

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2024 Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

**Army pays solemn tribute to Captain Deepak Singh who was martyred in Doda encounter**

JAMMU, Aug 15 (Agencies): A wreath-laying ceremony was held in Jammu on August 15 to pay tribute to Captain Deepak Singh of the Indian Army, who was killed in an encounter with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday.

In a solemn wreath-laying ceremony, Lt Gen Navin Sachdeva, **Turn to page 9**

## Independence Day | Will never allow neighbouring Country's 'Terror Designs' to succeed in J&K: LG Sinha

SRINAGAR, Aug 15 (Agencies): Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday said that the UT administration and the security forces will never allow the neighbouring country to revive terrorism in J&K and the people of Jammu must help forces to wipe out terrorism from the region.

Addressing the 78th Independence Day gathering at Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar, the LG, said that efforts are being made by the neighbouring country to revive terrorism in J&K. "We will never allow neighbouring country's terror designs to succeed in J&K. The Jammu people have never supported terrorism and I urge the people of Jammu to stay united with the security forces to wipe out terrorism from the region," the LG said, adding



that security forces are committed to dismantle terrorism and terror networks from J&K soil. Pertinently, Jammu region has of late seen a spate of terror attacks inflicting heavy casualties on security forces. On Wednesday, an army captain and a foreign terrorist was killed in

an encounter at Assar, Doda, where a counter terror operation is still on.

The LG hailed J&K police for bagging scores of gallantry medals stating that police is working on multiple fronts in a professional manner. He said that the J & K administration left no

stone unturned in the past five years to make UT touch new heights in development. "The left-over sections who were deprived of their rights for the past 70 years were given due recognition. Today, SC, ST, OBC, Valmikis, PoJK-WPRs are living a dignified life with full voting

rights," he said.

The LG said that post G-20 meeting in Srinagar in May 2023, tourism influx showed a significant increase in the UT. "Last year, 2.11 Crore tourists visited J&K. This year, till June 30, over 1 Crore tourists visited J&K. I am hopeful by the year's end, there will be record tourist arrivals," he said.

The LG said that for the first time Amarnath cave shrine and Gurez were connected with the power grid. He said that by the year end, J&K Industrial policy will be renewed. "We have requested the GoI to make the new Industrial policy more Industry friendly and more features will be added to the new policy," he said.

The LG said that in 2019, J&K Bank was in losses and with hectic **Turn to page 9**

## New Rehari Resident Welfare Society celebrates 78th Independence Day 2024



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 15: The New Rehari Resident Welfare Society celebrated the 78th Independence Day with great enthusiasm on August

15, 2024. The event was marked by the hoisting of the National Flag by the Chief Patron, Sh. Ramesh Gupta, at Rana Rajinder Singh Park in New Rehari, Jammu.

The celebration was attended by various **Turn to page 9**

DIP/J-4482/24

**78<sup>th</sup> INDEPENDENCE DAY**

**GREETINGS TO THE PEOPLE OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**



### 10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Smt Shakuntla Devi** W/o Late Sh. Krishan Lal R/o Udrana, Bhadenwah Distt Doda left for heavenly abode on Thursday 08-08-2024.

**10TH DAY** will be performed on Saturday 17-08-2024 at Udrana at 8.00 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt Seewari Rathore W/o Lt Vr Vikram - Daughter in Law  
Smt Priy Rathore W/o Ashinath Rathore - Daughter in Law & Son  
Smt Priya Rathore W/o Yunsaj Rathore - Daughter in Law & Son  
Smt Arpina Rathore W/o Kishorev Rathore - Daughter in Law & Son  
Smt Surksha Rathore W/o Love Dev Rathore - Daughter in Law & Son  
All Grand Children's  
9906128809, 9906197899, 7889832512




**Smt Shakuntla Devi**

### 10TH DAY AND KRIYA/ UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh Madhu Mehta Ji** S/o Late Sh. Bansil Lal Mehta Ji R/o Ward No. 2 Nagri Parole, Kathua who expired on 05/08/2024.

**10TH DAY** will be performed on 13/08/2024 at 11 am and **KRIYA/ UTHALA** on 16/08/2024 at 4 pm at our residence.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Rama Gupta (Wife)  
(Daughter-in-law and Son)  
Deep Mala and Ajay Veer Mehta  
Sudhanshu Mehta (Son)  
Saransh Mehta (Son)  
**BHABHIES AND BROTHERS**  
Renu Gupta and Raghu Mehta  
(Advocate, Member SMV/DSB)  
Manjana Gupta and Daleep Mehta  
Sunaina Mehta and Sandeep Mehta (SSP JKP)  
**SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN LAW**  
Nirmal Gupta and Ashwani Gupta  
Savita Gupta and Pawan Gupta  
M/s RAMA MOTORS Harla Chak  
9596637998, 8716808058



**Sh Madhu Mehta Ji**

### TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Lalita Devi** W/o Mohan Lal D/o Late Shri Dina Nath Kapoor Resident of Quarter No. 34/01 Jagti Colony Nagrota Jammu departed for heavenly abode on 11-08-2024 (Sunday).

**10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 20 August 2024 (Tuesday) at Muthi Ghat near (DSE) Jammu at 8:00 AM

**Mourn** will be held at above address.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**  
Shri Mohan Lal (Husband)  
**Son and Daughter in Laws**  
Mr. Tej Krishan and Mrs. Sunita Devi  
Mr. Sanjay Kumar and Mrs. Reeta Kumari and our entire Parivar.  
**Grand Children:** Deepak Khatri, Chahat Khatri  
**MOBILE NO. 6066243301, 7006575612**



**SMT. LALITA DEVI**


### 10TH DAY/13TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Major Puran Dev Singh Sambyal** S/o Late Chander Udhay Singh R/o 136 Khajoor Niwas Dogra Hall Kacchi Chawni Jammu who left for his heavenly abode on 7/8/2024.

**10th Day** will be performed on 16-8-2024 at our residence at 11am.

**13th Day** will be performed on 19-8-2024 at 12.30 pm at our residence.

**Grief Stricken:**  
Smt Asha Jambwal (Wife)  
Mr Bhanu Dev Singh Sambyal (Son)  
Mrs Payal Jaisrotia Sambyal (Daughter-in-law)  
Master Adhiraj Dev Singh Sambyal (Grandson)  
Contact No: 9796688038/ 9596816140



**Puran Dev Singh Sambyal**

### OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

Amid sobs and tears, with profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our revered father **Sh. Makhan Lal Bhat** S/o Lt. Sh. Neel Kanth Bhat on 7th of August 2024, erstwhile resident of Salamatwari Kralpora Kupwara, presently at Lane No. 1 Lakshmi Vihar Santra Morh Bye Pass Bohri Jammu.

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 16th of August 2024 Friday at 9.00 am at Kriya Ghat near Directorate of School Education Muthi, Jammu.

**In Grief**  
Smt. Phooli Bhat-Wife  
**Daughter-in-Laws and Sons**  
Smt. Dulari Bhat and Sh. Maharaaj Krishan Bhat  
Smt. Dalzy Bhat and Sh. Rattan Lal Bhat  
**Daughters and Son-in-laws**  
Smt. Neena Pandita and Veer Ji Pandita  
Smt. Reenu Koul and Sh. Vidya Sagar Koul  
**Grand Daughter and Grand Son-in-law**  
Smt. Sheetal Bhardi and Sh. Mohit Koul  
**Grand Daughter-in-Law and Grand Son**  
Smt. Swati Bhat and Sh. Ashish Bhat  
**All Grand Children and Great Grand Children**  
9622021041, 7889346422, 9797574510, 9419185547



**Sh. Makhan Lal Bhat**

### 10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Shanti** Wife of Sh. Jagar Nath Bhat at our residence Vinayak Nagar Muthi Sec 2 Opposite Pompash General Store Ward No.66 originally from Nadimarg, Kulgam.

**10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 21-08-2024 (Thursday) at 8 AM at Muthi Ghat.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Jagar Nath Bhat -Husband  
**Son and Daughter-in-law**  
Sh. Bushan Lal Pandit & Smt Pamposh Pandit  
**Grand Sons & Granddaughters**  
Ratik, Nitin, Arti, Simran & Suman Raina  
**Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Smt Santosh Kumari & Sh. Ashok Kumar Raina  
Ph : 9797974068 9797408314



**SMT SHANTI**

### FIFTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Anil Gupta (Btiti)**, Son of Late Sh. Narsing Dass Gupta who passed away on 12th August 2024 at Jammu.

**5th Day** will be performed on Friday 16th August 2024 at 11:00 am at K.D.N Palace Opp. Women College, Udhampur.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
Smt. Ram Payal W/o Late Sh. Chuni Lal Kalsotra  
(Sisters-in-law & Brother-in-laws)  
Smt Kamla Gupta & Sh. Babbar Gupta  
Smt Reva Gupta & Sh. Krishan Kumar Kalsotra  
Smt Urmil Gupta & Sh. Ravi Kalsotra  
Smt Babita Gupta & Sh. Vennder Kalsotra  
Smt Joyti Gupta W/o Late Sh. Anil Kalsotra  
**All Kalsotra Family**  
Phone: 9419181185, 9622039463, 9419160364, 9906321870, 9906241111



**Sh. Anil Gupta (Btiti)**

### UTHALA

With Profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform about the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Anil Gupta (Btiti)** Former Secretary CCI Jammu S/o Lt. Sh. Narsing Dass Gupta and Father of Mr. Ashwani Gupta R/o 249/1-A, South Extension Trikuta Nagar. He left us for heavenly abode on 12-08-2024.

**UTHALA** will be performed on Friday, 16-08-2024 from 4 PM to 5 PM at Panch Mandir Channi Himmat.

**GRIEF STRICKEN :**  
Smt. Kusum Gupta -Wife  
Ashwani Gupta & Sonika Gupta -Son & Daughter-in-Law  
Saba & Abi Mahajan(Honey)-Daughter & Son-in-Law  
Rohan, Amara, Kara, Arvi -Grand Children  
M/s Btiti Trading Company, Btitor  
M/s Krishna Polymer, Btitor  
M/s CEE ERM Exports, Ware House  
M/s Panna Mal & Sons, Warehouse  
M/s Desraj Mahajan & Sons, Warehouse  
M/s Gupta Arun & Co.(C.A.)  
M/s Bhagwati Trading Company, Warehouse  
M/s Kirpa Ram Panna Mal, Karak Mandi  
M/s Welcome Palda, Gargwal



**Sh. Anil Gupta (Btiti)**  
Former Secretary CCI Jammu


### TENTH DAY / KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Sh. Badri Nath Mengi** S/o Late Sh. Tej Ram Mengi R/o 192/3 Channi Himmat on 8th August 24.

**TENTH DAY** will be performed on 15th August 2024 (Thursday) at 10 am at 192/3, Channi Himmat Jammu.

**KRIYA** will be performed on 18th August 2024 (Sunday) at 12 pm at 192/3, Channi Himmat Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Primala Mengi (Wife)  
Vikas Mengi (Son)  
Sanika & Deepak Narang (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Krishan Kumar Mengi (Brother)  
Neeraj & Sangeeta (Nephew & Daughter -in-law)  
Deeraj & Sakshi (Nephew & Daughter -in-law)  
Pooja & Sumit (Niece & Niece's husband)  
**Grand Children:** Aarushi, Palak, Priyank, Shyka, Sanat, Akshar, Vahin & Namish



**Sh. Badri Nath Mengi**

### TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED FATHER **SH. GIRDHARI LAL TICKU** ORIGINAL RESIDENT OF 19 SHALLA KADAL SRINAGAR KASHMIR AT PRESENT 1F-44 VISHAL NAGAR, TALAB TILLO ON 10TH OF AUGUST 2024.

**10TH DAY KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED ON 19TH AUGUST 2024 AT MUTHI GHAT JAMMU AT 9 A.M.

**IN GRIEF:**  
CHUNI TICKU W/O LATE S/N. TICKU (BHABI)  
KUSUM & SATESH TICKU (DAUGHTER IN LAW & SON) 9419192524  
SARJU & VENAY TICKU (DAUGHTER IN LAW & SON) 9988141848  
KIRAN & PRAVEEN TICKU (DAUGHTER IN LAW & SON) 9419129924  
KUSUM & RL. VAJZA (DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW) 9419216226  
URMILA & RAHUL KOLU (DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW) +91-310-750-1888  
**GRAND CHILDREN:** SUMIT & NEHA, ROHIT, SILKY & AMAR J. SHYAM & AMET JI, PAYAL & SIDHARTH JLDHARNI, SEEMANTIKA, KASTOOR, ARJUN.  
**GREAT GRAND CHILDREN:** NIVAN, AHYANA & IRSHAN.  
SAMAST TICKU PARIVAR OF ERSTRINLE 19 SHALLA KADAL, BAZAR, CHARE, KOTHEDARS



**(GIRDHARI LAL TICKU)**

### TENTH DAY/KRIYA/ UTHALA/ RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Mani Ram Sharma** (Retd. Headmaster), S/o Lt. Sh. Paras Ram & Lt. Tandi Devi, resident of Lane No. 30, Lower Chowath, Greater Kullath, Jammu (Shigapour Road) who left for his heavenly abode on 09th of August, 2024.

**TENTH DAY POOJA** will be performed on 15/08/2024 (Thursday) at our residence Lane No. 30, Lower Chowath, Greater Kullath, Jammu at 11:00 am.

**KRIYA** will be performed on 16/08/2024 (Friday) from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm.

**Rasam Pagri** will be performed on 17/08/2024 (Saturday) from 10:00 am to 14:00 pm.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt. Sheela Devi - Wife  
Soni & Daughter in law  
Smt. Rakshat W Sharma & Smt. Neha Sharma  
Young Sharma (Grand Son)  
Kulika Sharma (Grand Daughter)  
Sh. Sushash Khopuria & Smt. Anita Sharma (Son in Law & Daughter)  
Sh. Sham Lal Khopuria & Smt. Gunika Sharma (Son in Law & Daughter)  
Smt. Khopuria, Ashish Khopuria, Manoj Khopuria, Manoj Khopuria (Grand Sons)  
Contact : 7068914882, 9419151227



**Sh. Mani Ram Sharma**  
(Retd. Headmaster)

### BARKHI

We the family members and well wishers honour the loving memory of Prof. Usha Jayee former HOD Govt College for Women, Gandhinagar, Jammu founder Principal, Govt College for Women, Udhampur and Principal, Govt Post Graduate College for Women, Poonch, Ground Jammu, beloved wife of Prof. Dr. Ravi Jayee, former VP (In-Peace Vice-Chancellor) International University School of Medicine, USA. On her 81st Anniversary, Her Humbleness, Padma Sri and Padma Shree award for her main ever lasting in our hearts.

Her sacred anniversary shall be performed on 16th August, 2024 at her Bungalow -60 Trikuta Nagar East 3C, Opposite Co-operative Public School, Street just adjoining Usha Medicate Malda Mills, Jammu upto 12 PM followed by Pooja from 1.30 PM.

