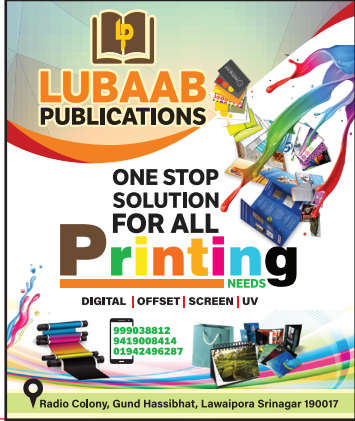


Srinagar  
Tuesday  
September 16 | 2025  
22 Rabi ul Awwal, 1447 AH  
Issue No: 220  
Volume: 15  
Pages: 12  
Price: Rs 02/-



# Maiden Freight Train Comes to The Rescue of Apple Trade in Kashmir

LG Manoj Sinha Flags Off First Ever Parcel Train From Budgam to Adarsh Nagar in Delhi



■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, SEP 15:** Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha flagged off the first dedicated Parcel Train from Budgam to Adarsh Nagar, New Delhi. The Lieutenant Governor expressed gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for ushering a new era of trade and business

for apple growers and traders of the Valley. "It will significantly reduce transit time and increase income opportunities for thousands of farmers and boost the agricultural economy of the region," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor also congratulated the Indian Railways for dedicated freight

● Turn on Page 2

## Stranded fruit-laden vehicles to be cleared on priority: LG

Fruit growers' delegation thanks PM, LG for new Parcel Train

■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, SEP 15:** A delegation of Kashmir Valley Fruit

● Turn on Page 2

## Youth Must Be Agents of Change With Energy, Discipline, Creativity: LG Sinha

■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, SEP 15:** Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj

● Turn on Page 2

## PM Hails Forces for 'Operation Sindoor', Unveils Vision 2047

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, SEP 15:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday praised the Armed Forces for the success of Operation Sindoor and urged the Ministry of Defence to accelerate steps towards greater self-reliance, innovation, and preparedness to tackle future security challenges. The Prime Minister was addressing the 16th Combined Commanders' Conference (CCC) at Vijay Durg, the his-



toric Eastern Command headquarters of the Army at Fort William. The three-day conference brings together India's top military leadership to deliberate on security challenges, operational readiness, and long-term reforms. Reviewing reforms undertaken over the last two years, Modi laid emphasis on building upon the progress

● Turn on Page 2

## CM Omar Asks Centre To Hand Over NH To J&K



■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, SEP 15:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday expressed strong resentment over the continued halting of apple-laden trucks on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, saying the Union Government should hand over the vital road link to the Jammu and Kashmir administration if it cannot maintain it.

Speaking to reporters, Omar said the highway falls under the jurisdiction of the central government but remains blocked for days, crippling the Valley's economy. "If they cannot maintain it, they should hand it over to us. I will deploy a team of engineers who are currently available here," he said.

The Chief Minister noted that despite repeated assurances, the authorities had failed to make the road fully functional. "Enough is enough. We have been patient because they kept assuring us daily that restoration work would be done, but it did not happen," he remarked.

Omar said he would take up the matter directly with Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari. "I will

● Turn on Page 2

## CM Omar Attends 58th Engineers' Day in Srinagar, Pays Tribute to Visvesvaraya

■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, SEP 15:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today attended the 58th Engineers' Day celebrations at Institution of Engineers (India), J&K State Centre (IEI JKSC), Srinagar, where he paid glowing tributes to Bharat Ratna Sir M. Visvesvaraya and underscored the vital role of engineers in nation-building.

● Turn on Page 2

## CM Omar Stresses Equal Opportunities in Govt Schools

■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, SEP 15:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today said that it is the responsibility of his government to ensure that students studying in government schools have access to the same facilities and opportunities as those in private institutions. "I would like to see even more participation from government schools in such events. Ultimately, it is our

● Turn on Page 2

## Oral Health Key to Preventing Diseases, Yet Overlooked: Sakeena Itoo

■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, SEP 15:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo inaugurated four days 'Oral Health Awareness Programme - Bright Smiles, Happy Lives' at Government Dental College (GDC) here today.

The event, organised by department of Public Health Dentistry of GDC Srinagar, aims to raise awareness about the importance of oral hygiene, preventive dental care and the overall impact of oral health on general well-being of an individual.

