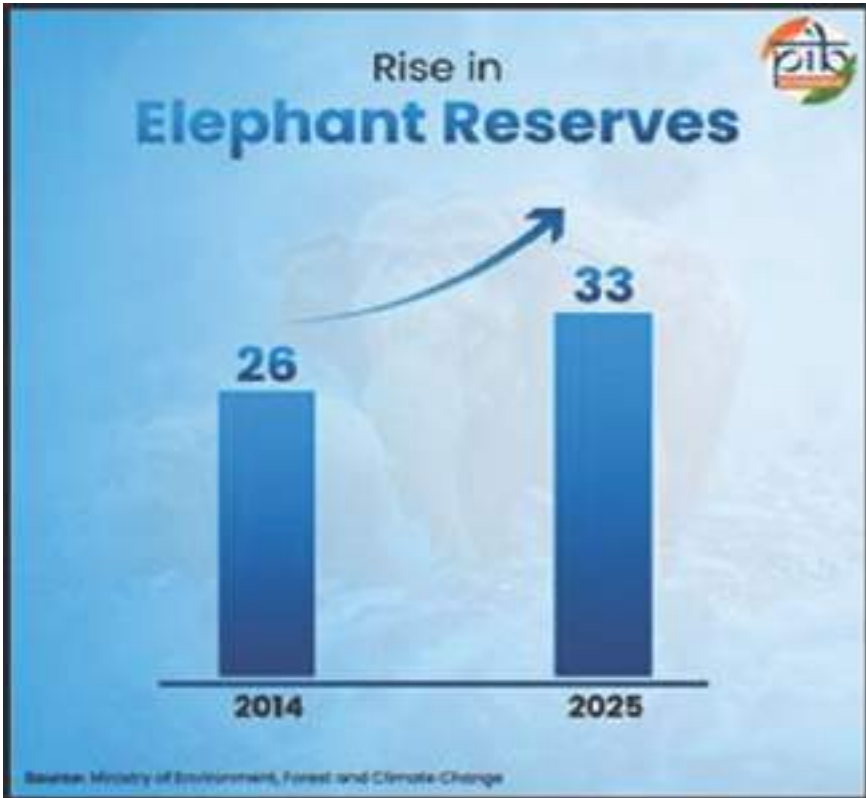
Sustained Corridor Conservation

The Government continues to strengthen these ecological lifelines through scientific monitoring, boundary delineation and integration into State working and management plans. Currently, 150 corridors support elephant movement. These sustained efforts are strengthening habitat connectivity and securing safer movement for elephants across India's forest landscapes.

Growing the Reserve Network

Elephant Reserves have expanded steadily since 2014, now covering 80,777 km across 14 major elephant-range states. The expansion has brought an additional 8,610 km² under protection, securing critical habitats and strengthening ecological connectivity. It has also improved scientific management and created a stronger foundation for the long-term survival of India's wild elephant population.

Collectively, Project Elephant, scientific population estimation, protected reserves and connected corridors have transformed elephant conservation into an integrated



landscape-level programme. These initiatives demonstrate the Government's commitment to combining traditional conservation values with modern science to secure the future of the Asian elephant.

Beyond the Count: Protecting Every Elephant

Estimating elephant populations is only one part of conservation. Long-term success depends on safer habitats, stronger legal safeguards and peaceful coexistence with communities. The Government of India has adopted a comprehensive conservation approach that combines science, technology, infrastructure and public welfare. These initiatives protect elephants both inside forests and across shared landscapes.

India has sought to improve how elephant landscapes are managed. The Management Effectiveness Evaluation framework for Elephant Reserves was launched in 2023 and tested in four representative reserves—Shivalik, Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong, Mayurbhanj and Nilgiri. Building on the pilot experience, the Government is taking this framework to Elephant Reserves across the country, supported through CAMPA funding. This institutionalises transparent assessment and adaptive management based on measurable conservation outcomes.

More recently, the Ministry has taken this landscape-based approach a step further by developing Regional Action Plans for all elephant-bearing regions of the country. These plans recognise that elephants range across State boundaries and that challenges relating to habitat connectivity, human-elephant conflict and landscape management require coordinated action across jurisdictions. The Regional Action Plans provide a common framework for States to undertake priority conservation and conflict-mitigation interventions at the landscape scale.

Making Railways Safer for Elephants

The Government has taken decisive steps to reduce elephant deaths along railway corridors. Joint surveys covered 127 sensitive railway stretches spanning 3,452.4 km. Further, Seventy-seven stretches across 14 States, covering 1,965.2 km, have been recommended for mitigation measures involving 705 structures, including underpasses, overpasses, ramps, level crossings and bridge modifications. These structural interventions are being complemented by technologies such as optical-fibre-based intrusion detection, seismic sensors and thermal cameras.

Also, AI-enabled Distributed Acoustic

Sensing systems now provide real-time alerts to loco pilots, station masters and control rooms. Every train collision involving elephants is jointly investigated with the concerned State Forest Department. These sustained interventions reduced train-hit elephant deaths from 26 in 2013 to 12 in 2024, a decline of more than 50 percent.

Guarding Captive Elephants Through Genetics

The Government has strengthened safeguards against the illegal trade and movement of captive elephants through science-based monitoring. Under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, cases related to sale, transport and procurement are referred to State Chief Wildlife Wardens for action. The Gajah Suchana mobile application has created a national genetic database containing DNA profiles, morphological characteristics and ownership details of every registered captive elephant. The database verifies identity before movement and provides reliable forensic evidence during legal proceedings.

Captive Elephant (Transfer or Transport) Rules, 2024

To regulate the movement of captive elephants, the Government notified the Captive Elephant (Transfer or Transport) Rules, 2024. A High-Powered Committee examines interstate transfers of captive elephants. It was constituted under the Supreme Court's order dated March 3, 2023. Together, the application, the rules and the committee strengthen transparency and curb illegal transfer of captive elephants.

Supporting Communities for Peaceful Coexistence

Conservation succeeds when communities become equal partners in protecting wildlife. The Government provides ex-gratia assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes Project Tiger and Elephant and Development of Wildlife Habitats. Assistance includes 10 lakh for death or permanent incapacitation, 2 lakh for grievous injury, treatment costs up to 25,000 for minor injuries, and compensation for crop and property losses as per State and UT norms.

The Government has further strengthened conflict management through the Human-Wildlife Conflict Advisory. It recommends hotspot mapping, rapid response teams, State and district-level review committees and faster compensation. Elephant-specific conflict mitigation guidelines, issued in 2023, further improve coordination among stakeholders. Together, these measures protect both elephants and people, strengthening safe and sustainable coexistence across India's elephant landscapes.

Reverence to Responsibility

India's relationship with elephants reflects a unique harmony between civilisational values and modern conservation. Revered for centuries, elephants continue to inspire India's commitment to protecting nature and maintaining ecological balance. This legacy is now strengthened through scientific research, technology, strong institutions and community participation.

The Government of India has developed a comprehensive framework for elephant conservation. Efforts include securing habitats, expanding Elephant Reserves, protecting corridors, improving railway safety and regulating captive elephant movement. Support for communities affected by human-elephant conflict further strengthens coexistence between people and wildlife.

As India observes World Elephant Day 2026, its commitment to elephant conservation remains steadfast. Every protected habitat, restored corridor and community partnership strengthens the future of the Asian elephant. Under Viksit Bharat, India continues to protect both its natural heritage and civilisational legacy for future generations.

