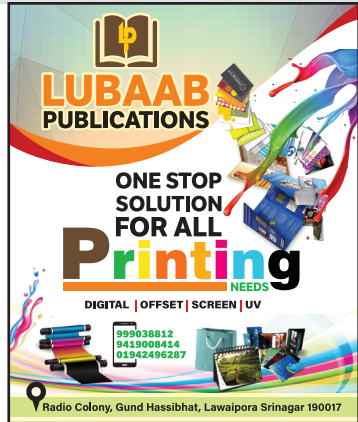


Srinagar
Saturday
August 09 | 2025
13 Safar, 1447 AH
Issue No: 188
Volume: 15
Pages: 12
Price: Rs 02/-

15TH
YEAR OF
PUBLICATION

HEADLINES
TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless



India is Different And More Powerful Under PM Modi's Rule: HM Amit Shah

"No More Frequent Terror Attacks Now. During UPA Regime We Witnessed Frequent Terror Attacks"

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 08: Asserting that terrorist attacks were 'frequent in India during the UPA regime,' Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday slammed opposition parties for opposing 'Operation Sindoor.'

Addressing a public meeting in Bihar Shah, according to the news agency—

Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, "India is different under the Narendra Modi ji's regime. Our soldiers killed terrorists in their hideouts. But the RJD and Congress leaders are opposing Operation Sindoor."

The Union Home Minister lashed out at opposition parties for objecting to the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar, asserting that infiltrators



have "no right to vote".

He also alleged that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was "indulging in politics over the SIR exercise" in the state. "Names of infiltrators must be removed from the voters' lists. They have no right to vote. But the RJD and the Congress are opposing SIR in Bihar because the names of infiltrators are being

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He also alleged that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was "indulging in politics over the SIR exercise" in the state. "Names of infiltrators must be removed from the voters' lists. They have no right to vote. But the RJD and the Congress are opposing SIR in Bihar because the names of infiltrators are being deleted from the lists," he added.

99.6% coverage achieved under PMGSY: GoI

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 08: Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh have recorded remarkable success in rural connectivity under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), achieving near-total coverage of sanctioned habitations.

According to official data tabled in the Lok Sabha by the Minister of Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan, a total of 2,140 habitations were sanctioned in Jammu & Kashmir and 65 in Ladakh under PMGSY since its inception.

"Of these, 2,132 habitations in J&K and 64 in Ladakh have been connected with all-weather roads, taking the overall connectivity achievement in both Union Territories to 99.6%. The remaining 9 habitations (8 in J&K and 1 in Ladakh) are expected to be completed under the ongoing implementation of PMGSY Phase IV," the reply reads.

This achievement is significant, given the challenging geographic and climatic conditions in both UTs—ranging from high-altitude terrain, snow-bound areas, and

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After Pahalgam Terror Attack India Engaged World Community, Secured Support As Well : S. Jaishankar

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 08: The Government of India on Friday said that it had deployed seven all-party parliamentary delegations to 33 countries as part of diplomatic efforts under "Operation Sindoor", aimed at conveying India's united stance and resolute approach against terrorism after the Pahalgam

attack.

The question on diplomatic engagement during Operation Sindoor was raised by Vijay Baghel and Damodar Agrawal in the Lok Sabha, and it was answered by the Minister of External Affairs, Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

These delegations, he said, comprising Members of Parliament from various political parties along with

veteran diplomats, engaged with key political, legislative, media, think-tank representatives and the Indian diaspora.

Their objective was to raise awareness about the Pahalgam terror attack, highlight Pakistan's role in sponsoring terrorism, counter misinformation on Jammu and Kashmir, and build

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PM Modi invites Putin to India

Says look forward to host Russian President

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, AUG 8: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that he had a telephone conversation today with Vladimir Putin and invited him to visit India later this year for the Annual Bilateral Summit.

"Had a very good and detailed conversation with my friend President Putin. I thanked him for sharing the latest developments on Ukraine. We also reviewed the progress in our bilateral agenda, and reaffirmed our commitment to further deepen the India-Russia Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership. I look forward to

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Ujjwala transformed lives of poor women: PM Modi

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, AUG 8: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday that the Ujjwala scheme has transformed the lives of poor women, asserting that his government's decision to continue the LPG subsidy for them will benefit over 10 crore beneficiary families.

The Union Cabinet earlier approved a subsidy of Rs 12,000 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) for 2025-26, benefitting 10.33 crore households.

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CRACKDOWN AGAINST ROTTEN MEAT, CHICKENS

Samples will be taken from 5-star hotels to road side eateries, culprits won't be spared: Satish Sharma

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 08: Reassuring people that no one will be allowed to sell adulterated, rotten meat and dressed chickens in Jammu and Kashmir, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Satish Sharma on Friday said that a massive crackdown has been

launched to identify and nail the culprits running this racket in the region.

Sharma, while talking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "Samples will be taken from every food outlet from five star hotels to a roadside eatery and the people involved in flooding markets with adulterated items won't be

spared."

He said, "What we have seen in the past one or two days is that there are some people—whether they are suppliers or hoteliers, strict action will be taken against them. And whether they are manufacturers, they will face the consequences of their actions."

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Now, FSD seizes, destroys expired rotten meat in Jammu

■ Mubashir Alam Wani

SRINAGAR, AUG 08: Amid an ongoing crackdown against the unsafe, unhygienic meat and dressed chicken in Kashmir, the Food and Drug

TURN ON PAGE 2

HT-SUCCESS STORY:

Budgam Youth Shows the Way ; First to Cultivate Lotus Indigenously at Warihama Beerwah

■ Ubaid Mehdi

BUDGAM, AUG 8: A progressive farmer from Warihama Beerwah area of Budgam district has achieved success in lotus stem (Nadru) cultivation on a water-logged paddy field

Tariq Ahmad Bhat, who owns about 2 kanals of land affected by chronic waterlogging, said he switched from traditional paddy farming to lotus cultivation after repeated losses.

Speaking to news Tariq said, "I did this entirely on my own no

scheme, no subsidy, no guidance. Just hard work."

His innovation has not only transformed otherwise unproductive land but has also earned appreciation from local residents and fellow farmers, who call it a source of inspiration in the face of climate challenges.

Several other farmers in nearby areas are now exploring the idea of replicating the model in similarly affected fields.

Bhat further said, growing lotus was something he had

TURN ON PAGE 2



FM withdraws IT Bill; new bill on Aug 11

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, AUG 8: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday withdrew the Income Tax Bill, 2025, in the Lok Sabha, and the government will come out with an updated version of the legislation after incorporating changes suggested by the Select Committee.

A new version of the Income Tax Bill will be introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 11.

The updated version of the I-T Bill, according to sources, will incorporate most of the recommendations of the Select Committee.

"To avoid confusion by multiple versions of the Bill and to provide a clear and updated

TURN ON PAGE 2

CS pushes for faster reforms to boost Ease of Doing Business

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 8: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Friday chaired a meeting to review implementation of compliance reduction and deregulation reforms recommended by the National Task Force, headed by the Cabinet Secretary, Government of India, to ensure Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) across the country.

The meeting was attended by senior officers including Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department; Commissioner Secretary, Forest; Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Commissioner Secretary, Rural Development Department; Secretary, Law and Director, Industries & Com-

merce, Jammu, among others.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary took stock of the progress on key reform areas. He directed all the departments to ensure time-bound and full compliance with the agenda set by the Task Force.

Emphasizing the urgency and importance of the exercise, he asserted that there is no scope for laxity or delays and administrative heads must regularly monitor the status of implementation to ensure that reforms are grounded effectively. He further stressed the need to upload the evidentiary proof of compliance across all priority areas without further delay, underscoring that these reforms are critical

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CS reviews crop insurance coverage under PMFBY

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 8: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a crucial meeting to review progress on the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

The PMFBY, which now covers all 20 districts in the UT, provides insurance to the farmers for notified crops such as paddy, maize and oilseeds.

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AN APPEAL TO MAKE A COLLECTIVE EFFORT

VMS SPECIALTY HOSPITAL (VMSSH)



FROM THIS:



TO THIS:



YOU SUPPORTED US ALL THROUGH

NOW A LITTLE MORE EFFORT & WE WILL OPEN THE DOORS OF THIS HOSPITAL TO OUR CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM HEART DISEASE:

Our vision is clear:

Healthy Children Shape a Healthier Society

The hospital is taking form—paint, tiles, and firefighting systems are in place—

But vital work remains: air conditioning, medical gas pipelines, electrical systems, and partitioning.



JK HOPE AND HEALTH FOUNDATION
TMO16418915@jkb
0005010100009519

One Last Push To Keep Young Hearts Beating: Every Penny Supports A Heart Beat

Advt - Comp...

DSEK Launches Region-Wide PTM Visits from Aug 9

DSEK Chief Visits Remote Budgam Schools, Announces Student Schemes

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 8: In a major initiative to strengthen school-community engagement and enhance student performance, the Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) has announced a comprehensive region-wide officers' visit to schools, coinciding with Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTMs) scheduled across Kashmir from tomorrow, August 9, 2025.

Demonstrating leadership by example, Director School Education Kashmir Dr. G.N. Itoo today visited remote and hilly seasonal schools at Tosamaidan and interacted with the students, teachers and community members.

DSEK was appraised about the main issues of the seasonal

schools and assured the timely disposal of the same. He reiterated the commitment of the Government for ensuring quality education in every school of Jammu and Kashmir.

DSEK also visited many schools of Khag zone of Budgam district, including Government Middle School Alamnag and BMS Poshkar. Dr. Itoo participated in the PTMs, held a mass parent interaction, and commended the spirit of collaboration witnessed at the grassroots level.

During the visit, the Director appreciated the remarkable presentations by students and announced special student exposure programmes. As a personal gesture of encouragement, he donated ₹5000 from his own resources to support student activities, calling upon

schools across the region to emulate the same spirit of participatory education.

Parent-Teacher Meetings are a cornerstone for educational success. Through the active involvement of our officers, we aim to make these interactions more impactful and inclusive. This initiative is our shared responsibility to uplift education standards in Kashmir.

Dr. G.N. Itoo, Director School Education Kashmir Officers to Monitor and Engage Across Kashmir

As per the official directive, senior officers of the Directorate—including Joint Directors (Central, North, and South Kashmir), Chief Education Officers (CEOs) of all districts, and DIET Principals—will be conducting school visits across the Valley. These officers will:



DSEK visits Bahak Schools at Tosamaidan Khag Budgam

Monitor and participate in Parent-Teacher Meetings

Interact with students, teachers, parents, and school

heads

Address institutional issues on the spot

Collect feedback and data to guide future educational policies

The visits will span primary, middle, high, and higher secondary schools, as well as District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs). Schools have been instructed to prepare comprehensive PTM outcome reports to be reviewed by the Directorate for assessing impact and identifying areas for improvement.

Strengthening the Parent-School Partnership

These Parent-Teacher Meetings are designed to:

Foster open communication between parents and teachers

Reinforce accountability and transparency in schools

Address academic progress and behavioural development

Promote parental involvement in academic reforms

Provide field officers with real-time insights on curriculum and infrastructure

Call for Public Participation

The Directorate has issued instructions to all field-level education officers for seamless coordination and has informed the School Education Department, Civil Secretariat J&K about the initiative.

All parents and guardians are urged to attend the PTMs on August 9, 2025, and play a proactive role in shaping the educational journey of their children. Schools have been asked to ensure a welcoming and inclusive environment to encourage maximum participation.

Loss of Cochlear Implant Sound Processor at Harwan Garden, Srinagar

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 08: A sound processor of a Cochlear Implant device, vital for the hearing and daily functioning of Mohammad Numaan, a Class 3 student of Legend School of Education, Sadrebal, Srinagar, was lost at Harwan Garden on Thursday.

This device is essential for Mohammad's day-to-day communication, his school education, and his



participation in all other activities. Without it, his ability to hear and engage in normal routines is severely compromised. The sound processor is also very costly, making it difficult for the family to replace.

The family makes a humble and earnest request to the public:

If anyone has found or comes across a Cochlear Implant sound processor, please return it at the earliest. A handsome reward will be given as a token of gratitude for its safe return. The device has no use or value to anyone else but is of immense importance to Mohammad's life and future.

DC Kupwara chairs Review Meeting of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna

■ HT News Desk

KUPWARA, AUG 8: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse today convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the progress under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna.

During the meeting, the Executive Engineers of KPDCI Handwara and Kupwara were directed to give special focus to increase the pace of the installation of rooftop solar panels. They shall be organising camps for on-spot loan disbursement and visit ben-



eficiaries who have already selected vendors to expedite the installation process.

The Lead District Manager was instructed to clear all pending loans at the branch level without any delay.