**Deeply Loved and Remembered By:**  
Prof. Dr. Ravi Jayee - Husband  
**Sons & Daughter-in-laws**  
Ashish Jayee & Neeta Jayee  
Puneet Jayee & Anika Jayee  
**Sister-in-law**  
Smt Chand Nani  
**Sisters & Brother-in-laws**  
Smt Veena Chandola W/o Late Sh. Vijay Chandola  
Smt Ranu Uppal W/o Sh. Satish Uppal  
Smt Arju Maavah W/o Sh. Pandey; Manish,  
**Grand Children:** Navaya Jayee, Anshika and Pankaj Jayee  
**In Remembrance:**  
Jayee's, Mong'l, Gandotra's, Marwah's, Sharma's, Bal's Sareen's & Kad's



**Prof. Usha Jayee**

**Mobile Nos.**  
90702-58338,  
94191-47646,  
98581-99257

### 10TH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR RESPECTED MOTHER **SMT. SHARIKA LABROO** W/O LT. MOTILAL LABROO ORIGINAL RESIDENT OF BUL BUL LANKER ALI KADAL SRINAGAR KASHMIR AT PRESENT HOUSE NO. 108 BLOCK-B LANE 2/5 ROOP NAGAR ENCLAVE JAMMU (DOCTOR CHOUDHARY LANE).

**THE 10TH DAY KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED ON SUNDAY 18TH AUGUST 2024 AT MUTHI GHAT NEAR OFFICE OF DIRECTOR SCHOOL EDUCATION AT 9 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN (SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW)**  
RAJESH CHANDER LABROO & VEENA LABROO  
MITLESH LABRU & SHRENG LABRU (SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW)  
BUNTI RAINA & M.K. RAINA (DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW)  
**GRAND CHILDREN**  
AKSHAY LABROO & ABHISHRI MOHIT RAINA & MRS. JENNY  
ARPIA LABROO, DIVYA LABRU, ABHAY LABRU, MANIK RAINA  
MONIKA & ANKIT ARORA MASTER AADIV (GREAT GRAND SON)



**SMT. SHARIKA LABROO**

### 10th Day/Kriya/Uthala

With profound sorrow we inform you the loss of our beloved **Mr Hemant Sharma**.

**10th Day :** 14/08/24 at 10.00 am (Wednesday) &  
**Kriya:** 15/08/24 at 12:00 noon (Thursday) at our residence.  
**Uthala :-** 16/08/2024 at 5:00 pm (Friday) at Billu Mandir, Panjirthi

**Grief Stricken :**  
Isha Sharma-Wife  
Agsatya Sharma- Son  
Tanmayta Sharma- Daughter  
Suninder Kumar & Nimal Sharma- Chacha & Chachi  
Neharika Sharma & Shingarika Sharma- Sisters  
Prashant Sharma- Brother  
**Mob : 94191-32907, 7006647476, 94193-60006**




**Mr Hemant Sharma**

### TENTH DAY KRIYA

शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥  
It is with an ultimate sense of anguish that we inform the sad demise of our beloved Daddy Ji, **Sh. Sham Lal Bhat** S/o Lt. Neel Kanth Bhat erstwhile resident of Denver, Teal (Kashmir) presently residing at H.No.808, Lane 7D, Suryavanshi Nagar, Muthi, Jammu.

**TENTH DAY** will be performed as per the rituals on 16-08-2024 at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of Education at 8:30 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt. Sham Rani (Pyari) - Spouse  
**Sister & Brother-in-law**  
Smt. Mohini & Lt. Sh. Nityanil Rana  
**Sister-in-law & Brother**  
Lt. Smt. Rajni Chitli & Lt. Sh. Mahan Lal Bhat  
Lt. Smt. Vijay & Sh. Chaman Lal Bhat  
**Sister & Brother-in-law**  
Smt. Vijay & Lt. Sh. Sham Sunder Rana  
**Daughter-in-laws & Sons**  
Smt. Sonam & Sh. Ramesh Kumar Bhat  
Smt. Lucky & Sh. Nishu Bhat  
Smt. Isha & Sh. Raveer Bhat  
Smt. Susmita & Sh. Sushil Bhat  
Smt. Sunil & Sh. Anvish Bhat  
Daughters & Son-in-Laws  
Smt. Beesay & Sh. Amit Sapori  
Smt. Neeta & Sh. Sunil Koul  
Smt. Komal & Sh. Chandrakant Bhat  
**Grandchildren:** Narmata, Nita, Ranvir, Ayush, Raish, Sayali, Danish, Disha, Harsh, Bhavika, Saksham, Keita, Ahayee, Babul




**SH. SHAM LAL BHAT**

### 10th Day/Kriya/Uthala

With profound sorrow we inform you the loss of our beloved **Mr Hemant Sharma**.

**10th Day :** 14/08/24 at 10.00 am (Wednesday) &  
**Kriya:** 15/08/24 at 12:00 noon (Thursday) at our residence.  
**Uthala :-** 16/08/2024 at 5:00 pm (Friday) at Billu Mandir, Panjirthi

**Grief Stricken :**  
Isha Sharma-Wife  
Agsatya Sharma- Son  
Tanmayta Sharma- Daughter  
Suninder Kumar & Nimal Sharma- Chacha & Chachi  
Neharika Sharma & Shingarika Sharma- Sisters  
Prashant Sharma- Brother  
**Mob : 94191-32907, 7006647476, 94193-60006**



**Mr Hemant Sharma**

### TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you that **Sh. Sohan Lal Sharma** left for his heavenly abode on 06 August 2024.

**TENTH DAY POOJA** will be performed on 15/08/24 (Thursday) at Lakshmi Narayan Mandir, Dhakki Sarajan, Near Link Road, Jammu at 11 am.

On 16/08/24 (Friday) **KRIYA** will be performed from 11am to 4pm and **UTHALA** from 4pm to 5pm at Brahma Sabha Prade, Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt. Shakuntla Devi (Wife)  
Sh. Deeraj Saran (Brother) & Smt. Shakuntla Devi (Sister in law)  
Sunil Sharma (Son) & Neetu Sharma (Daughter in law)  
Rahul Sharma (Son) & Radhu Sharma (Daughter in law)  
Sudha Sushant (Daughter) & Dr. Rajan Sushant (Son in law)  
Vaishali (Daughter) & Radhesham Aggarwal (Son in law)  
Contact : 8082747022, 7889520179, 6005717149



**Sh. Sohan Lal Sharma**  
(Chidyal Wale)  
27-12-1931 to 06-08-2024

### BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sardar Ranjit Singh Azad** (Advocate, JK High Court), R/o Plot No. 20, Sector 10, Ganga Colony Jammu, on 09th August, 2024 at Jammu.

**Bhog and Antim Ardas** shall be held as per the following programme:  
Anush 24 Ashad Purni, 16th August, 2024 (Thursday) 07:00 am.  
Bhog at Ashad Purni, 17th August, 2024 (Friday) 07:00 am.  
At our residence at Plot No. 20, Sector 10, Ganga Colony, Jammu.  
**Antim Ardas** at Gurudwara Sri Singh Sabha, Balshi Nagar, Jammu on 17th August, 2024 from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm followed by Guru Ka Langar.

**In Grief:**  
S/o Anant Kaur-Wife  
S. Ajai Singh Azad, Advocate, J&K High Court -Brother  
Dr. Sham Singh, Retd. Professor, Dept of Law, J.U -Brother  
S. Prigpal Singh Azad, Insp. JKP & S/o Jaiinder Kaur -Son & Daughter-in-law  
S. Parvinder Singh Azad -Son  
S. Manpreet Singh Azad, Sr. Pharmacist, GMC, Jammu & Dr. Parveen Kaur -Son & Daughter-in-law  
S. Zoravar Singh Azad, MHA(GO) & S/o Harjinder Kaur -Son & Daughter-in-law  
S. Kirti Singh & Son -Harman Kaur, Sr. Staff Nurse -Son-in-law & Daughter  
S/o Naveen Kaur -Daughter  
S. Gurdeep Singh & Son -Gurpreet Kaur -Son-in-law & Daughter  
**Grand Children:** Jasleen, Gulsara, Shrovesh, Harman, Agpreet, Ganesht, Meera  
Contact Nos: 706697734, 7398648955, 7780842050, 941978745, 9082438869



**Sardar Ranjit Singh Azad**  
(Advocate, J&K High Court)

**DISCLAIMER**  
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# LG Sinha inaugurates Balidan Stambh amid heavy rains in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Aug 15 (Agencies): Amid heavy rains lashing Kashmir since morning, J&K Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday inaugurated the Balidan Stambh (Sacrificial Pillar) at Pratap Park in Srinagar.

The Balidan Stambh has been constructed at a staggering Rs 4.8



crores, news agency KNO reported.

LG Sinha was accompanied by other senior officials. They also paid tributes to martyrs in whose honour the Balidan Stambh has been built.

After the inauguration, he left for the main Independence Day function at Bakshi Stadium.

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECH.**  
**DIVISION RAJOURI**  
e-mail: xenphemrajouri@gmail.com

**EXTENSION of e-NIT**

**Subject -** Extension of e-NIT No. 284 of 2024-25 dated 30.07.2024 for PITC of pumping machinery along with Electro Mechanical Components at WSS PANGLAR of Jal Shakti PHE Mech Division Rajouri UT of JK under JJM.

Due to poor response, this office e-NIT no PHE/MDR/284 of 2024-25 Dated 30.07.2024 due on 13.08.2024 floated vide endorsement no. PHE/MDR/3804-14 dated 30.07.2024 is extended upto 17.08.2024 till 2 pm.

No. PHE/MDR/4609-10  
Dated: 13.08.2024

-sd-  
**Executive Engineer**  
**Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Division**  
**Rajouri**

DIP/J-4469/24

## Amarnath Yatra enters final stage as Chhari Mubarak heads to holy Cave



SRINAGAR, Aug 15 (Agencies): The 50-day-long Amarnath Yatra 2024 is approaching its conclusion as the sages carry the Chhari Mubarak to the holy cave.

The Chhari Mubarak, representing Lord Shiva, has begun its journey from Srinagar to the sacred Amarnath cave, signalling the start of the yatra's final phase.

This year's 50-day yatra, which began on June 29, has seen a footfall of 5.1 lakh pilgrims so far and is set to conclude on August 19.

The Chhari Mubarak Yatra, led by Head Priest Deependra Giri, started from the Akhara Mandir in Lal Chowk, Srinagar.

Giri said, "The holy silver mace is set to follow a traditional route. The procession will stay overnight at Pahalgam, where a special Puja will be performed. Thereafter, Chhari Mubarak will stay for another night halt at Chandanwari on August 16, Sheshnag on August 17, and Panchtarni on August 18."

On August 19, on the occasion of Shraavan-Punima, Chhari Mubarak will be taken to the holy shrine of Amarnath Ji to reach it before sunrise, and puja shall begin with the rising sun, he added.

The yatra, which has witnessed a steady decline in pilgrim numbers over the years,

saw over 6 lakh visitors in 2012, compared to 3 lakh in 2022, and 4.4 lakh last year. Despite the declining numbers, this year's yatra saw a promising turnout of 5.1 lakh pilgrims.

The Chhari Mubarak procession, which plays a pivotal role in the Amarnath pilgrimage, includes special pujas at Pampore, Bijbehara, Anantnag, Mattan, Aishmuqam, and Pahalgam. The pilgrimage will conclude on Shraavan-Punima, with the Chhari Mubarak reaching the holy shrine before sunrise on August 19.

## J&K Police establishes 19-counter terror units amid spate of terror attacks in Jammu

SRINAGAR, Aug 15 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir police has established 19 specialized counter-terror units across the eight districts of the Jammu province.

The move, as per the officials, comes amid mounting terror attacks being witnessed in the otherwise calm region of Jammu.

"Each of these units will be headed by a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP) and will be stationed permanently in the designated districts," they said, adding that "These units will be responsible for conducting counter-terrorism operations while simultaneously handling routine law and order matters," quoting officials, news agency KDC reported.

The districts identified for these specialized units are Udhampur, Kathua, Reasi, Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Rajouri, and Poonch. Specific police stations and posts within these districts have been assigned to each unit for effective coverage.

The focus of these units will particularly be on the Pir Panjal region and the Chenab Valley. These hinterland regions have seen a rise in terror incidents in recent months, said the officials.

These units of police, the officials said would be coordinating with other security agencies to achieve the task.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police is confident that these units, equipped with the latest resources and training, will significantly reduce the militant activities in these regions, the officials said.

## IPS Nalin Prabhat to be new J&K DGP

SRINAGAR, Aug 15 (Agencies): Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Nalin Prabhat will be the new Director General of Police (DGP) Jammu & Kashmir upon the retirement of incumbent DGP RR Swain on 30.09.2024.

"Consequent upon joining the AGMUT Cadre on inter-cadre deputation from Andhra Pradesh, Sh. Nalin



Prabhat, IPS (AP:1992) is hereby posted to Jammu & Kashmir as Special Director Gen-

eral (SDG), Jammu & Kashmir Police with immediate effect and till 30.09.2024," an order issued by Ministry of Home Affairs stated.

"Further, upon retirement of Sh. R. R. Swain, IPS (AGMUT:1991) on 30.09.2024, Sh. Nalin Prabhat, IPS (AP:1992) is appointed as DGP, Jammu & Kashmir w.e.f. 01.10.2024 and till further orders," the order added.

## Heavy rains cause flash floods in north Kashmir's Bandipora; crops damaged



BANDIPORA, Aug 15 (Agencies): Heavy rains in north Kashmir's Bandipora on Thursday triggered flash floods, with water inundating several areas, primarily in the upper reaches of the district.

Reports reaching Greater Kashmir suggested that heavy rains due to cloudbursts cre-

ated a significant flow of water at Arin Dardpora's Kundri Nallah.

"The stream was dangerously overflowing, however, there has been no loss of life or property as yet," said Bahar Jan, a local.

Flash floods were also reported from Puzalpora, Sheikhpul, Barzulla, Panzigam, and other

habitations.

Although no loss of life has been reported, damage to property is being estimated, with locals suggesting that crop loss is "going to be massive," as the water has begun flowing into paddy fields.

"The worst has happened; the water is overflowing the banks and has entered the villages. More villages downhill, like Barzulla and Panzigam, are in danger," Yasir Raffique from Barzulla village said, as the Rish Kul rivulet was breached in the morning.

Yasir said the flash floods have created extensive damage to crop while also wreaking havoc in the village as road, and water pipes have been washed away besides damaging vehicles parked on the roadside. He said no team from adminis-

tration had reached to the village so far.

He said the administration should deploy disaster management teams to prevent the situation from worsening, as the embankment is on the verge of collapse, "endangering all the habitation."

At various places, water was seen entering villages and inundating roads and lawns.

Meanwhile, the flash floods also triggered a landslide near Chandaji near Gurez-Bandipora road, prompting the administration to close the road as a precautionary measure.

ADC Bandipora confirmed to Greater Kashmir that there was a "flood-like situation" in some areas following the heavy rains in the morning.

He said the situation is being monitored, and teams are assessing the damage.

