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**BRIEFS**

**1 Dead, 2 Injured in Bijbehara Road Mishap**

GLOBAL KASHMIR DESK

Srinagar: A motorcycle borne person was killed and two others injured in a collision involving a tipper and a motorcycle in Bijbehara area in south Kashmir's Anantnag district this afternoon, reports said.

Quoting officials,

[MORE ON PAGE 6...](#)

**Justice GD Sharma-led Commission seeks another extension**

GLOBAL KASHMIR DESK

Srinagar: Justice (retd.) GD Sharma-led commission has sent a request to Jammu & Kashmir Government for its extension by another six months, reports in J&K government disclosed.

Quoting sources,

[MORE ON PAGE 6...](#)

**53 dengue cases reported in J&K so far this year: Official**

GLOBAL KASHMIR DESK

Srinagar: Dengue cases are going to rise as monsoon culminates in Jammu and Kashmir with 53 cases reported this year so far.

State Surveillance Officer, Dr Harjeet Rai as per local news agency KNO said that this year, 53 cases of dengue have been reported in Jammu and Kashmir including 3 from Kashmir division. As per officials the dengue cases are projected to surge post monsoon in

[MORE ON PAGE 6...](#)

**Man travels from Gujarat 'to celebrate Independence Day in Kashmir'**

GLOBAL KASHMIR DESK

Srinagar: Arun Harani came all the way from Gujarat to celebrate Independence Day in the heart of Jammu and Kashmir's capital city - Srinagar.

Arun as per local news agency KNO said, "It's my second visit to Kashmir. I came last year as well, and I was painted in the tricolour that time too. I received a lot of love from the people back then, and I am feeling happy and at home here today."

There is a new vibe in

[MORE ON PAGE 6...](#)

**KU Marks I-Day Eve**

GLOBAL KASHMIR DESK

Srinagar: The University of Kashmir (KU) Tuesday hoisted the National Flag at the main and satellite campuses with full honour and respect to celebrate the 77th independence day marking 76 years of freedom.

The theme for this year's celebration is 'Nation First, Always First', an integral part of the broader 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' campaign commemorating 75 years of India's independence.

Vice-Chancellor,

[MORE ON PAGE 6...](#)

**I-DAY CELEBRATED AT SKIMS**

GLOBAL KASHMIR DESK

Srinagar: Director SKIMS Prof. Parvaiz A Koul hoisted the National Flag on the occasion of 77th Independence Day at SKIMS premises.

Flag hoisting was followed by an impressive parade in which SKIMS Security participated and the National Anthem was

[MORE ON PAGE 6...](#)

**77TH INDEPENDENCE DAY**

**Hard work, dedication and determination of 1.3 crore citizens is shaping the new destiny of J&K: LG Sinha**

**SAYS IDEOLOGY OF MILITANCY, SEPARATISM CANCER FOR SOCIETY**

GLOBAL KASHMIR DESK

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said Jammu and Kashmir today is characterized by peace and inclusive development. He said ideology of militancy and separatism is cancer for the society and all its forms have to be completely eliminated.

"The transformation and

rapid progress in diverse sectors in the last three years is unprecedented in its history," he said in his Independence Day speech at Bakshi Stadium here.

"There is renewed enthusiasm and vigour among entrepreneurs for industrialization. New roads, tunnels, railway lines, power projects, airport terminals, industrial estates and shopping malls are being constructed and all around us we are witnessing the emergence of prosperity and



happiness," he said as per local news agency GNS.

The hard work, dedication and determination of 1.3 crore citizens,

he said, is shaping the new destiny of J&K.

"Last year, I gave a pledge to the people to build a fear-free, corruption-free, employment-rich and drug-free Jammu and Kashmir," he said. By "dismantling" the militancy ecosystem, he said, every citizen has been given the opportunity to live their lives fearlessly and on their own terms. "Interventions of digital governance have

[MORE ON PAGE 6...](#)

**'There's Increase In Foreign Tourists Arrival To Kashmir'**

GLOBAL KASHMIR DESK

Srinagar: After the G20 Tourism Working Group Meeting there has been an increase in foreign tourist arrivals in Kashmir Valley, as compared to the previous year, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday.

"The G20 Tourism Working Group Meeting not only strengthened diplomatic ties, but also opened new avenues for global partnership that will help in tapping the tourism potential of Jammu and Kashmir," he said as per an official statement to GNS.

[MORE ON PAGE 6...](#)

**No security restrictions witnessed anywhere in Kashmir**

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: For the first time since the outbreak of militancy in 1989, the main Independence Day function in Srinagar this year is being held in a relaxed atmosphere without security restrictions, shutdown or communication blockade.

The administration has made it mandatory for government officials and employees to attend the I-Day functions, failing which they will face disciplinary action. The main I-Day function in J&K would be held at Bak-

shi Stadium in Srinagar. It is for the first time since the abrogation of Article 370 that the I-Day function would be held at Bakshi Stadium.

No security restrictions

A three-tier security arrangement has been put in at Bakshi Stadium. The security personnel have sanitised the area and taken over Bakshi Stadium. The checkpoints and barricades have been set up in sensitive areas to monitor the movement of people and vehicles.

For the first time since the outbreak of militancy in 1989, there would be no security

[MORE ON PAGE 6...](#)

**Thousands Attend Official Function At Bakshi Stadium Srinagar**

GLOBAL KASHMIR DESK

Srinagar: Many Kashmiris thronged the Independence Day celebrations at Bakshi Stadium here on Tuesday, with authorities this year going away with restrictions on the movement of people imposed in the past in view of the terror threat.

It was a pleasant surprise for the 1.5 million residents of Srinagar city to not find any concertina wires or barricades, which had come to be associated

[MORE ON PAGE 6...](#)

**Mehta for time bound implementation of LG's directions**

GLOBAL KASHMIR DESK

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

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

[MORE ON PAGE 6...](#)

**PM Modi lays out contours of national polls, gives account of performance**

AGENCIES

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday laid out the contours of next year's national polls, giving an account of his politics of "perform, reform and transform" which he said replaced the previous "politics of instability". He exuded confidence that he would deliver the independence Day address from the ramparts of the Red Fort in 2024 as well.

In his Independence Day address, Modi contrasted "family-run parties" and himself by referring to the citizens as his parivaarjan or family members and said it is a collective responsibility to ensure "probity, transparency and

objectivity".

He said no questions can be raised on the policies and intentions of the government. "I am here to ask for your help. I have come to seek your blessings. What I have understood about this country and the needs of this country and based on my experience I can say we have to take something seriously in this Amrit Kal when the country will be celebrating hundred years of Independence. At that time, it should be a developed country. We should not step back or stall even for a minute and for that we need probity, transparency and objectivity. This should be our collective responsibility," he said.

Underlining

[MORE ON PAGE 6...](#)

**Principal Secy to the PM Modi chairs meeting of Coordination Committee on India's G20 Presidency**

GLOBAL KASHMIR DESK

New Delhi: Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India, Dr. P.K. Mishra chaired the seventh meeting of the Coordination Committee on India's G20 Presidency at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi today. The meeting covered Summit preparedness in substantive as well as logistical aspects. Progress and outcomes on both Sherpa and Finance track were reviewed.

Presentations were made in this regard by the Sherpa (G20), Secretary (Department of Economic Affairs) and Secretary (Information and Broadcasting). Discussion was held on Indian Presidency's priorities including Green Development, accelerating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), strong sustainable balanced and inclusive growth, digital public infrastructure, gender equality and reform of multilateral institutions. The Sherpa (G20) informed that so far, a total of 185 meetings, including 13 at the Ministerial level, have been concluded covering

[MORE ON PAGE 6...](#)

**Eastern Ladakh row: India-China held two-day military talks**

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: India and China agreed to resolve the remaining issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh in an expeditious manner, a joint statement said on Tuesday, a day after the two sides concluded two-day military talks.

"The two sides had a positive, constructive and in-depth discussion on the resolution of the remaining issues along the LAC in the Western Sector," it said.

[MORE ON PAGE 6...](#)

**Piyush Goyal participates in the 13th BRICS Trade Ministers' Meeting**

GLOBAL KASHMIR DESK

New Delhi: Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal attended the 13th BRICS Trade Ministers' Meeting held on Monday under the BRICS Presidency of South Africa virtually. The theme of BRICS this year is "BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism". Shri Piyush Goyal, touched upon issues related to WTO, Supply chain, Digitalisation, MSMEs and on the issue of Mispricing and under-invoicing in the meeting.

The Minister lauded

[MORE ON PAGE 6...](#)

**Indian Army connects last village in Machhal Sector with "Bhagat Bridge"**

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Life for the residents of Danna Village at the Line of Control (LoC) in Machhal Sector changed for good on the eve of Independence Day. The Indian Army linked this Last Village on LoC in Machhal Sector, Kupwara District, of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) with 115 Feet Long Bridge.



The Global Kashmir reporter Shabraiz Bashir was awarded with an appreciation certificate by MoS & Waqf Board Chairperson Dr. Darakshan Andrabi for his outstanding performance in highlighting public grievances, here on the eve of I-Day function

# Global Solar Power Grid To Mitigate Emission Challenges: PM Modi

AGENCIES

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today hailed India's contribution towards creating awareness about the importance of renewable energy and gave the slogan of 'One Sun, One World, One Grid'.

Addressing the nation on its 77th Independence Day, PM Modi called for connecting solar energy supply across borders.

"We have presented philosophies and the world is now connecting with India over them. For the renewable energy sector, we said 'One Sun, One World, One Grid'. After COVID, we told the world that our approach should be of 'One Earth, One Health'," PM Modi said in his independence day speech from the ramparts of Red Fort on Tuesday.

The idea for the One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG) initiative was put forth by PM Modi at the First Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in October 2018.

In May 2021, the United Kingdom and India agreed to combine forces of the Green Grids Initiative and the One Sun One World One Grid initiative and jointly launch GGI-OSOWOG at the COP26 summit hosted by the UK at Glasgow in November 2021.

The vision behind the OSOWOG initiative is the mantra that "the sun never sets".



The OSOWOG initiative aims to connect different regional grids through a common grid that will be used to transfer renewable energy power and, thus, realize the potential of renewable energy sources, especially solar energy.

