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Under PM Modi's leadership J&K charted journey from fear to freedom: Amit Shah

Says where hoisting Tiranga once invited threats, now hosts Tiranga Yatras, with millions waving National Flag with joy, pride; Independence Day celebrations in UT symbol of changes region witnessed in recent years

■ Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Aug 15: Terming the Independence Day celebrations in Jammu and Kashmir as a symbol of the transformative changes witnessed by the region in recent years, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, J&K has “charted a journey from fear to freedom.”

In a post on X, Shah, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), wrote: “Jammu and Kashmir has charted a journey



from fear to freedom under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.”

Referring to areas once affected by violence, HM Shah said,

“Where hoisting the Tiranga once invited threats, J-K now hosts Tiranga Yatras, with millions waving our National Flag with joy and pride.”

“Celebrations in Jammu and Kashmir are symbol of the changes witnessed in the Union Territory in recent years. National flag is being waved across J&K with joy and pride. People are participating in Independence Day celebrations without any fear and threats,” HM Shah said.

The remarks came on the 80th Independence Day, with celebrations being held across Jammu and Kashmir amid heightened security arrangements.

J&K WITNESSING MASSIVE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN

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PoJK situation sad, regretful; decision taken by J&K leaders 80-years ago right one: CM Omar

Describes NC founder late Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah as tallest leader; Recalls sacrifice of brave Kashmiri people who made supreme sacrifice in resisting 1947 tribal invasion

■ Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Aug 15: Describing the situation in Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) as “sad” and “regretful,” Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday said that the circumstances prevailing across the Line of Control (LoC) have reinforced his belief that the decision taken by J&K leaders 80 years ago was the right one.

Addressing the main Independence Day function at Bakshi Stadium here, CM Omar



as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), paid rich tributes to his late grandfather and National Conference (NC) founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah. He described him as the tallest leader of Jammu & Kashmir and the

“Baba-e-Qaum.”

Referring to the situation across the Line of Control, he said, “Looking at the circumstances there today reinforces my belief that the decision taken by the leaders of Jammu & Kashmir 80 years ago was the right one.”

CM Omar said that contribution of the people of J&K to defend the region in 1947 cannot be forgotten. He recalled the sacrifice of brave people who raised the call of “Ham-lavar Khabardar; Hum Kashmiri Hain, Tayy-aar” and those who made the supreme sacrifice in resisting the tribal invasion.

The Chief Minister particularly remembered Master Abdul Aziz, a National Conference leader who was killed in Muzaffarabad while resisting the tribal attack.

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80th Independence Day

Contribute collectively towards realising vision of self-reliant J&K, Viksit Bharat: LG Sinha to people

Hoists National Flag at Lok Bhavan, pays homage to countless freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for nation

Srinagar, Aug 15 (KNO): Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday called upon the people to contribute collectively towards realising the vision of a self-reliant Jammu

Kashmir and a Viksit Bharat, as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

LG Sinha after hoisting the National Flag at Lok Bhavan here on the occasion of the nation's 80th Independence Day paid homage to the countless freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the nation. A ceremonial police contingent presented the National Salute on the occasion.



The Lieutenant Governor, according to the news agency—

Kashmir News Observer (KNO), emphasized the importance of

every citizen's active contribution to realizing the vision of a self-reliant Jammu Kashmir and Viksit Bharat by 2047, as envisioned by PM Modi.

He called upon all the citizens of UT of Jammu Kashmir to dedicate themselves in nation-building and underscored the necessity of transparency and accountability in governance.

He urged everyone to

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Statutory post of Deputy Speaker vacant for nearly 2 years

6TH SESSION CONVENES WITH NO SECOND-IN-COMMAND IN ASSEMBLY; NC SHOWS NO INTENT TO FILL THE VACANCY, BJP MAKES NO DEMAND

Srinagar, Aug 15 (KNO): On September 21, the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly will convene for its sixth session, but the key statutory post of Deputy Speaker remains vacant, with the ruling National Conference showing no inclination to fill the position.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), legally, the Deputy Speaker is the Assembly's second-in-command, stepping in whenever the Speaker is absent or the post is vacant. As per the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the Assembly is required to elect both a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker “as soon as may be.” Section 19 of the Act states:

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Using I-Day platform for politics 'irresponsible': LoP Sharma

Questions CM's repeated reference to August 5, 2019; says stage should have focused on unity, martyrs, Tricolour, J&K's future; Praises singing of 'Vande Mataram' at Bakshi Stadium, calls it significant moment in Kashmir

■ Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Aug 15: Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Sunil Sharma on Saturday called Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's Independence Day speech “irresponsible”, alleging that the occasion was used to raise political issues instead of focusing on national unity, martyrs and the future of Jammu and Kashmir.

Reacting to Chief Minister Omar's address at Bakshi Stadium, LoP Sharma,



while talking to reporters, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the Independence Day platform should be above politics and should be used to honour the sacrifices of freedom fighters, sol-

diers and martyrs and celebrate the Tricolour.

“I don't want to talk about politics, but I was very shocked when such a stage was used by the Chief Minister for political purposes,” Sharma said.

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Family alleges negligence after 16-month-old dies at Bemina hospital

Children's hospital rejects social media claims, says child was brought with serious illness, orders enquiry

■ Jahangeer Ganai

Srinagar, Aug 15: The family of a 16-month-old child who died at Government Children's Hospital, Bemina, Srinagar, has alleged medical negligence, even as the hospital administration has rejected what it described as incomplete accounts cir-

culating on social media. It has ordered an in-house enquiry to establish the facts surrounding the death.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the child, from north Kashmir's

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I-Day: Tricolour-wrapped Ghanta Ghar turns into meeting point for tourists, locals

■ Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Aug 15: For many visitors, a trip to Kashmir begins with its mountains, lakes and Mughal gardens. But for tourists who made their way to Srinagar's historic Lal Chowk on Independence Day, the memory of

the Valley came with a different backdrop: the iconic Ghanta Ghar wrapped in Tricolour.

The Clock Tower became an unlikely meeting point for tourists and locals as Independence Day celebrations brought people together around one of the city's best-known landmarks.



According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), visitors stopped to take photographs, wave the Tricolour and soak in the festive atmosphere, while locals joined the celebrations, turning the usually bustling commercial square into a colourful gathering.

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50,000 MT cold storage capacity proposed to boost J&K's horticulture: Minister Dar

■ Waris Fayaz

Baramulla, Aug 15 : The Jammu and Kashmir government has planned an expansion of cold storage, agricultural technology and horticulture infrastructure across the Union Territory, with an additional 50,000 metric tonnes of cold storage capacity proposed to support farmers

and strengthen post-harvest management.

Speaking after hoisting the national flag at Baramulla on Independence Day, Minister Javed Ahmad Dar, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the additional capacity would take the overall cold storage capacity in Jammu and Kashmir to around 3.5 lakh metric tonnes. More than

‘Four districts to get Centres of Excellence for vegetable, floriculture this year; fruit mandis for Beerwah, Pattan, Tangmarg, Tral’



half of the capacity, he said, would be made available

for farmers. Dar said the government

was focusing on modernising agriculture through technology, better irrigation facilities and improved market access.

“Crop digitisation was being undertaken across all districts, with more than 10 lakh agricultural plots targeted to be brought onto a digital platform,” he said, adding that 16,000 hectares of land had been brought under irrigation during the

current financial year to improve agricultural production.

The government also plans to promote oilseed cultivation across 3 lakh hectares, which the minister said would help boost the income of growers and contribute to economic growth.

For vegetable and floriculture sectors,

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PM Narendra Modi addresses the nation from the ramparts of Red Fort on the occasion of 80th Independence Day

TODAY IS A DAY TO MOVE FORWARD WITH OUR DREAMS, RESOLVE AND STRENGTH: PM

TODAY, WITH FIRM RESOLVE, INDIA HAS ENVISIONED A VERY BIG DREAM; THAT DREAM IS THAT WHEN WE MARK 100 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE, BY 2047, WE WILL HAVE BUILT A VIKSIT BHARAT: PM

New Delhi AUG 15(PIB); Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Saturday addressed the nation from the ramparts of Red Fort on the occasion of 80th Independence Day. He conveyed his heartfelt greetings, observing that every heartbeat and home across the country resonates with the spirit of the Tricolor and new resolutions while celebrating 150 years of Vande Mataram. "I respectfully bow to all freedom fighters and great revolutionaries who awakened the great tradition of sacrifice," remarked Shri Modi.

Expressing deep solidarity with citizens affected by recent severe floods and landslides, the Prime Minister assured them of the nation's unwavering support in these trying times. "I assure the affected families that we and the entire country stand firmly with them in their sorrow and pain," affirmed Shri Modi.

Emphasizing the foundational principles of national greatness, the Prime Minister asserted that true accomplishment is achieved only when a nation relies on its own aspirations and robust capabilities. "Any nation becomes great and achieves its goals when it moves forward on the pure strength of its dreams and resolutions," noted Shri Modi.

Urging the citizens to discard small ambitions in favor of expansive visions that broaden national horizons, the Prime Minister explained that firm resolve naturally generates the strength to navigate through crises. "When the resolution is firm, the capability to find ways through disasters emerges automatically," observed Shri Modi.

Elaborating on the direct correlation between ambition and actualized capability, the Prime Minister stressed that elevated dreams inherently boost the overall scale and absolute height of national efforts. "When dreams and resolutions are high, the absolute height of our capability also increases," noted Shri Modi.

Announcing a monumental national vision, the Prime Minister declared the firm resolution to transform the country into a fully developed nation by 2047, compelling the world to recognize India's immense courage and capability. "With the hard work of 140 crore countrymen, we will definitely make a Viksit Bharat by the 100th year of independence," asserted Shri Modi.

