



Lightning strike kills two in Anantnag

Rains lash J&K parts; MeT forecasts intense showers from Aug 16 to 19

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Aug 13: Two persons were killed and two others injured in a lightning strike in South Kashmir's Anantnag District on Thursday as rain lashed several parts of Jammu and Kashmir, with the Meteorological Centre predicting spells of heavy rain and thundershowers across the region between August 16 and 19.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the lightning struck the Gawran Nard area of Anantnag district, killing Faizan Ahmad, 18, son of Mohammad Yaqoob Chard, of Gawran, and Bilal Ahmad Battana, 16, son of Nazir Ahmad, of Redwani Gawran.

Sajad Ahmad Battana, 15, son of Sai Battana, and Shareef Ahmad Battana, son of Jumma, both residents of Redwani Gawran, were injured in the incident and shifted to PHC



Larnoo for treatment.

RAIN, THUNDERSHOWERS LASH SEVERAL AREAS

Meanwhile, rain and thundershowers were reported from several areas, including Budgam, Poonch, Rajouri, Shopian, Kulgam, Reasi, Udhampur and the Banihal-Ramban belt, besides parts of central and north Kashmir, the Meteorological Centre said.

The weather office said brief spells of intense rain were reported or were likely in Poonch, Rajouri, Budgam, Gulmarg and adjoining areas, Shopian, Kulgam, Anantnag, hilly areas of Ganderbal, Reasi, Ramban, Udhampur and Doda.

A cloudburst over the higher reaches of the Zojila area also led to the accumulation of debris and | [More on P6](#)

Ahead of Independence Day, DGP asks forces to step up surveillance

Calls for intensified patrolling, checking at vulnerable locations

Directs intelligence-based action, quick response

Stresses Police, CAPFs coordination for peaceful I-Day

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Aug 13: Ahead of the Independence Day celebrations, Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Thursday directed forces to step up patrolling, checking and surveillance at vulnerable locations.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) DGP Prabhat chaired a high-level security meeting at the Police Control Room here and reviewed the security preparedness across Jammu and Kashmir.

An official said that the meeting was attended by senior Police and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) officers and it focused on security deployment, intelligence inputs, traffic management, route



security, access control and surveillance.

The DGP called for greater coordination between the police, CAPFs and other security agencies, stressing the need for intelligence-based action and quick response to any emerging threat.

ensure adequate security and access-control measures at the stadium while regulating traffic and movement of people around the venue, they said.

DGP Prabhat also ordered intensified night patrolling and naka checking, particularly at vulnerable points and along inter-district borders. Frisking and surveillance measures are being strengthened at important locations as part of the pre-Independence Day security exercise.

The meeting also reviewed anti-sabotage measures, route security and deployment of personnel at key venues across Jammu and Kashmir.

The police chief directed officers to adhere strictly to standard operating procedures and maintain close coordination | [More on P6](#)

No information on Al-Qaeda link to Red Fort blast: IGP Birdi

Says security beefed up across Kashmir ahead of Aug 15

Full-dress rehearsals held in districts

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Aug 13: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Zone V K Birdi on Thursday said police currently have no information confirming an alleged Al-Qaeda link to the November 25, 2025 Red Fort blast in New Delhi.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of the full-dress rehearsal for the August 15 celebrations at Bakshi Stadium here, IGP Birdi, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), while replying to a query about reports claiming that Al-Qaeda was behind the November 25, 2025 Red Fort blast, said, "I don't think this is appropriate time to talk about it. If there is anything, we will convey it. As of now, we



don't have anything like this in our knowledge."

He said that ahead of Independence Day security rehearsals have been conducted across districts to ensure the smooth conduct of programmes. "Robust security arrangements have been put in place across Kashmir," the IGP added.

On security | [More on P6](#)

July rainfall breaks 8-month deficit spell in J&K, records 35 pc surplus

Baramulla logs highest 165 pc surplus in Kashmir, Ramban tops Jammu region

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Aug 13: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 35 per cent excess rainfall in July, breaking an eight-month spell of below-normal precipitation that began in November last year, according to data shared by independent weather platform Kashmir Weather.

According to details obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Union Territory received 259.7 mm of rainfall against the normal of 192.6 mm during July, resulting in a surplus of 35 per cent, the data showed.

The turnaround was particularly marked in the Kashmir Valley, where all districts except Shopian recorded above-normal rainfall during the



month.

Baramulla registered the highest surplus in the Valley at 165 per cent, followed by Ganderbal at 110 per cent and Pulwama at 108 per cent. Srinagar and Anantnag

recorded a 71 per cent surplus each, while Kulgam was 51 per cent above normal.

Bandipora and Kupwara recorded surpluses of 33 per cent and 32 per cent, respectively, | [More on P6](#)

Organ donation awareness vital to bridge demand-supply gap in J&K: Experts

Say donation rate remains low despite growing need for life-saving transplants

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Aug 13: Medical experts and healthcare professionals in Jammu and Kashmir have called for sustained and comprehensive awareness campaigns to promote organ donation, saying the Union Territory continues to face a significant mismatch between the growing number of patients in need of transplants and the limited availability of donated organs.

Experts said that while advances in medical science and transplant medicine have made it possible to save and significantly improve the lives of patients suffering from organ failure, the shortage of suitable



organs remains one of the biggest challenges, with the situation being particularly concerning for patients requiring kidney, liver and heart transplants. They said that deceased

organ donation could play a crucial role in narrowing the gap between demand and availability, while urging people to understand the importance of organ and tissue donation and consider pledging their organs after death.

According to them, there is a very high requirement for organ donation in J&K. Deceased organ donation is crucial to bridging the gap between the demand and availability of organs and can provide a new lease of life to patients suffering from liver, heart and kidney failure, experts said.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Dr Sajad Ahmad, posted at SMHS | [More on P6](#)

1991 Jammu Rly Station blast

35-year manhunt ends, accused arrested

Yogesh

Jammu, Aug 13: The Government Railway Police (GRP) Jammu on Thursday arrested an absconding terrorist accused in a 1991 bomb blast at Jammu Railway Station, bringing a 35-year-old manhunt to an end.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the accused, identified as Altaf Hussain Sheikh, of Marhama-Bijbehara in Anantnag, had initially gone underground and subsequently lived for several decades under a concealed identity.

A police official said that Sheikh was among the accused

involved in the bomb blast that took place on April 2, 1991, at Platform Number 1 of Jammu Railway Station. The blast left three persons dead, including two paramilitary personnel, and injured 18 civilians.

An FIR (No. 07/1991) was registered at GRP Jammu under Sections 307, 302 and 120-B of the RPC, Sections 3/4 of TADA and Sections 4/5 of the ESA.

During the investigation, one accused, Aman Ullah Khan, was arrested, while three others managed to evade arrest and were subsequently declared absconders by the competent court.

Police said that over the past two years, | [More on P6](#)

J&K Govt approves CM's Digital Internship Program

Six-month paid prog to provide hands-on GovTech experience to students in tech, computer science

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Aug 13: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has accorded approval to the Chief Minister's Digital Internship Programme 2026 (Batch-I), a six-month paid internship initiative aimed at providing talented local youth with hands-on experience in emerging areas of technology and digital governance.

Executed by the J&K e-Governance Agency, the programme will offer eligible students pursuing BE/B.Tech, M.Tech, MCA and M.Sc. in Computer Science/Information

Technology an opportunity to gain practical exposure through their engagement in real-world GovTech projects. The initiative will provide interns with hands-on learning opportunities in areas including GovTech, cybersecurity and digital services, enabling them to understand and contribute to technology-driven solutions for governance challenges.

The programme will also provide structured mentorship from leading experts, helping interns strengthen their technical capabilities and gain valuable professional experience.

To recognise | [More on P6](#)

'Red gold' at risk

Saffron growers demand stronger corm conservation

Jahangeer Ganaie

Pulwama, Aug 13: Concern is growing among saffron growers in south Kashmir over the continued shortage of quality saffron corms, with farmers and local stakeholders urging the authorities to strengthen measures to prevent their illegal transportation outside Jammu and Kashmir and establish dedicated nurseries for multiplying quality planting material.

The demand comes at a time when Kashmir's traditional saffron industry is already facing several challenges, including

changing weather conditions, fluctuations in productivity and inadequate availability of healthy planting material.

Growers told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the unchecked removal of saffron corms from the Valley could further weaken the crop by reducing the stock available for local cultivation.

"Saffron is not merely an agricultural commodity for us; it is our heritage and livelihood. If quality corms leave Kashmir illegally, there will be less planting material available for local farmers in the | [More on P6](#)

Sachin-encouraged armless cricketer, govt teacher invited to President's 'At Home' reception on Independence Day

Aamir Hussain says 'entire village proud' over Rashtrapati Bhavan invitation

Waseem Ahmad Lone to be honoured for raising school enrolment from 12 to 125

Umair Gull Ganie

Srinagar, Aug 13: An armless para-cricketer and a government teacher from south Kashmir have been invited by President Droupadi Murmu to attend the prestigious 'At Home' reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan on August 15 as part of the Independence Day celebrations.

Para-cricketer Aamir Hussain from Bijbehara in Anantnag district and Waseem Ahmad Lone, a government



school teacher from Kulgam district, have received invitations for the reception.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Hussain said the invitation was a moment of pride and happiness for the entire community.

"When we received this invitation, the entire village was very happy and proud. For us, receiving such an invitation is a moment of great joy," he said.

The para-cricketer said Jammu and | [More on P6](#)

Swachh Bharat Mission

DG Rural Sanitation stresses accelerated implementation

■ Reviews SBM (G) progress in Shopian

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, AUGUST 13: Director General, Rural Sanitation, J&K, Anoo Malhotra Thursday visited Shopian and chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) and related rural sanitation and solid waste management initiatives in the district.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by the ACP Shopian Muzaffar Ahmad Sheikh and Block Development Officers (BDOs) of all the blocks of the district, who briefed the Director General on the status of ongoing sanitation interventions, solid and liquid waste management activities, and implementation of SBM (G) components at the block level.

The Director General reviewed the progress of sanitation infrastructure, waste management systems, household-level interventions and other key programme deliverables. She



stressed the need for time-bound completion of pending works, effective utilisation of created assets and strengthening of sustainable waste management mechanisms across rural areas. The BDOs were directed to maintain close field-level monitoring, ensure proper functionality and upkeep of sanitation assets, and intensify community participation and behaviour-change activities to consolidate the gains achieved under SBM (G).The ACP

Shopian and concerned officers were also urged to ensure close inter-departmental coordination for addressing implementation gaps and achieving the targets within stipulated timelines.

The DG emphasised that the district-level reviews are aimed at ensuring visible, measurable and sustainable outcomes in rural sanitation, with a particular focus on effective waste management and long-term maintenance of sanitation assets.

Vande Mataram

Flash Mob performances held in Kulgam

■ Scintillating performances amuse audience



KT News Desk

KULGAM, AUGUST 13: A first-of-its-kind Vande Mataram Flash Mob was organised at Ghanta Ghar, Kulgam, by the Municipal Council Kulgam in collaboration with the District Administration Kulgam, as part of the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga celebrations.

The vibrant flash mob witnessed enthusiastic participation by students and youth, who presented a spirited performance on the patriotic theme, dedicated to the National Song,Vande Mataram. The unique spontaneous event, as per an official statement, attracted the attention and appreciation of the general public and created a

lively patriotic atmosphere at Ghanta Ghar, the heart of Kulgam town with presence of officers from district administration including ACR, Kulgam, Reyaz Ahmad Shah, Tehsildar, Kulgam, Nisar Ahmad Wani, CEO, MC Kulgam, Mohd Irfan with diverse sections of public.