The GGI-OSOWOG (green grid) initiative was jointly launched by PM Modi and the then Prime Minister of United Kingdom, Boris Johnson, during the 'Accelerating Innovation and Clean Technology Deployment' event at the World Leaders Summit held on November 2, 2021 during COP26.

PM Modi further said that "We paved the way to fight climate change by launching Mission #LIFE-Lifestyle for the Environment" and made the International Solar Alliance and many countries have become part of it."

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an action-oriented, member-

driven, collaborative platform for increased deployment of solar energy technologies as a means for bringing energy access, ensuring energy security, and driving energy transition in its member countries.

The ISA was conceived as a joint effort by India and France to mobilize efforts against climate change through deployment of solar energy solutions. It was conceptualized on the sidelines of the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Paris in 2015.

India is promoting renewable energy in the country in a big way and aims to have 500 GW of non-fossil fuel based power generation capacity by 2030. Presently India has 178GW of renewable energy capacity which includes 71GW of solar, 44GW of wind energy and 47GW of large hydro electric capacity.

## 'Will address nation from Red Fort next year to list progress on promises made'

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday exuded confidence that he will address the nation from the Red Fort next year to list out the progress on the promises he had made to the people.

"The promise for change brought me here, my performance brought me here once again. The coming five years are of unprecedented development and a golden moment to realise the dream of India as a developed nation by 2047," the Prime Minister said in his speech from the ramparts of Red Fort.

"Next year, on August 15 from this same Red Fort I will list out the progress achieved by the nation and sing paean to your strength, your resolve and your success with greater confidence," Modi said in his last Independence Day address before the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

The general elections are scheduled for April-May next year.

Modi said he had made a prom-

ise to the nation to usher in change in 2014.

"You reposed your trust in me. I tried to fulfil the trust you reposed in me. The promises I made earned me confidence over the past five years. I had promised you to change through reform, perform and transform. I have worked hard for the nation and I have worked with pride," the Prime Minister said.

The prime minister called on the people to get rid of corruption, nepotism and appeasement. He said that corruption and appeasement politics have damaged the country and noted that political parties who believe in dynastic politics have one mantra - "party of the family, by the family and for the family."

"Parivarvaad" and appeasement have caused immense damage to the country. How can a political party have only one family in charge? For them, their life mantra is 'Party of the family, by the family and for the family,'" PM Modi said in a veiled dig at some opponents of the BJP.

"I firmly believe that when the country will celebrate 100 years of freedom in 2047, the country would be a developed India. I say this on the basis of the capability of my country and available resources. But the need of the hour is to fight three evils - corruption, dynasty and appeasement," he added.

Balloons in the colours of the Tiranga were released at the Red Fort in the national capital after the conclusion of the PM's speech. After his address, PM Modi interacted with cadets of the NCC.

This year's Independence Day will culminate the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations, which were launched by the Prime Minister from Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on March 12, 2021, and will usher the country into the 'Amrit Kaal'.

PM Modi had previously outlined the Centre's commitment to make India a developed country by 2047, which will be the centenary year of the country's independence.

## Vows to curb inflation amid steep price rise

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the government will be taking more measures to tackle inflation and minimise the burden of price rise on people.

In his address to the nation on the 77th Independence Day, the prime minister said that his government has taken several measures to contain price rise and mentioned that inflation is impacting the economies of the world in the post-Covid period.

"Compared to the previous period, we have also had some success in controlling inflation, but we cannot be satisfied with that... We have to take more steps to minimise the burden of inflation on people. We will take those steps. My efforts will continue," Modi said.

The prime minister's remarks come a day after official data showed that retail inflation surged to a 15-month high of 7.44 per cent in July.

For the first time in the current fiscal, retail inflation, primarily driven by costlier tomatoes, vegetables and other food items, overshot the Reserve Bank of India's comfort level of 6 per cent.

While talking about inflation, Modi said that even before the world could emerge from the Covid pandemic, the war began.

"Today, the world is facing the crisis of inflation. Inflation has gripped the economy of the whole world. We also bring the goods which are needed from the world... we import goods. It is our misfortune that we have to import inflation as well," he said.

In its efforts to check price rise, RBI hiked the key interest rate by 250 basis points since May 2022 but has left the rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent since April.

On its part, the government has slashed import duties on edible oil, and banned exports of wheat.

It has also prohibited export of broken rice and non-basmati white rice.

Besides, the government is selling wheat and rice from its buffer stock.

Amid a steep rise in the prices of tomatoes, cooperatives, on behalf of the government, are selling the kitchen staple at Rs 50 per kilogram.

The Consumer Price Index-based inflation surged to 7.44 per cent in July, much higher than 4.87 per cent in June. Retail inflation stood at 6.71 per cent in July 2022 and the previous high was recorded at 7.79 per cent in April 2022.

RBI has the mandate to keep retail inflation in the range of 2 to 6 per cent and after remaining above the upper limit for most of the 2022-23 financial year, inflation was in the central bank's comfort zone this fiscal till June.

Last week, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das warned of a substantial increase in headline inflation in the near-term and revised upwards the inflation forecast for the second quarter to 6.2 per cent.

## 'India Getting Ready For 6G, Task Force Already Set Up'

AGENCIES

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today hailed the swift roll out of 5G technology in the country and said India is now getting ready for 6G and a task force has been set-up for the same.

Addressing the nation on the 77th Independence Day PM Modi said the internet is now reaching every village and the country is now gearing up for quantum computers.

"My country is the fastest country to roll out 5G. We have reached more than 700 districts and now we are getting ready for 6G. We have formed a task force," PM Modi said from the ramparts

of the Red Fort.

He said the world is going to be influenced by technology and even developed countries are willing to learn about the success of Digital India.

PM Modi said the government is working on a new scheme to push technology in the agriculture sector, under which thousands of self-help group's women will be trained and equipped with drones.

"I see the potential of science and technology among our rural women. Therefore, we are thinking of a new scheme to bring technology to the agriculture sector."

"Agriculture should get a boost. Therefore, we will impart training of drone pilot, drone repair

to the women self-help groups. Thousands of such women self-help groups will be provided with drones and training. We are going to start drone flight with 15,000 women SHG," PM Modi said.

He said that the youth of the nation have huge capability and the government is working on policies to provide them abundant opportunities.

"Today our youth have placed India among the top three start-up systems globally. Global youth is surprised with this capability and power India," PM Modi said.

He said that the government is using technology to get rid of corruption.

"Today the internet is reaching every village. India is getting ready for quantum computers.

## India's Imports From Russia Doubled To \$20.45 Billion During April-July

AGENCIES

New Delhi: India's imports from Russia doubled to USD 20.45 billion during the April-July period of this fiscal due to increasing inbound shipments of crude oil and fertiliser from that country, according to the commerce ministry data.

With this, Russia has become India's second-largest import source during the first four months of this fiscal.

The imports were USD 10.42 billion during April-July 2022.

From a market share of less than 1 per cent in India's import basket before the start of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Russia's share of India's oil imports rose to over 40 per cent.

India, the world's third-largest crude importer after China and the United States, has been buying Russian oil that was available at a discount after some in the West shunned it as a means of punishing Moscow for the invasion of Ukraine.

The ministry's data showed that imports from China dipped to USD 32.7 billion during the April-July period as against USD 34.55 billion in the same period last year.

Similarly, imports from the US declined to USD 14.23 billion during the period under review from USD 17.16 billion in April-July 2022. The imports from UAE too contracted to USD 13.39 billion during April-July 2023 as against USD 18.45 billion in the same period last year. On the export front, India's exports to seven of its top 10 destinations have recorded a negative growth rate during the period.

During the first four months of this fiscal, the country's merchandise exports to the US, UAE, China, Singapore, Germany, Bangladesh and Italy have dipped.

## Donald Trump Indicted On Racketeering, Election Fraud Charges

AGENCIES

Atlanta: Donald Trump was indicted Tuesday on charges of racketeering and a string of election crimes after a sprawling, two-year probe into his efforts to overturn his 2020 defeat to Joe Biden in the US state of Georgia.

The case -- relying on laws typically used to bring down mobsters -- is the fourth targeting the 77-year-old Republican this year and could lead to a watershed moment, the first televised trial of a former president in US history.

Prosecutors in Atlanta charged the Republican leader with 13 felony counts -- compounding the legal threats he is facing in multiple jurisdictions as a firestorm of investigations imperils his bid for a second White House term.

With the tycoon already due to go on trial in New York, south Florida and Washington, the latest charges herald the unprecedented scenario of the 2024 presidential election being litigated as much from the courtroom as the ballot box.

The twice-impeached Trump was charged with violating Georgia's Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act, as well as six conspiracy counts over alleged efforts to commit forgery, impersonate a public official and submit false statements and documents.

The indictment named a number of co-defendants including Trump's former personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani, who pressured local legislators over the result after the election, and Trump's White House chief of staff, Mark Meadows.

Georgia, which Biden won by fewer than 12,000 votes, presents perhaps the most serious threat to Trump's liberty as he leads the field comfortably for his party's nomination to bid for reelection.

Even if he is returned to the Oval Office, he would have none of the powers that presidents arguably enjoy in the federal system to pardon themselves or have prosecutors drop cases.

## 3 Killed In Russian Air Strikes In Western Ukraine

AGENCIES

Kyiv: Russian air strikes hit two western regions of Ukraine bordering NATO member Poland and other areas on Tuesday, killing three people and wounding more than a dozen, Ukrainian officials said.

Local media said the attacks were the largest air assault on the Lviv region since the Russian invasion in February 2022.

The fatalities were reported in the northwestern region of Volyn. Officials said an industrial enterprise in the regional capital Lutsk was struck in the overnight attack. Several people were also hospitalised, Governor Yuriy Bohalyak said.

Fifteen people were also wounded in the Lviv region. Governor Maksym Kozlytsky said. Six missiles damaged dozens of buildings and a kindergarten playground in and around the regional capital. Kozlytsky said the youngest victim was 10-years-old.

Both Volyn and Lviv border NATO member Poland and are hundreds of miles from the front line, where Ukraine's military is fending off Russian troops in the nearly 18-month-old war.

## Afghanistan's Taliban govt marks two years since return to power

AGENCIES

Kabul: Afghanistan's Taliban government marked on Tuesday the second anniversary of their takeover of the country with celebrations and a public holiday, issuing a defiant statement commemorating their surge back to power.