Acknowledging the collective dedication of all demographic segments, the Prime Minister presented a comprehensive report card on human empowerment and economic transformation over the last 12 years, highlighting that 25 crore citizens have defeated poverty and India has transitioned from the 'Fragile Five' into the fastest-growing major economy. "Every single citizen has made every possible effort with complete dedication to take the country to new heights," affirmed Shri Modi.

Reflecting on the missed opportunities of the past where a tragic lack of pace led to global stagnation, the Prime Minister celebrated the dramatic shift in momentum, emphasizing that the collective resolve of the people is now completely unstoppable. "India has picked up an incredible new pace, and it is now impossible to stop the capability of 140 crore countrymen," noted Shri Modi.

Presenting a detailed report card of India's progress across manufacturing, digital growth, and citizen delivery over the past 12 years, the Prime Minister highlighted that defence production increased nearly 4

times, Khadi and Village Industries grew 5 times, electronics manufacturing expanded nearly 7 times, railway coach production surged 21 times, and mobile phone manufacturing increased 33 times. In digital innovation, internet consumers grew 4 times, patent grants increased 4 times, and digital transactions rose 100 times, while basic amenities accelerated through tap water connections delivering 15 times faster, LPG connections expanding 6 times faster, toilets constructed 4 times faster, pucca houses built 3 times faster, and hundreds of obsolete laws being abolished. "When so many massive accomplishments are before us, the resolution to become a Viksit Bharat can never remain unfulfilled," asserted Shri Modi.

Stressing the absolute necessity of robust self-reliance and national pride, the Prime Minister firmly rejected the notion of depending on cheap foreign imports, advocating instead for initiatives that actively build powerful domestic capabilities. "We must systematically increase our own capabilities and securely protect our own interests ourselves," affirmed Shri Modi.

Illustrating the country's rapid technological ascent and aggressive push for self-reliance, the Prime Minister highlighted the critical global importance of semiconductors and presented a major progress report, proudly announcing that three domestic plants are already operational and exporting chips to global markets, while making a key policy announcement that 7 to 8 new production facilities will operationalize within 1 to 2 years. "This self-reliant India gives us the absolute highway to move rapidly in the direction of a Viksit Bharat," asserted Shri Modi.

Underscoring the strategic necessity of resource security, the Prime Minister detailed the launch of the National Critical Minerals Mission and the Critical Minerals Corridor announced in the Budget, noting that extensive international agreements have established India as a globally trusted partner. "Many countries of the world have now firmly started trusting India in the strategic direction of these critical minerals," noted Shri Modi.

Linking technological advancement to soaring energy demands, the Prime Minister highlighted landmark energy reforms under the SHANTI Act and made a major policy announcement setting a target of 100 GW nuclear capacity by 2047 with 5 new reactors operational within 6 to 7 years, backed by mastery in Fast Breeder Nuclear Technology. "We have successfully taken a very big step in the exact direction of becoming entirely self-reliant in crucial nuclear fuel," affirmed Shri Modi.

Criticizing past restrictive policies that severely hindered national resource exploration, the Prime Minister highlighted a bold paradigm shift in domestic oil and gas development, transitioning 99% of the coastline from a 'No-Go Area' to a 'Go Ahead Area' and launching expansive offshore operations backed by the Rs 85,000 crore Samudra Manthan initiative to unlock new energy reserves. "We have decisively opened up those areas and are now heavily inclined towards finding massive new reserves inside the sea," asserted Shri Modi.

Highlighting the rapid expansion of alternative energy infrastructure, the Prime Minister contrasted stagnation with massive 12-year milestones,



noting that City Gas Distribution expanded from 70 to 700 cities, piped cooking gas reached 1.75 crore households, and solar capacity surged from 2 GW to 160 GW. "Expanding the piped gas network from 70 to 700 cities in twelve years is true speed and absolutely true expansion," observed Shri Modi.

Detailing the direct economic benefits delivered to the middle class through renewable energy, the Prime Minister celebrated the rapid success of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, highlighting that the free solar electricity scheme has crossed 50 lakh households by providing financial assistance of up to Rs 80,000 per family to effectively reduce power bills to zero and generate additional income through surplus power sales. "Thousands of houses are earning Saturday by selling excess electricity, and we are rapidly fulfilling this massive task," noted Shri Modi.

Contrasting historical stagnation with modern efficiency in railway infrastructure, the Prime Minister noted that earlier policies yielded only 30 percent electrification across 90 years, whereas the current government achieved network-wide coverage in just one decade to deliver massive environmental benefits. "We completed 100 percent of the massive electrification work within this one decade, successfully saving imported diesel," affirmed Shri Modi.

Announcing a major breakthrough in future fuels, the Prime Minister highlighted that India has started work on its first Made-in-India hydrogen train, being developed as the world's longest and most powerful hydrogen train. "In the field of hydrogen trains in the world, India has proudly and firmly planted its flag," asserted Shri Modi.

Reflecting on the turbulent journey toward the 2047 developmental goals and navigating severe global crises like the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia, the Prime Minister commended India's tested resilience and sharply criticized fear-mongers who spread malicious rumors, proudly noting that proactive planning and robust preparations ensured complete domestic stability. "The country clearly saw that our well-thought-out plans brought results, and Saturday we are standing completely strong on our own power," affirmed Shri Modi.

Highlighting the government's highly proactive role in shielding domestic farmers from severe global economic shocks,

the Prime Minister underscored a steadfast commitment to agricultural welfare by noting that the Government has absorbed massive costs to provide internationally priced Rs 3,000 urea for less than Rs 300, and DAP costing over Rs 5,000 for just Rs 1,350. "Even Saturday, we are not forcing the farmers of the country to bear that massive burden, the government is firmly carrying it," asserted Shri Modi.

Dismissing past critics of self-reliance, the Prime Minister observed a massive global paradigm shift where nations are increasingly weaponizing essential resources, proving the absolute necessity of building robust domestic resilience over the last decade. "If we had not firmly moved in the right direction taking the powerful mantra of self-reliance, how would we have strongly faced such massive challenges," remarked Shri Modi.

Attributing the nation's soaring international respect to a stable political mandate and vibrant democracy, the Prime Minister highlighted that this recognized domestic stability has successfully facilitated Free Trade Agreements with around 40 countries post-2014, opening massive export opportunities across agriculture, fisheries, textiles, and MSMEs. "Saturday, India is rapidly becoming a highly accepted and deeply respected country for the entire world," observed Shri Modi.

Urging domestic industries to aggressively seize massive international trade opportunities, the Prime Minister set a bold mandate for Indian products, ranging from Ludhiana and Tirupur to coastal seafood hubs, to dominate global markets by strictly exceeding international parameters in quality and overall affordability. "We will have to categorically give better and cheaper products than what we currently get from the world," asserted Shri Modi.

Connecting these immediate economic strategies directly to the ultimate national vision, the Prime Minister explained that the aggressive push for global dominance forms the strong foundation upon which the grand developmental goals firmly rest. "The goal of a Viksit Bharat is deeply rooted in the incredible capability that our countrymen have proudly shown," noted Shri Modi.

Demanding a radical transformation in the national work culture, thinking, and execution speed, the Prime Minister set an aggressive target to accomplish within five to seven years what had severely stagnated over past decades, expressing

immense trust in the nation's hardworking workforce. "I deeply trust the youth power, the mothers, the sisters, the farmers, and the laborers of my country that together we can definitely realize this grand dream," affirmed Shri Modi.

Reiterating the administration's relentless commitment to structural change, the Prime Minister clarified that sweeping governance and administrative overhauls are driven strictly by profound inner conviction rather than external compulsion, issuing a clarion call for cooperative federalism where the Centre, States, and society unite to drive the next level of reforms. "This reform of ours is an absolute conviction, and we are going to move aggressively towards the next-level reform in the coming days," asserted Shri Modi.

Invoking the ancient civilizational strength of the Sapt Sindh, the Prime Minister announced a powerful new strategic framework and delivered a futuristic clarion call for Bharat's next leap by unveiling the transformative Saptdharma or Sapt Shakti. He emphasized that these seven dynamic streams of strength, fully utilizing the immense capability of the youth, will propel the nation forward to unprecedented heights. "With the tremendous capability and power of that seven-stream strategy, we will aggressively give the country a new height and a new speed," promised Shri Modi.

Identifying 'Manufacturing Power' as the crucial first stream, the Prime Minister issued a clarion call to aggressively expand the manufacturing sector by mastering both small components and massive final products across complete domestic value chains, demanding a strict focus on zero-defect precision, cost efficiency, and an uncompromising commitment to global scale and quality. "From design to complete manufacturing, India will absolutely have to become a highly reliable center of the global supply chain," asserted Shri Modi.

Designating 'Agriculture and Food Processing' as the critical second stream, the Prime Minister championed a nationwide transition to chemical-free farming and urged a massive push toward integrated farm-to-export supply chains, ensuring traditional Indian foods seamlessly transition into booming global markets. "Our agro-products must successfully meet every global parameter so we can easily reach and dominate that world," affirmed Shri Modi.

Highlighting 'Technology and Innovation' as the vital third

stream, the Prime Minister stressed that India must transcend being merely a global market to become the ultimate hub of innovation across cutting-edge fields like AI, quantum computing, space, advanced robotics, Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), and Made-in-India 6G. "Our goal must firmly be that 'Made in India' 6G reaches every single corner, and we must aggressively speed this up," asserted Shri Modi.

Detailing 'Gati Shakti' as the essential fourth stream, the Prime Minister mandated an aggressive infrastructural overhaul to create seamless multimodal logistics, encompassing high-speed rail, modern highways, inland waterways, and the transformation of ports into highly dynamic centers of port-led development growth. "We will absolutely have to move our ports in the strategic direction of massive port-led development growth," noted Shri Modi.

Categorizing 'Defence Shakti' as the crucial fifth stream, the Prime Minister declared absolute strategic self-reliance a non-negotiable national priority, emphasizing India's aim to become a leading global supplier by pioneering and exporting next-generation technologies, including drones, counter-drone systems, and hypersonics. "We have to aggressively move forward with the firm goal of becoming a massive global supplier of defense technology," asserted Shri Modi.