The event was aimed at taking the message of patriotism beyond conventional programmes and engaging the younger generation through music, performance and public participation towards creating awareness on the commemoration of 150 years of Vande Mataram. It also sought to inspire citizens to actively participate in the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign and celebrate the spirit of national unity and pride.

DC Kulgam leads Grand Tiranga Rallies at Panchanpathri

KT News Desk

KULGAM, AUGUST 13: As part of the nationwide Har Ghar Tiranga campaign and commemoration of 150 Years of Vande Mataram and in the run-up to the Independence Day celebrations, Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam leads massive Tiranga Rallies Thursday at Panchanpathri and Government Degree College, Kulgam.

The rallies were organized by the District Administration Kulgam in collaboration with the Sub-divisional Administration DH Pora and Degree College, Kulgam to invoke the spirit of patriotism and to promote reverence for the National Flag and National Song.

Participants, as per an official statement, marched with the tricolor in their hands, amid echoing patriotic songs that filled the atmosphere with unity and national pride.

At Panchanpathri, the rally proceeded through the high altitude meadow located in the Sub division, which was also joined by SDM, DH Pora, Bashir Ul Hassan,Tehsildar, DH Pora, Zahid Ganie and an appreciable number of local citizens and students.

At Degree College Kulgam campus, the DC led Tiranga was joined by Principal, GDC, college faculty members and students which passed through the town.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner Kulgam said that Tiranga is a symbol of national pride, unity, and sacrifice for every Indian. He highlighted that the Har Ghar Tiranga aims to deepen the connection of citizens, especially the youth, with the values of freedom and nation-building.

Audio-equipped vehicles flagged off from Mini secretariat to spread patriotic fervour in Shopian

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, AUGUST 13: District Administration Shopian, in collaboration with the Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR), Shopian and Municipal Council Shopian, has deployed audio-equipped vehicles to play patriotic songs across markets and localities of the district.

The vehicles, as per an official statement, were flagged off by ADC Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, marking another initiative to carry the message of patriotism, unity and national pride to every corner of the district.

On the occasion, ACR Shopian, DIO Shopian and other officers were present.

The initiative aims to create a vibrant patriotic atmosphere across Shopian's markets, towns and villages, encouraging citizens to actively participate in the celebrations and uphold the spirit of national unity.

Peddalling with Pride

YSS Bandipora conducts cycle rally under Har Ghar Tiranga

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 13: Department of Youth Services and Sports (YSS), District Bandipora, through Zone Quil, successfully conducted a Cycle Rally under the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, promoting patriotism, national unity and the spirit of active participation among young people.

The rally, as per an official statement, commenced from HS Qazipora and culminated at NMBHSS Kaloosa, with enthusiastic participation from students and youth. Participants carried the Tricolour and spread the message of unity, pride and love for the nation throughout the route.

DIET Shopian holds review meeting to accelerate PRASHAST, PM eVidya implementation

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, AUGUST 13: Principal, District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) Shopian, Neetu Gandotra, chaired an important review meeting at DIET Shopian with Principals/Cluster Heads, Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs)

and District Nodal Officers (DNOs) associated with various educational interventions.

The meeting, as per an official statement, focused on expediting the registration, implementation and ground level coverage of key national educational initiatives, particularly the PRASHAST Mobile

Application Pre Assessment Holistic Screening Tool for Divyangjan under Samagra Shiksha and the digital learning framework under PM eVidya.

During the meeting, the Principal emphasised the need for universal digital onboarding across all schools of District Shopian and

stressed upon sustained monitoring and regular follow-up to achieve the desired targets within the stipulated timelines. She directed all ZEOs and Cluster Heads to ensure 100% registration of students and teachers on the concerned portals and to closely monitor progress at the school

level.

The District Nodal Officers provided a detailed technical orientation on the operationalisation of the PRASHAST application, explaining its role in the early identification and screening of Children with Special Needs (CWSN).

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR. OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION TANGMARG

Subject: - Extension Notice.

Ref: 1) This Office e-NIT No. 45/R&B/Tangmarg of 2026-27 issued vide this office endorsement No: R&B/ Divn./ Tang/3352-62 Dated: 04-08-2026.

2) This Office e-NIT No. 46/R&B/Tangmarg of 2026-27 issued vide this office endorsement No: R&B/ Divn./ Tang/3429-38 Dated: 05-08-2026.

The tenders invited vide this office e-NIT Nos. referred above scheduled to be received by the undersigned on 12-08-2026 upto 4.00 PM and 13-08-2026 upto 4.00 PM respectively, is hereby extended upto 17-08-2026 upto 4:00 PM & the tenders will be opened on 18-08-2026 at 11:00 AM. 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./3691-95

Dated:11-08-2026

Sd/

Executive Engineer,

R&B Division

Tangmarg.

DIPK-4532/26

DATED: 13-08-2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, URBAN FORESTRY DIVISION, SRINAGAR.

Forest Complex, Sheikh Bagh, Lal Chowk, Sgr. - 190001 e-mail: dfourban@gmail.com

Shabir Ahmad Wani,

S/o: Abdul Gaffar Wani,

R/o: Al-Farooq Colony, Bernina, Srinagar. Through Range Officer, Timber Range, Srinagar.

Subject: Show Cause Notice regarding Seizure of 1.03 cft of Timber (Deodar) on 13.05.2025.

Under Section 26 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Rule 4 of J&K Forest Produce Transit Rules, 2020, read with Sections 41 & 42 of Indian Forest Act, 1927, a Show Cause Notice is, hereby, issued to you as a final opportunity to present yourself in the Authorized Forum of the undersigned on DO August, 2026 at 11.30 a.m. regarding the seizure of 1.03 Cft of timber stocks (Deodar) on 13.05.2025 by the joint team comprised of the officials of our Division headed by Range Officer, Timber Range and of Forest Protection Force, headed by Assistant Director Gamma Unit K-01, Srinagar during a raid on your residential house situated in Al-Farooq Colony, Bernina, Srinagar on 13.05.2025.

Divisional Forest Officer
Urban Forestry Division Srinagar.

DIPK-4549/26

DATED: 13-08-2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG

FRESH NIT NO. 67 (4th Call of NIT 22/6) OF R&B/ANANTNAG/2026-27/E-Tendering/5628-37, Dated 11-08-2026

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S. No	Name of Work	Advertised Cost in (Basic cost +GST) (Rs.in Lakh)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Macadamization of Road Interior roads of Danter.	39.99 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 33.89 + (18% GST Amount 6.10)	1100	79980/-	15 Days	AAY & BEE Class Only

Project Authority: PW(R&B) Department.

Position of AAA: Accorded vide Order No. 09 of SE/R&B/Ang/AAA of 2026-27, Dated 21.05.2026

Position of T. S: Accorded

Major Head of Account : -MH- C&T Capex Budget 2026-27

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

S. No.	Particulars	Date
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	11-08-2026
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 11-08-2026 To 17-08-2026 (04:00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 11-08-2026 To 17-08-2026 (04:00PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 17-08-2026 (04:00PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	18-08-2026 (10:30AM)

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag [Tender Inviting Authority] [NIT No. Name of Work/Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt] (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag (Tender receiving Authority). (The Date of EMD(CDR/FDR/BG) should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date and validity of EMD at the time of opening of Bids shall be a period of 45 Days beyond Bid Validity of 120 Days). The same EMD should not be used in more than one Tender/Bid.

2. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/ Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.

3. The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag (Tender receiving authority) within 07 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released 60 days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. The date of Performance Security (CDR/FDR/BG) should be after the date of issuance of letter/LOI to deposit the performance security. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor be forwarded to Higher Authorities for a period of 01 Year.

4. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released 60 Days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.

5. 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 Division Anantnag

6. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.

f. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.

Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

8. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

9. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document), EMD and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.

10. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

11. Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

12. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

13. All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

DIPK-4519/26

DATED: 13-08-2026

(Er. Mohammad Waseem)
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Anantnag

I-Day Celebrations

Full dress rehearsals held across Kashmir

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Aug 13: To assess preparedness, synchronize ceremonial proceedings and identify any gaps requiring immediate attention, full dress rehearsals for the upcoming 80th Independence Day celebrations were held across all districts of Kashmir Division with dignity, discipline and patriotic fervour.

The rehearsals marked the culmination of extensive preparation and provided a vibrant preview of the grandeur and patriotic spirit that will exemplify the national celebration on August 15.

The rehearsals featured an impressive March Past by several contingents, showcasing discipline, coordination and ceremonial precision. The events also witnessed captivating cultural presentations by students and various performing troupes that underscored the values of patriotism, discipline and national unity.

At Srinagar: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, hoisted the National Flag, oversaw the parade, and received the salute during the full dress rehearsal for Independence Day festivities at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar.

Several contingents participated in the march-past parade, including units from the Police, CRPF, NCC Cadets, students, and various security agencies.

Senior officials present on the occasion included the IGP Kashmir, DIGPs, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, SSP Srinagar, and other high-ranking officers from security and administrative departments.

At Baramulla: The full dress rehearsal for the 80th Independence Day celebrations was successfully conducted at Showkat Ali Stadium, Khawaja Bagh, Baramulla, ahead of the main function scheduled to be held at the same venue on August 15.

ADCC Baramulla, Pranjali J. Hazarika, unfurled the Tricolour during the ceremony. The National Song was presented first, followed by the unfurling



of the National Flag and the National Anthem.

At Anantnag: A full dress rehearsal for the upcoming Independence Day 2026 celebrations was held at Shaheed Himayun Muzzamil Memorial, Government Degree College (Boys), Anantnag. Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Anantnag, Vikas Ahlawat, hoisted the National Flag and took the salute at the march past which was presented by the contingents from CRPF, J&K Police, Home Guards, Fire & Emergency Services, NCC, and various schools.

At Shopian: A full dress rehearsal for Independence Day celebrations was today held at District Police Lines (DPL) Shopian.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, who was the Chief Guest, hoisted the National Flag and took the salute of the parade.

At Bandipora: The full dress rehearsal for the 80th Independence

Day celebrations was held across Bandipora district with patriotic fervour and active participation of students, security forces, officials and the general public.

The main function was held at Government Higher Secondary School Nadihal, Bandipora, where Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Bandipora, Nazir Ahmad Mir, hoisted the National Flag, inspected the parade and took the salute at the march-past. The ADC appreciated the enthusiastic participation of students, officers, security personnel and all stakeholders in the rehearsal and commended the efforts put in to ensure its successful conduct.

At Kulgam: In preparation for the 80th Independence Day celebrations, a full dress rehearsal was conducted with patriotic fervor at the District Police Lines, Kulgam.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Vikar Ahmad Giri, was the chief guest on the occasion who

hoisted the National Flag and took the salute during an impressive march past. The ADC inspected the parade and reviewed the preparedness of all participating contingents.

At Budgam: In connection with the Independence Day-2026 celebrations, a full dress rehearsal was held at Sports Stadium Budgam.

Additional District Development Commissioner Budgam, Vivek Agarwal, hoisted the National Flag and took salute at the march-past presented by contingents of Police, J&K Armed Police (JKAP), CRPF, NCC and students from various schools of the district.

The rehearsal also featured colourful cultural programmes presented by artists, cultural troupes and students. Performances to patriotic and popular local songs enthralled the audience and drew enthusiastic applause.

At Kupwara: A full dress rehearsal for the celebration of the 80th Independence Day was held at District Police Lines (DPL), Zangli, Kupwara, as part of the preparations for the district-level Independence Day function.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad, inspected the parade and took the salute during the march-past. The parade featured contingents from Jammu & Kashmir Police, J&K Armed Police (JKAP), CRPF, BSF, Forest Protection Force, besides contingents of school students.