Speaking during inauguration ceremony of the event, the Health Minister highlighted that oral health is often an over-



looked aspect of healthcare, yet it plays a critical role in preventing systemic diseases like diabetes, cardiovascular ailments and respiratory infections. "Oral health is

not just about a bright smile, it is integral to the overall health of every citizen," Minister Sakeena stated.

The Health Minister added that in recent years oral hygiene practices and dental check-ups have emerged as an essential routine for people, especially the young generation. She urged the public to adopt regular oral hygiene practices and make dental check-ups an essential part of their healthcare routine.

The Minister further said that the present Omar Abdullah led government is giving major thrust for development of medical infrastructure across the length and breadth of Jammu and Kashmir.

● Turn on Page 2

## Give your best to steer our nation ahead in growth & development: Deputy CM

■ HT News Desk

**JAMMU, SEP 15:** Deputy Chief Minister of J&K Surinder Choudhary today addressed the 58th Engineers Day celebrations at Institution of Engineers (India), Jammu Local Centre here.

Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation Dr. Devansh Yadav; Er. Anil Verma, FIE; Chairman, Er. Avneet Gupta, MIE; Honorary Secretary of IEI, Jammu Local Centre and large numbers of engineers from various departments and other organizations were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy CM paid rich tributes and honoured the legacy of Bharat Ratna, Sir M. Visvesvaraya, the visionary engineer whose birth anniversary marks this day. He called upon the engineers to imbibe the exceptional qualities of Sir M. Visvesvaraya in their day-to-



day works and design solutions that are innovative, sustainable and technology driven so as to provide a better future for generations to come.

Highlighting the qualities of Sir M. Visvesvaraya like austerity, integrity,

● Turn on Page 2

## Div Com Assures Evacuation of Fruit-Laden Trucks via NH, Mughal Road

■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, SEP 15:** Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Monday assured that the administration is taking all necessary measures to facilitate the evacuation of stranded fruit-laden trucks through both the National Highway and the Mughal Road.

He also stated that all valley-bound vehicles carrying essential commodities, including petrol, diesel, and LPG are being facilitated through an SoP to address the requirements of the general public.

Div Com made these remarks while chairing a high-level meeting with representatives from various trade bodies and fruit growers' associations.

The meeting was convened to address the challenges faced by the horticulture industry due to the prolonged closure of the National Highway.

On the occasion, he said restoration work on the National Highway is progressing at full pace and that the status will be shared with stakeholders.

During the meeting, traders and growers highlighted the severe losses being incurred as harvested apples remain stranded in orchards and vehicles.

They urged the administration to take swift action to minimize the damage to the region's vital horticulture industry.

● Turn on Page 2

## MLA's Detention Aftermath Edu institutions reopen in Doda

■ HT News Network

**DODA/JAMMU, SEPT 15:** Almost all educational institutions reopened on Monday after three weeks' closure in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, which was rocked by protests following the detention of sitting AAP MLA Mehraj Malik under PSA on September 8, officials said.

Authorities have also restored the broadband internet services and lifted prohibitory orders under section 163 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) in most parts of the district, besides releasing 70 of the 81 detained persons amid an improved law and order situation, the officials said.

"There are no restrictions in place in the district except the areas which emerged as the epicentre of the protests (against Malik's detention) last week. We have reports that there are some elements who want to disturb the peaceful atmosphere and

● Turn on Page 2

## CS Reviews Restoration of NH-44

Unhindered Transport of Essentials, Apples via Rail & Roads Directed

■ HT News Desk

**JAMMU, SEP 15:** In view of frequent disruptions on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) due to inclement weather, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today convened a high-level meeting to review restoration measures, assess supply chain management, and ensure seamless movement of essential commodities across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Home; Principal Secretary, Public Works Department (PWD); Commissioner Secretary, Food,



Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA); Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; IG, Traffic; Director, FCS&CA Kashmir; Deputy Commis-

sioner, Udhampur/Doda; and representatives from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

The Chief Secretary sought a detailed appraisal from the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu regarding the present status of NH-44. He was informed about the partial restoration of traffic on a single-lane stretch that had been severely damaged by flash floods, as well as diversion of vehicular movement through Mughal Road.