The meeting was attended by Executive Engineers of PDD Kupwara and Handwara, AEEs, LDM, officials from the Planning Department, CSC Manager and registered vendors.

It was informed that 15,783 applications have been received in the district out of which 249 solar rooftops have been installed.

Medical & Eye Check-Up Camp for Commercial Drivers Held at Laroo Bus Stand, Kulgam

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, AUG 8: In a significant step towards enhancing road safety, the Assistant Regional Transport Office (ARTO) Kulgam, in collaboration with the Health Department Kulgam, organized a comprehensive Medical and Eye Check-Up Camp for commercial drivers at Laroo bus Stand, Kulgam, on Friday.

The initiative, aimed at promoting safer driving practices, witnessed participation from over 60 commercial drivers from across the district. The camp focused on evaluating the general health and especially the vision of drivers—an essential factor in ensuring safety on roads.

Under the supervision of four registered doctors from the Health Department, the drivers underwent detailed medical examinations and vision screenings. Where necessary, the doctors provided medical advice, prescriptions, and referrals for further treatment. Special attention was given to detecting early signs of vision impairment and educating participants about preventive eye



care.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Showkat Ahmad Bhat (JKAS), ARTO Kulgam, highlighted the critical link between driver health and road safety.

"Healthy drivers mean safer roads. This initiative ensures that those responsible for passenger and goods transport maintain the highest standards of fitness," he stated.

The ARTO Office Kulgam, in coordination with the Health Department,

announced plans to conduct more such health-focused camps in the future under the Road Safety Plan 2025-26, aiming to improve both driver well-being and overall traffic safety across the district.

This proactive effort was widely appreciated by the local driver community, who expressed gratitude for the free health services and the concern shown towards their occupational health.

"HAR GHAR TIRANGA" NZCC Patiala in collaboration with JNV organized a Painting Competition in Gbl

■ Gulfam Barji

GANDERBAL, AUG 08: Mission HAR GHAR TIRANGA the North Zone Cultural Center NZCC Patiala in collaboration with Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya JNV Ganderbal, organized a painting competition to enhance the hidden capabilities of children in Ganderbal, in which the students from JNV participated in the said competition. On this occasion the students were also informed about the mission of HAR GHAR TIRANGA. The students who performed the best in the painting competition were awarded the credentials. The mission HAR GHAR TIRANGA is being implemented throughout the country from August 2 to August 15.

Khag Shanglipora Residents Demand Girls' Higher Secondary School

■ Ubaid Mehdi

BUDGAM, AUG 8: Residents of Khag Shanglipora in Budgam district staged a protest today, demanding the establishment of a girls' higher secondary school in the village.

Protesters said that a primary school was set up in the village in 1953 and later upgraded to a middle school, but no further development has taken place since then. They noted that the student enrolment is high, yet the existing infrastructure is inadequate.

Locals expressed concern that due to the absence of a higher secondary school, most girls are forced to discontinue their studies after the eighth grade, which has negatively impacted female literacy in the area.

"The government talks about improving the education system, but our school has not been upgraded for decades. Our daughters deserve the opportunity to study beyond middle school," said one of the protesters.

Protesters appealed to the Education Minister and the Director of Education to visit the area and address the issue so that children, especially girls, can pursue higher education. They also called on MLA Khansahib Saifuddin Butt to intervene and ensure the upgradation of the school.

"Even though we live in a remote area, the government has ignored us for decades. Our daughters deserve the chance to study beyond middle school," said one of the protesters.

Rotten Meat Scandal Shocks Kashmir: Mirwaiz Demands Accountability and Ethical Introspection

■ Mohammad Hanif Khan

SRINAGAR, AUG 08: Delivering his Friday sermon at the historic Jama Masjid Srinagar, Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir Molvi Muhammad Umar Farooq expressed deep shock and anguish over the recent revelations that over 3,500 kilograms of rotten, unlabelled, and possibly unlawful meat was seized by the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) from various locations in Kashmir.

Mirwaiz said that feeding

people haram or harmful food is zulm—a grave injustice. Such actions are a betrayal of public trust and a violation of both divine commandments, societal contract, and law. Those involved must be held fully accountable and strictly penalised and punished as per law without delay.

"This incident has deeply shaken the trust of people. It is shocking that such large-scale malpractice was allowed to go on and unchecked for so long, raising serious questions about the role of regulatory

authorities. Where was the administration all this time? How could this go unnoticed? We do not know for how long this has been going on, but its scale and extent suggest a deep and disturbing failure of oversight," Mirwaiz said.

He added that the government must act with urgency and firmness and that no packed meat should be allowed in the markets without clear and mandatory labelling, verified cold storage details, and halal certification.

Mirwaiz said that there

are growing concerns within the community about the actual nature of the seized meat—with doubts being raised whether it was even from permissible animals or worse, carrion (maytah), which is strictly prohibited in Islam.

"These are not merely health violations; they are violations of our religious boundaries and our shared values as a society," he added.

"While we ask for accountability from authorities, this crime is a wake-up call for us

as individuals and society too. It has brought forth the moral and ethical decay in our society, where greed and profiteering have become the sole driving force, even by stooping to such levels. And this should be a matter of concern for all of us as a society and as our claim to being Muslims.

Commending the role of vigilant citizens who helped expose the scandal, Mirwaiz thanked them for their courage in exposing this crime.

Principal Secretary Culture Deptt, Div Com review final arrangements for Tiranga rally

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 08: Principal Secretary, Culture, Brij Mohan Sharma and Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri jointly chaired a meeting of officers to finalize the arrangements regarding conduct of a massive Tiranga rally of over ten thousand participants on the boulevard road from SKICC to Botanical Garden on August 12.

Addressing the meeting, the Principal Secretary directed for installation of theme based selfie points at SKICC and Botanical Garden with QR

facility for uploading the photos. He further emphasised deployment of NCC volunteers to facilitate the participants in uploading photos at selfie points. He also directed the Commissioner SMC for theme based colour coating of trunks of trees and plants along the rally route. Besides, he stressed on installation of hoardings for sensitizing the participants for honoring the national flag code.

On the occasion, the Divisional Commissioner reviewed the transport plan for participants besides reviewing the arrangements for Shikara Tiranga rally



in the Dal lake. He emphasised the decoration of Shikaras with tricolour for an impressive display of fascinating views of the rally.

Meanwhile, he reviewed the arrangements for drinking water facility and electricity at the venue and issued a slew of directions to the concerned departments. He also directed the concerned departments for installation of theme based stalls and holding of exhibition at SKICC.

Further, the Div Com reviewed preparation for presentation of cultural programmes, band performances of BSF and felicitation

of VVIPs and war heroes. He also directed for establishing First Aid Camps and deployment of ambulances for any medical emergency.

The event manager was directed to make elaborate arrangements for water proof tentage, seats and setting up stage and installation of LED screens.

The meeting was attended by Director Floriculture, Commissioner SMC, Secretary AACL, ADC Srinagar, officers of LCMA, SRTC, Handloom & Handicraft, PHE, KPDCL, R&B, Police, CRPF, BSF, Army besides District Sanik Welfare Officer.

Legal awareness prog. held to sensitize students on crucial issues at MPML HSS Srinagar

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 08: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, organized a comprehensive legal awareness programme at MPML Higher Secondary School Bagh-e-Dilawar Khan, Srinagar.



This initiative aimed to sensitize students about the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the menace of drug abuse, and the crucial role of legal services institutions including Legal Aid Defence Counsel (LADC) and Legal Aid Clinics.

The programme was held under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and conducted under the supervision of Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge and Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

An official from the Child Welfare Committee addressed the gathering on the provisions and importance of the POCSO Act, highlighting the need for awareness and early intervention to protect children from abuse.

Deputy LADC, DLSA Srinagar, spoke on the alarming issue of drug abuse, its impact on youth, and the available legal and rehabilitative measures. Assistant LADC, engaged the students by outlining the role and functions of legal services institutions in ensuring access to justice for all.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty alike. It fostered a constructive dialogue on rights, protection, and legal support mechanisms available to young individuals.

Through such initiatives, DLSA Srinagar continues to reaffirm its commitment to promoting legal literacy among the youth, with the broader aim of building a more informed, aware, and empowered society.

National Handloom Day celebrated

Big Response to Trainee Sale at Numaish Gah

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 08: Buoyed by the overwhelming response to Trainee Product Sale, organised as part of National Handloom Day, Department of Handicrafts and Handlooms, Kashmir, is organizing a Gandhi Shilp Bazaar at Kashmir Haat, also known as Numaish Gah, from August 20-27, later this month.

A large number of visitors turned up at Kashmir Haat on Wednesday to buy handicrafts and handloom products made by trainees in various training centres of the department on nominal rates, on cost-to-cost raw material basis. The vibrant hand-knotted woollen carpets of Massive Carpet Scheme centres were sold out in a jiffy, with sales of almost 5.00 lakhs recorded. "In view of the huge response, the department decided to organize a bid-based auction of trainee products made in the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT), Srinagar, where both silk and woollen carpets will be sold to the highest bidder," a spokesman of the department stated.

The district departmental stalls also recorded impressive sales with many buyers making purchase of Crewel, Sozni embroidered Shawls, Zari embroidered ladies' suits and pherans, Chain Stitch, Tapestry, Namda products and other papier mache and willow wicker souvenir and decor items.

The spokesman added that the Department also organized a LIVE Demo of Kani weaving and the rare art of hand-spinning of Pashmina, through its School of Designs wing. "The National Handloom Day also gave us an opportunity to give traction to Srinagar city's unique distinction of having been notified as a Craft City by World Craft Council and UNESCO City under its Creative Cities Network," he added.

The Trainee Product Sale will run through August 10, the spokesman said, adding another high-profile Gandhi Shilp bazaar is being hosted at Kashmir Haat from August 20 to 27, which shall provide a wonderful opportunity to local buyers to bring home exquisite and authentic handmade products and becoming part of 'Be Vocal for Local' campaign.

DC Bandipora chairs introductory meeting with female employees

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 08: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today chaired an introductory meeting with female employees of the district at the Mini Secretariat Bandipora, marking a significant step towards inclusive and gender-responsive governance.

During the interaction, DC engaged with all the female participants, listened attentively to their concerns, and assured them of the administration's full support in addressing genuine issues affecting their work environment.

Emphasizing the need to create a more enabling workplace, DC directed the concerned officers to ensure proper sanitation facilities, including the provision of separate washrooms for female staff, and a dedicated prayer hall for women.

On the occasion, Indu Kanwal Chib also laid stress on ensuring safe and reliable transport facilities for all employees commuting from various parts of the district. To ease daily commuting challenges, she instructed that transport arrangements be



made from key locations such as Kaloosa Bridge, Nussoo Sumo Stand, and Gulshan Chowk to the Mini Secretariat.

DC reiterated her commitment to fostering a work environment where all employees, particularly women, feel safe, respected, and empowered.

The meeting witnessed active participation from women employees across different departments who expressed appreciation for the platform and shared suggestions aimed at improving work conditions and productivity.

Food Safety deptt conducts major crackdown on illegal meat trade, use of synthetic food colors in Anantnag

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 08: In a concerted effort to curb the illegal trade of frozen meat and meat products, Food Safety team, led by the Assistant Commissioner, Food Safety Anantnag, recovered approximately 400 kg of unspecified frozen meat from various Food Business Operators in the district.

Of these 400 kgs, 250 kg was deemed unfit for human consumption and was destroyed on the spot with the assistance of the respective Municipal Committees. The remaining 150 kg was seized for further investigation.

The recovery of unspecified frozen meat was made during extensive raids conducted across the outskirts of the district, including Verinag, Kokernag, and Qazigund. The inspections focused on high-risk establishments, particularly those engaged in the processing and storage of meat and meat products.

As part of a targeted re-inspection of high-risk establishments, the team identified repeated violations by M/S



Khanday Poultry, Sarnal, previously found storing unspecified frozen food. In accordance with legal procedures, the premises were sealed to prevent any further violations.

In a parallel enforcement drive, the Food Safety team also took action against the illegal use of synthetic food colors in street food. Approximately 100 kg of artificially colored snacks were destroyed during the inspections. Vendors involved were

sensitized about the serious health hazards posed by such prohibited additives and were issued strict warnings under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

The department reaffirmed its zero tolerance policy towards violations that endanger public health and stated that surveillance and enforcement operations will continue unabated across the district in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Phase Ist of Har Ghar Tiranga campaign concludes successfully in Anantnag

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 08: The phase Ist of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign concluded on a high note in Anantnag today, witnessing enthusiastic participation from students, youth, government officials, security personnel, and other stakeholders.

A series of vibrant and patriotic activities were carried out across the district during this phase to celebrate the spirit of the Indian Tricolour and Independence Day.