Flags of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan -- the name given to the country by its new rulers -- fluttered at security checkpoints across the capital, which fell on August 15, 2021, when the US-backed government collapsed and its leaders fled into exile.

In the two years since, Taliban authorities have imposed their strict interpretation of Islam, with women bearing the brunt of laws the United Nations has termed "gender apartheid".

A statement from the authorities early on Tuesday hailed a victory that was able to "pave the way for the establishment of the Islamic system in Afghanistan".

## NASA dubs July as hottest month on record ever since 1880

AGENCIES

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

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

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

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

"NASA data confirms what billions around the world literally felt: temperatures in July 2023 made it the hottest month on record. In every corner of the country, Americans are right now experiencing firsthand the effects of the climate crisis, underscoring the urgency of President Biden's historic climate agenda," NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said in a statement late on Monday.

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

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

Overall, extreme heat this summer put tens of millions of people under heat warnings and was linked to hundreds of heat-related illnesses and deaths. The record-breaking July continues a long-term trend of human-driven warming driven primarily by greenhouse gas emissions that has become evident over the past four decades. According to NASA data, the five hottest July's since 1880 have all happened in the past five years. "Climate change is impacting people and ecosystems around the world, and we expect many of these impacts to escalate with continued warming," said Katherine Calvin, chief scientist and senior climate advisor at NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC.



## 77th Independence Day celebrated with great enthusiasm & patriotic fervor across Kashmir

GLOBAL KASHMIR DESK

**SRINAGAR:** On the eve of 77th Independence Day, grand celebrations were on Tuesday held across all the districts of Kashmir, with people flocking the venues of function in large numbers to celebrate the national festival.

This year 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' campaign was launched as a culminating event to 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' commemorating 76 years of Independence. The campaign had a range of impactful programs that were aimed at invoking a feeling of patriotism and unity in the hearts of people and promoting a sense of respect for the soil of the nation and symbols of the country's Independence.

Key components of the campaign included the installation of 'Shilapalaksams' (Memorial Plaques) dedicated to freedom fighters and security forces, as well as initiatives such as 'Panch Pran Pledge', 'Vasudha Vandana', and 'Veeron Ka Vandan', 'Kashtragaan' and 'Amrit Kalash Yatra' all of which celebrate the courageous sacrifices of our brave hearts.

Apart from the main function held at Bakshi Stadium Srinagar, the celebrations were held in all districts where the District Development Council (DDC) Chairman/Chairperson hoisted the tricolour and addressed the participants.

They said that the nation is paying rich tributes to the leaders, freedom fighters and martyrs who made countless sacrifices for the freedom of the country. Glorifying their contributions, they said that it is the result of their supreme efforts that we are living in a free country.

**Baramulla:** At Baramulla, the Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Baramulla, Safena Beigh hoisted the tricolour, observed the parade, and took salute at the march past presented by the contingents of J&K Police, CRPF, Home Guards, Fire and Emergency Services, NCC, and students from various schools at District Police Lines Baramulla.

Addressing the occasion, the Chairperson DDC remarked that the district Baramulla has made incredible strides in recent years and is currently at the forefront of all developmental fields. She called for joint efforts of all stakeholders in the progress of the district by utilizing their potential.

DC North Kashmir, Vivik Gupta; Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr. Syed Sheshir Aggar; SSP Baramulla, Amod Ashok Nagpure; MCB President, Umar Azhar Kakroo; DDC members, BDC Chairpersons, Officers of judicial administration, Officers of Army and Police, District and sectoral officers, heads of different departments were present at the event besides a huge gathering of people and students also showed their enthusiastic participation.

**Anantnag:** At Anantnag, the Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Anantnag, Mohammad Yousof Gorsi hoisted the National Flag and took salute at the March Past presented by the contingents from CRPF, J&K Police, IRP, J&K Home Guards, JK Police Band, NCC, and school children at GDC Khanabal (for Boys).

Addressing the gathering, the Chairman DDC highlighted the efforts besides achievements made by the district under various priority areas including education, healthcare, languishing, district capex, agriculture and allied sectors, women and youth empowerment, MGNREGA, JMM, water and electricity supply to Anganwadi Centers and schools, rural development, macadamization and road connectivity, social welfare, Nasha Mukht Bharat, industries, self employment and creation of durable and sustainable assets.

Among others, DDC, PDS, DIG SKR, SSP, DDC members, President MCA, ADDC, BDC Chairpersons, officers from Army, CRPF and other security forces, ADCs, ASJ, CEO, ACP, ACR, CMO and other officers, ex-ministers, legislators besides general public were present during the celebrations.

**Ganderbal:** At Ganderbal, the Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Ganderbal, Nuzhat Ishfaq hoisted the National Flag and took the salute at the March Past in an Independence Day function held at Qamaria ground, Ganderbal.

In her address, Chairperson DDC highlighted the various developmental achievements registered by district administration in different sectors in the district besides implementation of welfare schemes.

Highlighting the developmental activities in the district, she said that a new era of development has begun in Jammu and Kashmir as well as in Ganderbal district and new paths are being paved for all-round development.

The event was witnessed by Deputy Commissioner, Shyambir, Vice Chairperson DDC; Bilal Ahmad Sheikh, SSP Ganderbal, Nikhil Borkar; President Municipal Council Ganderbal, ADDC, ADC, SDM Kangan, CPO, ACR DDC members, BDC Chairpersons, Municipal Councilors besides various officers and officials from Police and District Administration.

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner also hoisted the tricolour at DC Office Complex and DC residence in presence of ADDC, ADC, CP and other district officers and officials.

**Budgam:** At Budgam, the Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Budgam, Nazir Ahmad Khan hoisted the National flag, inspected the Parade and took salute at the March Past presented by the contingents of CRPF, JK IRP, JKAP, JKGC, BHSS Budgam (NCC), School Contingents of BHSS (NCC), GHS Ichigam, GHS Budgam, and band troop of Kashmir valley Budgam at Sports Stadium Budgam.

The Chairman DDC in his address congratulated the participants for celebrating

Independence Day-23 with gaiety and fervor. He highlighted the development works carried out by the Government in the district during the year. He also appreciated and thanked people for making the 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' campaign successful.

Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Akshay Labroo; SSP Budgam, Tahir Gilani; ADDC, Akramullah Tak; ADC, Dr. Nasir Ahmed; Programme officer ICDS, Sajjad; CEO Budgam, Romana Qazi; Addl.SP, Gowhar Ahmed; officers from Army, CRPF, BSF, officers of PHE, PDD, I&FC, R&B Independence Budgam and citizens from various parts of district were present on the occasion.

**Pulwama:** At Pulwama, the main function was held at District Police Lines Pulwama, where Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Pulwama, Syed Abdul Bari Indrabi hoisted the National Flag and took salute at the March past presented by the Contingents of JK, JP, CRPF 182/183, Home Guards, Fire & Emergency Services, NCC Cadets, students of various schools and Youth Services & Sports.

Highlighting developmental works undertaken in the district during the current year, the Chairperson said that Pulwama has become synonymous with Industrial growth, excellence in education and entrepreneurship adding that the District has also potential to become economically vibrant and self-sufficient in various products.

DC Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom; SSP Pulwama, Mohd Yousof; CO 182, 183 CRPF, ASP Pulwama, DDC Members of District Pulwama and other senior officers of Police/Civil administration witnessed the function.

**Kulgam:** At Kulgam, the main function was held at District Police Lines Kulgam where Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Kulgam, Mohd Afzal Parrey hoisted the national flag and took the salute at the march past presented by the contingents of CRPF, JK, JP, Ladies Police Group, District police band and Home guard, NCC besides school children and other contingents.

In his address, the DDC Chairperson highlighted the developmental scenario of the district and achievements registered by District Administration in different sectors besides implementation of welfare schemes.

While sharing a brief of the development scenario of the district, DDC Chairperson said that during the year 2022-23, 2300 works were completed with an expenditure of 62 crore, and 2421 works will get completed under District Capex in the ongoing financial year with an estimated cost of 64 crore. Under the CSS component, several works are under progress and will come up with an estimated cost of 715 crore.

Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Uddin Bhat; Principal Sessions Judge, Mohammad Ashraf; SSP, Sahil Sarangal; Commandant CRPF and officers and officials from Civil, Judiciary and police administration were

present at the event.

**Kupwara:** At Kupwara, the main function was held at District Police Lines Kupwara where Chairman, District Development Council (DDC), Kupwara, Irfan Sultan Panditpori hoisted the National Flag and took salute at the March Past presented by the contingents of JK, IRP, CRPF, BSF, FPF, JK Police Commandos and school children.

Addressing the function, the Chairman DDC congratulated the people on the eve of Independence Day. He reiterated that Kupwara district has shown inclusive growth on all the fronts.

The Chairman while deliberating upon the overall development scenario of the district highlighted the sector wise achievements.

Vice Chairman, DDC, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir; Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayush Sudan; SSP Kupwara, Yougal Manhas; DDC Members, BDC Chairpersons, Senior Officers of Civil administration, Police, CRPF and Army were present on the occasion. Besides, PRIs, government employees and school children, people in large numbers also attended the Independence Day celebrations.

**At Karnah:** Sub division, SDM Karnah, Dr. Gulzar Ahmad Rather, hoisted the tricolour and took salute in traditional costume which was applauded by the locals of the area.

At Sub Division Handwara, Chairman Municipal Committee Handwara, Abdul Maajid Pandit hoisted the National Flag at DPL Handwara and took salute on the parade. Cultural variety programmes were also held on the occasion.

In Lolab sub division, SDM Lolab, Aijaz Ahmad Bhat hoisted the tricolour at GDC Sogam and took salute. Cultural programmes were also held at the function.

**Shopian:** At Shopian, the main function of Independence Day Celebrations was held at District Police Lines (DPL) Shopian where District Development Council (DDC), Chairperson, Bilgees Jan hoisted Tricolour, inspected the parade, took salute at the March Past from contingents, including of JK Executive Police, CRPF, JKAP, Forest Protection Police & Fire & Emergency, Homeguards, NCC and student contingents from different schools.