Framing cyber security as an integral part of national defense, the Prime Minister emphasized harnessing the immense digital capability of Indian youth to aggressively protect both the nation's digital borders and the global cyber landscape. "We can actively use the tremendous capability of our youth in cyber security for the absolute protection of the country and the world," observed Shri Modi.

Introducing the 'Green and Blue Economy' as the sustainable sixth stream, the Prime Minister positioned India as a proactive global problem-solver in climate change, emphasizing sustainable expansion through Green Hydrogen, renewables, energy storage, and the comprehensive development of ocean, marine potential, and coastal tourism to generate extensive green jobs. "When the world keeps discussing global warming, we keep aggressively finding ways and providing solid solutions," affirmed Shri Modi.

Identifying India's 'Soft Power' as the final seventh stream, the Prime Minister celebrated yoga as a unifying global energy and championed the globalization of India's heritage, Ayurveda, and tourism, while mandating aggressive leadership in the creative economy spanning VFX, animation, gaming, and the WAVES Summit. "India can actively show its incredible dominance inside the creative world, and we will absolutely have to develop it as a global capability," asserted Shri Modi.

Recognizing the massive untapped potential of India's wildlife and national parks, the Prime Minister urged an aggressive campaign to leverage this soft power by attracting global tourists and heavily mobilizing international sporting events alongside the highly lucrative, large-scale concert economy. "We have a massive opportunity through our soft power to aggressively attract the world's tourists, and we must boldly show our capability to the world," noted Shri Modi.

Sakeena Itoo hoists Tricolour at Anantnag; highlights government initiatives, pays homage to nation's martyrs

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 15: The 80th Independence Day was celebrated across Anantnag district with great patriotic fervour, enthusiasm and national spirit.

The main function of the day was organised at Shaheed Himayun Muzzamil Memorial Government Degree College, Khanabal, where a large gathering of people joined the celebrations to commemorate the historic occasion and honour the

sacrifices of the freedom fighters who laid down their lives for the nation's independence.

Minister for Education, Higher Education, Health and Medical Education and Social Welfare Departments, Sakeena Itoo, was the chief guest at the main function. She hoisted the National Flag and took the salute from the impressive ceremonial parade presented by contingents of the Jammu and Kashmir Police and paramilitary forces. The parade



also featured contingents of NCC cadets and school children, who marched with discipline and

enthusiasm, adding to the patriotic spirit of the occasion. Addressing the gathering,

Sakeena Itoo extended warm greetings to the people of Anantnag and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on the 80th Independence Day. She paid rich tributes to the freedom fighters, martyrs and national heroes whose courage, sacrifice and determination made the country's independence possible. She emphasised the importance of preserving the values of freedom, democracy and unity of the nation.

The Minister highlighted the achievements of the government in various sectors and outlined the initiatives being undertaken for overall development, welfare and empowerment of the people. She said that sustained efforts are being made to strengthen the infrastructure, improve delivery of public services and ensure that the benefits of development reach every section of society.

J&K Resident Commission celebrates 80th Independence Day

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15: The Jammu and Kashmir Resident Commission, New Delhi, Saturday celebrated the 80th Independence Day with high patriotic fervour and enthusiasm at its premises at 5, Prithviraj Road, New Delhi.

The celebrations commenced with the hoisting of the National Flag by Additional Resident Commissioner, Anil Sharma in presence of officers and officials of the Resident Commission and its subordinate offices.

The Additional Resident Commissioner paid rich tributes to the freedom fighters and national heroes whose



courage, sacrifice and unwavering commitment laid the foundation of an independent India. He called upon the officers and staff to uphold the highest standards

of integrity, dedication and professionalism in discharge of their responsibilities and remain steadfast in their commitment to public service and nation-building.

Highlighting the developmental initiatives undertaken by the Resident Commission, Anil Sharma said that the upgradation and improvement of the J&K House at Chanakya-puri, New Delhi, was undertaken during the last year, while similar work was also carried out at the J&K House, Amritsar. He informed that work on the J&K House at Dwarka, New Delhi, is also expected to commence shortly,

Kathua celebrates 80th Independence Day celebrated with patriotic fervour

Sports Minister hoists Tricolour; highlights development, welfare, sports, youth initiatives

KATHUA, AUGUST 15: The 80th Independence Day was celebrated with patriotic fervour at Sports Stadium Kathua, where Minister for FCS&CA, IT, Youth Services and Sports, Science and Technology Satish Sharma hoisted the National Flag at Sports Stadium Kathua.

The Minister took salute from the impressive march-past presented by the contingents of police, Security Forces, Forest, NCC and school students.

MLA Kathua Dr. Bharat Bhushan, Deputy Commissioner



Kathua Rajesh Sharma, SSP Kathua Mohita Sharma, senior officers of civil and police administration, ex-servicemen, prominent citizens, students and locals were present on the occasion.

The Minister inspected the parade and extended warm greetings to the people of Kathua and Jammu and Kashmir.

He paid rich tributes to freedom fighters, martyrs and soldiers guarding the nation's frontiers, particularly those who made the supreme sacrifice in defence of the country.

Describing Kathua as a frontier district and sentinel of the nation, he lauded the courage and resilience of its people.

Nasir Aslam Wani hoists Tricolour, offers tributes to freedom fighters at DPL Kupwara on 80th I-Day

KUPWARA, AUGUST 15: The 80th Independence Day was celebrated with patriotic fervour and gaiety at District Police Lines (DPL) Kupwara, where Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, hoists the National Flag and offered high tributes to freedom fighters and national heroes of India.

The programme commenced with singing of the national song, followed by hoisting of the National Flag and playing of the National Anthem. This was followed by an impressive march past by contingents of JKP, CRPF and other paramilitary and security forces, along with students of various educational institutions, which was inspected by the Chief Guest.



Alongside the parade, various departments of the district administration presented colourful tableaux, vividly depicting their key achievements, ongoing projects and the developmental works undertaken across

the district. The tableaux drew widespread appreciation from the audience for effectively showcasing the strides made by different departments in their respective sectors.

DIPR celebrates 80th Independence Day at Srinagar

Dir Information Shreya Singhal hoists National Flag

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 15: The Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Saturday celebrated the 80th Independence Day with patriotic fervour and enthusiasm at the DIPR Media Complex here.

The celebrations were led by Director Information, Shreya Singhal, who hoisted the National Flag.

On the occasion, the Director Information extended warm greetings to all officers and officials on the 80th Independence Day. She highlighted the significance of the day, recalling the sacrifices of the freedom fighters and the values of unity, democracy, integrity and national service that



continue to guide the nation.

Joint Director Information (Hqrs), Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Deputy Director Information (PR/AV), Javid Ahmad Rather; other officers and officials of the DIPR were also present on the occasion.

Directorate of FCS&CA celebrates 80th Independence Day

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 15: Directorate of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Kashmir celebrated the 80th Independence Day with patriotic fervour and enthusiasm here Saturday.

The national flag was hoisted by Director, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Kashmir, Nazim Zai Khan. Joint Director, Shaheena Khan; Financial Advisor/Chief Accounts Officer, Peerzada Ahtishamul Haq; Deputy Director, Mohammad Rafeeq Bhat; officers and officials of the department were also present.

On the occasion, the Director extended his warm greetings and heartfelt congratulations to the nation and all employees of the Department



ment on the auspicious occasion of Independence Day.

He appreciated the participation of all employees in the celebrations and urged them to continue working with commitment and a spirit of public service towards strengthening the delivery mechanism and ensuring that the benefits of Government schemes reach the deserving population in a transparent and efficient manner.

Baramulla celebrates 80th Independence Day with patriotic fervour

Javid Dar hoists Tricolour, counts govt achievements, assures people-centric governance



BARAMULLA, AUGUST 15: Independence Day was celebrated with immense patriotic fervour at Professor Showkat Ali Sports Stadium, Baramulla, where Minister for Agricultural Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, hoisted the National Flag, inspected the parade and received the salute on March Past.

The Parade consisted of contingents from BSF, CRPF, J&K police, Shastra Seema Bal, Home Guards, J&K Police Band, NCC cadets from Government Degree College Baramulla, Boys' Higher Secondary Baramulla and various schools.

In his address to the gathering, the Minister extended Independence Day greetings to the people and paid tributes to the brave freedom fighters and martyrs who sacrificed everything to uphold the nation's freedom and democracy.

Javid Ahmad Dar underscored the remarkable progress achieved by

Jammu and Kashmir, with District Baramulla making notable strides across diverse sectors including agriculture, healthcare, education, women and youth empowerment, rural development, road connectivity, social welfare and self-employment. He highlighted the administration's sustained commitment to ensure inclusive, balanced and holistic development across the district.

Furthermore, the Minister reiterated that the government remains firmly committed to ensure transparent, accountable and people-centric governance, with a focused approach towards strengthening the economic foundation of Jammu and Kashmir.

Javid Dar emphasized that development must be inclusive and equitable, ensuring that its benefits reach every household and lay a strong foundation for sustained growth, prosperity and improved quality of life for the people.

Independence Day Celebrated at Munsiff Court Complex Tangdhar



Global Kashmir Desk

Kupwara, August 15 : The 80th Independence Day was celebrated with patriotic fervour at the Munsiff Court Complex, Tangdhar on Saturday.

The National flag was hoisted by Shri Mansoor Ahmad Mir, Munsiff/Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Tangdhar, in the presence of Tehsildar Karnah, President of the Bar Association Tangdhar, Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Tangdhar, Commandant BSF, executive members and other

members of the Bar Association Tangdhar, teachers and students of Orient Public School, staff members of the Munsiff Court, prosecution staff, members of the Tehsil Legal Services Committee, Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs), police officials and members of civil society.