Key highlights of the campaign included wall paintings and decorations, rakhi-making and rangoli competitions, as well as creative art and craft based on Tiranga themes. Participants also penned heartfelt gratitude letters and tied rakhis to security personnel including the Army and J&K Police, acknowledging their unwavering service to the nation.



tion.

Schools, institutions, offices, and public spaces were adorned with Tiranga-themed decorations, lending a festive and patriotic ambience throughout the district. Buildings were painted in national colors, and the streets came alive with themed hoardings and banners, reflecting a collective sense of pride and unity.

Officials and ground staff from various departments, including Poshan and Rural Development Department (RDD), participated in the campaign with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervor.

Distt admin Srinagar finalizes arrangements for Raksha Bandhan

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR AUGUST 08: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Srinagar, Aadil Fareed on Friday visited Shankaracharya Temple to review the arrangements for the festival of Raksha Bandhan.

The festival is scheduled to be celebrated on August 09, 2025 with great religious and cultural significance.

During the visit, ADC was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer, Dy SP of Traffic, DFO Urban, Executive Engineers of PHE, City Roads, SMC, KPDCL, Tehsildar South, Chief Sanitation Officer and other concerned.

While taking review on the spot, ADC directed the concerned departments to ensure all basic arrangements are put in place for the devotees expected to visit the historical Shankaracharya Temple



on the top of Zabarwan hills and other religious sites.

He assessed various arrangements including supply of water & electricity, sanitation, traffic management and other logistical aspects to ensure smooth and safe celebrations for devotees.

Aadil emphasized the importance of inter-departmental coordination to facilitate the devotees in a hassle-free manner and ensuring all arrangements in place well before the festival.

ADC instructed for ensuring hassle-free traffic movement for

the devotees for their convenience and adequate facilities at the designated place for parking of the vehicles. He also stressed on ensuring uninterrupted supply of electricity and drinking water at the venue so that devotees may not face any inconvenience.

He asked the Health department to deploy a Medical team at the venue with the availability of all emergency medicines and first aid facilities. He also instructed the stationing of an ambulance to handle any medical emergency.

ADC emphasized the officers of the line departments to ensure all necessary arrangements required for smooth stay and enriching pilgrimage for all visitors on the occasion. He stressed on maintaining proper sanitation at the Temple premises and at the entire pilgrimage route.

On the occasion, ADC interacted with the Administrators and Security Incharge of the Temple and assured of all possible support from the district administration for seamless celebrations of the Raksha Bandhan with great participation of the devotees.

Independence Day arrangements finalized in Handwara

■ HT News Desk

KUPWARA, AUG 8: Tehsildar Handwara, Zeeshan Khan today convened a meeting of all concerned officers on the directions of Additional Deputy Commissioner, ADC Handwara here, to finalise the arrangements for smooth and hassle free celebration of Independence day (ID) 2025.

The meeting held threadbare discussion and the officers gave details of their preparations with regard to smooth celebration of the National Event. The meeting

was informed that the function will start with Shanaivadan at 8:05 AM, while the National Flag hoisting at 10:05 AM.

The meeting was further informed that the main function of independence Day will be held at District police lines (DPL) Kulangam Handwara, where National Flag will be hoisted and the vip will take salute on the March past comprising the contingents of paramilitary Forces, JKP, JKAP, CRPF, BSF, IRP, SSB, FPP, Home Guards, NCC cadets, school children and police band.



The Tehsildar asked all officers to work with coordination and ensure proper arrangements on ground for smooth conduct of the event.

It was given out in the meeting that uninterrupted power and water supply shall be kept available at the venue, for which concerned officers were given

directions on spot. Likewise, BMO Handwara was directed to keep Ambulance available at the venue, Medical Superintendent DH Handwara was asked to

ensure first aid and doctor available at the venue, Municipality Handwara was asked to maintain proper sanitation and cleanliness at the venue and Town area. Other arrangements, were also reviewed which included refreshment, reception of chief Guest, transport, fire and emergency services, cultural programmes, deployment of Magistrates, distribution of invitation cards, selection of officers/officials for recognition of their extraordinary services.

The Tehsildar asked concerned officers to ensure proper exhibition

of schemes through Tableaus to showcase developmental activities of their respective departments and government schemes. He said all efforts shall be made to make the National Function more attractive and informative. The Tehsildar requested concerned officers for maintaining proper protocol in seating arrangements. He also asked officers to ensure their presence including staff in the Independence Day functions and ensure Flag hoisting in their respective offices. Handwara based officers attended the meeting.

Ahsan Pardesi undertakes extensive tour across Lal Chowk constituency

■ Mohammad Hanif Khan

SRINAGAR, AUG 08: In an ongoing effort to stay connected with grassroots issues and ensure timely resolution of public grievances, Ahsan Pardesi, MLA Lal Chowk constituency, conducted an extensive tour across key areas of the constituency.

The tour focused on engaging with local residents, reviewing developmental requirements, and addressing key concerns related to water management, infrastructure, and agriculture.

Accompanied by senior officials, including the Superintending Engineer (SE) and Executive Engineers (Xens) of the Jal Shakti and Irrigation & Flood Control Departments, as well as BDO Khanmouh, the MLA visited various areas, including Athwajan, Zewan, Zawoora, and Khanmouh. During these visits, Pardesi listened attentively to the grievances of residents, ensuring that immediate instructions were given for the resolution of key issues, such as drainage, irrigation, and infrastructure needs.

A special focus of the visit was on Balhama, a locality that has been persistently requesting the restoration of an irrigation canal vital to the agricultural economy of the region. The MLA held detailed discussions with local community members and officials about the safeguarding, desilting, and long-term revival of the canal. He emphasized that restoring this vital water resource would greatly benefit hundreds of farming households by enhancing irrigation and boosting agricultural productivity.

He further stressed the importance of sustainable infrastructure development and called for the prioritization of irrigation projects in upcoming government plans. His visit highlighted the need for collaborative governance between the administration, local community, and civil society to ensure holistic and equitable development in the constituency.

The tour also saw the enthusiastic participation of local residents and civil society members, demonstrating the collective resolve for positive change. Pardesi reaffirmed his commitment to addressing core issues of public welfare, stating that his approach will continue to focus on direct engagement with people and field-level governance.

He was accompanied by the party's local unit functionaries and office bearers.

NIT Srinagar's NCNSC-25 concludes at Pahalgam, speakers call to promote peace, tourism in Kashmir

Event pays homage to April 22 victims, sends a message of peace and normalcy

■ Mohammad Hanif Khan

PAHALGAM, AUG 08: The two-day National Conference on Nano and Supramolecular Chemistry (NCNSC-2025) concluded on Friday in south Kashmir's Pahalgam tourist spot, where speakers from across the country reflected not only on scientific advancements but also on the deep connection between the region's people and its lifeline tourism.

They noted that tourism remains a vital source of sustenance for countless families in Kashmir and stated that the Valley is truly a jewel in the crown of our great democratic nation.

The inaugural address for day 2 was delivered by Prof. Kowsar Majid, Head of the Department of Chemistry and Chairperson of the conference. She said tourism remains a vital source of sustenance for many here. "As scientists and educationists, we carry tender hearts and are deeply moved by the suffering of this land and its people. Kashmir is truly a jewel in the crown of our great democratic nation. May the Almighty continue to protect our country, and especially this treasured part of it," she added.

Prof. Kowsar said one of the significant objectives of holding this part of the conference here in Pahalgam is to pay homage to those who tragically lost their lives in the recent unfortunate incident.

"We strongly condemn the brutal killings. Our hearts are heavy with grief, and we share in the pain of the families who have suffered such an unimaginable loss. We pray for peace for the departed souls and patience and strength for their loved ones," she said.

Prof. Kowsar further said that 15 years ago, the Chemistry department organized a conference whose valedictory function was held at Pahalgam.

She said that nature, nanoscience, and supramolecular science are deeply interconnected. Supramolecular science explores the elegant world of non-covalent interactions and molecular self-assembly,



offering fundamental principles for designing intricate molecular architectures.

"Nanoscience builds upon these principles, allowing us to manipulate materials at the nanoscale where unique and often transformative properties emerge. Nature, in its brilliance, showcases countless such examples from DNA helices and protein complexes to cellular systems," she added.

Dean Alumni and International Affairs NIT Srinagar, Prof. MA Shah said that the aim to host the second day of the conference in Pahalgam was to pay rich tributes who were killed in the April 22 deadly attack, and it is a message to people that now everything is okay in Pahalgam.

"Tourism is the backbone of Kashmir, and that is why people strongly condemned the deadly attack. We are hopeful, things will be normal again," he added. Prof. Shah praised the Department of Chemistry for organising the conference on relevant theme.

The first invited talk of session IV was chaired by Prof. M. A. Shah, Department of Physics, Prof. Nikhil R. Jana, School of Materials Science, Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Kolkata, on the title, Designing Colloidal Nano drugs for Neurodegenerative Diseases

It was followed by a lecture of Dr. Manzoor Ahmad Dar, Department of Chemistry, Islamic University of Science

and Technology, Kashmir, on "Atomically Dispersed Catalysts for CO2 Reduction Reaction: Insights from First Principles Simulations."

Followed by another Speaker: Dr. Fatima Jalid, Department of Chemical Engineering, NIT Srinagar. Her topic focused on "Towards Selective Hydrocarbon Activation: Microkinetic Simulations arm Ab Initio Catalyst Design."

Throughout the sessions, speakers delivered insightful presentations on the latest advancements in nano and supramolecular chemistry, sparking active engagement from the audience.

Participants posed a range of thoughtful and challenging questions, leading to interactive discussions that enriched the exchange of knowledge and ideas during the event.

The conference was anchored by Falak Jahan (PhD Scholar) from Department of Chemistry, NIT Srinagar.

Meanwhile, the Poster Evaluation Session was chaired by Dr. Hirakendu Basu from BARC, Mumbai. In the poster presentation category, Dr. Feroz Sofi secured the first position, Dr. Waseem Arif from NIT Srinagar won second place, and T.M. Amarnath from BARC clinched the third position.

In the oral presentation category, De Kiesar Sadeeq from Department of Chemistry, University of Kashmir bagged the first position, while Dr. Niv-

vedita from IIT Roorkee secured the second place.

A formal vote of thanks was presented by the Organising Secretary of the conference, Dr Ravi Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, NIT Srinagar. He expressed his gratitude to Director, Registrar, Central administration and esteemed resource persons of the conference for making the event successful.

The session was followed by an award ceremony for poster and oral presentation.

The concluding remarks were made by Prof. Kowsar Majid, Head Department of Chemistry and Chairperson NCNSC-25, She expressed her gratitude to Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, Dean R&C Roohi Naaz, Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman, Organizing Secretaries, including Dr. Jigneshkumar V. Rohit and Dr. Ravi Kumar, Central administration of NIT Srinagar, Deans, Heads of Departments, Officer Incharges, Accounts, Security, Sanitation and volunteers for making the event a resounding success.

She also thanked the sponsors of the conference, including ANRF, JKSTIC, J&K Bank, EQUIPRONICS, ANCHROM, SRL, SINSIL INTERNATIONAL and others for making the event successful.

Participants across the country praised the beauty of Kashmir and expressed their willingness to act as ambassadors of trust for Pahalgam.

CUKASHMIR SCHOLARS, STUDENTS ATTEND CHINAR BOOK FEST

■ Mohammad Hanif Khan

SRINAGAR, AUG 8: Under the Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme (VBYP), Dean Student Welfare (DSW), Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir), organized an educational visit for research scholars and students to the Chinar Book Festival-2025 at SKICC here Thursday.

The event, organized by the National Book Trust India, Under the Ministry of Education in collaboration with National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL) and Srinagar district administration, provided a platform for book lovers, aspiring writers, and research enthusiasts from CUKashmir to immerse themselves in literary discussions, book review activities, and open interactions with authors.

The visit offered students an opportunity to explore a diverse collection of literary works, engage in intellectual exchanges, and gain insights into the world of publishing and large-scale literary event management. The participants interacted with Ms. Sadaf Gul, Event Officer, National Book Trust India, who shared her expertise on the planning and execution of the festival. Students exchanged ideas with her and learned about the organizational aspects behind successful literary events. She



elaborated about the objectives of the Chinar Book Festival and emphasized its significance in fostering a culture of reading and intellectual discourse among youth. She hailed the efforts of Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A Ravinder Nath, Dean Students Welfare and administration, for actively encouraging student participation in such events.

Dr. Adil Nazki, Nodal Officer, VBYP, underscored the importance of books in personal and academic

growth. He expressed concern over the declining reading habits among youth and urged students to rekindle their relationship with books.