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION AKHNOOR**  
e-mail :executiveengineerakhnoor@gmail.com

**SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
Short e-NIT No. 32 of 2024-25 Dated 13-08-2024

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on **percentage basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works :-

S. No	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (in lacs)	Cost of document (in `)	Earnest Money (in `)	Time Allowed for complete-on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	construction of Link Rod from Jourian main road to Barwala Mohalla at W. No. 03 Pyt. Gurha Brahmana West Akhnoor under SSSY 2024-25 (1st Call)	20.00	600/-	(2% of the Advertised Cost)	01 month	(1400 Hrs) on or after 28-08-2024	"A", "B", "C"

Position of AAA :- Accorded by Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle North Jammu  
Position of TS :- Sanctioned

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	13-08-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 14-08-2024 to 27-08-2024, 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	17-08-2024 at 1300 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Akhnoor
4	Bid submission Start Date	14-08-2024
5	Bid Submission End Date	27-08-2024 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	28-08-2024 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Akhnoor
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

No :- 2958-70/Div.Akhnoor  
Dated :- 13-08-2024

DIP/J-4427/24

sd/-  
**Executive Engineer**  
**PWD (R&B) Division**  
**Akhnoor**

**PROCLAMATION**  
**OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENACRES, FLORIDA**  
**PROCLAIMING AUGUST 15, 2024, AS "INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY."**

**WHEREAS**, August 15th signifies the spirit of India Independence Day, a revered national holiday commemorating India's liberation from British Colonial rule in 1947. This day symbolizes the virtues of bravery, determination, and unity, reflecting the Independence Movement's dedication to non-violent resistance and civil disobedience; and

**WHEREAS**, India will be celebrating its 78th Independence Day and since August 15, 1947, the steadfast spirit of India's non-violent struggle for freedom has profoundly influenced the global stage. Embracing democracy, tolerance, and the rule of law, India has rejected terrorism and extremism, inspiring countless individuals worldwide; and

**WHEREAS**, the constitutions of India and the United States of America are united in their commitment to safeguarding the essential principles that ensure the freedom, dignity, and human rights of every individual; and

**WHEREAS**, Under the leadership of Surinder K. Zutshi, Kashmir Solidarity USA has ceaselessly strived to combat global terror, promote peace in the region, and relentlessly lobbied the US government about the true facts of Kashmir being an integral part of India while advocating for the story of the Kashmiri Pandits, making a significant impact; and

**WHEREAS**, as one of India's esteemed national holidays, Independence Day brings together 1.3 billion people within the country and a vibrant community of two million in the United States in joyous celebrations. Marked by the grandeur of flag-hoisting ceremonies, lively parades, and various festive activities, this occasion captures the spirit of freedom and unity; and

**WHEREAS**, Surinder K. Zutshi, who has previously endorsed Presidents Barack Obama and Joe Biden, expresses his unwavering support for Kamala Harris, citing her dedication to justice, equality, and the well-being of all Americans. Harris's commitment to diversity and inclusion, coupled with her profound understanding of the challenges faced by immigrant communities, resonates deeply with the values upheld by Kashmir Solidarity USA and the Indian American Festival Committee.

"Kamala Harris embodies the spirit of progress and unity that our country so desperately needs," said Mr. Zutshi. "Her leadership, experience, and vision for a better America align perfectly with our mission to promote cultural harmony, social justice, and solidarity among all communities. We believe that her presidency will pave the way for a brighter future for our nation."

**NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Greenacres**, with immense pride and admiration, proclaim August 15, 2024, as a day of special significance, known as 'India's Independence Day.' I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Surinder K. Zutshi, the esteemed Founder and President of Kashmir Solidarity USA, and the Indian American Festival Committee. Their unwavering dedication to strengthening the bonds between the Indian and American communities, founded on mutual respect for freedom and independence, and unwavering support for the constitution, exemplifies the essence of a thriving and vibrant democracy.

**"INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY"**  
Given under the hand and seal of the City of Greenacres, Florida, this 15th day of August 2024.

  
  
 Charles Shaw, Mayor  
  
 Quintella Moorser, City Clerk

John Tharp Councilman - District I    Peter A. Noble Councilman - District II    Judith Dugo Councilwoman - District III    Suty Diaz Councilwoman - District IV    Paula Bousquet Councilwoman - District V



## EDITORIAL

Ek Ped Shaheedon  
Ke Naam

**E**k Ped Shaheedon Ke Naam is a heartfelt initiative and concept that symbolizes the eternal gratitude and respect we owe to the brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives for our nation. This act of planting a tree serves as a living memorial, a poignant reminder of their valor, and a commitment to preserving their legacy for generations to come. As we explore this initiative, let us delve deeper into the profound significance and potential impact of dedicating a tree to our martyrs.

Trees are a powerful symbol of life, growth, and continuity. By dedicating a tree to the martyrs, we not only honor their sacrifice but also contribute to the well-being of our planet. This act of planting is more than just a gesture; it's a pledge to keep their memory alive and thriving, just as trees continue to grow and flourish. Each tree stands tall, a silent yet potent testament to the bravery and dedication of those who laid down their lives for their country.

In a world that often moves too fast, it's easy to forget the sacrifices made by those who fought for our freedom. The initiative of "Ek Ped Shaheedon Ke Naam" serves as a constant reminder of the debt we owe to our martyrs. Each tree becomes a living memorial, a place where families, friends, and fellow citizens can come to reflect and pay their respects. It fosters a sense of community and shared responsibility, reminding us that the freedom we enjoy today was hard-won and must be cherished and protected.

Beyond its symbolic significance, planting trees has a tangible impact on the environment. Trees are vital for maintaining ecological balance, improving air quality, and providing habitats for countless species. By planting a tree for every martyr, we not only honor their memory but also contribute to the fight against climate change and environmental degradation. This initiative aligns with broader efforts to promote sustainability and environmental stewardship, reinforcing the idea that we are all custodians of the Earth.

The "Ek Ped Shaheedon Ke Naam" initiative is a powerful tool for educating and engaging the younger generation. By involving schools, colleges, and youth organizations in tree-planting activities, we can instill a sense of patriotism and environmental responsibility in the leaders of tomorrow. This hands-on experience allows young people to connect with history and nature in a meaningful way, fostering a deep appreciation for the sacrifices made by our martyrs and the importance of preserving our natural world.

As more and more trees are planted in honor of our martyrs, we create a green legacy that benefits both present and future generations. These trees not only beautify our landscapes but also provide a haven for wildlife, a source of oxygen, and a shield against environmental challenges. The collective impact of these trees can transform our cities and towns, making them more livable and resilient. This legacy of greenery stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of our martyrs and our commitment to building a better, greener world.

"Ek Ped Shaheedon Ke Naam" is more than just an initiative; it's a movement that embodies the values of sacrifice, remembrance, and sustainability. By planting a tree for every martyr, we create a living monument that honors their memory and contributes to the health of our planet. This simple yet profound act serves as a reminder of the cost of our freedom and the responsibility we share in preserving it. Let us embrace this initiative with open hearts and hands, ensuring that the legacy of our martyrs lives on through the vibrant, growing trees that stand as symbols of hope, resilience, and gratitude.

By: Nilesh Kunwar



I missed being a member of the exclusive club that author Salman Rushdie popularised as 'Midnight Children' in his novel with the same name by a decade but this had its own advantages. For example, with India having adopted the metric monetary system in 1955, one didn't have to undergo the agony of memorising the complicated values of three pies making one pice, four pice making one Anna, and 16 Annas being equal to a Rupee.

While many in our age group fondly reminisce about what they jubilantly refer to as the 'good old days', I recall that life wasn't as good as what some of our age make it out to be. Though I can't speak about what adults felt those days but at home and even outside, one often heard snatches of conversation between elders that certainly did not give an impression that those days were exceptionally good ones. I distinctly recall the shortage of essential commodities being a common topic of discussion and marveling at advertisements of electronic gadgets like transistors in foreign magazines like Life and Woman & Home- old

copies of which sometimes came our way!

In those days every household had what was commonly referred to as a ration card that allowed you to buy rations from government run shops at subsidised rates, but since the amount of ration one could buy depended upon the number of family members, inflating the number of children and adding grandparents was commonplace.

Then there were permits- letters issued by the local authorities allowing those constructing houses to buy cement and other such commodities at what was referred to as government rates. Needless to say, getting a permit or padding the number of family members in ration cards was only possible through use of influence or the ubiquitous baksheesh [bribe].

The local administration did release an additional quota of sugar during festivals and marriages in the family which could be drawn by showing your ration card but the quantity [despite fudging the numbers of family members] was largely insufficient. However, one could buy any amount of sugar from the black-market. In fact, black marketing was a lucrative and thriving business where you could for a price pick up anything ranging from car tyres to cars itself!

In the summer months, power outages were frequent but didn't cause us much discomfort because the common Indian household then had neither a fridge nor any coolers. But what upset us kids most was the ban on sale of milk-sourced sweetmeats by the district magistrate due to acute shortage

of milk.

When the 1962 Sino-Indian conflict broke out, I was only six years old. Yet I vividly remember the frantic government appeals on radio and advertisements in news reels that preceded movie screening requesting people to donate gold jewellery, money and even woollens to help arm and clothe our soldiers fighting the Chinese. So much for the good old days!

Things started improving significantly during the seventies and life became much easier and more comfortable. This inference is duly reflected in the World Bank's data which shows India's per capita income has risen from a modest \$ 82 in 1960, jumped to a whopping \$ 2,388 in 2022. This is indeed a remarkable achievement when viewed in isolation, but for accurately determining the precise degree of progress made over the years, a comparative analysis is essential.

As China's per capita income in 1960 was \$ 89 as against India's \$82, comparison between the two countries is fair. In 2022, however, while China's per capita income swelled to \$ 12, 720, India's per capita income was only \$2,388. So, while India has definitely done well over the years, it would not be inappropriate to say that we could have certainly done much better.

Hence, the centre's decision to declare 'Viksit Bharat' [Developing India] as the central theme of India's 78th Independence Day celebrations is most appropriate as it gives a clarion call for the government's vision of transforming India into a developed entity by the centenary of Independence in 2017. Thanks to

well conceived and dynamically executed infrastructural development projects, adopting a 'bottom-up' approach and public participation to improve quality of life of the people through imaginative schemes as well as reducing foreign dependency by facilitating indigenisation through the 'Make in India' initiative, much lost ground has been covered.

Though the results achieved thus far are remarkable, there's no room for complacency or negativity, as in this competitive world there's no place for laggards. Simultaneously, since India's continuing progress is bound to upset certain countries and entities whose captive market is under threat from India's 'Make in India' programme, spreading negativity and creating a hostile working environment would only help inimical forces to exploit public emotions and impede progress.

India has all it takes to become a world leader provided we remain united and play our respective roles as its citizens in a responsible manner.

*(Nilesh Kunwar is a retired Indian Army Officer who has served in Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Nagaland and Manipur. He is a keen 'Kashmir-Watcher,' and after retirement is pursuing his favourite hobby of writing for newspapers, journals and think tanks).*

## India :The journey started from 15 August 1947 to now....

By: Dr. Anurag Pathak

**I**ndia is a land of great freedom fighters who have contributed to making India a free nation. The greatest role in the freedom of India was played by our great heroes majorly Bhagat Singh, Mahatma Gandhi, Subhash Chandra Bose, Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Lala Lajpat Rai, Lal Bahadur Shastri, and Bal Gangadhar Tilak to make this beautiful country a union of states. Besides these other Freedom Fighters and thousands of Indian patriots were also involved in freeing India from British Control. Read the complete article to know more about our Freedom Fighters of India, their contributions,

India got its independence on the 15th day of August of 1947, this day is the result of the freedom struggle fought by our great heroes and the 78th Independence Day in India is going to be celebrated on 15th August 2024 across the country. A series of struggles, movements, battles, and uprisings took place to make India independent through the contribution of great freedom fighters. There is no parameter to identify the best Freedom Fighters in India because every Freedom Fighter in India has played a major role in giving freedom to the country and sacrificing their life. Here, we are sharing the list of freedom fighters of India and their massive contribution to the country's struggle for Independence for India after a lot of effort.

In today's fast-moving world and tough competitive day-to-day life, the youth hardly find time for remembrance of our rich heritage and past. This becomes most crucial whilst the nation celebrates Azadi

ka Amrit Mahotsav (commemoration of 75 years of Indian Independence). The fight against colonial rule in India constitutes a unique narrative, one which is not marred by violence. Rather a narrative that is full of variegated stories of valor, bravery, Satyagraha, dedication, and sacrifice across the length and breadth of the subcontinent. These stories compose the rich Indian cultural heritage and traditions. Thus, the unsung heroes need not necessarily define the lesser-known freedom fighters. They may, at times, be the leaders whose ideals delineate the Indian value system.

The Section on Unsung Heroes is an attempt to recall and remember forgotten heroes of our freedom struggle, many of whom might be renowned yet unknown to the new generation. The aim of recreating and bringing forth stories, which lay as faded memories of the past, shall serve as a medium of inspiration and encouragement for the coming generations. India 2.0 is not just about fuelling the spirit of India in any one particular paradigm of growth. It encompasses all spheres of life, most of all by enriching our hearts and souls. The spirit of India is incomplete whilst we take our unsung heroes along this journey of growth and development. Their ethos and principles ought to be recalled and respected.

Gaining independence from the British wasn't an easy feat to achieve for India. Many freedom fighters have sacrificed their lives and endured immense hardships in the struggle for independence.

Despite facing numerous challenges and obstacles, India gained liberty from the British Raj on August 15, 1947, marking a significant milestone in its history. Although

India saw a catastrophic partition that led to the creation of Pakistan, India still emerged as a sovereign nation with a rich cultural heritage and diverse population.

The economy of India has transitioned from a mixed planned economy to a mixed middle-income developing social market economy and has become the largest South Asian economy with a notable public sector in strategic industries. It is the world's fifth-largest economy by nominal GDP and the third-largest by purchasing power parity (PPP). According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), on a per capita income basis, India ranked 139th by GDP (nominal) and 127th by GDP (PPP). From independence in 1947 until 1991, successive governments followed the Soviet model and promoted protectionist economic policies, with extensive Sovietization, state intervention, bureaucrat driven enterprises and economic regulation. This is characterised as dirigism, in the form of the Licence Raj. The end of the Cold War and an acute balance of payments crisis in 1991 led to the adoption of a broad economic liberalisation in India and indicative planning. Since the start of the 21st century, annual average GDP growth has been 6% to 7%. The economy of the Indian subcontinent was the largest in the world for most of recorded history up until the onset of colonialism in early 19th century. India accounts for 7.2% of the global economy in 2022 in PPP terms, and around 3.4% in nominal terms in 2022.

India does, however, face some challenges. It has significant informal domestic economies. The COVID-19 pandemic reversed both economic growth and poverty reduction and credit access weak-

nesses contributed to lower private consumption and heightened inflation and affected new social and infrastructure equity efforts. Economic growth slowed down in 2017 due to the shocks of "demonetisation" in 2016 and the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax in 2017. Nearly 70% of India's GDP is driven by domestic consumption. The country is the world's sixth-largest consumer market. Apart from private consumption, India's GDP is also fueled by government spending, investments, and exports. In 2022, India was the world's 6th-largest importer and the 9th-largest exporter. India has been a member of the World Trade Organization since 1 January 1995. [27] It ranks 63rd on the Ease of doing business index and 40th on the Global Competitiveness Index. Due to extreme rupee/dollar rate fluctuations India's nominal GDP fluctuates significantly. With 476 million workers, the Indian labour force is the world's second-largest. India has one of the world's highest number of billionaires and extreme income inequality. Despite considerable efforts for widening the tax base, the number of taxpayers in the country remains low. However, the number of income tax returns filed have been increasing year on year reaching a record 6.77 crores of Income Tax Returns (ITRs) filed till 31 July 2023 which was a 16.1% Year-on-Year increase. India is predicted to be the third largest economy by market exchange rates in 2027.

**Dr. Anurag Pathak**  
Lucknow



## Justice Sindhu Sharma hoists Tricolour at Jammu wing of HC



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 15: The 78th Independence Day was celebrated with great joy and gaiety in

the Jammu Wing of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The celebration commenced with hoisting of National Flag by Justice

Sindhu Sharma followed by salute ceremony which was conducted by the contingent of CRPF personnel. Thereafter, the Police band of the District Police, Jammu played various tunes of patriotic songs which captivated and enthralled the audience.

Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Justice Rajesh Sekhri and Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani graced the occasion by their presence.

Sanjay Parihar Principal, District and Sessions Judge, Jammu, Bala Jyoti Special Judge Anti-Corruption/CBI Cases, Y.P. Bournay Director, Judicial Academy, Sandeep Kour Registrar Judicial, Jammu Wing, Prem Sagar Secretary, High Court Legal Service Committee, Rajni Sharma Joint Registrar Judicial/Protocol, Jammu Wing, Vikram Sharma President, J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu, Additional Advocate Generals, Senior Advocates, members of the Bar Association and other officers and officials of the registry also participated in the celebration.

## Secretary Legislative Assembly hoists Tricolour



### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 15: Amid heavy downpour, the Secretary Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandit, today hoisted the National Flag on the 78th Independence Day here in the lawns of the Assembly Complex in presence of officers and officials of the Assembly.

While addressing the gathering, Secretary remarked that besides celebrating our Independence it is also time to remember the sacrifices of our freedom fighters, who fought tirelessly for safeguarding our rights and liberties. He made out that it is also time to honour the visionaries who shaped the destiny of our nation and the unsung heroes who continue to contribute to its progress.

He reminisced that over the years, India has made tremendous strides in the fields of science, technology, arts and culture and has been a shining example of democracy, diversity and resilience being the largest democratic country in the world. He however voiced that this journey is far from over as we still face challenges that require collective efforts and determination. Pandita in his address beckoned for making pledge to work together towards a brighter future, where every citizen has access to quality education, quality health care and equal opportunities. He called for striving towards building a strong nation where every voice is heard, every dream is nurtured and every aspiration is fulfilled.

## Chief Justice hoists National Flag at High Court Srinagar

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 15: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh celebrated the 78th Independence Day today here. The main function of the Independence Day was held in the High Court Wing, Srinagar wherein Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chief Justice (A) hoisted the National Flag and congratulated the participants.

The event was attended by Judges available in Srinagar wing of the High Court Justice Atul Sreedharan, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Justice Puneet Gupta, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Justice Mohd. Akram Chowdhary and Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi.

Advocate General of the UT of Jammu & Kashmir as well the Senior Advocates were present on the occasion. The Registrar General, judicial officers and the officials of the Registry of main wing and Srinagar wing also participated in the event. Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar also participated in



the event along with the judicial officers from his District.

The contingent of Armed Forces played patriotic songs/tunes

after the unfurling of the National Flag. Justice Tashi Rabstan also distributed sweets among the members of the Armed Forces.

## DIPR celebrates 78th I-Day at Media Complex Srinagar; Jatin Kishore hoists tricolour



### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 15:

The Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) marked the

78th Independence Day with a ceremony held at the Media Complex Srinagar today.

The event was a poignant celebration of unity, diversity, and national pride, embodied by the hoisting of the National Flag.

Director Information, Jatin Kishore, led the ceremony by hoisting the National Flag, symbolizing the country's rich history and the enduring spirit of its people.

Senior officers and officials of DIPR joined the flag hoisting ceremony, reflecting a collective commitment to upholding the values and aspirations that the National Flag represents.

At Media Complex Jammu, flag hoisting ceremony was led by Joint Director Information Headquarters, Vivek Puri. Senior officers and other staff were also present during the flag hoisting ceremony.

## Dr Rashmi hoists National Flag at JK House New Delhi



### Top News Report

NEW DELHI/JAMMU, Aug 15: On the occasion of the 78th Independence Day, Dr. Rashmi Singh, Principal Resident Commissioner, New Delhi, hoisted the National Flag at Jammu and Kashmir House, 5-Prithvi Raj Road.

A contingent of J&K Armed Police presented the guard of honor, and a vibrant cultural program was showcased. The event reaffirmed the spirit of harmony, honored the bravery and sacrifice of freedom fighters, and commitment to fulfilling their vision.

The function was attended by officers and officials. Dr. Rashmi Singh interacted with them and presented special gifts and appreciation certificates to all participants.

Later, Dr. Rashmi Singh inaugurated the Ayush Wellness Centre at 5-Prithvi Raj Road, New Delhi.

## Cluster University of Jammu celebrates Independence Day with enthusiasm

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 15: The Department of Botany and Zoology, School of Sciences at Cluster University of Jammu, celebrated Independence Day with great enthusiasm. The event was marked by the hoisting of the national flag under the esteemed patronage of Prof. Suganda Mahajan, Coordinator of the Department, and Prof. Menakshi from the Department of Zoology. The occasion was graced by the presence of distinguished faculty members, including Dr. Harpreet Bhatia, Dr. Isha Sharma, Dr. Mohd Saleem, Dr. Pankaj Kumar, and Dr. Anjali, who all actively participated in the celebration. The flag-hoisting ceremony was a symbol of unity and pride, reflecting the spirit of independence and dedication

within the academic community. The event not only honored the nation's heritage but also reinforced the commitment of the Department of Botany and Zoology towards fostering a sense of patriotism and academic excellence among students and faculty alike.

The ceremony concluded with inspiring speeches from the faculty members, emphasizing the importance of independence, education, and scientific progress in building a stronger nation. The event was a testament to the vibrant academic culture at Cluster University of Jammu, where national pride and academic pursuits go hand in hand.

## GDC Ukhral celebrates Independence Day

### Top News Report

UKHRAL, Aug 15: GDC Ukhral Celebrated India's 78th year of Independence with great zeal, zest and fervour.

The celebration commenced with unfurling of tri-colour at 09:05AM by Coordinator NSS Prof Iftikhar Hussain Lone. It was accompanied by the singing of National Anthem and 'Salami' Parade.

A beautiful after-ceremony programme was enacted in the conference-room of the college in which the invited guests, staff, students and general masses participated.

At the outset, the Principal of the College, Prof Archana Kaul saluted the sacrifices ushered by thousands of people during the Independence Movement. She called for withstanding and strengthening of "Azadi" achieved after hundreds of years of struggle. A varied number of items like patriotic songs, speeches, dances and plays were enacted and performed by the students of the college.

Some main teachings that were brought home were the main historic happenings and landmarks of the freedom movement, importance of physical and mental strengths to keep our beloved nation prosper by leaps and bounds.

In the cultural part of the programme some Pogli songs, skills, folk songs, historical importance of the area were brought forth before the audience. A huge number of masses had also gathered on the occasion to get enchanted by the programme.

The vote of thanks was presented by Prof Dilbag Verma in which he thanked the college authorities namely Prof Iftikhar Hussain, R K Thakur and Farooq Ahmad Katoch. He also expressed gratefulness to guests, students and masses for making the programme extremely successful. The students who participated in different programmes organised formerly were also felicitated.

The proceedings were done by Prof Iftikhar Hussain- Convener Seminar and Debates.

## GDC Ramgarh celebrates Independence Day

### Top News Report

RAMGARH, Aug 15: Government Degree College (GDC) Ramgarh celebrated 77 years of India's Independence under the aegis of "Independence Day Celebration and Swachhta Pakhwada".

Principal of College, Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra hoisted the National Flag on this festive occasion followed by The National Anthem.

Speaking on the occasion Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra paid rich tribute

to the national heroes and the freedom fighters as well as thousands of people who sacrificed their lives to gain the independence on this historic day, August 15th, 1947. She emphasized on the special significance of the day and the purpose for celebrating Independence Day Celebration. She expressed her hope on younger generation to become true soldiers of the country by inculcating good qualities in them and by contributing diligently in science, technology, environment protection,

art, literature, peace and sustainable development. She also highlighted and appreciated the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction Scheme of the Ministry and explained how Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan has helped in reducing the abuse of drugs. The event was attended by faculty members including Dr. Aditi Khajuria, Dr. Snobar, Prof. Sandeep Kumari, Ashok Kumar, Prof. Brahm Dutt, and Dr. Shivali Panigotra, non-teaching and locals were present on the occasion.

## GDC Sidhra celebrates Independence Day 2024

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 15: India's Independence Day, observed annually on August 15th, marks the day in 1947 when the country gained freedom from British rule. It is a momentous occasion that serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by countless freedom fighters for the country's independence.

To honour the sacrifices of those who fought for India's independence, this glorious day has been celebrated at GDC Sidhra with great fervor and enthusiasm. The programme commenced with welcome address by Deepak Kumar, PTI in which he apprised all the staff members and students of the college about the importance of our national festivals.

Principal of the College, Dr. G.S. Rakwal accompanied by the staff and NSS volunteers hoisted the National Flag followed by the National Anthem.

Sequel to this e-pledge on Nasha Mukh Bharat was also observed by teaching and non-teaching staff along with students.

Dr. G.S. Rakwal, Principal GDC Sidhra addressed the gathering and extended his warm greetings on the occasion. He sensitized the students about the significance of this day and motivated them to work towards a brighter and more inclusive future. He also encouraged them to become better citizens and perform their duties honestly in the interest of the nation.

The entire programme was organized under the able guidance of Dr. G.S. Rakwal, Principal of the college with the active support and coordination Dr. Purvaya Hans, NSS Programme Officer and her team, Prof. Deepa Kak, Convener Anti Drugs and Rehabilitation Cell with her team and other staff members of the college.

## Shiksha Niketan School celebrates 78th I-Day

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 15: Shiksha Niketan School, Jeevan Nagar Jammu celebrated the 78th Independence Day of India with great zeal and exhilaration.

The celebration commenced with the flag-hoisting ceremony where the unfurling of the National Flag was followed by the National Anthem and the release of a myriad of tricolour balloons into the sky. Students of High wing (Classes 8th, 9th and 10th) all geared up with patriotic fervour.

The spirit of patriotism as the students of Shiksha Niketan School recreated the through various cultural items where glimpses of the glory and freedom struggle of India were presented through a plethora of performances including patriotic dances, poetic recitations, Parade, role plays and songs. This rekindled the spirit of nationalism in every heart. The chief Guest Govardhan Singh Jamwal (Retired Major General), hoisted the national flag and paid homage to all the great leaders and souls who laid down their lives for the freedom of the nation. Shiksha Niketians seemed to be swayed away in the mixed emotions of joy, hope and pride. Everyone seemed to be swaying in the mixed emotions of joy, hope and

pride. Most memorable moments were marked by golden words of advice and motivation by worthy Principal, Rameshwar Mengi. He appreciated the efforts of the students and teachers.

Director, Pusp Vatika, Mr. Rishiek Mengi Ji was also present on the occasion he commended the combined efforts of the students and teachers for

presenting the wonderful show and emphasized the need of maintaining peace and communal harmony in the nation. Director of RM Public school Mr. Rakshan Mengi Ji also addressed the gathering by reiterating the way our brave freedom fighters sacrificed their lives, happiness and families – just so we could enjoy the taste of liberty.

### AMARNATH YATRA SPECIAL TRAIN

For the convenience of passengers, Railways have decided to run the following Amarnath yatra Special Train between Jabalpur Jn. and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra as per the schedule given below :-

Train No. 01707		STATIONS		Train No. 01708	
ARR.	DEP.			ARR.	DEP.
---	06:00	Jabalpur Jn.	↑	23:25	---
12:15	---	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	↓	---	18:10

Days of Run : 01707 Ex Jabalpur Jn. on every Monday from 02.09.2024 to 28.10.2024 and 01708 Ex Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra on every Tuesday from 03.09.2024 to 29.10.2024

Stoppages : Katni Murwara, Damoh, Saugor, Virangana Lakshmbai Jhansi, Gwalior Jn., Morena, Agra Cantt., Mathura Jn., Fardabad, Hazrat Nizamuddin Jn, New Delhi, Shakurbasti, Rohitak Jn, Jind Jn, Jakkhal Jn, Ludhiana Jn, Jalandhar Cantt. Jn, Pathankot Cantt., Jammu Tawi & Martyr Captain Tushar Mehejan stations

Accommodation: 1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General

For detailed information regarding stoppages and timings of above trains, please call RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit enquiry website: [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in)

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## A big salute

The world of cinema has captured the sacrifices of freedom fighters through the years. Here's a look at some films that inspire to binge-watch this Independence Day

Have you ever wondered what it would have been like to be present in the era of Indian freedom struggle — understanding the emotions, unity in people's hearts, constant fire in the belly to liberate the country from the shackles of Britishers? Although we weren't there back in the day, thanks to the world of cinema we can understand and empathise with our country and countrymen. This Independence Day, let's go back in time and binge-watch movies that celebrate India's independence.

**Days of struggle**  
During the Independence struggle, every nook and corner of the country echoed the tunes of freedom. One such movie that would give you an actual representation of the Indian revolt of 1857 is *Mangal Pandey: The Rising* (2005). This Aamir Khan-starrer is based on real historical events and depicts the grievances of Indian sepoys during the British Raj, and is available on



YouTube. *The Legend of Bhagat Singh* (2002), directed by Rajkumar Santoshi is another film that gives you an insight into the mindset of young revolutionaries, such as Bhagat Singh, who didn't hesitate for a moment to walk down the gallows at a young age of 23.

**Notable biopics**  
There are many more whose contributions went unnoticed, among them being 22-year-old Usha Mehta. In the biopic *Ae Watan Mere Watan*, actress Sara Ali Khan plays Usha who spearheaded the initiative to start an underground radio station. At that time Indians had no

means of communication or free press. When any movement or mutiny against the British failed because Indians were working in silos, Usha's indomitable spirit powered through and the radio station became an integral part of the fight against the British Raj.

*Sardar Udham* (2021), starring Vicky Kaushal, on Amazon Prime, is another biopic on young Punjabi revolutionary Udhham Singh. He had planned the assassination of Punjab's Lieutenant Governor, Michael Francis O'Dwyer, who was responsible for the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. The movie takes

you through the journey of Udhham Singh who survived the massacre and escaped to London. A National award-winning film, the film was directed by Shoojit Sircar.

Another film based on the life of Param Vir Chakra awardee Captain Vikram Batra, *Sher-shaah* (2021), available on Amazon Prime, features Sidharth Malhotra in the titular role. *Sher-shaah* was Batra's codename during 1999 Kargil War.

The film *Major* (2022), on Netflix, is also an inspiring biopic based on the life of Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan, who was martyred

during the November 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks.

**Changing India**  
*Rang De Basanti*, although released in 2006, depicts the modern-day dynamics in the country. It's a story of six young students who are preparing to act in a friend's documentary (which is about Indian freedom fighters) and how it creates circumstances that result in their revisiting the long-forgotten story of freedom. It juxtaposes freedom fighters from the colonial rule with young revolutionaries of the day.

Another take on modern India, *Swades* (2004), starring Shah Rukh Khan, explores the story of an NRI who works in NASA and visits India to meet his amma. During his stay, he realises how his country's development required his presence, as opposed to his employment in a foreign country. This subject is still as relevant as it was in 2004, considering the increasing brain drain.

## Blake Lively breaks silence after facing backlash for It Ends With Us publicity



Blake Lively has responded to backlash amid the press tour for her new film, *It Ends With Us*. The 36-year-old recently came under fire for not focusing on the domestic violence theme of the film, which is based on Colleen Hoover's namesake novel. The *Age of Adaline* star took to her Instagram story to share a clip of her interview with BBC News, in which she discusses the nature of the character she portrays in the film.

The *Gossip Girl* star has been in the spotlight lately for her striking appearances at press

events. Lively, who is known for her humorous approach, came under fire after compilations of her recent interviews went viral on social media. She has largely been accused of avoiding speaking about more sensitive aspects of the film by adopting a light-hearted tone.