The Chief Secretary also took note of the number of vehicles crossing daily and emphasized the need to

● Turn on Page 2











# Div Com Kashmir reviews preparations for 'Sewa Parv' celebrations

Stresses convergence of activities for tangible impact

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, SEP 15:** Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today chaired a high-level meeting to review preparations for the upcoming celebration of 'Sewa Parv' across the Kashmir division.

The meeting aimed to ensure coordinated efforts by district administrations and line departments for impactful execution of activities.

The meeting was attended by all Deputy Commissioners besides heads and representatives from departments including Rural Sanitation, Urban Local Bodies, Social Welfare, Education, Health,



Horticulture, Agriculture, AACL, Information, Skill Development, Police, and Forest.

Addressing the meeting, Div Com underscored the importance of a focused and result-oriented approach to achieve tangible outcomes during the 'Sewa Parv' period. He called for convergence and synchronization of departmental activities, programs, and awareness campaigns for effectiveness, as per the directions of Hon'ble LG.

To ensure effective monitoring, he directed each district to nominate a Nodal Officer, while Deputy Director Planning, Ashiq Husain Malik, was appointed as the Divisional Level Nodal Officer to

oversee coordination and monitor daily progress.

He emphasized the uploading of targets achieved, photographs, and videos on the web portal developed by the IT department.

He laid focus on various activities to be planned during the period which include Social Security Initiatives, Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Financial Inclusion Drives, Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan, Poshan Abhiyan, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Nasha Mukta Abhiyan, Grievance Redressal Mechanisms, Plantation Drives, and Health & Nutrition Initiatives etc.

## DC Shopian finalises preparations for 'Sewa Parv' campaign

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**SHOPIAN, SEP 15:** To review and finalize arrangements for the celebration of 'Sewa Parv' in the district scheduled from September, 17 to October, 2, 2025, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today chaired a meeting of officers here in Mini Secretariat Shopian.

The fortnight-long programme is aimed at promoting the spirit of service, volunteerism and community participation across the district. It will focus on activities that strengthen the bond between the administration and the people while fostering awareness about cleanliness, health, education, support to elderly, social welfare and sustainable development initiatives.



DC stressed inter-departmental coordination and proactive community participation for effective execution of scheduled activities during the fortnight. Departments were instructed to focus on on-spot service delivery.

During the campaign, swachhata drives, health awareness and Ayush camps for preventive health-care, educational awareness campaigns on drug de-addiction and career guidance, plantation and environmental protection activities, awareness and registration sessions on government schemes related to agriculture, self-employment, NRLM, social security and welfare schemes shall be undertaken to improve performance of service delivery.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; Principal, GDC Shopian, ACD, various district officers, BDOs and civil society members.

## DC Kathua reviews preparations for Sewa Parv, Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Campaign

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**KATHUA, SEP 15:** DEPUTY Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today chaired a meeting of District Officers to review and finalize preparations for the upcoming Sewa Parv and Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar campaign—to align with national-level initiatives.

The meeting focused on formulating an integrated plan that addresses key areas such as health, sanitation, services delivery and financial inclusion across all blocks and panchayats.

Emphasizing the importance of seamless coordination, Deputy Commissioner Sharma directed all departments to work in synergy for the successful execution of these programmes. He underscored that the initiatives are a prime opportunity to bring governance closer to the people, ensure inclusive development and promote culturally rooted nutrition practices within the district.

Under the Sewa Parv banner, the DC issued clear instructions for a series of community-centric activities. Block Development Officers (BDOs) and the CEO of the Municipality were directed to launch extensive Swachhata (cleanliness) drives in all panchayats and urban wards.

Simultaneously, they are to conduct community tree plantation drives and awareness campaigns on various citizen services. Similarly, he asked the District Forest Officers (DFOs) to initiate community tree plantation drives. Educational institutions, including Degree Colleges and Higher Secondary Schools, were directed to play an active role by organizing donation drives for books and stationery, undertaking campus beautification and arranging voluntary extra classes for students.

Besides, the Social Welfare Department was directed to prioritize social outreach by engaging with vulnerable sections of society. This includes visiting old-age homes and orphanages, interacting with the elderly, donating assistive devices like wheelchairs, hearing aids and organizing community meals for the needy.