Addressing the gathering, the DDC Chairperson underlined the need for maintaining sustained peace to realise the cherished goals of growth and development in the district to ease the life of common masses in true sense.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC), Shopian, Fazul Haseeb (Guest of Honour) on the occasion, SSP, Shopian, Tanushree; DDC, Vice-Chairman, Irfan Manhas; Chairman, Municipal Council, Shopian, Subhash Koul; DDC members, District/ Sectoral Officers, Police officers, para military officers, PRIs, Civil society Members, employees, children from various educational institutions and people in large numbers were also present.

At MC Shopian, President, MC Subhash

Koul hoisted the National Flag at the MC office.

All government departments and educational and RDD institutions also held similar functions across the district.

**Bandipora:** At Bandipora, the main function was held at S.K Stadium Bandipora where Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Bandipora, Abdul Gani Bhat hoisted the National flag and took salute at the march past presented by contingents of CRPF, JK, JP, JK Fire and Emergency, SPOS, JK Home Guard, NCC, students of various schools and JKP Band Group.

Chairperson DDC in his speech highlighted the developmental aspects of the country on various fronts. He said that during the current financial year, Rs. 63 crore have been kept in plan, out of which 1754 works have already been identified and work on 1350 works will be completed until the end of this fiscal.

VC DDC, Kousar Shafeeq; Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Owais Ahmed; SSP, Lakshay Sharma; Principal, District and Sessions Judge, Bandipora; ADDC, Ali Afzar Khan; District Nodal Officer Coordination, Mohd Ashraf Hakeel; ASP Bandipora, ADC, Padmashree Falak Ali Dar, DDC Members, BDCs PRIs, senior officers from Civil administration, Judiciary, Police, Army and paramilitary and large gathering of public attended the event.

The I-Day Celebrations were also held across the district, including Mini Secretariat, Sub Division Gurez, Sub Division Sumbal, Block Level, Panchayat Level besides schools and colleges of the District.

## DIR. INFO HOISTS NATIONAL FLAG AT SRINAGAR

GLOBAL KASHMIR DESK

**SRINAGAR:** Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Tuesday celebrated the 77th Independence Day at Media Complex here.

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

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

Senior officers of DIPR and other officials of the department also participated in flag hoisting ceremony.

## Kupwara Celebrates I-Day With Zeal & Zest Under National Slogan 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh'

GLOBAL KASHMIR DESK

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

A series of events were conducted by Awaam and Army at various locations.

At AGS Wayne, Tricolour was unfurled by the NCC Cadets followed by a stunning cultural show of patriotic songs and speeches. The chief guest, Cdr Haji-pir Bde lauded the efforts and hard work done by the Principal, staff and the students of AGS Wayne. This programme was also attended by the Commanding Officer Kupwara Terriers. Parents of the Children, school teachers, locals, and children from nearby villages.

Commanding officer Kupwara Terriers also unfurled the national flag at



unit location Pathahirri along with other officers, officials from Zilla Sainik Welfare Board Kupwara, Ex-servicemen, school Children, Soldiers and their families. During the celebration, the national anthem was sung by a local girl 'Seerat' from Kupwara with full zeal and zest. All attendees also took the PANCH PRAN pledge as part of the slogan 'Meri Maati Mera Desh'. In addition to this an interaction with all ESM of the unit was held address-

ing the issues if any, being faced by them. Sweets among the School Children were also distributed at the occasion.

Gulgam village celebrated this Independence Day by witnessing a series of events. A Tiranga rally was conducted by the students and locals along with Army officials. A painting competition was also held at various schools of Gulgam to celebrate the occasion. The students conducted a plantation drive wherein they planted 75 plants in barren areas of the village. Kupwara Terriers had an interaction with veterans wherein Gulgam Company Commander highlighted the national slogan 'Meri Maati Mera Desh'.

Similar kinds of events were also conducted at Warsun village by the Indian Army along with the locals. A Tiranga rally followed by unfurling of national flags at various schools and panchayats was carried out here at Warsun. An interaction with Veterans and veer Naris was also held. While acting upon the slogan 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' 75 Devdar saplings were planted at the grave of Martyr Late Nk by the locals Mohd Ashraf Rather, SM by the locals of Guzeriyal village.

Local boys and girls who are learning techniques of WUSHU put up a splendid show for all attendees.

The series of events were enjoyed by the children and locals and they believe that these kinds of events will further strengthen the spirit of nationalism and patriotism among the people of Kupwara.

## I-Day: Nuzhat Gull Conferred With 'Award Of Appreciation' For Securing Rank 2 In All JK Online Painting

NOOR UL HASAN ANDRABI

**Srinagar:** In a remarkable feat, Nuzhat Gull has been felicitated with an 'award of appreciation', on the eve of 77th independence day celebrations, for attaining second rank in the JK Online Painting Competition.

Gull from Shallgund Takiya Khurama is currently enrolled at Government UPS Shallgund Lolab secured 2nd position at UT Level in the Online Painting Competition, the results of which were made public a few days back.

Gull received her 'award of appreciation' at the hands of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Bakshi stadium in attendance of other highly prolific dignitaries on

the eve of Independence Day celebrations.

Gull while sharing her experience at the sidelines of the function said that: "I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to my all beloved teachers who always support me out there. I had no idea of painting at all, but due to their unconditional love, support and care, my teachers made me able to achieve this much."

"I'm extremely excited after receiving this award at the hands of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of J&K UT", said adding "Girls are now performing parallel to the boys in every sector."

Head of the institution, Mohd Arif Khan who was accompanying Gull said that she is a very shy and timid girl but I alongside with my other staff members started to nurture her talent which has paid off today.

"I, on behalf of the institution, heartily congratulate her (Nuzhat Gull) on her grand success in the online painting competition. This is really a proud moment for all of us and I strongly believe that our other students will shine in other activities in time to come", Khan further said.

"These initiatives are very necessary for the children as these activities can give exposure to the children. Being from a far flung area of Lolab Kupwara, it was a remarkable achievement and such events can help our children to participate more in time to come", Khan further said.

Meanwhile, the parents of Shallgund have expressed their excitement and have extended their heartfelt gratitude to the faculty members for bringing up the hidden talent upfront.



## The Global Kashmir EDITORIAL

**I-Day Celebrations in Kashmir**  
In consonance with the nationwide celebrations, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir marked the august occasion of 77th Independence Day with much fervor and gaiety. With the main function held at Bakshi Stadium in summer capital Srinagar, reports nevertheless poured from every nuke and cranny of UT about warm celebrations by people cutting across ages, genders and professions. Bakshi Stadium wearing a festive look was at cynosure with people queuing since early morning in a bid to make it to the venue to get a glimpse of performances by the school going children and local artists. The performances of the children and artists came up to the expectations of the audience – who were seen clapping for each performer. The iconic Clock Tower in Lal Chowk also saw locals and non-locals coming together with flags to celebrate the eve – the enthralling scenes, emerging after a lull of almost three decades, left the on-lookers bemused. The district headquarters evenly saw rush of people beelining to make it to venues’ to imbue themselves in the colors of Independence Day celebrations. It seldom has happened that I-Day in Kashmir is being celebrated without any shutdown call, restriction on public movement or at least any internet ban and this I-Day has set a strong precedent that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have done away with their archaic mindset and so has the administration. The winds of change have been blowing thick and fast and things are improving with passage of each day. Hope the things improve more and instil a confidence among the local populace to tap its feet with the rest of the compatriots.

## 2 ESSENTIAL KEYS FOR LEARNING A SECOND LANGUAGE: MOTIVATION AND STRATEGIES



WIDYA RIZKY PRATIWI  
SYED ANAITULLAH BUKHARIE

Learning English is understood to be very important because it is an international lingua franca, facilitating the bridge between languages, economies, cultures, and all aspects. Globalization unavoidably affects all walks of life in the world. By mastering English, people from different countries can interact with each other, share information, and work together.

For some countries in the world whose citizens are not native speakers of English, English functions as the second language (ESL) and foreign language (EFL) where the culture and mother tongue that determine speaking skills are different. For countries who adopted English as a foreign language, it is not commonly spoken in daily interaction. The use of the language is restricted. Therefore, the effort to learn English should be higher, more active, and more severe than people in ESL countries. Thus, some experts suggest that learners should motivate themselves to practice constantly and intensively and are suggested to use various learning strategies which will help them in mastering this language.

Weda, et al. (2018) mentions two psychological factors in accomplishing the learning process and academic performance. These are motivation and learning strategies. "A lot of factors have contributed to the outcome of a learner's acquisition, among them, motivation and strategy plays a significant role" (Chen & Feng, 2009). Besides, Haryanto (1998) mentions eight factors influencing the learning process: attitudes, motivation, learning strategy, teachers competence, learning material, parents role, school community, and school policy. However, from these eight aspects, he reveals that learning strategy and motivation arise as the core, whereas the others are peripheral or incidental. Bukhary and Bahanshal (2013) also reveal that the teacher must rely on their capability to enhance the students' motivations and propose different strategies that will further develop their language learning. All these explanations demonstrate that motivation and learning strategy are essential in second language

acquisition and learning, especially for the English major.

Motivation is the driving force to encourage the learner to learn. Gardner and Lambert classified motivation (1972) into two orientations: integrative and instrumental motivation. Integrative or intrinsic motivation is a desire to learn a language to communicate goals. These learners will try to find the opportunity to speak with people from the culture who speak it or identify closely with the target language group. In comparison, learners behind instrumental or extrinsic motivation will learn a language to fulfill their specific goals. It is usually for the short term, such as getting a scholarship, finding employment, or passing an examination.

While learning strategies specific actions are taken by the learner to make learning easier, faster, more enjoyable, more self-directed, more effective, and more transferable to new situations. People do not understand everything when they are born, but they will grow with more understanding due to learning. The non-native English learners can use the language very well because they pass the process of learning. However, the degree may be different. Some people will master a specific subject quickly while the others may be slower.

Different experts classify learning strategies based on the context, although in essence, the target of classifying learning strategies has the same purpose and function. The division of strategic learning that is most widely referred to in the world is the classification proposed by Oxford (1992). She differentiates six group language learning strategies, which are divided into two main categories, namely direct strategies (memory, cognitive, and compensation strategies) and indirect strategies (metacognitive, affective, and social strategies).

Some learners may be more successful than others when learning a second or foreign language even though they are exposed to the same teaching methods and learning environment. Even though the teacher's teaching methods are suitable and the atmosphere is supportive, when learners do not have the motivation themselves to implement appropriate learning strategies, they will not be successful in achieving learning goals.

