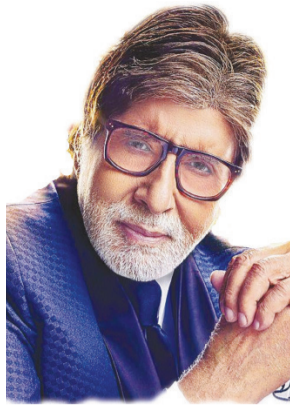


TOP NEWS OF J&K

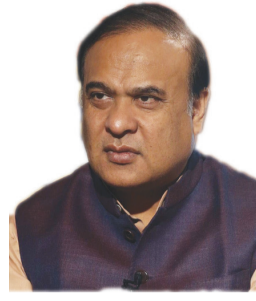
JAMMU, TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Donald Trump indicted in Georgia over 2020 election meddling, 4th criminal case against him



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BRIEFLY

BSF Jawans celebrate Independence Day at LoC in Kashmir

KUPWARA, Aug 15 (Agencies): Border Security Force (BSF) personnel on Tuesday celebrated Independence Day in this remote area close to Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district.

The national flag was unfurled by the commanding officer of the battalion as the jawans raised patriotic slogans to mark the 77th Independence Day of the country.

Commanding Officer Mohammad Israil said, "Our battalion is posted at the LoC along with three army units. We

■ Turn to page 9

Independence Day | J&K sees 59% increase in foreign tourist arrivals this Year; Negative travel advisories to go soon: LG Sinha



SRINAGAR, Aug 15 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday said that after a long gap foreign tourist arrivals have shown a surge as there has been 59 per cent increase in foreign guest arrivals in

the UT while as negative travel advisories imposed by some countries are expected to be removed soon.

Addressing the Independence Day gathering at highly fortified Bakshi Stadium here, the LG said that this

year, so far 1.27 Cr tourists including foreigners visited J&K. "The figure includes a significant number of foreigners as well. This year we have witnessed a 59 per cent increase in foreign tourist arrivals. This year's successful G-20 summit

helped give J&K a global push. The participants of 27 countries in the G-20 tourism working group meeting held in May in Srinagar, left with a positive message," the LG said. "J&K is being recognized as a place of peace and nature's beauty." He said this year's Amarnath Yatra didn't not only attract the devotees from the country but also foreign pilgrims as well.

He said that today J&K is recognized for its change that took place four years ago and the peaceful atmosphere. "I am sure that negative travel advisories imposed on J&K by some countries will be lifted shortly," the LG said.

He said that the ■ Turn to page 9

I-Day celebrated in Jammu; Advisor to LG says J&K witnessing new era of peace, progress




JAMMU, Aug 15 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed the rise of a new era in the last four years which promises harmony, development and affluence, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, the advisor to the Lieutenant Governor said on Tuesday. Bhatnagar, who hoisted the tricolour at the main Independence Day function here, said Jammu

and Kashmir has undertaken a journey towards peace, progress, and prosperity in the last four years.

"Notable advancements have been made in establishing new enterprises and the agricultural sector. Villages are progressing, and essential infrastructure is being reinforced," he said while talking about the need of strengthen-

ing of democracy at the grassroots level in the union territory. Outlining the development initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir, he highlighted the implementation of projects worth Rs 7,000 crore in the healthcare sector. He noted that the AIIMS in Jammu is set to be completed this year, while the AIIMS in Kashmir will reach

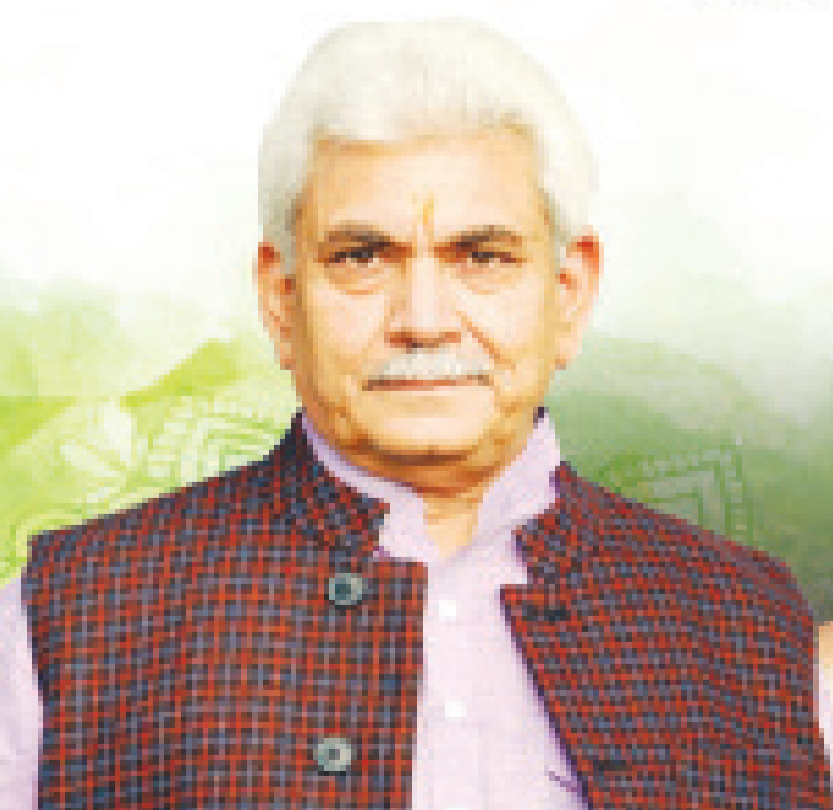
■ Turn to page 9



Heartiest greetings

to the People of Jammu & Kashmir on

77th independence day



Directorate of Information & Public Relations
Government of Jammu & Kashmir

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0191-6851723

Army dedicates 115-foot-long bridge to the last village on LoC

SRINAGAR, Aug 15 (Agencies): In a gesture of goodwill ahead of Independence Day, the Indian Army unveiled a significant "Independence Day gift" for the residents of Danna hamlet, the final village situated along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Machhal sector of the northern Kupwara district. This notable development involved the inauguration of a bridge spanning the Machhal Nala, as confirmed by a spokesperson from the Srinagar-based defense division on Tuesday. The spokesperson said, "A bridge measuring 115 feet in length has been officially christened as the Bhagat Bridge, in honor of the late Major Bhagat



Singh, Veer Chakra awardee, who valiantly laid down his life defending this sector during the 1965 war." Danna Village, which has come to be known as Bhagat Village, commemorates the courageous Indian soldier who

made a significant sacrifice for his country, the spokesperson continued. The inauguration ceremony featured a symbolic ribbon-cutting ritual, symbolizing the commencement of the bridge's utility for the local residents. The spokesperson conveyed, "The ribbon-

cutting was performed by Sep Mian Gul Khan, a respected 90-year-old veteran of the 1971 war, and a proud inhabitant of the region. The event was graced by the presence of Indian Army personnel and esteemed local figures."

"Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Pharmacy" Inspires Patriotism and Unity Through 77th Independence Day Celebration



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 15: Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Pharmacy a beacon of pharmacy education and values celebrated India's 77th Independence Day with a spectacular event that evoked a sense of patriotism, unity, and pride among its students and the community. The Institution annual Independence Day celebrations designed to encapsulate the essence of freedom and pay homage to the sacrifices made by our forefathers.

The event commenced with the dignified raising of the Indian tricolour by Mr Ayush Katoch (Director, Kawa Group) & Mrs Heena Jamwal (Director RGIP) accompanied by the stirring national anthem. This symbolic act served as a poignant reminder of the nation's struggle for independence. The students of RGIP showcased their artistic talents through a mesmerizing cultural program encompassing patriotic songs, vibrant dances, and theatrical performances. These expressions of creativity

will celebrate the unity in diversity that defines our nation. Esteemed faculty members namely Ms Mansi Chadha, Mr Aadil Bhat, Mrs Shally Sharma and students delivered insightful speeches that shed light on the historical significance of Independence Day. Mr Sumit Sharma and Ms Arzoo inspired the audience, particularly the young generation, to uphold the values of freedom, democracy, and equality by organizing such a wonderful event.

Two year old girl dies after falling in nallah

SRINAGAR, Aug 15 (Agencies): A minor girl lost her life after accidentally falling into a Nallah in the Chassana area of Reasi district.

An official statement said that Rashida, 02, daughter of Raj Mohd and a resident of Channa Bagai, Tehsil Chassana, District Reasi, tragically fell into the Nallah at Channa Bagai while crossing it with her elder sister on Monday evening. Regrettably, the young girl's life couldn't be saved, and she succumbed at the scene. Her lifeless body has been successfully recovered. The local authorities have initiated further proceedings concerning this unfortunate incident.

One killed, two injured in Kashmir road accident

SRINAGAR, Aug 15 (Agencies): One person was killed, and two others were injured in a collision involving a tipper and a motorcycle in the Bijbehara area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district this afternoon, officials said. According to officials, a tipper with registration number JK03M-1190 collided with a motorcycle bearing registration number JK15-4617 at Doonipora Sangam in Bijbehara, resulting in injuries to at least three individuals who were riding on the motorcycle. "The injured individuals were immediately taken to SDH Bijbehara, where one of them was pronounced dead on arrival," they said.

SMVD University Celebrates 77th Independence Day

JAMMU, Aug 15: On the occasion of Independence Day, 15th August 2023, Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, the Vice-Chancellor of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, unfurled the tricolour flag. In a compelling address, he highlighted India's journey towards becoming a self-sufficient and developed nation, underlining the significance of domestic production for

Shiv Sena hoists National Flag, sends message of unity, integrity

Pledges to make India a Golden Sparrow & Global leader



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 15: On the occasion of the 77th Independence Day, Shiv Sena (UBT) hoisted the National Flag at its party office in Jammu. Manish Sahni, State President Shiv Sena J&K unfurled the Tricolour, symbolizing unity, integrity, brotherhood, and the message of staying away from drugs abuse.

In his address, Sahni emphasized that today is a day to remember and salute the freedom fighters and brave souls whose sacrifices and dedication led to the liberation from the shackles of British colonialism on August 15, 1947, after 200 years of slavery. On this occasion, the party took a resolution to teach a lesson to those spreading anarchy, disrupting harmony, undermining

the country, and playing politics based on religion and caste. On this occasion President Women's Wing Meenakshi Chibber, General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Vice President Balwant Singh, Sanjeev Kohli, Ashok Chib, Veena Devi, Shashi Chib, Madhu Devi, Shanti, Bhawna, Bittu Ji Bhatt and many others were present.

Indians. The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of administrative staff, faculty members, and students. A grand 146-foot-tall-Indian flag (30F x 45F), proudly hoisted, added a sense of national pride and patriotism to the atmosphere. This monumental tricolour, waving with vitality, warmly welcomes visitors from kilometres away as they approach the heart of SMVD University in the Central Courtyard

of the Administrative Block. The celebration featured captivating performances by students, accompanied by the distribution of sweets to commemorate the occasion. A noteworthy addition to the festivities was the launch of the newly designed SMVDU website (www.smvdu.ac.in) by the Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU at the Matrika Auditorium, marking another milestone on this significant day of national importance.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER ,MARH

Advertisement Notice:- No. 44of 2023
Dated:- 11/08/2023

Subject: Re-Advertisement for Recruitment of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) and Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) in Anganwadi Centres of POSHAN Project MARH.

Reference: 1. Government order No 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 Dated:30.11.2022
2. Government Order No.103-JK(SWD) of 2023 dated: 28.04.2023

Whereas this office vide Advertisement notice No. 01 of 2023 dated:- 13/05/2023 had invited applications from eligible candidates for engagement as **Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) and Sahayikas(Anganwadi Helpers)** in AnganwadiCentresof Poshan (ICDS) ProjectMarh, on honorarium basis. Whereas due to non-receipt of application forms from the candidates, some of the posts remained unfilled. As such the application forms on prescribed format are invited from the eligible female candidates for engagement as **Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) and Sahayikas(Anganwadi Helpers)** in AnganwadiCentresof Poshan (ICDS) Project Marh, on honorarium basis.

Detail of vacant posts of Sanginis (AWWs) alongwith name and locations of Anganwadicentres.

S.NO	NAME OF THE DISTRICT	NAME OF THE PROJECT	NAME OF PANCHAYAT/MUNICIPALITY	VACANCY OF ANGANWADI WORKER'S	
				NO. OF PANCH WARD/ M.WARD	NAME OF AWC
1	JAMMU	MARH	MC GHOLU MANHASAN	W.No. 4	GHOLU MANHASAN- A
2	JAMMU	MARH	MC GHOLU MANHASAN	W.No. 6	GHOLU MANHASAN- B

Detail of vacant posts of Sahayikas (AWHs) alongwith name and locations of Anganwadicentres.

S.NO	NAME OF THE DISTRICT	NAME OF THE PROJECT	NAME OF PANCHAYAT/MUNI CIPALITY WARD	VACANCY OF ANGANWADI HELPERS	
				NO. OF PANCH WARD/ M.WARD	NAME OF AWC
1	JAMMU	MARH	MC GHOLU MANHASAN	W.No. 4	GHOLU MANHASAN- A
2	JAMMU	MARH	RANJEETPUR	W.No.6	RANJEETPUR
3	JAMMU	MARH	W.NO.32	W.No.32	GULAMAR CHACK
4	JAMMU	MARH	SANDWAN (GHOLU MANHASAN)	W.No7	SANDWAN-B
5	JAMMU	MARH	W.NO.32	W.No. 32	POJNE CHACK-A
6	JAMMU	MARH	W.NO.32	W.No.32	SEHORA-A

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF SANGINIS (ANGANWADI WORKERS)

- Women candidate must be in the age group of 18-37 years as on 01-01-2023 shall be considered for the post.
- The candidate should be a domicile of the UT of J&K.
- The candidate should be a resident of the electoral ward where AWC is situated. Name in the voter list for the ward shall be considered as the proof of residence of the candidate. In case the name of the candidate appears in Voter list along with her parents, then she must provide certificate of being unmarried issued by the concerned Tehsildar. Wherever, there is any dispute of residence for any reason, then a residence proof certifying the ward of residence from the concerned SDM/ACR shall be considered.
- Minimum qualification for Sanginis shall be 10+2 and maximum graduation. In case no 10+2 pass candidate is available in the ward, 10+2 pass candidate from the adjoining ward shall be considered.
- In case suitable candidate is not available from adjoining ward, candidate from the nearest ward within the Panchayat can be considered.
- Weightage shall be given on the basis of marks obtained in 10+2 and selection shall be done purely on merit basis and no other criteria to be considered.
- In case any eligible candidate is available within the family of the retiring AWW/AWH, the said candidate shall qualify for additional two percent points while making selection.
- In case of tie in merit of the eligible candidate, candidate with higher age will be preferred.
- Candidates with qualification higher than graduation shall not be considered.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF SAHAYIKAS (ANGANWADI HELPERS)

- Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years as on 01-01-2023 shall be considered for the post.
- The candidate should be a domicile of the UT of J&K.
- The selection of Sahayikas shall be restricted to the electoral ward where Anganwadi Centre is located. Minimum qualification for Sahayikas shall be Matriculation.
- In case no matriculate candidate is available in the ward, candidates with qualification not less than 8th standard shall be considered.
- The Committee shall select the most destitute/needy married women of the ward as helper from amongst those who fulfill the qualification criteria. In case no married candidate is available, unmarried candidate may be considered.