At Pulwama: A full-dress rehearsal for the Independence Day 2026 celebrations was held at the District Police Lines (DPL), Pulwama.

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

At Ganderbal: A full dress rehearsal for the forthcoming Independence Day-2026 was held at Qamaria Stadium, Ganderbal.

Additional District Development Commissioner Ganderbal unfurled the National Flag, inspected the parade and took the salute at the march-past presented by contingents of Police, security forces, Home Guards and students from various educational institutions.

Div Com Kashmir invites public to I-Day event



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Aug 13: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg on Thursday invited people from across Kashmir to attend the Union Territory-level Independence Day celebrations at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar and celebrate the occasion with a lot of enthusiasm.

Speaking to reporters in Srinagar Garg said all arrangements for the August 15 event had been finalised, with parade contingents, schoolchildren and various departments participating in the rehearsal.

"I would like to congratulate all the people of Kashmir and the citizens of Srinagar on the occasion of Independence Day in advance. I would also like to invite everyone to come to Bakshi Stadium on August 15 and be a part of this national event," he said.

He said people could attend Independence Day celebrations at their respective district or regional headquarters, while those wishing to participate in the UT-level function at Bakshi Stadium were welcome to do so. "My appeal to all of you is that

on August 15, we will celebrate this with a lot of enthusiasm," Garg said.

On entry arrangements, the Divisional Commissioner said there would be free entry for the public at Bakshi Stadium, as in previous years.

He added that detailed arrangements had been made to facilitate visitors and ensure basic amenities, including drinking water, toilet facilities and refreshments, at the venue.

Garg said security arrangements had also been put in place in coordination with various security agencies, with regular reviews being conducted ahead of the national event.

"Coordination meetings have been held with the security agencies and at the level of IG, the reviews are constantly going on," he said.

Meanwhile, the full dress rehearsal was held at Bakshi Stadium to give a final run-through of preparations for the main Independence Day programme. The rehearsal involved various departments, parade contingents and schoolchildren who will participate in the August 15 celebrations.—(KNO)

Budgam unites for mega Tiranga rally

Naveed Ul Haq Ganaiee

Budgam, Aug 13: As part of the ongoing Mega Tiranga Campaign-2026, vibrant Tiranga rallies were organised across various parts of Budgam district, with enthusiastic participation from students, youth, civil society members, traders, transporters, local residents, civil administration, and police personnel.

In Beerwah, a Mega Tiranga Rally was organised by Social Activist and Youth Leader Muzamil Mehmood in collaboration with the Municipal Committee Beerwah. The rally witnessed participation from students of different schools, members of the Trade and Transport Associations, youth, civil society, civil administration and police, with participants carrying the National Tricolour with pride and marching through the area, creating a vibrant atmosphere of patriotism and national unity.

Speaking on the occasion, Muzamil Mehmood said the rally was aimed at promoting patriotism, national unity and respect for the National Tricolour, while encouraging greater participation of youth and the community in programmes dedicated to the nation. He appreciated the overwhelming participation of students, traders, transporters, youth, civil society, administration and police, saying that the participation of people from different sections reflected the spirit of unity and collective responsibility.

Mehmood expressed gratitude to the Municipal Committee Beerwah and all participating stakeholders for their cooperation and support in making the rally a successful event. The

Sub-District Administration Khan Sahib organised another vibrant Mega Tiranga Rally featuring ATVs and cars, as part of the Mega Tiranga Campaign-2026. The rally was flagged off from Primary School Bithpora Rayar towards Higher Secondary School Hardupanzoo, witnessing enthusiastic participation from officials, students, local residents and people from various sections of society, with participants carrying the Tricolour with pride and creating an atmosphere of patriotism, unity and national spirit along the rally route.

At Hardupanzoo, a Tiranga Padyatra and students' rally was also organised, in which a large number of students participated enthusiastically, with the Padyatra being led by SDM Khan Sahib Jahangir Ahmad Giri along with ZEO Hardupanzoo G. R. Nasir, as students marched with the Tricolour, raised patriotic slogans and conveyed the message of unity, peace and national pride.

The programmes across Beerwah and Khan Sahib highlighted the importance of collective participation in celebrating the spirit of the nation, with special emphasis on involving the younger generation in activities promoting patriotism and responsible citizenship.

The administration and organisers expressed gratitude to all participants, officials, students, volunteers, civil society members and local residents for their enthusiastic support, reaffirming the commitment to strengthening the values of patriotism, unity, national pride and responsible citizenship under the Mega Tiranga Campaign-2026—(KNO)

From Affarwat to Wular, B'la witnesses series of Tiranaga rallies



Waris Fayaz

Baramulla, Aug 13: From the high-altitude slopes of Affarwat in Gulmarg to the waters of Wular Lake, Baramulla district witnessed a series of Tiranga rallies and patriotic activities on Thursday ahead of Independence Day.

The programmes were organised as part of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign and witnessed enthusiastic participation from officials, youth, local stakeholders and residents.

At Affarwat in Gulmarg, situated at an altitude of around 14,000 feet, the Tricolour was unfurled during a special programme ahead of the August 15 celebrations.

A pony rally was also organised in Gulmarg,

with Deputy Commissioner Baramulla S F Hamid, SSP Baramulla Gurinderpal Singh, CEO Gulmarg Development Authority Tariq Hussain Naik and other officials participating in the event.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC Baramulla said the participation of youth and local stakeholders in the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign reflected the deep patriotic spirit of Baramulla.

"Today's participation by youth and local stakeholders in the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign reflects the deep patriotic spirit of Baramulla. We hope this enthusiasm continues and is channelled towards the development of our UT and the progress of our country," DC Hamid said.

WULAR HOSTS BOAT RALLY

Meanwhile, in Sopore, a boat rally was organised on Wular Lake, with ADC Sopore Dr S A Raina leading the event. A large number of people participated in the rally, carrying the Tricolour as boats moved across the waters of the lake. The event witnessed a huge gathering and added to the Independence Day celebrations in the district.

The ADC Sopore said the rally was organised to mark the August 15 celebrations and remember the sacrifices of those who lost their lives for the freedom of the country.

He also stressed the need to carry forward the values associated with Independence by addressing public issues and serving people with greater commitment—(KNO)

Kulgam artisan crafts National Flag through traditional needlework



Umairsar Gull Ganie

Kulgam, Aug 13: A Union Territory-level award-winning artisan from south Kashmir's Kulgam district has crafted the National Flag through traditional needlework, showcasing the region's rich handicraft heritage ahead of Independence Day.

Shaheena Akhter, a resident of Hariwath area of Kulgam, has created the Tricolour featuring the words "Har Ghar Tiranga" and "Independence Day" in the colours of the National Flag.

Akhter said it took her around 15 days to complete the flag using traditional needlework techniques. "It took me around 15 days to make this Tricolour. It was my love for the country that inspired me to craft the National Flag through my traditional art," she said.

Akhter said handicrafts have given her identity and recognition, urging young people, particularly women, to take advantage of government schemes aimed at promoting the sector.

CShaheena urged the government to further strengthen support for artisans and focus on women's empowerment in the handicrafts and handloom sector. "The government is already doing a lot for handicrafts, but more needs to be done, especially for women artisans, so that they can become economically independent," she said.

Through her unique creation, Akhter hopes to promote Kashmir's traditional craftsmanship and give greater recognition to the region's indigenous handicrafts and handloom products.

Mohammad Syed Shah, Assistant Handicraft Training Officer, said the Handicrafts Department was providing handholding support to artisans associated with the handicrafts and handloom sector in Kulgam.

"The department is providing handholding support to artisans. They are provided training and stipends for their work so that traditional crafts can be preserved and artisans can improve their skills," Shah said—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

Friday Brief: The Sacred Act Of Learning And Teaching In Islam

The pursuit of knowledge is not merely an intellectual exercise in Islam; it is a sacred duty and an act of worship. The very first word revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) was "Iqra" – meaning "Read". This divine command established learning as the foundation of faith, a call that resonates through every generation. The

Quran elevates the status of those who seek knowledge. Allah says, "Are those who know equal to those who do not know?" (39:9). This rhetorical question leaves no doubt about the value of knowledge in the eyes of the Creator. It is not a privilege for the few; it is an obligation for every Muslim, regardless of age, gender, or social status. The Prophet (Peace Be

Upon Him) declared, "Seeking knowledge is a duty upon every Muslim." Teaching is equally revered. The Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) said, "The best of you are those who learn the Quran and teach it." This beautiful tradition places educators in the highest rank, for they are not merely transmitting information but shaping souls and building civilisations. A teacher

is a torchbearer of divine guidance, continuing the mission of the prophets (Peace Be Upon Them). In a world drowning in information but starved of wisdom, the Islamic emphasis on learning with purpose becomes ever more urgent. Knowledge without ethics is dangerous, and ethics without knowledge is hollow. The Prophet's (Peace Be Upon Him) prayer, "O Allah,

grant me beneficial knowledge," reminds us that true learning must lead to action and bring us closer to our Creator. Parents, teachers, and communities bear a collective responsibility. The Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) said, "Every one of you is a shepherd, and every one of you is responsible for his flock." This includes nurturing the intellect and character of the young. A

society that neglects learning starves its soul and abandons its future. The act of seeking knowledge is a path to paradise. As the Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) said, "Whoever follows a path to seek knowledge, Allah will make easy for him a path to paradise." May we embrace this noble calling and strive to be both earnest students and compassionate teachers.

Safar: Understanding The Second Month Of The Islamic Calendar

Safar is the second month of the Islamic lunar calendar. Like every month in the Islamic calendar, it carries significance as part of the passage of time Allah has created. Yet Safar has also been surrounded by beliefs and superstitions that Islam does not support.

For Muslims, understanding Safar means separating authentic Islamic teachings from cultural traditions and remembering that our faith is built upon the Qur'an and the authentic Sunnah.

What Is Safar?

Safar follows Muharram, one of the four sacred months of the Islamic calendar. Unlike Muharram, however, Safar is not a sacred month.

The Islamic calendar is based on the lunar cycle, meaning Safar moves through the seasons over the years. Its name comes from the Arabic word sifr, commonly associated with emptiness or being vacant. Some classical explanations connect the name to the departure of people from their homes for travel or to the emptying of homes when people left for journeys.

The month itself is neither inherently lucky nor unlucky.

Is Safar an Unlucky Month?

One of the most important misconceptions surrounding Safar is the belief that it is a month of bad luck, misfortune, illness, accidents, or calamities.

Islam rejects this idea.

The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) explicitly rejected beliefs in supernatural omens and bad luck. In an authentic hadith, the Prophet (SAW) said: "There is no 'Adwa, no Tiyyarah, no Hā mah, and no Safar." Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim

The reference to Safar has traditionally been understood by scholars as rejecting the pre-Islamic belief that Safar itself brought misfortune.

This is an important principle in Islam:



time itself does not independently cause harm or bring good fortune. Everything occurs by Allah's decree.

Allah says: "Say, 'Nothing will ever befall us except what Allah has destined for us.'" - Qur'an 9:51

This does not mean Muslims should ignore genuine causes of harm. Rather, it means that believers should not attribute supernatural power to a particular month, day, number, or omen without evidence from revelation.

What About the "Last Wednesday of Safar"?

In some cultures, the final Wednesday of Safar has been associated with misfortune or calamity. Some people have also believed that this day carries particular dangers or that special acts of worship should be performed to protect oneself.

There is no authentic evidence from the Qur'an or Sunnah establishing the last Wednesday of Safar as a day of special misfortune.

Likewise, there is no authentic Islamic teaching prescribing a special prayer, fast, gathering, or particular ritual specifically

because it is the last Wednesday of Safar.