The programme also featured an Open Talk Session and Book Review conducted by Dr. Samreen Geelani and Dr. Shahnaz Parveen, Youth Officers, DSW, where students and research scholars shared their perspectives on various literary works and engaged in meaningful discussions with the festival organizers.

Sakeena Itoo takes stock of developmental issues of DH Pora Constituency

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, AUG 08: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today chaired a meeting to review various issues pertaining to overall development of DH Pora Constituency.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir ul Shafi Khan; Chief Engineer KPDCL; Joint Director Tourism Kashmir; Executive Engineers of PHE and PDD of Kulgam district, CMO Kulgam and other district officers.

During the meeting, the Minister took stock of various issues pertaining to DH Pora Constituency. She also discussed tourism-related projects and identification of unexplored scenic spots in DH Pora belt.

The Minister emphasized upon the officers to tap the tourism potential of DH Pora and its surrounding areas like Aharbal, Kongwattan, Kounsarnag and Panchan Pathri areas, known for their pristine beauty, rich biodiversity and trekking routes.



She called for exploring the area Panchan Pathri for developing trekking trails and other adventure tourism related activities.

The Minister asked the officers to conduct capacity building and training of local youth in tourism related aspects like tourist guides, home stays, eco-tourism and other associated areas. She stressed on promoting eco-tourism, heritage trails and

rural homestays, in collaboration with local youth and community stakeholders. "Tourism can become a strong pillar for economic upliftment and employment generation for this region if developed sustainably," she asserted.

She called on the officers to look feasibility for developing Paragliding, Zip line, Hot Air balloon and other recreational amenities in the area.

The Minister also called for improved sanitation facilities, wayfinding signage, mobile connectivity and safety measures to encourage longer tourist stays and a more fulfilling visitor experience. She asked for developing the parking places in key tourist destinations of DH Pora Constituency and installing signages for facilitation of visitors.

During the meeting, the Minister also took stock of issues related to electricity and other essential sectors in the district. She directed the Chief Engineer KPDCL to look out for the issue of inflated electricity bills in various far flung areas of DH Pora Constituency.

The Minister also gave directions for renovation of Mini Secretariat building at DH Pora to make it functional and shift government offices to building at the earliest for public good. She also directed the concerned departments to expedite pending works, improve road connectivity to key destinations and ensure timely implementation of eco-friendly infrastructure.

HT EDITORIAL

FRA implementation remains a distant dream in J&K

The Forest Rights Act (FRA) was introduced across the country to give rights to the people living near the forest areas and in some cases inside the forests. The spirit of the Act is to ensure that no further damage whatsoever is caused to the green gold of the country. The Act was enacted in 2006 and with the passage of time it has done wonders in different states or union territories of the country.

As far as Jammu & Kashmir is concerned the Act was enacted in 2019 after Article 370 was abrogated and the erstwhile state was downgraded into two union territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. According to official government data, a total of 46,090 claims were submitted under the Forest Rights Act in Jammu & Kashmir. Out of these claims 33,233 individual claims were submitted while as the rest 12,857 are community claims.

Out of these, an overwhelming 39,924 claims, approximately 85 percent claims have been rejected. These include 32,727 individual claims and 7,197 community claims. Such an extraordinarily high rate of rejection places Jammu & Kashmir among the worst-performing regions in India in terms of FRA implementation. This is not merely an administrative issue, it is a legal and moral failure and a betrayal of the very communities that the FRA was enacted to empower. The mass rejection of the FRA claims has cast a shadow on the implementation of FRA in the union territory.

The people at helm need to come out of the mindset that the people living near the forests or inside the forests plunder the green gold. In fact these people are the real custodians of the forests and only they can protect the remaining forest cover in the union territory. The present world believes in coexistence and as such each and every section of society should allow the other sections to live. This would ensure that feelings, aspirations and emotions of all the people are taken into consideration.

The forest rights activists in Jammu & Kashmir have alleged that basic legal processes of the Act have been flouted. They said the claims are being dismissed at the Gram Sabha or SDLC level without revision, appeal or proper justification. They said that the same has led to interference in Gram Sabha deliberations, suppression of community evidence, mis-information about legal entitlements and no legal aid or awareness-building for claimants. For the success of FRA it is important that legal provisions are followed by government and other stakeholders.

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The Pressure of Performance: What Grades Can't Show



By Tyima Bilal

A Mark Sheet and a Broken Spirit

In the eyes of the world, grades often appear as the final word on intelligence, effort, and success. They are printed on report cards, highlighted in merit lists, and whispered in family circles like badges of honor or shame. But what if we paused for a moment and asked: What do grades really show? And what do they hide?

A girl clutches her report card, eyes scanning the page in disbelief. Her score is lower than expected. She knows what's coming. Her father, who worked double shifts to pay her fees, had said, "Bas iss baar ache marks le aa phir tujhse kuch nahi chahiye." The tears don't fall until the door is closed. No one sees the hours she stayed up memorizing terms until her vision blurred. No one sees how she skipped meals, ignored headaches, and pushed through chest-tightening anxiety.

All they see is a NUMBER.

The Unseen Struggles Behind a Score

Grades are numbers. Emotions are not. No grade can measure the trembling hands of a student battling anxiety before an exam. It doesn't reflect the tears wiped away at 3 a.m. while cramming under pressure. It can't calculate the courage it takes to sit through a paper with a sick parent at home, a broken heart, or a mind fighting depression.

A poor grade on a paper doesn't show the emotional labor it took just



to show up that day. Every mark sheet holds stories untold. A "fail" may hide a panic attack.

A "just pass" might be someone's greatest victory.

An "average score" could belong to someone battling loss, grief, heartbreak, or even depression.

But no grade sheet says:

Fought anxiety but didn't give up

Helped a friend through a breakdown the night before exam

Had the courage to appear despite failing last year

For many students, especially in competitive fields like medicine, engineering, or civil services, grades feel like a verdict on their worth. One bad score can feel like the end of a dream. But that's not the truth.

The World Only Applauds the "Topper"

We live in a society that glorifies

the "topper", but forgets the late bloomers, the quiet fighters, the slow but steady learners. Not everyone shines in a timed exam. Some students are deep thinkers, others are visual learners, some excel in practical work and yet, all are judged by the same written test.

Is that fair?

There are students who may never top a test, but go on to become excellent doctors, compassionate officers, or powerful changemakers because of their emotional strength, resilience, and real-world understanding. Because grades are public. But pain is private. Because comparison is constant. And empathy is rare. It's not the grade that breaks you. It's watching love fade from the eyes of family, teachers and friends that once believed in you. It hurts because failure is loud. And support is silent.

Rewriting the Narrative

It's time to redefine success. A

student's future does not lie in a mark sheet, but in their mindset. Yes, grades are important, but they are not everything. We need to raise a generation that values learning over scoring, that understands failure is a step not a stop. We need parents and teachers who see beyond marks, who ask, "How are you feeling?" before "How did you score?"

A student is not a number. A mark sheet is not a mirror. And your journey is not over because of one exam. Behind every grade is a story, one that deserves to be heard, honored, and held with care. So when someone shows you their score, don't just ask, "What did you get?"

Ask them, "How are you feeling?" Because sometimes, that one question can save a life.

The author is a Medical student and regular columnist exploring life between heartbeats and headlines.

AMU: Where I Met Myself



Faheem ul Islam

Aligarh Muslim University—just the name holds a weight, a soul of its own. A hundred years may have passed, but within its red-bricked silence lives something timeless. Built on the dream of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, AMU is more than a university—it is a world, a feeling, a quiet revolution that continues with every student who walks its path.

I still remember the first time I stepped inside the gates—as a student of Sayyid Hamid Senior Secondary School. A boy of sixteen, alone and unsure, carrying a small suitcase and a heart full of questions. Everything felt overwhelming—the grandeur of the buildings, the strangers who would become companions, the history breathing through every corridor. I didn't know it then, but I had just stepped into a place that would slowly, patiently, change me forever.

Over the years—from intermediate to graduation, and then through a Master's in Strategic and Security Studies—AMU became my canvas, my compass. It gave me more than books or lectures. It offered me myself.

Learning here wasn't confined to the four walls of a classroom. It was scattered everywhere—in Maulana Azad Library's deep silence, in heated evening debates under hostel lampposts, in the hush of 5 a.m. walks through tree-lined paths. This university speaks, if you know how to listen.

Somewhere in between, I found my words. Writing didn't come to me as a profession—it arrived like a whisper, a calling I couldn't ignore. I didn't plan to become an author. I simply wrote because I had something that needed to be said. In those moments, AMU wasn't just a background—it was the soil in which my voice grew. I wrote three books during my time here—not for fame, but to honour the gift of expression this place gave me.

But it wasn't all beautiful. There were days of isolation, long nights filled with self-doubt, and mornings when nothing felt enough. AMU never



promised perfection—it only promised a space to grow. And it delivered. In the stillness of its mornings, in the quiet kindness of friends, in the resilience built after every failure—I found pieces of strength I never knew I had.

Through my department, I learned to understand the larger world—geopolitics, strategy, power. But through AMU's everyday life, I learned something greater: compassion, humility, patience. It shaped not just my intellect, but my character. That's the kind of education you don't find in syllabi.

What makes AMU truly extraordinary is that it doesn't demand brilliance—it simply asks you to be present. To show up, heart and soul. And when you do, it meets you. That's exactly what happened with me.

Even now, as an alumnus, its essence walks with me. In the way I write, speak, listen. In how I carry my identity. I don't see AMU as something I left behind—I carry it forward, wherever I go. It taught me not just how to succeed, but how to stay ground-

ed. To remain human.

I often wonder—what would have become of me had I not come here? I might have still written, still lived, but I wouldn't have become in the way I did. AMU gave structure to my chaos, language to my silence, and belonging in moments when I felt like a stranger to myself.

To be an Alig is not merely to own a degree—it is to carry a legacy. Of resistance, of refinement, of learning that changes lives quietly and deeply. A legacy written in red bricks, and carried in hearts.

For me, above everything, AMU is the place where I first met myself. And once you've truly met yourself, you never go back.

Faheem ul Islam is an Author, public speaker hailing from Achan Pulwama and has done his masters in international politics from AMU. He can be reached at faheemulislam9@gmail.com



■ Rayees Ahmad Kumar

Ganderbal is renowned for its pleasant climate and lush meadows of Mohandmarg, Gangabal, and Sonamarg, attracting thousands of visitors from across

generation with this illustrious past, which has produced a number of eminent social, political, and religious leaders who are remembered for their tireless service to the people.

Adding a new chapter to Ganderbal's literary pride is a young prodigy, Bhat Sehran, who, at the tender age of twelve, has authored dozens of books and achieved exceptional success. His works span across diverse themes such as history, culture, social issues, and the rising moral degradation in society. His writings reflect his profound love for literature and religion. With meticulously crafted articles and books of great relevance, he has earned numerous awards and accolades, including the National Literature Award

Bhat Sehran's The Heart of Kashmir - My Ganderbal

the globe throughout the year. The opening of the Gaganger Tunnel last year has further boosted its tourism potential, ensuring connectivity even during the harsh winter months when the region was earlier cut off from the rest of the world.

Beyond its natural beauty, Ganderbal boasts a rich cultural heritage, a glorious history, and a remarkable political legacy that needs to be explored and preserved. It is imperative to acquaint our younger

and Uttam Bharat Puraskaar, cementing his place as an emerging literary figure of great promise.

Now, this inspiring young author presents yet another impactful contribution titled "My Ganderbal" – a heartfelt tribute to the history, culture, and rich heritage of his homeland. In this compilation, the author has endeavored to encompass the cultural essence, historical significance, scenic beauty, and prominent personalities of Ganderbal. While this



may not be an exhaustive account, the concise and well-researched content offers valuable insights for knowledge seekers eager to learn about Ganderbal's past and present.

I firmly believe that this book will serve as a meaningful and long-lasting resource, especially for school and college-going students. Educational institutions should make efforts to include it in their libraries, enabling students to understand and appreciate their local heritage and cultural identity. The author has not based this compilation merely on myths or hearsay; rather, through thorough research, referencing official websites and digital archives, he

has ensured authenticity and credibility in presenting this work to readers.

This edition marks the debut of "My Ganderbal", providing an introductory glimpse. In future editions, greater efforts will be made to incorporate detailed accounts of places, lands, eminent personalities, and the region's rich heritage.

I sincerely recommend this book to students, teachers, and literature enthusiasts. It is a literary journey that will surely captivate hearts and enlighten minds.