HOW TO APPLY:

The application forms complete in all respects as per the Performa given in Annexure "A" of this notice along with all the requisite documents as mentioned shall be submitted in the **Office of the Child Development Project Officer Marh, Main Bazar, Near SBI Bank Marh** by personal delivery or through registered Post during working hours against the proper receipt. The incomplete forms shall be rejected without any clarification/notice and the candidates shall have no right to claim for candidature.

Date of commencement for submission of Application Forms : 16.08.2023
Last date for submission of Application Forms : 30.08.2023

No application forms shall be accepted after the last date i.e. 30.08.2023

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION:

The shortlisted meritorious candidates shall be required to appear before the Document Verification Committee along with all the original documents whose copies have been attached with the application form within a week after the last date of receipt of application forms.

No. CDPO/M/ 644/2023.
Dated. 11.08.2023

DIP/J-6829/23

Sd/-
Child Dev. Project Officer
PoshanProjectMarh
(Member Secretary Selection Committee)

ANNEXURE A

APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF SANGINI/SAHAYIKA

- Name of the District :- Jammu
- Name of the Project/Poshan Project Marh
- Name of Panchayat/Municipality:-
- Name of the Anganwadi Centre for which applying:-
- Name of Candidate(in Block Letter) :-
- Contact No :- email id :-
- Father's Name (in Block Letter):-
- Marital Status:- (Married/UnMarried)
- Husband's name:- (If married)
- Whether belonging to the family of retired AWW/AWH:- (Yes/No)
- Date of Birth:-
- Age as on 01.01.2023 (In years and months):-
- Place of Permanent Residence (with Ward Number, House Number, Mohalla/Locality, Panchayatetc):-
- Address for correspondence:-
- Academic Qualification:-

S.No	Exam Passed	Board/University	Year of Passing	Marks obtained	Max Marks	%age
1.	g th					
2.	Matriculation					
3.	10+2					
4.	Graduation					

Signature of Applicant

Documents to be Attached in case of Sanginis:- (Self Attested)

- Copy of Domicile certificate.
- Academic qualification certificates (Matric/12th /Graduation).
- Copy of Aadhar Card.
- Copy of Voter Card.
- Copy of Ration Card.
- Copy of Date of birth Certificate.
- Certified copy of the latest voter list as proof of residence. (Certified by the BDO/CEO Municipality concerned)
- Unmarried Certificate by the concern Tehsildar (In case of unmarried candidate)
- Affidavit in the prescribed format duly attested by Judicial /Executive Magistrate.
- Self addressed envelope with postage stamp of Rs 5/- affixed

Documents to be Attached in case of Sahayika:- (Self Attested)

- Copy of Domicile certificate.
- Academic qualification certificates (8th/Matric/12th).
- Copy of Aadhar Card.
- Copy of Voter Card.
- Copy of Ration Card. (As proof of BPL Category)
- Copy of Date of birth Certificate.
- Unmarried Certificate by the concern Tehsildar (In case of unmarried candidate)
- Copy of Death Certificate of Husband. (In case of widow)
- Copy of Divorce Certificate. (In case of divorce)
- Certified copy of the latest voter list as proof of residence. (Certified by the BDO/CEO Municipality concerned)
- Affidavit in the prescribed format duly attested by Judicial /Executive Magistrate.
- Self addressed envelope with postage stamp of Rs 5/- affixed

Affidavit

I _____ D/o/w/o/wd/o _____
R/o _____
do hereby solemnly affirm as under:

- That I belong to the Ward no. _____ Panchayat _____ for which application of Sangini/Sahayika is invited.
- That no forged/fake documents have been enclosed with the application form.
- That if at any later stage, it is found that I am in possession of qualification higher than the prescribed qualification, my engagement shall be liable for cancellation without any notice.
- That the contents of the application given above are correct and true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
- That the deponent has read the HR policy No. 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 dated:- 30-11-2022 and is well versed with all the salient features of the policy and shall be applicable to the deponent in case of selection as Anganwadi worker/ Anganwadi Helper.
- In case above statement is found incorrect, the selection committee shall have the right to reject the application form without any notice and further in case under any circumstances I change my residence (physical) outside the Panchayat/Municipal Ward (whichever applicable) the department shall have the right to terminate my services.

Signature of Applicant

EDITORIAL

SENSE OF HUMOUR

Humour means taking delight in the mirthful and the ludicrous. People with a strong sense of humour are very popular and their presence in any gathering is highly welcomed. They add spice to otherwise stale parties attended by many out of a sense of duty or decorum.

They always put on a happy countenance and exude cheerfulness. They are capable of affecting others too with a sense of humour and cheerfulness. Many a time they function like an oasis of hope in the midst of desert of worldly woes and difficulties.

Life is neither good nor bad. It is what you make of it. If one has developed an attitude of always looking at the dark-side of life, he will always manage to find some drawback and shortcoming even in a happy situation. On the other hand, people with an even temperament and equipped with a sense of humour always find something consoling or even amusing in many not so happy situations.

Many people who think too highly of themselves are in the danger of losing touch with reality and of becoming megalomaniac. Such people should always have some friends or associates who should occasionally puncture their vanity and bring them down to earth.

In ancient times Kings and Princes used to keep clowns or Vidushak who were permitted to laugh at the cost of the King in addition to making fun of them. Even the grim tragedy of King Lear is relieved by the wise, sarcastic and humorous remarks of the fool.

He asks King Lear whether the latter knows why a snail makes his shell. On Lear's inability to tell, the fool explains that snail is wiser than King Lear as snail can protect his head in his shell and would not give it to his daughter as Lear did. Again the fool makes fun of King Lear saying that if Lear had been his fool and he his King, he would have had the King beaten for being old before he became wise.

The fool, thus, keeps on reminding Lear of his misplaced generosity to his ungrateful daughters. He could do so only in a humorous manner not plainly. The jokes of Birbal at the expense of Emperor Akbar, illustrating a high sense of humour, are extremely popular with the people of North India.

In modern times, there are no kings and no official fools. But there are Presidents and Prime Ministers who have taken the place of kings. There are newspaper-cartoonists who come out with amusing cartoons, exciting laughter at the irrational and self-ish acts of politicians and they can be very effective in delivering their message.

It excites amusement of citizens when they find their exalted leader doing things which are not in keeping with their high status. The Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra found chasing an air hostess in Germany was a butt of ridicule for the entire nation and he had to be relieved of his ministerial berth.

We must develop a sense of humour if we want to maintain our mental balance. We should not take life too seriously. Life is not a well-executed plot. It has its ups; and down. We must not forget that our planet earth is like a speck of dust in the vast universe.

One man's life is but an infinitesimal part of the world. Although one must make the best of one's life, taking it too seriously and always being in a hurry, anxious or worked-up will not make one's life more worthwhile. We should learn to relax and look at the flow of life and unfolding of events in a relaxed and even amused attitude.

We should derive happiness from little things of life. Blessed with a sense of humour, we find occasions for amusement and laughter almost everywhere. Little children imitating the mannerism of their parents provide a hilarious spectacle. Students; mimicking the voice of a strict and harsh teacher provoke unrestrained laughter. Forgetfulness of people occasions amusements.

India's mood conservative after 76 years of freedom

By: Parsa Venkateshwar Rao Jr

This Independence Day, 76 years after we attained freedom from British rule, should be of a quieter kind after the excessive enthusiasm that the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi wanted to generate to mark 75 years of Independence last year with its loud and frenzied "Ghar Ghar Tiranga" (Tricolour in every home) slogan. The 75th anniversary of freedom was indeed a milestone but people went about their own way as the government sought to hyper-ventilate the patriotic feeling. This year, the government has quietened down quite a bit, and it leaves people the breathing space to reflect on what Independence Day means, and how three quarters of a century of Independence have fared.

This has always been a journey of hope beset with challenges, and as each decade passed the hope persisted and the challenges changed. So, by the time India's Independence turned 75, the hope has survived and it seemed that there are possibilities of better days. But it's an accumulated national capital that strengthened the hope. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP, which happens to be in power, wanted to make much of it. But the people let the day pass as any other day even as they faced the day-to-day crises of rising prices and the hunt for jobs. India was indeed a different place on its 75th anniversary of freedom from where it started out in August 1947. The country's economy was at a much prosperous level, a culmination of the incremental improvements that came about through tardy and

radical policy measures, changes in the world and the opportunities that had opened up as a consequence. It does not matter that Mr Modi and his colleagues will want to take credit for taking the Indian economy into the bracket of the top five economies in the world.

This has been mainly due to the 1991 economic reforms that had opened up the markets in India. The decades leading up to 1991 had sort of prepared the ground for the 1991 take-off of the economy, as it were.

The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), which were set up in the 1960s on the American model at a time when the Soviet-inspired planning era was at its height, produced graduates many of whom migrated to the West, but these institutions had laid the foundations of an internal revolution in services. At the other end of the higher education spectrum, came India's nuclear, satellite and space programmes which put the country into the circle of high energy and high technology orbit. And India's universities, with all their limitations and flaws, began to churn out technical undergraduates and graduates to man the revolution in the information technology-related communications services sector. It would seem that there has been a certain serendipity in how things worked in India's favour though the foundations were laid at a time when the bright future was not easily discernible on the horizon.

The 1960s and 1970s were buffeted by enormous economic crises even as India's stable future was being shaped. And the education system and the related services sector came to the fore

in the 1980s and 1990s when the IT sector assumed the leadership of the economy, and India gained prominence in the launch of satellites with their communications potential. The rocket launches that made possible putting the satellites into geo-synchronous orbits opened up the prospects of India getting into space exploration, and the beginnings of the Moon and Mars missions.

It is in the late 1980s that India and the world came to recognise the existence of the large Indian middle class which turned the tables in favour of India. An estimated 300 million comprised the Indian middle class at that time even as 40 per cent of India's population was struggling below the poverty line. In the decades since then, the middle class had stabilised and even expanded a little, but more people came out of the poverty trap and moved into the new middle class, which the BJP was quick to recognise.

The emergence of the new middle class, the poor who moved up from below the poverty line, happened in the years between the middle 1980s to around the middle of the second decade of this century, say from around 1985 to 2015, a span of 30 years.

And herein lies the political transformation of the country, from being a country with a majority of people living in poverty till the 1980s under ostentatiously socialist-oriented Congress governments at the Centre to that of the middle class-oriented economic reforms-minded governments of the Congress, the BJP-led NDA government of Atal Behari Vajpayee and the Congress-led UPA government of Dr Manmohan Singh. This prepared the ground for the emergence in 2014

of a right-wing ultra-nationalist government of Mr Modi, with its associated majoritarian ideology of Hindutva. The political changes in India seem to follow the economic changes, where the programmes of economic development have given way to economic expansion, and it also changed the class character of Indian politics. The poorer classes have migrated into lower middle class status with aspirations. The BJP and Mr Modi are appealing to the sentiments of this class which are culturally and politically conservative.

The question arises about what happens to the sense of freedom when Indian society is turning conservative. There is a desire for freedom to enjoy much more in terms of material advantages and pleasures, which is a marker of progress in the country's history. At the same time, there is not much desire for freedom to break barriers in social and cultural terms. There is less zeal to change things.

But there are sparks of confrontation and conflict as the new segments from traditional Indian society join the ranks of the new lower middle class, and lay claim to the same material pleasures and advantages. The BJP, which is the ruling party, is following the path of least resistance, and trying to take advantage of society's conservatism and sidestepping all the fault-lines. The emancipated Indian middle class and the lower middle class is yet to set out on the adventurous journey of seeking new horizons. It needs a streak of rebelliousness in imagination and a sense of daring in physical terms. It could happen sometime in the future and then the country's politics will move away from its present conservative moment.

'Riots' in India are different from mob fury in other nations

By: Aakar Patel

The word "riot" is defined as a "violent disturbance of the peace by a crowd". Generally, the world over, the word is understood elsewhere to mean the fury of society against the State. For example, the Paris riots in 1968, which began with student protests against imperialism and capitalism. Or the Los Angeles riot of 1992, following the acquittal of the police officers who assaulted Rodney King.

In 2011, after the fatal police shooting of a man named Mark Duggan, there were riots in cities across England in which five persons were killed and 3,000 arrested. In the riots that broke out in France this year after the killing of a 17-year-old by the police, three people died, of whom two perished in fires.

This word, then, does not capture the meaning of a "riot" as it is understood in India, that of organised violence against citizens by other citizens.

During an episode of such violence, the State steps aside and allows, till the violence naturally cools down, the passion of the majority to reveal itself as arson, rape, loot and murder. Elements of the State often actively participate in the violence, feeling the same strong emotions as the mob it is meant to subdue. We can see evidence of this unfold before us.

Even the best governed states

do not appear to have the capacity to control the damage and those who are counted as our most competent chief ministers have failed on this count. It is also true that the violence is justified in the minds of many, including those who lead the State.

In a newspaper interview published a few years ago, the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh was asked: "The Muzaffarnagar riots took place under the last government but of the 44 cases decided, there has been acquittal in 43 cases. Why isn't your government filing appeals?"

The chief minister replied: "The chargesheets in the Muzaffarnagar cases were filed by the previous government. The (riots) were the result of biased policies and failure of that government under which the whole society was differentiated on the basis of caste, belief and religion. There is nothing like that in our government. On the question of appeal, we will do that if needed. If there is no need, why should we unnecessarily intervene in the matter of the court?"

The root of such violence is an underlying sentiment existing perennially in a large part of our society, and kept stoked through politics. An external trigger then sets it afire: an assassination in 1984, an act of vandalism in 1992 or an incident on a train in 2002.

The other difference between the riot abroad and the riot

here is that of spontaneity. The riots referred to in the instances above were not anticipated. In India, we are aware that the deliberate raising of the temperature will have consequences.