Muslims should therefore be careful not to turn cultural practices or inherited beliefs into religious obligations or acts of worship without evidence.

Should Muslims Avoid Important Events During Safar?

There is no Islamic basis for avoiding marriage, travel, business, moving homes, starting a project, or other permissible activities simply because it is Safar.

A person may naturally choose a particular date because of practical circumstances, but believing that Safar itself makes an activity more likely to fail has no basis in Islamic revelation.

The Prophet (SAW) taught Muslims to reject superstitious omens and instead place their trust in Allah.

This does not mean being careless. Muslims should plan, seek advice, take reasonable precautions, and make decisions wisely. But they should not allow superstition to control their lives.

Safar and the Prophet (SAW)

Another misconception concerns the idea that the Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

experienced a specific recurring tragedy every year during Safar.

There is no authentic evidence establishing Safar as a month in which the Prophet (SAW) or the Muslim community was destined to experience particular misfortunes.

The Prophet (SAW) himself lived through hardship, illness, loss, conflict, and difficulty at different points in his life. These events remind believers that hardship is part of the human experience-not something caused by a particular month.

Allah says: "We will certainly test you with something of fear and hunger and a loss of wealth and lives and fruits. And give good news to those who patiently endure." - Qur'an 2:155

How Should We Spend Safar?

The answer is simple: as we should spend every month-with faith, worship, good character, and awareness of Allah.

There is no special set of acts of worship uniquely prescribed for Safar. Instead, Muslims can use the month as another opportunity to strengthen their relationship with Allah.

That can include:

Maintaining the five daily prayers
Reading and reflecting upon the Qur'an
Making abundant du'a and dhikr
Giving charity
Honoring parents and family
Helping those in need
Seeking beneficial knowledge
Repenting from sins
Strengthening good character
Sending blessings upon the Prophet (SAW)
The goal is not to fear Safar, but to use every passing month as an opportunity to draw closer to Allah.

A Month That Teaches Us About Tawakkul
Perhaps one of the greatest lessons of Safar is the importance of tawakkul-placing one's trust in Allah.

Superstition often comes from fear of

what cannot be controlled: What if something goes wrong because it is Safar? What if this date brings bad luck? What if something terrible happens?

Islam redirects that fear toward Allah.

A believer understands that the future belongs to Allah. We take the means available to us, make responsible decisions, and then place our trust in Him.

The Prophet (SAW) taught: "Know that if the entire creation were to gather together to benefit you with something, they would not benefit you except with something that Allah had already prescribed for you..." Jami' at-Tirmidhi

This mindset frees a believer from constantly looking for omens.

Safar Is Not a Month to Fear

Safar is simply another month in the Islamic calendar.

It does not carry an inherent curse. It does not make people unlucky. It does not prevent marriages, journeys, businesses, or other permissible activities. And there is no authentic basis for assigning special religious rituals to it without evidence.

For Muslims, the arrival of Safar should therefore not produce fear or superstition. Instead, it can serve as a reminder of one of Islam's most powerful teachings:

Our lives are not controlled by omens. They are in the hands of Allah.

As another lunar month begins and passes, the believer's task remains the same: worship Allah, follow the guidance of His Messenger (SAW), take the proper means, avoid superstition, and place sincere trust in the One who controls all affairs.

"And whoever relies upon Allah-then He is sufficient for him." - Qur'an 65:3

Safar is not a month of bad luck. It is simply another month-and another opportunity to turn toward Allah.

Courtesy: IslamiCity

The Quest For Excellence

Aadil Farook

Very often, students of knowledge explore the divergent worldviews of Islam and the modern West; equally often, they discover that the two are distinct in the ways they perceive reality, their perceptions differing in essence and spirit even where superficial similarities appear in form and expression. While the ordinary observer may remain content with outward commonalities, deeper thinkers seek to examine matters at a microscopic level.

When we hear the word 'excellence', what instantly comes to mind? Perhaps someone like Einstein or Newton, each of whom attained excellence in his field of knowledge. In this conception, excellence measures a person's brilliance, competence, ability, skill, acumen, intelligence, and intellect, cultivated through many years of hard work. The principal reliance is upon an agile mind and intellectual development in general. Here, hard work signifies mental exertion. Excellence is regarded not as a means towards an end, but as an end in itself.

The Qur'an and Hadith repeatedly emphasize excellence in human conduct. The Arabic word commonly invoked is *ihسان*. But how, in the first place, does Islam define excellence? One cannot discuss this question without mentioning the celebrated narration known as *Hadith-e-Jibril*. The Prophet (SAW) said, "It is to worship Allah as though you see Him, and though you do not see Him, He sees you" (Sahih Muslim 8a; see also Sahih al-Bukhari 50).

Here, excellence is a spiritual quality, measured primarily by the depth, sincerity, and authenticity of the relationship between the human being and Allah-a relationship that culminates in the consciousness of

divine witnessing during worship. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the vast succession of prophets-traditionally reported as 124,000, although the exact number is not established by an unequivocally authentic narration-and innumerable saints devoted their lives to teaching humanity this meaning of excellence. The entire disciplines of Sufism and tariqah developed to cultivate such excellence among believers.

What are the ingredients of *ihسان*? They include unconditional devotion, selflessness, intense love, profound humility, inward purification, spiritual elevation, moral and ethical greatness, and many other virtues. The reliance is upon purified hearts and the cultivation of the soul. Here, hard work signifies spiritual exertion. Excellence is only a means towards the ultimate end: Allah's proximity and pleasure, without which the entire pursuit becomes futile.

Does this mean that Islam does not emphasize the meaning and practice of excellence in its familiar worldly sense? Not at all. Islam presents a hierarchy of objectives in which *ihسان* is the spiritual foundation of brilliance and competence, because, without purity of intention, excellence cannot lead to an elevated station in the sight of Allah. Once this foundation is secured, the disciplined acquisition of ability, skill, intellect, and acumen becomes a natural religious imperative. We may therefore describe *ihسان* as the vertical dimension of excellence-the relationship between the human being and Allah-while brilliance and competence constitute its horizontal dimension: the relationship between one human being and another.

The Prophet (SAW) and his blessed Companions brought about one of history's most consequential transformations within an extraordinarily

brief span because they embodied both the vertical and horizontal dimensions in their fullest sense. Today, the Muslim world struggles because it is deficient in both dimensions.

The secret is that, when one pursues brilliance alone, one may or may not attain it; but when one sincerely pursues spiritual excellence, one may receive both brilliance and spirituality as an integrated gift. The second Caliph of Islam, Umar RZA, did not study at Harvard or MIT. Formal education in seventh-century Arabia bore little resemblance to the institutional systems familiar today. As he pursued Allah's pleasure, Allah bestowed upon him such brilliance and competence that he pioneered numerous practices and initiatives in leadership, governance, management, and administration, collectively discussed in Islamic historical literature as the *Awwaliyyat*-the "Firsts"-of Umar.

This was the fruit of his being among the brightest students of the greatest teacher in history-the Prophet of Islam (SAW)-who himself received no formal schooling or literacy in the conventional human sense. The Arabic word *ummi* means unlettered.

Similarly, the Qur'an became the fountainhead of one of history's richest and most vibrant civilizations, within which brilliance and spirituality were not sharply separated. The Islamic Golden Age produced eminent scholars, polymaths, scientists, philosophers, jurists, writers, and poets who were intellectuals by day and saints by night. They were all-rounders who sought to compromise neither *taqwa*-God-consciousness-nor human brilliance.

The Sufis left no stone unturned in honouring both the vertical and horizontal dimensions, and some of

history's greatest works-including Rumi's *Mathnawi* and Fariduddin Attar's *The Conference of the Birds*-were fruits of sainthood (*wilayat*). One might wonder why. It is because, in the classical Islamic tradition, true knowledge was understood as learning that nourished the mind, heart, and soul. Consequently, those scholars not only made history within time and space, but also sought an exalted rank in the sight of Allah. Their success was twofold: it left a profound impact upon humanity while also serving their salvation in the Hereafter.

A few months ago, this humble servant of Islam contributed "A Manifesto for the Muslim World": <https://islamicity.org/106716/a-manifesto-for-the-muslim-world/>. The manifesto was written with the dual purpose of cultivating intellect and spirituality as understood within the Islamic tradition. Serious thinkers, spiritual seekers, and ordinary readers alike may resonate with the piece.

I would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a giant who passed away recently: Professor Syed Muhammad Naquib al-Attas, the founder and first director of the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC), now part of the International Islamic University Malaysia. I consider him Malaysia's counterpart to Sir Muhammad Iqbal, while recognizing two important distinctions. Iqbal addressed a broad public, whereas Professor al-Attas wrote principally as a rigorous academic. Most of Iqbal's celebrated work is poetry, whereas Professor al-Attas's body of work is predominantly prose.

If we compare Iqbal's prose work *The Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam* with Professor al-Attas's *Islam and Secularism*, we

find important affinities in their ambition, intention, and scope, despite readily apparent differences in content. Although their voices differ, both books prepare students of knowledge for the project of examining modern knowledge through a critical Muslim lens.

Both books act as catalysts for renewal rather than as invitations to retreat into the past, because they were written by thinkers who devoted themselves to forming an intellectual lens through excellence in both the worldly and religious senses. In their work, the fruits affirm the roots.

As a young man, Muhammad Ali Jinnah was a lawyer and politician of exceptional brilliance. During that period, spirituality was not publicly prominent in his life. Yet Allah works through mysteries beyond our comprehension to fulfil His plan. In the providential reading cherished by many believers, Allah had chosen him to lead the struggle that culminated in the creation of Pakistan. According to a later devotional account attributed to Allama Shabbir Ahmad Usmani, Jinnah said that, while in England, he experienced a dream in which the Prophet (SAW) directed him to return to India and advance his political struggle; this report should be treated as a faith-based recollection rather than an independently established historical fact. Within that account, the spiritual experience deepened his conviction that unity, faith, and discipline could make the apparently impossible attainable. The rest is history. Brilliance alone, in this interpretation, could not have achieved those results. Spirituality was the fuel behind the fire.

If we confine ourselves to the "politics" of knowledge rather than party politics, spirituality polishes and illumines the mirror of the heart

until it becomes receptive to divine favour and grace in the form of higher knowledge-knowledge that cannot be acquired through scholastic endeavour alone, but is, according to the mystical tradition, divinely bestowed through spiritual discipline. There is a reason why the vast corpus of Islamic jurisprudence (*fiqh*) associated with Imam Abu Hanifa, Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq, Imam Malik, Imam al-Shafi'i, and Imam Ahmad ibn Hanbal, produced or transmitted many centuries ago, continues to illuminate the Muslim world in 2026. Its enduring influence is not merely the product of a cult following or personality worship, but a testimony to greatness embodied.

When Iqbal wrote his celebrated verses on selfhood (*khudi*), he had grasped the secret that Muslims could not rise above their decline through the pursuit of brilliance alone. Although his own life manifested brilliance in the worldly sense, he sought the spiritual station of selfhood as a thinker deeply influenced by saints, especially Rumi. Throughout his writings, he repeatedly paid tribute to Muslim saints of the past. This union of brilliance and spirituality is also reflected in the works of the late Wasif Ali Wasif, whose renown and recognition among both general readers and scholars have continued to grow since his death.

A beautiful supplication that we may make after every offering of *salah* (the obligatory prayer) is: "O Allah, sharpen my mind, purify my heart, elevate my soul, cleanse my gaze, and enrich my thought, so that I may become worthy of wearing the mantle of Your vicegerency and of serving Your will upon the earth."

Aameen!