The views expressed by contributors on this page are their own and do not necessarily reflect the policies or positions of the newspaper

HAR GHAR TIRANGA CAMPAIGN

Mega Tiranga rally held in Kulgam



KT News Desk

KULGAM, AUGUST 12: A Mega Tiranga Rally under Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign and Tiranga Exhibition in the form of Human Chain, dedicated to National Song,Vande Mataram was Wednesday held by the District Administration Kulgam. Both the programs, as per an official statement, were led by Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam in presence of SSP Kulgam, Anayat Ali and other district administration officers officials and local citizens. The citizens assembled at the lawns of Mini Secretariat, Kulgam formed a Tiranga Exhibition in the form of Human Chain and presented tribute to the Vande Mataram through

mass singing of National Song. Thereafter, the rally commenced from the Mini Secretariat Kulgam and passed through various parts of the town, witnessing spirited participation from citizens from all walks of life and culminated at Ghanta Ghar with the mass singing of National Song and National Anthem at both the locations. The streets of Kulgam were adorned with tricolour and the rally was resounding with patriotic slogans and songs, creating a vibrant atmosphere of unity, national pride, and collective celebration ahead of Independence Day. The district administration appreciated all stakeholders for the resounding participation in the rally.

Mega Tiranga rally held in Ganderbal



KT News Desk

GANDERBAL, AUGUST 12: As part of the ongoing 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Campaign-2026, a Mega Tiranga Rally was held Wednesday in Ganderbal with enthusiastic participation of the general public, students, civil administration officials, police personnel and civil society members. The rally, as per an official statement, was led by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, and witnessed participation of Senior Superintendent of Police Ganderbal, officers and officials of the civil administration, police personnel, representatives of civil society, school children and a large number of citizens. Carrying the National Flag and raising patriotic slogans, participants marched through the designated route in Ganderbal, creating a vibrant atmosphere of patriotism and national pride. The enthusiastic participation of the general public added special significance to the rally and reflected the growing public engagement with the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign. Students also participated enthusiastically in the rally, carrying the Tricolour and joining the patriotic celebrations. Their participation highlighted the role of youth in promoting the values of national unity, patriotism and respect for the National Flag. The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the enthusiastic

participation of citizens and called upon the general public, particularly youth and students, to continue participating in the various activities being organised under the campaign. He emphasized that the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign provides an opportunity for citizens to collectively celebrate national pride and strengthen the spirit of unity and harmony. The Mega Tiranga Rally formed part of a series of activities being organised across District Ganderbal under the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign, being observed from August 09 to 17, 2026. Various activities including Tiranga rallies, Har Ghar Tiranga pledge, mass singing of the National Anthem, patriotic programmes and Swachhata Hi Seva activities are being conducted across the district. The District Administration has been facilitating activities at district, block, panchayat and institutional levels with active participation of government departments, educational institutions, youth, civil society organisations, market associations and the general public to ensure maximum public participation in the campaign. The enthusiastic participation in Wednesday's Mega Tiranga Rally reflected the collective spirit of the people of Ganderbal and reinforced the message of patriotism, national unity, harmony and pride in the National Flag.

Series of activities held in Bandipora

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 12: As part of the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign-2026 and the commemoration of 150 years of Vande Mataram, a number of Tiranga Rallies and patriotic activities were held across Bandipora district Wednesday, witnessing enthusiastic participation of students, officers, officials and people from different sections of society. In Sumbal, a Tiranga Rally was organised from Irrigation Colony, Sumbal, to Degree College, Sumbal. The rally was attended by SDM Sumbal, Murtaza Ahmad Sheikh, SDPO Sumbal, Tehsildar Sumbal and Hajin, SHO Sumbal, Commandant 45 Battalion Sumbal, ZEO Sumbal, Executive Engineers of PDD, Irrigation & Flood Control and R&B Departments, besides officers and officials from various departments, members of civil society, President Traders Federation Sumbal, President Senior Citizens Council Sumbal, students, Lumberdars and Chowkidars. Participants, as per an official statement, carried the National Flag with pride, reinforcing the message of unity and national pride. In Gurez, a Tiranga Rally was held from the Sports Ground of Government Degree College Gurez to Sumo Stand. The rally was led by Sub-Divisional Magistrate Gurez, Mukhtar Ahmad, accompanied by Tehsildar Gurez, Block Development Officer Gurez and other officials. Officers, officials and local residents participated in the rally with patriotic enthusiasm, carrying the Tricolour and reaffirming the spirit of national unity in the frontier valley. A Tiranga Rally was also held at Habba Khatoon Stadium, Dawar. As part of the celebrations, people also participated in Selfie with Tiranga activities at the Mini Secretariat Bandipora and S.K. Stadium Bandipora, expressing their pride and respect for the National Flag.



Tiranga rallies and related activities were also held with the participation of Block Bonakoot, Block Gurez, Block Arin, Block Hajin, Block Bandipora and Block Nowgam, besides NRLM Bandipora, Department of Agriculture Bandipora, Municipal Council Bandipora, PDD Bandipora, RSETI Bandipora, Poshan Project Gurez and other departments and institutions. The Department of AYUSH, Bandipora, participated through awareness sessions, Yoga activities and Tiranga Rallies, sensitising students and community members about the significance of the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign and respect for the National Flag. A Tiranga Mahotsav was also organised at the Agriculture Complex, Bandipora, as part of the campaign. At Government Middle School Kehnoosa, a morning Yoga session was conducted as part of the Tiranga campaign, with 126 participants taking part. The Ayush Health and Wellness Centre Onagam, Bandipora, in collaboration with Government Middle School Onagam, organised an awareness camp as part of the prelude to Independence Day celebrations. The camp addressed issues concerning youth, including mental health challenges and drug abuse, with emphasis on holistic health and a healthy India. National Flags were also

Tiranga concert at Aglar resonates with patriotism

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, AUGUST 12: A vibrant Tiranga Concert was organised at the Mega Fruit Mandi, Aglar, as part of the Har Ghar Tiranga-2026 campaign and celebrations marking 150 years of Vande Mataram. The concert witnessed enthusiastic participation of people, youth, officers and officials, with patriotic performances adding fervour to the celebrations. MLA Shopian, Shabir Ahmad Kullay, District Magistrate (DM) Shopian, Shishir Gupta, SSP Shopian, Mushtaq Ahmad Choudhary, besides other senior officers, officials and dignitaries



were present on the occasion. The event, as per an official statement, showcased the spirit of national unity, patriotism and pride, with the tricolour serving as a symbol of collective celebration. The gathering also observed the National Anthem and National Song Vande Mataram, further enhancing the solemnity and patriotic spirit of the occasion.

Bike, bicycle rally held in Kupwara

KT News Desk

KUPWARA, AUGUST 12: In a mission-mode push to deepen public participation in the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign, the District Administration Kupwara Wednesday organized a mega Tiranga Rally in Kupwara town, drawing enthusiastic participation from students, officials and citizens alike. The Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign, being observed nationwide from August 9 to 17, 2026, is a flagship initiative under the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, aimed at fostering a deep sense of personal connection with the National Flag and encouraging every household to hoist the Tricolour as a mark of patriotism and national pride. The rally also drew inspiration from the ongoing Vande Mataram Campaign, being observed nationwide since last year to commemorate 150 years of the National Song, further reinforcing the collective spirit of national pride and reverence for the motherland among the participants. The rally, as per an official statement, was flagged off from BHSS Kupwara by Deputy

Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, and SSP Kupwara, Syed Al Tahir Gilani. The procession passed through the General Bus Stand, Kupwara, culminating at the D.C. Office Complex, Kupwara. Adding further vigour to the celebrations, a bike rally and bicycle rally were also flagged off on the occasion, with a large number of students carrying the Tricolour and raising patriotic slogans. District Officers, sector officers and officials from various departments joined the rally, with thousands of participants marking one of the district's largest turnouts for the campaign so far, further strengthening the collective push to make Har Ghar Tiranga a vibrant, inclusive public movement. Tiranga rallies and allied activities were also conducted across all sub-divisions, tehsils and blocks of the district, reflecting the collective spirit of unity, patriotism and reverence for the National Flag, and further strengthening the message of Har Ghar Tiranga and the 150th anniversary celebrations of Vande Mataram across Kupwara district.