The legislation by BJP governments at the state and Central levels on cattle transport, beef possession, inter-faith marriage, the absurd and Kafkaesque (as described by the Economist) events of the NRC in Assam, the criminalisation of divorce, what we are doing in Srinagar and so on must be seen in this light. Such work keeps the pot boiling.

A collection of columns written in Indian newspapers in recent years will read like the diary of Victor Klemperer. He was an academic, a scholar of languages, who kept a record of what was done to him and others in Germany in the 1930s. There is something happening daily on this front, no matter what else goes on in the economy, or in Manipur or at the border in Ladakh.

Action at the Kashi Vishwanath temple this month will produce similar sentiment as was produced by the events in Ayodhya earlier. The decision handed down by the Supreme Court in the latter matter has not been discussed in politics as a property dispute, which is how the court views it. It has instead been projected as vengeance and retribution against a building made five centuries ago — Babur defeated Ibrahim

Lodi in 1526 and died in Agra five years later aged 47 — on the site of another building apparently made earlier. How much earlier was the previous structure built?

BJP MP from Baghpat Satyapal Singh, when he was still an IPS officer, wrote an article ("Proving the historicity of Ram", Rediff.com, April 14, 2008) in which he determined that Lord Ram lived 8,69,108 years ago. Meaning 500,000 years before the appearance of homo sapiens! That is, of course, only if one believes in the theory of evolution, which Mr Singh, who headed education in India through his human resources development portfolio in the first Narendra Modi government, says he doesn't.

It will be interesting to see how the world views us as we now go about resolving this pressing matter in Kashi judicially and how we will anticipate and control what will come after the survey is over. It will be too much to hope that the State is mindful of the potential consequences and doing what it can to mitigate them as yet another crisis approaches.

Lastly, to go back to where we started, a riot in India is how we define what happens when the majority inflicts organised violence on a minority community. When the minority responds, and again we are seeing this in Manipur, this violence is classified differently in India and given another name.

Army celebrates 77th Independence Day with Enthusiasm at Mendhar

TOP NEWS REPORT

MENDHAR, Aug 15: The 77th Independence Day of India was celebrated with great fervor and patriotic zeal by the Indian Army at the Government High School Upper Dharana, located just three kilometers away from the Line of Control. The event, themed "Nation First, Always First," was a significant part of the "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" celebrations, as initiated by the Government of India.

More than 200 individuals from diverse age groups congregated for the event, showcasing a unified spirit of patriotism and unity. The ceremony commenced with the unfurling of the national flag, accompanied by the resounding strains of the National Anthem and soul-stirring patriotic songs that stirred emotions and ignited national pride.

The celebration fea-



tured an array of engaging activities, including a captivating march past by students, enthralling cultural performances, captivating dance routines, stirring musical renditions, and a spirited tug of war competition. The participants' enthusiastic engagement showcased their talents while fostering a sense of belonging and affection for the country

among the attendees, particularly the younger generation.

Highlighting the event's educational aspect, Master Ghulam Rasool, a student of GHS Upper Dharana, delivered an insightful speech addressing the grave issue of drug menace and proposing preventive measures. This gesture underlines the commitment to nur-

tured informed citizens who contribute positively to society.

In a remarkable testimonial to the Indian Army's training and support, Mr. Kunal Sharma, an individual trained by the Indian Army at Mendhar, has successfully triumphed over challenges. Notably, he has cleared tests for both the Central Reserve Police Force

(CRPF) and Agniveer. His journey stands as a testament to the Army's role in shaping and empowering individuals for national service.

The celebration culminated in the felicitation of competition winners with prizes and participants with tokens of appreciation. The local Sarpanch, esteemed senior citizens, and the school's dedicated staff expressed profound gratitude towards the Indian Army for its role in orchestrating the event and its unwavering patronage of the institution.

This celebratory event serves as a poignant reminder of the shared commitment to the nation's values, progress, and unity. The Indian Army's dedication to fostering a strong spirit of patriotism, particularly among the youth, echoes the essence of India's journey towards prosperity and harmony.

Sher-e-Duggar Lala Hans Raj Mahajan Sabha celebrates 77th I-Day



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 15: Talab Tillo, Jammu: Sher-e-Duggar Lala Hans Raj Mahajan Sabha Talab Tillo, under the esteemed chairmanship of Ayodhya Gupta, President of the Sabha, unfurled the National Flag in commemoration of the 77th Independence Day. The event took place at Mahajan Hall, Talab Tillo, Jammu.

In the presence of a distinguished gathering, including Chander Gupta, Sh. Ram Lal, Sh. Mohan Lal Gupta, Sh. Krishan Lal Gupta, Sh. OP Gupta, Sh. Vijay Gupta, Sh. Rajinder Gupta, Sh. Tersam Gupta, Smt. Veena Gupta, Sh. Rajan Gupta, Sh. Bhupinder Gupta, Sh. Manhoar Lal Gupta, Sh. Romesh Gupta, Sh. Bupinder Gupta, Sh. Neeraj Gupta, Sh. Davinder Gupta, Smt. Kusam Gupta, Parshotam Gupta, Rajesh Gupta, Sh. Madan Lal Gupta, Sh. Raj Kumar Gupta, Sanjay Gupta, Puneet Mahajan, Dr. Pradeep Gupta, Rahul Gupta, Rocky Gupta, Ladi

Gupta, Shantisaroop Gupta, and other esteemed members of the Sabha, the National Anthem echoed through the halls.

As part of the festivities, sweets were distributed among the attendees. The occasion was further enriched by captivating cultural performances by children, which garnered appreciation from all in attendance.

Ayodhya Gupta extended warm greetings to the people on this significant occasion of Independence Day. He underscored that this day holds a special place in our hearts as it commemorates India's hard-fought liberation from colonial rule, following centuries of oppression and suppression at the hands of the British. Independence Day serves as a tribute to the unwavering determination and sacrifices of our valiant leaders and freedom fighters, who dedicated their lives to the noble cause of our nation and its citizens.

Independence Day celebrated with traditional festivities in Poonch, Rajouri & Reasi Districts

TOP NEWS REPORT

POONCH, Aug 15: The 77th celebration of India's Independence Day was marked with fervor and traditional enthusiasm in the picturesque districts of Poonch, Rajouri, and Reasi, situated in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The event, themed "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav," resonated with collaborative campaigns to foster a sense of unity, patriotism, and progress among the local populace.

The occasion witnessed an impressive union of the India Army and the Awaam of the border and remote regions, showcasing their shared commitment to the nation's

values. The themes of the collaborative campaigns included "Har Ghar Tiranga" - an initiative to display the national flag in every household, "Apni Maati Apna Desh" - encouraging a sense of ownership for one's land and country, "Azadi Ka Amritkal" - celebrating the golden era of independence, and highlighting "Women Empowerment."

The celebrations came to life with a tapestry of cultural programs, traditional performances, plays, rallies, and sporting events that reflected the rich heritage of India. The local Awaam's active participation exemplified their collective pride in the country's history and their unwavering com-

mitment to its progress.

The event was an occasion to pay tribute to the sacrifices made by the valiant sons of Mother India who gave their everything in service to the nation. As the Tricolor soared high in the sky across the three districts, patriotic songs echoed, symbolizing the unity and shared aspirations of the nation.

The Awaam's unwavering resolve affirmed their dedication to a future marked by inclusivity, peace, development, and progress. The celebrations served as a reminder of the importance of preserving India's heritage while fostering a brighter tomorrow for generations to come.

Celebrating 77th Independence Day with Pride & Patriotism: NCC



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 15: The 77th Independence Day was commemorated with utmost fervor, pride, and reverence at the NCC Dte JK&L, as part of the ongoing nationwide celebration of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav". The event witnessed a series of dignified activities that showcased unwavering dedication to the nation.

Under the theme of "Meri Maati Mera Desh", the core of the celebration was the "Paanch Pran" pledge, which was recited with immense pride by the office staff. This pledge symbolized a deep-rooted commitment to the nation's values and principles, underscoring the unbreakable bond between the people and their homeland.

The highlight of the event was the hoisting of the National Flag by Major General Rajesh

Kumar Sachdeva, ADG JK&L Dte. This symbolic act signified the nation's unity and sovereignty, followed by the rendition of the National Anthem, which resonated with the spirit of patriotism.

The occasion was graced by the presence of notable dignitaries including Major General RK Sachdeva, Colonel Subodh Gurung, Director, Lt Col Rakesh Yadav AD (Trg), and Lt Col Tondup Wangail AD (Adm), along with the entire staff of NCC DTE JK&L. This collective presence underscored the importance of the event and its significance in promoting unity and national pride.

Post the official ceremony, the commitment to the country was exemplified through dedicated office work and a collective effort to clean the surroundings. This gesture emphasized the fusion of celebration with a genuine

aspiration to contribute positively to the nation's progress in all aspects of life.

Major General Rajesh Kumar Sachdeva, ADG, JK&L, took the opportunity to commend the staff for their exceptional dedication and contributions in fostering the values of the National Cadet Corps (NCC), often referred to as "The Youth Power of India". His appreciation served as a motivation for continued efforts in shaping responsible and disciplined citizens who will steer India towards a brighter future.

The 77th Independence Day celebration at NCC Dte JK&L was a reflection of unwavering patriotism, unity, and dedication. The confluence of dignitaries, staff, and various activities echoed the spirit of progress and devotion to the nation, encapsulating the essence of this historic occasion.

Chhatroo celebrates Independence Day with Zeal & Zest

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Aug 15: The vibrant town of Chhatroo was ablaze with patriotic fervor as it celebrated the 77th Independence Day of the nation.

The morning of 15th August witnessed a gathering of citizens, young and old, who came together to honor the sacrifices of those who fought for India's freedom. The event took place at the KDA Ground Chhatroo, where the tricolor fluttered proudly in the wind, embodying the spirit of the nation.

The atmosphere was charged with excitement as Smt. Hamida Begum, a BDC Chairperson and a respected figure in the community, took to the podium. With unwavering dignity and pride, she unfurled the National Flag, a moment that echoed the significance of the day and the enduring values it represents. Her words resonated with the audience, emphasizing the importance of unity, diversity, and progress.

Local schools and

cultural groups added to the festive ambience by presenting inspiring performances showcasing India's rich heritage and its journey towards independence. The event also featured a heartening display of unity in diversity, as citizens from various walks of life, representing different cultures and beliefs, came together to commemorate the shared struggle for freedom.

Shokat Hayat Mattoo, SDM Chhatroo, the event organizer, expressed his gratitude to the general public of Chhatroo for gracing the occasion. He further said that we, as a nation are committed to continue working towards a better and brighter future.

As the festivities drew to a close, the feeling of unity and pride lingered in the air. The celebration of Independence Day in Chhatroo served as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by our forefathers and the responsibility each citizen bears in upholding the values that define our nation.

Panthers Party celebrates I-Day

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, AUG 15: Jammu Kashmir National Panthers Party celebrated Independence Day at Party Office. Vilakshan Singh President JK NPP hoisted the National Flag. He congratulated all the citizens of India on this auspicious day. He

said that India got freedom after the supreme sacrifices of our ancestors. Singh said that we all should take pledge to uphold the principles enshrined in the Constitution of India. He said that with supreme sacrifices of citizens of India, India is one of the most progressing nations of the world.

He further said that the citizens of India should pledge to make India free of all evils such as corruption, poverty, communal violence casteism etc. Others who were present included Naresh Chib, Rajesh Gondhi, Ravinder Jamwal, Rakesh Gupta Vikas Kotwal etc.

Dulhasti Power Station celebrates 77th Independence Day

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Aug 15: Dulhasti Power Station celebrated India's 77th Independence Day with great patriotic fervor and enthusiasm on 15th August 2023. The celebration began with the unfurling of National flag by Shri M.K.Kashyap, Group General Manager (In-charge) and singing of National Anthem at Administrative building of Dulhasti Power Station, Kishtwar. He then inspected the Guard of Honour presented by Central Industrial Security Force.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri M.K.Kashyap, Group General Manager (In-Charge), Dulhasti Power Station extended

his best wishes to all. In his address, he paid tribute to the freedom fighters and the brave martyred soldiers and also expressed his gratitude. He informed everyone about the excellent work done by Dulhasti Power Station and NHPC in the field of generation of power. He also informed the gathering about the development works being done by Dulhasti Power Station in the local areas under CSR-SD scheme. Shri M.K.Kashyap appealed to everyone to contribute with utmost sincerity and hard work in the progress of the country.

Melodious patriotic programs were presented by the employees of Dulhasti Power Station,

Kendriya Vidyalaya, Kishtwar and Kidzee School students in the function. Apart from this, prizes were also distributed to all the participants for presenting the cultural programs.

On this occasion, Shri S.K.Mishra, General Manager (Electrical), Sh. K.V Sivakumar, General Manager (Electrical), Shri Sanjay Kumar Singh, Deputy General Manager (Finance), Shri Ashok Kumar Dhanwal, Senior Manager (HR), Sh. Davinder Koundel, Sr. Manager (HR), Commandant, Officers and Jawans of CISF, Principal, Kendriya Vidyalaya and Senior Officers and employees of Dulhasti Power Station were present.

Army celebrates Independence Day with pomp, patriotism

TOP NEWS REPORT

AKHNOOR, Aug 15: On the historic occasion of Independence Day, the Indian Army, orchestrated a grand celebration that echoed the nation's enduring spirit of unity and patriotism. The event took place at Bhalwal Bhramana Village, district Akhnoor where the national flag was hoisted as a resounding symbol of freedom, accompanied by the soul-stirring notes of the National Anthem.

With a fervent commitment to nation-building and progress, the event witnessed a moving pledge undertaken by the attendees, including the residents of Bhalwal Bhramana Village. Hold-



ing soil in their hands, participants took an oath to contribute collectively to the development of the nation, underscoring their dedication to advancing the country's growth and prosperity.

A poignant moment of the celebration was the

inauguration of a foundation stone bearing the names of bravehearts, paying tribute to the heroic individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice for the country. To honor their sacrifice and demonstrate the utmost respect, the families of

the bravehearts were presented with tokens of appreciation, acknowledging their unwavering support and contribution to the nation's security.

Aligned with the ethos of environmental responsibility, the event encompassed the "Meri

Maati Mera Desh" initiative. As part of this endeavor, a spirited plantation drive was conducted, signifying a commitment to the preservation and enrichment of the land, and by extension, the nation's future.

The celebration extended its vibrant hues of independence and patriotism beyond the military personnel to the civilian population, exemplifying the seamless harmony between the armed forces and the citizens they serve. This event truly encapsulated the essence of unity, respect for the nation's heroes, and the collective endeavor to shape a brighter future.