Courtesy: IslamiCity

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

Promoting Heritage-led Tourism

Govt approves 3 major heritage conservation projects worth Rs 18.60 Cr across J&K

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 13: The Government of Jammu & Kashmir has approved three major heritage conservation projects worth Rs 18.60 crore, aimed at restoring historically and culturally significant sites and strengthening the region's heritage tourism potential.

The approved projects, as per an official statement, include restoration and revival of old heritage structures at Uttervehini Heritage in Samba at a cost of 6.86 crore; repair, renovation and beautification of the historic Basohli Fort in Kathua at a cost of 6.50 crore; and revival and restoration of the Yatri Niwas besides

beautification of the historic Nallah Soundbrari Spring in Anantnag at a cost of 5.24 crore.

The initiatives are part of the Government's broader efforts, under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, to conserve, revitalise and promote Jammu & Kashmir's historically and culturally significant sites.

The projects are aimed not only at preserving the architectural and cultural legacy of the region but also at opening new avenues for heritage-led tourism, thereby contributing to local economic activity and strengthening the tourism ecosystem across both Jammu and Kashmir divisions.

In recent months, the Government has approved a series of heritage conservation initiatives covering a diverse range of historic, religious and cultural sites across Jammu & Kashmir. These include the comprehensive development of the historic Gurudwara Charan Kamal Sahib at Bakhta in Kathua district; comprehensive restoration and preservation of the historic Lah Wali Bowli in Rajouri; and repair and renovation of the historic Rattan Garh Fort in Bhaderwah, Doda.

Other approved initiatives include the restoration and renovation of Ziyarat Sharief Khiram; repair and renovation of the historic Shiv Mandir at Thajiwara,

Bijbehara; and restoration and revival of the historic heritage site of Purmandal in Samba. In Kashmir, the Government has also approved the conservation and upgradation of the historic Imambara Zadibal in Srinagar, development of the revered holy spring of Khoos Sahib at Yarwan in Pulwama, restoration of the historic Jamia Masjid Sharief in Shopian, and restoration of the revered Sarvadhara Chaumanda Mata Mandir in Ramban.

The Government's heritage conservation programme seeks to preserve the architectural legacy of Jammu & Kashmir while integrating heritage sites into the region's broader tourism and cultural development framework.

Swift resolution of public grievances government's prime concern: Javid Dar



KT News Desk

BARAMULLA, AUGUST 13: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar on Thursday interacted with several delegations from Baramulla district and adjoining areas, taking detailed stock of their issues and demands.

The delegations, as per an official statement, apprised the Minister of various concerns related to roads, drainage, rural development, basic amenities, agriculture and other essential public services, seeking timely intervention for their resolution.

Giving a patient hearing to the delegations, the Minister said that responsive governance and prompt resolution

of public grievances remain key priorities of the government. He assured the people that their genuine concerns would be examined and addressed in a time-bound manner.

"Resolution of public issues is people's concern of our government. We are committed to address the genuine concerns of the people and ensuring that the benefits of development reach every section of society," Javid Dar said.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to accord priority to the issues projected by the delegations and initiate necessary action for speedy redress of the same. He stressed upon the departments to maintain close coordination and adopt a proactive approach for ensuring effective and timely delivery of public services.

Income Tax Office, Srinagar organises Free Health Camp in collaboration with PARAS Hospital

KT News Desk

Srinagar, August 13: The Income Tax Office, Srinagar, in collaboration with Paras Hospital, organised a free health camp for its employees, staff and their family members on the eve of Independence Day.

The initiative, as per PIB statement, was aimed at promoting preventive healthcare, early detection of health concerns and awareness about maintaining a healthy lifestyle among the employees and their families. The initiative was spearheaded by Principal Commissioner of Income Tax, Srinagar, Monika Dhami.

The initiative seeks to promote the health and well-being of the employee community and underline the importance of preventive healthcare as part of a healthy and productive workforce.

The organisation of the health camp on the eve of Independence Day also reinforced the importance of health and well-being in the broader vision of a developed and self-reliant India.

Officials, public join Tiranga rallies in Anantnag



KT News Desk

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 13: As part of the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign, Mega Tiranga Rallies were held Thursday across the sub-divisions of district Anantnag at Dooru, Pahalgam, Bijbehara and Kokernag, with enthusiastic participation from officers, officials, students, youth and the general public.

The SDMs and senior officers, as per an official statement, led the rallies in their respective jurisdictions, with officials from various departments joining the marches in large numbers. The rallies witnessed participants carrying the National Flag and raising patriotic slogans, reflecting a strong spirit of unity and national pride.

At Dooru, the rally was led by SDM, Parvaiz Rahim with the procession starting from Hospital and culminating at Fountain Head, near Court Complex. At Pahalgam, the

rally, led by CEO PDA, Hilal Nasrullah Jerri alongside SDM, Amit Gupta, commenced from Selfie Point and culminated at Main Market.

Similarly, at Bijbehara, the rally was led by SDM Tanveer Ahmad Tanveer, starting from Govt Degree College and culminating at Dara Shikoh Garden while at Kokernag, the rally was led by Tehsildar, Syed Muiz Qadri, with the procession commencing from SDM Office and culminating at Zalamang.

The rallies passed through prominent areas of the respective sub-divisions, with citizens joining and reinforcing the message of unity and patriotism while patriotic songs and slogans added fervour to the celebrations.

The rallies concluded with participants reaffirming their commitment to the ideals of unity and patriotism, besides contributing towards the progress and development of the nation.

DLSA Anantnag organises volleyball tournament for inmates of district jail

KT News Desk

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 13: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Anantnag, under the guidance of the Chairman, Tahir Khurshid Raina, inaugurated a Volleyball Tournament for the inmates of District Jail Anantnag in collaboration with the Department of Youth Services and Sports, Anantnag.

The tournament was aimed at promoting sportsmanship, physical fitness, discipline, team spirit and positive engagement among the jail inmates, besides providing them an opportunity for recreation and healthy interaction.

The tournament was kick-started by the Secretary, DLSA Anantnag Mir Sayeem Qayoom, in the presence of the Jail Superintendent, officials of the Department of Youth Services and Sports, DLSA staff, PLVs and participating inmates.

The Secretary interacted with the inmates and

encouraged them to actively participate in sports and other constructive activities.

The officials from the Department of Youth Services and Sports extended their cooperation in conducting the tournament and provided the necessary technical and sporting support. The inmates participated enthusiastically and displayed commendable sportsmanship, discipline and team spirit throughout the event.

The initiative reflects the commitment of DLSA Anantnag towards the welfare, rehabilitation and holistic development of persons in custody, in accordance with the principles of dignity, reform and social reintegration.

The event concluded on a positive note, with appreciation expressed to the District Jail Anantnag and the Department of Youth Services and Sports, for their cooperation in making the tournament successful.

Srinagar to get designated Street Food Zones

Street food zones to balance livelihoods, food safety, sanitation, orderly public spaces: SMC Commissioner

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 13: Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has issued Operational Guidelines for establishment of designated Street Food Cart Zones across Srinagar, marking a significant step towards bringing street food vending under a structured, transparent and sustainable framework.

The initiative, being implemented under the leadership of SMC Commissioner, Fazlul Haseeb, seeks to create organised spaces for street food vendors while ensuring food safety, sanitation, pedestrian convenience, traffic management and responsible use of public spaces.

In the first phase, locations identified for designated food cart zones include Opposite JKTDC Water Sports, Dalgate Bund, Badamwari, JVC Bemina, Magarmal Bagh and Rajbagh, besides an identified location along the right side of River Jhelum.

Each designated zone will have a regulated holding capacity determined on the basis of available space, pedestrian movement, accessibility, traffic conditions and fire-safety considerations.

"The objective is not merely to regulate street food vending, but to create organised, clean and dignified spaces where vendors can pursue their livelihoods while ensuring that public convenience,



sanitation, pedestrian movement and the character of Srinagar's public spaces are fully protected," said Commissioner, SMC.

The guidelines, as per an official statement, recognise street vending as an important source of employment, entrepreneurship and affordable food services, while addressing challenges associated with unregulated concentration of food carts, including traffic congestion, obstruction of pedestrian movement, inadequate sanitation and improper disposal of waste.

Under the framework, food carts will be required to conform to standardised designs and specifications and comply with prescribed requirements relating to food hygiene, potable water, waste segregation, waste water management and fire safety. Licensed carts will also be required to prominently display applicable municipal and FSSAI permissions, along with menu and price lists.

The framework provides for different categories of non-motorised and motorised food

carts, based on their size and nature of operation. Motorised food vending vehicles will require applicable clearance from the Motor Vehicles Department before municipal permission is granted.

A structured mechanism has also been prescribed for scrutiny of applications and allotment of spaces, with emphasis on transparency, fairness and adherence to the carrying capacity of individual designated zones.

The guidelines have been formulated in consonance with the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, the Jammu and Kashmir Street Vendors Rules, 2020, and the Model Scheme notified in 2021.

With Srinagar witnessing substantial pedestrian, vehicular and tourist movement, the Corporation envisages the designated zones as organised and well-managed spaces where street food businesses can operate without compromising public convenience, cleanliness, traffic movement or the distinctive character of the city.

"Srinagar has a vibrant street-food culture, and our approach is to organise and strengthen this sector rather than displace it. The designated zones will provide greater predictability for vendors while enabling the Corporation to maintain cleaner, safer and more accessible public spaces," Fazlul Haseeb added.

Art-Integrated Learning

3-day capacity-building programme concludes at DIET Shopian



KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, AUGUST 13: A three-day Capacity-Building Programme on Art-Integrated Learning, which commenced on 10 August 2026, concluded successfully on 12 August 2026 at the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), Shopian, with enthusiastic participation from teaching staff representing various schools across District Shopian.

The programme, as per an official statement, was formally inaugurated by Neetu Gandotra, Principal, DIET Shopian. In her inaugural address, she emphasised the need to move towards creative, activity-based and experiential approaches to teaching and learning. She highlighted the importance of incorporating artistic methods into classroom instruction to

make the learning process more engaging, meaningful and effective for students.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Mohd Yousuf Bhat, Senior Lecturer, DIET Shopian, who conducted practical sessions demonstrating innovative approaches for the seamless integration of art into the teaching and learning of Science.

The training programme focused on key aspects of Art-Integrated Learning, including the project-based approach to experiential learning, vocationalization of elementary and secondary education, integration of art with Social Studies and Mathematics, and development of experiential learning projects.

These sessions were facilitated by resource persons who shared practical strategies and classroom-oriented methodologies with the participating teachers.

GBHSS Rawalpura clinches District-Level Inter-School Karate Championship

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 13: The Department of Youth Services and Sports, District Srinagar, successfully organised the Inter-School District-Level Karate Championship for boys and girls in all age groups at the Indoor Hall, Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS), Rawalpura, Srinagar. The championship witnessed enthusiastic participation from students representing various schools across the district. The young athletes displayed remarkable talent, discipline, sportsmanship and competitive spirit throughout the event.

Government Boys Higher Secondary School (GBHSS), Rawalpura emerged as the Overall Champion, securing an impressive 24 Gold Medals in the championship. The outstanding performance of the students brought pride and honour to the institution.

On the occasion, Principal Shafiqah congratulated all the medal winners and appreciated the

dedicated efforts of the Physical Education Department and the coaching staff for their commitment towards nurturing sporting talent among students. The Principal also expressed her appreciation to the Department of Youth Services and Sports, District Srinagar, for organising such sporting activities and providing young students with valuable opportunities to showcase their talent at the competitive level.

She emphasised that regular participation in sports plays an important role in promoting physical fitness, discipline, confidence and a healthy lifestyle among youth, while also contributing towards the collective mission of building a healthy, empowered and drug-free Kashmir.