People from all walks of life come together with enthusiasm, patriotic fervour in Anantnag

KT News Desk

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 12: As part of the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign, a Mega Tiranga Rally was held Wednesday in Anantnag in a smooth and seamless manner. Organised by District Administration, the rally, as per an official statement, was jointly led by Deputy Commissioner (DC), Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, DIG SKR, Javid Iqbal Matoo and SSP, Ashok Amod Nagpure. Senior officer including ADCs, SEs, ACR, ACD, ExEns, as well as district and sectoral heads besides officials from various departments, volunteers, member from Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and citizens from all cross-sections of society, participated with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervor. Addressing the participants,



the DC said that the district has actively embraced the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign and urged everyone to continue the scheduled activities with the same spirit and passion. He noted that the overwhelming

the rally commenced at Sports Stadium and culminated at Lal Chowk, Anantnag. The colorful and grand event showcased a spirited commitment to unity, patriotism, and collective resolve in honor of the nation. As the grand procession passed through Mehdi Kadal and along the main road toward Lal Chowk, participants marched with immense pride and passion, holding the Tricolour high to reflect resilience and shared joy. Throughout the rally, songs honoring freedom fighters and celebrating patriotic themes filled the streets, creating a lively and festive ambience befitting to the dignity of National Flag. The presence of thousands of participants, including officials and local residents, created an incredible spectacle as the rally progressed.

Rally held at Thathri to promote patriotism, national unity

KT News Desk

THATHRI, AUGUST 12: A vibrant Tiranga Rally was organised Wednesday in Thathri town as part of the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign-2026 and celebrations commemorating 150 Glorious Years of Vande Mataram. The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation from officers and officials of various departments, senior citizens and locals. Carrying the National Flag with pride, the participants marched through the main market area of Thathri, raising patriotic slogans and spreading the message of national unity, pride and collective participation. The rally showcased the deep sense of patriotism and national pride among the people of Thathri and added momentum to the ongoing celebrations across the district under the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign-2026. Meanwhile, a vibrant Har Ghar Tiranga Rally was organized at Tehsil Headquarters Bhella as part of the nationwide campaign to promote patriotism, national unity and the spirit of the Tricolour. The rally commenced from Government Higher Secondary School Bhella and proceeded through the main market and adjoining areas of Bhella before culminating back at the school premises. Participants carried the National Flag with pride and raised patriotic slogans, creating an atmosphere of unity, patriotism and national pride throughout the route. Naib Tehsildar Zakir Hussain Wani, Medical Officer Dr. Sadeeq Wani, Principal Government Higher Secondary School Bhella, Chowki Officer Anil Singh, along with other departmental employees and a large number of students, actively participated in the rally.

Grand Tiranga rally echoes with Patriotism in Shopian

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, AUGUST 12: A grand Tiranga Rally was held in Shopian Wednesday as part of the Har Ghar Tiranga-2026 campaign and commemoration of 150 years of Vande Mataram, evoking a strong spirit of patriotism and national pride across the district. The rally, as per an official statement, commenced from the Youth Services & Sports Stadium, Shirmal and culminated at the Mega Fruit Mandi, Aglar. MLA, Shopian, Shabir Ahmed Kullay, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta, SSP Shopian, Mushtaq Ahmed Choudhary and other senior officers, officials and dignitaries participated with enthusiasm. The tricolour-filled rally, witnessed enthusiastic participation of officers, officials and



people, creating a vibrant display of unity and national pride. On reaching Aglar Fruit Mandi, the gathering observed the National Anthem and National Song Vande Mataram, further adding solemnity and patriotic fervour to the occasion. The event reflected the

collective commitment of the people of Shopian towards the values of unity, integrity and national pride, while celebrating the enduring legacy of Vande Mataram. A Tiranga Concert was also organised at Aglar Fruit Mandi as part of the Tiranga Mahotsav.

Rally taken out in Nowshera amid patriotic fervour

KT News Desk

RAJOURI, AUGUST 12: A vibrant "Har Ghar Tiranga" rally was organised Wednesday in Nowshera to spread the message of patriotism, national unity and respect for the National Flag. The rally commenced from Government Higher Secondary School (Boys) and culminated at the ADC Office Complex. The rally was led by Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma and Additional Deputy Commissioner Nowshera Dr. Pritam Lal Thapa, who participated along with officers, officials and members of the local community. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the Beopar Mandal Nowshera,



Sanatan Dharam Sabha and other prominent citizens of Nowshera town, who joined the rally in large numbers and extended their support to the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign. Students, officials and members of the local community also participated with great enthusiasm. Carrying the Tricolour and raising patriotic slogans, the participants marched through the main areas of Nowshera,

spreading the message of unity, patriotism and pride in the National Flag. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner Rajouri appreciated the enthusiastic participation of the people of Nowshera and urged citizens to actively participate in the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign and display the National Flag at their homes with pride and due respect.

J&K Govt rolls out ‘JK Karigari’ to take UT’s authentic handicrafts to national, global markets

KT News Desk

New Delhi, Aug 12: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday launched “JK Karigari”, the official marketplace for authentic products from Jammu and Kashmir during the Bharatiya Vyapar Mahotsav which commenced here at Delhi.

The move is a major step towards connecting the region’s centuries-old handcrafted heritage directly with the national and global buyers.

Launched as an initiative of the Housing & Urban Development Department under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), JK Karigari has been designed to empower the urban women Self Help Groups, preserve traditional crafts and create sustainable livelihoods across the Union Territory.

Present on the occasion were

MPs Chowdhary Mohammad Ramzaan, Sajjad Kichloo and Gurvinder Singh Oberoi, Commissioner Secretary Housing and Urban Development Department Mandeep Kaur and her entire team including Vikas Sharma, MD NUDM, Shabir Hussain Bhat VC Srinagar Development Authority, Kapil Sharma, Director Urban Local Bodies Jammu, Mridhu Salathia, MD NULM, Ankush Kapoor, Chief Information Security Officer, HUDD, JK, SHG women and other officers of State Urban Development Agency(SUDA).

The platform will showcase 100 percent authentic Kashmiri handicrafts including Pashmina, Kani and Sozni shawls, papier-mache, walnut wood carving, crewel embroidery, carpets and organic local produce and

Jammu handicrafts including Chabri, Macrame Home & Devotional Decor besides



traditional food products and wooden craft, all made by skilled artisans and SHGs. Every product listed on JK Karigari will carry a QR code with artisan details, district and GI tag to ensure secure and transparent shopping, with payments going directly to the artisan groups and no middlemen involved.

The Commissioner Secretary termed the launch a “game changer for urban women artisans” and said the initiative will provide them a dedicated, government-backed platform

to reach customers beyond local markets. She informed that presently the department has 4000 SHGs with about 50,000 women members associated with DAY-NULM across J&K. She said the government is actively exploring ways to encourage more interstate collaborations to further boost the business of SHGs and give their products a wider national footprint.

She described JK Karigari as a revolutionary concept of the government that brings together heritage, technology and

inclusive growth. She added that the main motive behind this huge government-backed marketplace is to ensure that artisans get a genuine price for their products while consumers get authentic quality stuff, directly from the makers. By integrating QR-based traceability, pre-approval of SHGs by DAY-NULM City Mission and secure digital transactions, the government is ensuring both authenticity for buyers and sustainable income for artisans.

The Commissioner Secretary said that with continuous

government support and better market linkages, these women artisans are now confidently stepping into larger markets with products that reflect both tradition and innovation.