Writer is a columnist based in Qazigund Kashmir

Bilal Ahmad Lone: A Light of Knowledge, Poetry, and Humanity OR Bilal Qasir: The Eternal Flame of Poetry, Faith, and Humanity



■ Mohammad Arfat Wani

The dawn of every societal or intellectual change always begins with the struggles and tireless efforts of a few remarkable individuals who dare to rise above the ordinary and ignite the flame of transformation. Such individuals illuminate the world with their existence, they are like guiding stars in the night sky whose light spreads even in the darkest corners of human despair. Their presence is not just a blessing; their words, actions, and thoughts become lamps that light the way for others. Among such extraordinary personalities shines the name of Bilal Ahmad Lone, a man whose life combines the essence of knowledge, spirituality, humanitarianism, and poetic brilliance. His work, like his character, not only brings peace to restless hearts but also offers spiritual solace to those searching for truth and meaning. His personality stands as a reminder that the power of words and actions can change lives and leave an everlasting impact on society.

Bilal Ahmad Lone was born into a family where education, religion, and culture have always been cherished. This strong lineage gave him the environment where learning was not only encouraged but celebrated as a way of life. From his early years, he showed remarkable intellectual growth, understanding that education is the key that opens the door to countless opportunities. With a deep passion for learning, he pursued his studies with dedication, eventually earning his M.A. and B.Ed degrees. But his journey did not stop with acquiring knowledge; he chose to share it. Entering the noble profession of teaching, he became not just an educator but also a mentor who shaped the ethics, character, and vision of his students. In every classroom where he taught, he was not merely delivering lessons from textbooks but instilling values and life lessons that would stay with his students forever. His teaching became a means of building not just minds but also hearts.

Beyond academics, Bilal Ahmad Lone's

soul found its truest expression in poetry. Under the pen name Bilal Qasir, he emerged as a poet whose verses carried the fragrance of spirituality and the depth of human emotions. His poetry is not just a beautiful arrangement of words; it is a mirror to the soul, a truthful narrative that speaks directly to the reader's heart. The delicacy of his words and the depth of his thoughts make his ghazals a journey through mysticism, divine love, and the realities of life. Every verse he writes resonates with feelings of love, pain, and spiritual awakening, drawing the reader closer to understanding themselves and their connection to the world. His poetry is like a river flowing gently yet powerfully, touching every heart that comes near it and leaving behind a trace of profound wisdom.

One of the most striking qualities of Bilal Ahmad Lone is his deep spirituality and his constant engagement with the remembrance of Allah and His beloved Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). This spiritual connection breathes life into his poetry, filling it with faith, hope, and guidance. Through his verses, one can feel the immense love and reverence he holds for the Divine. His poetry often speaks about the transient nature of this world, the fragility of human life, and the ultimate truth that everything returns to its Creator. At the same time, it carries a gentle yet powerful message to turn towards Allah's love and seek peace in His guidance. This essence of spirituality makes his poetry not only an artistic expression but also a source of inspiration for those who read it.

Along with spirituality, there is a strong humanitarian spirit that runs through Bilal Ahmad Lone's life and work. He believes that the true value of life lies not in personal achievements but in serving humanity. This belief is reflected in both his actions and his poetry. His ghazals often carry messages of love, peace, brotherhood, and unity, encouraging people to rise above divisions and embrace compassion. His words have a reformist nature, calling for kindness and understanding in a world where such values are often forgotten. Through his poetry, he reminds people of the importance of helping others and living a life that benefits not only oneself but also the community.

The power of Bilal Ahmad Lone's poetry lies in its ability to make readers reflect deeply on their own lives. Every line is filled with thought and philosophy, prompting the reader to pause and think



about their own existence. His words are simple yet profound, making his poetry accessible to everyone while carrying meanings that reach the depths of the soul. Whether he writes about love, pain, loneliness, or divine connection, each verse leaves an imprint on the heart.

In one of his ghazals, he writes:

Your heart is lost in your assumptions and you are lost in the infinite sky. I saw you within myself, where did you disappear in the heavens? Even from the soul, your connection is lost, why did you lose yourself in mere flesh and bone? Thus, you will lose to me, for my arrow has been lost in the bow. The secret of both companions is the world, man is lost in between them. In search of identity, Qasir, you are lost only within your own family.

These lines reflect the inner struggle of self-discovery and the pain of losing oneself in illusions. They hold a mirror to

humanity, reminding us that our true identity lies within the soul, not in worldly attachments.

In another ghazal, he writes:

Such weariness shakes my body, but still, I come to rest at your feet. Inside me, something speaks louder, let someone silence this silence. Where everyone was engrossed in their happiness, I too shed some tears. Facing a generation of Pharaohs, may a staff of Moses come and save us. The world humiliates and degrades, it is foolish to give your heart to it. When one day, all will turn to dust, why do we try to build ourselves into a mountain? Loneliness has nurtured me, where can Qasir gather a gathering?

These verses speak of loneliness, the futility of pride, and the hope for divine intervention. They express the cries of a soul yet also show its resilience and strength.

The life and poetry of Bilal Ahmad Lone form a beautiful harmony of intellect,

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Along with spirituality, there is a strong humanitarian spirit that runs through Bilal Ahmad Lone's life and work. He believes that the true value of life lies not in personal achievements but in serving humanity. This belief is reflected in both his actions and his poetry. His ghazals often carry messages of love, peace, brotherhood, and unity, encouraging people to rise above divisions and embrace compassion

spirituality, and humanity. He is not only a poet or teacher but a torchbearer whose light continues to guide those seeking truth and beauty. His words are filled with sincerity, healing wounds, and offering hope. They remind us that in the chaos of life, there is always a path leading to love, peace, and divine connection. Through his poetry, he has given the world not just verses but a vision of life that is pure and everlasting. Personalities like Bilal Ahmad Lone are rare; they live not only for themselves but for others, leaving behind a legacy that continues to inspire generations. His name, his poetry, and his message will remain immortal in the hearts of those who read and understand him, for Bilal Qasir is not just a poet but an identity of love, faith, and humanity whose light will never fade.

The author is a passionate writer, social activist, and medical student, hails from Kuchmulla Tral. His email address is wania6817@gmail.com

Dr. Abdul Wahid Mir

The Onco-Surgeon Who Transformed Cancer Care in Kashmir



■ Dr. Basharat Khan

In an exclusive conversation with Dr Basharat Khan, Professor Dr Abdul Wahid Mir; the Valley's first cancer surgeon and the current Head of the Department of Surgical Oncology at SKIMS recounted his inspiring journey from the serene, forest-clad village of Mankal to the commanding heights of cancer surgery in Kashmir. Despite an early setback, when his name was inexplicably omitted from the published MBBS 1985 merit list despite a strong performance in the entrance examination, he remained undeterred. Guided by quiet determination and a profound sense of purpose, he went on to carve a distinguished path in medicine, ultimately returning to lead the very institution as Head of Surgical Oncology at SKIMS.

First, let me share with you a glimpse of my background. What is now known as Tehsil Langate was earlier part of Tehsil Handwara. At its far end lies a remote village called Mankal, comprising merely 15 to 16 households. It was a forested area, and I was born there into a modest yet respected family; not too poor, not very rich.

My father was a simple man who worked on a in a private Forest firm. Though he lacked formal education, he was literate and deeply passionate about learning. Recognising the value of education, he decided to send me to Lolab, to my maternal uncle's house, where the environment was academically nurturing and the family well-known for their educational pursuits. Thus, my early education began there in a local primary school.

Later, I was admitted to Government High School Tekipora in the 6th standard, after completing primary education at Dorusa Wani in Lolab. From class 6 onwards, I consistently topped my class. In 9th grade, although I was unsure about taking the medical stream, my headmaster, Shri Jawahir Lal Pishen, encouraged me in 1981 to pursue it. I still remember him fondly; he would jokingly call me "Mankan" and say, "You will remember me one day"—and indeed, I do.

During the matriculation exams, I was unwell, but by the grace of Allah (SWT), I still secured 65%—the highest in both my school and the examination centre (Govt High School Lalpora). That record stood unbeaten for many years. I then enrolled in Govt Higher Secondary School Sogam for classes 11 and 12, scoring 62% in my 12th. However, I was dissatisfied, as I felt my efforts weren't fairly reflected in the marks.

One of four lecturers, Mr. Ahanger Sahib, reassured me, saying that I was eligible to appear for the MBBS entrance test, and that marks didn't matter as much—what mattered was my preparation.

I joined Amar Singh College and began preparing for the entrance exam alongside my studies. I appeared for the MBBS entrance, and when the results were published in the newspaper, my name wasn't on the list. One of my uncles brought the newspaper to me, and I told him calmly, "Perhaps Allah (SWT) has something better planned for me."

Time passed, and I continued my studies. But one day, the same uncle, with firm belief in my abilities, said he still saw a doctor in me and couldn't believe I hadn't qualified. That sparked a thought in my mind: before preparing again, I should at least verify my result.

The next day, I visited the Medical College and inquired about my scorecard. To my utter shock, I had qualified the entrance exam, but my name had been omitted from the published list. This was around March 1986, although the result was declared in December 1985.

I was stunned and asked the administrative officer to re-check. He confirmed my roll number and identity, and when he read out my marks, I was taken aback—they were higher than those of many selected candidates. I requested a copy of my marks card, which I safely carried home.

Upon reaching home, I shared the news with my family. My elder brother, Lateef Sahib, immediately took my certificates and a written application and waited outside the Secretariat to meet the then Chief Minister, Mr. G. M. Shah. As soon as the CM's cavalcade arrived, my brother breached security and handed over the documents, narrating the entire episode. Unknowingly, he had also submitted my original certificates along with the application.

When I heard this, I was distressed and proposed



we travel to Jammu to retrieve them. After a few days, we reached the Secretariat in Jammu. There, I spotted a nameplate of the Additional Secretary, Health & Trainings Branch—the same person who had signed the selection list. We waited outside his office. When he met us, he recognised us as being from the Bangus area. He said that the Chief Minister had forwarded my documents to him and assured us the matter was being looked into. He asked us to return the next day to collect my original certificates.

That moment gave us a glimmer of hope.

My brother then suggested we also visit our local MLA, Mohammad Sultan Pandithpuri, who was known to us personally. He welcomed us warmly, listened patiently, and showed great humility and concern. We stayed with him for a few days, and the next day, we collected the documents from the Additional Secretary, who reassured us that the case was under review.

However, before a resolution could be reached, the G. M. Shah government fell. My brother returned home while I stayed at Mr. Pandithpuri's residence. I remain indebted to him for his hospitality—may Allah bless him with Jannah.

One day, a group of veterinary doctors staying in the same building told me they planned to meet Dr. Farooq Abdullah, who was expected to form the next government. I requested them to take me along. They first met him at the NC headquarters and shared their grievances. When my turn came, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, being in a hurry, asked the NC Provincial President (Jammu), Mr. Rajinder Singh Chib, to look into my matter.

As if by fate, Mr. Chib assumed I had some personal connection with Dr. Farooq and received me with warmth. Over tea, I narrated the whole story and handed him the documents. He immediately called the Advisor to the Governor, Mr. Jameel Qureshi for an appointment which was foxed next day afternoon and Mr Chib asked me to visit his residence next day morning.

The following day, I visited Mr. Chib's government residence, which was overcrowded. His PRO told me to wait, as Mr. Chib had asked for me specifically. Once Mr. Chib came out, he personally took me in his car to meet the Advisor at the Secretariat. Mr. Jameel Qureshi, after listening to me, summoned the Additional Secretary (Trainings) at 3 p.m. that day, asking for a detailed explanation of how I had been excluded despite qualifying.

While this was happening, I was seated in the office of the Private secretary to Advisor, Mr. Azad Sahib—a kind and supportive gentleman. He reassured me that my case would be processed on a fast-track basis, acknowledging the ordeal I had faced. When the Additional Secretary arrived, he too acknowledged the error.

A few days later, I again visited the Secretariat to check on the progress. Mr. Azad informed me that my case had been resolved and that my selection letter order had been dispatched by post. When I said I hadn't received it, he instructed me to immediately visit the medical college.

When I visited the Academic Department at Government Medical College Srinagar and informed them that my selection letter had arrived, they confirmed it. I had some money with me, so I didn't need to return home for the fee. I completed the necessary formalities on the spot, submitted the form along with the admission fee, and secured admission to GMC Srinagar.

For my friends, it came as a complete surprise. Even though I met a few of them at the medical college, I didn't share anything. I waited until my admission was final. When I attended my first class, signed the attendance register, and entered my roll number, only then did I feel assured that my admission had truly happened. Later, when my friends saw me in class, they expressed their disappointment for not being informed earlier. I explained that I hadn't told anyone because I wanted to be sure myself. I said, "Truth is when it happens." Now, I was finally certain that I had been admitted to the MBBS first year.