The flag-hoisting ceremony was followed by the distribution of sweets and a high tea for all the participants. Students of Orient Public School presented patriotic songs, adding to the spirit of the occasion.

Javed Rana hoists National Flag on 80th Independence Day at Poonch

Highlights government achievements; assures relief, restoration support to rain-affected families

POONCH, AUGUST 15: The 80th Independence Day was celebrated with patriotic fervour and enthusiasm at District Headquarters, Poonch, where Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, hoisted the National Flag amid high patriotic fervour and enthusiasm.

He took salute at the impressive march past presented by the contingents of J&K Police, IRP, CRPF, Forest Protection Force, NCC cadets and school children at the main ceremonial function held at Sports Sta-



dium Poonch.

MLA Surankote, Choudhary Mohammad Akram; Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma; Principal District and Sessions Judge Poonch, Sushil Singh, Additional District and Session Judge,

Mir Wajahat, Chief Judicial Magistrate Poonch, Sarfraz Nawaz, Secretary DLSA Poonch, Rafaqat Hussain, Senior Superintendent of Police Poonch, Shafqat Hussain Bhat; senior officers of the civil administration, Police, Army, prominent citizens and a large gathering public were present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister paid rich tributes to the freedom fighters and national leaders whose courage, sacrifice and vision secured the country's freedom and laid the foundations of its democratic journey. He said Independence Day is an occasion to remember the sacrifices of the past and reaffirm the collective resolve to uphold the ideals of justice, liberty, equality, fraternity and national unity.

THE GLOBAL
KASHMIR
EDITORIAL

KASHMIR CELEBRATES
INDEPENDENCE
DAY WITH PRIDE

Kashmir marked the 80th Independence Day with enthusiasm, patriotic spirit and strong public participation, reflecting a growing sense of confidence, unity and hope across the region. From towns and villages to schools, government offices and public institutions, the national flag was hoisted with pride as people joined celebrations across J&K.

The main functions held across districts witnessed participation from government officials, elected representatives, security personnel, students, civil society members and residents. Cultural programmes, patriotic performances and award ceremonies added colour to the celebrations, while students and young people played an important role in presenting the spirit of a confident and progressive Kashmir.

The celebrations also highlighted the contribution of public servants, police personnel, teachers, students and members of civil society who continue to serve their communities. Recognition of their efforts during Independence Day functions sent a positive message about the importance of public service and collective responsibility.

The enthusiasm visible among people carries significance. Independence Day is more than a ceremonial occasion. It is an opportunity to reflect on the values that shape the country, including democracy, equality, unity, constitutional rights and respect for every citizen.

For Kashmir, such public participation also reflects the importance of peace and development. A peaceful environment creates opportunities for education, tourism, business, employment and better public services. Young people, in particular, need an environment where they can focus on education, skills, careers and constructive participation in society.

The celebrations across Kashmir also offered a reminder that national occasions can bring communities together. Schools and public institutions provided platforms for students to express their talent and understanding of national values. Such experiences can strengthen civic awareness among the younger generation.

As Kashmir continues its journey of development, the focus should remain on improving public infrastructure, creating employment opportunities, strengthening education and ensuring responsive governance. The energy witnessed during Independence Day should translate into sustained efforts for a better future.

The 80th Independence Day celebrations across Kashmir presented a positive picture of public participation and national pride. The message from the celebrations is clear. Peace, progress, unity and opportunity remain central to the aspirations of the people. The occasion should inspire everyone to contribute responsibly towards a stronger and more prosperous J&K.

Editor's
Note

Global Kashmir invites original, well-researched, and insightful articles from writers, researchers, academicians, professionals, and informed citizens on issues of public interest. Articles should be factual, balanced, unpublished, and between 800 and 1,000 words.

The views expressed in contributed articles are solely those of the respective authors. Global Kashmir neither endorses nor assumes responsibility for the opinions, claims, or interpretations expressed therein. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit, accept, or reject any submission in accordance with editorial and legal standards.

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Sustainable Development for Protecting
the Himalayan Environment

CLIMATE CHANGE HAS ONLY MADE THE MATTER MORE SEVERE. THERE IS AN IMPACT ON THE GLACIERS, SNOW FALL AND AVAILABILITY OF WATER DUE TO RISING TEMPERATURES.



Firdous Javid Beig
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The Himalayas are more than just a chain of snow-capped mountains. They constitute a rich ecosystem that sustains the lives of millions of inhabitants and supplies the water requirements of some of the world's biggest rivers. The forests, animals, and people of this region represent distinct cultures and civilizations. In India, from Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh; and in Nepal and Bhutan, the Himalayan area contributes significantly to the ecological dynamics of South Asia. However, the delicate ecosystems of the Himalayas have been threatened by the adverse effects of climate change, deforestation, pollution, unregulated development, tourism, and large-scale infrastructural projects. The question now is not one of whether the Himalayas should develop, but of how we can ensure that development does not lead to the destruction of the very ecological systems that sustain mountain populations.

Himalaya is highly prone to disasters due to its young geological formation and slopes as well as weather patterns. Landslides, floods, cloudbursts, and soil erosion are natural disasters but may be aggravated by human actions. Roads lacking effective drainage systems, buildings constructed on loose soils, felling of hills and building of structures near the river are factors likely to lead to disasters. Extreme natural conditions in the Himalaya regions have proven that one cannot ignore the environment in pursuit of development. Ignoring environmental boundaries will ultimately lead to negative impacts being experienced by common people in terms of loss of property, livelihoods and at times even loss of lives. The problem is not with development but poorly planned development.

Climate change has only made the matter more severe. There is an impact on the glaciers, snow fall and availability of water due to rising temperatures. The glaciers in the Himalayas are responsible for providing rivers with water

which is used for drinking, agriculture and other uses by many people. Therefore, any changes in snow fall and behavior of glaciers may have repercussions even outside the mountains. On the other hand, melting of glaciers could lead to formation of glacial lakes, making way for sudden floods. The protection of glaciers needs efforts to tackle climate change worldwide, but local efforts are also required.

Another aspect where balance is urgently required is that of tourism. Tourism is a key source of income for many communities in the Himalayas due to the natural beauty of the region, which brings thousands of tourists each year. However, uncontrolled tourism may lead to problems such as the generation of plastic waste, sewage, traffic, water consumption, and unauthorized construction. Overcrowding may arise in the mountain resorts at certain times of the year. The way out here is not to prohibit the entry of tourists to the Himalayas, but to practice sustainable tourism. This involves the implementation of carrying capacity studies, proper management of garbage, promotion of public transport, and regulation of constructions. At the same time, it is necessary to involve locals in organizing homestays, guiding tours, and other forms of tourism.

However, there is also a need for an alternative model of infrastructure development in the mountains. Road construction, bridges, tunnels and hydroelectric projects are needed for economic development and connectivity, but they have to be developed with regard to mountain geography. Environmental impact assessment has to be based on the scientific findings and really influence the decision-making process. Construction has to be avoided in hazardous locations while proper drainage systems, slope stabilization and disaster-resistant designs have to become common practice. Instead of considering the speed of construction only, planners have to start thinking about the effect on the landscape 10, 20 or even 50 years in the future.

Forests are one of the main natural buffers provided by the Himalayan Mountains. They prevent soil erosion, protect biodiversity, accumulate carbon and help control the water regime. Thus, deforestation and forest degradation are problems which are far more serious than just the absence of trees. Forest protection should become one of the priorities while the reforestation should focus on native tree species which are suit-

able for the conditions of the mountain ecosystem. Biodiversity conservation is also crucial because there are a lot of rare plants and animals in the Himalayas and the destruction of their habitats will severely disrupt the ecosystem of the region.

There is no environmental policy in the Himalayas that could work without the involvement of the people living there. The communities in the mountains have been relying on forests, rivers and lands for ages and have much traditional wisdom about their surroundings. Their input must be considered while making decisions about roads, tourism, forests and other developmental projects. Sustained agricultural activities, local crafts, alternative energy sources, eco-tourism and small-scale industries can help create jobs and lessen the burden on natural resources. If the communities gain directly from conservation, it would mean that the protection of environment will also be part of their livelihood.

Technological inputs can also prove to be helpful. Remote sensing, geographical information systems, weather monitoring and early warning and better disaster prediction systems can aid the authorities in identifying risks and being prepared for them. Tracking glaciers, rivers and potential sites of landslides can give enough time to the people to prepare themselves for disasters. Nevertheless, technology must be used responsibly.

Governments probably have the greatest obligation to ensure the sustainability of the future of the Himalayas. Development policies should understand that there are different ecological constraints of mountains than plains and cities. In addition to being assessed by their economic benefits, the impact on the environmental and socio-economic aspect of projects needs to be considered. Finally, collaboration among Himalayan countries is needed since rivers, glaciers, forests, and wildlife do not recognize national borders. Climate change and environmental degradation are issues that affect everyone equally and thus require a collaborative solution.

In essence, preservation of the Himalayas cannot be only an environmental obligation. It is a matter of human responsibility. Rivers coming from these mountains provide agriculture, drinkable water and other resources not only for the inhabitants of the area. And in case of environmental degradation, negative impacts would not

be limited only to the mountain communities.

Development in itself is not about stopping. Sustainable development is about rethinking development. The Himalayas need to be connected better and become more economically developed; however, this cannot be at the expense of destruction of forests, rivers, glaciers and mountain landscape. Development and environmental protection do not have to be two opposite things; with proper planning and involvement of science and community they can go hand in hand.