The successful conduct of the championship reflects the continued efforts of the Department of Youth Services and Sports towards promoting sports at the grassroots level and encouraging young boys and girls to pursue excellence in different sporting disciplines.

Tiranga rally at Shaurya Gatha Sadhna Top echoes with spirit of Patriotism

KT News Desk

KUPWARA, AUGUST 13: The majestic heights of Sadhna Top reverberated with patriotic fervour Thursday as the Tricolour soared high at 10,500 feet during a grand Tiranga Rally organised at the iconic Shaurya Gatha Complex under the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign, commemorating the spirit of national pride and the 150th anniversary of the timeless patriotic legacy of "Vande Mataram."

Organised by the Sub Divisional Administration Karnah, the mega event witnessed overwhelming participation from students, civil society members, veterans, ex-servicemen, ex-PRIs, Lambardars and officials, who came together to celebrate the honour, glory and pride associated with the National Flag.

Against the magnificent backdrop of the Himalayan ranges, the Tiranga fluttered majestically, symbolising the nation's unity, sacrifices of countless heroes and the unwavering spirit of patriotism.



The participants marched with immense enthusiasm, carrying the message of Har Ghar Tiranga and reaffirming their commitment to uphold the values and dignity represented by the Tricolour.

The culminating ceremony was held at the Army facilities at Shaurya Gatha Complex, Sadhna Top, where the gathering was sensitised about the significance of the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign and the importance of keeping the spirit of patriotism alive in every home, heart and action.

The enthusiastic participation of students and veterans remained the highlight of the

occasion, beautifully reflecting the blend of youthful energy and the invaluable experience of those who have served the nation.

The presence of civil society members and community representatives further strengthened the message of unity, harmony and collective pride.

The Tiranga Rally at this iconic high-altitude location emerged as a powerful symbol of national unity, conveying that the Tricolour transcends every geographical boundary and continues to unite citizens across diverse landscapes with a shared feeling of pride and belonging.

Independence Day celebration: Full dress rehearsal held across Jammu division

KT News Desk

Jammu, Aug 13: The District and local administrations across Jammu Division on Thursday organised full-dress Rehearsal setting the tone for a memorable celebration of the 80th Independence Day.

AT DODA: The rehearsal was conducted at local Sports Stadium with active participation from students, security personnel, officers, officials and the general public.

The programme commenced with the hoisting of the National Flag, followed by the National Anthem. The National Song "Vande Mataram" was also recited as part of the commemoration of its 150 glorious years.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Anil Kumar Thakur inspected the parade and took the salute at an impressive march-past consisting of contingents from the CRPF, SSB, Jammu and Kashmir Armed Police, Jammu and Kashmir Police, Police Protection Force (PPF), NCC cadets and students from the Government and private educational institutions. The disciplined formations, synchronized marching and coordinated performances were appreciated by the gathering.

Performances by the J&K Police Band and school bands

added to the patriotic atmosphere and remained among the major attractions of the rehearsal. The ADC appreciated all participants for their discipline, dedication and coordination and directed the concerned officers and departments to ensure meticulous arrangements for the smooth and dignified conduct of the Independence Day celebrations.

Addressing the gathering, ADC Anil Kumar Thakur extended greetings to the people of Doda on the eve of Independence Day and paid rich tributes to the freedom fighters and martyrs who made supreme sacrifices for the country's independence. He also highlighted the developmental progress achieved in the district under healthcare, education, road connectivity, tourism and digital infrastructure, besides listing various initiatives being undertaken by the District Administration to improve public services.

The rehearsal concluded with colourful cultural performances by students from various Government and private schools. The performances included patriotic songs, dances and presentations showcasing India's rich cultural heritage, unity in diversity and national spirit.

At Baderwah: The full dress



rehearsal for the Independence Day celebrations was conducted at the New Bus Stand. Tehsildar Kamal Preet Singh hoisted the tricolour and took the salute at the march past presented by contingents from Jammu and Kashmir Armed Police, NCC Senior Division Government Degree College (GDC), NCC Junior Division Boys and Girls from Higher Secondary Schools and tiny platoons from various government and private schools.

The rehearsal also featured a preview of the cultural programmes scheduled to be presented on Independence Day. Participants showcased traditional dances, patriotic songs and other performances that highlighted the rich cultural heritage and the spirit of unity in diversity.

At Rajouri: The District Administration Rajouri conducted the full dress rehearsal at the District Police Lines (DPL). Additional Deputy Commissioner, Ravi Kumar Sihag reviewed the proceedings and arrangements in detail. Parade contingents drawn from the Jammu and Kashmir Police, CRPF, Forest Protection Force (FPF), NCC and students from the educational institutions participated in the march past, displaying impressive coordination, discipline and dedication.

The Police Band led the parade, creating an atmosphere charged with patriotism and national pride. The synchronized march past by the contingents reflected their rigorous preparation and commitment.

Adding color and vibrancy to the event, students presented cultural performances imbued with patriotic fervour, which were warmly appreciated by the audience.

The ADC expressed satisfaction over the overall performance of the parade contingents and cultural troupes. He encouraged all participants to further refine their performances, enhance enthusiasm and present an even more spirited display on the main day to ensure the success of the Independence Day 2026.

At Reasi: The full dress rehearsal was held at General Zorawar Singh Sports Stadium amid enthusiastic participation from contingents of CRPF, J&K Police, NCC cadets and school students.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Kumar hoisted the National Flag, inspected the parade and took the salute of the impressive March Past presented by contingents of CRPF, J&K Police and NCC cadets. Students from different educational institutions also participated in the parade, displaying discipline, coordination and patriotic spirit. The school children presented a colourful cultural programme comprising theme-based performances, which enthralled the audience.

Addressing the gathering, ADC extended heartfelt greetings to the people of Reasi on

Independence Day and paid tributes to the freedom fighters who made supreme sacrifices for the nation's freedom. He also saluted the Army, Paramilitary Forces and Jammu & Kashmir Police personnel for their courage and sacrifices in safeguarding the country.

At Kathua: The full-dress rehearsal for 80th Independence Day was held here at Sports Stadium where contingents from Police, CRPF, Army, NCC cadets presented the march past

The rehearsal started with hoisting of National Flag by Deputy Commissioner, Rajesh Sharma followed by inspection of the parade.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner extended warm greetings to the people and paid tribute to the freedom fighters and brave soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice for the nation. He urged citizens to be responsible partners in the development of Kathua by keeping their surroundings clean, conserving water and protecting the environment. Emphasising that the progress of Kathua is a collective responsibility, he sought active public support for development initiatives, particularly from the younger generation, to channel their energy and talent towards nation-building. A scintillating cultural programme featuring the rich

cultural diversity of the country and tribute to freedom fighters were presented by school and college students.

At Ramban: The Full-dress Rehearsal for the 80th Independence Day celebrations was held with great patriotic fervor at the District Police Lines, here. Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak hoisted the National Flag and took the salute from the parade contingents.

The ADC inspected the parade and observed the march-past, which featured contingents of J&K Police, CRPF, CISF, IRP, FPF and Home Guards, NCC and students from various schools.

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

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

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

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Lightning strike

blockage of the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri (SSG) Road near Ranga Mode, disrupting traffic on the strategic route.

Teams of the Border Roads Organisation were mobilised to clear the debris and restore traffic, officials said. Authorities were monitoring the situation and advised commuters to exercise caution while travelling through the affected stretch.

The Meteorological Centre cautioned that intense showers could trigger localised flash floods, mudslides and landslides in hilly areas, besides shooting stones at vulnerable locations.

According to the forecast, another spell of rain and thundershowers is likely at many places in the Jammu division during the early morning and morning hours on August 14, followed by a brief spell at many places across J&K in the afternoon.

On August 15, light to moderate rain and thundershowers are likely at many places during late night and early morning hours, followed by another brief spell in the afternoon.

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

The weather office said heavy rain or brief intense showers could occur in a few districts of the Jammu division and intense showers in one or two districts of the Kashmir Valley during the period.

Light rain and thundershowers are likely at scattered places between August 20 and 22, it said.

The Meteorological Centre advised people to remain cautious as torrential rain and brief intense showers may trigger flash floods, landslides, mudslides and waterlogging in low-lying areas.

Authorities and commuters have been advised to remain alert in vulnerable hilly areas, particularly along roads prone to landslides and shooting stones. (KNO)

Ahead of Independence Day

among different security formations to ensure a peaceful conduct of the celebrations.

Senior officers from the J&K Police, BSF, CRPF, SSB and other security formations, besides range and district police chiefs, attended the meeting.

Pertinently the review came amid heightened security arrangements across Jammu and Kashmir ahead of Independence Day, with security agencies carrying out increased checking and surveillance in the run-up to August 15. (KNO)

Parl panel seeks

exceeding Rs 1360 crore remain pending for payment to contractors, resulting in the slowing down of works across the Union Territory. The Administration expressed the view that timely release of funds would have enabled the completion of almost all Jal Jeevan Mission schemes in Jammu & Kashmir by March 2026," the report added.

As per details available with news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), out of 3253 schemes taken up under JJM, 1469 have been completed, while the remaining 1784 are still incomplete.

The committee also commended the UT administration for significant progress under the scheme.

The Committee notes with appreciation the significant progress achieved under the Jal Jeevan Mission in expanding rural drinking water coverage across the Union Territory and commends the sustained efforts of the Union Territory Administration in this regard," reads the report. (KNO)

July rainfall breaks

while Budgam remained marginally above normal with a six per cent surplus.

Shopian was the only Kashmir district to record a deficit, with rainfall 40 per cent below

normal in July.

The Jammu region also witnessed largely above-normal rainfall, with Ramban recording the highest surplus at 125 per cent. Udhampur followed with 108 per cent, while Samba and Rajouri recorded surpluses of 91 per cent and 88 per cent, respectively.

Poonch received 47 per cent excess rainfall, while Doda and Reasi recorded surpluses of 17 per cent and 14 per cent. Jammu district remained close to normal with a three per cent surplus.

Kathua and Kishtwar, however, continued to remain deficient, recording rainfall deficits of 25 per cent and 16 per cent, respectively.

The July rainfall marked a significant shift in the precipitation pattern across J&K after several months of deficient rainfall, with widespread showers helping push the overall monthly figure into surplus despite deficits in some districts.

In the neighbouring Union Territory of Ladakh, Kargil recorded 10 mm of rainfall against a normal of 1.9 mm, translating into a 426 per cent surplus. Leh received 31 mm against its normal of 11.2 mm, recording a 177 per cent surplus.

The large percentage departures in Ladakh were partly due to the region's very low normal rainfall during July, the data indicated.

The rainfall figures came amid a spell of active weather that has brought heavy showers to several parts of Jammu and Kashmir in recent weeks, triggering episodes of flash floods, landslides and other rain-related incidents in vulnerable areas. (KNO)

No information

arrangements following recent attacks, IGP Birdi said investigations are underway and district-level security measures have been strengthened.

"The investigation is going on. For that, the rest of the security arrangements, everyone is organising those arrangements themselves," he said.

IGP Birdi said full-dress rehearsals have been held in different districts of the Valley, including rehearsals of security arrangements, ahead of the main August 15 programmes.

"We have rehearsed in different districts of the Valley. We have also rehearsed the security arrangements so that we can carry out our main programme on August 15," he said.

Asked about threats circulating on social media in connection with Independence Day, the IGP said the focus at present remained on ensuring security for the August 15 events. "I think, for now, we should limit ourselves to August 15 and its security," he said.

IGP Birdi also appealed to people across Kashmir to participate in Independence Day celebrations in large numbers. "August 15 is a national event. I request the public to participate in the events taking place in the districts and administrative units in large numbers and make them successful," he said.