Learners who have their appropriate learning strategies normally will have a better understanding. Besides, by employing suitable learning strategies, students' learning methods could be more disciplined and more comfortable conditions to study. The strategies enable students to get the big responsibility to enhance their progress in developing second language skills, which includes a wide range of behavior that can help to build communicative competence in many ways.

With learning strategies, students' learning methods could be more disciplined. They also got more comfortable conditions to study by using proper learning strategies, and students could receive more convenient ways to understand the lessons that lecturers gave them. The students have critical skills in communicating. Oxford quotes, "more effective learners showed careful orchestration of strategies, targeted in a relevant, systematic way at specific L2 tasks" (2003, p.10).

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### BOOK REVIEW

# 'Solitude and Solace'



Written By: Andleeba Mushtaq  
Reviewed By: Zahoor Farooq

Her maiden attempt at penning down an anthology of poems primarily centered around the themes of melancholy, betrayal, disquiet and solitude, Andleeba Mushtaq, a twelfth-grade student, hailing from the town Khrew, Pampore reveals her odyssey. This expedition is one she has embarked upon to fight against the specters that her past unfolded across various periods. Her book "Solitude and Solace" is a quintessential expression of her struggle, resilience and fortitude. An age, when children engage in playful activities, exuding a profound sense of elation by being immersed in mirthful pursuits. In this epoch of her existence, she felt an inner calling, leading her to take a serious stance on life, demonstrating reflective insights into her personal life and some intricate matters that evaded grasp. The young poetess was met with some hauntingly harrowing episodes

that unfurled in her life, leaving her entirely crestfallen and the days that ensued were bereft of sunshine. She later on, sunk into despondency, failing to illuminate her gloomy life, when the moon became obscured by opaque clouds. Fear and hopelessness loomed even larger over the horizon, plunging her deep into the valley of sorrow. After much reflection and her father's unbonded support, a glimmer of hope emerged from a distant vantage point as she found an outlet to vent out her deep entrenched emotions in the form of writing poetry.

In one of her poems, 'The Tug of War', Andleeba expresses her struggle for liberation, drawing an analogy to a caged bird's quest for freedom. She perceives her past as prison wherein she is trapped, her continuous fight at breaking free is suggestive of her struggle for liberty.

In the poem, I was to her, "she sheds light on her treatment she receives at the hands of her friend. She showers upon her profound love and affection, reserving a revered place within her heart exclusively for her friend. Every act she undertakes to nurture this bond goes unrequited. Conversely, her friend plots malevolent schemes aimed at perpetuating her suffering.

Andleeba, in the poem titled as "pain" speaks of her deep sense of longing. Her pain grows intense as falls to fill this void that her friend left. Here, she lays emphasis on her friend's omnipresence, despite having receded like a faint whisper in the distant past, leaving Andleeba ensnared in a tumultuous state of bewilderment.

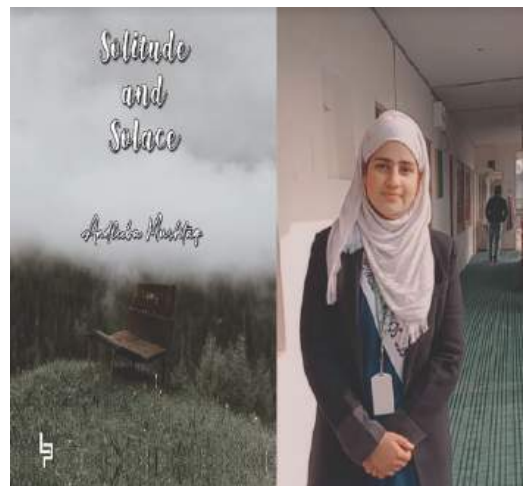
In her next poem, "Helpless", the speaker communicates the idea of profoundly being

struck with the fear of particularizing her grief which further deepens it, when she finds herself alone sailing a solitary boat across the sea of sorrows. Although, upon her new discovery that people have mastered the art of keeping their grief shrouded and make a real pretense, she is inundated with an overwhelming sensation of relief. The fact that people too have become captives of sorrow brings her a sense of elation.

She goes on talking about her tears in the poem "Rainy Night". Her tears, she thinks, are attuned to a rainy night when she lets her tears flow down endlessly only to avoid being seized by the claws of weakness.

The speaker goes on talking about her tears in the poem "Rainy Night". She brings to light the notion that her tears hold a deep connection with the essence of a rainy night. During this introspective moment, she recalls a time when her tears flowed ceaselessly, finding alignment with the incessant downpour of rain. This emotional cascade was not merely an expression of vulnerability, but rather a deliberate act of evading the clutches of fragility. By allowing her tears to flow, she crafted a metaphorical shield against the looming grasp of weakness, finding solace in this profound reflection.

"Solitude and Solace" is an embodiment of the author's intimate experiences, written in the form of poetic expression. Within its pages, the verses adopt the poetic form as a vehicle to explore the themes of friendship, self-love, betrayal, and the poignant nuances of melancholy. Throughout the collection, the poet's introspective musings traverse the terrain of personal experiences, shedding light upon the manifold facets of her emo-



tions.

Several of the poems within this collection offer a poignant contemplation of the anguish that stems from separation. In these verses, the poet's emotions lay bare her tough struggle as she grappled with the agony of a friend's desertion, a wound inflicted upon her heart by the unexpected abandonment. These verses unveil the intensity of the pain that ensues when one is subjected to the wrenching hurt of such a betrayal. The speaker carries a heavy emotional burden of deep grief. To find relief, she uses poetry as a way to express her feelings and find comfort. Through her poems, she lets out her emotions and

creates a path to deal with her intense feelings, like a therapeutic outlet.

"Solitude and Solace" is a tribute to how people transmute their personal suffering into literary reflections. The book serves as a painful reminder of the complex fabric of human emotions and the transformational potential of poetic expression in the face of hardship through the study of themes as complex as friendship, self-love, betrayal, and melancholy.

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# The history and philosophy of the Tricolour: Courage, Unity, Faith

Ravindra Garimella

It was between 1904 and 1906 that the first Indian flag came into existence. The flag was first hoisted on August 7, 1906, in the Parsee Bagan Square (in erstwhile Calcutta).

The flag was composed of three horizontal strips of red, yellow and green, with Vande Mataram in the middle. It is believed to have been designed by freedom fighters Sachindra Prasad Bose and Hemchandra Kanungo. The red strip on the flag had the sun and a crescent moon, and the green strip had eight half-open lotuses.

The second flag was hoisted in Paris by Bhikaji Cama and her band of exiled revolutionaries in 1907. Similar to the first flag, the second iteration's top strip had only seven stars, denoting the Saptarishi. This flag was also exhibited at a socialist conference in Berlin. One group of academics say Bhikaji Cama unfurled another version of the flag – a tricolour of green, saffron and red strips – at the International Socialist Congress in Stuttgart, Germany in 1907.

The origin of the modern Indian flag is based on a design by Pingali Venkayya, a young man from erstwhile Andhra Pradesh, who presented it to Mahatma Gandhi at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) session at Bezawada (now Vijayawada) in 1921.

This design comprised the colours associated with the two principal religions – red for the Hindus and green for Muslims. Gandhi modified the flag by adding a white strip representing the remaining religious communities in India. Hence the Tricolour, with the spinning wheel on the white background, was unofficially adopted at the AICC Bezawada Conference in 1921. A resolution adopted the Tricolour as India's national flag. At the same time, the current arrangement of stripes and the use of deep saffron instead of red were approved.

To avert any communal or sectarian associations to the original proposal, new

attributes were associated with the saffron, white and green stripes. These were, saffron for courage and sacrifice, white for peace and truth, and green for faith and chivalry.

On July 22, 1947 a resolution moved by Jawaharlal Nehru in the Constituent Assembly adopted the present form of the national flag. The spinning wheel in the centre was replaced by a blue chakra – the dharma chakra.

"Resolved that the national Flag of India shall be a horizontal tricolour of deep saffron (Kesari), white and dark green in equal proportion. In the centre of the white band, there shall be a wheel in navy blue to represent the charkha. The design of the wheel shall be that of the wheel (Chakra) which appears on the abacus of the Sarnath, Lion Capital of Asoka. The diameter of the wheel shall approximate to the width of the white band. The ratio of the width to the length of the flag shall ordinarily be 2:3." Nehru said.

"So, when I move this resolution, I think of this concentrated history through which all of us have passed during the last quarter of a century. Memories crowd upon me. I remember the ups and downs of the great struggle for freedom of this great nation. I remember and many in this House will remember how we looked up to this flag not only with pride and enthusiasm but with a tingling in our veins; also how; when we were sometimes down and out, then again the sight of this flag gave us courage to go on."

"Some people, having misunderstood its significance, have thought of it in communal terms and believe that some part of it represents this community or that. But I may say that when this flag was devised, there was no communal significance attached to it. We thought of a design for a flag which was beautiful, because the symbol of a nation must be beautiful to look at. We thought of a flag which would, in its combination and in its separate parts, somehow represent the spirit of the nation, the tradition of the nation, that mixed right and tradition which has grown up through thousands of years in India. So, we devised this flag," Nehru said.

India's first prime minister further



elaborated on the flag's design and philosophy.

"It will be seen that there is a slight variation from the one many of us have used during these past years. The colours are the same, a deep saffron, a white and a dark green. In the white, previously there was the charkha which symbolised the common man in India, which symbolised the masses of the people, which symbolised their industry and which came to us from the message which Mahatma Gandhi delivered."

"Now, this particular charkha symbol has been slightly varied in this flag, not taken away at all. Why then has this been varied? Normally speaking, the symbol on one side of the flag should be exactly the same as on the other side. Otherwise, there is a difficulty which goes against the rules. Now, the charkha, as it appeared previously on this flag, had the wheel on one side and the spindle on the other; if you see the other side of the flag, the spindle comes the other way and the wheel comes this way; if it does not do so, it is not proportionate, because the wheel must be towards the pole, not towards the end of the flag. There was this practical difficulty."