Nodal Officers of the event Kapil Sharma and Vikas Sharma, along with Chief Executive Officer Urban Development Authority Kashmir Tazayun Mukhtar and MD DAY-NULM Mridhu Salathia also addressed the gathering on the occasion. They made a fervent appeal to the public and institutional buyers to visit the JK Karigari stall and experience the exquisite collection of traditionally blended, handmade products of Jammu and Kashmir. They emphasized that the platform not only showcases the artistic brilliance of local artisans but also serves as a bridge between heritage craftsmanship and contemporary markets.

They informed that SHG

members associated with the mission have been provided with extensive skill upgradation training under various capacity building programs. She said these interventions have played a pivotal role in enhancing their craftsmanship, product quality and market readiness, enabling them to emerge as the choicest sellers of authentic J&K products.

The launch also builds on J&K’s growing inter-state collaborations for market access. An agreement signed on 9th November 2024 between the “National Urban Livelihoods Mission, Government of Jammu and Kashmir” and the “Uttar Pradesh Handicrafts Development & Marketing Corporation Limited, Department of MSME and Export Promotion, GoUP” aims to enhance the market linkages and promote SHG products and handicrafts from Jammu and Kashmir in Uttar Pradesh and vice versa.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Confluence of Har Ghar

Governor said that the Tiranga is the living embodiment of India’s consciousness and pride. He emphasized that the Tiranga Yatra in Kashmir Valley sends a clear message that India must never stop and always move forward.

“In 2022, when the ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ campaign was launched under ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’, its purpose was to rekindle in every Indian’s heart a sense of closeness, respect, and emotional connection toward the tricolour. When the Tiranga flutters simultaneously on millions of homes, 140 crore Indians’ hearts beat as one in a single sentiment, a single faith, a single resolve. Today, Tiranga Yatra has evolved into a festival of people’s consciousness, a tradition of patriotism, and a cultural value binding every citizen to the motherland,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the people of Jammu Kashmir for their remarkable participation in the Har Ghar Tiranga and Vande Mataram campaigns. He noted that their enthusiasm has become a source of inspiration for the entire nation. He said the Tiranga is the soul of our nation and ‘Vande Mataram’ is the immortal voice of that soul.

On this historic occasion, the Lieutenant Governor called upon the people to take collective and personal responsibility for shaping Jammu Kashmir’s and India’s future. He urged the people to ensure that the Tiranga will not only fly high at every home but also in our thoughts, our character, and our actions.

“Let us resolve that the sacred spirit of ‘Vande Mataram’ will reflect in every action, every decision, and the discharge of every responsibility. We should take a pledge to repay the debt of our immortal heroes’ sacrifices by building a nation that is prosperous, secure, just, and opens doors of equal opportunity for every citizen. We should work together to realize the vision of a Jammu Kashmir where the three colours of the Tiranga are visible in the values of life. We should build a Jammu Kashmir that is economically strong and takes unbroken pride in Indian culture, civilization, and spiritual values. The future is ours. This century belongs to India. This is the era of India’s self-confidence, its courage, and its immortal national consciousness,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor honoured Veer Naris and War Heroes. He also inaugurated the Har Ghar Tiranga Exhibition and felicitated the nodal officers of the Vande Mataram campaign.

The celebrations also featured the screening of a special documentary by the Department of Culture, followed by Tiranga concert where artists paid a musical tribute to the nation’s bravehearts.

Justice Rahul Bharti; Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary; Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana; Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election, Javid Ahmad Dar; Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani; Chairperson, J&K Waqf Board, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi; Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo; DGP, Nalin Prabhat; Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra; Principal Secretary Culture, Brij Mohan Sharma, people from all walks of life, senior officials of Civil Administration, Police and Security forces, and youth in large number joined the Tiranga Yatra. (KNO)

Autumn session

the 21st of September, 2026 at 10:00 AM.”

A separate bulletin issued by the Secretariat directed that each MLA shall submit not more than four starred and four unstarred questions, along with one bill, by or before August 25, 2026. Members have also been asked to submit not more than two resolutions by September 5, 2026.

Meanwhile, the LA Secretariat has ordered that meetings and other affairs of the Financial and other Committees of the House shall remain suspended with effect from August 22, 2026, in view of the commencement of the autumn session. (KNO)

Row erupts over

that each member is entitled to 20 questions during a budget session-10 starred and 10 unstarred-and 10 questions during a non-budget session-five starred and five unstarred. However, as per the bulletin issued by the Assembly Secretariat, members have been asked to submit only eight questions in total-four starred and four unstarred. (KNO)

J&K has 25,568

UMEED Central Portal-2025 was developed and launched on June 6, 2025, for uploading Waqf details, registration of new Waqf and facilitating overall management and governance of Waqf properties.

The Ministry said the portal also facilitates monitoring and management of encroached Waqf properties. As on August 7, 2026, a total of 53,952 encroached Waqf properties had been uploaded by State Waqf Boards on the portal.

Regarding removal of encroachments, the government said Section 54 of the UMEED Act provides a mechanism under which the Chief Executive Officer of a State Waqf Board, upon receiving a complaint or otherwise, may conduct an inquiry. If satisfied that the property is Waqf property and has been encroached upon, the CEO may approach the Tribunal for an order for removal of the encroachment.

The tribunal may subsequently pass an eviction order after giving the concerned person an opportunity of being heard.

Nationally, the portal data shows 7,99,294 Waqf properties initiated or completed till August 7, 2026, with 6,18,247 properties approved by the Approver. (KNO)

J&K on maximum

being deployed for anti-sabotage checks and searches, said another official.

“Roadside checkpoints have been strengthened at strategic locations, with security personnel conducting random as well as targeted checks of vehicles and individuals to detect any suspicious movement,” the official

The Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB) are also under heightened vigil, with the Army and BSF maintaining close surveillance along the frontiers and strengthening coordination with other security agencies.

Senior officers have reviewed the security arrangements and operational preparedness in border districts, officials said.

DIGS NORTH, SOUTH KASHMIR CHAIR MEETING

In North Kashmir, the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) NKR chaired a security-cum-coordination conference at District Police Lines, Baramulla, attended by senior officers of the Police, Army, BSF, CRPF, SSB and other security formations.

The meeting reviewed the overall security preparedness and stressed close inter-agency coordination, effective area domination, enhanced vigilance, seamless communication and timely sharing of actionable intelligence.

Similarly, DIG South Kashmir Range Javid Iqbal Matoo chaired a security review meeting at the District Police Office in Anantnag, attended by senior officers of the Army, CAPFs and police, including SSPs of districts under the South Kashmir Range.

The meeting reviewed the prevailing security situation, deployment arrangements, surveillance, naka checking, protection of vital installations and security of sensitive locations.

The DIG directed officers to maintain heightened alertness, intensify patrolling and checking, closely monitor the security environment and ensure a swift response to any emerging threat.

Security agencies said the measures are aimed at ensuring peaceful Independence Day celebrations while facilitating maximum public participation across J&K. (KNO)

Chhari Mubarak rituals

to begin from Srinagar on August 22. The holy mace will make night halts at Pahalgam, Chandanwari, Sheshnag and Panchtarni before reaching the cave shrine for puja and darshan on August 28, coinciding with Shravan Purnima. (KNO)

J&K poised to script

boarding airports, including Mumbai and Delhi, besides ensuring seamless reception and facilitation at the airports in Jammu and Srinagar.

He underlined that IFFJK provides a significant opportunity to showcase Jammu & Kashmir’s immense potential as both a film destination and a premier tourist destination. He called upon Tourism, Handicrafts, Floriculture, Culture and other concerned departments to make comprehensive arrangements to showcase the region’s rich heritage, crafts, culture, landscapes and artistic traditions through curated tours, craft safaris, heritage experiences and other activities for visiting guests.

The Chief Secretary also stressed the need for timely invitations to dignitaries from the

Government of India, UT administration and other distinguished guests to ensure their participation. He reviewed in detail the arrangements concerning their accommodation, transportation, hospitality and visits to important tourist and heritage destinations in and around Jammu and Srinagar, aimed at providing them firsthand experience of the region.