Initially, joining the first-year class was extremely difficult. Five months had already passed, and honestly, everything in class felt like a foreign language—like Persian. I would return hostel from college overwhelmed and lost in thought, unsure of what to do. Often, I would hide under my blanket and imagine what my future would be. One day, I shook myself out of this state, telling myself, "It would be cowardice to quit. If I don't complete my first professional year, what will people think of me?" Gradually, I began to cope and catch up with the syllabus.

I'd like to share an interesting story here. When the first professional MBBS exams were held, I passed on my first attempt while many others failed. My marks weren't very high—around 53%—but it was a moment of pride.

After that, I made steady progress every year. In the second professional examination, I secured 59%, and eventually, in the prefinal and final MBBS, I scored nearly 62%. My pre-final and final MBBS scores were particularly strong. During my medical studies, I was a shy and focused student, dedicated to my academics. Even today, when I speak with my classmates—many of whom are well-settled in the USA and Europe—they still recall my shyness.

I remember when Zia-ul-Haq died in an air crash, the situation in the Kashmir Valley was extremely tense. At the time, a rumour spread that a doctor had died in the Batamaloo incident—and some thought it was me. In reality, I was in Lolab at my maternal uncle's home. It was the harvesting season—probably October. Back then, we had no access to telephones.

Dr Girja Dhar, our respected principal at GMC Srinagar, heard the news and immediately contacted the SHO of Handwara. The SHO called my father and relayed the news. From that point on, my father began visiting the police station daily to inquire about my whereabouts.

On my way back from Lolab to Srinagar, I met a relative in Kupwara and asked him to inform my father that I was safe and heading back to college. When I returned to Srinagar, I learned that the GMC administration and students were planning a condolence visit to my home. Fortunately, that relative met my father and cousin, who were on their way to the police station. He greeted them and said, "I met your son in Kupwara. He is fine and has left for Srinagar." My father sighed with deep relief, and his face lit up with joy. The news spread quickly—I was alive.

During my student life, I received immense love and affection from both teachers and seniors. One particular incident still brings a smile to my face. When I joined GMC Srinagar, ragging was common, and often very harsh. A senior from Hyderabad, along with a few others, was known for intimidating juniors. One day, they called me in for ragging. I entered the room trembling. He looked at me and said, "Oh, you with the thin beard—can you recite the Holy Qur'an?" I replied, "Yes, I can." He asked, "How many Surahs have you memorised?" I told him I had memorised Surah Al-Baqarah, Surah Yaseen, Surah Mulk, and Surah Muzammil and some part of Amm sparrah.

On hearing this, he immediately asked me to sit and called a friend to bring me a cup of tea. Then he asked me to recite a Surah. I did. He was so impressed that he declared in the hostel, "If anyone touches this boy, I won't spare them!" He even helped me with books. After that, I felt more secure and respected. I would lead the prayers and Taraweeh during Ramadan, and I was deeply loved in the hostel and college.

In 1991, I completed my MBBS and the following year, my internship. I did house jobs in Orthopaedics and ENT at GMC Srinagar. Afterwards, I was posted at Wadder Payeen. However, militancy in the region was at its peak and I was very much worried whether I could stay there.

One day, while walking through SMHS Hospital, I met Dr Abdul Ahad, a veteran and highly disciplined ENT professor under whom I had worked during my house job. Students feared and respected him deeply. As he walked down the GMC corridor, no one would dare cross paths with him. When he saw me, he placed his hand on my shoulder, and I felt a profound sense of honour.

He asked, "How is your officership?"

I replied, "Sir, the situation there is terrible. I'm very distressed."

He said, "Come back."

I asked, "Is that even possible, Sir?"

He replied, "Why not? Bring an application."

As my appointment was adhoc, I submitted the application by 3 p.m. He marked it to the principal. The principal initially refused, stating that doctors were already being relieved to serve in the field. But Dr Ahad insisted over the phone, saying, "He is a good and dedicated boy. I need one house surgeon. Please post him here." Eventually, I received the order and rejoined the ENT department.

While working there, I saw a notification for junior resident posts at SKIMS and applied. I got selected and informed Dr Ahad that I was leaving. He wished me the best without a trace of anger. I joined SKIMS and worked there for a while, until I was again posted to Handwara on ad hoc basis. In October 1997, my PSC confirmation came through, and I was posted at Kalamabad dispensary.

Despite the prevailing militancy, I remained punctual and dedicated. I took great care of patients and even made home visits during emergencies—without charging a rupee during off-duty hours.

During one of Mr Chowdhary Ramzan Sahib's visits, I happened to be absent, and 38 employees were suspended. But when my name came up, the

Continue On Page 9



locals stood up for me. They said, "If our doctor is absent today, there must be a genuine reason. Otherwise, he is always here and very helpful." Despite being absent, and even though a local politician was against me, I was not suspended. That gesture of support from the people of Kalamabad remains one of the most touching moments of my career.

In 1997, I got married. Earlier, I had applied for a PG course, and to my joy, I was selected.

In June 1998, I joined the Diploma in Anaesthesia at GMC Srinagar. During that time, I appeared for more entrance exams, as my primary interest was in surgical fields. Back then, PG entrance exams were conducted by both SKIMS and the Competent Authority. I cleared both. Though I had completed the course duration for the Diploma, I didn't appear in the final exam, as I had now joined MS Surgery at SKIMS in February 20.

I completed my MS Surgery and later enrolled in a two-year Senior Residency. After that, I was selected for a fellowship in Minimal Access Surgery at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi. However, at the last moment, I was not allowed to join by the authorities and it was a huge disappointment for me.

A friend noticed my distress and asked what had happened. After I narrated everything, he said, "Why are you worried about minimal access surgery? Why not try cancer surgery? There is no cancer surgeon in our valley." His words ignited something in me. I began researching surgical oncology. Very few institutes offered it at that time.

One day, while I was in the library, I received a call from the Nizam's Institute. They told me about a new fellowship in surgical oncology and asked me to apply via their website. At the time, I wasn't tech-savvy, but the library staff helped me download the form. I filled it and posted it.

Eventually, I was called for an interview. After my interview, a clerk asked me to wait. I was surprised because I had already been interviewed. But I was called in again—this time to meet the Director, Dean, HODs, and Executive Registrars.

They told me, "Relax, we've already completed your interview. We just want to discuss something else." They said, "You're on a good salary and have a family. Here, you'll receive only a stipend."

They asked, "What will you do about all this?" I simply replied, "It doesn't bother me."

I returned home and informed my family that I had appeared for the interview and was hopeful of being selected. After some time, I personally contacted the institute. The concerned clerk informed

me over the phone that I had indeed been selected and that the appointment letter had already been dispatched by post. However, since I had not yet joined, he cautioned that only three days remained before the waiting list would be released.

I explained that I had not received any such letter, but assured him that I would report immediately. Without delay, I faxed a confirmation of my intent to join and, on the same day, packed my belongings and left for the institute.

I joined the programme in April 2006. This time, I did not seek prior permission, having already had relevant experience. I made a firm decision—regardless of the consequences, I would pursue the course. I successfully completed my training in oncosurgery. After its completion, I received an offer from the Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute for a position one step higher than the one I had initially applied for. However, I chose not to accept the offer. Instead, I returned to Kashmir and approached the Health Department, expressing my desire to rejoin.

They informed me that I was listed as being on "unauthorised absence," and that rejoining would require administrative approval—a process that would take time. I understood their position. In the meantime, I applied for a Senior Residency at Pandit B.D. Sharma Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences in Haryana—a government institution on par with AIIMS—and was selected. I served there for nine months before returning to the Valley.

In 2009, a friend invited me to attend a National AYUSH Conference. I accepted the invitation and participated in the event. During the conference, the then Union Health Minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad, addressed the issue of brain drain, stating that it must be prevented and that the government should retain and accommodate highly qualified doctors.

Inspired by these remarks, I met the Director of Health Services Kashmir and introduced myself. Recognising the shortage of surgeons in the region, and without waiting for formal administrative approval, he issued an order appointing me to Handwara until the necessary clearance could be obtained from the Health and Medical Education Department.

I joined at Handwara. Meanwhile, the Public Service Commission (PSC) notified new posts for Consultants. I applied and was selected. After selection, I was posted as Consultant at Langate. However, the situation there was far from ideal—there was no anaesthetist, no functional operation theatre. Still, I reported for duty daily and worked from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

One day, a colleague informed me that my case had been discussed in a departmental meeting chaired by the then Health Minister, Sham Lal Sharma. He had questioned how an oncosurgeon could be posted at a facility with no operation theatre or anaesthetist, asking pointedly: "What will he do there?" He ordered that my services be properly utilised without delay.

Dr Saleem ur Rehman, then Director of Health Services Kashmir, agreed and stated that he would assign me to a more appropriate post. Soon after, I received a call from the Directorate, instructing me to meet Dr Saleem ur Rehman. During our meeting, he asked me to visit JLN Hospital, inspect the operation theatre and other facilities, and report back. At that point, I was unaware of the purpose behind the visit.

I visited JLN Hospital, examined the operation theatre, and met the Medical Superintendent. Upon my return to the Directorate, the Director asked, "How are the facilities there?" I replied, "Everything is in order." He then said, "If we start a Department of Oncosurgery at JLN, can you lead it?"

Without hesitation, I responded, "Of course. I will do it."

A proposal was submitted and subsequently approved. A few months later, in July 2011, I was officially posted at JLN Hospital as Oncosurgeon.

I started my practice completely in oncology. Alhamdulillah I got bestowed with success. One day in sep-oct 2012 a grand function was organised by the department in Dental college auditorium. I was called and told to attend the function tomorrow in a beautiful attire. I was not knowing about the event. I attended the programme. Suddenly they announced my name under special performance award for conducting oncosurgeries in JK Health sector in 2012. This award was given to me by Minister of Health JK, along with Com Secretary HME, Director Health Services Kashmir, and in that pic Dr Abdul Kabir Dar who is currently Secretary ARI & Training is also present.

This became a base for me and in 2013 I got selected as Assistant Professor Surgical oncology SKIMS. Once I joined as Assistant Professor SKIMS there were other colleagues also. The department moved on and now I am heading the department as HOD Surgical Oncology SKIMS.

Practically this whole credit of my achievements goes to my parents, maternal uncles and spouse Mrs Aesha Parveen. Because When I went to Hyderabad for training. We had two kids, older one was in first class and younger in LKG. She didn't stop me from joining the institute. I almost remained there for three years. After

coming back my only work was to leave at 8AM and enter at 11PM. During this period my wife never complained anything. Sometimes I would even forget about in which classes my kids study. One day I went to bring my kids back from school. I was searching then in 4th class and suddenly a lady teacher came to me and said your kid is in 5th class. Even I was not knowing it.

Now my children are young. But they never complaint anything about. My wife was working in judiciary but nowadays she is the domestic engineer.

My elder son Mohd Haris Mir a LLB Graduate has qualified UPSC twice in 2024, and in this year too. He is already working a Assistant Comissioner Income Tax and recently he again qualified UPSC to improve his rank and succeeded in doing so and is joining IAS academy on 25 th August 2025 Insha-Allah and my younger daughter, Hadiya Wahid is doing graduation in cluster University.

I have performed more than 2000 major surgeries and I have performed all types of Surgeries from breast, thyroid, GIT, ovarian. Uterine cancer surgeries.

I believe, our food and our life style, pollution and other factors are responsible in rise in cancer disease in JK. But personally speaking Cancers were there before and in the current scenario detection rate has tremendously increased. Earlier it was not detected. Patient was having cancer and would expire undetected, undiagnosed and it was not known that he or she has died of cancer disease. I have personally seem many patients who were earlier treated by some doctors and they never consulted onco specialist. They were told you have nothing and they later came to me and I told them I am not satisfied. You please do these investigations and later I found there is a cancer and it got established. It is all due to detection process otherwise it would have remained undetected and progressed. Now a days cancer detection rate has increased manifold.

The common opinion prevailing in general masses that there is no treatment to cancer is totally wrong. If detected in time it can properly treated and cured. Cancer treatment has now revolutionised. Many patients serve even after diagnosis with proper treatment. Every faculty of medical science advanced a lot and there are better treatment options available. And it has revolutionised the care and cure process

Dr Basharat Khan is a writer/ Columnist and author of the book Literary Beats. He can be reached at chogalwriter76@gmail.com

HT - HEALTH TIPS

4 Simple Steps to Build Healthy Habits

1

Start Small

Focus on one habit at a time to avoid overwhelm

2

Be Consistent

Create a routine to make the habit stick

3

Track Your Progress

Use journals or apps to monitor your daily improvements

4

Stay Accountable

Share your goals with friends or family for support

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Public Notice:

Non-Involvement certificate in favour of Managing body members of "Elves Garden Education Institute, Handwara, Kupwara. As per the official order No: DMK/JC/2024/5373503/333 Dated: 21-02-2025

S. No	Name Of the Individual	Parentage	Residence
01	Shameem Ahmad Shah	Gh Ud Din Shah	Nelipora ,Magam.
02	Zainab Binti Gani	Ab Gani Ahanger	Handwara.
03	Nazim Ahmad Qurashi	Nazir Ahmad Qurashi	Hangah, Handwara.
04	Aijaz Ahmad Pir	Saif Ud Din Pir	Hangah, Handwara.
05	Bashir Ahmad Dar	Abdul Rahim Dar	Waskhur, Handwara.
06	Shakeel Ahmad Shah	Qaisar Ahmad Shah	Nelipora, Magam.
07	Shabir Ahmad Lone	Abdul Ahad Lone	Vodhpora.