Therefore, after considerable thought, we were of course convinced that this great symbol which had enthused people should continue but that it should continue in a

slightly different form, that the wheel should be there, not the rest of the charkha...but what type of wheel should we have? Our minds went back to many wheels but notably one famous wheel, which had appeared in many places and which all of us have seen, the one at the top of the capital of the Asoka column and in many other places. That wheel is a symbol of India's ancient culture, it is a symbol of the many things that India had stood for through the ages..."

"For my part, I am exceedingly happy that in this sense indirectly we have associated with this flag of ours, not only this emblem but in a sense the name of Asoka, one of the most magnificent names not only in India's history but in world history...it was a period when India's ambassadors went abroad to far countries and went abroad not in the way of an Empire and imperialism but as ambassadors of peace and culture and goodwill. Therefore this flag that I have the honour to present to you is not, I hope and trust, a flag of empire, a flag of imperialism, a flag of domination over anybody, but a flag of freedom not only for ourselves but a symbol of freedom to all people who may see it," Nehru said.

Ashok Chakra has a significant place on the national flag. The chakra was modelled after the wheel of dharma – a religious motif from Hinduism, Jainism and especially

Buddhism. The Ashok Chakra is rendered in a navy blue colour on white background. The blue represents knowledge and cleanliness. There are 24 strokes representing the 24 rishis of the Himalayas.

A set of laws, practices and conventions apply to the display of the national flag of India. The Flag Code of India has been divided into three parts. Part I contains a general description of the national flag. Part II contains provisions regarding hoisting/display/use of the national flag by members of the public, private organisations, educational institutions etc. Part III comprises provisions regarding hoisting/display of the national flag by central and state governments, their organisations and agencies.

The Flag Code was amended in 2021 to say that it "shall be made of hand spun and hand woven or machine made, cotton/polyester/wool/silk/khadi bunting" and to allow it to be displayed day and night. The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 is an act of Parliament that prohibits the desecration of or insult to the country's national symbols, including the national flag, national emblem, national anthem, the Constitution, and the map of India.

In all, the Tiranga or Tricolour represents the hopes and aspirations of the people of India.

The writer is a parliamentary expert (Courtesy: HT)

## Indo-US bilateral relations: New orbit of growth

Chandrajit Banerjee

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's State visit to the United States from June 20-24 can be counted among the most historic of such visits by any global leader, and marked a new era in US-India relations, embracing new fields with a futuristic vision. Welcomed by President Biden to one of the largest arrival ceremonies ever hosted by the White House, PM Modi was only the third State guest of the Biden Administration and is one of the very few world leaders to have addressed the US Congress twice.

Amid all the ceremonial splendour, the two sides worked hard to line up substantive wins on the economic front. The centrepiece of the visit was prioritising deep technology collaboration based on high mutual trust, symbolising a partnership for the future.

The US-India economic relationship has never been stronger, with bilateral trade crossing \$191 billion in 2022. According to CII estimates, with a strong growth rate, a conducive business environment and smooth talent movement on both sides, the goal of \$500 billion is entirely achievable by 2030.

PM Modi made it a point to engage intensively with US business leaders to showcase India's economic opportunities. The visit promises to catalyse private sector cooperation in key areas of trade, investment, technology, clean energy, defence, and talent development, among others. The two leaders emphasised on industry participation in their joint statement.

The first pillar, trade, saw the termination of six outstanding disputes in the World Trade

Organization by the US and India. Particularly notable are the exclusions granted by the US to India from duties on steel and aluminium products, which had been impacting industry. As a result, nearly 3,40,000 metric tons of steel and aluminium products have been made eligible to enter the US duty-free from India.

Second, on the investment front, in the last two years alone, US companies have invested \$16 billion in India with an FDI stock of more than \$45 billion. CII's study Indian Roots, American Soil shows that 160+ Indian companies have collectively invested \$40 billion FDI in the US economy and created over 4.25,000 jobs, demonstrating the emergence of a bilateral economic partnership that is truly "two-way". The prime minister's business interactions during the visit would help to add to this relationship, with a downstream impact on jobs and growth in both countries.

Third, the recent initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) sets the foundation for technology collaborations in advanced technologies. The priority areas identified under this pillar include space, semiconductors, pharma and biotech, quantum technology, Artificial Intelligence, and next-gen telecommunications. The industry dialogue process was given a strong impetus by the two leaders during the visit.

Several US companies announced new investments, building a semiconductor centre and accelerating workforce development goals in India. With India becoming a member of the Minerals Security Partnership (MSP), collaborations in diversifying and securing critical mineral supply chains have been initiated. Joint task forces have been launched in advanced telecommunications, where public-private research will be undertaken to reduce costs, increase security, and improve



network resiliency. In a landmark development, India has signed the Artemis Accords, which advances a common vision of peaceful, sustainable and transparent cooperation in space exploration for the benefit of humankind.

Fourth, defence cooperation emerged even stronger as a pillar for the overall relationship. As a precursor to the visit, CII partnered with the US-India Business Council for the India-US Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X). This is a network of incubators, universities, corporate, think tank, and private investment stakeholders. This program will facilitate joint innovation on defence technologies and accelerate integration. An agreement to connect defence companies and startups and co-production and co-development of technology was signed between two defence industry associations on both sides. The un-

precedented initiative to manufacture jet engines in India represents growing trust between the governments and private sectors and will enable greater technology transfer and co-production.

Fifth, the "Innovation Handshake", which aims to connect the two startup ecosystems, will help promote job growth in emerging tech as well as highlight opportunities for upskilling.

Sixth, the two sides encouraged the recently relaunched India-US Commercial Dialogue for cooperation in the areas of talent, innovation, and inclusive growth, especially in Tier-2 cities in both countries. It is heartening to see the US and India providing micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) a high-level platform to explore greater co-operation and integration, which has been our ongoing request.

Seventh, in the US-India Joint Statement, the two leaders recognised protecting the interests of cross-border workers and reaffirmed their intent to continue discussions on understanding the requisites to enter into a social security totalisation agreement. Equally important are the wins on the "people-to-people" side, enabling the smooth movement of professionals and skilled workers, students, investors and business travellers between the two nations, and acknowledging the pressing need to expedite the visa processes.

The announcement by the US State Department to launch a pilot program facilitating in-country renewals of certain categories of work visas comes as a welcome relief for the business community. The US further intends to open two new consulates in Bengaluru and Ahmedabad, which will help alleviate the backlog and keep up with the growing demand for travel.

Prime Minister Modi's visit to the US was rich and outcome-oriented, including for industry, with comprehensive and substantive announcements that set bilateral economic engagement on a new orbit of growth. As PM Modi stated in his historic second-time address to the US Congress, "When our partnership progresses, economic resilience increases, innovation grows, science flourishes... the world will be a better place." From the business community, we will strive to play our part in bringing our industry, academia, innovators and startups closer together to enhance this closely aligned partnership.

Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry (Courtesy: TNIE)





# I-Day Speech of Shri Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of J&K

Dear, brothers and sisters,

1. My hearty greetings to all of you on the sacred occasion of Independence Day. It is a day of remembrance, dedication and resolution for all Indians. I pay humble obeisance to our great ancestors, martyrs and freedom fighters, the revered souls who had awakened the consciousness of this nation and guaranteed equality of all and empowerment of the poor and the underprivileged. They lit a spark of love for the motherland and waged a powerful struggle for freedom. Today, we salute our beloved tricolor and bow to self-sacrificing patriots and devoted men and women of ideas and ideals.

2. On the 77th anniversary of our Independence, I pay tribute to the brave soldiers of Jammu and Kashmir Police, the Central Security Forces and the armed forces. Their awe-inspiring courage, relentless bravery and selfless sacrifice in defense of the motherland have become the guiding light for the entire nation. Last year, on this very day, I had announced that a Balidaan Stambh shall be built in their honor and memory. This sacred pilgrimage, being developed in the heart of Srinagar, shall be our tribute to the Jawans of army, paramilitary forces, and police personnel who laid down their lives in combating terrorism, and it shall inspire the new generation to walk the righteous path.

3. The new generation is being enlightened about the sacrifices of our brave martyrs. They are being remembered and honored across Jammu and Kashmir to mark the celebration of Independence Day. The young generation is realizing the virtues of supreme sacrifice and remembering all those whose dedication and commitment kept our flag flying high and ensured the society is on the road to progress. On this occasion, I bow down in reverence to the families of martyrs. We are continuously taking concrete measures for their families, so that they can live a life of comfort and dignity.

4. On this auspicious occasion, I want to assure our brave soldiers guarding the borders that citizens of Jammu and Kashmir and the entire nation, stand shoulder to shoulder with you. We believe in peace, we believe in Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and mutual goodwill. We are fully committed to safeguard national interests and if provoked, we are capable of giving a befitting response to any attempt of aggression.

5. Brothers and sisters, three years ago, on this very day, I shared a dream of building a new Jammu and Kashmir with you, which harmonizes modernity and spirituality, which moves forward with unwavering passion and resolution. A Jammu and Kashmir which thrives in diversity and focuses on inner and outer growth with faith and humanity. Jammu and Kashmir which cherishes equality, social justice and equal opportunities for all. A Jammu and Kashmir where the people are at peace and everyone has the freedom to live as they want. A Jammu and Kashmir where the roaring sound of factories, the laughter of farmers, the soaring ambitions from playgrounds and music reverberating from lakes and rivers fills the sky. Jammu and Kashmir which brings new hope for the youth, farmers and women. A Jammu and

Kashmir which commands respect and which contributes extensively in the process of nation building. Brothers and sisters, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed rapid growth over three successive years and we have been successful in realizing these resolutions to a certain extent.

Wherever I go, I see our Union Territory on the move and various sectors are showing impressive growth. Yet, we have miles to go and many more milestones to achieve.

6. Three years ago, on this day, I said to you that I have no promises to make, but I have promises to keep. I have dedicated every moment of my life to keep those promises and to usher Jammu and Kashmir into a new era of peace and prosperity.

Sincere efforts have been made by the welfare of the people, for ensuring peace in everyone's lives, for bringing smiles on the faces of the people, for developing better infrastructure, to usher in a new green revolution, to make our businesses more prosperous, for boosting the granaries, to build an inclusive society, to bridge the gap between rural and urban areas and to reach out to the last man in the queue. My ultimate aim is to put a smile on the common man's face. Every

policy and every decision has been taken to ensure that all sections of society; farmers, soldiers, laborers, women, teachers, engineers, doctors and businessmen, are given a fair and equal opportunity for a brighter future, so that they can contribute in building a confident and self-reliant Jammu and Kashmir.