Giving special thrust to publicity, the Chief Secretary directed that a comprehensive and sustained publicity campaign be undertaken through local and national media, social media platforms and outdoor publicity, including hoardings and other visibility mechanisms across Jammu and Srinagar. He called for creating wide awareness about the festival and projecting J&K’s capabilities, creative ecosystem and tourism potential to audiences across the country and beyond.

He further directed the J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages to organize live cultural performances by local artists at suitable locations identified by the Divisional Administrations. These performances, he said, would provide a vibrant cultural ambience for the visiting guests and complement the film festival experience. The chief secretary stressed for adequate security arrangements and directed Home department to ensure coordination with all security agencies.

The Chief Secretary also impressed upon the Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir to undertake a micro-level review of every arrangement and activity, ensuring that all concerned departments, agencies and stakeholders remain fully coordinated for the successful conduct of the first edition of IFFJK.

Earlier, Commissioner Secretary, Information Department, R. Alice Vaz, gave an overview of the preparations being undertaken for the festival. She apprised the meeting of the series of coordination meetings held with various departments and agencies and outlined the responsibilities assigned to different stakeholders for ensuring the smooth conduct of the event.

On this occasion the Director, Information & Public Relations, Shreya Singhal, subsequently made a detailed presentation on the vision, objectives and proposed format of IFFJK-2026, covering the festival schedule, film entries, screening venues, programmes, logistics, hospitality, publicity and other arrangements.

She apprised the meeting that around 1,100 film entries from nearly 80 countries have been received for the maiden edition of IFFJK-2026. The entries are currently being scrutinized by the Preview Committee for selection of films to be screened across seven screens over four days of the festival.

Sge added that the film screenings are proposed to be held at SKICC and INOX Cinemas in Srinagar, Waves Cinema in Jammu, besides select festival sessions at Gulmarg. The Inaugural, Closing and Award Ceremonies are proposed to be held at SKICC, Srinagar, with arrangements for live broadcasting to ensure wider reach and visibility.

Besides film screenings, the festival will feature a range of Masterclasses, Workshops and Roundtable discussions, providing opportunities for interaction among filmmakers, industry professionals, artists, students and other stakeholders, including students of Mass Communication.

The meeting was also apprised of the day-wise schedule of programmes and screenings planned across different venues, including dedicated arrangements for jury members and festival participants separately.

It was further informed that various committees have already been constituted with clearly defined Terms of Reference (ToRs) to ensure clarity of responsibilities, accountability and effective coordination among stakeholders. A dedicated IFFJK application has also been developed by the Department of Information & Public Relations to facilitate registrations and provide real-time updates about the festival.

The meeting also discussed in detail the publicity strategy, invitations, transportation, traffic management, security, hospitality, protocol and other logistical arrangements, with concerned departments including Tourism, Home, Traffic, Transport, Hospitality & Protocol and GAD being sensitized about their respective roles.

The Chief Secretary directed all stakeholders to maintain close coordination and ensure that every arrangement is completed well in advance, reiterating that the maiden IFFJK should emerge as a landmark annual cultural event that showcases Jammu & Kashmir’s cinematic potential, artistic talent, cultural richness and

unparalleled tourism appeal to the national and international audience.

Wet weather to

recording 57.5 mm, Poonch 53 mm, Awantipora 47.8 mm and Rajouri 44 mm.

WEATHER REMAINS WARM ACROSS J&K

Meanwhile, the weather remained largely warm across the region on Wednesday. Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 31.7 degrees Celsius, 1.7 degrees above normal, while the minimum temperature was 20.9 degrees, 2.3 degrees above normal.

Jammu recorded a maximum of 35.4 degrees Celsius, 2.3 degrees above normal, and a minimum of 25.5 degrees.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 30.8 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam remained considerably cooler at 27.3 degrees. Gulmarg recorded a maximum of 23.2 degrees Celsius.

Among other stations, Kupwara recorded 30.7 degrees, Kukernag 30.4 degrees, Banihal 32.7 degrees, Batote 30.5 degrees, Katra 33 degrees and Bhaderwah 31.3 degrees Celsius.

The weather office has particularly flagged the August 16-19 period for possible heavy rainfall and brief intense showers, which could temporarily disrupt traffic and affect vulnerable infrastructure in some districts.

Authorities and residents in flood- and landslide-prone areas have been advised to remain alert and follow advisories issued by the administration during periods of intense weather. (KNO)

Worm infections

said, adding that the treatment is also available free of cost through public health programmes.

Dr Rayees Ahmad Lone of DHSK said helminthic infections can affect children in several ways, particularly when the infection persists for a long period.

“Children may develop anemia, abdominal swelling, severe abdominal discomfort, diarrhoea, poor appetite and malnutrition. In severe or prolonged cases, tissue damage and impaired physical and mental development can also occur,” he said.

He said regular deworming, when medically appropriate, can improve nutrient absorption and help protect children from complications associated with worm infestation.

“By reducing the worm burden, deworming can support better nutritional status, improve concentration and reduce the risk of anemia and digestive problems,” Dr. Lone said.

Physician Dr. Javed Ahmad Reshie said intestinal worms can have a particularly serious impact on growing children because they compete with the body for nutrients and may interfere with iron absorption.

“Helminthic infections can contribute to anemia by causing blood loss, affecting iron absorption and triggering inflammation. This can ultimately affect a child’s energy levels, learning ability and overall development,” he said.

Doctors said that the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends periodic deworming in areas where soil-transmitted worm infections are common, with the frequency depending on the level of prevalence and public-health guidelines.

They also advised parents not to avoid deworming during winter, saying the effectiveness of the intervention does not depend on a particular season when it is administered according to recommended schedules.

The concern assumes greater significance in view of the high prevalence of anemia among children in India. According to NFHS-5, around 73 percent of children aged 6–59 months in India were found to be anemic, compared with 43 percent in NFHS-4. The survey classified around 25 percent as having mild anemia, 44 percent moderate anemia and 4 percent severe anemia.

In Jammu and Kashmir, anemia among children in the same age group was reported at around 74 percent, highlighting the need for stronger attention to childhood nutrition, infection prevention and early intervention.

Doctors, however, stressed that deworming alone cannot address childhood anemia or malnutrition. They said it should be complemented by a balanced diet containing adequate iron and other essential nutrients, safe drinking water, proper sanitation and regular handwashing.

They also advised parents to seek medical attention if a child develops persistent abdominal pain, recurrent diarrhoea, unexplained weakness, loss of appetite, poor weight gain or other concerning symptoms rather than

relying solely on self-medication.

Experts said maintaining personal hygiene, keeping children’s nails trimmed, washing hands before meals and after using the toilet, properly washing fruits and vegetables and ensuring hygienic sanitation facilities can help reduce the risk of repeated worm infections.

“Deworming is a relatively simple public-health intervention, but its benefits are much greater when combined with good hygiene and adequate nutrition,” the doctors said.

They urged parents, schools and health workers to work together to ensure children receive age-appropriate deworming at recommended intervals and that cases requiring further medical evaluation are identified early. (KNO)

J&K to advertise

treatment at the earliest,” she said, stressing that many poor families cannot afford treatment and diagnostic services in private hospitals.

The minister said Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has taken cognisance of the requirements at SMGS Hospital, particularly in view of the heavy patient rush at the institution.

She said patients from different parts of Jammu and surrounding areas are referred to the hospital, making the expansion of diagnostic and treatment facilities particularly important.

Itoo further said that an MRI facility is expected to be established at SMGS Hospital within the next three months.

She said the Jammu and Kashmir Medical Corporation Limited (JKMCL) had already initiated the process for establishing the facility, which would further strengthen the hospital’s diagnostic capacity and reduce the need for patients to approach other institutions.