In the wake of the recent backlash, Lively shared the BBC clip, where she talks about her role as Lily Bloom. "She is not just a survivor, and she's not just a victim, and while those are huge things to be, they are not her identity," the *Green Lantern*

actress said during the interview.

Lively went on to add that Lily "is not defined by something someone else did to her or an event that happened to her, even if it's multiple events." "She defines herself, and I think that's deeply empowering. ... No one else can define you. No experience can define you. You define you," she continued.

Lively's elegant floral-themed dresses have also been a subject of controversy, with netizens claiming the glamorous ensembles fall into the Barbie trend that took social media by storm last year. In addition to the video clip, Lively also wrote a lengthy statement expressing gratitude to those who came out in support of the film.

"We have been in celebration of this film and of getting a message so important out there to the masses," Lively wrote, adding, "Thank you all for embracing @itendswithusmovie with the same pain, love and joy we had sharing it with you all."

## Meet Sumeet Raghavan, the chef

Sumeet Raghavan, who brings the cherished character of Rajesh Wagle to life in Sony SAB's *Wagle Ki Duniya* — *Nayi Peedhi Naye Kisse*, has been a favourite both with his fans as well as fellow actors and crew on the sets.

Recently, it was revealed that Sumeet not only shines in his role but also delights his co-stars and crew members with his culinary skills.

Sumeet shared, "You can always find a kitchen set up on my make-up table. I genuinely enjoy cooking for my friends and colleagues; it's a way to share some warmth and fun. Most of the time, my cooking is a hit, though I'll admit there have been a few rare misses! Pariva, Chinmayee, Bharati Maushi, Harshad and others often put in their



requests. From French toast and omelettes to

burgers, I whip up whatever the mood calls for."

## Independence Day 2024: Triptii Dimri wants "freedom from judgement" this I-Day

Triptii Dimri's excitement for Independence Day, stems not just from the nostalgia it evokes, but also from the promise of a better tomorrow. In an exclusive shoot with HT City, the actor shares that the day is "attached to the feeling of fulfilment".

As India celebrates its 78th Independence Day today, Triptii says independence is "to live your life the way you want". "I am glad people can express themselves through social media and other mediums, that they are voicing their opinions; that's where independence lies for me. You can say what you want and live the life you want without thinking about what others would say about your decisions," explains the actor who was recently seen in *Bad Newz*.

Triptii, who has been labelled India's 'national crush', notes that India's young guns are "so well-informed and educated". "Young people today are very opinionated and have something to say about everything. This is important, as the young-



sters of today are the leaders of tomorrow. I am glad they are taking their voice seriously and don't shy away from speaking up when needed. They believe that what they say holds meaning, is important and brings change — and it does," she adds.

What's the one thing she hopes people can find freedom from? "Fear of judgement," replies the 30-year-old. "It is also very personal to me, as I am fearful of people judging me. It holds true for a lot of people, yet having

said that, I want to add, if you follow your heart and do things the way you want to, then you don't have to be scared of anything," she elaborates, adding, "I have to think twice before I post anything on social media, as I don't know how people will perceive it. That's why I want freedom from judgement. Everyone has the right to present their opinions, but sometimes when you post something and it is taken in the wrong way, it breaks your heart. You can't

explain everything to everyone."

The *Laila Majnu* (2018) and *Animal* (2023) actor talks about how she celebrates Independence Day, Triptii says, "When at home, I watch the festivities, flag hoisting and patriotic performances on TV. We also wait for the Prime Minister's speech at Red Fort," she tells us, adding that she has "wonderful memories" of celebrating I-Day while growing up. "I still feel the same excitement [about I-Day] I had as a kid. Every year, our school would have many cultural events where everyone participated, won prizes and went home with goodies. Back home, my dad was the head of our [residential] society in the Air India colony, Vasant Vihar, Delhi. He used to organise functions with themes and games for every age group. Now that we have moved out, we [fondly] remember those celebrations that made us feel like a part of the community; they bring a smile to my face. That is something I miss even today," Triptii concludes.

## Stree is back

Laughs, bromance and excitement marked the interaction with the cast of *Stree 2* in the national capital

After capturing the hearts of audiences with *Stree* back in 2018, the beloved cast and crew are back with a highly anticipated sequel.

On the eve of the film's release, Shraddha Kapoor, Rajkumar Rao, Abhishek Banerjee and Aparshakti Khurana, along with director Amar Kaushik and producer Dinesh Vijan, gathered in Delhi for a press conference that was nothing short of a laugh riot.

Hosted at the Imperial Hotel, the event quickly transformed from a formal press briefing to a lively reunion, as the stars pulled each other's leg, shared jokes and reflected upon their journey. The chemistry between the cast was evident as they bantered back and forth, with Rajkumar Rao kicking off the fun by saying, "Stree ne hamesha

hume sirf diya hai. *Stree* was one huge jump in the careers of all of us, and I think *Stree 2* will again give it a big boost." His words set the tone for the rest of the event, which was a mix of heartfelt reflections and playful jabs.

Aparshakti, never one to miss an opportunity for a good quip, chimed in about the sequel, saying, "Stree 1 made a paradigm shift in the way we make films in our country.

And now, we're coming up with its second part — it's bigger, it's better, funnier and scarier, all together." The excitement was palpable as he spoke, hinting at the high stakes and even higher expectations surrounding the sequel.

But it wasn't all just about the movie; it was also about the bond that has formed



between the cast over the years. Shraddha shared how returning to the sets felt

like slipping into a familiar old routine. "The world is the same. Before going to the

sets, I felt like *arre paanch saal guzar gaye*, but the moment I got into the zone

it felt that it hadn't been too long and the movie just felt like a continuation of the first part," she said.

Her genuine excitement to be back with the crew was clear, as she gushed, "I feel so excited to be part of such an incredible cast. It's been one of the best movies, groups, and the best gang that I could ever be a part of."

And, of course, what's a *Stree* event without a bit of bromance? Rajkumar, Abhishek, and Aparshakti took centerstage, with Rajkumar emphasising that the friendship between their characters is the backbone of the film. "Stree ki backbone uski friendship hai. Bittu, Jaana and Vicky's friendship is a very important part of this film. What's more incredible about the bunch is that we are not insecure, jealous, and there is noth-

ing negative in the love that we share for each other. We genuinely love each other in life," he said.

The trio's camaraderie extended off-screen as well, with Aparshakti adding, "There's no competitiveness in us."

The director, Amar, couldn't resist jumping in, sharing that the actors often volunteered to give each other the best lines, showcasing their genuine affection and respect for one another.

The conference wrapped up on a high note, with the cast and crew teasing the audience just enough to leave them on the edge of their seats. As the event wore on, it became clear that *Stree 2* isn't just a sequel; it's a celebration of everything that made the original a hit — humour, horror and a whole lot of heart!



## I-Day: Punishment given for crimes against women should be publicised, says PM Modi

Expresses concern over incidents of rape and violence against women

NEW DELHI, Aug 15 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday underscored the need to widely publicise punishments given for atrocities against women so that there is a fear of consequence, his comments coming in the backdrop of the horrific rape and murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata.

Addressing the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the 78th Independence Day, Modi expressed profound concern over incidents of rape and violence against women.

"Crimes against women should be probed swiftly, and stringent punishment given to those who commit such demonic acts," Modi said, stressing the need for societal introspection and creating fear of consequences among perpetrators.

"Today, from the Red Fort, I want to express my pain. As a society, we will have to think seriously about the atrocities against our mothers, sis-



ters, and daughters. There is anger among common people because of this. I can feel that rage," he said.

He also said such disturbing incidents continue to occur.

The fear of punishment must be struck among the perpetrators, he said. "Those who commit such sins should know that they will be hanged."

Addressing the issue of advancements in women's rights, Modi discussed the extension of paid maternity leave from 12 weeks to 26

weeks. "The extension of paid maternity leave is not just about respect for women but also about making thoughtful decisions to ensure that the child in a mother's care becomes an exemplary citizen," he said.

He underscored that this change reflects a compassionate and constitutional approach to supporting working mothers and their children.

He celebrated the inclusion of approximately 10 crore new women in self-help groups,

highlighting their growing role in family decision-making and broader social change.

"We are proud to see that women are becoming economically self-reliant. When women become self-reliant, they participate in family decision-making processes, which will ensure significant social transformation," he said.

Modi drew a parallel between the global success of Indian CEOs and the achievements of these women. "While our CEOs gain global recognition, one crore women are becoming Lakhpati Didis".

Modi said the government has allocated between Rs 10 and 20 lakh to these groups with a total of Rs 9 lakh crore provided in support so far.

The Prime Minister highlighted the government's efforts in promoting a "women-led development model" across various sectors, including innovation, employment, and entrepreneurship.

## Tallest Tricolour in northeast hoisted at army headquarters in Manipur



IMPHAL, Aug 15 (Agencies): The tallest flag in Northeast India was hoisted at the INA headquarters complex at Moirang in Manipur's Bishnupur district on the occasion of the country's 78th Independence Day on Thursday.

Indian National Army (INA) soldiers in 1944 had hoisted its flag for the first time in Moirang on Indian soil.

"Today, we proudly witness the unfurling of the tricolour at the historic INA headquarters in Moirang, Bishnupur district. The flag flies high atop the 165 ft tall flagpole, the tallest in North-East India, symbolising our nation's pride and glory. The INA headquarters, established by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, holds great historical importance. On April 14, 1944, the Indian National Army (INA) first hoisted the tricolour here, marking a pivotal moment in our struggle for independence," Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh said on X.

"As we celebrate Har Ghar Tiranga, let us

remember and honour the sacrifices made by our freedom fighters and the enduring legacy of India's Freedom Struggle," Singh said.

Earlier, Singh said "I thought of unfurling the tallest flag in Eastern India and engaged a few persons to do it. A new architectural design which covers the old building of the INA headquarters was built. I wanted to surprise Prime Minister and Union Home Minister. We heard that the old Azad Hind Forces headquarters still had bullet holes and a place of hiding. We reached out to the owner of the house and told him that the government will properly compensate the owners by giving them land."

Convenor of INA Memorial Y Modhu Singh applauded the initiative taken by the Biren Singh government to restore the INA's old headquarters. "We want to convey our congratulations and appreciation to CM Biren Singh for showing keen interest and building a new structure above the old headquarters of

INA without altering the old buildings. This will attract pilgrims from all across the country."

The house previously belonged to social activist Hemam Nilamani Singh and witnessed iconic moments in India's freedom struggle with Azad Hind Forces launching an all-out attack on British forces and declaring independence long before the country achieved its independence in 1947.

Grandson of Nilamani Singh, Hemam Nandkumar Singh said "My grandfather joined the INA movement in 1944 and his residence became the INA headquarters after Moirang was liberated on 14th April 1944. The residence was handed to Colonel Shaukhat Malik. After the retreat of INA, he went to Rangoon (in Myanmar) and dedicated to the cause of India's freedom struggle for a year under the leadership of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in Rangoon."

A few metres from the INA headquarters is the INA museum which houses letters, weapons and other war memorabilia. The complex has a life-sized bronze statue of Bose which was a gift from West Bengal.

Speaking on the most valuable items in the museum, Curator L Sadhna Devi said "We have handwritten letters of Netaji and the original ones are displayed here...".

## UP woman scolds son, 16, over video game addiction, he dies by suicide

BANDA, Aug 15 (Agencies): A 16-year-old student in Uttar Pradesh died by suicide after allegedly being scolded by his parents for playing video games for too long, police said. Anand Kishore, a class 10 student, spent excessive time playing the Free Fire game, neglecting his studies. Angered by this, his mother allegedly scolded him and asked him to stop playing video

games.

In a fit of rage, Anand, who was the only son, hanged himself at his home. His body was found hanging when his mother went to check on him after a while.

However, a family member claimed that Anand was trying to scare his mother by putting a noose around his neck, but it accidentally tightened. According to Lalit, construction work was ongoing in the

house, and the boy had not attended classes for several days.

"He used to play Free Fire. His mother often asked him to study, which led him to try scaring her by putting a noose around his neck. But the noose tightened, and he died," Lalit said.

The deceased boy's father works a private job in Gujarat.

The family member also alleged that Anand has a sister but, being



the only son, he was spoiled. Lalit further claimed that the boy was used to getting his way with tantrums and threats.

A police officer also stated that Kishore died by suicide after his mother asked him to go to school. Further investigation is underway.

## Coaches detach from moving train near Gujarat's Vadodara, no casualties

VADODARA, Aug 15 (Agencies): Two coaches of Ahmedabad-Mumbai Double Decker Express detached from the moving train on Thursday morning near Gothangam Yard of Gujarat's Vadodara.

The incident happened when the train's coupler began to malfunction, causing coaches 07 and 08 to detach from the moving train. Due to the train's slow speed at the time, no passengers were injured.

The sudden halt of the train caused fear and concern among the passengers.

However, the train crew and railway staff



responded promptly and managed to bring the situation under control.

Railway officials are at the scene and have initiated the necessary investigation.

Preliminary reports suggest that the incident

was caused by a technical fault in the train's coupler.

Following the incident, the railway staff is working to attach an alternative coupler to ensure the train can continue its journey.

## Assam's future at risk as Hindu-Muslim population balance shifts: Himanta Sarma

GUWAHATI, Aug 15 (Agencies): Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma expressed concerns on Thursday about the state's future, stating that the declining population balance between Hindus and Muslims poses a significant challenge. During his Independence Day speech, Sarma highlighted that the indigenous people of Assam are increasingly becoming a minority in 12-13 districts due to demographic changes.

Sarma pointed out that the Hindu population, which once constituted 60-65% of the state, has now dropped to around 57%, while the Muslim population has risen to 41% as of 2021. He urged all com-



munities to adhere to family planning norms and cautioned against polygamy, emphasising the need to restore the population balance.

The Chief Minister also discussed the government's efforts to protect indigenous land and interests. He announced that the government has reclaimed 167 square

district.

To safeguard the land rights of communities like Koch-Rajbongshi, Bodo, and Rabha, the Revenue Department plans to introduce new legislation in the upcoming Assembly session. Sarma also mentioned the creation of micro tribal belts outside existing tribal areas to ensure land protection.

Starting October 2, the Assam government will launch the third edition of Mission Basundhara, aimed at granting land rights to indigenous people in the hills of Guwahati. Sarma also announced plans to return tea garden land to workers, with a policy to be unveiled soon.

In addition to land

reforms, the Chief Minister revealed plans to introduce a state domicile policy to ensure that only locals can secure government jobs. He also expressed his commitment to resuming the National Register of Citizens (NRC) update process, which was halted due to the suspension of 9.22 crore biometric records.

Sarma emphasised the government's progress in reducing child marriage, noting that 5,413 cases had been filed by May 31 this year, with many resulting in convictions. He vowed to eradicate child marriage in Assam by 2026, emphasising education as a critical tool in this fight.

## Probe Agency Attaches Avantha Group's Properties Worth 678 Crore

NEW DELHI, Aug 15 (Agencies): Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has provisionally attached immovable properties of Gautam Thapar's Avantha Group. Valued at 678.48 crore, the properties are in the form of land located in Haryana, Maharashtra and Uttarakhand.

On August 19, 2019, CG Power and Industrial Solutions Ltd had disclosed under Regulation 30 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 to Bombay Stock Exchange and National Stock Exchange regard-

ing findings which had potential implications on the financial position of the company.

The disclosure made by CG Power and Industrial Solutions Ltd revealed that assets and liabilities of the company have been understated considerably; that advances to related parties and unrelated parties have also been understated; additionally, certain assets' company have been provided as collateral, the company was made a co-borrower and/or guarantor for enabling financing of loans which were imme-

diately routed out of the company without due authorisation.