HIMALAYA IS HIGHLY PRONE TO DISASTERS DUE TO ITS YOUNG GEOLOGICAL FORMATION AND SLOPES AS WELL AS WEATHER PATTERNS. LANDSLIDES, FLOODS, CLOUDBURSTS, AND SOIL EROSION ARE NATURAL DISASTERS BUT MAY BE AGGRAVATED BY HUMAN ACTIONS. ROADS LACKING EFFECTIVE DRAINAGE SYSTEMS, BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED ON LOOSE SOILS, FELLING OF HILLS AND BUILDING OF STRUCTURES NEAR THE RIVER ARE FACTORS LIKELY TO LEAD TO DISASTERS

Heritage and Cultural Tourism in Jammu and Kashmir

A LAND IS REMEMBERED NOT ONLY FOR THE BEAUTY OF ITS LANDSCAPES,
BUT FOR THE CULTURE IT CARRIES, THE STORIES IT PRESERVES AND THE PEOPLE WHO KEEP THOSE STORIES ALIVE.

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Whenever anyone talks about Jammu and Kashmir, some of the common images that come to their minds are snow-capped mountains, beautiful lakes, lush green valleys and exquisite gardens. However, the real treasure of this place goes much deeper than all that can be perceived by the naked eye. Beyond the well-known natural beauty of the region lies an extensive cultural and historical heritage that has been developed over centuries. The unique culture of the region and its history make it a great destination for heritage and cultural tourism. Jammu and Kashmir is that special place where history and culture have not been lost inside museums but are still alive on the streets, in the crafts that are produced, in the food that is cooked, in festivals that are celebrated and in stories that have been told for generations. It gives the place a unique identity and the potential for tourists' experience which transcends typical sightseeing trips. One of the most fascinating examples of such cultural landscape may be considered Srinagar, which boasts historic neighbourhoods and traditional architecture. Old Srinagar tells stories of various eras through wooden constructions, historical mosques, shrines, bridges and markets. Exploring such places, tourists receive an opportunity to see something that cannot be seen while sticking to a typical tourist route: history lives around here in its daily manifestations. Another aspect of the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir is presented by the historical Mughal gardens of Shalimar Bagh and Nishat Bagh. Their terraced layouts, water channels, foun-



tains and mountain views demonstrate the tradition of combining nature and architectural constructions, resulting in the creation of unique places of extreme beauty. Dal Lake, in turn, is also much more than just an attractive place for tourism. Its shikaras, houseboats and floating markets, connected with the lifestyle of those who live in this place, became a key element of the cultural identity of Kashmir.

The identity of Jammu and Kashmir is intertwined with that of Dogra culture, architecture, temples and royalty. Forts like Bahu Fort and Mubarak Mandi Palace are some examples of the region's architectural and historical heritage, while religious and cultural sites of the region draw people for cultural experiences as well as spiritual journeys. The diversity of traditions in the region renders it unique from the point of view of cultural tourism. One can encounter a variety of architecture, food, arts,

festivals and customs in a relatively small area. Traditional craftsmanship of the region is one of its most important features. Even the very name Kashmir reminds us of hand-made carpets, Pashmina, paper-mache, woodwork and embroidery. These arts and crafts are not mere merchandise, but the embodiment of knowledge and creativity passed through many generations. Each hand made item carries the spirit of the craftsman who made it. It is associated with the Dogra culture, architectural heritage, temples and royal history. Architectural and historical heritage like the Bahu Fort and Mubarak Mandi Palace gives one an idea about the past of this region, whereas its temples attract tourists who are interested in religious tourism as well. The presence of various cultures in the regions of Jammu and Kashmir makes this place quite interesting from the perspective of cultural tourism. The traditional craftwork of Jammu and Kashmir is one

of its main strengths from the perspective of cultural heritage. Just the name Kashmir is associated with magnificent carpets, Pashmina, papier-mâché, walnut woodcarvings and embroidery. Traditional craftwork is not only a means of earning money but also a kind of knowledge and artistry passed on from generation to generation. Each product is connected with the tradition it belongs to and its creator. That is why heritage tourism could be beneficial for the development of craft industry in the region because it helps people to learn more about their origin. It may help young people reconnect with traditional skills and create innovative models of entrepreneurship without having them disconnect from their cultural heritage. Food has a way of saying much more about the culture than any other landmark does. For example, experiencing Kashmiri Wazwan, Rogan Josh, Yakhni, Dum Aloo and the taste of Kahwa will give tourists more than just an insight into the local cuisine but a complete picture of the traditions of hospitality as well. By listening to a traditional song, watching a performance or hearing stories told by a local elder, a tourist takes part in cultural exchange.

Such exchange can lead to greater mutual understanding between people from different regions of India and the world. When a visitor will communicate with artisans, explore an old market, taste a traditional meal or listen to a folk story, he is going to remember human connection long after his trip ends. And that is the reason why heritage tourism can play such an important role in the future development of tourism in the region. There is ample scope for the development of heritage walks, culture trail tours, village trips, craft demonstrations, culinary classes and storytelling programs. These types of experiences will not only make tourists travel beyond the usual destinations but also provide locals with the chance to take a direct part in tourism. Young people can become guides, storytellers,

photographers, film makers and entrepreneurs whereas women will be able to contribute to tourism through crafts, local cuisine, homestays and cultural businesses. Thus, tourism will not only be a source of earnings but also a way to strengthen community involvement and cultural awareness. At the same time, the development of heritage tourism should not get separated from the issues of preservation. Culture represented in the form of buildings, crafts, practices, language, cuisine and stories, which are drawing tourists, need to be preserved for future generations. Craft that was passed through generations now can get a new life on the Internet; stories told by people can be spread to thousands through a documentary; heritage walks can become an important digital experience to tourists planning to come to Jammu and Kashmir. This way technology can serve as a bridge to the past and the future. The real value of heritage and cultural tourism in Jammu and Kashmir is in its authenticity. There is no need to create a culture for visitors here; instead, it already exists and is well-developed and full of life. What needs to be done is just to promote the region's culture in a responsible way, to preserve it, and let the local community actively participate in its promotion. Mountains might be the attraction to the area for a tourist initially, but the culture could be what will make his journey complete. Gardens with stories of artistic creativity, forts with historical backgrounds, crafts that show the rich history of craftsmanship, the cuisine that speaks of hospitality, and people that make every visit warm - all this is what the heritage tourism in Jammu and Kashmir should be about. Heritage tourism is much more than the journey through the past; it is rather about finding out how the past has influenced the present and gives inspiration for the future. So, if the beauty of Jammu and Kashmir attracts tourists to the region, the culture could be the reason why they stay here for a longer period and want to return.

Kashmir Rejects Pakistan's 'Violence-Marred Elections' in PoJK

THE ELECTIONS WERE ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN A SINGLE PHASE ON 27 JULY, BUT THE UNREST FORCED PAKISTAN TO RESCHEDULE THEM INTO THREE PHASES, HELD ON 27 JULY, 2 AUGUST AND 10 AUGUST.

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We cannot occupy someone's house, decide who will govern it, and dictate the future of its members while subjecting them to every form of hardship and misery. This is precisely the picture reflected in the recently concluded elections in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), where Pakistan continues to exercise control while the people face unrest, violence, protests and growing political dissatisfaction. An election is supposed to be a celebration of democracy. In Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, however, the latest electoral exercise unfolded against a backdrop of violence, protests, boycotts, bloodshed and allegations of manipulation. What was presented as a democratic process instead raised a much larger question: can an election be held amid fear, unrest and suppression truly reflect the will of the people?

Imagine your house is divided into two. How would you feel if anything happened in the other part of that house? That is what happened to Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan divided it, snatched a part of it, and attempted to invade the whole of Jammu and Kashmir. Today, around 35% of Jammu and Kashmir remains under Pakistan's brutal and illegal occupation for over seven decades; PoJK and PoGB. These occupied regions have remained far from growth and progress, with the clouds of poverty, inflation and a lack of basic amenities

always hovering over them. These regions lack proper roads and hospitals and are yet to receive constitutional and provincial status within Pakistan. Holding what can only be described as a theatre of elections in these occupied regions is nothing but an attempt by Pakistan to deceive the world into believing that these regions exercise democratic rights and are free to choose their government. But we all know who actually controls that government.

As of now, PoJK is witnessing huge turmoil, with reports of deaths, detentions and injuries emerging as a shock. People have been demanding relief from poverty, tariffs and inflation, along with better governance and constitutional reforms. However, Pakistan's response has been so brutal that it has set the occupied region on fire, resulting in deaths, chaos and widespread unrest. Amid this turmoil, Pakistan went ahead with elections, which in itself is a reflection of what I would call a dictatorial and uncompassionate approach.

The elections were originally scheduled to be held in a single phase on 27 July, but the unrest forced Pakistan to reschedule them into three phases, held on 27 July, 2 August and 10 August. The polling days were marked by violence, boycotts and bloodshed, as Al Jazeera reported more than 20 deaths on the first day of polling which led to its banning in Pakistan, while unverified reports claimed a much higher death toll. These elections are nothing but an attempt to mask Pakistan's brutal and illegal occupation of PoJK and its people. PoJK is and shall remain an inseparable part of Jammu and Kashmir and, therefore, of India. Jammu and Kashmir lawfully acceded to In-



dia under the Instrument of Accession in 1947, making the entire territory of Jammu and Kashmir, including PoJK and PoGB, part of the Indian Union. Therefore, we reject Pakistan's move to hold forced elections or any form of so-called democratic exercise to legitimise or conceal its control over the region. Such an exercise not only violates the emotional and political sentiments of the Kashmiri people but also attempts to undermine the choices and aspirations of the people of PoJK. We strongly and unequivocally protest against Pakistan for holding elections in a region that rightfully belongs to Jammu and Kashmir but remains under Pakistan's illegal occupation and control. The boycott low turnout and unrest of the elections itself reflect the growing rejection of Pakistan's political

system by the people of PoJK. Pakistan cannot alter the historical position of Jammu and Kashmir merely by holding elections under the shadow of guns. The world knows the historical truth of Jammu and Kashmir, and no electoral exercise can erase it.

