



### MeT predicts more rains

The weather department today predicted heavy to very heavy rains in some districts of Jammu division which has received significant rainfall in the past 24 hours.

While Kathua recorded the highest at 156 mm, Jammu recorded 79 mm, Katra 71 mm and Samba 55 mm, the meteorological department said.

One or two spells of light to moderate rain and thundershowers were

### Cont. on P9 > Patwari booked in graft case

The ACB has registered a corruption case against a former patwari in Kishtwar district for allegedly demanding Rs 5 lakh as bribe and accepting Rs 3 lakh through cheque in connection with the issuance of a fard.

According to officials, an FIR has been registered under section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, as amended, at Police Station ACB, Doda, against Mohammad Arif Mir, then patwari of Patwar Halqa Trigam, Kishtwar.

### Cont. on P9 > Rs 5.78 cr approved for Lah Wali Bowli

The government has approved Rs 5.78 cr for the restoration and preservation of historic Lah Wali Bowli at Rajouri as part of its efforts to safeguard the J&K's rich architectural and cultural heritage.

The conservation project will focus on restoring the historic stepwell and its architectural features while preserving its cultural character and historical significance.

The initiative is also aimed at enhancing the site's tourism potential and creating a heritage attraction for visitors to the district.

### Cont. on P9 > Free UAE visa offer for Indian tourists

**DUBAI, AUG 11:** Abu Dhabi has launched a programme offering free UAE entry visas to eligible Indian tourists booking holidays in the emirate.

The programme, launched by Abu Dhabi's Department of Culture and Tourism, will run from August 1 to October 31, reports said.

The programme is open to Indian passport holders travelling from India who book through select travel partners or online travel agencies approved by Abu Dhabi's tourism department, report said.

### Cont. on P9 > Saxena inaugurates Black-Necked Crane Festival

**LEH, AUG 11:** LG Vinai Kumar Saxena today inaugurated the nation's first "Black-Necked Crane Festival 2026" in Ladakh, an initiative aimed at conserving the endangered crane species and strengthening environmental protection, economic welfare and sustainable livelihoods of local communities.

The festival witnessed the

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**Rukmini Vasanth begins shooting for her next film with Nivin Pauly**

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## 'Har Ghar Tiranga, Har Mann Tiranga'

# Modi asks citizens to hoist flag at every home on I-Day

**NEW DELHI, AUG 11:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi today called upon citizens to participate in the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign and hoist the Tricolour at their homes as the country prepares to celebrate Independence Day on August 15.

"Come, let us make Har Ghar Tiranga a celebration in every home," he said in a post on Instagram.

The prime minister called upon people to celebrate August 15 with pride and honour and pay tribute to the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the country's independence.

He also urged citizens to take a pledge to contribute towards building a 'Viksit Bharat'. "Let us celebrate August 15 with pride and honour, pay tribute to the freedom fighters, and take a pledge to build a Viksit Bharat," Modi said.



Calling for the Tricolour to be displayed across the country, he added, "Har Ghar Tiranga, Ghar-Ghar Tiranga, Har Mann Tiranga. Let us hoist the Tricolour at every home!"

The 'Har Ghar Tiranga' initiative aims to encourage greater public participation and strengthen people's connection with the national flag.

He also shared a video showing the NDA MPs and union ministers greeting him by waving the tricolour

and raising slogans of 'Vande Mataram' and 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' when he entered the venue of the ruling coalition's weekly 'Mangal Milan' meeting here.

"Let us pay tribute to our freedom fighters. Let us take a pledge for a developed India. Har Ghar Tiranga, Ghar Ghar Tiranga, Har Mann Tiranga (Tricolour in every home, tricolour in every heart). Come, let us hoist the tricolour at every home.

Bharat Mata Ki Jai, Vande Mataram, Vande Mataram, Vande Mataram," Modi said in the Instagram video.

Earlier, as soon as the prime minister entered the venue of the NDA parliamentary party meeting, the ministers and MPs greeted him by waving the national flag and raising 'Vande Mataram' and 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' slogans.

The prime minister reciprocated the gesture by himself holding a national flag and waving towards the members present.

Those who attended the meeting included BJP president Nitin Naidu, Union ministers Amit Shah, Nirmala Sitharaman, Nitin Gadkari, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and S Jaishankar.

Ministers belonging to NDA constituent parties - HD Kumaraswamy (JD-S), Kinjarapu Ram Mohan

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### Ops launched after guard fires at suspects

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, AUG 11**

A massive operation was today launched by security forces in Poonch woods after a guard fired at suspected terrorists near an under-construction tunnel in Mendhar area of Poonch.

According to officials, a security guard, who was on duty at an under-construction tunnel, noticed the suspicious movement and fired three to four rounds as a precautionary measure.

No one was injured. Following the incident, a joint

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### Anti-terror mock drill held at Samba

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, AUG 11**

Ahead of the Independence Day celebrations, police today conducted long-range patrolling and an anti-terror mock drill in Samba district to assess operational preparedness, strengthen security arrangements and ensure prompt response to any contingency.