As per the current ground verification, under order No. CID/NIC/SCH/24/0428/000053 Dated: 31-01-2025, there is nothing adverse against the below-mentioned individuals till date.
Elves Garden Education Institute, Handwara, Kupwara.

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my husband name WALI MOHAMMAD DAR R/O KAWOOSA . Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0206050006875 wants to be registered on my name HAJRA BEGUM W/O LATE WALI MOHAMMAD DAR R/O KAWOOSA .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name...HAJRA BEGUM.
W/O ... LATE WALI MOHAMMAD DAR
R/O KAWOOSA
division.... NARBAL

Public Notice

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the name of my son has been incorrectly recorded as Azan Aarif Dar in official records. The correct name is Hamza Aarif Dar. I Mohd.Aarif Dar, father of the child, have applied for the correction of name in the records.

If any person or authority has any objection to the proposed correction, they may submit their objection in writing to the Executive Officer, Municipal Council Anantnag within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the stipulated time, the correction shall be carried out as requested.

Applicant: mohd.Aarif Dar S/O Mohd Jabar Dar
R/O Berigam

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Wagoora (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Death of ZAIBA BEGUM GM/O SAKEENA BEGUM R/O WATERGAM Tehsil WAGOORA Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Death as 15/01 /2015 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection.

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of death certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Wagoora

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Wagoora (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Death of RAFEEQA BEGUM W/O MOHD YOUSUF R/O WATERGAM Tehsil WAGOORA Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Death as 23/08 /2016 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection.

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of death certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Wagoora

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer, PW (R&B) Division Kangan No: EE/R&B/Divn/KGN/2780-85 | Date: 07/08/2025 RE-SCHEDULED AUCTION NOTICE

It is hereby notified that the on-spot auction for the walnut fruit crop from walnut trees, originally scheduled for 07/08/2025 at 1:00 PM, could not be held due to unforeseen official exigencies.

The Auction has now been Re-scheduled, and the revised details are as follows:

Date of Auction: 11/08/2025

Time: 2:30 PM

Venue: Office of the Executive Engineer, PW (R&B) Division Kangan

All terms and conditions shall remain unchanged and will be as per Annexure-A of the original Auction Notice issued under No. EE/R&B/Divn/KGN/2418-23 Dated 28/07/2025.

Annexure-A

Terms & Conditions for Auction of Fruit Crop (Walnut) at PW (R&B) Division Kangan:

- The minimum bid shall start from Rs. 20, 000/=
- Every bidder shall have to deposit an amount of Rs. 5000/= as security deposit in the shape of CDR pledged to Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Division Kangan, on spot with auction committee.
- The unsuccessful CDR will be released after completion of Auction Proceedings.
- The security deposit of highest bidders who backtrack from auction process shall be forfeited.
- The highest bidder shall have to deposit full bid amount offered on spot with the auction committee immediately after completion of auction proceedings.
- The watch & ward of the fruit crop from the date of issuance of authority letter till complete harvesting shall remain with successful bidder and this division shall not be liable for any kind of losses whatsoever.
- The harvested crop shall be lifted from the division premises by the highest bidder immediately after harvesting.
- The highest bidder will not hamper the routine activities of the divisional office.
- A temporary receipt will be given to the highest bidder for the bid amount deposited on spot.
- The acceptance of bid offered by the bidder shall be subject to approval by the designated committee.

Sd/-

**Executive Engineer,
PW (R&B) Division Kangan**

DIPK: 4995/25 | Dated: 08-08-2025

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt. Ground Water Division Srinagar Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar Extension Notice 4th

Subject: Execution of work under MPLADS of Jenab Mohammad Akbar lone Hon'ble MP 17th Lok Saba (Bandipora Ajas). Reference: This office e-NIT No. 17-JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2025-26, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/ Camp./2750-60, dated: 26-06-2025. Bearing Tender ID No. 2025_PHE_279940_1.

Due to "Poor Response" for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 06-08-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	20-08-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	21-08-2025 11.00 AM

NOTE:

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.

No: JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./4426-36 | Dated: 06-08-2025

**Sd/- Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar**

DIPK: 4988/25 | Dated: 08-08-2025

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of SAHIBA FAISAL S/O MOHAMMAD FAISAL R/O RAJA -KA-TAJPUR Tehsil CHANDPORA Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 25/04/2018 and event has been shown to be occurred at CHC KREERI for issuance of delay order .In this connection.

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Public Notice

I, Hasham Fayaz Wani, a student of Kashmir Government Polytechnic Srinagar, hereby declare that my name was previously misspelled as 'Hashim Fayaz' in my documents. I intend to correct it to 'Hasham Fayaz Wani'.

Additionally, I notify that my original marks card has been lost, and I will be applying for a duplicate copy. If anyone has any objections or concerns regarding this matter, please feel free to contact.

Public Notice

I have changed my old name from Mughli to new name Mugli bano c/ Mohammad Sultan Mir, Gotapora Budgam in future I will be known as new name Mugli bano c/ MohammadSultanMir .

If any body is having any objection . He /she may contact passport Office , srinagar with in 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted .

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application for issuance of RBA certificate applicant MOHD YOUSUF SHEIKH S/O. AB GANI SHEIKH SHEIKH R/O SHEIKHPORA Tehsil KREERI in favour of daughter AYAT YOUSUF for the issuance of RBA in his /her / their favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of SHEIKHPORA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the SHEIKH community having annual income 400000// the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- MOHD YOUSUF SHEIKH head 57 years farmer
- MUGLI BEGAM wife 56 years Housewife
- AIJAZ AHMAD Son 33 years labour
- RAFIQ AHMAD Son 31 years Labour
- AYAT YOUSUF daughter 24 years Student

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of UMER AHMAD GANIE S/O ALI MOHAMMAD GANIE R/O KAKOTHAL Tehsil kreeri Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 05/03/2006 and event has been shown to be occurred at home for issuance of delay order .In this connection.

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application for issuance of RBA certificate applicant MOHAMMAD SHABAN SHEIKH S/O. GHULAM RASOOL SHEIKH R/O SHEIKHPORA Tehsil KREERI in favour of Son's MOHD NADEEM ,SHOWKAT & WAHEED AHMAD R/O SHEIKHPORA for the issuance of RBA in his /her / their favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of SHEIKHPORA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the SHEIKH community having annual income 701292// the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- MOHD SHABAN SHEIKH self 61 years retire employee
- HALEEMA BEGAM wife 60 years Housewife
- RIFAT AKHTER daughter 31 years H/W
- MOHD NADEEM Son 29 years CSC centre
- WAHEEDA BANO daughter in law 28 years H/W
- SHOWKAT AHMAD son 28 years private employee
- WAHEED AHMAD son 26 student

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of GHULAM MOHD WANI S/O WALI MOHD WANI R/O KREERI for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that MOHD ASHRAF WANI S/O GH MOHD WANI R.O KREERI has passed away on 07/04/1998 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- GH MOHD WANI 85 years Father aged
- SARA BEGUM 75 years Mother aged
- FAROOQ AHMAD 48 years Brother shopkeeper
- ASHIQ ABTAL 40 years Brother shopkeeper
- NASEEMA AKHTER 44 years Sister housewife

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self.

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of AYAZ AHMAD DAR S/O MOHD AKBAR DAR R/O HAIL JAGIR for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that JAVID AHMAD DAR S/O MOHD AKBAR DAR R.O KREERI has passed away on 22/02/1997 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- MOHD MAQBOOL DAR 58 years brother labour married
- AYAZ AHMAD DAR //50 years //
- FAYAZ AHMAD DAR //40 years
- AB HAMID DAR //37 years //
- SHABIR AHMAD DAR // 33 years //

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self.

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

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Rs 4,250 Cr special development packages for Assam & Tripura approved

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, AUG 8: The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, today approved four new components under the Central Sector Scheme of Special Development Packages (SDPs) for Assam and Tripura, with a total outlay of Rs.4,250 crore. These initiatives aim to boost infrastructure, livelihood, and skill development, fostering employment, especially for youth and women, and promoting peace and socio-economic stability in affected communities.

According to an official statement here, key allocations include Rs 500 crore for infrastructure in Adivasi areas of Assam.



Around Rs.500 crore for North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council area, for Dimas National Liberation Army/DPC groups while Rs 3,000 crore has been kept for Assam's ULFA-affected regions.

The statement said Rs.250 crore has been allocated for tribal development in Tripura under MoS with NLFT and ATTG groups. "The overall financial implication totals Rs.7,250 crore, combining Central (Rs.4,250 crore) and Assam State Govt. (Rs.3,000 crore) contributions," said the statement.

The scheme also seeks to enhance tourism and create equitable growth among vulnerable groups, building on successful earlier packages for Bodo and Karbi communities. UNI AJ GNK

Interstate meeting held to coordinate security for Independence Day celebrations

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, AUG 8: Ahead of Independence Day celebrations, an interstate coordination meeting was held at Delhi Police Headquarters to enhance cooperation among law enforcement agencies and ensure incident-free events.

The meeting, chaired by Delhi Police Commissioner S.B.K. Singh, was attended by senior police officers from Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Rajasthan, and Chandigarh, along with representatives from central intelligence and enforcement agencies.



Discussions focused on intelligence-sharing, anti-terror measures, border security, and monitoring suspicious activities, including the movement of paragliders, drones, and other flying objects. Concerns were raised about interstate criminal networks operating in the National Capital Region (NCR), particularly those involved in illegal firearms and narcotics trafficking.

Traffic restrictions for Independence Day and measures to prevent unauthorized border entries were also finalized, with states urged to cooperate for effective implementation. The Delhi Police emphasized the need for a joint strategy to tackle criminal gangs, especially those using modern technology to operate across borders.

The meeting aimed to streamline coordination among agencies to ensure security during the upcoming celebrations. UNI/ATK RKM

Govt planning to open Nuclear sector for private sector participation

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, AUG 8: The government will open nuclear sector for private sector participation emphasizing its pivotal role in strengthening India's energy security. Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Minister of State for Atomic Energy Dr. Jitendra Singh, at a high-level meeting here, noted a strong and vibrant response from industries towards the Bharat Small Modular Reactor (SMR) program, leading to an extension of the Request for Proposal (RFP) submission deadline to September 30 to encourage wider participation.

The outcomes of the 4th Consultative Committee meeting held in April were fast-tracked to ensure



timely implementation. This meeting held to discuss the 100 GW Nuclear Energy Mission, follows up on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious target of expanding India's clean energy basket and reaffirming the country's commitment to achieving Net Zero emissions.

During the meeting, a thorough review was conducted on the roadmap to increase India's nuclear energy capacity from the current 8.8 GW to 22 GW by 2032, through the addition of 14 GW from various ongoing and upcoming projects, an official spokesman said.

Mr Khattar and Dr. Jitendra Singh outlined several key directives to expedite progress, including streamlining regulatory clearances, standardizing documentation, optimizing processing timelines, emphasizing generic proposals, synchronizing licenses, and investing in technical upgradation and capacity building. UNI RB 1655

Israeli cabinet approves Netanyahu's plans to capture the entire Gaza Strip

■ United News of India

TEL AVIV, AUG 8: Israeli cabinet has approved Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's plan to capture the entire Gaza Strip, his office announced on Friday.

The war-plan; heavily criticised by many, aims for the capture of the whole territory, and will follow up with the installation of a transitional government, reports Times of Israel.

The Israeli premier said a "detailed plan" will be developed for this post-Hamas government, with Jerusalem not playing any role in the internal administration, nor allowing the Palestinian Authority to play a role, stating that it will be a civil administration.

Regarding his plans to capture the area, and whether he means its complete annexation, the PM said "We intend to, in order to assure our secu-

urity, remove Hamas there, enable the population to be free of Gaza (sic), and to pass it civilian governance."

But, he stressed, "We don't want to keep it. We want to have a security perimeter, but we don't want to govern it. We don't want to be there as a governing body."