Capturing the spirit of struggle, sacrifice and triumph, here are some movies that are an ideal watch this Independence Day

Independence Day is a momentous occasion that celebrates the birth of our sovereign nation. It's a day of reflection, pride and remembrance. What better way to honour the spirit of freedom than by indulging in some cinematic treasures that beautifully capture the essence of the struggle, sacrifice and triumph of the Indian people? Whether you're a history enthusiast, a patriot, or simply a lover of great storytelling, these movies are a perfect choice for a day of meaningful binge-watching.

URI

Zee5 (2019)

This movie transports us back to the daring surgical strike carried out by the Indian Army in 2016. With its intense action sequences, commendable performances and patriotic fervour, the film keeps you on the edge of your seat. Vicky Kaushal's portrayal of Major Vihaan Shergill was widely appreciated.

Raazi

Prime Video (2018)

Directed by Meghna Gulzar, this spy thriller is adapted from the book titled Sehmat. The story revolves around a RAW agent who is married into a Pakistani family. She provides Indian authorities with necessary information against the enemy. Alia Bhatt's powerful portrayal of a brave Indian woman



is commendable. The film's taut storytelling, heart-wrenching moments, and stunning visuals create an immersive experience.

Rang De Basanti

Netflix (2006)

Directed by Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra, Rang De Basanti is a thought-provoking film that interweaves the stories of a group of young Indians with those of the freedom fighter. The movie explores themes of activism, patriotism and sacrifice, as the characters find inspiration in the lives of those who fought for India's freedom.

Shershaah

Prime Video (2021)

Shershaah is an emotional and gripping tribute that powerfully captures the life of Captain Vikram Batra. With meticulous attention to detail, it takes audiences through the intense jour-

ney of a valiant soldier. Siddharth Malhotra's portrayal is commendable. The film's seamless blend of action, patriotism and personal moments make it a moving tribute to a true hero.

Lagaan

Netflix (2001)

Directed by Ashutosh Gowariker, Lagaan is an epic sports drama set against the backdrop of British India. The film revolves around a group of villagers who challenge their British rulers to a game of cricket, hoping to escape the oppressive taxes imposed upon them. With a blend of drama, music, and a patriotic undercurrent, Lagaan showcases the power of unity and determination in the face of adversity.

Mangal Pandey: The Rising

Prime Video (2005)

Aamir Khan stars in

this historical drama that brings to life the story of Mangal Pandey, one of the key figures in the Indian rebellion of 1857. The film sheds light on the early roots of the struggle for Independence, depicting the bravery and determination of those who were willing to stand up against colonial oppression.

Border

Prime Video (1997)

Based on the true events of the Battle of Longewala during the 1971 Indo-Pak war, Border, directed by J.P. Dutta, is a war drama that celebrates the valour and sacrifice of Indian soldiers. The film portrays the indomitable spirit of the soldiers who defended their motherland against all odds, making it a great watch on Independence Day.

Gandhi

Jio Cinema (1982)

Richard Attenborough's masterpiece Gandhi is a biographical film that chronicles the life of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, the leader of India's Independence movement. Portrayed brilliantly by Ben Kingsley, the film takes audiences through Gandhi's struggles, his philosophy of non-violence, and his unwavering commitment to achieving freedom through peaceful means.

Bhagat Singh

Prime Video (2002)

Bhagat Singh, directed by Rajkumar Santoshi, pays a tribute to the revolutionary freedom fighter Shaheed Bhagat Singh and his comrades. The film highlights their courage, ideals, and the sacrifices they made in the fight against British colonial rule. It serves as a reminder of the unwavering spirit of those who laid down their lives for India's Independence.

IB71

Disney+ Hotstar (2023)

This recent release, with Viduy Jammwal, Niharika Raizada and Anupam Kher as cast members, was about Indian intelligence officers who embark on a mission where the stakes are very high and they can't afford to fail. They have to come up with a plan against China and Pakistan, as both pose a threat to Indian airspace.

Celebs talk about their favourite freedom fighter, and patriotic films

Woman power

Karishma Raj Soni

One patriotic film that I have seen repeatedly is Karma. The song Har karam apna karengae ae vatan tere liye melts my heart. My favourite freedom fighter is Jhansi Ki Rani, as she was a true warrior and a woman of strength.

Born free

Aditya Deshmukh

Our ancestors shed a lot of blood so that we could live freely. I am blessed to have been born in a free nation. I really love these films —Legends of Bhagat Singh, Rang De Basanti, Shaheed, and Veer Savarkar.

Honouring the sacrifices

Aradhana Sharma

Independence Day is a day to honour the sacrifices of those,

who paved the way for our country's independence and to celebrate the shared identity that binds its citizens together. I love is Rang De Basanti. I am a Bhagat Singh follower.

Family history

Monika Bhadoriya

Both my grandparents were freedom fighters, and they told me so many stories about traumatic those times were for us. She, Sushila Devi Bhadoriya, passed away last year, and she's my favourite freedom fighter.

Shining bright

Sumit Khetan

Independence Day is the reminder of a nation's journey from oppression to liberation and a testament to the resilience and sacrifice that paved the path to freedom. Cinematic nar-



ratives like Lagaan and Rang De Basanti are more than just movies; they are reflections of the spirit that courses through the veins of a nation. And among the freedom fighters, Subhas Chandra Bose's

legacy shines bright.

Hero worship

Khushdeep Bansal

I believe that on Independence Day, we celebrate the vision that leaders like Arvind Ghosh, Mahatma Gandhi, and Sardar Patel had for building a strong nation

under a native economic system. I like all those movies in which patriotism is portrayed, similar to a film like Mission Majnu, where Indian heroes protect the country from external attacks even while staying outside India.

Sushmita Sen shares sweet message for her Taali co-actors

Sushmita Sen thanked all her transgender co-stars of her upcoming web series, Taali. Taking to Instagram, Sushmita shared stills from the series along with a sweet note. The note read, "The power of inclusion! Thank you for including me! My heartfelt gratitude to all the transgender co-actors in Taali for their humanity, love, acceptance and blessings! Thank you #publi for cooking me the delicious meals. My dearest #Alizeh, for guiding me throughout the performance to #silk #bhavika oh the list is endless! It has been a pleasure to share the screen with you all, you truly are gifted, actors & awesome people!!!#lovethesmile. Congratulations for #Taali. It's not enough to believe in a better world, we must help create it. I love you guys!!! #duggadugga." On Wednesday, proud mother Sushmita shared with fans that her elder daughter Renee has lent her voice and chanted the Mahamrityunjaya mantra in the web series.



KBC has become an integral part of my life, says Amitabh Bachchan

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan, who is all set for the premiere of quiz-based reality show Kaun Banega Crorepati 15, said that it has become an integral part of his life as it helps him to connect with audiences, both inside the studio as well as those watching the show from their homes.

With the promise of a #New-Beginning, Kaun Banega Crorepati, captures the essence of the progress that India is making, bringing forth some remarkable changes that will make the gameplay tougher and far more engaging.

KBC has successfully entertained audiences for the past 23 years. The perfect amalgamation of knowledge and entertainment, Big B hosts this reality show with élan and gravitas.



Talking about the new season, Amitabh says, "Kaun Banega Crorepati has always been gyaandaar, dhandaar

Yami reacts after fan says she's 'under-utilised' in industry: 'Majority of industry relies on marketing of a person or project...'



Actor Yami Gautam is on a roll. Her performance as a lawyer in 'OMG 2' has been appreciated by many. Recently, a fan on social media penned a note filled with praises for Yami. However, the user said that she has been under-utilised by filmmakers in the industry.

"It's amazing how every time Yami Gautam manages to SURPRISE us with her performance! #OMG2

is no exception. She owns every frame she's in! Even her silence speaks a lot. I hate the term 'underrated'. I'd just say she's under-utilised by our filmmakers," the netizen wrote.

Yami took notice of the tweet and responded with a long post, where she expressed her thoughts about the majority of the industry relying on "marketing". "Some people find success overnight, some

people have to prove themselves persistently for years. Some people are great at marketing their talent (or lack of it), some people only want their talent to speak. As an actor I just know how to act and work exceptionally hard on identifying good scripts and versatile characters, that's my talent. I don't understand or get involved much with marketing of my talent," she wrote.

"Unfortunately for majority of our industry everything relies on marketing of a person or project and not on the depth of a script or character. May be that's the reason why people feel I am under-utilised. Anyway, Thanks so much Aavishkar for your kind words, it's truly very encouraging. I will get there eventually, slowly but steadily, one film at a time," Yami added.

In 'OMG 2', Yami shared screen space with Akshay Kumar and Pankaj Tripathi. The film is a sequel to Paresh Rawal and Akshay Kumar-starrer 'OMG: Oh my God', which was released in 2012.

Ishita Ganguly plays Icchadhari Naagin

The recent addition to the cast of Zee TV's Maitree, Ishita Ganguly as Jhumki, is set to bring interesting twists to the show. Jhumki comes from a small village in Prayagraj, and because she needed help, Maitree has hired her in Tiwari Sadan as a housekeeper. Everyone is really fond of her and appreciates her work, but little do they know that she has come into the house with a motive.

Ishita says, "I am thrilled and excited to play the role of an icchadhari naagin on screen. I said yes to Jhumki because she is unique and the role is a bit hatke. Another reason for my excitement is that I am reuniting with a very close friend of mine, Shrenu Parikh, after almost a year. When I got roped in for this role, I did not inform Shrenu right away that I was joining her show, and on the very first day of my shoot, I surprised her by just showing up in her make-up room."



and shaandaar, but in its 15th season, we will be ushering in a new beginning – representing an evolving India, its aspirations, and its citizens who dream big."

He further says that the show has become an integral part of his life. "It's a platform for me to connect with audiences - both inside the studio as well as those watching the show from the comfort of their homes. I am really looking forward to welcoming and interacting with contestants from different walks of life who are such a huge inspiration not only to me, but also to those who want to be the change and fulfil their ambitions with the power of knowledge."

It premiered on Monday on Sony TV.

In his Independence-Day speech, PM Modi calls for war against corruption, dynasties, appeasement

Addresses people as 'mere parivarjano', says the next five years a golden period of India's journey towards developed nation status; promises to return to the Red Fort in 2024 to report national progress

NEW DELHI, Aug 15 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday addressed people as "my family members", urging them to declare war on corruption, dynastic politics and appeasement in order to achieve the goal of transforming India into a developed nation by 2047.

Addressing the country from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the 77th Independence Day, the prime minister listed past achievements of the government and laid the roadmap for the future promising to return on August 15 next year to report further progress.

Noting that India was not going to stop in its onward march now, the PM listed "corruption, family-based parties and vote-bank politics as the three evils sapping national capacity and potential."

"I seek your help to eradicate some evils that have crept into our society in the past 75 years," said the prime minister listing the need for propriety, transparency and impartiality to make India developed by 2047.

Noting that there was never any dearth of capacity in India, PM said the country could "no longer shut its eyes to these evils".

"Some aberrations have



become such a part of the social system that sometimes we close our eyes to them. This is not the time to close eyes. If we have to counter these evils, we have to look them in the eye and fight the evils," the PM said.

He said corruption had sapped vitals of all systems and a "war against corruption in all sectors is a must".

He also spoke of the country being shackled by dynastic politics which "has snatched rights of the people".

"The third evil is appeasement which has blemished our national character. These three challenges are suppressing our capacity. We have to create an atmosphere of hate for corruption. Just like we can't tolerate dirt around us we should understand that corruption is the big-

gest social dirt," said the PM as he exuded confidence of a win in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections while noting that he had converted the promise of change made in 2014 into trust and had been re-elected in 2019 on that trust.

Promising to keep fighting corruption, the PM slammed family-based parties as a "disease".

"These are parties of the family, by the family and for the family. This is their political slogan. Dynasties and nepotism are enemies of talent. Ridding nation of dynasties is important for national progress," said the PM.

He added that appeasement politics had "murdered and destroyed social justice".

"If the nation wants development we have to develop a

mood of non-tolerance for corruption. We can't allow future generations to live the way we lived. We must leave them a better country," urged the prime minister repeatedly calling the people "mere priya parivarjano (my dear family members) instead of "bhaiyo aur behno (brothers and sisters)."

Describing himself as a member of the country's families, the PM said, "I live for you. If I dream I even dream for you..."

Earlier in his address, the PM called for unity asking people to be mindful of upholding and nurturing national unity with their actions.

He termed national character as a catalytic agent in national progress anywhere and called to strengthen it, even as the PM listed his government's nine-year achievements on varied fronts.

He said the country would soon be among top three global economies on the strength of the trinity of "democracy, demography and diversity".

The prime minister expressed distress on the Manipur violence saying what happened there should not have happened. He assured people of early restoration of peace there.

"If We Have To Become Vishwaguru...": Arvind Kejriwal On Independence Day



NEW DELHI, Aug 15 (Agencies): Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Tuesday that if India has to become "vishwaguru", people will have to live in harmony and should be assured of good education, health facilities and uninterrupted power supply.

Speaking at his government's Independence Day event at Chhatrasal Stadium in north Delhi, he greeted the people of the national capital as well as the country on the occasion and paid tribute to freedom fighters, soldiers and achievers in different fields.

Referring to the recent flooding in Delhi, he said the people together with the city government faced the natural calamity with help from the centre.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor expressed sadness at the events that have unfolded in Manipur.

"I am a bit sad today. Manipur is burning, people of one community are killing those from another and vice-versa. In Haryana also, people from one community fighting with the other. How will we become vishwaguru if we keep fighting amongst ourselves? If we have to become vishwaguru and become the number one country we will have to live like a family," he said.

He said that 150 students from the violence-hit northeastern state were provided admission in schools run by the Delhi government and were also being

counselled.

Referring to power cuts in other parts of the country, he said that India cannot become "vishwaguru" if there are such long outages.

"We have enough power plants to generate 4.25 lakh MW power, our peak demand is 2 lakh MW, yet there are power cuts. Power cuts are due to mismanagement and lack of vision. Delhi has no power cuts and there is 24x7 supply here. There can be 24x7 supply in the country in three to four years if there is an end to corruption and mismanagement," he said.

Lamenting the dilapidated condition of government schools in the country, he stressed that unless every child gets good education, the country cannot become "vishwaguru".

"I have calculated that 6 lakh crore would be needed to improve 10 lakh government schools in the country in five years. An expenditure of 1.20 lakh crore per year is nothing for a country like India. An amount of 7.5 lakh crore is needed for good quality education to 17 crore children in the country and all the governments are spending this amount presently," he said.

Mr Kejriwal said many people make fun of him and criticise him for providing various facilities to people free of cost.