Regarding the Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar campaign, the Deputy Commissioner detailed a multifaceted approach to promote women's health and well-being. This will be achieved through extensive outreach programmes, health check-up camps, nutrition counseling, and awareness sessions on critical topics such as anaemia prevention, maternal health and menstrual hygiene, with the active participation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

To strengthen health services and financial literacy, the Health Department was asked to organize health check-ups and blood donation drives across all blocks.

It was also informed in the meeting that a district-level program will be held at the SDH Parole on September 17, in sync with the national launch by the Prime Minister, ensuring maximum community participation.

To ensure the messages reach every citizen, the Information Department was tasked with undertaking a robust publicity campaign, utilizing both traditional and social media platforms.

Other line departments were also instructed to hold awareness camps on flagship schemes such as PM-Kisan, Ayushman Bharat – PMJAY, PM Jan Dhan Yojana, PM Atal Pension Yojana and other financial inclusion initiatives.

Pertinently, the Sewa Parv, a nationwide citizen-centric initiative, will be observed in the district from September 17 to October 2. Running concurrently, the Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar campaign will continue for a month, from September 17 to October 16. These initiatives seek to mobilize communities and bring governance closer to the people through a series of integrated activities focused on health, sanitation, service delivery and financial inclusion.

Among others, ADC Kathua Vishavjeet Singh, Chief Planning Officer Ranjit Thakur, ACD Akhil Sadothra, and other district heads were present in the meeting, while ADCs and SDMs joined virtually.

## Deputy Commissioner inspects civic infrastructure, cleanliness measures in Rajouri Town

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**RAJOURI SEP 15:** Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma today conducted a comprehensive tour of Rajouri town to assess the ongoing development works and review civic amenities, with a special focus on infrastructure upgrades, cleanliness and public safety.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner took stock of the condition of manholes across the town. He directed the concerned departments to immediately fix and secure all damaged or open manholes to prevent mishaps and ensure public safety.

Reviewing the ongoing repair works already tendered, the DC instructed the Public Works Department (PWD) to expedite the pace of execution and



adhere to the stipulated timelines. He emphasized adherence to quality standards and timely completion of the works for the convenience of the general public.

The Deputy Commissioner also took serious note of the open wiring in several areas, which poses potential safety hazards. He directed the department to prepare and submit

a comprehensive proposal for underground cabling to enhance public safety and improve the aesthetics of the town.

As part of his public outreach, the Deputy Commissioner also interacted with local shopkeepers. He urged them to operate within legal and civic boundaries, maintain proper sanitation outside their establishments and use separate dustbins for wet and dry waste. He further appealed to all stakeholders to maintain cleanliness and contribute to the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in spirit and action.

Among the others who accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during his visit were ACR, Mohd Jhangir Khan; Tehsildar Rajouri, Varinder Sharma; EXEN PDD Rajouri, Mohd Rashid; EO MC Rajouri, Yousif ul Mir and other concerned officers.

## Principal Secretary, Culture inaugurates Hindi Pakhwada at K.L. Saigal Hall

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**JAMMU, SEP 15:** Principal Secretary, Culture, Brij Mohan Sharma today inaugurated "Hindi Pakhwada" Celebration Programs during the inaugural event organised by Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) at K.L. Saigal Hall, here. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from writers, scholars, academicians, and admirers of Hindi language and literature.

In his address, Brij Mohan Sharma lauded the role of JKAACL in documenting and promoting Hindi language and literature through its journals, books, and other publications. He recalled

that in 2020, the Government of J&K declared Hindi as one of the official languages alongside Urdu, Kashmiri, Dogri, and English.

Underscoring the importance of Hindi as a symbol of unity and identity, Principal Secretary announced that a calligraphy centre will shortly be established to train the younger generation in writing Hindi, Urdu, and other languages, thereby enriching the visual art scene of J&K. He further emphasized the responsibility of institutions like JKAACL in creating platforms for young writers and scholars to contribute to the growth of Hindi literature.

Earlier, in her welcome address, Secretary JKAACL, Harvinder Kour,



extended greetings on Hindi Diwas and highlighted its historical significance, recalling that on 14 September 1949, Hindi was adopted as the official language of India. She also underlined the Academy's ongoing efforts to promote and preserve Hindi alongside other regional languages of Jam-

mu & Kashmir.