The notice of the disclosure was taken by the lender banks of the company and on the basis of a complaint made by State Bank of India, CBI, New Delhi registered an FIR dated 22.06.2021 under the various sections of IPC and Prevention of Corruption Act against CG Power and Industrial Solution Ltd: Gautam Thapar, along with K. N. Neelkanth, Madhav Acharya, B. Hariharan, Omakar Goswami and unknown public servant(s) and private person(s) in per-

petuating a bank fraud on consortium of banks to the tune of 2,435 crore. On the basis of the above FIR, ED initiated the investigation under PMLA, and during the course of the investigation, earlier two Provisional Attachment Orders were issued wherein the properties of 14.43 crore were attached.

One Key Managerial Personnel of the company, namely Madhav Acharya, was also arrested in January 2024, and a prosecution complaint has been filed against him and other persons found to

have been involved in the offence of money laundering.

Further investigation conducted by ED revealed that 1307.06 crore have been diverted to Avantha Group companies by availing loans and out of its funds. Most of the funds have been paid without the due authorisation of the board and the funds ultimately paid to Avantha Group companies remained still outstanding on Avantha Group. Therefore, the properties of companies of Avantha Group worth 678.48 Crore have been attached.

## Freedom is our biggest protective shield: Rahul Gandhi on Independence Day



NEW DELHI, Aug 15 (Agencies): Leader

of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi

on Thursday greeted people on 78th Independence Day and said "freedom is our biggest protective shield".

Wishing people on Independence Day, Gandhi said, "For us, freedom is not just a word "it is our biggest protective shield, rooted in constitutional and democratic values."

It is the power of expression, the ability to speak the truth and the hope to fulfil dreams, the former Congress chief said in a post on X





National Flag hoisting by LG's Advisor, R R Bhatnagar, impressive march past by security forces and J&K Police and cultural activities by students mark the celebration of 78th Independence Day celebration at M A Stadium in Jammu.  
Pic by AMAN SHARMA



## GDC R S Pura celebrates 78th Independence Day with patriotic fervor

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 15: Government Degree College R. S. Pura today celebrated the 78th Independence Day with great patriotic fervour, zeal and enthusiasm. The program was started with hoisting of the National Flag by Principal GDC R. S. Pura, Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour, in presence of faculty members and students followed by National Anthem and Drill performed by NCC cadets of the college under the supervision and guidance of Dr. Rakesh Choudhary, ANO Boys and Dr. Roopali Salathia, ANO Girls. In the second half cultural program was performed by



NSS volunteers under the guidance of NSS coordinator and cultural committee. The cultural program included patriotic songs, dances and speeches which were anchored by Gusimar Kour, student of Semester Vth. The program concluded with National

Anthem. While speaking on the occasion, Principal of the college congratulated the staff members and students to mark the 78th year of Independence. She said that the sacrifices of the freedom fighters should

be remembered by all and we all should work towards progress and development of this country. She urged students to realize, understand and cherish this freedom and work towards a progressive nation. Dr. Chanchal Angral, NSS

PO explained the ethos and themes of the Independence Day.

The formal vote of thanks was extended by Dr. Chanchal Angral, Coordinator NSS, where she also highlighted the series of programs conducted by the college under Celebration of Independence Day' 2024 such as, Poster making, Plantation Drives, Cleanliness Drives, Rallies, quiz and rangoli making competitions etc.

The program was attended by all teaching and non-teaching staff of the college was concluded with National Anthem. Refreshment was served to students, teaching and non-teaching staff.

## GDC Neeli Nallah Udhampur celebrates 78th National Independence Day

### Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Aug 15: GDC Neeli Nallah Udhampur organized 78th National Independence Day with great zeal and enthusiasm.

The event started with hoisting of National Flag by the Principal of the college, Prof. (Dr.) Seema Arora followed by singing of the National Anthem by the staff as well as the students of the college.

The event was joined by audience from local community also. Cultural Activities were also a part of the event in which the students showcased their talents through dance, music and drama performances that highlighted the rich cultural heritage of the nation.

The event also included singing of patriotic song by the students, leaving a sense of unity and pride in the hearts of all the participants.

On the occasion, the Principal of the college expressed her pride in college's vibrant and united efforts. She said that "this momentous occasion marks the bravery and sacrifices of our freedom fighters who fought tirelessly for our nation's sovereignty. We celebrate not only our freedom but also the responsibility we hold towards our nation. Let's celebrate with pride, honouring the sacrifices of our ancestors and unite as a nation to create a better tomorrow." She congratulated

the staff as well as the students of the college for organizing such an event as it showcased a vibrant display of Unity, culture and reverence of Nation's history. The staff of the college also delivered speeches; on the importance of patriotism, social responsibility and the role of the youth in shaping the future of the nation. The event concluded with felicitation ceremony with the awarding of appreciation certificates to the winning participants who excelled in various inter college competitions as well as the establishment staff who work round the clock behind the scene. Later all the participants were served with light refreshments.

## GHSS Paloura celebrates 78th Independence Day

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 15: The 78th Independence Day was celebrated on 15th of Aug 2024 in the Premises of Govt. Higher Secondary School Paloura, Jammu with great enthusiasm, pump and show. The school was beautifully decorated with tricolor lights, balloons and flags. The event commenced with Smt. Shikha Malhotra Principal of the institution hoisting the national flag followed by singing of national

anthem by the attendees. Principal Govt. Higher Secondary School Paloura in her speech inspired the young minds to contribute positively to the growth and progress of the nation. Immediately after national anthem march past salute, cultural items including the colorful patriotic songs were presented by the students as well as staff members of the institution. Sweets and juices have been distributed among the students and staff.

## Dulhasti Power Station celebrates 78th Independence Day

### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Aug 15: Dulhasti Power Station celebrated India's 78th Independence Day with great patriotic fervor and enthusiasm on 15th August 2024.

The celebration began with the unfurling of National Flag by Suresh Kumar, Group General Manager (Incharge) 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, Suresh Kumar, 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

development works being done by Dulhasti Power Station in the local areas under CSR-SD scheme. Suresh Kumar 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 students in the function. Apart from this, prizes were also distributed to all the participants for presenting the cultural programs.

On this occasion, K V Siva Kumar, General Manager (Electrical), Mukesh Kumar, General Manager (Mech.), Praveen Kumar Jain, General Manager (Civil), Shivanshu Rastogi, Deputy General Manager (Finance), Pankaj Kumar Gupta, Deputy General Manager (Civil), Sanjay Kumar Gupta, Group Senior Manager (Elect.), Ajay Kumar Singh, Manager (HR), Commandant, Officers and Jawans of CISF, Principal, Kendriya Vidyalaya and Senior Officers and employees of Dulhasti Power Station were present.

## 78th Independence Day celebrated in Apna Vihar Colony

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 15: 78th Independence Day celebration marked in Apna Vihar Colony Kunjwani Jammu by hoisting Indian Flag by Satbir Singh I/C police stn Gangyal.

Function began by honoring officer by Rtd DC Vijay Sharma who is President of Society and Dr Vijay Sharma flanked by Suraj Chopra, B.S Samyal, P.S Bali, Rtd SE DPS Bali & S.C Khajuria

who addressed the participants.

Later plants were planted by officers and children participating in function.

Sweets were distributed with cold drinks. Later sports activities were carried by Children who participated in great enthusiasm.

Senior citizens participated in Musical Chair and enjoyed moments ladies were next to participate in Independence day celebration

## Director SKIMS Soura hoists National Flag

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 15: Director, Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura Dr. Ashraf Ganie hoisted National Flag on Friday on the country's 78th Independence Day at

SKIMS premises. Flag hoisting was followed by an impressive parade in which SKIMS Security participated. All the Heads of Departments, Sectional Heads and all employees of the SKIMS graced the occasion.

## GGM Science College celebrates 78th Independence Day with enthusiasm



### Top News Report

JAMMU Aug 15: GGM Science College celebrated the 78th Independence Day under the guidance of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta.

The celebrations reflected the college's deep respect for the nation's freedom fighters and commitment to the ideals of freedom and unity.

The event commenced with the hoisting of the National Flag by Principal Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, followed

by a stirring rendition of the national anthem by students, filling the air with a sense of pride and unity.

In his address, he emphasized the significance of independence and the role of students in shaping the future of the nation. He also acknowledged the ongoing contributions of the faculty, particularly the National Service Scheme (NSS) and National Cadet Corps (NCC) units, in instilling values of patriotism and service among the students.

He further recognized

the fourth anniversary of the Nasha Mukta Abhiyaan, urging collective efforts to create a drug-free India and empower youth to lead healthier, more productive lives. He also called upon the staff, students, and everyone present to actively engage at the grassroots level and contribute toward realising the vision of "Viksit Bharat @2047."

The NCC and NSS units of the college were led by NCC Officers (ANOs) Lt. Dr. Devinder Kumar Sharma and Dr. Shafia Saleem and NSS Pro-

gramme Officers (POs) Dr. Rahul Kait and Dr. Neha Sharma under the theme of 'Swachhata Pakhwada' and Independence Day celebrations.

In addition to the NSS and NCC teams, other faculty members, non-teaching staff, and students participated in the celebrations, highlighting the collective spirit of the college community.

Their presence underscored the importance of unity and collaboration in celebrating national events and promoting the values that Independence Day represents.

## GDC Mahanpur celebrates 78th Independence Day

### Top News Report

MAHANPUR, Aug 15: Department of Physical Education and NSS Unit of GDC Mahanpur celebrated 78th Independence Day in the College Campus.

The programme was organized to commemorate 78th Independence Day on August 15. The nation achieved Independence on August 15, 1947, after a long-standing struggle spanning nearly two centuries of British rule.

The Celebration was organized by Dr. Jogbinder Singh Soodan, Physical Director and Dr. Rupalee Jasrotia, NSS

PO under the supervision of Dr. Sangeeta Sudan, Principal of the College.

The Principal of the College hoisted the National Flag in the presence of the faculty members and students of the College. Everyone not only sang the National Anthem with enthusiasm and patriotic spirit but also paid floral tributes to the freedom fighter, Subash Chander Bose.

The faculty members present in the celebration were Dr. Mohinder Nath Sharma, Dr. Sudesh, Nisha and Dr. Sapna. Sweets were distributed to all at the end of the occasion.

## GDC Paloura celebrates Independence Day

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 15: To commemorate 78th years of Independence under the aegis of Viksit Bharat, GDC Paloura, Mishriwala celebrated Independence Day with Flag hoisting by worthy Principal of the college, Dr. Kulvinder Kour, followed by National Anthem and distribution of sweets. Dr. Sanjay Kotwal, Staff Secretary also spoke on the occasion and emphasised on the role of youth in making our Nation strong and united. After that students of the college presented various colourful cultural programmes. They mesmerised the audience with their patriotic zeal by presenting songs and dance performances. Many of the students also spoke about the sacrifices of our soliders and saluted our martyrs.

Principal, Dr. Kulvinder Kour, addressed the gathering by remembering the contribution and sacrifices of our freedom fighters and their families and stressed upon to keep the legacy of our ancestors alive by making our contribution towards the nation building. She encouraged the students to develop a feeling of patriotism and love for their country. In the end, refreshment were distributed among the staff members and students of the college.

The whole event was organised by Cultural Committee, Independence Celebration Committee, NSS and NCC Programme Officers under the guidance of Dr. Kulvinder Kour.

## FROM PAGE 1

**Independence Day | Will never allow neighbouring Country's 'Terror Designs' to succeed in J&K: LG Sinha**

efforts, today, the institution is a profit

earning institution of the UT. "This institution is no more confined to few people but it's a peoples' bank now," he said.

**New Rehari Resident Welfare Society celebrates 78th Independence Day 2024**

distinguished members of the society, including Sdr. Surinder Singh (President), Mr. Anil Malhotra (Sr. Vice President), Mr. Rajiv Mahajan (General Secretary), Mr. Vikram Samyal (Vice President), Mr. Lalit Dogra (Vice President), Sh. S.K. Gupta (Vice President), and members Rishi and Rajesh Gupta, among others. The event was a tribute to the nation's spirit and was conducted with patriotism and pride.

**Army pays solemn**

**tribute to Captain Deepak Singh who was martyred in Doda encounter**

GOC White Knight Corps laid a wreath to pay homage to Capt Deepak Singh who made the supreme sacrifice in the highest traditions of the Indian Army. Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh

Kumar and Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Anand Jain, present on the occasion, also paid their respects and tribute to the killed soldier.

Capt Deepak Singh was killed in action during an encounter with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Wednesday. On Thursday, General Upen-dra Dwivedi, Chief of Army Staff and all ranks of the Indian Army saluted the supreme sacrifice of Capt Deepak Singh, who laid down his life in the line of duty in J&K and expressed deepest condolences to the bereaved family.



## Ramban celebrates Independence Day with Enthusiasm and Patriotic Fervor

### Top News Report

RAMBAN, Aug 15: The 78th Independence Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervor at the District Police Lines (DPL) Ramban. The event was graced by the presence of District Development Council Chairperson, Dr. Shamshad Shan, who hoisted the national tricolor and took the salute from the March Past.

The ceremony began with the hoisting of the national flag, followed by the singing of the national anthem. Dr. Shamshad Shan inspected the parade and took the salute of the contingents from Jammu and Kashmir Police, IRP, FPF, Home Guards, and School Children.

Deputy Commissioner, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, SSP, Anuj Kumar, ADDC Roshan Lal, ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak, DPO ICDS Jahangir Hashmi, senior officers of Civil and Police administration, and prominent citizens attended the function.

Vice-Chairperson DDC, Ramban, Rabia Beigh was the Guest of Honour and the DDC Councillors were key guests on the occasion. In her address, Dr. Shamshad

Shan paid tribute to the freedom fighters and martyrs who sacrificed their lives for India's independence. She emphasized the importance of unity, integrity, patriotism, and encouraged the youth to contribute to the nation's progress.

In her address, the Chairperson appreciated the efforts of District Administration and general public in making Swachhta Pakhwada, Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam, Ek Ped Shaheedon Ke Naam and Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign a lively and high spirited movements bring behavioral changes among public in keeping the surroundings clean, green, hygienic and instilling values of patriotism, unity, peace and prosperity.

The DDC Chairperson gave a brief account of the mega developmental projects completed in the district during the previous year and sanctioned projects for the current year. The Chairperson also listed the achievements made by the different departments under different schemes.

She said that last financial year allocation under the District Plan was 61.07 crores out of which 59 crores were utilised and 2426 works were completed and dedicated to the public. This year the

approved outlay under the District Plan is 70 crores. In RDD under MGNREGA during current financial year till yesterday 3.28 lakhs of Man days were generated at more than 4000 ongoing works, and 23845 houses have been constructed till now in the district under PMAY-G and AWAAS plus, giving homeless destitute people a permanent home and a dignified life. Under the PWD (R&B) sector, Rural Infrastructure Development Funds, 49 mega projects have been taken up with 236 crores allocation. Work is underway in 93 JMM schemes to ensure regular safe drinking water to every household in the district.

Taking forward the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister in doubling the farmer's income, under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) 3253 applications have been approved for providing Agricultural tools, machinery, and new opportunities for establishing their Agricultural Entrepreneurship units. Social Welfare is giving pension assistance to around 19803 destitute people, and has assisted 1150 poor girls under the State Marriage Assistance Scheme. Chairperson also counted unprecedented development in the district

under PMGSY, Education, ICDS, Skill Development, PM- Vishwakarma, Mission Youth, PMEGP, RDSS, Animal Husbandry, Revenue record digitization and its Geo referencing, Roof Top Solar Power Programme, PM Kussam, Health and other sectors.