"I am keeping two options in front of people. If we provide 200 units of electricity for free to people, it will only cost 1.5 lakh crore. Should people be

provided free electricity or loan waivers should be given to four multi-millionaires?"

He said every poor person can become rich if their children are provided to access to good education.

"India will not become vishwaguru merely through speeches. India will not become vishwaguru unless good healthcare is available to all the people in the country," he said.

He said 10,000 crore would be needed to open one lakh mohalla clinics in every nook and corner of the country, and added providing free healthcare to all the people of the country would require an expenditure of 2 lakh crore.

Talking about the recent law on the control of administrative services in Delhi, he said that the democratic rights of the people of Delhi were taken away.

"I want to assure the people of Delhi we will get back your snatched rights. We are fighting the battle in the Supreme Court. The work of providing good education, healthcare facilities will continue. The speed might slow down, but the work will go on," he said.

While reiterating the need to live in harmony, he said, "If we fight among ourselves, India will not progress. If we work together, no power can stop India from becoming the number one country in the world."

He also stressed on the need to create positive energy in the country as one can see a lot of fights and hatred on social media these days.

Mr Kejriwal, whose party wrested power from the BJP in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, said that the civic body has made a plan to transform Delhi into a neat and clean city.

'Bharat Mata' is voice of every Indian: Rahul Gandhi on Independence Day

NEW DELHI, Aug 15 (Agencies): As the country celebrated Independence Day, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said "Bharat Mata" is the voice of every single Indian, no matter how weak or strong.

In his message on Independence Day, he talked about his 145-day Bharat Jodo Yatra from Kanyakumari to Kashmir and shared his experience on how the people during his journey touched him all along.

"The object of my love had suddenly revealed herself. My beloved Bharat Mata was not a



land. It wasn't a set of ideas. It wasn't a particular culture, history or religion. Neither was it the caste that people had been assigned.

"India was the voice of every single Indian, no matter how weak or

strong. India was the happiness, the fear and the pain hidden deep inside all the voices," he said.

"To hear India, my own voice - my desires - my ambitions had to fall silent. India would speak

to one of her own, but only if one was humble and completely silent," Gandhi said.

Sharing his experience all along the Yatra journey, he said, "How simple it had turned out to be. I had been looking in the river for that which could only be found in the sea."

The former Congress chief also talked about the pain in his knee from an old injury that had surfaced soon after he started his Yatra, but subsided as the number of people grew larger and he received their energy.

"And then I started to notice something. Every

time I would think about stopping, every time I considered giving up, someone would come and gift me the energy to continue," he said.

"It was as if a silent energy kept helping me, and like fireflies in a dark forest, it was everywhere. When I really needed it, it was there to help and to guide," Gandhi noted.

"Then one day, I felt a silence I had never felt before. I could hear nothing but the voice of the person holding my hand and talking to me. The inner voice that had spoken to me ever since I was a little child was gone. It felt as if something had died," he noted.

Assam Aims To Withdraw Controversial Law AFSPA By 2023 End: Himanta Sarma

GUWAHATI, Aug 15 (Agencies): Assam government aims to completely "withdraw" the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) from the state, chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Tuesday.

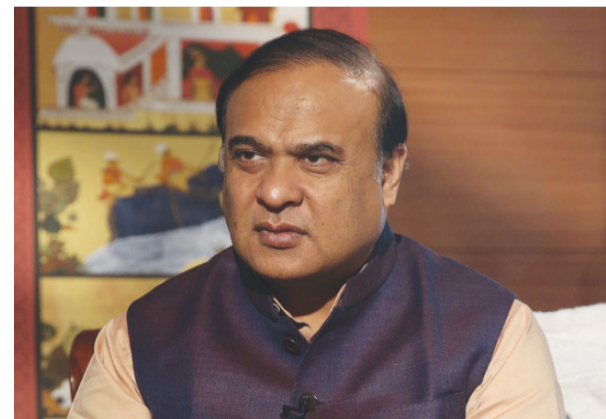
Speaking in his Independence Day speech at celebrations that were held at the Khanapara Playground here, the chief minister said that the AFSPA is in place in eight districts of the state now after his government came to power.

"Our government's aim is to completely withdraw the Armed Forces

Special Powers Act (AFSPA) from the state by the end of this year. Before our government came to power, previous governments had requested the Centre to extend AFSPA 62 times. Now the situation has been improving," Sarma said.

He said that during his tenure, four peace accords were signed with the insurgent groups and nearly 8000 militants have been integrated with the mainstream politics.

He also said that his government is committed to making Assam a



'Drugs Free', 'Corruption Free' state.

While declaring "zero tolerance" against corruption, CM Biswa said that police have arrested 127 govern-

ment employees in graft cases in the last two years.

"127 government employees have been arrested on corruption charges. Our govern-

ment has taken the initiative to dismiss the arrested government employees from service," the chief minister said.

Chief Minister Sarma also said that his government will bring a strong law to end polygamy in the state.

The nation celebrating its 77th Independence Day with great fervour and Zeal. PM Modi who led the celebrations, addressed the nation for the tenth consecutive time from the iconic Red Fort in New Delhi.

No Independence Day Functions In Himachal As Monsoon Fury Kills 55

NEW DELHI, Aug 15 (Agencies): At least 55 people have been killed in Himachal Pradesh after heavy rainfall battered the State, triggering landslides, a cloudburst, and blocked roads. All cultural programmes to be held at the Independence Day functions were suspended in view of the tragic fatalities due to rains.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressing the nation from the ramparts of the iconic Red Fort in Delhi, said that recent natural disasters had caused "unimaginable troubles" for families across the country.

"I express my sympathies towards all of them and I assure them that state and central governments will work together," he told the crowd.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Tuesday said the death count is likely to go up and said that Solan, Shimla, Mandi, and Hamirpur are among the worst-affected districts in the state.

"Around 55 people have lost their lives in the state till now. The death figure might go up. Restoration work is being done on a war footing. Chandigarh-Shimla 4-lane highway along with other arterial roads has been opened," he said, adding that as many personnel as possible are being deployed in relief and rescue work.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) are engaged in relief and rescue operations in rain-hit Himachal Pradesh and

termed the loss of lives due to the deluge as "extremely distressing".

Seven people died after a cloudburst incident in the Solan district last night, while nine others were killed in a landslide at a Shiv Temple in the Summer Hill area of Shimla city.

In a second landslide, five bodies have been pulled out of the rubble in the Fagla area while 17 persons were rescued, Shimla SP Sanjeev Kumar Gandhi told news agency PTI on Monday.

The Indian Meteorological Department has predicted that isolated heavy rainfall are likely to continue over Himachal Pradesh during next two days and over Uttarakhand and northeast India during next four-five days.

Donald Trump indicted in Georgia over 2020 election meddling, 4th criminal case against him

He was previously indicted in early August by a federal grand jury for conspiring to undermine the 2020 vote

ATLANTA, Aug 15 (Agencies): Donald Trump and several allies were indicted in Georgia, accused of scheming to illegally overturn his 2020 election loss in the state. It's the fourth criminal case to be brought against the former president and the second to allege that he tried to subvert the results of the vote.

The Fulton County grand jury indictment of Trump follows a two-year investigation ignited by a January 2021 phone call in which the then-president suggested that Georgia's Republican secretary of state could help him "find 11,780 votes" needed to reverse his narrow loss to Democrat Joe Biden. Other defendants included



former White House chief of staff Mark Meadows, Trump's personal attorney Rudy Giuliani and a Trump administration Justice Department official, Jeffrey

Clark, who advanced his efforts to undo his election loss in Georgia.

Trump was previously indicted in early August by a federal

grand jury for conspiring to undermine the 2020 vote and prevent the peaceful transfer of power through a series of lies and unlawful actions taken after the general election and leading up to the violent riot by his supporters at the US Capitol on January 6, 2021. He pleaded not guilty in that case.

As indictments mount, Trump — the leading Republican candidate for president in 2024 — often invokes his distinction as the only former president to face criminal charges.

He is campaigning and fundraising around these themes, portraying himself as the victim of Democratic prosecutors out to get him.

NASA terms July as hottest month on record ever since 1880



WASHINGTON, Aug 15 (Agencies): The US space agency has confirmed that July was the hottest month on record ever since 1880, as heatwaves and wildfires hit the cities in the US and Europe.

According to scientists at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) in New York, July 2023 was hotter than any other month in the global temperature record.

Overall, July 2023 was 0.24 degrees Celsius warmer than any other July in NASA's record, and was 1.18 degrees Celsius warmer than the average July between 1951 and 1980.

High sea surface temperatures contributed to July's record warmth. NASA's analysis shows especially warm ocean temperatures in the eastern tropical Pacific, evidence of the El Niño that began developing in May 2023.

"NASA data confirms what billions around the world literally felt: tempera-

tures in July 2023 made it the hottest month on record. In every corner of the country, Americans are right now experiencing firsthand the effects of the climate crisis, underscoring the urgency of President Biden's historic climate agenda," NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said in a statement.

"The science is clear. We must act now to protect our communities and planet; it's the only one we have."

Parts of South America, North Africa, North America, and the Antarctic Peninsula were especially hot, experiencing temperatures increases around 4 degrees Celsius above average.

Overall, extreme heat this summer put tens of millions of people under heat warnings and was linked to hundreds of heat-related illnesses and deaths.

The record-breaking July continues a long-term trend of human-driven warming driven primarily by greenhouse gas emissions that has become evident over the past four decades.

According to NASA data, the five hottest Julys since 1880 have all happened in the past five years.

"Climate change is impacting people and ecosystems around the world, and we expect many of these impacts to escalate with continued warming," said Katherine Calvin, chief scientist and senior climate advisor at NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC.

Political leader in Ecuador killed less than a week after presidential candidate's assassination

GUAYAQUIL (ECUADOR), Aug 15 (Agencies): The unprecedented violence shaking Ecuador claimed the life of another political leader, bringing the number of politics-related slayings within the last four weeks to three, including that of a presidential candidate.

The fatal shooting of Pedro Briones, a local leader of Revolución Ciudadana, the party of former President Rafael Correa, was confirmed by Luisa González, the frontrunner in Sunday's special presidential election and member of the same party.

The shooting happened in the northern province of Esmeraldas. Details were not immediately available. "Ecuador is experiencing its bloodiest era," González tweeted.

The killing of Briones, who was a political leader in a rural area of San Mateo de Esmeraldas, came less than a week after the assassination in broad daylight of presidential candidate Fernando Villavicencio, who had a famously tough stance on organized crime and corruption.

Villavicencio was killed at the end of a political rally in Quito, the capital, despite having a security detail that included police and bodyguards.

Their slayings followed the July 26 fatal shooting of the mayor of Manta, Ecuador's third largest city. Agustín Intriago, 38, had recently been re-elected to a term that began in May.

Thousands of people have been killed over the past three years in Ecuador as the country has transformed into a major drug trafficking hub and cartel-aided local gangs battle for



control of the streets, prisons and drug routes. Crime and violence have dominated the discussions around Sunday's election.

González criticized the government of President Guillermo Lasso for lacking control inside detention facilities, which she said prisoners and organized

crime have turned into their productive and recreational centers.

At least 400 inmates have died since 2021 during various riots.

The country's National Police tallied 3,568 violent deaths in the first six months of this year, far more than the 2,042 reported during the same period in 2022.

27 killed in petrol station fire in Russia's Dagestan

MOSCOW, Aug 15 (Agencies): At least 27 people were killed and over 100 injured in an explosion and fire at a petrol station in Russia's Caucasus republic of Dagestan, the emergency situations ministry said Tuesday.

"A total of 102 people were injured as a result of the incident, of whom, unfortunately, 27 died," the ministry said on Telegram.

The explosion in the city of Makhachkala took place at a fuel station after a fire had broken out, the Russian Federation's Investigative Committee for Dagestan said on Telegram.

"A fire occurred during car maintenance work, followed by a bang, as a result of which people were injured and died," the committee said, adding that nearby buildings and cars were damaged.

A criminal case has been opened to establish the circumstances leading up to the fire, it said.

The state-run TASS and Ria Novosti news agencies reported that the fire had been extinguished, citing the ministry.

Makhachkala, a city of



over 600,000 residents on the Caspian Sea, is the capital of Dagestan, a Russian republic bordering Chechnya, which shares a border with Georgia and Azerbaijan.

Huge explosion
The blast was heard shortly before 10:00 pm (1900 GMT) on Monday, Sergei Melikov, head of the Dagestan administration, said on Telegram.

A witness quoted on Telegram by the Russian daily Izvestia said the fire started in an area where cars were parked and spread to the petrol station.

"After the explosion, everything fell on our heads, we couldn't see anything anymore," said the witness, who was unnamed.

A video released by Russia's emergency situations ministry showed a group of firefighters trying to extinguish high flames near burnt-

out vehicles, as rescue workers examined the rubble of a building with flashlights.

The fire had spread over an area of around 600 square metres (6,450 square feet), the ministry said, adding that 260 firefighters were deployed.

A government Il-76 aircraft carrying medical equipment was dispatched to Makhachkala to evacuate the seriously injured to Moscow, it added.

"The evacuation of people to the medical facilities has been completed," Melikov said.

The Dagestan government declared August 15 a day of mourning.

"State flags will be flown at half mast throughout the country, and cultural institutions and TV channels will be asked to cancel entertainment events and programmes," Melikov said.

Typhoon Lan makes landfall in western Japan, threatens damage

Approaching from the Pacific Ocean, Typhoon Lan made landfall at the southern tip of Wakayama prefecture, some 400km (250 miles) southwest of Tokyo.

TOKYO, Aug 15 (Agencies): Nearly 800 flights were cancelled and tens of thousands of homes lost power as a slow-moving typhoon made landfall in western Japan early on Tuesday, prompting authorities to issue flood and landslide warnings.

Approaching from the Pacific Ocean, Typhoon Lan made landfall at the southern tip of Wakayama prefecture, some 400km (250 miles) southwest of Tokyo.

The typhoon, which followed closely on the heels of Typhoon Khanun during Japan's peak Obon holiday season, lashed

wide swathes of central and western Japan with heavy rain and powerful winds.

Television footage showed rivers gushing and on the verge of bursting their banks. Homes and stores suffered water damage to their floors, and in Nara city, strong winds had felled scaffolding at a construction site.

Power outages hit almost 90,000 households in central and western Japan, according to regional utilities. Seven & I said some 210 7-Eleven convenience store outlets were shuttered to ensure safety.

The dangerous levels of rains



and winds forced road closures and dozens of train lines to suspend services in the area.