The PM said that Israel wants to "hand it over to Arab forces that will govern it properly, without threatening us, and giving the Gazans a good life."

Netanyahu's plans were passed in parliament with a majority vote. The cabinet - in its vote - adopted five essential principles for "concluding the war": the disarming of Hamas; the return of all the hostages - living and the deceased, the demilitarisation of the Gaza Strip, Israeli security control in the Gaza Strip, and the establishment of an alternative civil government free of any oversight from either Jerusalem

or the Palestinian Authority,

Netanyahu's comments were met with total rejection from the Hamas terrorists, and it also led Jordan to stress that it would only accept any decisions on the future of Gaza agreed to by the Palestinians.

Israel currently controls over 75% of the war-torn enclave, with the IDF not venturing into areas where Hamas are believed to holding hostages, and has ordered all civilians to evacuate the area.

However, Netanyahu's war-plan has been met with a lot of criticism, chief being by IDF Chief of Staff Lt Gen Amir Zayal, who earlier cautioned that "occupying the Strip will drag Israel into a black hole."

Some hostage families have also sounded an alarm, noting that expanded operations would put the surviving captives in jeopardy. UNI

Israel considering 'serious' retaliatory measures on UK over its intention on recognising Palestine

■ United News of India

JERUSALEM/LONDON, AUG 8: Israel is considering enacting retaliatory measures against the UK's possible recognition of Palestine, as London continues to reel under domestic pressure over the issue, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warning that Jerusalem has much it can do to harm the European nation, reports Jerusalem Post.

According to a report by The Times, Netanyahu warned the UK and other countries who were considering Palestinian statehood, telling them to "care-



fully' consider the consequences.

"London needs to be careful because (Benjamin Netanyahu) and his ministers have cards they could play too. Israel values its partnership with the UK, but recent decisions mean it is coming under pressure, and the UK has a lot to lose if Israel's government decides to take steps in response," The Times report noted.

The report added that Israel's potential withdrawal of security and defence cooperation with Britain would have significant economic and security implications.

Israel has previously condemned the UK's intention of recognising Palestine, slamming it alongside France, and Canada (who have done so already), stating that the country was 'rewarding terrorism.'

London's move has pointed towards a possible deterioration of its ties with Jerusalem which could prove disastrous for the UK, as UK intelligence frequently gets inputs from Israel's Mossad, such as the Iranian plot to bomb the Israeli embassy in the UK, while Israeli defence firms provide the Royal Military with surveillance drones, and parts for its F-35 fleet. UNI

Six-year-old Indian girl targeted in latest racial attack in Ireland; Irish Embassy voices strong condemnation

■ United News of India

DUBLIN/NEW DELHI, AUG 8: A six-year-old Indian girl was punched by a group of boys, called a "dirty Indian" and told to "go back to India", in Waterford, southern Ireland, in the latest incidence among a spate of violent attacks on Indians in Ireland.

Nia Naveen was allegedly attacked by a group of boys aged 12 to 14 while playing outside her home in Waterford city on Monday, an Irish news site reported.

The Embassy of Ireland in New Delhi, expressing deep shock and sadness over the recent attacks on Indians in Ireland, said it condemns the attacks in the strongest terms. "They are an assault on the values of equality and human dignity that Ireland holds dear. Racism and xenophobia have no place in Irish society. The actions of a few do not reflect the spirit of the Irish people. It will not be tolerated," it said in a statement today.

It said over 100,000 Indians call Ireland their home, and that

Ireland is enriched by the diversity of people who live in Ireland, especially the Indian community whose contributions continue to deepen the bonds between the two nations.

It said that the Irish Deputy PM and Minister for Foreign Affairs will be meeting with representatives of the Indian community in Ireland on Monday, August 11.

Ireland's national police, Gardaí, said that they responded to report of an alleged assault in the Kilbarry area of Waterford city on the evening of Monday, August 4. The gang allegedly punched the girl in the face, hit her with a bicycle, and shouted racial slurs at the child.

Nia's mother, Anupa Achuthan, a nurse originally from Kerala in southern India, shared details of the ordeal, saying how her daughter returned home in tears.

The assault has shocked the Indian community and comes amid growing concerns about racist violence. The incident fol-



lows similar recent attacks in Dublin's Tallaght and Clondalkin areas. Kranthi Ireland, a forum for Indians in Ireland, said it "condemns the racist and brutal attack on a six-year-old girl of our family in Waterford".

"The child suffered bruises from the attack and is in trauma after being subjected to racial

abuse, including being called a 'dirty Indian' and being told to 'go back to India.'

"This family had already reported the racist abuse - and was disregarded. We stand with the child and her family. We call for a thorough investigation and swift action by the government. We call for accountability - from

the perpetrators, and from the authorities who did not act.

"We also appeal to all progressive minds, and to all who have love and compassion in their hearts, to stand with us - in solidarity, in action, and against hate. Ireland must never be a country where children live in fear and racism is allowed to grow."

According to the mother, who recently became an Irish citizen, the child is now traumatised, and refuses to go outside. The family no longer feels safe in their neighbourhood.

The Indian Embassy in Dublin has issued this advisory for its citizens. "There has been an increase in the instances of physical attacks reported against Indian citizens in Ireland recently.

"The Embassy is in touch with the authorities concerned of Ireland in this regard. At the same time, all Indian citizens in Ireland are advised to take reasonable precautions for their personal security and avoid deserted areas, especially in odd hours." UNI RN

DRC carries out cabinet reshuffle amid mounting regional crisis

■ United News of India

KINSHASA, AUG 8: The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) today carried out a government reshuffle as the Central African country faces a mounting security crisis in its eastern region. Presidential spokesperson Tina Salama said on national television that the new cabinet was formed after nationwide consultations to ensure efficiency, credibility, as well as political, geographical and sociocultural balance through "an inclusive government."

Although initially announced as streamlined, the new government comprises 54 members -- only one fewer than the previous cabinet formed in May 2024 -- including six vice prime ministers, 12 state ministers, 24 ministers, five ministerial delegates and six vice ministers. Judith Suminwa Tuluka remains prime minister. Opposition figure Adolphe Muzito, a former prime minister under ex-president Joseph Kabila, has joined the new inclusive government as vice prime minister in charge of the budget.

In late February, DRC President Felix Tshisekedi announced sweeping political changes, including plans to establish a "government of national unity" to prevent the security crisis in the country's eastern part from escalating into a broader regional conflict.

Since then, Desire-Cashmir Kolongele Eberande, the DRC president's special security advisor, has led consultations involving the Sacred Union -- the ruling parliamentary coalition -- opposition parties within and outside parliament, civil society, and prominent figures, including former presidential candidates. UNI



Shubman Gill To Lead North Zone In Duleep Trophy

United News of India

BENGALURU: India's Test captain Shubman Gill will lead North Zone in the 2025-26 Duleep Trophy, which will kick off the domestic season in Bengaluru later this month.

Seamers Anshul Kamboj and Arshdeep Singh, who were recently part of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy, were also named in the North Zone squad. Harshit Rana, who made his Test debut in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy last year, will add more depth to North Zone's seam attack.

However, if Gill, Arshdeep or Harshit get picked in India's squad for the Asia Cup, Shubham Rohilla, Gurnoor Brar and Anuj Thakral will replace them for the Duleep Trophy. The Asia Cup, which will run from September 9 to September 28 will overlap with the Duleep Trophy, which will start on August 28, with the final scheduled between September 11 and 15. Ankit Kumar, who was the top scorer for Haryana with 574 runs in 14 innings at an average of nearly 59 in the previous Ranji Trophy season, was appointed North Zone's vice-captain. His Haryana team-mate Nishant Sindhu, the left-arm spin-bowling allrounder, also found a place in the squad.

Apart from Harshit Rana, Yash Dhull, the former India Under-19 World Cup-winning captain, and Ayush Badoni are the only Delhi players in the squad. The trio is currently in action in the second season of the Delhi Premier League T20 tournament.

Five players from Jammu & Kashmir made the cut for the Duleep Trophy, including opener Shubham Khajuria and seamer Auqib Nabi, who was the second-highest wicket-taker in the 2024-25 Ranji Trophy, with 44 wickets in eight matches at an outstanding average of 13.93.

Services' Ravi Chauhan and Chandigarh's Nishunk Birla are among the stand-bys.

The Duleep Trophy has reverted to its traditional format of a zonal contest after a season where four teams - A, B, C and D - comprising players in the Test fray were picked by the Ajit Agarkar-led senior men's selection committee. Teams for this year's tournament will be picked by zonal selection committees, comprising one member from each of the state sides from the zone.

North Zone will play the domestic season's opening game against East Zone from August 28 at the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru.

North Zone squad

- Shubman Gill (capt)
- Shubham Khajuria
- Ankit Kumar (vice-capt)
- Ayush Badoni
- Yash Dhull
- Ankit Kalsi
- Nishant Sindhu
- Sahil Lotra
- Mayank Dagar
- Yudhvir Singh Charak
- Arshdeep Singh
- Harshit Rana
- Anshul Kamboj
- Auqib Nabi
- Kanhaiya Wadhawan (wk)

Replacements:

Shubham Rohilla to replace Gill, Gurnoor Brar to replace Arshdeep and Anuj Thakral to replace Harshit in case of any India commitments during the tournament.

Stand-bys:

- Shubham Arora
- Jaskaranvir Singh Paul
- Ravi Chauhan
- Abid Mushtaq
- Nishunk Birla
- Umar Nazir
- Divesh Sharma



Two-tier model for Test cricket - ECB wary, CA 'open'

Nagraj Gollapudi

NEW DELHI: The ECB is not keen on a two-tiered World Test Championship (WTC) in which relegation could lead to England not being in the same division as Australia or India, thus potentially depriving them of their two most lucrative rivalries.

The ICC last month formed a working group, led by former New Zealand batter Roger Twose, to look into, among other things, improving the WTC ahead of the next cycle, which begins in July 2027. A two-tier system was among the most significant topics discussed at the ICC annual conference in July. Twose, NZC's representative on the ICC Board, is expected to make recommendations to the board.

Two-tier Test cricket has been debated for more than 15 years, with the ICC showing its willingness to the idea as far back as in 2009, though Full Members have been split on the issue for various reasons.

Speaking to BBC's Test Match Special on the opening day of The Oval Test between England and India last week, ECB chairman Richard Thompson said the value of bilateral cricket was dropping because of a "congested" calendar overwhelmed by T20 leagues, and that in most countries, Test cricket had taken a big hit. Thompson said that while a two-tier model for Test cricket was being discussed by the ICC, he was not sure if it was perfect.

"There's a lot of options that we've got to look at - tiers would be one of them," he said. "We wouldn't want, as England, we may go through a fallow period, and that means, what, we fall into Division Two and we don't play Australia and India? That couldn't happen. There has to be a sense that common sense needs to play out here."

Thompson believed that a better solution could be tinkering with the existing WTC itself. He cited South Africa's defeat of Australia to become WTC 2023-25 winners as an example, where, with the right



support, smaller countries could emerge as strong contenders.

"The World Test Championship could work better than it does. It has definitely improved the narrative, [and] it has created a relevance," Thompson said. "Seeing what it meant for South Africa to win - who are crushed by rugby in their own country - and seeing players I know really well, like Graeme Smith, in tears on the outfield, that was a real moment seeing them win. As much as I was critical that they turned up with a 'B' team when they played New Zealand [in 2024], it was still good for the game when the underdog wins."

"But the reality of it is, the World Test Championship, if it was improved upon and certain changes were made, maybe you don't need two tiers of Test cricket. What you do need is a schedule that makes a lot more sense than it currently does, and that must include the volume of bilateral cricket that you play, white-ball and red-ball, and recognising that from 2028, we have an Olympics."

"So what happens in 2028, when we have an Olympics, and our best 11 cricketers have got to go to LA for two weeks in the middle of July? That is going to throw

up some challenges."

Details of the composition of the working group to improve the WTC, as well as a more specific brief, have not been announced. Some reports have indicated an eight-person committee, with representation from non-Test nations as well. Sanjog Gupta, the recently appointed ICC CEO, is also likely to be on the group.

Having clarity over the two-tier model is key for ICC, with countries already having started conversations for bilateral series that will be part of the next WTC cycle (2027-29). With the media rights for the new commercial cycle (2027-31) expected to be put out to tender next year, the ICC is keen to find a solution to make the WTC more meaningful. But, even at this nascent stage, there are a lot of reservations being expressed.

Majority of the Full Member countries have always been split on the two-tier Test model for various reasons: some feared loss of revenue from the ICC's annual distribution of money in case their country gets relegated, some don't want to be relegated to a lower tier, and some plainly rejected the idea as an ego basis every time the ICC Board discussed the topic.

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