The Minister said the government has taken several measures to decentralise advanced healthcare services. Cath labs have already been established at various locations, while MRI facilities have been made available at multiple centres.

She also highlighted the expansion of dialysis services up to the community health centre level, saying the objective was to ensure that patients, particularly those from poor families, do not suffer because of the lack of essential facilities.

Addressing another major issue faced by patients and attendants visiting SMGS Hospital, Itoo said Rs 5 crore have been released for a flyover near the hospital.

She said the project is aimed at easing traffic congestion in the area and ensuring that patients do not get delayed while trying to reach the hospital during emergencies.

The Minister said reducing traffic-related delays was important because patients requiring urgent medical attention cannot afford to remain stuck in congestion.

A newly constructed Academic Block at Chest Disease (CD) Hospital was also inaugurated during the programme, adding to the academic and healthcare infrastructure associated with Government Medical College Jammu.

Itoo said the government is simultaneously focusing on infrastructure development, diagnostic services and recruitment of medical and para-medical personnel to strengthen the overall healthcare system.

She emphasised the need for doctors and healthcare workers to maintain compassionate communication with patients and their attendants, while directing that emergency services and patient requirements should remain the foremost priority.

The programme was attended by Jammu West MLA Arvind Gupta, Jammu East MLA Yudhvir Sethi, senior officials of the Directorate of Health Services, Heads of Departments and faculty members of GMC Jammu, besides doctors, healthcare workers and students.

Arvind Gupta appreciated the improvements in GMC Jammu and its associated hospitals and assured support in resolving pending issues, particularly those concerning manpower and funding.

Yudhvir Sethi also appreciated the contribution of doctors, paramedics and other healthcare professionals towards strengthening medical services and infrastructure.

Principal and Dean, GMC Jammu, Dr Ashutosh Gupta, expressed gratitude to the minister, elected representatives, senior officers, faculty members, doctors, staff and other stakeholders for their continued support in improving the institution. (KNO)

Amit Shah says ready for discussion on all issues related to NEET

Dares opposition to come for Parliament debate

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 12: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday dared the opposition to submit a formal letter to the Lok Sabha speaker for a debate on students' protests and all related issues, and said he will attend the entire proceedings to address all questions if the discussion begins today.

Speaking to reporters in the Parliament House complex, he said it was now up to the opposition whether they want to take part in the debate or to create turmoil in Parliament.

"Even today, I say that they should submit a letter to the Speaker by 2 pm. We are ready for all kinds of discussions from 3 pm today until 3 pm tomorrow," Shah said, asserting that the government has nothing to hide.

The home minister's remarks came just a day before the Monsoon Session comes to an end after prolonged disruptions of the proceedings in both Houses of Parliament. The protests and sloganeering by the opposition initially started over the NEET paper leak and alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram temple in Ayodhya. The



opposition later pressed for a discussion on the police action against students protesting over the NEET paper leak and also demanded the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the home minister, and their statements.

Asked about the opposition charges that he was running away from the debate, the home minister took strong exception to the claim and said words like "missing" and "fugitives" are terms that have only recently begun to be heard in India's public and parliamentary discourse.

He said ever since the Parliament session began on July 20, he has been coming regularly and sitting in his chamber in the

Parliament House, but the opposition is not allowing the either House to function.

"So, what is the point of anyone going inside when the proceedings are not being allowed to run? As far as the issue of discussion is concerned, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has made it very clear that the government is ready for a discussion on all aspects of the students' protests related to the NEET issue," he told reporters outside Parliament's main entrance 'Makar Dwar'.

On Monday, Rijiju announced that the government is ready for a full-fledged discussion in Lok Sabha on students' protests and police action across the country, and that Shah will give a reply to

the debate, provided the opposition promises not to disrupt and listens peacefully.

Pointing to the opposition's initial demand that time be allotted for a discussion, Shah said he had made it clear that he was ready to answer all questions in Parliament.

"But they simply do not want the discussion to take place. Now, let the people decide who is actually running away," he said, adding that he is also ready to discuss why the opposition "does not" want a discussion.

Shah said the NDA government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is ready for discussions on every issue.

Soon after the home minister's statement, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the opposition is not interested in listening to Shah's "lecture" in Parliament and asserted that the younger generation of the country wants to know who ordered that protesting students be shot at with pellet guns.

The leader of the opposition in Lok Sabha said if Shah ordered that students be shot at, he is culpable, and if he did not, then he is incompetent, and in both cases, he should resign.

Lok Sabha refers FCRA bill to joint committee



PTI

New Delhi, Aug 12: Amid a noisy stand-off between treasury and opposition benches, Lok Sabha on Wednesday referred the controversial FCRA amendment bill to a joint parliamentary committee and passed a bill to amend laws on mines and mineral development without any debate, before adjourning for the day on the penultimate day of the Monsoon Session.

At the start of the day, Speaker Om Birla told protesting Opposition members that even if their approach and thoughts differ from the ruling front, the country wants the House to function. He also appealed to the Opposition to allow the House to function,

stressing that it was not right for them to tarnish the image of the House by holding protests and shouting slogans.

Faced with an unrelenting Opposition, he adjourned the proceedings till 2 pm.

In the meantime, Home Minister Amit Shah told reporters outside Parliament that the government was ready for a debate on students' protest over the NEET issue and wrote a letter to Birla in this regard.

After the Lok Sabha proceedings resumed at 2 pm, the government proposed to move the FCRA amendment bill to a joint parliamentary panel and the motion was passed by the House. This was despite the opposition demanding withdrawal of the bill, alleging it

was targeted against minorities.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju dared the Opposition to show a single clause in the bill that was against the minorities.

After a brief adjournment, the house again re-assembled at 3 pm, when it passed the Mines and Minerals Bill.

Amid opposition protests, Rijiju said the government was ready to start a debate immediately on the student protest over the NEET issue, and Shah has already written to the Speaker about this. He said the Opposition should not run away from the debate when the Home Minister was ready to answer all their questions. As the stand-off continued with the treasury benches also raising the issue of student protests in Jharkhand, the house was adjourned by the chair till Thursday, 11 am.

Earlier, in the morning, the Question Hour was concluded within less than three minutes.

Since the start of the Monsoon Session on July 20, the Question Hour has not been completed even a single day. Wednesday is the 18th straight day that the crucial hour was disrupted. Lok Sabha proceedings have been disrupted continuously since the start of the Monsoon Session on July 20 owing to persisting differences between the Opposition and the government over various issues, including student protests and Ram Mandir donation row.

Sensex falls 188 points, Nifty ends lower

PTI

Mumbai, Aug 12: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower for the second day on Wednesday as elevated crude oil prices and selling in Tata Group stocks after Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran said he will not seek reappointment when his current term ends on February 20, 2027, weighed on investors' sentiment.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 187.90 points, or 0.24 per cent, to settle at 77,966.35. During the day, it tumbled 656.32 points, or 0.83 per cent, to 77,497.93.

‘Retail inflation inches up to 4.45% in July due to hr food prices’

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 12: Retail inflation inched up to 4.45 per cent in July, largely driven by higher food prices, according to government data released on Wednesday.

The consumer price index (CPI) based retail inflation was 4.38 per cent in June.

Food inflation in July rose to 5.52

per cent from 5.32 per cent in the preceding month, according to CPI data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO).

The Reserve Bank of India, which has been tasked with ensuring CPI remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side, had kept the short-term lending rate unchanged earlier this month, citing inflationary concerns.

Assam flood situation improves as number of affected dips to 87,000, toll 103

PTI

Guwahati, Aug 12: The flood situation in Assam improved on Wednesday as the number of affected people dipped to 87,000 in four districts, but the toll climbed to 103 as two more deaths were reported, an official bulletin said.