Over the next 24 hours, the

central Tokai region - home of Toyota Motor - was expected to get about 350 mm (13.8 inches) of rainfall, nearly three times the average rainfall for the month of August. Many factories close during the Obon holidays, when city-dwellers return to their ancestral homes.

Typhoon Lan had sustained winds of 150 kph (93 mph) and was moving northwest across the western part of the main island of Honshu at around 15 kph (9 mph). It was forecast to reach the Sea of Japan by early Wednesday and continue north along the sea, according to Japan's weather agency.

Aid agencies urge immediate action on war-torn Sudan

GENEVA, Aug 15 (Agencies): Four months into Sudan's conflict, the situation is spiralling out of control, with mass displacement and millions on the verge of famine, humanitarian organisations warned on Tuesday, urging immediate international action.

Since Sudan's conflict erupted on April 15, the country has been plunged into a humanitarian crisis, with more than six million Sudanese people "one step away from famine", the heads of 20 global humanitarian organisations pointed out in a statement.

"There is no excuse for waiting," said the statement, signed by the heads of United Nations agencies, along with organisations including Save the Children and CARE.

The signatories called on the parties to the conflict to "end the fighting" and to "grant us safe and unfettered access".

Darfur and the capital, Khartoum, have been plagued by four months of fighting between Sudan's army,



led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) of his former deputy, Mohamed Hamdan Daglo. "The situation is spiralling out of control," the statement said, pointing out that more than 14 million children need humanitarian aid and over four million people have fled the fighting.

At the same time, they warned, "time is running out for farmers to plant the crops that will feed them and their neighbours".

"Our humanitarian appeals can help some 19 million people in Sudan and neighbouring countries. However, the two appeals are just over 27-percent funded," they said.

"Please change that."

The signatories assured the people of Sudan that their organisations would "continue to push for access to all people and in all areas of Sudan to bring humanitarian supplies and essential services".

Russia claims Ukraine's military resources are 'almost exhausted'

Kyiv kicked off its long anticipated counter offensive in June, but has acknowledged tough battles as it struggles to break through heavily fortified Russian positions.

MOSCOW, Aug 15 (Agencies): Russian defence minister Sergei Shoigu said Tuesday that Ukraine's military resources were "almost exhausted", as Kyiv wages a gruelling counter offensive to recapture lost territory.

"Despite comprehensive assistance from the West, Ukraine's armed forces are unable to achieve results," Shoigu said at a security conference in Moscow. "Preliminary results of the hostilities show that Ukraine's military resources are almost exhausted," he said.

He added that there was "nothing unique" about Western weapons and that they were not invulnerable to Russian arms on the battlefield.

Kyiv kicked off its long anticipat-



ed counter offensive in June, but has acknowledged tough battles as it struggles to break through heavily fortified Russian positions.

While Ukraine has claimed gains around the war-torn city of Bakhmut in its east, Russia has claimed advances around the

town of Kupiansk in the northeastern Kharkiv region.

Shoigu was speaking at the Moscow Conference on International Security. Russia invited representatives from over 100 nations to attend, but Western countries were excluded.

CEO SMVDSB highlights infra development in Independence Day address at Katra

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATRA, Aug 15: The Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Shrine Board, Anshul Garg highlighted the infrastructural development taken place under the directions and guidance of Hon'ble Chairman, SMVDSB (Shri Manoj Sinha, Lt. Governor, JK-UT) for the facilitation of the pilgrims during his address after hoisting the Tricolour at Shrine Board's Sports Complex, Katra to commemorate the monumental occasion of 77th Independence Day.

He said that Shrine Board has been developing and continually upgrading the pilgrim-centric facilities and in this context, efforts are being made to create various major infrastructure development projects already completed by the Shrine Board, ongoing and those in the pipeline including construction of 250 mtr. skywalk which is likely to be completed and made operational by Sharad Navratras with an aim to streamline the pilgrimage and to check the multi-directional flow, as the safety and security of pilgrims is top priority of the Shrine Board.

He exhorted that with the completion of Durga Bhawan, the capacity of pilgrims at Bhawan has



almost doubled. Besides, with the enlargement of the Atka Aarti area, the sitting capacity has been enhanced from 200 to more than 400 pilgrims during morning and evening prayers before the Holy Cave. With the retrofitting and remodeling of Parvati Bhawan at Bhawan, the lockers and washroom facilities for the pilgrims will be augmented for their comfort. In addition, a complex is also upcoming near Vaishnavi Bhawan with multiple facilities for the facilitation of the pilgrims. CEO underlines that shortly Shrine Board is also launching its new website under Digital India Initiatives to aid user experience, accessibility and outreach besides, various measures mainly based on digitization and e-mode initiatives by the Shrine

Board.

He also asserted that continuing with the initiatives for the creation, upgradation and expansion of civic amenities at Katra, Shrine Board has completed works of Hansali circular road whereas, works at Government High School is underway. CEO on the occasion also appealed all the stakeholders to extend their full support to the Shrine Board for the rejuvenation and development works of the Shankaracharya temple and completion of the access road and track leading to the temple in the interest of pilgrims and overall development of Katra and adjacent areas undertaken after three decades. He also urged the localities to take a pledge on the occasion to make Katra a plastic-

free Holy Town.

CEO also highlighted the country wide campaign Amrit kalash yatra to 'Amrit Vatika' to honour the martyred bravehearts of the country while paying rich tributes to the freedom fighters saying that the Nation owes gratitude to these great leaders who sacrificed their lives to secure freedom.

On this occasion, the Chief Executive Officer also congratulated Shrine Board staff and impressed upon them to work with utmost zeal and dedication for providing continuously improving facilities to the pilgrims visiting Holy Cave Shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi Ji.

Earlier, the students of various educational institutions presented a colorful scintillating cultural programme on

this occasion based on the theme of patriotism and national integration. Anshul Garg also gave away cash prizes and appreciation to the outstanding staff of Shrine Board in the categories of Sanitation, Swachhta Sahayak, Enforcement & Security and Disaster Management besides, to the students who were adjudged best in the march-past and presentation of cultural programme.

Among those present on the occasion were the President, Municipal Committee, Katra; Additional CEO of the Shrine Board; SDM, Katra; SP, Katra; Commandant, 6th Bn. CRPF; Jt. CEOs; FA/CAO; Dy CEO; Asstt. CEOs; Managers; Engineers and staff of the Shrine Board. Others who participated in the function included Members of BDC, Hotel Association, Municipal Committee, Katra, Civil, Police and Security Forces Officers, Prominent Citizens, Heads of various Educational Institutions, Media Persons, a large number of people of the area, teachers, and the school children.

As part of the Republic Day celebrations, Anshul Garg also hoisted the tricolour at the Central Office of the Shrine Board at Katra.

Ayodhya felicitates congratulations to newly appointed Principal GMC



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 15: President of Mahajan Sabha Talab Tillo, Ayodhya Gupta, accompanied by esteemed members of the Sabha today felicitated Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Principal of Govt Medical College Jammu.

In attendance were notable figures including Sh. Chandar Gupta, Sh. Ram Lal, Sh. Mohan Lal Gupta, Sh. Krishan Lal Gupta, Sh. Vijay Gupta, Sh. Rajinder Gupta, Smt. Tersam Gupta, Smt. Veena Gupta, Sh. Brijesh Gupta, Sh. Manhoar Lal

Gupta, Sh. Romesh Gupta, Sh. Bupinder Gupta, Sh. Neeraj Gupta, Sh. Davinder Gupta, Smt. Kusam Gupta, Sh. Parshotam Gupta, Sh. Rajesh Gupta, Sh. Madan Lal Gupta, and Sh. Raj Kumar Gupta.

Ayodhya Gupta commended Dr. Ashutosh Gupta for assuming the esteemed role of Principal at Govt Medical College Jammu. He praised Dr. Ashutosh's proactive approach since taking office, underscoring his commitment to enhancing medical services for

patients at GMC. Gupta assured the Principal of unwavering support and collaboration from Mahajan Sabha Talab Tillo, extending heartfelt best wishes for his tenure.

In response, Dr. Ashutosh Gupta expressed his gratitude to Mahajan Sabha Talab Tillo for the warm felicitations. He emphasized his dedication, alongside his team, to tirelessly work around the clock to ensure the delivery of top-notch medical facilities to the people of the region.

Justice Rabstan hoists National Flag

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 15: The 77th Independence Day was today celebrated in Jammu Wing of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh wherein Justice Tashi Rabstan hoisted National Flag.

Justice Atul Sreedharan, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Mohan Lal, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi and Justice

Wasim Sadiq Nargal were present on the occasion. Besides, the Registrar Judicial, Jammu Wing, Jt. Registrar Judicial, other Registry officers, the officers/officials of the Jammu Wing of the High Court, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Jammu, Government Advocates, Vikram Sharma, President, Bar Association Jammu along with Executive Members also participated in these celebrations.

Northern Command Celebrates 77th Independence Day with Patriotic Fervor

TOP NEWS REPORT

UDHAMPUR, Aug 15: The Northern Command at Udhampur marked the 77th Independence Day with an exuberant display of patriotism and enthusiasm. The event, which witnessed the participation of Army personnel, Veer Naris, veterans, NCC cadets, and school children, was a resounding tribute to the spirit of freedom and sacrifice.

Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi, AVSM, GOC-in-C of the Northern Command, led the commemoration by laying a wreath at the Dhruva War Memorial in honor of the fallen heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice for the nation. This poignant gesture paid homage to the bravery and dedication of those who laid down their lives for the motherland.

A pivotal moment during the celebration was the inauguration of the "Param Yodha Sthal" by Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi. The event saw the unfurling



of the National Flag on a towering mast, alongside the unveiling of twelve busts of Param Vir Chakra awardees who had valiantly served in the Northern Theatre. These statues stand as enduring symbols of respect and inspiration, reminding all citizens of the dedication and determination required to serve the nation and contribute to its growth.

In line with the "Har Ghar Tiranga" (Every

Home a Flag) and "Meri Maati Mera Desh" (My Soil, My Country) initiatives, a tree plantation drive was conducted as a poignant tribute to the sacrifices made by freedom fighters. The participants, driven by fervor and zeal, actively took part in the plantation drive, underscoring their commitment to upholding the legacy of those who fought for India's independence.

The celebration

reached its crescendo with a collective chant of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai," echoing the attendees' profound pride and adoration for the nation.

The Northern Command's Independence Day celebration exemplified the unwavering commitment of the armed forces and the citizens to honor the sacrifices of the past while striving towards a prosperous and united future.

Army Public School Domana celebrates 77th Independence Day with patriotic fervor

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 15: The Foundational and Senior Wing of Army Public School Domana reverberated with cheers and proud sentiments as the school commemorated the 77th Independence Day with a solemn and spirited celebration.

The event commenced with the unfurling of the National Flag by the esteemed Chief Guest, Brig Vivek Puri, SM, Cdr 19 Inf Bde & Chairman APS Damana, in the presence of other dignitaries including Mrs Pushpinder Kaur, Principal APS Damana, Col Ajay Rana, CO 22 MAHAR, Col Sagar D Rai SO School, and Ms Ravinder Kaur, Headmistress, along with staff and students.

The day's events were marked by a Special Morning Assembly, where the cadets of NCC and Scouts and Guides displayed their respect for the National Flag through an impressive March Past. The students enthralled the audience with eloquent



poems, speeches, and captivating cultural performances, including dances, music, and yoga drills.

As part of the celebration, students participated in activities that paid homage to India's rich history and the sacrifices made by its heroes. An Inter-House Patriotic Song Competition was held, and various creative endeavors such as Collage Making, Poster Making, T-shirt Painting, and Handkerchief Painting were organized. Additionally, students engaged in designing Comic Strips and Scrap Books highlighting the 75 Glorious Years of Independence. The school's atmosphere was vibrant with the spirit of patriotism as students also created Kites

with slogans of Famous Freedom Fighters.

Chief Guest Brig Vivek Puri spoke passionately about the significance and true essence of freedom. He congratulated the students, parents, and teachers on this momentous occasion and urged the young minds to always remember the sacrifices of our freedom fighters while respecting their parents and teachers. He encouraged the teachers to shape the students into responsible citizens who uphold the nation's integrity and sovereignty.

Principal APS Damana, Pushpinder Kaur, extended her heartfelt congratulations to the staff and students. She emphasized the importance of the "Panch Pran

Pledge," underlining the commitment to upholding the nation's values.

The event was further enriched with a captivating dance performance by students, followed by the Inter-House Patriotic Song Competition, infusing the day with joyous patriotism.

The celebration culminated with the distribution of chocolates among the students, adding a sweet note to the festivities. The Army Public School Domana's 77th Independence Day celebration served as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by our freedom fighters and the commitment to nurturing a sense of pride, unity, and respect for the nation among its students.

FROM PAGE 1

Independence Day | J&K sees 59% increase in foreign tourist arrivals this Year; Negative travel advisories to go soon: LG Sinha

administration is trying its best to ensure that a common person lives a life of his/her choice without any pressure or worry. "When I joined J&K as LG, three years ago, I didn't make any promises and instead stated that I have come to fulfill promises," LG Sinha.

He said that his administration is trying to see a smile on the face of every citizen of J&K. "We are committed to make J&K of peace, prosperity and development. Today, new roads, rail lines, new power

projects, airport terminals, Cinema halls, river fronts are coming up while much more is in the offing," the LG said, adding that the administration in UT is working to shape the future of 1.30 Cr people of J&K.

He said that security forces are working hard to push the last nail in the coffin of terror and its eco-system. "Terror supported by the neighbouring country acted as a Cancer for the society. We are committed to make J&K a terror free place," he said. The LG while paying tributes to security forces personnel who laid their lives while protecting the borders, said that mountains of J&K are witnesses to the priceless sacrifices of jawans. "Today I salute the martyrs and want to assure their families that the entire J&K and the nation stands with them," he said.

Talking about the change in J&K, the LG said that this year 1.27 Cr tourists visited J&K while Amarnath Yatra is going on peacefully. "For the first time in 34 years, Muharram procession was allowed to pass

through traditional routes," he said. "Kashmir is witnessing home stays, tentage facilities, while film policy, and opening of 300 new tourist destinations for tourists is something J&K is witnessing," he said. The LG said that J&K government will provide every possible opportunity to youth to excel in various fields. He said J&K witnesses 20 lakh e-transactions every day making it one of the digitally transformed places. The LG said that Azaadi Ka AmritKal that will happen in 2047, J&K will be counted as one of the country's best and progressive places.

I-Day celebrated in Jammu; Advisor to LG says J&K witnessing new era of peace, progress

completion by 2025. Additionally, seven medical colleges and 15 nursing institutes

are already operational.