As part of the academic session, Prof. Chanchal Dogra presented a scholarly paper on the status of Hindi in the contemporary world, its relevance in education, technology, and administration, and its role in fostering cultural harmony. Dr. Nirmal Vinod, in his paper,

spoke on the literary traditions of Hindi, stressing the need to preserve its classical heritage while embracing modern creative expressions.

Earlier, the programme began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the dignitaries, followed by the felicitation of guests. To invoke divine blessings, Dr. Chanchal Sharma, Editor Hindi JKAACL, rendered a soulful Saraswati Vandana.

The event concluded with a Vote of Thanks presented by Sonali Arun Gupta, Additional Secretary JKAACL, who expressed gratitude to the Chief Guest, distinguished speakers, writers, media, and the audience.

## DC Reasi chairs SPCA meeting to review Animal Welfare initiatives

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**REASI, SEP 15:** Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik today chaired a meeting of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) to review and strengthen animal welfare initiatives in the district.

During the meeting, DC held a detailed discussion on the establishment of a veterinary facility and shelter home for sick and injured animals in collaboration with People for Animals Public Policy Foundation and Vantara. The proposed facility will serve as a one-stop center for treatment and rehabilitation, ensuring comprehensive care and shelter for animals in need.

A parcel of land belonging to the Animal Husbandry Department at Parathal village (Serwad), Tehsil Katra has been selected for the project.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Chief Animal Husbandry Officer to obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the department to expedite the setting up of the veterinary hospital on the site.

She further highlighted that the facility will be constructed, managed, and operated by People for Animals Public Policy Foundation and Vantara.

During the meeting, a new SPCA Committee was also constituted in line with



the latest guidelines. As per the new structure, the Deputy Commissioner will serve as the Chairperson, the CAHO as the Member Secretary, with the ACR and all SDMs as members. Ms. Malik emphasized that while the SPCA's role is particularly critical in Katra, given the extensive use of horses and mules during the Yatra, its mandate must extend to addressing animal welfare across the entire district.

DC Nidhi Malik also instructed officers to conduct a comprehensive performance review of all cow shelters operating in the district, including those situated on state lands and present a detailed status report in the next meeting.

Additionally, the Deputy Commissioner directed officials to submit a financial audit report of the SPCA, covering its existing funds and overall financial status, in compliance with prescribed guidelines and bylaws.

The meeting was attended by SDM Katra Piyush Dhotra, DySP Vishal Singh Jambwal, Tehsildar Katra, CAHO, EO MC Katra and other concerned officers.

## Deputy Commissioner Rajouri reviews working of the Child Welfare Committee

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**RAJOURI, SEP 15:** Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today chaired a meeting of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) to review the progress and activities carried out during the last financial year.

The meeting discussed the implementation of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. It was informed that the CWC has provided assistance to 23 victims under the POCSO Act, ensuring timely support and rehabilitation for the affected children.

The Committee has also made significant strides in preventing child marriages, with 29 cases successfully stopped, besides rescuing and rehabilitating 17 children forced into child labour. Furthermore, 13 cases involving runaway or kidnapped children were resolved, ensuring that these children were safely reunited with their families.

The placement of eligible children in Child Care Institutions (CCIs) was also highlighted, with 10 children successfully placed in appropriate care facilities.

Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma expressed his appreciation for the dedicated work of the CWC and emphasized the importance of continuous efforts in child protection. He directed the Com-



mittee to keep working towards the betterment of children's welfare, ensuring their safety, education and rehabilitation at all times.

The meeting was attended by District Social Welfare Officer, Abdul Raheem and members of the Child Welfare Committee.



# Sakeena Itoo flags off group of MBBS students for All India Educational Tour

Urges students to make most of this opportunity for professional development

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, SEP 15:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo flagged off a group of pre-final batch MBBS students of Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar to 15 days All India Education Tour from college premises here today.

Principal, GMC Srinagar, Dr. Iffat Hassan Shah; Administrator Associated Hospitals, Mohammad Ashraf Hakak; HoDs of various departments, faculty members, doctors and large number of students were also present

on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Health Minister said that this educational tour will mark a transformative chapter in the academic journey of our future doctors and give them exposure to diverse medical practices, advanced research environments and interaction with leading medical experts from reputed health institutions they are visiting across the country. She added that this exposure tour will not only broaden their clinical perspectives but also nurture their holistic growth as healthcare leaders of tomorrow.