According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) bulletin issued this evening, two persons lost their lives in the deluge in the last 24 hours. One person each

drowned in floodwaters in Sivasagar and Karbi Anglong districts, it added.

With these fatalities, the total number of deaths in this year's floods has increased to 103.

According to the authority's daily flood report, more than 86,800 people remained affected in Golaghat, Jorhat, Nagaon and Sivasagar districts.

Golaghat was the worst-hit with over 42,000 people affected, followed by Nagaon (20,000) and Sivasagar (15,000).

The flood situation has improved

since Tuesday, when almost 1.13 lakh people were affected across four districts.

The ASDMA said the administration has been operating 79 relief camps and relief distribution centres in five districts, taking care of 13,011 affected people at present.

The authority has distributed 96.55 quintals of rice, 18.26 quintals of dal, 5.41 quintals of salt and 204.81 litres of mustard oil among the flood victims of the state during the last 24 hours.

Gautam Adani breaks silence after US case dismissal

Says trust is greater than legal right

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 12: A day after a US court dismissed the criminal case against him and his nephew Sagar Adani, Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani said the episode had reinforced his faith in the rule of law, humility and the importance of honouring commitments during adversity.

Speaking to employees and partners in the second edition of 'Apni Baat, Apno Ke Saath', Adani reflected on the Hindenburg Research allegations of 2023 and the subsequent US Justice Department case, saying the experience had strengthened his conviction in standing by one's values during difficult times.

The federal judge's ruling ended the criminal case, while also raising questions over the Justice Department's decision-making process.

Adani said the episode had strengthened his conviction that "enduring confidence is earned by honouring commitments, standing by one's values and doing the right thing, especially in difficult times", according to a statement issued by the conglomerate.

Recalling the Group's decision to withdraw its Rs 20,000 crore follow-on public offering (FPO) in 2023 despite the issue being fully subscribed, he said, "Trust is greater than any legal right".

He added that while laws confer rights, values determine when those rights should be exercised.

The Adani Group had withdrawn the FPO after Hindenburg Research published allegations of stock manipulation, improper use of offshore tax havens and excessive debt. The group denied the allegations. The US case followed in November 2024, when federal



prosecutors accused Adani and others of agreeing to pay about USD 265 million in bribes to Indian government officials to secure solar-power contracts and of misleading US investors.

Adani and the group denied wrongdoing. On August 10, US District Judge Nicholas Garaufis dismissed the criminal charges after the Justice Department sought to withdraw the case. Adani said the group remained focused on executing its businesses throughout the legal proceedings, with employees, suppliers, contractors, vendors and partners continuing to deliver on their commitments.

"While public attention remained fixed on the legal proceedings, employees, workers, suppliers, contractors, vendors and partners quietly continued building businesses, serving customers and delivering on their commitments," he said.

"Their unwavering dedication helped turn one of the Group's most challenging chapters into one of its strongest periods of growth."

Parliament passes Bill to rename Kerala as Keralam

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 12: Parliament on Wednesday passed a bill to rename Kerala as Keralam, with the Rajya Sabha clearing the legislation with a voice vote. The Lok Sabha passed the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, on Tuesday.

Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said the Kerala Assembly passed a resolution in 2024, urging the Centre to bring a law to change the name of the state to Keralam.

"The bill provides that the State of Kerala will be known as the State of Keralam, and hence there is a proposal to rename the State of Kerala to Keralam," he said.

The Kerala government had forwarded a resolution passed by the state assembly regarding the name change to the Centre in June 2024.

Subsequently, the President of India referred a Bill to the state legislature for expressing its views, and later, the state assembly adopted a unanimous resolution agreeing with the Bill.

The Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill provides for such alteration of the name of Kerala and contains necessary amendments to the provisions of the Constitution and also consequential provisions, according to the Bill's statement of objects and reasons.

Amendments will be made in the First Schedule to the Constitution by modifying the name of Kerala as Keralam in accordance with Article 3 of the Constitution.

Rai said it is the resolution of the Prime Minister to remove all symbols of slavery, names, signs, flags of institutions, or statues of great personalities that repeatedly wound the hearts of Indians and establish all things, signs, or works that represent the pride of India's heritage.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION
& PUBLIC RELATIONS
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT INFORMATION OFFICER SHOPIAN.

Phone No: 01933-293447
SHORT TERM QUOTATIONS
Rate quotations in sealed covers are invited from registered dealers/ service providers for hiring of three (03) high-quality LED Display/LED Video Wall System for the smooth conduct of Independence Day Celebration-2026 at District Police Lines, Shopian, on 15th August, 2026.
The tenders/quotations should reach this office up to 14th August, 2026 (1:00 PM sharp).
Terms & Conditions:
1. The price quoted shall be inclusive of all applicable taxes/GST, transportation, installation, dismantling and other related charges.
2. These LED Display/Video Wall system shall be of high quality, suitable for outdoor use, and shall provide clear and bright display during the programme.
3. The agency/ service provider shall ensure timely installation, testing and commissioning of the LED system before commencement of the programme.
4. A well-qualified and sufficient number of technicians/operators shall be deputed at the venue throughout the programme for smooth operation of the LED systems along with cameraman.
5. The bidder shall be responsible for providing all necessary accessories, controllers, processors, cabling, power arrangements and other equipment required for proper functioning of the LED system.
6 In case of any technical fault during the programme, the service provider shall immediately rectify the same or arrange suitable replacement equipment.
7. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation, wholly or partly, without assigning any reason.
8. More information can be obtained from the office of the District Information Officer, Shopian, during office hours, located at Mini Secretariat.

District Information Officer Shopian
No. DIC//INF/S-/222/2026 Dated: 12/08/2026 DIPP-4486/26
DATED: 12-08-2026

Trump says US has ‘total control’ over Strait of Hormuz



REUTERS

Washington, Aug 12: President Donald Trump on Wednesday said the United States is in control of the strategic Strait of Hormuz and will “keep it.”

“The USA. has total control over the Strait of Hormuz. I THINK WE WILL KEEP IT!” Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform. “Our Naval Blockade is being called, by everyone, ‘A WALL OF STEEL,’ and there is nothing Iran can do about it.”

Trump has repeatedly claimed the United States

controls the strait, which is vital for the flow of energy and other commodity shipping through the Middle East.

However, Iran says it effectively controls much of the waterway and intends to impose a toll system in response to the US war launched by Trump on February 28.

Late Tuesday, Trump told reporters: “We have total control over the Hormuz Strait right now. They don’t have control. We have total control. We own it.” US and Israeli forces have heavily bombed Iran’s military

and killed a swath of the country’s leadership so far in the nearly six month war, launched initially with goals including forcing Tehran to abandon its nuclear power program and regime change.

Iran has resisted with missile attacks on US bases in the region, Israel and targets in US-allied Gulf countries.

Its most effective response has been to strike shipping in Hormuz, effectively snarling the trade route, rattling the world economy.

With his political popularity sinking at home ahead of the November midterm congressional elections, Trump has backed off threats to escalate the war in search of a decisive victory.

That leaves the war in a standoff.

However, the Republican says that the United States is prepared to focus on blockading Iranian ports in a strategy that he told Axios was “low-keying.”

“We are only semi-negotiating with them. We are just watching Iran with its huge inflation and the fact they have no money,” Trump told Axios on Sunday.

US military operations killed 153 civilians in 2025: Pentagon assessment



REUTERS

Washington, Aug 12: US military operations killed 153 civilians and wounded 243 in 2025, a U.S. official said on Tuesday, citing Pentagon assessments, marking a sharp rise from the civilian casualties recorded in 2024.

According to a Pentagon report submitted to the U.S. Congress and published by U.S. media,

all civilian deaths and injuries recorded in 2025 resulted from three U.S. strikes in Yemen in April.