He underscored that Jammu and Kashmir is rapidly moving towards comprehensive development in all sectors of life, particularly during the 'Amrit Kaal' period. Bhatnagar also emphasised that the region is evolving into a realm free from fear and corruption. The fact that the G20 summit is being hosted in the union territory serves as a testament to the emergence of the new Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

BSF Jawans celebrate Independence Day at LoC in Kashmir

are fortunate that we are given the duty to protect the borders of the country and we are very proud of it. I want to assure my countrymen that they are safe and secure. The enemy cannot go through us." Inspector General of BSF Kashmir Frontier, Ashok Yadav, said the alert level along the LoC

was heightened ahead of the independence day to foil the evil designs of the enemy.

"Whenever there is a national event, the threat level goes up. BSF, which is posted with the Army along the LoC, is discharging its duties with alertness. We ensure that there is no infiltration from across the LoC. We devise our patrolling and ambushes so that all vulnerable patches are covered and no terror activity can take place. We have done some good operations in which we have stopped several infiltration attempts," Yadav said. He said as the snow melts along the mountain passes of the LoC, the chances of infiltration increase as well.

"When the snow melts, the vulnerability — in terms of infiltration — increases. The threat perception increases and it is in this season that we see more infiltration attempts. Based on intelligence inputs from our sister agencies, we plan our operations with the Army accordingly and ensure that we foil all infiltration attempts," he added.

Chief Justice hoists National Flag at Srinagar wing of High Court

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 15: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (JKL), Srinagar Wing today celebrated 77th Independence Day with full patriotic zeal and fervor here.

The celebrations commenced with the hoisting of National Flag by Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Justice N. Kotiswar Singh who took salute at the March Past followed by the playing of the National Anthem and patriotic tunes by the Band.

The event was also graced by Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Justice Mohammad Akram Chowdhary and Justice Rajesh Sekhri.

Special DGP (CID), R. R. Swain, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Registrar General, Principal Secretary to Chief Justice, Registrar Vigilance, Director Judicial Academy, Registrar Rules, Registrar Judicial Srinagar



Wing, Member Secretary J&K Legal Services Authority, Registrar IT, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar, Joint Registrar Judicial/Incharge Protocol Srinagar Wing, all other Judicial Officers of District Court Srinagar, Advocate General,

Deputy Solicitor General of India, Senior Additional Advocate Generals, Additional Advocate Generals, Deputy Advocate Generals, Government Advocates and all the officers/officials of High Court of J&K and Ladakh, were also present on the occasion.

CS for time bound implementation of LG's directions regarding empowerment of youth & women

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 15: In follow up of commitments made by the Lieutenant Governor (LG), Shri Manoj Sinha on the eve of 77th Independence Day today regarding the empowerment of youth and women of the UT of J&K, the Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta enjoined upon the Departments and the Deputy Commissioners to formulate plans at their end to meet both these objectives in right earnest.

Reiterating the views of the Lieutenant Governor, the Chief Secretary impressed upon all the Departments to work in coordination to ensure that every youth in J&K is given confidence that there shall be no dearth of new opportunities/



possibilities for them in their lives.

He also stated that in line with another commitment of the LG regarding all round empowerment and economic upliftment of half of our population comprising women, each Department should make it a focal point to come up with innovative ideas to find ways of achieving it in a time bound manner.

Dr Mehta observed that when the nation is celebrating its 77th Independence Day the concept gains much significance as the nation can not afford to lag behind any of the world powers. He said that the past of the nation had been great and our future ought to be equally bright.

The Chief Secretary further remarked that both the women and youth form the important constituents of the population whose contribution is pivotal in taking the nation up the ladder of development. He stated that empowering them to achieve their full potential in their lives would unleash positive energy to propel the nation to excel in every possible field.

He called upon all the Departments including the Deputy

Commissioners of the UT to formulate action plans in this regard and ensure that these are implemented in right earnest in a time bound manner.

He emphasised on fixing short, mid and long term targets in order to pick the low hanging fruits first and fixing timelines for accomplishment of others. He maintained that J&K has been successful in achieving every single target, howsoever difficult, fixed for itself from the last couple of years.

He encouraged all of them to start taking initiatives from this historical day itself to be successful in fulfilling this task as well. He added that he is hopeful that by same synergy, coordination and collective efforts these two objectives are going to be met soon.

Independence Day 2023 celebrated in Awantipora

Top News Report

AWANTIPORA, Aug 15: Independence Day 2023 was celebrated in Police District Awantipora with great fervor wherein tricolor was unfurled at each Police Station / Police establishment/Schools, MCs/BDC offices, IUST Awantipora, Panchayat Ghars etc and main function was held at Police District Lines Awantipora in which MC chairperson Awantipora Shameema Raina as Chief Guest unfurled the National



Flag and inspected the Parade. SSP Awantipora, Ajaz Ahmed

Zargar -JKPS, Additional Deputy Commissioner Awan-

tipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl-KAS, SP DAR DPL Awantipora, SDPO Awantipora besides other senior officers of civil administration/ Police Department were present on the occasion.

The parade was commanded by Dy.SP(p) Sumit Bhagat-JKPS. The march past was presented by the Contingent of District Police Awantipora, women contingent of District Police Awantipora, CRPF, Home Guard and Students from different schools.

77th Independence Day celebrated with zeal at Kupwara

Top News Report

KUPWARA, Aug 15: Kupwara District is known for its nationalism, Patriotism and harmony. This was proved by the Awaam of Kupwara once again when they celebrated 77th Independence Day with great fervour, gaiety & enthusiasm by remaining side by side with Army at various locations in Kupwara.

In this regard a series of events was conducted by Army and Awaam at different locations.

Commanding officer Kupwara Terriers unfurled the national flag at unit location Pathahirri along with other officers, officials from Zilla Sainik Welfare Board Kupwara, Ex-service-men, school Children, Soldiers and their families. During this celebration national anthem was sung by a local girl Seerat from Kupwara with full zeal and zest. Reciting of pledge (Punch Pran) was also done by the officers, JCOs, Jawans, families, ESM and children as a part of slogan "Meri Mati Mera Desh". In addition to this an interaction was held by the Command-



ing officer with all ESM of the unit addressing the issues if any, being faced them. Sweets among the School Children were also distributed at the occasion.

Tricolour was unfurled by the NCC Cadets at AGS, Wayne followed by stunning cultural show, patriotic songs and speech by the Principal and Commander 68 Mountain Brigade gave concluding speech. This event was also attended by the Parents, teachers, locals, Children and children from near by villages.

Gulgam village celebrated this Independence Day by witnessing a series of events. A Tiranga rally was conducted at

Gulgam village by the students and locals along with Army officials. painting competition were also held at various schools of Gulgam to celebrate the occasion. A plantation drive was also conducted at Gulgam villages followed by an interaction with veterans by the Gulgam Company Commander to highlight the national slogan " *Meri Mati Mera Desh"*

Same kind of events were also conducted at Warsun village by Indian Army along with the locals. A Tiranga rally followed by unfurling of national flag at various schools and panchayats was carried out here at Warsun. An interaction with Veterans and veer Naris was

also held. While acting upon the slogan " Meri Mati Mera Desh" 75 Devdar saplings were planted at the grave yard of Martyr Late Nk by the locals Mohd Ashraf Rather, SM by the locals of Guzeriyal village.

At the end prize distribution and felicitation ceremony was also held at Gulgam and AGS Wayne to encourage those students who performed well in during these events followed by sweets distribution among the children. The series of events was enjoyed by the children and locals and they believe that these kind of events will Strengthen the spirit of nationalism and patriotism among the people of Kupwara.

At the end, the prize Distribution and felicitation ceremony was held. The dignitaries present on the stage distributed prizes and mementos among the best contingents of parade and other participants.

Besides prizes and appreciation certificates from Police and Civil administration were also given to the Police Personnel and other civil employees for their appreciable performance and hard work.

DIPR celebrates 77th Independence Day; Minga hoists National Flag

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 15: Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) today celebrated the 77th Independence Day at Media Complex here.

To mark the occasion, Director Information, Minga Sherpa hoisted the National Flag to commemorate this momentous event which underscores the values of unity, diversity, and national pride that the flag represents.

This symbolic gesture of hoisting the national flag served as a reminder of the country's rich history, the sacrifices of its people, and the bright prospects that lie ahead.

Senior officers of



DIPR and other officials of the department

also participated in flag hoisting ceremony.

Patriotic fervor, enthusiastic participation of people mark 77th Independence Day Celebrations across District Kishtwar

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Aug 15: The 77th Independence Day 2023 was today celebrated across the District Kishtwar with great enthusiasm, fervor and national spirit.

At Block level the National flag was unfurled by the concerned BDC Chairpersons besides flags were unfurled at District Court Complex, Police Line, Sub Divisional headquarters, Tehsil and Block Headquarters, in all the Govt Offices, colleges and Educational institutions.

Here, at district headquarters the main function which was held at historical Chowgan Ground, the Vice-Chairperson, District Development Council Kishtwar, Saima Parveen Lone was the Chief guest on the occasion who hoisted the tricolor, inspected the parade accompanied by SSP Kishtwar Khalil Ahmed Poswal-JKPS and took salute of March Past contingents

drawn from Police, IRP, CRPF, CISF, Forest Protection Force, Home guard, SPO Group, NCC battalion of GDC Kishtwar, Anganwari Workers and School children.

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr Devansh Yadav, Senior Superintendent of Police Kishtwar, CO 17 RR Ameya Chiplunkar, Additional District Development Commissioner Kishtwar Sham Lal, Vice President Municipal Council Kishtwar Sajjad Ahmed Najjar, DDC members, Municipal Councillors, Additional Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Inderjeet Singh Parihar, ASP Kishtwar Rajinder Singh, Joint Director planning Mohd Iqbal, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Kishtwar Varunjeet Singh Charak, DPO Sunil Bhutyal, Tehsildar HQ Chander Shekhar Sharma, Tehsildar Kishtwar Muneeb Umar, DIO Kishtwar Maneet Sharma, CEO Kishtwar Prehlad Bhagat, DYSSO



Kishtwar Kharati Lal, Ex-Ens besides the senior officers of civil administration, Police, Army, CISF, CRPF, prominent persons of the society, media persons of Kishtwar among others remained present on the occasion.

Addressing the gather-

ing, Saima Parveen Lone, the Chief Guest, extended heartfelt felicitations on the occasion of the 77th Independence Day celebration in Kishtwar. She emphasized the paramount role played by freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives to secure freedom from colonial rule, acknowledging their unwavering dedication to India's integrity.

Drawing attention to the

essential contribution of women in the freedom movement and national service, she highlighted India's stature as the world's largest democracy.

She proudly emphasized India's developmental strides in various sectors, citing achievements in space research, satellite technology, banking, information technology, healthcare, education, and sports, with

notable examples such as Chandrayaan.

Enthusiastically, Vice Chairperson Saima Parveen underlined the significant developmental achievements within the district Kishtwar.

She emphasized the completion of works worth 108.32 crore rupees under PMDP for the fiscal year 2023. Ongoing projects, including CHC Marwah, Multipurpose Stadium Kishtwar, SC Hostel GDC Kishtwar, and Allopathic Dispensary Inderwal, are expected to be completed by September 2023.

In her concluding remarks, DDC Vice Chairperson Saima Parveen called upon the citizens of Kishtwar to uphold the nation's values of unity, peace, and development, and to proudly commemorate Independence Day by embodying the spirit of the occasion.

On the occasion, scintillat-

ing Cultural items were also presented by the students with patriotic Spirit.

Besides, the District Administration gave away mementos and certificates of commendation to several officers for exhibiting exemplary work, ethics and professionalism besides meritorious students were also conferred with awards and Laptops.

Pertinent to mention that the main attraction of this year programme was the human map of India with tricolours by Al Hilal Education Institute under the supervision of Sports Teachers Javid Kripak and Patriotic Opera by Sugam Sangeet Institute of Kishtwar.

The programme was compared by Avni Sen, Zorawar Singh and Roopesh Sharam in a befitting manner.

All the officers shared the independence day greetings to the citizens of Kishtwar.

Bigger targets ahead

After another ACT title, Indian team driven by greater challenges

CHANDIGARH, Aug 15 (Agencies): It would not be very constructive to read too much into India's triumph in the Asian Champions Trophy. Apart from an obvious morale boost before the Asian Games, the title victory tells very little about the team's progress during its transitional period.

India are still just months into their journey under a new coach, Craig Fulton, who has taken it upon himself to bring major changes to the team's playing style.

After a mixed bag of results in the Pro League in Europe, Fulton has won his first title with the team, but at a tournament that has little context. The six-team tournament, held irregularly since its inception in 2011, has been scheduled at odd windows. It is either seen as a preparatory tournament before major events — in the case of the 2013, 2018 and 2023 editions — or an afterthought — when it was held almost immediately after the Olympics in 2012, 2016 and 2021. In 2013, India had even fielded the junior team as the event preceded the Junior World Cup.

This time, the tournament was held too close to the Asian Games, raising concerns about the players not peaking at the right time going into a major event. As the Asian Games title also guarantees an Olympics berth, the pressure on Fulton to deliver in Hangzhou would be immeasurably greater. It was evident that he was not happy with the timing of the event, indirectly telling the administrators to "not have back-to-back tournaments". "If you said to me to win the Asian Games and lose this final, I would obviously vouch for winning the Games," Fulton said.



World domination

Also, a victory in Asia does not give Fulton a true picture of his team's progress. Motivated by aspirations of world-level titles, continental domination does not figure very high on India's priority list anymore.

To be fair, India have been the most consistent side in the continent, which is reflected in their best-ever world ranking of No. 3. They have rarely lost to an Asian opponent in the pool stages in the last decade. However, it is India's inability to get over the line in crunch knockout matches that has kept them from winning more titles in Asia.

Fulton admits that making the Indian players mentally stronger will be his biggest challenge. Therefore, he would be pleased by the fighting spirit shown by his team in the final, winning 4-3

after being two goals down.

The South African, though, also realises that it would take much more than improving the players' mental strength to guide the team to a world-level title, a reason why he decided to change India's playing style.

The magnitude of the challenge he has taken up — of adding variety to India's game — means it would be irrational to find any meaning in a victory that has come so early in his process and against teams ranked way below India. This victory, though uplifting, does not guarantee India a title at the Asian Games. Therefore, even if his team falters at the Asian Games, it is imperative to give Fulton a longer leash as his target is much higher and his plans long-term.

Why Fulton has his work cut

out

India were served well by their one-directional, one-paced approach in attack under coaches Sjoerd Marijne and Graham Reid. Right from the time Marijne rang the changes on the playing style in 2017, India started finding success.