The Minister further said that this initiative underscores Government's commitment to

strengthening medical education by providing students with real-world exposure beyond classroom

teaching.

While extending her wishes to students and accompanying

faculty members for the tour, Minister Sakeena urged them to make most of this opportunity to enrich their knowledge and experiences.

Interacting with the Health Minister on the occasion, the students expressed immense gratitude and excitement about the journey ahead, highlighting the importance of such initiatives in their professional development.

Pertinently, this 15 days comprehensive educational tour is designed to provide the students with a unique opportunity to visit some of the nation's most prestigious medical institutes,

hospitals and research centers in New Delhi, Kerala, Goa and other places.

During the tour, the students will traverse several states, engaging in academic interactions, hospital rounds, workshops and seminars that cover a wide spectrum of medical disciplines and emerging healthcare technologies. They will also participate in interactive sessions with eminent medical researchers, observe cutting-edge medical procedures, engage in hands-on workshops and attend lectures on advancements in medical science, public health policy and medical ethics.

## MD JJM inspects, assesses availability of Ductile & Galvanised pipes at store Pampore

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, SEP 15:** Mission Director (MD), Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Jammu & Kashmir, Khurshid Ahmad Shah today inspected the pipe store Pampore, to review and assess the available stock of Ductile Iron (DI) and Galvanized Iron (GI) pipes.

MD was accompanied by the Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti department, Kashmir; Technical Advisor, Kashmir; Superintending Engineer, Mechanical and other officers.



During the visit, officers conducted a detailed inspection of the inventory to ensure that the required materials are adequately available to support ongoing and upcoming projects under the Jal Jeevan Mission. The review was aimed at strengthening supply chain management, identifying gaps, and ensuring timely availability of materials for rural water supply schemes.

MD emphasized the importance of maintaining proper stock levels to meet project deadlines and ensure uninterrupted progress towards providing functional household tap connections in rural areas.

Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti, assured that all necessary steps will be taken to streamline procurement and distribution processes.

The visit reflects the commitment of the Jal Jeevan Mission and the Jal Shakti department to enhancing water supply infrastructure and improving service delivery to citizens.

## Director Agri. Kashmir flags-off group of progressive farmers on exposure visit

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, SEP 15:** A group of 45 progressive farmers from different zones of Srinagar district was today flagged-off by Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah for an exposure visit to Faculty of Agriculture Wadara Sopore campus (SKUAST-K).

The exposure visit has been organised by Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare de-

partment district Srinagar under HADP project-11 (promotion of oil seed).

While interacting with the farmers on the occasion, Director Agriculture said that such programs are being organised by the department to keep farmers abreast with the latest cultural practices and technologies for commercial farming.

Shah said learning real time trends in farming and cultiva-



tion of different agriculture crops on scientific lines, help farmers do better during their farming activities. He said, skilled human resource, and capacities building of farmers are among the department's priorities.

He impressed the progressive farmers to interact with the agriculture scientists, experts, and extension functionaries to get themselves acquainted with up-

to-date methodologies in crop cultivation on scientific lines. He asked the farmers to enhance their technical skills in the field of crop farming and to adopt the advanced technologies after learning from such exposure visits.

Director Agriculture said the farmers would witness field demonstrations, farm management and practical demonstration sessions during the visit.

## IAF, Reasi Admin collaborate to airdrop ration to rain-affected Sarhi village

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**REASI, SEP 15:** In a commendable display of coordination and humanitarian relief, the District Administration Reasi, in close collaboration with the Indian Air Force (IAF), successfully airlifted ration supplies to the rain-affected Sarhi village in Bhomag.

The remote Sarhi area of Tehsil Bhomag was cut off from essential supplies after multiple landslides blocked the Reasi-Sarhi (via Tote) road. At the same time, the alternate Udhampur-Sarhi (via Moungrri) route became inaccessible when the Thathi Bridge was washed away due to torrential rains. Although sufficient ration stock is available in nearby locations, precautionary measures are being taken to prevent shortages and ensure uninterrupted supply during the crisis.

Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik underlined the significance of the intervention, stating, "This operation ensures that essential commodities reach the residents despite the challenging terrain and adverse weather conditions. So far, 25 quintals of food supplies have been delivered, and the exercise will continue as long as weather conditions permit safe operations."

The Deputy Commissioner further informed that efforts are underway to expedite the reconstruction of the Thathi Bridge with the support of the



Army, while alternate routes and manual transportation methods are also being explored to restore connectivity as quickly as possible.

IAF personnel played a pivotal role in the airlift operation, coordinating with the district administration to ensure supplies were safely dropped at designated locations within the village. The swift response has been widely appreciated by the local community, who faced uncertainty and isolation due to blocked roads.

The joint operation reflects the administration's unwavering commitment to safeguarding the welfare of citizens and the Indian Air Force's

spirit of service during emergencies. Local residents expressed gratitude, acknowledging that the timely intervention has provided much-needed relief and reassurance during a critical time.

The District Administration has reiterated its commitment to providing all possible assistance, including emergency medical aid and communication support, to people stranded in remote and inaccessible areas due to the recent heavy rains and landslides. Authorities continue to monitor the situation closely and remain ready to extend further assistance wherever necessary.

## 3 Cab drivers booked for violating Traffic Advisory, overcharging

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**JAMMU, SEP 15:** The Traffic Police Jammu have booked 3 Cab drivers for violating the Traffic Advisory and overcharging passengers, according to an official handout issued by the department.

To ensure strict enforcement of the Traffic Advisory issued for today—which authorized only the down-movement of vehicles on NH-44—a Traffic Naka was set up at Jagti near JIM Jammu. This checkpoint was aimed at preventing unauthorized movement and ensuring commuter safety during peak hours.



At around 1000 hrs, 3 commercial Swift vehicles bearing Registration Numbers JK06C-0915, JK17A-6305, and JK17A-6364 were intercepted. These vehicles were found transporting passengers towards the Doda-Kishtwar region in direct violation of the advisory, as well as charging fares higher than the approved rate, compromising public trust.

Upon questioning, the drivers began misbehaving with the Traffic Police personnel and refused to comply with lawful directions, including producing valid documents for verification. As a result, they were immediately detained and taken to Police Station Nagrota for further action.

The accused have been identified as: Abdul Gafoor, resident of Bhala, Gandoh Aqib Hussain Bhat, resident of Berwar-Kishtwar Mohammad Tayab, resident of Chatroo-Kishtwar A formal case has been registered against them under FIR No 195/2025 at P/S Nagrota with sections 132/126(2) BNS and 177/179 MV Act. The drivers have been arrested, and the cabs involved have been seized as per legal procedures.

The Traffic Police have reiterated their commitment to ensuring commuter safety and strict compliance with traffic rules. They have urged the general public to cooperate with law enforcement and refrain from engaging with unauthorized or unscrupulous transporters.

Passengers are advised to report instances of overcharging or violation of traffic advisories by contacting the Traffic Police City Jammu helpline at:

0191-2459048 | 94191-47732 | 103 (Toll-Free) The department further assured that any violation will be dealt with firmly to maintain order and safeguard public convenience.

## Social Welfare Department hosts Pension & Grievances Redressal Camp at Mandi

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**POONCH, SEP 15:** The Social Welfare Department organized a Pension and Grievances Redressal Camp at Mandi recently, aimed at resolving issues faced by beneficiaries and ensuring smooth access to welfare schemes.

A large number of people from across the three blocks of Mandi, Sathra, and Loran attended the camp. Many participants from remote and mountainous villages gathered with the hope of addressing long-standing concerns related to old age pensions, widow and disability pensions, and the State Marriage Assistance Scheme. Several beneficiaries raised issues regarding delays in financial assistance, difficulties in processing

applications, and confusion over documentation and eligibility criteria.

District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Khalil A Bandy listened patiently to each grievance and assured attendees that their concerns would be addressed as a priority. He emphasized that cases linked to pension disbursement and marriage assistance would be fast-tracked, and that the department was committed to eliminating bureaucratic hurdles and ensuring transparency in service delivery. "The department is fully committed to ensuring that genuine beneficiaries receive their entitled benefits in a timely and hassle-free manner," he said.

Officials on-site provided assistance with application forms,



verification of documents, and guidance on eligibility norms. A helpdesk was also set up to offer one-on-one support to applicants and facilitate the submission of pending paperwork.