The long-range patrolling was conducted by SOG of police, covering nearly 20 km from Jatwal to Lala Chak along the

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### SC directive in cases of missing persons

**NEW DELHI, Aug 11:** The Supreme Court has clarified that its order directing states and Union Territories to immediately register FIRs in cases of missing persons applies to every person, irrespective of age or gender.

A bench of justices Ah-sanuddin Amanullah and R Mahadevan said it was shocked to learn that some of the states are under the impression that the expression "person" refers only to children and does not include adults.

"We find this to be a deliberate and mala fide bogey raised by such States. The

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## Bill criminalising insult to Vande Mataram gets Prez's assent

**NEW DELHI, AUG 11:** President Draupadi Murmu today gave assent to a Bill that criminalises intentional disruption or prevention of the singing of the national song 'Vande Mataram', giving it the same legal protection currently accorded to the national anthem.

With the president's assent, The Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026, has become a law.

The Lok Sabha had passed the Bill on July 30, while the Rajya Sabha had cleared it a day earlier.

The legislation grants Vande Mataram the same status as the national anthem, 'Jana Gana Mana'.

For the first time at the Independence Day function, Vande Mataram will be sung from the ramparts of the Red Fort, the Union Home Ministry said.

Earlier, the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act prohibited intentionally preventing the singing of the national anthem (Jana Gana Mana) or causing disturbance to any assembly engaged in such singing.

These offences were punishable with up to three years of imprisonment, a fine or both, while a second and every subsequent conviction attracted a minimum of one year's imprisonment.

The erstwhile law did not accord the same protection for the national song.

"Presently, there is no specific legal provision to prevent insults to the singing of 'Vande Mataram', which is honoured as



the national song. Therefore, in order to prohibit any person from intentionally preventing the singing of the national song or causing disturbance to any assembly engaged in such singing, it is proposed to amend Section 3 of the said Act to include the national song also within its ambit, so as to make such acts punishable," the Bill had said.

The president of the Constituent Assembly, Dr Rajendra Prasad, on January 24, 1950, stated that the song 'Vande Mataram' composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, which played a historic role in the Indian freedom struggle, shall be honoured equally with the national anthem 'Jana Gana Mana' and shall have equal status with it, the Bill further said.

Earlier this year, the Union Home Ministry directed that all six stanzas of 'Vande Mataram' shall be sung first when the na

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## Panel on Demographic Changes visits Jagti, hears KP migrants

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, AUG 11**

A government-appointed high-level panel examining demographic changes today visited the Jagti township - the largest designated satellite settlement for displaced Kashmiri Pandits on the city outskirts here - to gather views and inputs from the terrorism-affected people.

The KP migrants, living at the Jagti township at Nagrota, were forced to migrate enmasse in 1989-90



from their homes in the valley due to a surge in terrorism and the killing of community members.

Four members of the team arrived here yesterday

on a three-day visit and had consultations with senior civil and police officers, including chief secretary Atal Dulloo and DGP

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## India 6th-largest economy with USD 3.92 Tn GDP

**NEW DELHI, AUG 11:** Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary today informed Rajya Sabha that the International Monetary Fund (IMF), in its World Economic Outlook for April 2026, noted India's nominal GDP at USD 3.92 trillion for 2025-26, which makes India the sixth-largest economy in the world.

"The IMF's rankings are based on nominal GDP measured at prevailing US Dollar exchange rates. Consequently, the relative ranking of economies can change due to a combination of factors, including economic

growth, movements in exchange rates and prices, revisions to national accounts and changes in the size and growth of other major economies," he said in a written reply in the Upper House of the parliament.

"The government has adopted a broad-based strategy to enhance the growth potential of the Indian economy," the union minister said.

"The strategy focuses on enhancing agricultural productivity, promoting manufacturing through initiatives such as the Production-Linked Incentive Schemes and relaxing Quality Con-

trol Orders, strengthening MSMEs, expanding world-class infrastructure, improving logistics through PM Gati Shakti and the National Logistics Policy, and fostering innovation, digitalisation and research," he said.

"The government is also promoting investment through sustained public capital expenditure, a liberalised FDI policy, an efficient and streamlined tax system through direct tax and GST reforms, and continued improvements in the ease of doing business,

Cont. on P9 >

## Kavinder urges people to celebrate I-Day with pride

**SHIMLA, AUG 11:** Himachal Pradesh Governor Kavinder Gupta today urged people to celebrate Independence Day with pride under 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had given a clarion call to the nation to make "Har Ghar Tiranga" a celebration in every home, and to celebrate August 15 with pride, dignity and glory.

Gupta said this year's campaign, being observed from August 9 to 17, holds special significance as it is dedicated to the 150th an-



niversary of "Vande Mataram," and reflects the collective resolve of the nation to march towards a Viksit Bharat.

He appealed to the people

of Himachal Pradesh to enthusiastically participate in the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign and hoist the National Flag at their homes,

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