If it was a free, fair and credible electoral process, why did allegations of rigging and unfair vote count surface immediately after polling? That is because Pakistan knows that PoJK rejects its control, and rigging is a way to influence and control electoral outcomes. It appears to be a two-sided game: on one hand, Pakistan wants to show the world that democratic elections are being held in PoJK, while on the other, it disregards people's mandate, it rigs elections to

control the electoral outcome and the political system. If the people of PoJK genuinely have political freedom, why does Pakistan not allow strong regional political parties to grow in PoJK, as they have in Jammu and Kashmir, where parties such as the JK PDP, JKNC and JKPC operate? The reason, critics argue, is that a strong regional party in PoJK could emerge as a powerful opposition that does not necessarily echo Islamabad's views. If the people of PoJK are genuinely satisfied with the existing system, why not listen to their demands and reconsider the controversial 12 reserved seats? The pattern raises serious questions about whether the electoral process is genuinely intended to empower the people or simply to create an appearance of democracy while maintaining Pakistan's political control over PoJK.

In a nutshell, this move is meant to legitimize control and mask Pakistan's occupation of PoJK. We, the people of Kashmir, clearly reject Pakistan's move to hold elections in PoJK. PoJK is lawfully and legally a part of Jammu and Kashmir and, hence, an inseparable part of India. Any attempt to hold administrative, political or electoral exercises in PoJK is a violation of the emotions and choices of the people of Kashmir, as well as an infringement upon India's sovereignty and national integrity. The world remains a witness to the historical fact that PoJK and PoGB are parts of Jammu and Kashmir. We urge the international community to come forward, seek accountability for Pakistan's conduct in PoJK, and pressure Pakistan to end its occupation of the region and hand it back to its lawful and rightful owner, Jammu and Kashmir, and thereby India.

Under

HAR GHAR TIRANGA CAMPAIGN

Meanwhile, J&K is witnessing massive public participation in the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign 2026, being held from August 9 to 17 to mark the 80th Independence Day.

The campaign also holds special significance this year as the country commemorates the 150th anniversary of India's National Song, "Vande Mataram".

The administration has distributed more than 14 lakh National Flags across all 20 districts as part of efforts to ensure widespread participation and retain the Union Territory's top national ranking in public engagement under the campaign.

Pertinently, on August 12, LG Sinha led a flagship Tiranga rally from the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) to the Botanical Garden in Srinagar.

A spectacular Tiranga Shikara Rally was also held simultaneously on Dal Lake, with around 250 decorated boats taking part in the celebrations.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and other senior leaders had joined the celebrations, highlighting the spirit of national unity and patriotism across Jammu and Kashmir.

The week-long campaign features a series of programmes and activities across the Union Territory, with citizens, government departments and various organisations participating in the celebrations.

The administration has urged people to display the Tricolour at their homes and workplaces and participate in the campaign to strengthen the spirit of patriotism and national unity—(KNO)

PoJK

The Chief Minister paid tribute to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the country and recalled the contribution of the people of Jammu & Kashmir who fought against tribal raiders and infiltrators in 1947, even before the Indian Army reached the region.

Referring to the situation in the part of Jammu & Kashmir under Pakistan's occupation, he said the people living there were not strangers but part of the same land and people of Jammu & Kashmir.

"We consider those people as our own, not strangers," he said, adding that the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly continues to keep seats vacant for them in the hope that one day the people of that part of J&K would be able to occupy those seats.

The Chief Minister said that the sacrifices made by the people of Jammu & Kashmir eight decades ago continued to hold relevance and that their aspirations had to be honoured through peace, development, democracy and justice.

CM Omar said that Independence Day was an occasion to reflect on whether the India envisioned by those who made the supreme sacrifice had been fully realized and, if not, what more needed to be done. "Today is a day of joy, a day of remembrance and a day of gratitude," he said, paying tribute to all those who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the nation and reaffirming the commitment to build an India marked by greater progress, peace, brotherhood and happiness.

He reiterated that his government's resolve is to build a stronger Jammu & Kashmir and take it to next level in terms of development, prosperity and progress, while working for the restoration of its statehood and constitutional guarantees.

The Chief Minister said the government would continue to represent, serve and work for the people of Jammu & Kashmir and strive to fulfil the dreams of those who sacrificed their lives for the freedom and future of the region.

"We will continue to represent you. We will continue to serve you. We will continue to do our work to bring Jammu and Kashmir to that level," the Chief Minister said, assuring the people that the government would work to make their aspirations a reality.

GOVT COMMITTED TO FIGHT FOR RESTORATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES

TUTIONAL GUARANTEES

He said the government was committed to fight for the restoration of the constitutional guarantees of Jammu & Kashmir, regaining its statehood and ushering in a new era of progress and development.

"Whether it is to bring Jammu & Kashmir to that level again, whether it is to restore the constitutional guarantees of Jammu and Kashmir, whether it is to regain the special status of Jammu & Kashmir, or whether it is to start a new era of progress in J&K, your government will make it a reality," he said.

The Chief Minister said the government's efforts were aimed at ensuring that every young person in every village could see a ray of hope and feel that Jammu & Kashmir was moving from uncertainty towards a better future.

He emphasized that development, prosperity and employment opportunities could not be achieved through words alone and that the real test lies in translating commitments into action.

DEMOCRACY, FEDERALISM TWO BIGGEST STRENGTHS OF THE COUNTRY

Reflecting on the 80 years since Independence, the Chief Minister said the occasion was not only one of celebration but also of remembrance, gratitude and introspection about the India envisioned by those who made the supreme sacrifice for its freedom.

He underlined that democracy and federalism were among the two biggest strengths of the country and stressed the need to preserve, strengthen and deepen both.

"Our country is a Union of States," he said, asserting that strengthening federalism required strengthening the States and ensuring that their constitutional powers and responsibilities were respected.

The Chief Minister said that when the powers of States were eroded or central agencies interfered in areas falling within the States' domain, federalism was weakened. He cited education and health as areas where States traditionally had an important role and said that national-level examinations for national institutions were legitimate, while State institutions should retain the right to conduct their own examinations and admissions.

He also stressed the importance of restoring public trust in recruitment and admission processes at the Centre, saying that while it takes only moments to lose trust in a system, rebuilding it requires years of sustained effort.

"In Jammu and Kashmir, whether it is admission, recruitment or any other process, it should be transparent, merit-based and fair, so that those who genuinely deserve a job or a seat get their rightful opportunity," he said.

Calling for continuous engagement between the government and the people, the Chief Minister said governance could be meaningful only when the government remained connected with the aspirations and expectations of the people.

He said the government had the responsibility to work, the Opposition had the responsibility to question and hold the government accountable inside and outside the Legislative Assembly, while the media had an important role in questioning both.

He said the government had been working for almost the last two years for the betterment, development and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir.

"This government is your government. It is working for you. It is working for the betterment and development of Jammu and Kashmir. It is working for the prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

SKIPS OFFICIAL SPEECH

Chief Minister chose not to read out the official speech and the list of achievements of his Government and said it should be deemed to have been read.

The Chief Minister congratulated the people on Independence Day and expressed hope that the next 80 years of the country would be more magnificent than the previous eight decades, marked by greater progress, brotherhood, peace and happiness.

"Jai Hind. Jai Jammu Kashmir," he said.

HOISTS NATIONAL FLAG, TAKES SALUTE

The Chief Minister hoisted the National Flag, inspected the parade and took salute at an impressive march past of the contingents comprising of J&K Police, Security forces, school students, besides Brass & Pipe bands of J&K Police and school students.

Several cultural programmes showcasing the rich and diverse cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir were also presented on the occasion, drawing applause from the Chief Guest and the audience.

The function was attended by former Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah, several Members of the Legislative Assembly, senior officers of the J&K civil and police administration, and a large gathering of people.

The Chief Minister also presented awards to outstanding officers and employees in recognition of their contribution to public service.

Chief Minister also gave away prizes among the students, members of police, para-military, J&K Sports Council and artists from Cultural Academy for their performances which were rated by a jury present on the occasion—(KNO)

Contribute

renew their commitment to serving the nation with greater vigour, sincerity, and dedication.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the difficult journey, struggle and sacrifice for independence. He also paid tribute to the civilians who tragically lost their lives in unfortunate natural calamities this year.

"On this historic day, I join all citizens in paying heartfelt tributes to our founding fathers and the valiant sons and daughters of Mother India who sacrificed their lives for country's freedom. Let us strive to realize their cherished dreams of building a peaceful, prosperous Jammu Kashmir and a great nation. The truest tribute we can pay to our martyrs and freedom fighters is to resolve to work with integrity and safeguard our hard-earned freedom," the Lieutenant Governor said.

While acknowledging the challenges ahead, he expressed strong confidence in India's potential to emerge as a global leader. The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that citizens must unite to foster an inclusive society that prioritizes the public interest and extends compassion to the underprivileged.

"Let us strive for balanced growth and the economic empowerment of women to build a more humane and compassionate society. We must prioritize empowering women and youth, generating jobs and ensuring environmental sustainability. Our ongoing initiatives, such as revitalizing heritage sites, restoring ancient monuments and undertaking massive afforestation drives, stand as a testament to our steadfast commitment to sustainable development," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated all the brave personnel of the J&K Police and CAPFs who received gallantry medals on the eve of Independence Day, while also commending sportspersons for their exceptional achievements and contribution to the Union Territory's pride—(KNO)

Statutory

"The Legislative Assembly shall, as soon as may be, choose two members of the Assembly to be respectively Speaker and Deputy Speaker thereof and, so often as the office of Speaker or Deputy Speaker becomes vacant, the Assembly shall choose another member to be Speaker or Deputy Speaker, as the case may be."

Soon after the formation of the elected government, the post of Speaker was filled during the first session, with Abdul Rahim elected unanimously after the BJP decided not to contest.

However, the post of Deputy Speaker has remained vacant for nearly two years. The elected government will complete two years in office on October 16, yet no move has been made to fill the position.

The ruling National Conference has not made any effort to fill the post of Deputy Speaker, which

the ruling party has traditionally given to the largest opposition party. The largest opposition party happens to be the BJP in the House.