She further said that the fight against drugs is a fight for our future. "I'm concerned that the number of individuals seeking treatment for drug de-addiction in Ramban has increased from 22 last year to 122 this year. We need to intensify our efforts under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan to create a drug-free society and support those struggling with addiction." - the DDC Chairperson

DC Ramban Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary while wishing the Ramban Public on 78th Independence Day, from DPL Ground has urged to remember the sacrifices of our freedom fighters and martyrs. He said we have come a long way since 1947, but our journey towards a more prosperous, developed and just society continues. He strives for unity, integrity, and patriotism. DC advocated to work together to build a brighter future for ourselves, our children, and our nation.

## Ishant, Neena hoist National Flag on Independence Day

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 15: Advocate Ishant Gupta, State IT Head of BJP J&K, and Neena Gupta, former Corporator, celebrated the eve of Independence Day by hoisting the national flag at Shri Ram Chowk (Old Khooda Chowk) in Ward No. 50, Channi Himmat, Jammu.

The ceremony commenced with the patriotic slogans "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and "Vande Mataram" and concluded with the singing of the national anthem and the distribution of sweets, filling the atmosphere with a sense of pride and patriotism.

In his address, Advocate Ishant Gupta emphasized the significance of Independence Day and urged everyone to uphold the values of unity, integrity, and patriotism. He also highlighted the efforts of the BJP in contributing to



the nation's growth and development, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir.

Neena Gupta, in her remarks, expressed her gratitude to the attendees and stressed the importance of remembering the struggles that led to India's freedom. She encouraged the younger generation to take inspiration from the nation's history and contribute to building a stronger and more prosperous India.

The event was graced

by notable personalities including Poonam Gupta, Kamlesh Magotra, Rajinder Kumar Gupta, Anil Gupta, Yudhveer Singh Samyal, Rahul Gupta, Susheela Gupta, Ashok Gupta, Bharti Gupta, Sunita Gupta, Varun Gupta, Khushboo Gupta, Shweta Padha, Amit Sharma, Vishal Gupta, Abhishek Gupta, Riddish Gupta, and many others, who joined in the celebration with great enthusiasm.

## GDC Budhal celebrates Independence Day with patriotic fervor



### Top News Report

BUDHAL, Aug 15: Independence Day was celebrated with immense enthusiasm and patriotic fervor at GDC Budhal, reflecting the true spirit of unity and national pride. The event commenced with the flag hoisting at 08:50 AM by the esteemed College Principal, Prof. M.A. Dar, who served as the chief guest for the

occasion. As the flag soared high against the sky, the crowd united in singing the national anthem, instilling in everyone a profound sense of pride.

Following the flag hoisting, Prof. Dar delivered an inspiring address, paying tribute to the valiant freedom fighters whose dedication and sacrifices secured the nation's independence. He highlighted the importance of remembering and honoring their legacy, urging the students to imbibe their values and contribute positively to the nation's progress.

This was followed by a vibrant cultural program that captivated the audience with a variety of performances. The program included powerful speeches that reflected on the journey of India's independence. Skits were performed by students, depicting key moments from the freedom struggle, which left the audience deeply moved. Patriotic songs filled the air with a sense of unity and pride, showcasing the diverse talents of the students.

Commending the efforts and dedication of the NSS and NCC Units of the College in organizing this event, the College principal Prof. M.A. Dar said that the event not only celebrated the spirit of independence but also showcased the talent and dedication of the students, contributing to the patriotic fervor of the occasion. The celebration was not just a remembrance of the past but also a call to action for the future, encouraging everyone to contribute to the nation's continued growth and prosperity.

## 78th Independence Day celebrated at GDC Boys Kathua

### Top News Report

KATHUA, Aug 15: GDC (Boys) Kathua celebrated 78th Independence Day with zeal and enthusiasm.

On this occasion, the flag was hoisted by the principal of the college Prof. Seema Mir.

The flag hoisting ceremony followed by march past by NCC Cadets and various cultural performances by the students to display their talent and love for the nation.

Principal Prof. Seema Mir extended her Independence Day greetings to all. In her address she disseminated the message of unity and strength and also spoke about the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan. She motivated the students to refrain themselves from the menace of drugs. She praised all the sections specifically teaching, non-teaching, NSS, NCC, students of the college who stood united and celebrated the

day with great enthusiasm.

The proceedings of the program were carried out by Dr. Yash Paul Sharma (Staff Secretary) of the College, Vishal Gupta and Kanika Sharma students of semester 5th.

On the occasion the meritorious students in academics, outstanding NCC and NSS Volunteers and students who excelled in Sports and various faculty members were felicitated with medals, certificates, mementos and shields.

The programme was attended by a large number of students, NCC and NSS Volunteers, faculty members including teaching, non-teaching and others.

The refreshment was also distributed among the students. Dr. Yash Paul Sharma (Staff Secretary) presented the vote of thanks on the occasion. The program then concluded with National Anthem.

## Batwal community celebrates 78th Independence Day with alacrity

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 15: The Batwal community marked the 78th Independence Day with alacrity at a function held in Gandhi Nagar today.

In his address, R.L. Kaith said, today, as we gather here to commemorate the Indian Independence Day, our hearts swell with pride and gratitude for the countless brave souls who fought relentlessly to liberate our beloved motherland from the clutches of British colonial rule. The end of foreign rule and the start of a new era in Indian history are both marked by this day.

While Subedar Baldev Chand Sandhu (Retd) said, On this historic day, let us pay tribute to the brave souls who sacrificed their lives and fought valiantly for the freedom that we cherish



today. I extend a warm welcome to all who have gathered here to celebrate this glorious festival. As we celebrate 78 years of an independent and incredible India, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to everyone present here.

Also speaking, the Sub Inspector retired Darshan Kumar Bassa said, let us never forget how difficult and costly it was to achieve our independence. As proud Indians, it is our responsibility to uphold the democratic, secular, and socially just ideals that our forefa-

thers envisioned. Let's promise to be law-abiding, caring, and environmentally conscientious citizens who help our amazing country flourish and prosper.

Prominent among others who participated in the celebration included BJP Office Secretary Hans Raj Loria, Subedar Baldev Chand Sandhu (Retd), Subedar Darshan Lal (Retd), Sub Inspector retired Darshan Kumar Bassa, Naik Ramesh Chand Chanjotra (Retd), Tilak Raj Bassa, Jagdish Raj Kaith, Hakikat Anmol and Naresh Kumar Kaith.

## Swachhta Pakhwada celebrated in Directorate of Health Services Jammu from Aug 1 to Aug 15



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 15: Swachhta Pakhwada that commenced on 1st August 2024 was celebrated in the Directorate of Health Services Jammu and in health institutions and offices under the Directorate till 15th August 2024. The campaign was observed under the guidance of Director Health Services Jammu, Dr. Rakesh Magotra.

The Swachhta Pakhwada drive aims to instill a sense of responsibility and commitment towards ensuring cleanliness and hygienic environment in workplaces and surrounding areas. This initiative was part of a larger Swachh Bharat Abhiyan as the most fundamental transformative campaign under the leadership of Prime Minister.

Various activities were

conducted throughout the campaign that started with administration of Swachhta pledge by all health employees, that focused on individuals dedication towards cleanliness, devoting hundred hours per year for cleanliness and propagating the message of Swachh Bharat Mission. The other activities undertaken included Plantation Drive, Under the banner of "EK PED SHAHEEDON KE NAAM", Cleanliness drive, Sanitation awareness, Rallies, Health check up of Sanitary workers, quiz competitions, Poster making.

At the Directorate of Health Services Jammu, an impressive Quiz competition related to Swachhta Pakhwada was conducted wherein staff from Government Hospital Gandhinagar, Government Hospital Sarwal, SDH Jagti, Rajiv Gandhi

Hospital Gangyal and Directorate participated. The Quiz competition was designed to inculcate among the masses an awareness and understanding of Sanitation.

Informative awareness lectures on topics related to Swachhta Pakhwada were delivered by Director Health Services Jammu, Dy. Director Dentistry, Assistant Director HEB, Assistant Director Schemes of the Directorate.

Similar activities were also conducted at all CMO Offices/District HQ and subordinate health institutions.

## Govt College for Women Bhagwati Nagar commemorates 78th Independence Day

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 15: IQAC and NSS Unit of Govt. College for Women, Bhagwati Nagar, commemorated the 78th Independence Day with patriotic fervour and excitement.

The 78th Independence Day of India was celebrated today with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervor by all the teaching faculty members, students, NSS volunteers and non-teaching staff of the College. To honor the occasion, the college campus was attractively decked with national flags, tri-color balloons

and special illumination.

The auspicious programme commenced with a flag-waving ceremony as a respect to our home land. The Principal of the college, Dr. Meeru Abrol, hoisted the National Flag, which was followed by soul stirring renditions of the National Anthem.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal of the college, Dr. Meeru Abrol, encouraged the students and staff to take pride in being Indian and apprised them of the value of freedom and sacrifices made by our Freedom Fighters in achieving the same.

This was followed by a captivating array of activities and performances, showing the rich tapestry of India's culture. From traditional dance forms to melodious musical performances and inspiring speeches and poems, the stage came alive with the essence of our diverse heritage. Students showcased their talent reflecting the harmonious co-existence of various cultures.

The programme ended with the distribution of sweets among the participating students, NSS Volunteers and Teaching & Non-Teaching faculty of the college.

## 78th I-Day: Div Com Jammu hoists Tricolour at Div Com Office



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 15: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, hoisted the Tricolour in the premises of Divisional Commissioner Office Jammu.

All the officials and staff members participated in the celebrations of the 78th Independence Day.

School students were special invitees for the Independence Day celebrations. They led a soulful rendition of the national anthem and were felicitated by the Divisional Commissioner. Additional Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, Deputy Director planning and other senior officials were present.

## Department of Agriculture Jammu celebrates 78th I-Day

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 15: The Department of Agriculture Jammu marked the 78th Independence Day with profound zeal and patriotic fervor at Krishi Bhawan, Talab Tillo, Jammu today. The event witnessed an inspiring celebration as Arvinder Singh Reen, Director of Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, Jammu, hoisted the National Flag.

This year's Independence Day celebration was marked by the theme "Viksit Bharat," underscoring the government's vision to transform India into a developed nation by 2047. Additionally, the "Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign" was prominently featured to encourage citizens to bring the Tiranga into their homes and hoist it, fostering a sense of patriotism and increasing awareness about the Indian National Flag.

The event was attended by a large gathering of officers and employees from the Agriculture Department, who came together to honor the significance of the day. In his address, Director A.S. Reen emphasized the importance of consolidating the gains

of freedom through sincere and dedicated efforts. He expressed pride in the department's accomplishments and highlighted how hard work and teamwork have significantly enhanced field-level agricultural activities, which are vital to the Indian economy.

Director Reen listed several achievements of the department, including the focus on doubling farmers' income through various initiatives such as FPOs Formation, PMFME, Organic Farming, Soil Health Cards, Kisan Credit Cards, PM Fasal Bima Yojna, Farm Mechanization, and market-led diversified farming. He also noted the benefits of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), which has been instrumental in increasing farmers' income, enhancing agricultural productivity, and generating employment for youth in the sector.

Director agriculture also facilitated the officers and officials for their exemplary work on the occasion. The program was attended by Satish Sharma, Joint Director Agriculture (Extension), along with other sectoral heads and staff from the Directorate of Agriculture Jammu.

## 78th year of I-Day celebrated by Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Pharmacy

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 15: Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Pharmacy celebrated India's 78th Independence Day with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervor. The event was marked by a series of activities and programs centered around this year's theme, "Viksit Bharat," symbolizing the vision of a developed and progressive India. The celebrations began with the hoisting of the National Flag by Dr. Heena Jamwal (Director) along with Dr. Gourav Nanda (Principal) & Dr. Shalunoi Jose (Senior Faculty, RGIP).

The event was successfully anchored by Seema Mattoo (Coordinator) and witnessed the participation of faculty members, students, and staff, who gathered to pay tribute to the nation and its freedom fighters. The national anthem echoed across the campus, instilling a sense of pride and unity among all present.

In her address, Dr. Heena Jamwal emphasized the significance of the theme "Viksit Bharat" and the role of educational institutions like the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Phar-

macy in shaping the future of the nation. She encouraged students to work towards the development of the country through innovation, research, and commitment to excellence in their respective fields. The program also featured cultural performances by students, including patriotic songs, dances, and a skit highlighting India's journey towards becoming a developed nation.

The Principal of the Institute, Dr. Gourav Nanda spoke about the importance of nurturing young minds to contribute to the nation's progress. He reiterated the institute's dedication to providing quality education and research opportunities, aligning with the vision of a "Viksit Bharat".

The event concluded with a vote of thanks, and the distribution of sweets among the attendees. The celebration of Independence Day at the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Pharmacy not only honored the sacrifices of the past but also looked forward to a brighter, developed, and prosperous India. The programme was successfully organized under the supervision of Mansi Chadha, Dinesh along with other members who were present at the ceremony.



## “India’s dream to host Olympics 2036, we are preparing”: PM Narendra Modi

NEW DELHI, Aug 15 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that India dreams of hosting the Olympics in 2036 and added that preparations are already underway, during his Independence Day speech on Thursday. PM Modi congratulated all the athletes who represented India at the Paris Olympics 2024 and also extended his best wishes to those travelling for the upcoming Paralympics. During the speech, PM Modi said that India has already proven that it has the infrastructure to host a big event like the G20 Summit and the next dream for the nation is to host the Olympics in 2036.

“Today, we also have with us the youth who made the Indian flag fly high in Olympics. On behalf of 140 crore countrymen, I congratulate all our athletes and players...In the next few days, a huge contingent of India will leave for Paris to participate in the Paralympics. I extend best wishes to all our



Paralympians...India organising the G20 Summit on a large scale has proven that India has the capability to organise large-scale events...It is the dream of India to host 2036 Olympics, we are making preparations for that...” PM Modi said while addressing the nation from Red Fort.

Earlier in the month, Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Mansukh Mandaviya, confirmed the development in a written reply in Lok Sabha, according to a press release by

the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

The allotment of hosting rights for the Summer Games is done by the IOC through a detailed host selection process. The IOC has a dedicated body, the Future Host Commission (FHC), which deals with this subject.

India will look to continue the momentum of winning 19 medals at the Tokyo Paralympics and a historic 111-medal haul at the Para Asian Games.

India has fielded its largest-ever contingent of 84 athletes

for the Paris Paralympics starting from August 28. The 84 athletes will compete in 12 sports, including archery, athletics, badminton, canoeing, cycling, blind judo, powerlifting, rowing, shooting, swimming, table tennis, and taekwondo.

Earlier, PM Modi was warmly welcomed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and other dignitaries at the ramparts of Red Fort. The Prime Minister was pictured dressed in a white kurta and blue attire and a traditional multicolour safa.

This year’s celebration marks the 11th time PM Modi addressed the nation from the Red Fort on Independence Day, making him the third Prime Minister after Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi to achieve this milestone. The theme for this year’s Independence Day is ‘Viksit Bharat @ 2047,’ aiming to drive the Government’s efforts to transform India into a developed nation by 2047.

## Ind-Ban Tests: Arshdeep, Khaleel to fight for India spot as Bumrah likely to be rested



NEW DELHI, Aug 15 (Agencies): Jasprit Bumrah is expected to make a comeback for the three-Test series against New Zealand starting on October 16 after a well-deserved break following India’s T20 World Cup victory, but the pace spearhead could continue to be on rest for the two Tests against Bangladesh in September.