Pertinently, the Independence Day celebrations across Jammu and Kashmir are being held amid heightened security, with police and other security agencies intensifying arrangements. (KNO)

J&K Govt approves

excellence and encourage innovation, interns will receive certificates signed by the Chief Minister, while the best-performing projects will be considered for the 'Best Intern Initiative Award'.

As part of the programme, selected interns will receive a monthly stipend of ₹ 10,000, providing financial support while they gain practical experience in the field of digital governance.

The Chief Minister's Digital Internship Programme reflects the Government's steadfast commitment to empowering youth, recognising merit and creating meaningful opportunities for local talent to contribute to Jammu and Kashmir's digital transformation.

By connecting young technology

professionals with real-world governance requirements, the initiative seeks to nurture innovation and channel their skills towards developing practical solutions to contemporary public service challenges.

35-year manhunt

GRP Jammu intensified its efforts to trace the remaining accused. Following detailed verification of identity and residential particulars, investigators established that Sheikh had been living under a concealed identity and had built a successful business in the Bijbehara area in South Kashmir.

After a prolonged pursuit and meticulous verification, the GRP team arrested Sheikh and produced him before the TADA Court in Jammu on August 13, 2026 for further legal proceedings. The arrest marks a significant breakthrough in a case dating back more than three decades and brings one of the long-pending accused in the 1991 railway station blast to justice. (KNO)

Organ donation

Hospital, said a considerable number of patients suffering from chronic and end-stage diseases ultimately depend on transplantation when other treatment options become limited. He said the shortage of donated organs often forces patients to remain on waiting lists for long periods, causing considerable emotional and financial stress for patients as well as their families.

According to him, improving the organ donation rate requires not only better transplant facilities but also a substantial change in public understanding and attitudes towards donation, as misconceptions, lack of reliable information and hesitation among people continue to discourage many potential donors. "There is a need to explain the process clearly and assure people that organ donation is carried out within established medical, legal and ethical frameworks," he added.

Dr Ishrat Jan of the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK) said awareness programmes could play a major role in educating people about the importance of organ donation and the number of lives that could potentially be saved through it. She said organ donation is legally permissible and called for understanding it as an act aimed at saving human lives and serving humanity.

Healthcare professionals said the death of a loved one is an extremely difficult moment for any family, but organ donation can potentially transform such a tragedy into an opportunity to give life to others. They said the number of patients requiring transplants is substantially higher than the number of organs available, making greater public participation essential to address the shortage.

A successful transplant can provide patients with a second chance at life, improving survival as well as overall quality of life, particularly among those suffering from irreversible organ failure caused by chronic or acute diseases, the experts said.

Dr Mohammad Momin Khan, General Physician posted at Apollo Hospital and a health activist, said organ donation awareness should evolve into a sustained public movement rather than remain limited to occasional campaigns. He said that the gap between patients awaiting transplants and the availability of organs remains a serious concern and many precious lives are lost while waiting.

Dr Khan said myths and misconceptions surrounding organ donation need to be addressed through credible and continuous public education, with awareness reaching schools, colleges, hospitals, communities and religious gatherings. The doctor said he had himself taken the organ donation pledge and committed to donating his heart, kidneys and liver after his death. "Even after our life ends, we can give someone else a chance to live," Dr Khan said, urging more people to come forward and consider taking this noble pledge.

Experts also called for regular awareness

programmes in educational institutions, healthcare facilities, local communities and religious gatherings to ensure that people receive accurate information about the medical, legal and ethical dimensions of organ donation, while also stressing that improving awareness should go hand in hand with strengthening transplant infrastructure, referral systems, trained manpower and coordination between hospitals and concerned authorities.

According to doctors, one deceased donor can potentially help multiple patients depending on the organs and tissues that can be successfully donated. They urged the public to view organ donation not merely as a medical procedure but as an opportunity to give others a chance to survive and lead healthier lives.

Experts said that with stronger public awareness, greater willingness among families to consent to donation and improved institutional coordination, Jammu and Kashmir could make significant progress in increasing the availability of organs for patients awaiting life-saving transplants. (KNO)

Sachin-encouraged armless

Kashmir is full of immense talent. "Every corner has people with incredible potential. What matters is giving that talent the right platform and encouragement," he said.

Aamir, who was born without arms, developed his own techniques to play cricket. He learnt to bat by holding the bat between his neck and shoulder. What was initially extremely difficult gradually became a skill through persistent practice. He also bowls using his feet, holding the ball before delivering it towards the batsman.

Hussain said developing the necessary grip, control, direction and accuracy was extremely difficult in the beginning, particularly while playing with leather balls. However, repeated practice helped him develop confidence and control.

One of the most cherished moments of his cricketing journey was meeting legendary Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar.

Aamir recalled that he initially found it difficult to believe when Tendulkar himself called and invited him to meet. The two subsequently spent around an hour discussing cricket.

According to Aamir, Tendulkar encouraged him to continue playing and never give up the sport. He was also impressed when Aamir explained how he had developed his unique batting and bowling techniques.

Hussain later had another memorable opportunity to bowl in front of Tendulkar during a tennis-ball tournament. Playing alongside and against the cricket legend in a friendly match became a lasting memory for him.

The para-cricketer urged young people and those facing difficult circumstances to focus on the present, work hard and believe that tomorrow can bring new possibilities.

Waseem Ahmad Lone, posted at Government Middle School Durhama in the DH Pora zone of Kulgam, said he was delighted to receive the invitation from the President.

"Today is a very happy occasion for me as I have received an invitation from the President. This is a matter of joy not only for me but for the entire teaching community. I would urge all teachers to teach children by considering them as their own," Lone said.

He said the student enrolment at the school was very low when he started working there, prompting him and other staff members to launch efforts to encourage children to join the school.

"The roll at the school was very low. We started a drive, and the school has now crossed a good number of students. The enrolment increased from just 12 to around 125," Lone said, adding that he believed his efforts had been noticed by the higher authorities. (KNO)

Saffron growers

coming years," said Mohammad Ashraf, a saffron grower from Pampore.

Another grower said that the shortage of good-quality corms was already affecting farmers and that authorities should focus on creating a reliable system for producing and distributing certified planting material.

"Farmers should not be forced to depend on whatever planting material is available in the market. The government needs to ensure that healthy and quality corms are produced locally and made available to growers at reasonable rates," he said.

Farmers have welcomed the Agriculture Department's plan to establish Saffron Seed Multiplication Nurseries in the Pampore area, saying the initiative could play a crucial role in addressing the shortage of quality corms.

The proposed nurseries are expected to multiply healthy planting material and create a dependable source of quality corms for growers.

Farmers believe that expanding such facilities across major saffron-growing areas could reduce pressure on existing corm stocks and help revive fields where cultivation has declined.

Agriculture officials said that they have already restricted the transportation and export of saffron corms outside Kashmir, warning that violations could invite action under the Saffron Act, 2007 and the Seed Act, 1966.

An official said conserving saffron planting material was essential for protecting the crop's future in Kashmir. "Restricting the transportation of saffron corms outside the Valley is an important step towards conserving the planting material available in Kashmir," he said, adding that the department is also working towards establishing Saffron Seed Multiplication Nurseries in Pampore.

Officials said the nurseries would help multiply quality corms and make them available to local farmers, thereby reducing the possibility of a shortage during the sowing season.

Kashmir's saffron, popularly known as the region's "red gold", is primarily cultivated in Pampore and adjoining areas of Pulwama district. The crop is valued not only for its economic importance but also for its distinctive aroma, colour, flavour and medicinal properties.

However, the sector has experienced fluctuations in production over the years. Government data presented in the Assembly showed saffron production at 17.33 metric tonnes in 2021, which declined to 14.87 MT in 2022 before registering a marginal increase to 14.94 MT in 2023.

The data also showed that the total cultivated area remained around 3,715 hectares, while productivity fluctuated from year to year. Farmers say the figures underline the need for sustained investment in irrigation, scientific cultivation, quality planting material and field rejuvenation.

Growers maintain that while government schemes have helped improve some saffron fields, the gains could be undermined if healthy corms are continuously removed from the Valley.

They said that if the government doesn't take immediate action and steps in this regard, there will be no traces of this crop in the coming years.

With the extraction season approaching, farmers have urged the Agriculture Department and law enforcement agencies to intensify inspections at roads, markets and other vulnerable points to prevent illegal movement of corms. They have also called for registration and proper documentation of corm dealers, regular field-level verification and strict action against those involved in unauthorised transportation.

Farmers further urged the government to create a structured mechanism under which quality corms could be multiplied, certified and distributed among growers before the planting season.

They said protecting saffron corms today was essential to safeguarding the crop's future, particularly at a time when younger generations were increasingly reluctant to remain dependent on traditional agriculture. (KNO)

RS Chairman regrets disruptions during Monsoon Session; House productivity only 39 pc

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 13: Rajya Sabha Chairman C P Radhakrishnan on Thursday expressed "deep concern" over disruptions that "derailed" the business of the House during the Monsoon Session.

As he adjourned the House sine die, he urged the members to uphold the dignity of the august House and discharge their parliamentary responsibilities in the highest traditions of Indian democracy.

During the Monsoon Session that started on July 20, Radhakrishnan highlighted that 12 Bills were either passed or returned even as the productivity was only 39 per cent because of disruptions.

"As the 271st Session of the Rajya Sabha draws to a close, I reflect on its proceedings with a deep concern. It is a matter of regret that the Session was marked by persistent disorder and frequent disruptions, which repeatedly derailed the business of the House," the Chairman said.

The loss of precious working hours also deprived the House of meaningful discussion and debate on matters of national importance, he added. The



Upper House saw several disruptions and adjournments as Opposition parties were protesting on several issues, including police action on students protesting against NEET paper leak and alleged theft of donations at Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Despite the disruptions, Radhakrishnan noted that the House managed to fulfil its core legislative duties by considering, passing or returning 12 Bills. "Things would certainly have been different if we had collectively

participated, contributed our valuable inputs and engaged in meaningful deliberations," he observed.

Elaborating on the performance, the Chairman said the House functioned for only 37 hours and 49 minutes, recording a productivity of 39.17 per cent.

As many as 285 Starred Questions were raised while there were 380 Zero Hour submissions and 380 Special Mentions. Only 16 Questions, 52 Zero Hour Submissions and 93 Special Mentions could be taken up. Radhakrishnan rued

that members did not make the fullest use of the opportunities to raise the voice of the people.

"As the House of Elders, this august Chamber has a unique responsibility to uphold reasoned debate, dignified dissent and thoughtful legislation. Repeated disruptions ultimately affect the trust and aspirations of the people. We must therefore strive to uphold the highest standards of parliamentary conduct and preserve the dignity and sanctity of this institution," he said.

The Chairman informed that an orientation programme was organised for the newly elected and nominated Members. The two-day programme provided valuable insights into parliamentary practice, procedure and the standards of conduct expected of Members.

As many as 35 Members attended the programme.

"I hope that when we meet again, we shall do so with a renewed resolve to uphold the dignity of this august House and discharge our parliamentary responsibilities in the highest traditions of our democracy, thereby strengthening our democratic institutions and our democracy at all times," Radhakrishnan said.

J'khand exam stir: FIR against 300 unnamed people

PTI

Ranchi, Aug 13: Police on Thursday lodged an FIR against 300 unnamed people in connection with the August 10 march to the Jharkhand assembly over alleged recruitment examination irregularities in the state, a senior officer said.

The case was registered against the unnamed people for violating prohibitory orders, causing damage to government property and attacking police personnel,

he said.