The U.S. Central Command assessed that the three strikes “more likely than not” resulted in civilian harm, the report said. The Pentagon had assessed that U.S. military operations killed two civilians and injured two others in 2024.

The report also said that, as of February 2026,

the U.S. Central Command was assessing 15 other incidents in Yemen following reports received through non-governmental organizations. The U.S. military has said its operations in Yemen are aimed at degrading the capabilities of Iran-backed Houthi militants.

The Pentagon assessment did not include casualties from U.S. strikes in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific.

As of February 1, 2026, the U.S. Southern Command assessed that “there were no incidents in which civilian casualties more likely than not resulted from U.S. military operations in the USSOUTHCOM area of responsibility in 2025.”

The Trump administration has carried out strikes against vessels it accuses of transporting narcotics in the Eastern Pacific, describing those targeted as “narco-terrorists.”

Those strikes have killed more than 200 people since September 2025, according to a tally of death tolls published after each strike.

Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International consider the strikes unlawful extrajudicial killings. The American Civil Liberties Union has described the Trump administration’s assertions about those targeted as “unsubstantiated, fear-mongering claims.”

Azerbaijan's prez says his country could supply electricity to Armenia

REUTERS

Baku, Aug 12: Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev has said his country could supply electricity to neighboring Armenia, saying Yerevan will not be able to extend the life of its aging Metsamor nuclear power plant indefinitely.

There was no immediate comment from the Armenian government on Aliyev's proposal or on whether Yerevan would consider importing electricity from Azerbaijan.

Armenia and Azerbaijan have been moving toward normalizing relations after decades of conflict, opening the possibility of new transport and energy links between the two countries.

Long heavily dependent on Russia and Iran for its energy supplies, Armenia is now reviewing proposals from US, Russian, Chinese, French and South Korean companies to construct a new nuclear reactor to replace the Soviet-era Metsamor nuclear power plant.

Cambridge chief calls plagiarism case ‘an aberration’

AFP

London, Aug 12: The University of Cambridge's top administrator on Wednesday called a scandal over a black professor who has resigned amid accusations of plagiarism “an aberration” and vowed a thorough investigation.

The prestigious British university's former professor of sociology of education, Jason Arday, resigned a week ago, facing snowballing allegations of plagiarising parts of his PhD thesis and overstating personal achievements.

Vice-Chancellor Deborah Prentice, in the university's most extensive comment so far, insisted Arday's alleged wrongdoing was “an aberration” that should not be used “to cast aspersions” on other academics of color.

She made the comment in a letter posted online Wednesday that was sent to university staff a day earlier, outlining her response to the “damaging and difficult” scandal.

Arday, who became the university's youngest black professor at the age of 37, has denied any wrongdoing, saying in a resignation letter he did not accept “the narratives that have surrounded me.”

Prentice, an American psychologist, is the principal administrative officer of the university.

British newspapers have reported she is facing criticism from academics and pressure to quit over her handling of the scandal. It has been seized upon by right-wing newspapers and commentators, who have labelled Arday as a “poster boy” for diversity, equality and inclusion (DEI) policies.

The vice-chancellor responded to a group of university academics who wrote to her last week slamming Arday's appointment and asking her to appoint an independent body to probe what happened.

Middle East war impact on travel bookings fading, TUI says



AFP

Frankfurt, Aug 12: German travel giant TUI said Wednesday that bookings were returning to normal levels despite the ongoing Mideast war, as it presented its latest financial results.

Tourism in Europe is experiencing a turbulent summer marked by soaring jet fuel prices because of the US and Israeli war against Iran, as well as heatwaves and wildfires in Spain, France, Portugal and Greece.

Though booked revenue for the summer was down six percent from the same season last year, TUI — the world's largest travel group — said bookings over the past four weeks had risen seven percent.

The company noted renewed interest in Eastern Mediterranean

destinations as holiday-makers return to the region after months of geopolitical uncertainty.

“Business is coming back, it’s normalizing,” chief executive Sebastian Ebel said on an earnings call. “We have seen strong weeks.”

The Mideast war has hit airlines as well as cruise operators with higher fuel prices, leading many clients to change their travel plans.

Hotel occupancy was down three percent in the quarter to end-June, TUI said, an improvement from the six percent fall seen in the previous six months.

TUI had issued a profit warning in April, weeks after the Mideast war forced it to repatriate 10,000 travelers, including 5,000 people stuck on two cruise ships in the Gulf.

Zhu Rongji, Chinese premier who cajoled economy into modern era, dies at 97

REUTERS

Beijing, Aug 12: Former Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji, who died on Wednesday aged 97, was never one to mince his words.

When the four-volume selection of his speeches came out in 2011, they shocked readers with his description of “tofu dregs” flood dykes built by “parasites”, and erring bankers labelled as “half-wits”.

It was little wonder that his blunt comments from his years in power became best-sellers, finding eager readers in a nation whose then leaders were seen as wary and cautious, prone to often bland public pronouncements.

Yet the reaction to Zhu's speech selection from his time



as vice premier from 1991 to 1998 and then as premier until early 2003 also reflected deeper anxieties coursing through China as it approached a transition that ushered in Xi Jinping as leader. Reformist former offi-

cials and intellectuals held up the 2,042 pages of Zhu's words, many made public for the first time, as an unflattering mirror to the conservatism and conformism of current leaders. Magazine editors and internet

users scoured the volumes for any comments that offer a message for the present.

Indeed, many of the problems that dogged China's economy as Xi prepared to take power dominated “The Authentic Speeches of Zhu Rongji”: local government debt and reckless bank loans, inflation and feverish urban growth, and corruption devouring public trust and coffers.

“Our country faces many potential crises that could erupt at any time,” Zhu said early in 1998. “Ordinary people are discontent about us in many ways. Especially, there is corruption among officials, the gulf between rich and poor, and the way some local officials act like tyrants.”

Kuldeep has been a match-winner, deserves a longer run, says Kartik

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 12: Former India spinner Murali Kartik believes Kuldeep Yadav needs consistency and a clearly defined role in the Test side as the team prepares for a crucial two-match series against Sri Lanka, with Ravindra Jadeja entering the twilight of his career.

India are fifth in the World Test Championship standings after four wins and four defeats in the current cycle. They will look to revive their campaign after a 0-2 series loss to South Africa, beginning with two Tests in Sri Lanka. They will then tour New Zealand for



two Tests in November before hosting Australia for a five-Test series in January-February.

“This series is critical with the view of the WTC if we are serious about Test cricket, we are at number 5, our fortunes haven’t been great in red ball cricket of late, which is well-documented and everyone knows it,” Kartik said in a virtual media interaction

organised by Sony Sports Network.

The Sri Lanka series is also expected to be a significant examination of India's spin resources. Kartik feels the transition in India's spin department makes Kuldeep's role particularly important.

“The series will be test for the spinners as well. Jadeja – as good as he has been for Indian cricket

– is in his twilight years. Manav Suthar with the way he made his debut against Afghanistan was very heartwarming for any old-school spinner.”

However, Kartik feels Kuldeep has not received the sustained backing during the Rohit Sharma-Rahul Dravid era that can allow a bowler of his quality to flourish in Test cricket.

Since Gautam Gambhir took over as coach in July 2024, Kuldeep has played six Tests.

“Kuldeep has been a match-winner for India but unfortunately for him it played out differently when he had Rohit Sharma and Rahul Dravid and now he's not got that kind of a run in,” he said.

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SPIDERMAN:

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03:10 PM

3D

SPIDERMAN:

BRAND NEW DAY – 3D

ENGLISH ATMOS WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES (U/A 13+)

11:00 AM 02:05 PM

05:10 PM 08:15 PM

CC

SPIDERMAN:

BRAND NEW DAY – ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES (U/A 13+)

12:05 PM 03:40 PM

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