It is understood that the Indian team management and selectors are looking to bring in more variations into the

pace attack and hence a left-arm seamer and swing bowler could be added to the bouquet of pacers who are vying for a Test cap.

In terms of exposure and experience, the selectors have two choices in Arshdeep Singh, who is a regular in the T20 format, and the injury prone and slightly erratic Khaleel Ahmed, who is rated very highly in some circles.

“In case of Bumrah, he knows his body the best and it will be up to

him if he wants to play in the Tests against Bangladesh. The team management and selectors are very clear that India needs a 120 per cent fit Jasprit Bumrah for all five Tests against Australia Down Under. Before that, there is New Zealand in India, where he will probably play and get ready for the sterner tests,” a BCCI source said.

In case of Arshdeep, his initiation into red ball cricket was in fact in Rahul Dravid’s plans as well and accordingly he was sent to Kent last year to play some County games.

Khaleel is a much improved bowler but has a tendency to be erratic. The other choice for a left-arm seamer is Yash Dayal, but he is behind Khaleel and Arshdeep in this race.

## Steve Smith ‘not fussed’ about opening against India in Border Gavaskar Trophy

SYDNEY, Aug 15 (Agencies): Star Australia batter Steve Smith isn’t too concerned about opening against India in the Border Gavaskar Trophy 2024-25. Notably, Smith began opening the innings in the series against West Indies after David Warner’s retirement. The 35-year-old didn’t have a memorable beginning at the top of the order registering scores of 12, 11\* and 6 in his first three innings.

However, he finally shut his critics in the second Test against West Indies scoring a phenomenal 91\* (146) with the help of nine fours and a six. Although the knock couldn’t help Australia get over the line, Smith managed to prove that he can bat anywhere in his favourite format.

As Australia prepare themselves for the all-important upcoming five-match series against India, Smith was asked whether he’s keen to open the innings against the Asian giants. The batting maestro said that he isn’t too fussed about it and will bat wherever the team asks him to.

“You’ll have to ask the men in charge but I’m not fussed either way. Some challenging conditions with the new ball, in particular. So I would have liked to score a few more runs. That’s the game sometimes but I played pretty well in the second innings at the Gabba where we couldn’t get over the line, unfortunately. It’s just a position to me



so it doesn’t really faze me too much,” Smith was quoted as saying by Code Sports.

Smith has a stellar record in Test cricket having 9685 runs to his name at an average of 56.97 with 32 hundreds. The batting stalwart also enjoys batting against India having scored 2042 runs against them at an average of 65.87 with nine hundreds and five fifties.

Further speaking ahead, Smith talked about his absence from the T20 World Cup squad saying with he was disappointed to have not made it to the squad.

“I don’t know about international T20 stuff. You’ll have to ask the selectors there. I was disappointed not to be in the World Cup but that’s the way things go. They wanted all the big hitters. I’d love to be part of the IPL again, for sure. I’ll be putting my name in the hat so just have to keep scoring runs. You never know, we’ll see what happens,” he added.

## From Rohit to Neeraj: India’s sporting fraternity celebrates 78th Independence Day

India’s sporting fraternity celebrated the 78th Independence Day by extending their wishes and greetings to the fans. Rohit Sharma, Neeraj Chopra and the country’s many sporting stars shared special posts on social media.



NEW DELHI, Aug 15 (Agencies): India celebrates its 78th Independence Day and the entire nation is instilled with a sense of patriotism. India’s sporting fraternity also celebrated Independence Day and extended their wishes to their countrymen and their fans. From Rohit Sharma, Neeraj Chopra to Gautam Gambhir, the athletes took the oppor-

tunity to share their love and pride in representing their country. Indian captain Rohit Sharma shared a special video where he held the tricolour flag during the Indian team’s victory parade near Marine Drive after the T20 World Cup triumph.

India’s golden boy and star athlete Neeraj Chopra shared a picture holding the national flag

from his recent silver medal win at the Paris Olympics 2024. Hardik Pandya also posted a picture holding the country’s flag high in Barbados during the historic T20 World Cup 2024 win. For Indian athletes, representing their country at global sporting events is not just an achievement, but a profound honour. The opportunity to

wear the national colours on the world stage symbolises years of hard work, dedication, and sacrifice. It is a dream nurtured from childhood, fuelled by the desire to bring pride to the nation and inspire millions.

In India, where sports have become a source of national pride, the weight of expectations is immense. Athletes

understand that they are not just competing for themselves but for the hopes and aspirations of over a billion people. This responsibility drives them to push their limits, overcome challenges, and give their best performance.

Moreover, representing India at global events offers athletes a chance to put the country on the world map in various sports. Success in these arenas helps boost the nation’s reputation and encourages the next generation of athletes. For Indian athletes, the honour of representing their country is a badge of pride, one that signifies their commitment to excellence and their role as ambassadors of the nation’s sporting spirit.

## Morne Morkel appointed India’s new bowling coach, to take charge from Bangladesh series

He has been appointed till the end of the 2027 ODI World Cup in South Africa

NEW DELHI, Aug 15 (Agencies): Former South Africa pace great Morne Morkel has been roped in as the Indian cricket team’s new bowling coach, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said on Wednesday, completing the appointment of new head coach Gautam Gambhir’s preferred support staff.

It is understood that the 39-year-old, who replaces Paras Mhambrey, will take over as the bowling coach from the Bangladesh series that starts with the opening Test in Chennai from September 19. He has been appointed till the end of the 2027 ODI World Cup in South Africa.

“Yes, Morne Morkel has been appointed bowling coach of the senior India men’s team,” said Shah.

The other members of Gambhir’s support staff are assistant coach Abhishek Nayar, and fielding coach Ryan Ten Doeschate.

Morkel was also Gambhir’s preferred choice, having worked

with him at Lucknow Super Giants during the Indian’s two IPL seasons as mentor of the franchise.

Morkel has played 86 Tests, 117 ODIs and 44 T20Is for South Africa with a total of 544 international wickets.

He will be reporting in Bengaluru’s National Cricket Academy at the start of next month and is expected to watch the Duleep Trophy games. Once there, he will also touch base with VVS Laxman and head of bowling in NCA, Troy Cooley.

According to sources, Morkel was directly appointed on Gambhir’s recommendation ahead of other options like Lakshminath Balaji and R Vinay Kumar.

“The Cricket Advisory Committee’s (CAC) mandate was to interview the candidates for the head coach. When it came to choice of support staff, it was imperative that Gambhir’s choice prevailed. He has worked with Morne and thinks of him highly as a bowling coach,” a BCCI



source said.

“Also with the big series against Australia coming up Down Under from last week of November, there isn’t a better choice than the South African, who has himself enjoyed fair bit of success over there. Also there will be the five-Test tour of England next year with a potential sixth match if India reach WTC final.”

It is understood that Balaji and Vinay’s names weren’t consid-

ered once it was clear that Morkel would carry forward the good work done by Mhambrey.

One half of the famous fast bowling duo that featured Dale Steyn, Morkel is a cricketing heavyweight and has also played quite a lot in India to have a fair idea about the conditions.

Also, his stint in the IPL has allowed him to have a ringside view of India’s next crop of fast bowlers including the most exciting of them all —

Mayank Yadav, Avesh Khan and Yash Thakur to name a few.

A lot of observers believe that Morkel worked quite a lot with Mayank during the past two seasons of IPL even though he remained injured for the better part.

Morkel’s biggest challenge will be to handle the transition phase as Mohammed Shami enters the business end of his illustrious career and Jasprit Bumrah needs more potent support apart from Mohammed Siraj, especially in red-ball cricket.

Morkel had last year worked with the Pakistan team till the end of the ODI World Cup and quit before his contract expired.

India have never had any spin bowling coach as such although former director Ravi Shastri was a distinguished left-arm spinner in his playing days. Sairaj Bahutule, who is a part of Laxman’s team at NCA, has travelled on and off with the senior team.

## “Parents would be more flexible”: Manu Bhaker on historic Olympic medals



NEW DELHI, Aug 15 (Agencies): In a candid interview with agency, Indian shooter Manu Bhaker spoke on her achievements at the recently-concluded Paris Olympics 2024, where she won two bronze medals. Manu, who is the first Indian woman to win a medal in shooting at the Summer games, became the first Indian athlete to win multiple medals in the same edition of the Olympics. This was Manu’s second appearance at the Olympics after her outing in Tokyo three years back when she suffered a heart-break due to a pistol malfunction.

Manu revealed that she had a different regime for Paris 2024, and expressed her happiness that things went in her favour this time.

“I’ve already had a long career, eight years to be precise. I was there at the Tokyo Olympics as well. But this time, for Paris Olympics, we trained in a way that we were hoping for medals. We planned in a way that things turn out good and this worked in our favour this time. For me, sometimes it is hard to manage everything,” Manu said during an exclusive chat with agency.

Manu also suggested that her achievements

would motivate other to take up shooting as a career, especially girls.

“Any achievement is enough to give us motivation but that doesn’t mean its the end. In India, we have huge scope to improve and work forward. I think India has a huge amount of talent. I think it will take some time but we will have great talents in the future. My medal also inspires me and other youngsters, especially girls. I think the parents would be much more flexible with the girls, and the people would accept shooting more as this celebration,” she added.

The 22-year-old won a bronze each in the women’s 10m air pistol and 10m air pistol mixed team event – where she had paired with Sarabjot Singh.

She also came close to winning a third bronze in 25m pistol before finishing a creditable fourth in Paris. No Indian athlete has won more than two individual medals at the Olympics.



## “Borders are safe”: IG BSF Jammu greets countrymen on 78th Independence Day

JAMMU, Aug 15 (Agencies): Inspector General (IG) Border Security Force (BSF) Jammu frontier DK Boora assured the countrymen that the borders are safe as he greeted them on the occasion of the 78th Independence Day.

Speaking on the security arrangements along the international border, IG Boora said, “We have manned all borders and we will ensure that the nation continues to celebrate all our Independence Days with equal zeal. BSF will stand guard and ensure no infiltration takes place.”

“On behalf of the BSF, I would like to assure all the countrymen that our borders are safe. I wish the countrymen a happy 78th Independence Day,” he said.

IG Boora added, “I hope our National flag will keep flying high. We will not leave our posts at the



border no matter what”.

In recent months, Jammu has seen an increase in terror attacks, including an assault on an army convoy in Kathua and skirmishes in Doda and Udhampur.

Meanwhile, a wreath-laying ceremony was held in Jammu on August 15 to pay tribute to Captain Deepak Singh of the Indian Army, who was killed in an encounter

with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday.

Lt Gen Navin Sachdeva, GOC White Knight Corps laid a wreath to pay homage to Capt Deepak Singh who made the supreme sacrifice in the highest traditions of the Indian Army.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar and Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Anand Jain, present on the occasion, also paid their respects and tribute to the soldier.

Capt Deepak Singh was killed in action during an encounter with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Wednesday.

On Thursday, General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of Army Staff and all ranks of the Indian Army saluted the supreme sacrifice of Capt Deepak Singh, who laid down his life in the line of duty in J&K and expressed deepest condolences to the bereaved family.

## CCI celebrates 78th Independence Day with patriotic fervor

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 15: Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI), Jammu today celebrated the 78th 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 Sh. 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 reverberated 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.

## BJP celebrates 78th Independence Day with fervour in J&K

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 15: Bharatiya Janata Party, Jammu & Kashmir celebrated 78th Independence Day by hoisting the National Flag amidst Nationalist sloganeering and distribution of sweets, across the length and breadth of Jammu and Kashmir.

At BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Ravinder Raina, President, J&K BJP, Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), and Kavinder Gupta, former Dy CM hoisted the national flag. Aseem Gupta, Neelam Langleh, Tilak Raj Gupta, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Rekha Mahajan, General Rakesh Sharma, Prof Kulbhushan Mohtra, Arun Prabhat Jamwal, Ranjodh Singh Nalwa, Prem Gupta, Dil Bahadur Jamwal, Er TK Sharma, Nitish Mahajan and others were present on the occasion.

At Pt. Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan, Kachi Chawni BJP office, former Minister Sat Sharma CA,



former MP Shamsher Singh, Arvind Gupta, Veenu Khanna, Parmod Kapahi, Ayodhya Gupta, Sanjita Dogra, Sanjay Baru, Adv Rajesh Gupta and others hoisted the national flag.

At City Chowk, MP (Lok Sabha), Jugal Kishore Sharma, BJP NEM Priya Sethi, Vice-President Yudhvir Sethi, Purnima Sharma, Sunil Prajapati, Hari Om Sharma and others

hoisted the national flag.

Congratulating his fellow citizens on the 78th Independence Day, Ravinder Raina stressed that we can breathe in free air because of the sacrifices of the heroes. He remembered the supreme sacrifices of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, Rajguru, Mangal Pandey, Tanya Tope, Chander Shekhar Azad, Ashfaq Ulla Khan, and other freedom fighters.

“Today, I along with the whole nation bow in the feet of these great personalities”, he said and also expressed gratitude to the jawans of military, paramilitary, police, civil defense, home guards, and others who dedicate themselves to protect us and our nation.

## DPAP Celebrates 78th Independence Day with Impressive Gathering in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Aug 15 (Agencies): The Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) marked the 78th anniversary of India's Independence with a grand celebration at its headquarters in Sonwar, Srinagar.

The event was attended by party members and workers in large numbers, demonstrating their commitment to the nation and its ideals.

The Provincial Secretary of DPAP, Mr. Ashiq Khanday, had the honor of hoisting the national tricolor.

In his brief but impactful address, Mr. Khanday emphasized the



significance of Independence Day and called upon the party members to actively work towards fostering brotherhood and unity.

He highlighted the importance of staying united for the prosperity

and well-being of fellow citizens. Mr. Khanday reiterated DPAP's dedication to the national cause, including the principles of secularism and mutual brotherhood.

Other prominent party members in attendance

included Zonal President Mr. Peer Bilal, Central Zone Secretary Mr. Haleem Khan, and Media Coordinator Mr. Obair Mushtaq. On behalf of DPAP Chairman Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, sweets were distributed among the attendees by the Secretary to the Chairman, Mr. Bashir Arif, as a gesture of goodwill and celebration.

The event was a testament to DPAP's unwavering commitment to the nation and its ideals, as the party continues to play a pivotal role in promoting unity and harmony across the region.

## PTTI Vijaypur celebrates Independence Day



### Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Aug 15: “78th Independence Day” was celebrated at Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour. On the occasion, Principal PTTI Vijaypur presided over the function and hoisted the National Flag in presence of prominent citizens, Retd. Police personnel, staff and trainees of the Institute. During function, the contingents of staff/Trainees of PTTI Vijaypur, held March Past.

Principal in his address highlighted the importance of Independence Day and remembered the freedom fighters who scari-

fied their lives for the freedom of the Country and Police Martyrs who laid their precious lives for protecting and safeguarding the sovereignty of the Nation. He congratulated to all staff/ trainees and their families on this auspicious occasion of Independence Day and urged upon all police personnel to work with honesty and dedication and contribute positively to our nation's growth.

Amongst others, Shri Zia-Ul-Haq (Dy.SP Outdoor), Shri Asif Iqbal (Sr.PO), Insp. Surrinder Singh (CDI), Insp. Javeed Ahmad (RI), Insp. Ram Lal (CLI), SI Sulinder Singh (SM-Outdoor), SI Shakeel Singh (LO) were present on the occasion.