"An FIR has been lodged against 300 unknown miscreants at the Vidhan Sabha police station for disrupting the peaceful march to the assembly on August 10," Ranchi SP Paras Rana told PTI.

The process to identify these miscreants is underway through video footages, said SDPO (Hatia), Neeraj Kumar.

The job aspirants have been demonstrating for the past 20 days in Ranchi over the alleged irregularities.

Delhi flight fiasco

Air India, Air India Express to start drug tests for all pilots



REUTERS

New Delhi, Aug 13: Air India will begin mandatory substance testing for all pilots on Thursday, expanding checks beyond regulatory requirements days after a pilot involved in a serious mid-air incident tested positive for marijuana, according to an internal memo.

The tests will screen for substances and medications prohibited under aviation regulations and will be conducted alongside training sessions at the airline's Gurugram academy, after flights at briefing centres and offices, or at locations designated by pilots' home bases.

Pilots at budget subsidiary Air India Express will also be tested. Air India did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment. Existing

rules require airlines to randomly test at least 10% of their flight crew for psychoactive substances each year.

"We nevertheless now feel that it is important to go further," Air India said in the memo, adding that the initiative was intended to uphold safety standards and provide reassurance to passengers and other stakeholders.

The move comes as authorities investigate an August 4 incident involving an Air India Airbus A320neo flying from Phuket to Delhi that suddenly lost about 300 feet (91 metres) of altitude during cruise.

The flight's captain tested positive for marijuana in a confirmatory drug test, according to a source familiar with the matter.

BJP accuses Rahul of changing goalposts, says Monsoon Session fell victim to 'one leader's ego'

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 13: The BJP on Thursday accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of repeatedly changing goalposts on discussions in Parliament and alleged that the Monsoon Session had fallen victim to "one leader's ego, indiscipline and insolence".

Lok Sabha was adjourned sine die on Thursday, drawing curtains on a stormy Monsoon Session that saw relentless protests by the Opposition over the police action against agitating students and the alleged theft of Ram temple donations, besides the passage of several key bills without debate.

Addressing a press conference on the last day of the Monsoon Session, senior BJP leader and MP Ravi Shankar Prasad alleged that the Opposition did not allow Parliament to function despite the government's readiness for discussions.

Calling Gandhi irresponsible and "immature", Prasad accused him of lacking political propriety.

"I would like to repeat that Rahul Gandhi is irresponsible. Rahul Gandhi is yet to mature as a leader in the politics of the country. Rahul Gandhi is delinquent. And Rahul Gandhi has a great sense

of arrogance and entitlement," he said.

"The Parliament's Monsoon Session has fallen victim to one leader's ego, indiscipline and insolence," he added.

He said that Gandhi and the opposition kept changing the goalposts during the entire Monsoon session.

Prasad said that the opposition had first demanded a discussion on NEET, then Gandhi staged a protest outside the Prime Minister's residence, demanded the resignation of the education minister, and later sought answers from Modi.

He said Gandhi had repeatedly demanded that the home minister respond to the alleged police action in Delhi, but when Amit Shah offered to participate in a debate and respond to every point, the Opposition still did not allow the discussion.

"Yesterday you saw that the Home Minister (Amit Shah) himself came before the media and said, I am ready to listen to the entire debate for 24 hours, and I am ready to answer all these issues. I will answer point by point," Prasad said.

Recalling Gandhi's protest outside the prime minister's residence along with other Congress

leaders, Prasad questioned whether he is not aware of the sanctity of the prime minister's residence and the security implications of such a visit.

He said officials, including the home secretary and cabinet secretary, as well as Minister of State in the PMO Jitendra Singh, had met the protesters and conveyed that the government was ready for discussion.

"But when they were told that the government is ready for discussion, they said they wanted resignation," Prasad said.

He said the government has taken several steps on the NEET issue, including bringing in a stringent law, providing for fast-track courts and ensuring time-bound trials.

He also said a high-powered committee is working on addressing the "syndicate" involved in paper leaks. He also reiterated the government's position on the alleged firing during the protest in Bihar.

"We have made it clear that no shots were fired," Prasad said, adding that had the opposition listened to Shah in Parliament, they would have got their answers, but it did not let the House function.

NHAI sets 10-min response time for highway ambulances

Rs 10,000 penalty for delay

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 13: State-owned NHAI has set a 10-minute deadline for ambulances deployed on national highways to reach any accident site within a 10-km vicinity, to cut delays in emergency response.

It said failure to meet the timeline could attract a penalty of Rs 10,000 per incident.

NHAI, in its policy guidelines, further said that ambulances should bring accident victims to the nearest hospital within 1 hour from the time of ticket acceptance. Failure to meet the timeline will attract a penalty of Rs 10,000.

With an aim to strengthen the Incident Management System through the use of the NHAI Care System, the state-owned agency on Wednesday came out with new norms to effectively manage the dispatch of on-road units, including ambulances, cranes and patrolling vehicles.

Under the new norms, NHAI said, "Based on location of incident the ambulance should not take more than 10 minutes (from time of the ticket acceptance) for covering any accident within 10-km vicinity."

"For incident locations beyond 10 km, allowed

time shall be proportionally increased. The same shall be verified through GPS data/ IMS Care Dashboard," it added.

There are around 3,000 ambulances and 1,000 patrolling vehicles and cranes, covering around 50,000 km of highways under the NHAI.

Under the new service-level benchmarks, any emergency ticket rejection by ambulance will attract a penalty of Rs 10,000. All equipment, medicines and staff should be provided as per the respective contract agreements, failing which a penalty of Rs 10,000 will be imposed, the state-owned agency said.

The state-owned agency said in order to ensure effective implementation of NHAI Care System, AIS-140 compliant GPS devices have been installed on all on-road units, including ambulances, cranes, and patrolling vehicles, deployed on NHAI projects.

"Dedicated Android Mobile Device (Mobile Data Terminal-MDT) with IoT Sim has been provided to each of the on-road units," NHAI said.

The government has rolled out the helpline number, 1033 across the National Highway (NH) network.

Left AAP as I wasn't being heard, don't care about labels: Harbhajan

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 13: Cricketer-turned-politician Harbhajan Singh has revealed that his decision to switch from the AAP to the BJP was driven by the frustration of not being heard at his former party, which has a lot to explain on Punjab's debilitating drug abuse problem.

In a podcast interview with PTI at its headquarters, the 46-year-old off-spin legend also talked about the aggressive protests that took place outside his house in Jalandhar following the move.

Harbhajan was sent to the Rajya Sabha by the AAP in 2022 but he, along with six others from the party, joined the BJP in April this year.

"When (current Punjab Chief Minister) Bhagwant Mann asked me to join AAP, it was to represent the party in the Rajya Sabha and raise issues related to sports. I had made it clear at that time itself that I would only talk about sports and will not discuss politics as it is not my job," he recalled.

"The only reason I joined AAP was that it was giving me a chance to promote sports not just in Punjab but nationally. But when I tried



to present my ideas, I was not heard in the party. My ideas remained just ideas," he elaborated.

Harbhajan said he eventually got fed up at being sidelined despite trying hard to present his vision to the party.

"...the work for which I joined AAP was not getting done. Even if a small step had been taken in the direction that I suggested, I would not have left. But my very reason for joining the party was not getting fulfilled. That's why I left because nobody was responding to my suggestions," he said.

The AAP had reacted sharply to the setback,

accusing the deserting MPs of betrayal. Harbhajan's home was targeted with protests, including the burning of his effigy. Asked about the incident, Harbhajan said he would not like to name names, as it was easy to understand who the protesters could have been.

"Everybody knows who those people were and where they came from. I need not say anything. The common man of this country knows me for my cricket and has given me so much love, why would they burn my effigy or write 'Traitor' outside my house. Whom did I betray?" he asked.

"My question to them (AAP) is what happened

to the tall promises they made to the people of Punjab? What did you do for Punjab? Who is the traitor here? And did you ask me why I did what I did? Just because you call me a traitor, doesn't make me one. Neither am I a thief because you say so," he asserted.

"...my heart beats for India and Punjab. The love that I have for my motherland is something that does not need validation from anyone else. So those who want to say things, they can continue, it doesn't make a difference to me. If I allow myself to be distracted by all the chatter, then I cannot function," he added.

Have agreed in principle to give railway travel concessions to acid attack victims, Centre tells SC

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 13: The Centre on Thursday told the Supreme Court that it has agreed in principle to formulate a policy for granting railway travel concessions to acid attack survivors to enable them to travel to well-equipped hospitals in cities for periodic treatment. The top court asked the Centre to consider the issue of granting travel concessions to acid attack survivors "liberally".

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana took note of the submissions of Additional Solicitor General Archana Pathak Dave, appearing for the Ministry of Railways, and asked her to file the draft policy on record within six weeks.

At the outset, the law officer said that a meeting has been held and it has been decided in principle that the acid attack survivors can be given railway concessions. She said the Centre proposes to extend the benefit under the "patient category" as it has reservations about placing acid attack survivors in a separate category among persons with disabilities.

"I can inform that they will put the acid attack victims in the patient category... because they have some reservations about putting them under the disabled category as others in that disabled category are not given railway concessions," she added.

"Putting them in the disabled category, that has now been statutorily resolved, with the amendment through another petition before us," the CJ said.

"They are in the disabled category, but we will give them concession under the patient category because they require it for the purpose of going to the doctor and for their treatment. We are still deliberating, but under the disabled category, because we are not giving this concession to all disabled persons, then the other categories would also come and say that the concession should be given to them as well," the law officer said.

AFP

He said about 32,000 square meters of coastal area had been affected along with waters covering 90,000 square



Iran has maintained control over the Strait of Hormuz since the outbreak of the Middle East war on February 28,

An AFP investigation previously found the ship had been stranded for weeks near Oman's Al-Qibliyyah island after it was damaged by explosions.

REUTERS

countries' defense ministers, foreign ministers, and military chiefs. It added that the joint military exercises were also being planned under the pact, while cooperation could include joint production and technology sharing in the defense industry.

REUTERS

Fereshta Abbasi, Afghanistan
Researcher at Human Rights

The men's families have received no information about their whereabouts, health or any possible charges against them, Human Rights Watch said.

PTI

PTI

"Traditionally also if you look at the venue how it stacks and how it's been played up, that's sort of the way (three spinners) to go I think. The way we go with our spin bowling attack or spinners, it's a very attacking option.

REUTERS

prices.

The conflict has heightened uncertainty over LNG availability and made securing energy supplies more expensive at a time when Bangladesh already faces a wide gap between gas demand and supply.

REUTERS

On the trip, described by TASS as Putin's first in person to the island chain, he visited the Yasny fish-processing plant on Iturup, after overseeing navy drills in Russia's far east. Vesti TV channel images showed Putin in a dark suit, standing in a room looking at two large tuna and halibut on a table, as two officials spoke about fishing and the migratory behavior of fish. He also stopped to try local fish roe.



MOVIES

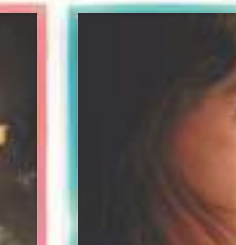
Watchlist

FRIDAY, 14TH AUGUST



BATWARA 1947
(HINDI) (A)

🕒	03:45 PM
	06:40 PM



AWAARAPAN 2
(HINDI) (U/A 16+)

🕒	02:05 PM
	04:55 PM
	07:45 PM



**SPIDER-MAN:
BRAND NEW DAY**
(3D ENGLISH) (U/A 13+)

🕒	04:20 PM
	07:15 PM



SCAN TO BOOK
YOUR TICKETS



+91 95416 13868



INOX CINEMA,
SHIVPORA SRINAGAR

FOLLOW US ON