7. Jammu and Kashmir today is characterized by peace and inclusive development. The transformation and rapid progress in diverse sectors in the last three years is unprecedented in its history. There is renewed enthusiasm and vigour among entrepreneurs for industrialization. New roads, tunnels, railway lines, power projects, airport terminals, industrial estates and shopping malls are being constructed and all around us we are witnessing the emergence of prosperity and happiness. The hard work, dedication and determination of 1.3 crore citizens is shaping the new destiny of this beautiful Union Territory and the society, united with one resolve of Viksit Bharat is marching towards a golden future.

8. Last year, on this day, I gave a pledge to the people to build a fear-free, corruption free, employment-rich and drug-free Jammu and Kashmir. By dismantling the terror ecosystem, every citizen has been given the opportunity to live their lives fearlessly and on their own terms.

Interventions of digital governance have eradicated the systemic corruption that was prevalent in our society, to a great extent. A historic 90% approval rating in delivery of online public services is a testimony to grow-

10. We have reignited love and brotherhood in this sacred soil of Adi Shankaracharya, Kallhana, Lalleshwari, Sheikh-ul-Alam, Syed Simnani, Mata Roop Bhavani and Sikh gurus and propagating the ageless ideals of humanism, communal harmony and peace. On this occasion, I am reminded of a poem by Shri Dinanath Koul "Nadim"-

11. With the timeless wisdom of saints, sufis and the spirit of brotherhood, harmony and mutual respect, we are rapidly marching forward to build Viksit Jammu and Kashmir. Overwhelming participation of citizens in the G20 Summit, Shri Amarnathji Yatra and Muharram procession after three decades, testify the beginning of a new era of peace and tranquility for the Union territory. Today, we stand firm in our determination to build the Jammu and Kashmir of our dreams.

12. Brothers and sisters, on this occasion we also need to remember that sacrifices were not limited to the freedom struggle in the past. We have to re-dedicate ourselves to serve the poorest of the poor and contribute to our nation's progress.

13. On this auspicious day, I also urge every one of you to ask yourselves about the sacrifices you made in building Jammu and Kashmir of your dreams. What has been your contribution? What have you done for the welfare of society? These questions will inspire each one of us to serve the nation with renewed passion and vigor.



ing relationship and trust between government and the citizens.

Apart from merit-based selections for 29,806 government jobs, countless self-employment opportunities are being made available to kick start the entrepreneurial journeys of youth. Last year, 786 youth started their entrepreneurial journey.

Dedicated efforts are being taken for a 'Drug-free Jammu and Kashmir'. Drug-free Panchayat campaign has strengthened our fight against this menace at the grass root level. Increase in registration of cases, arrests and seizures under the PNDD Act, shows the commitment of administration towards realizing the goal of nasha-mukt Jammu and Kashmir.

9. Brothers and sisters, this paradise on earth has been the land of all spiritual streams since times immemorial. However, the terrorism exported by our neighboring country had tried to destroy the tranquility and cultural richness of this soil of 'Peer Vaer'. Terrorism is one of the gravest threats to peace and progress. The ideology of terrorism and separatism is cancer for the society and all its forms have to be completely eliminated. We need to identify the remaining elements and isolate them. We need to stop using double standards for terrorism. A terrorist has to be called a terrorist. We are determined to take decisive and tough action against terrorism and strike the last nail in the coffin of terrorist secessionist ecosystem.

14. Today, on the 77th anniversary of our Independence, I call upon everyone in Jammu and Kashmir to realize their full potential and contribute in the resolution of 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047. We must resolve to work together to fulfill the vision and PanchPran of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji. I am confident that our collective efforts will result in far greater prosperity for Jammu and Kashmir.

15. Brothers and sisters, I am proud to announce that the participation level of J&K in Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) remained unparalleled and the UT organized highest number of events in the country under AKAM; consistently ranking first under this campaign.

16. Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is concluding with the Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign, the biggest festival for the country which gives us an opportunity to pay homage to our motherland and its Veers; to honour and pay tribute to the freedom fighters, brave martyrs of the Indian freedom struggle.

Let us all join together, hand in hand, with unity in our steps to march towards a bright future.

17. Brothers and sisters, 2023 has been recorded as a golden year for the Union Territory. The successful G20 Summit, which saw massive public participation, testifies that the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir have broken their shackles and they are raring to scale new heights.

Notwithstanding the conspiracies and attempts of the neighboring countries to disturb the event, representatives from 27 countries participated in this historic summit - a loud and clear message to our adversaries. The international community, for the first time experienced peace, prosperity, stability and aspirations of the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir, and witnessed the all round progress of the Union Territory.

18. The G20 Tourism Working Group Meeting not only strengthened diplomatic ties, but also opened new avenues for global partnership that will help in tapping the tourism potential of Jammu and Kashmir. I am proud to inform you that since the G20 event, there has been an increase of 59% in foreign tourist arrivals in Kashmir Valley, as compared to the previous year. Further, we have welcomed 1.27 crore tourists till July this year, another record in the history of the tourism sector.

19. Another milestone in the list of achievements of 2023 in Jammu and Kashmir is the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra - 2023. This year's yatra marks the longest pilgrimage of Baba Barfani in history. The message of peace and stability in Jammu and Kashmir has attracted devotees not only from various parts of the country but also from abroad, fulfilling the decades old wishes of local & foreign citizens. Our Shia brothers were able to take out the procession on traditional routes to pay tribute to the sacrifices of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) on Muharram after 34 years.

mentum in projects that were stalled for decades. Under the Prime Minister's Development Program, 32 projects, out of the sanctioned 53, have been completed and out of the remaining 21 projects, 13 projects shall be completed during the current financial year.

23. Three years ago, I had emphasized that on a new blueprint of infrastructural development at the grassroots levels. Today, infrastructure projects worth Rs. 1.5 lakh crores are under execution. The construction of 15 road projects under PMDD, 21 new tunnels, 39 new flyovers, 26 bypasses and 2 ring roads will prove to be the new foundation of modern and Aatm Nirbhar Jammu and Kashmir. We are spending Rs. 519 crores per month on roads, buildings, macadamization and construction of rural bridges.

24. Infrastructural gaps in 4291 panchayats are being addressed through the Aspirational Panchayat Development Program. J&K has achieved 97% of the targets set under PMGSY-I & II by constructing 7000 km of roads during the last 3 years. We have provided roads to 98% habitations eligible under this scheme. 1273 projects worth Rs. 4994.58 crores have been approved under NABARD, which shall provide connectivity to a further 1039 villages for the first time after independence. Keeping in view the massive infrastructural expansion, we have decided to re-organize the PW (R&B) department from this auspicious day of 15th August, for better monitoring and faster implementation of all projects.

25. Jammu and Srinagar smart cities are competing to carve their own place among the cleanest and most beautiful cities of the country. The city of Srinagar and its urban transformation is being considered as a role model for metropolitan cities like Delhi and Mumbai. Under the Smart City

Mission, 159 projects worth Rs 2861.71 crores have been completed and the remaining 102 projects, costing Rs 4354.18 crores, are under execution. Elevated Metro rail scheme has been proposed for both Jammu and Srinagar.

26. Two years ago, on this very day, we had decided to forgo ahead with industrialization and the development of a knowledge-based economy. We were well aware of the challenges because industry sector was neglected for decades. In a short span of time, we have not just triumphed over difficulties, we have achieved much. Today, Jammu and Kashmir is standing at the threshold of an industrial revolution.

27. Industrial investment of over Rs 27,000 crores has been approved so far, including record private investment of Rs 2153.45 crores in the last financial year. J&K has received investment proposals worth over Rs 80,000 crores till July 31, 2023.

28. The first Foreign Direct Investment proposal in the Union territory was approved earlier this year. Land has been allotted to Emaar Group for constructing 1 million sq. ft. shopping mall in Srinagar and land for construction of two IT towers, one each in Srinagar and Jammu has also been allocated to the Emaar group. We have been ranked second among Union territories in NITI Aayog's Export Preparedness Ranking. We are the first UT to be integrated with the National Single Window System in Ease of Doing Business. More than 175 services are being provided through a single window system. 19 new industrial estates are being developed. GI tagging of 7 crafts has been approved.

Handicraft exports have registered twice the growth in 2022-23 as compared to 2021-22. I assure all artisans of Jammu & Kashmir that we are fully committed to honor and nurture your skills and to provide you with access to the global market. Thousands of village units have been set up under PHEMECP and countless employment opportunities have been made available to the youth and artisans.

29. Regressive land laws have been abolished. Land owners have been empowered while strict action is being taken against land mafia. We have retrieved illegally occupied land from the influential people who had encroached upon this valuable resource. I have always emphasized that the poor and deprived has the first right on Government resources. The land that has been freed from encroachers shall be used for the welfare of the poor and downtrodden.

22. Brothers and sisters, over the last three years, we have diligently infused new mo-



30. The new era of development and prosperity has brought new hope amongst the marginalized section of the society. Pucca houses bring in a sense of stability in their lives and augment overall development of the family. To fulfill their dreams of owning a house, we have decided to allot 5 marlas land to each landless eligible Pradhan Mantri AwasYojana(G) beneficiary that will ensure house is constructed under the scheme.

Overall, 3.39 lakh houses have been sanctioned under PMAY(G) scheme and construction of 1.74 lakh houses has been completed. In the year 2023-24, sanction has been accorded to the construction of

1.99 lakh houses under the PMAY (G) scheme. I believe it is our sacred duty to empower the deprived sections of society and provide them with new opportunities so that their potential can be harnessed and channelized in the right direction for nation building.

31. The three-tier Panchayati Raj system is playing a pivotal role in the developmental journey of Jammu and Kashmir. This year, three of our panchayats have received National Awards. 6400 elected representatives were deputed for capacity building and exposure visits to other parts of the country. Under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, construction of 500 Panchayat houses has been approved during the current financial year. An outlay of Rs. 862 crore for MGNREGA has been approved, generating 200 lakh mandays. I congratulate Team Jammu and Kashmir for achieving ODP+ status.