Their aggressive pressing and quick transition from defence to attack made India a dangerous side, especially against lower-ranked opponents. But top teams found a way to sidestep India's charge and puncture their defence when their guard fell.

Reid honed this approach by instilling greater discipline in defence and adding unpredictability to their attack, leading India to the Olympics bronze. The team, though, could not replicate that success at the World Cup as the high-intensity system is physically and mentally taxing.

Craig Fulton wants to add variety to India's game, which would make the team adaptable to different situations. He wants India to take a more contained approach, frustrating their opponents with a compact defence and then hitting on the counter.

A bigger challenge, though, would be to make India play the possession-based hockey Fulton wants. It is one aspect of India's game that even Reid wanted to change. By building attacks more patiently, a team can dominate possession and dictate the pace of the game.

What Fulton wants requires not only a high fitness level but also great tactical maturity, which means it could take some time before the results are visible. The new style, though, has potential for even greater success.

On This Day In 2020, MS Dhoni Ended His Marvellous Journey In International Cricket

It was on this day in 2020 when World-Cup winning captain MS Dhoni announced his retirement from international cricket



NEW DELHI, Aug 15 (Agencies): It was on this day in 2020 when World-Cup winning captain MS Dhoni announced his retirement from international cricket.

for ur love and support throughout. from 1929 hrs consider me as Retired."

The video had the iconic song 'Mai Pal Do Pal Ka Shayar Hu' from Amitabh Bachchan's hit movie, 'Kabhie Kabhie' playing in the background. Dhoni shared his incredible journey as India team member including his run out in the last game against New Zealand in the 2019 World Cup semi-final.

Dhoni has been an accomplished all-rounder with smart work behind the stumps and great finishing abilities

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Dhoni has been an accomplished all-rounder with smart work behind the stumps and great finishing abilities

in limited-overs cricket.

Dhoni played 350 ODIs with his highest score being 183 against Sri Lanka. He also remains the only captain to win all major ICC trophies (50-over World Cup, T20 World Cup, and Champions Trophy).

Referred to as 'Captain Cool', Dhoni is known for his calmness and exquisite captaincy on the field.

His agility behind the stumps gave India many breakthroughs. His knack and cricketing intelligence has made him famous for review calls and many have jokingly remarked to change the 'Decision-Review System's' name to 'Dhoni-Review System'.

In December 2014, he announced his retirement from Tests and gave a chance to young players like Wriddhiman Saha. Dhoni called time on his Test career after playing 90 Tests and scoring 4,876 runs at an average of 38.09.

Under Dhoni's leadership, India also managed to attain the number-one ranking in Test cricket.

The 42-year-old popular player has cricket left in him and led Chennai Super Kings to their fifth IPL trophy in 2023.

Australia captain Pat Cummins eyes return during ODI series against India in September

SYDNEY, Aug 15 (Agencies): Recovering from a left wrist injury, Australia captain Pat Cummins on Tuesday said he is eyeing a return to international cricket during his side's three-match ODI series against India in late September, ahead of the World Cup.

Cummins, who fractured his wrist during the fifth Ashes Test at the Oval (July 27-31), has been advised rest for six weeks.

The pace bowler is set to miss Australia's five-match ODI series against South Africa between September 7 and 17.

Australia will play ODIs against India on September 22, 24 and 27.

"I'll head over to South Africa at the back-end of that leg. But we're probably looking more at those one-dayers (against India) ahead of the World Cup.

"It shouldn't be too bad. Another few weeks and it'll be right," said Cummins, sounding hopeful of him playing in the World Cup to be held in India from October 5 and November 19.

Cummins said he would probably assess his role as ODI captain after

the World Cup.

"The captaincy for the ODIs, we've kind of shared around a little bit. We'll get over there, and have a look at that," he said.

Cummins said Mitchell Marsh, who has been appointed as Australia's T20I captain, is the logical choice to succeed him in the role of the ODI leader.

"The good thing is we have a few options. (Mitchell Marsh) is probably the most obvious one if he's doing the T20s as well. Off the field, he's just a great people-person. His energy's infectious, he's great to hang around with, always good fun."

Cummins had taken over as Australia's 50-over format captain last year from Aaron Finch but since then he had led only in two of the six ODIs they played. He missed one match against England as Josh Hazlewood stepped in.

Steve Smith led Australia in a three-match ODI series against India earlier this year as Cummins returned home following the death of his mother.

"In The History Of Our Country...": Virat Kohli Reminds Once Again Why Independence Day Is Extra Special For All Indians

NEW DELHI, Aug 15 (Agencies): India celebrated Independence day with much fervour on Tuesday. On this day in 1947, India gained independence from British colonial rule. This day is a testimony to the struggle and aspirations of a billion-plus people who are working day and night to contribute to the growth of this country. Everyone from all fields have contributed over the years in building this nation. Sportspeople too have contributed in equal measures. Their glorious campaigns on the field have increased the stature of India.

Cricket has contributed in big way in that aspect. From winning world titles to winning world records, cricketers have been at the forefront of achieving glory for the nation. Former India captain Virat Kohli, a champion cricketer, reminded everyone on



occasion of Independence Day about the day's importance.

"Independence day is the most important day in the history of our country. Especially with the way it's celebrated in India and

so much happening around it. For me, it's all the more special because it's my father's birthday. It was all the more special because both occasions were celebrated. I have many fond

memories of the independence day," Virat Kohli said on Star Sports.

"It's a day where all Indians feel a lot of pride of what we have achieved as nation from that day in 1947. It makes us all feel very proud."

Kohli is a Delhi lad and said that flying kites on the special day holds a special place in his heart.

"We have played a lot on independence day. Off-field memories it's about hoisting the flag before you go out on a game day. Having the national anthem played is a moment of pride for all of us. In Delhi there is a big culture of flying kites. That used to be a super moment. We all used to prepare. The night before getting things ready. It used to be perfectly windy day to enjoy. That is a special memory in my mind," Kohli added.

"Ishq Ka Toh Pata Nahi...": Indian Cricket team Great Gautam Gambhir's Poetic Tribute On Independence Day Goes Viral

On the occasion of 77th Independence Day of India, top sportspersons took to social media to greet the citizens of the country

NEW DELHI, Aug 15 (Agencies): On the occasion of 77th Independence Day of India, top sportspersons took to social media to greet the citizens of the country. Gautam Gambhir, Ravindra Jadeja, Virat Kohli, Yuvraj Singh, and several other notable cricketers took to X, formerly known as Twitter, to wish countrymen a happy Independence Day. Former captain Virat Kohli wished everyone a happy Independence Day.

India's star batter Suryakumar Yadav also extended his wishes and wrote, "A nation like no other, an honour comparable to none. Wishing everyone a very happy Independence Day! May our

country continue to rise and shine and may we do our best to continue to contribute to its glory!"

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Secretary Jay Shah took to X, formerly known as Twitter, to wish the nation on its 77th Independence Day and wrote, "Wishing everyone a Happy #IndependenceDay! Today we celebrate the freedom, diversity and progress of our nation. Let's continue to build a bright and prosperous future for our country and keep the tricolour flying high!"

"Wishing every Indian a very Happy 77th Independence Day. Jai Hind," BCCI tweeted.



"Don't know about love, but what is from you is not from anyone else!" former India

opener Gautam Gambhir posted on Twitter- which goes by the name of X now.

Former India batter Yuvraj Singh also posted a video and tweeted, "May our

tricolour forever fly high, respecting and remembering the sacrifices of all those who fought for our Independence."

India's star all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja tweeted, "Jai ho #IndependenceDay." "Heartiest Greetings to all on #IndependenceDayIndia. Lets remember the sacrifices of our freedom fighters and resolve to take the country on the path of peace, harmony and progress. Our every step should ensure that we are contributing to the Nation," former India spinner Harbhajan Singh posted on X.

"Wishing you all a very Happy Independence Day!" Legendary Indian spinner Anil Kumble tweeted.

Former India batter Suresh Raina said everyone should cherish the spirit of unity in diversity and "honour the sacrifices of our freedom fighters."

"Wishing my fellow Indians a joyous #IndependenceDay! Let's honor the sacrifices of our freedom fighters and cherish the spirit of unity in diversity. May the tricolour always fly high, symbolizing unity in diversity. #JaiHind!" Raina tweeted.

Olympic medallist Indian hockey team goalkeeper PR Sreejesh tweeted, "May the symphony of love and passion for your nation resonate on this Independence Day. HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY 2023."

India's biggest strength is its democracy: Mir

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 15: Apni Party Senior Vice President, Ghulam Hassan Mir today hoisted tricolour at the Party office in Gandhi Nagar, Jammu to mark the celebration of Independence Day.

Apni Party State General Secretary, Vijay Bakaya, Provincial President, Jammu, S. Manjit Singh, Senior Provincial Vice President, Faqir Nath, District Presidents, Frontal Heads, heads of different wings, and other office bearers gathered here at the premises of Apni Party office, Gandhi Nagar under the leadership of Senior Vice President, Ghulam Hassan Mir.

To mark the celebra-



tion of Independence Day, the Senior Vice President Ghulam Hassan Mir hoisted the national flag amid great zeal and enthusiasm among the party leaders while singing the national anthem.

Speaking to the media, Mir said that "India achieved Independence from the Britishers on August 15, 1947 following a long struggle. In Independent India, the people of this country irrespective of their

caste, creed or colour or religion got the constitutional right to run elect Govts. In these 77 years of independence, we have shown our ability to take forward our country on the path of development."

He further said that India is a diverse country and it is being recognised as one of the strongest democratic countries across the world because of its strong democratic roots and constitutional values.

"India's biggest strength is its democracy that represents all the regions, religions, castes without any kind of discrimination. Here, we get the opportunity to elect our representatives to form a democratic Govt, and get our issues redressed democratically," he said, while commending the role of Indian democracy which has played an important role at the world level.

JPPF celebrates 77th Independence Day

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 15: In the spirit of unity, progress, and national pride, Jammu Province Peoples Forum (JPPF) an amalgam of social, commercial, and other organizations, a strong voice of Dogras and a common platform of all civil society members to raise a united voice for the welfare of the people of Jammu province, today celebrated 77th Independence Day by organizing colorful programme and flag hoisting in their premises.

The programme started with the welcome speech by President JPPF, Pavitar Singh where he welcomed all the members and the

other audience present in the event. He further highlighted the sacrifices made by our beloved warriors to achieve this freedom. Further Working President, M S Katoch showed a great level of enthusiasm in encouraging the members present for the event and motivated them to raise their voice for their rights.

He further added that the celebration was a testament to the enduring values and aspirations that underlie the post-independence journey of India. With a focus on unity in diversity, the event aimed to highlight the remarkable strides the nation has taken since gaining its freedom 77 years ago. The Flag hoisting was

done by the President, JPPF, Pavitar Singh whereas other members witness the programme. The programme was concluded by singing National Anthem followed by sweets distribution.

Other who spoke in the meet were M.S Katoch, Inderjit Khajuria, Avinash Bhatia, M.L Sharma, Ram Rattan Sharma, Krishan Singh, Madan Sharma, Resham Singh, Rajiv Mahajan, Sh. Pritam Sharma, Sh. Puran Chand Sharma, Sh. Balwan Singh, Sh. Pawan Sharma, Prof O P Sharma, Smt Sunita Sharma, Smt Kamla Sharma, Smt Prabha Slathia, S Rajinder Singh, Surinder Veer, Sardar Gurmit Singh, Naresh Thapar.

Tricolour hoisted at Central University

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 15: Central University of Jammu celebrated 77th Independence Day on 15 August 2023. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Professor Sanjeev Jain hoisted the national flag followed up by singing the national anthem and with this Independence Day events started.

In his address, Prof Jain highlighted the real essence of independence and urged university fraternity to follow the path in sync with national goals and objectives

Further, the VC underlined the synergied efforts of university fraternity in growth and development of university, be it implementation of NEP-20, DST sponsored PURSE or study and research on Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS). He emphasised on how



the meaning of freedom is to be best understood in a positive and progressive way. Following that,

a grand celebration was organised in the university's Brigadier Rajinder Singh Auditorium with

patriotic songs and other items by the students of NCC wing, Central University of Jammu.

Kawa College celebrates 77th year of Independence

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 15: To commemorate the commencement of 77th year of Independence Kawa College of Education, Patoli, Jammu celebrated this event with great patriotic Zeal and gaiety, Chairman, M.S Katoch (Chairman Kawa Group of Colleges) along with Principal Kawa College Dr. Bharti Sharma unfurled the tri colour along with students and staff which was followed by the National Anthem. M.S Katoch (Chairman Kawa group of Colleges) who was the chief guest threw light on activating Indian, spirit of Meri Maati Mera Desh .

Dr Bharti Sharma (Principal, Kawa College) laid stress on strengthening our cultural ethos, others who spoke included Dr Sarita & Arti Sharma. The students presented a captivating cultural bonanza focused on patriotism

which included number of heart throbbing melodious patriotic dances, Songs, poetries, speeches, and skits which heightened the ambience and added resplendent rhythm to the show, symbolizing our country's rich and unique cultural diversities. poster making, slogan writing, sketches were also taken up as a part of the event celebrations.

The students took pride in glorifying and celebrating the spirit of unity, also resorted to sloganeering in praise of our great Nation. The campus was filled with the aura of sheer patriotism.

Antra Mahajan (Lecturer, Kawa College) presented the vote of thanks. Refreshments were distributed among students and the guests. The other staff member who made the event successful were Mrs Lovely Manhas, Mr Karamchand, Mrs Suman.



CCI celebrates 77th I-Day with patriotic fervor

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 15: Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI), Jammu today celebrated the 77th Independence Day with great fervour here today.

An impressive programme was organized at the Chamber House which commenced with the hoisting of National Flag by Arun Gupta, President Chamber of Commerce and Industry Jammu in presence of other office bearers and senior members of the CCI after which the whole premises rever-



berated with the singing of National Anthem amid salutations to the National Tricolour.

In his address, Arun Gupta threw light on the martyrdom of freedom fighters who laid down their lives for the cause of the nation and its people as a result of which the people of the World's largest Democracy are enjoying full freedom and self esteem having earned honour and dignity at the global level.

Gupta said that Independence Day is the

most auspicious day for the whole nation and its people and being the most vibrant democracy of the world, it deserves to be celebrated like a festival with full enthusiasm and gaiety amid participation of people from diverse cultures as 'Unity in Diversity' is the hallmark of the Indian democracy.

The Chamber President assured that CCI members will leave no stone unturned in taking J&K on the glorious path of development and prosperity.