During the PDP-BJP government, Nazir Gurezi of the National Conference served as Deputy Speaker, while Sartaj Madni of PDP held the post during the NC-Congress rule.

According to sources, the National Conference is reluctant to offer the post of Deputy Speaker to the BJP, while the latter has also not pressed its claim for the position with the ruling party.

The issue of the vacant Deputy Speaker's post has not been raised even once in the House over the past two years, neither by the treasury benches nor by the opposition.

As per the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House, the election of the Deputy Speaker is conducted under the supervision of the Speaker. The Speaker fixes the date for the election—(KNO)

Family

Bandipora district, died in the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) of the hospital on August 14. The family has alleged that delays in conducting important diagnostic investigations and an alleged delay in recognising the seriousness of the child's condition contributed to the deterioration and eventual death.

However, a detailed clarification issued by hospital authorities has presented a different account of the clinical sequence, stating that the child was brought to the hospital with a serious acute illness and subsequently developed convulsions, cardiac dysfunction and hemodynamic instability despite treatment.

According to the paediatrics department, the child presented with fever accompanied by seizures, lethargy, restlessness, sore throat and swelling involving the face and neck. The department said the child was clinically evaluated and appropriate investigations were undertaken during treatment.

The hospital said the child subsequently developed active convulsions, which were managed with anticonvulsant therapy.

An echocardiography examination, according to the hospital, showed mild left ventricular dysfunction with an estimated left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) of around 50 per cent.

The department said that as the child's clinical condition worsened and he developed hemodynamic instability, the treating team proceeded with advanced supportive measures, including intubation, mechanical ventilation and vasopressor support.

"Despite active and appropriate resuscitative and supportive measures, the child's condition continued to deteriorate," the hospital said, adding that the child could not be revived and was declared dead at 8:25 PM on August 14.

The treating doctors had considered several serious clinical possibilities, including meningococcal sepsis, atypical febrile seizure and shock, the hospital said, adding that the final cause of death would be determined on the basis of the complete clinical assessment and available investigations.

The family alleged that the child's condition had been deteriorating for days and questioned the alleged delay in conducting investigations after the child was admitted to the hospital.

According to family members, the child was initially brought to the hospital around two days before his death after developing a throat-related health problem. They alleged that after an initial assessment, the child was administered an injection and prescribed medicines, with the family being told that his condition would improve.

The relatives claimed that instead of recovering, the child's condition worsened and that when he was brought back to the hospital the following day, similar treatment was provided before they were advised to return.

The Medical Superintendent (MS) of the hospital has asked the Head of the Department of Paediatrics to conduct an in-house enquiry into the death.

In a communication, the MS referred to the social media video in which allegations of negligence had been levelled against doctors and asked the department to ascertain the facts of the case, including the treatment provided and circumstances leading to the child's death.

The enquiry committee has been asked to submit its report, along with specific findings and recommendations, within four working days of receiving the communication.

The hospital also reiterated its commitment to providing timely, evidence-based and appropriate care to patients—(KNO)

I-Day:

What made the scene different from an ordinary day was the quietness around it. With most shops and business establishments closed for the holiday, traffic remained thin on the city's roads, and fewer people were seen outside.

Across Srinagar, including Downtown and uptown areas, the usual bustle gave way to a slower holiday mood, with many residents choosing to remain at home.

Those who did step out were largely seen around places where Independence Day celebrations were being held, including Lal Chowk, where the Ghanta Ghar drew tourists and locals for photographs and a glimpse of the festivities.

For some tourists visiting Kashmir for the first time, the experience was less about ticking off another sightseeing spot and more about witnessing the city at its symbolic centre.

"This is my first trip to Kashmir, and I am enjoying my stay

here. This place is as beautiful as heaven, and I cannot describe it in words," Karan, a tourist from Mumbai, said.

For locals too, the otherwise crowded commercial hub offered a different experience as the holiday brought a quieter rhythm to Lal Chowk. "It is wonderful to see such a diverse range of people participating in the celebrations. It brings a sense of unity and pride in our country," said Gulzar Ahmad, a resident of Karan Nagar, Srinagar, who runs a tea cart near Court Road.

Zubair Ahmad, another local enjoying the holiday nearby, said the celebrations brought an unusual vibrancy to the otherwise quiet commercial centre. "It is heartening to see people come together to celebrate Independence Day," he said.

The Ghanta Ghar, renovated as part of the Srinagar Smart City Project, has in recent years evolved from a familiar city landmark into a popular spot for photographs and tourists—(KNO)

Using

"This stage represents the glorious history of India. This stage is not the stage of a party or a person. This stage is for the glory of the flag. It is irresponsible to talk about politics here by the Chief Minister," he said.

Sharma said CM Omar should have used the occasion to highlight his government's performance and future plans, particularly issues concerning the people and unemployed youth.

"The way he repeated the incident of August 5, 2019, I felt very bad. Because any government tells about its performance and future planning. I don't think the Chief Minister had any performance or future planning. It was totally confusing and frustrating," he said.

Referring to Omar's remarks on August 5, 2019 and restoration of constitutional guarantees, Sharma said the federal structure had instead been strengthened after the abrogation of Article 370.

"I am very hurt by this because today the people, especially the unemployed youth, had hoped that he would say something big for them and for all sections," Sharma said.

50,000

the government plans to establish Centres of Excellence in every district.

Dar said Jammu already has such a centre, while facilities in Kathua, Rajouri, Baramulla and Srinagar would be established during the current year.

The minister said the government was also working to strengthen horticulture infrastructure, particularly storage, grading, packaging and marketing facilities.

He said fruit mandis at Beerwah, Pattan, Tangmarg and Tral would be established during the current financial year. Funds have already been allocated, and work would commence soon, he said.

Senior journalist Jahangir Lolabi honoured for valuable media services

Global Kashmir Desk

Lolab, Aug 15: Senior journalist Jahangir Lolabi was honoured with a Certificate of Appreciation by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Lolab on the occasion of the 80th Independence Day in recognition of his valuable contribution and services in the field of media.

The certificate was presented to Lolabi during the Independence



Day celebrations organised in Lolab by SDM Lolab Dr. Mudassar Ahmad. Lolabi is the Kupwara

correspondent of news agency GNS. He has been actively covering developments, public issues and events from Kup-

wara and the Lolab area.

The recognition by the SDM office acknowledges his contribution to media services and the role of local journalism in documenting developments and bringing issues and events from the region to wider public attention.

The honour was conferred as part of the Independence Day celebrations, during which individuals and institutions were recognised for their contributions in various fields.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that I, Abdullah Sheikh F/O Faizan Abdullah, resident of, Dildar, Karnah, intend to register date of birth of my son namely Faizan Abdullah as 02-02-2011 in the office of the Registrar of Births and Deaths, Tangdhar/ Teetwal. The case is currently under process. Anyone having any objection in this regard may file the same before the Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Naib Tehsildar, Tangdhar/Tadd or the Registrar, Births and Deaths (BDO), Tangdhar/Teetwal, within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after the expiry of this period.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that I, Mohammad Luqmaan Son of Mohd Yunis Khan resident of Kandi Karnah, intend to register date of birth of my Daughter namely Anaya Luqmaan as 21-02-2023. In the office of the Registrar of Births and Deaths, Tangdhar/ Teetwal. The case is currently under process. Anyone having any objection in this regard may file the same before the Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Naib Tehsildar, Tangdhar/Tadd or the Registrar, Births and Deaths (BDO), Tangdhar/Teetwal, within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after the expiry of this period.

80th Independence Day celebrated with patriotic fervour across Kashmir division

Functions held at district, sub-division and tehsil headquarters



SRINAGAR, AUGUST 15: Independence Day 2026 was celebrated with immense patriotic fervour across the districts of Kashmir Division, where respective Deputy Commissioners hoisted the National Flag, inspected the parade and took the salute at an impressive parade.

The Tricolour hoisting ceremonies were held amid impressive Parades and colourful cultural programmes at all venues of functions organized at district, sub-division and tehsil levels across Kashmir.

At Shopian: The 80th Independence Day was celebrated with great patriotic fervour and enthusiasm at District Police Lines (DPL) Shopian, where Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta, hoisted the National Flag and took the salute at an impressive parade.

The DC also inspected the parade and witnessed the March Past presented by contingents of CRPF, J&K Police, J&K Women Police, Forest Protection Force, Home Guards, NCC, GDC and school students.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the significance of Independence Day and paid tribute to the freedom fighters and all those who made sacrifices for the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the nation. He underscored the importance of collective responsibility, peace, progress and dedicated efforts towards nation-building and building a developed India.

Multiple cultural programmes were presented by students and artists, who mesmerised the audience with vibrant performances reflecting the rich cultural heritage and patriotic spirit of Shopian.

At Kulgam: 80th Independence Day was observed with great enthusiasm at District Police Lines, Kulgam, where Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, hoisted the National Flag and led the celebrations as Chief Guest.

The ceremony began with the hoisting of the Tricolour, followed by a ceremonial inspection of the parade. The DC took the salute during an impressive march past led by Dy.SP Dheeraj Shavan.

Contingents from J&K Police, J&K Armed Police, CRPF, Women's Contingent of J&K Police, Home Guards, NCC Cadets, the Band Squad, and students from schools across the district participated. The formations featured synchronized drills, disciplined maneuvers, and stirring band performances that drew loud applause from the gathering.

In his address, the DC extended warm Independence Day greetings to the people of Kulgam and said that Saturday with immense pride, enthusiasm, and national unity, we are celebrating the 80th Independence Day of our great homeland. This blessed day reminds us of the timeless sacrifices of our great martyrs and national leaders who gave up their present for the sake of our tomorrow, he said.

"On behalf of all the residents of District Kulgam, I pay my sincere tribute to all those well-known and unknown sons of the nation. Our freedom is their trust, and safeguarding this trust is our national duty", said the DC.