32. Our aim is women-led development. It is the women entrepreneurs in the far-flung rural areas, who keep the wheels of socio-economic progress moving, helping the administration to reduce the disparities, inequalities in the society for accelerated growth with equity. Around 6.5 lakh women associated with Self-Help Groups in Jammu and Kashmir have transformed the rural economy, creating jobs and some have also shown the potential to scale-up their enterprises. 7000 village organizations and 503 cluster-level federations have been constituted to bolster the women entrepreneurship.

33. The unprecedented progress and growth in Agriculture and Allied sectors in the Union Territory is a testimony to our resolve that there should be prosperity in all the farming households and the steady, viable and profitable farming should inspire the young generations to take up farming.

Sustained efforts of the administration have resulted in agricultural prosperity, which has given a new hope to farming families constituting 70% of our population. Pulses Revolution, Milk Revolution, Yellow Revolution, and improvements in horticulture sector have ushered in new hope for a bright and prosperous future for farmers of Jammu and Kashmir.

34. With the aim of transforming subsistence agriculture into sustainable commercial agri-economy with inbuilt functional value chain, and to set the agriculture and its allied sectors on a rapid growth trajectory, a Holistic Agriculture and Allied Sector Program, with an outlay of Rs. 5013 crores, is being implemented. Our goal is to double agricultural production through the meticulously curated 29 interventions under this project, which shall also create around 3 lakh new jobs, establish 18,861 new business enterprises and increase the Gross State Domestic Product by more than Rs 28,000 crores. In the horticulture sector, a focused campaign has been launched for high density plantation of 11 fruits other than apple. Capacity of 2 lakh metric tonnes of CA storage has been developed. These combined efforts shall increase the income of agricultural families and ensure equitable growth of all stakeholders.

35. I strongly believe that the path of all-round development passes through a strong agriculture economy. Our dream is not only to build a strong farming ecosystem, but also to create opportunity for food processing units. A new initiative has yielded positive results and applications received from 270 entrepreneurs have been approved. Special attention is being given to the livestock sector and millet cultivation. Innovation and research are being promoted in agriculture and allied sectors. More than 12 lakh farmers have been provided Kisan Credit Cards for easy credit access and assistance worth Rs. 2512 crores has been delivered directly in the accounts of farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi.

36. Reforms in the Cooperative sector have

started to yield results. More than one thousand cooperative societies have been established in various sectors like poultry, dairy, agriculture, consumer, housing, health and education. Three District Cooperative Banks – Jammu Central Cooperative Bank, Baramulla Central Cooperative Bank and Anantnag Central Cooperative Bank have been revived. Apex

Level Dairy Federation has been established in Jammu and Kashmir after 27 years. Conversion of 537 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies is underway, which shall also help in realizing the vision of Hon'ble Union Home and Cooperative Minister, Shri Amit Shah of establishing the world's largest grain storage. I have full faith that Village Cooperative Societies and Agriculture Cooperative Societies shall drive the change at grassroot level.

37. Health care of every citizen is one of our foremost priorities. Around 4000 health facilities have been developed and five new medical colleges have been made functional. In the field of medical education, 500 MBBS

in the distribution sector to provide better power supply to the people. 8550 new distribution transformers have also been installed in a record time of four months. The implementation of Smart Metering is a significant step towards reducing losses, better demand management and achieving 24x7 power supply for all.

40. Dear brothers and sisters, the Tourism Working Group Meeting has given a new recognition to the Union territory on the world tourism map. Peace and stability have taken this sector to new heights. Last year, a record 1.88 crore tourists had visited Jammu and Kashmir and till July this year, 1.27 crore tourists have already visited the UT. There has been a 350% increase in foreign tourist arrivals as compared to last year. While preserving the cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir, 300 new destinations and sites are being developed. Tourism sector has been granted the status of industry, and we have launched a new home-stay policy, film policy and established tented colonies to strengthen the economy and create new employment opportunities for the youth and the people

42. Brothers and sisters, Jammu and Kashmir is making its mark as a new powerhouse in the field of sports. Our young talented players are excelling at national and international level. To provide facilities to the talented sports persons, 702 infrastructure projects relating to sports facilities have been completed and indoor sports halls are being constructed in all the districts. 60 lakh youth of Jammu and

Kashmir actively participated in sports activities organized over the last year. Besides, 18 National Games and 1 International Tournament were also organized in Jammu and Kashmir. More than 25,000 players represented J&K in regional and National level competitions last year.

43. All schemes relating to social welfare have been completely digitized. Senior Citizen Homes have been set up in 18 districts. Schemes for the welfare of the disabled and the underprivileged shall be saturated soon. 1819 Sangini and 2611 Sahayika under Anganwadi have been appointed recently.

sector, emphasis has been laid on Early Childhood Education.

Pre-primary classes have been started in more than 15,000 schools. School enrollment has increased by 17.2% due to the Aalash Chale campaign. Through Talaash app, more than 95,000 out of school children have been identified and efforts are being made to re-enroll them in schools. Virtual reality labs are being set up in each district with the aim of developing scientific temper among students. Prioritizing the education of girls, 35 girls' hostels have been constructed. Quality education is being ensured for every section of our society.

45. We are working tirelessly for the holistic development of tribal communities, providing and securing their rights, promoting entrepreneurship amongst tribal youth and women, identifying challenges, pursuing research activities for capacity building for the social, economic and educational empowerment of our tribal community. Eight new hostels have been inaugurated and foundation stones of 25 hostels have been laid. Besides, 200 smart schools have been developed for better arrangements for the education of the future generations of the tribal community.

Last year, a new record was set when the Government of Jammu and Kashmir granted scholarships to the tune of Rs 32.50 crores to tribal students and this year, an outlay of 52 crores has been decided for disbursement among tribal students. After the successful launch of various schemes like HOST-50, TOP-50 and STARS-100, administration has launched a new scholarship scheme LAW20 for tribal students enrolled in law degrees and courses. 6 Eklayva Residential Model Schools and 1873 Seasonal Schools have been established for ensuring quality education for tribal migratory students.

Smartcards are being provided to all migrant families. For the health care of 4 lakh migrant tribal population, 9 mobile medical units and 17 tribal sub-centres have been set-up. Van Dhan Vikas Kendras are being established under the Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana for empowerment of women of tribal community.

46. We are firmly committed to the welfare of Kashmir Pandit brothers and sisters and ensuring justice to Pandit community members whose land and houses were illegally occupied and to those who had to sell their land under duress. The process of construction of houses for Kashmiri Pandit Government employees has been expedited and we are committed to execute all the projects within the time frame. The issues of Kashmiri Pandit community, Pakistan Occupied Kashmir and West Pakistan refugee families are being resolved through the Special Governance Camps, for which, programmes were organized in Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Pune, Haridwar, Chandigarh and Pathankot.

47. Brothers and sisters, in the last three years, we have built a Jammu and Kashmir, which is aspirational, by focusing on balanced development that benefits all sections of society and shaping the glorious future of the Union Territory. The revival of ageless cultural ethos, renewed vigor in the society, return of cinema have created a new atmosphere, and ushered in a new era of hope and dreams. Every section of the society is now a guardian for the new generation. We need to think about the kind of world we want to leave for our youth. It should be our top priority and on this auspicious day, I call upon every section of society to create new opportunities for youth, in which every department will play an active role. Our second prime objective is to ensure socioeconomic empowerment of women and their due rights so that they can shape the future of this Union Territory and also contribute to nation building. Along with economic independence, the safety of daughters, mothers and sisters, and guaranteed social rights need to be ensured. Let us build a Jammu and Kashmir in which our Nari-Shakti are able to realize their full potential. Let us build a Jammu and Kashmir which has only one religion – India; let us build a Jammu and Kashmir which has only one caste – Humanity; let us build a Jammu and Kashmir which has one goal – Unity and Integrity of the country; let us build a Jammu and Kashmir, where different languages sing one tune – Vijay Vishwa Tiranga Pyaara. Let us together build a glorious future of Jammu and Kashmir.

**Come, let all of us together raise our voices in saying:**  
**Bharat Maata Ki Jai! Bharat Maata Ki Jai! Bharat Maata Ki Jai! (Jai Hind)**



seats have been increased to 1300. 3000 health and wellness centers have been set up. 83 lakh golden cards have been issued. Under various healthcare programmes, Rs 2 crores per day is being spent on the healthcare of the people. In the category of universal health insurance coverage, Jammu and Kashmir has been adjudged the top performer among all UTs. Jammu and Kashmir is among the top 5 performers in the country on key health parameters. We have also launched the country's first Tele-Manas chat bot. Today, a fleet of 480 geo-tagged ambulances are operating under the 'Online 102/108 initiative'.

38. The power sector has been transformed. Pakal Dul, Kuru, Ratle and Kwar Mega Hydro Projects are progressing at a breakneck speed, and are likely to be completed by 2025-26. With the completion of these projects J&K will gain an additional power capacity of about 3400 MW that will significantly reduce our energy constraints.

39. 2345 MVA capacity has been added

associated with the hospitality sector.

41. Jammu and Kashmir is emerging as a role model in the country for digital governance with focus on transparency, accountability and citizen-centric approach to delivering public services. Many steps have been taken to ensure corruption-free Jammu and Kashmir and increased ease of living of citizens. The Union territory is top ranked among UTs in e-governance. With an average of 20 lakh e-transactions per day, we are competing with developed states. Delivering efficient, effective, and accountable governance is our top priority. 480 government offices have been connected with e-office. 722 online services are being made available to people. 301 services have been integrated with the Rapid Assessment System. Jammu and Kashmir is the first in the country to integrate Service Plus platform with the auto appeal feature and linking 300 services with it. Under the Public Service Guarantee Act, time limits for service delivery have been notified.

44. Peace and stability have kindled new hopes of a bright future for the coming generation, schools and colleges are functional throughout the year now, and the future of a modern Jammu and

Kashmir is being shaped by the implementation of the National Education Policy. Special emphasis is being laid on new skills, research, innovation and future technology under the guidance of the Higher Education Council. Common University Entrance Test has been adopted for admission to undergraduate, integrated, postgraduate, diploma, certification courses and research programs in degree colleges. Uniform academic calendar has been adopted in all higher educational institutions. Gyanodaya

Express will provide new opportunities to the students to explore wealth of knowledge and learning beyond the four walls of class rooms. Design Your Degree initiative is triggering the curiosity of educationists from across the country. In the school education