"Freedom is not just a historical event or the ceremony of hoisting a flag. Freedom is a responsibility, an adherence to the law, respect for human dignity, equality, brotherhood, and a pledge to contribute to the progress of the country. Our Constitution gives us rights, but it also teaches us to fulfill our duties with honesty and a strong sense of responsibility. On this day, let us renew our resolve that we will strengthen love against hatred, unity against division, and hope against despair", the DC further continued in his Independence Day speech.

At Ganderbal: The 80th Independence Day was celebrated across District Ganderbal with patriotic fervour and enthusiasm, with the main function held at Qamaria Stadium, Ganderbal, where Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, hoisted the National Flag and took the salute on the occasion.

The Deputy Commissioner inspected the parade and witnessed the march past presented by contingents of Police, security forces and students.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner extended warm greetings to the people of Ganderbal on the occasion of Independence Day and paid rich tributes to the freedom fighters and national heroes whose sacrifices made the country's freedom possible. He called upon citizens to uphold the values of unity, integrity, brotherhood and constitutional responsibility.

Highlighting the developmental progress of the district, he said that Ganderbal is witnessing significant advancements in connectivity, infrastructure and public services. He highlighted major projects including the Zojila Tunnel and Srinagar Ring Road Phase II and II A, besides initiatives under Jal Jeevan Mission, power sector and renewable energy.



The Deputy Commissioner also highlighted ongoing efforts in healthcare, education, social security, women empowerment, agriculture, youth entrepreneurship, tourism and sports, and emphasised the administration's commitment to ensuring that the benefits of development reach every section of society.

Speaking about the fight against drug abuse, he said that the district administration has adopted a whole-of-society approach under the Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, focusing on awareness, counseling, rehabilitation, youth engagement and strict enforcement. He appealed to parents, teachers, religious leaders and community organisations to contribute towards making Ganderbal a drug-free district.

Highlighting the developments in agriculture and youth entrepreneurship, the Deputy Commissioner said that HADP and JKPCF have strengthened livelihoods through income generating units, while Mission YUVA is creating opportunities for entrepreneurship, self-employment and self-reliance among youth and women.

At Bandipora: District Bandipora came alive with vibrant celebrations and deep patriotic spirit on the occasion of the 80th Independence Day, with a series of events held across the district.

At the heart of the celebrations was the main function at Government Higher Secondary School Nadihal, where Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, hoisted the National Flag in the presence of MLA Bandipora Nizamuddin Bhat; Principal District and Sessions Judge Bandipora Jeema Bashir; and Senior Superintendent of Police Bandipora, Ajaz Ahmad Zargar.

Following the flag hoisting, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the parade and took the salute from march-past contingents comprising CRPF 3rd Battalion, BSF 62 Battalion, J&K Executive Police, IRP 21st Battalion, J&K Mahila Executive Police, Kashmir Forest Training School Chitternagar, J&K Special Police officials, J&K Home Guards, NCC cadets of NM BHSS Bandipora, Higher Secondary School Quilmuqam, High School Bagh Bandipora, Higher Secondary School Mantigam, Higher Secondary School Nadihal, Higher Secondary School Aragam, Army Goodwill School Bandipora, G&B Hostel Bandipora, High School Qazipora, SMS Islamia Model School Garoora and J&K Executive Police Band. The parade was commanded by DySP Syed Dayam Kazmi, with PSI Isha Kumari as the 2nd Parade Com-

mander.

In her Independence Day address, the Deputy Commissioner extended greetings to the people and emphasized the message "Mera Desh, Mera Ghar." She said that when the nation is respected as one's home, its protection, dignity and well-being becomes a collective responsibility. She called upon citizens to contribute to nation-building by keeping the country clean, green and drug-free and urged everyone to uphold the spirit of "Nation Before Self."

At Pulwama: The 80th Independence Day was celebrated across Pulwama district with great enthusiasm, patriotic fervour and national spirit.

The main function was held at District Police Lines (DPL) Pulwama, where Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, hoisted the National Flag and took the salute at the ceremonial parade.

The event was attended by MLA Pampore Justice (Retd.) Hasnain Masoodi; MLA Pulwama Waheed Ur Rehman Para; MLA Rajpora Ghulam Mohi Uddin Mir; SSP Pulwama Tanushree; Wing Commander, Air Force Awantipora, R.K. Singh; Commandant CRPF 182 Bn Anil Kumar; Commandant CRPF 183 Bn Rajesh Kumar; ADC Pulwama Dr. S.M. Ashraf; former Chairperson DDC Pulwama Syed Bari Andrabi; former DDC members; district presidents of various political parties; senior officers of Police, Army, Air Force, Paramilitary Forces and Civil Administration, besides senior citizens, families of martyrs, social activists, students, youth, civil society and people from different parts of the district.

The march-past was presented by contingents of J&K Police, J&K Armed Police, CRPF 182 and 183 Battalions, IRP 10th Battalion, Home Guards, Fire & Emergency Services, NCC cadets and students from various educational institutions.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner paid rich tributes to the freedom fighters, patriots and martyrs whose sacrifices and struggles paved the way for the country's independence. He extended warm greetings to the people of Pulwama on the occasion and called for renewed commitment towards peace, harmony, inclusive development and the building of a strong, prosperous and self-reliant India.

Highlighting the developmental journey of Pulwama, Dr. Qayoom said that the district has registered significant progress in key sectors including health, education, agriculture, horticulture, roads, employment and basic



infrastructure. He said that special focus is being laid on strengthening agriculture and horticulture, promoting modern technology and enhancing farmers' incomes.

The DC said that education and skill development of youth remain among the administration's key priorities. He highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen school infrastructure and provide modern educational facilities, while institutions such as ITIs and EDI are being leveraged to provide youth with skill development, training and self-employment opportunities.

At Anantnag: On the occasion of the 80th Independence Day, a celebratory function was held Saturday at the DC Office Anantnag with great spirit, enthusiasm and patriotic fervour.

The event was attended by senior officers including ADCs, ACR, CPO, CAO, officials, civil society members, social activists, and local residents.

Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, hoisted the National Flag and was presented a guard of honour by a contingent of District Police. The function commenced and concluded with fervent renditions of the National Song followed by the National Anthem.

At Budgam: The 80th Independence Day was celebrated across Budgam district with patriotic fervour, enthusiasm and a strong sense of national pride.

The main Independence Day function was held at Sports Stadium Budgam, where Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, hoisted the National Flag and took salute at the march-past presented by contingents of Police, CRPF, NCC and school students.

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner hoisted the National Flag at his official residence and subsequently at the DC Office Budgam.

The ceremonies were attended by senior officers and officials, who joined in commemorating the historic occasion.

Addressing the gathering at Sports Stadium, the Deputy Commissioner extended warm Independence Day greetings to the people of Budgam and paid homage to the freedom fighters and visionary leaders whose sacrifices secured the country's independence and laid the foundation of its democratic journey. He advocated for continued commitment to unity, democratic values, inclusive development and collective responsibility.

At Handwara: The 80th Independence Day was celebrated with great patriotic fervour and

enthusiasm across Handwara.

The main function was held at the District Police Lines (DPL), Handwara, where Additional Deputy Commissioner, (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi, unfurled the National Flag and took the salute at an impressive ceremonial parade.

The parade witnessed enthusiastic participation of contingents from the Jammu & Kashmir Police, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Forest Protection Force (FPF), Home Guards, NCC cadets, school students and the Police Band, presenting a disciplined and vibrant display of patriotism.

The ceremony also featured colourful cultural performances and tableaux (Jhankis) presented by various departments and educational institutions. The tableaux highlighted the achievements of different departments, developmental initiatives and various government welfare schemes being implemented for the benefit of the people.

At Karnah: The spirit of patriotism, unity and national pride echoed across the picturesque border region of Karnah as the 80th Independence Day was celebrated with unparalleled enthusiasm, dignity and grandeur at the Sub-Divisional Headquarters Karnah Hajinarh.

The celebrations witnessed massive participation of students, Army and BSF and other security authorities, civil administration, J&K Police, Ex-PRIs, civil society representatives, media fraternity and citizens of Karnah, who gathered in large numbers to commemorate the glorious occasion.

The main function was organised at the Sub-Divisional Headquarters, where SDM Karnah Mohd Raiyaz hoisted the Tricolour with pride and honour amid the resonating notes of the National Song and National Anthem.

At Sopore: Independence Day 2026 was celebrated with immense patriotic fervour and enthusiasm across Sopore, with the main function held at Khushal Stadium where Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore, Dr. S.A. Raina, hoisted the National Flag and took the salute on the March Past.

The ceremony commenced with hoisting of the Tricolour filling the atmosphere with a deep sense of pride and patriotism. The parade featured contingents from various uniformed services, police, security forces, Home Guards, NCC, and other participating groups, who marched past the dais in a disciplined and impressive display.

AGS Wayne, Kupwara celebrates Independence Day with student activities, cultural programmes and achievements



FLAG HOISTING AT AGS WAYNE, KUPWARA



INVESTITURE CEREMONY OF STUDENT COUNCIL AT AGS WAYNE, KUPWARA



PARENTS ENJOY THE CULTURAL PROGRAM BY THE STUDENTS AT AGS WAYNE



FELICITATION OF NEET QUALIFIER INSHA FATIMA OF AGS WAYNE KUPWARA



INVESTITURE CEREMONY OF GROUP CAPTAINS AND VICE CAPTAINS



**GROUP PHOTOGRAPH OF STUDENT COUNCIL WITH
MRS NUTAN SUSE, WIFE OF DC KUPWARA**



CULTURAL SHOW BY LKG STUDENTS



INVESTITURE CEREMONY OF HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL OF AGS WAYNE, KUPWARA



INVESTITURE CEREMONY OF LKG STUDENTS



GROUP PHOTOGRAPH WITH STUDENTS