The camp also featured awareness sessions where attendees were informed about various schemes, how to apply for them, and whom to contact for follow-ups. Beneficiaries were encouraged to make use of available helplines and outreach services to ensure that no deserving individual is left out.

Local residents appreciated the initiative, saying that the department's presence at the grassroots level helps in building trust and improving access to welfare services.



## HT EDITORIAL

### Follow SC directions & write prescriptions in bold, capital letters

Some years back the Supreme Court of India had issued a slew of directions to the doctors vis-a-vis writing of the prescriptions. The highest court of the country had issued directions since most of the people had opined that they are not able to read the prescriptions issued by the doctors. The people said that since they are not able to go through the prescriptions there are occasions when the dispensing chemists give them substitute drugs.

The Supreme Court had issued directions to the doctors to write the prescriptions in clear terms so that the same are readable to one and all. Directions were issued that the prescriptions are written in bold letters and there should not be any ambiguity in this regard. At the same time the doctors were also directed to write the prescriptions in capital letters and that the ambiguous letters or numbers are avoided. All this was done to ensure that the people, especially patients get the real medicines.

Given the fact that the directions came from no less than the apex court of the country it was expected that the doctors would follow the same in letter in spirit with the patients being the ultimate beneficiaries at the end of the day. To the surprise of one and all, most of the doctors did not follow the directions and they continued to write the prescriptions in small letters that are not readable to most of the people.

The prescriptions are readable to only the chemists only as was the case earlier before the directions of the apex court. As a result of this the directions of the Supreme Court remained confined to the four walls of the court and these were not visible on ground much to the dismay of the people especially patients. Shockingly the apex court did not take the non-compliance of its directions seriously and as such no action whatsoever was taken against the doctors.

It is important that the Medical Council of India takes the lead in this regard and passes on the directions to the doctors working in the field. This would ensure that directions of the Supreme Court are implemented and people heave a sigh of relief. This would also convey a message that no one is above the law and all the people irrespective of their position in the society are answerable to the system and its institutions.

# The Cry of Reasi's Chenab Villages: A Struggle for Survival and Dignity



■ Abdul Qudir Kundiya

For centuries the Chenab River has been remembered as a gift of nature for the people of Jammu. Its waters irrigated fertile lands, sustained crops, quenched thirst, and carried prosperity through the region like the very lifeblood of its people. Farmers rejoiced when their fields glistened under the touch of its waters. Families celebrated the abundance of food and the security it brought. For the villages of Bhabbhar Brahmana & Rasiyalan, Chumbian, and Dera Baba Banda in district Reasi, the Chenab was not just a river. It was the guardian of life and the symbol of hope. Yet in the course of time that guardian has turned into a destroyer. Today the same river has become the embodiment of destruction, swallowing homes, fields, traditions, and dreams, leaving behind a trail of despair that has stretched for more than three decades.

Every year when the monsoon approaches, the people living along its banks are gripped with fear. The sound of thunder in the sky is enough to fill them with dread. Nights become endless vigils. Mothers hold their children close, fathers rush to move cattle to safer places, and every heart silently prays for protection. The villagers know too well that the Chenab does not rise with water alone. It rises with anger. It carries away not only soil but also the hopes, dreams, and peace of generations. The tragedy that haunts these villages is not new. It has been unfolding for the last thirty five years. In 1989 the people first cried out to the administration, begging for protection. They raised their voice again in 1992. In 2014, after a devastating flood, the people once again demanded help. At that time a project report worth fifty two crore rupees was prepared and submitted to the government when Shahid Iqbal Choudhary was the Deputy Commissioner of Reasi. That project promised to construct a protective wall from Bhabbhar Gijiya Kai Devta to Chumbian, a wall that could have saved lives, land, and heritage. But in 2025 that wall remains a dream. The people are still raising the same demand, repeating the same words, asking for the same protection.

In these thirty five years countless officials and administrators have visited these villages. They have seen with



their own eyes the eroded fields and damaged homes. They have listened to the tears and laments of the people. They have given words of sympathy and assurances of action. Reports have been prepared, recommendations have been written, files have been forwarded from one office to another. Yet on the ground nothing has changed. The villagers often wonder whether these files are locked away in dusty cupboards or deliberately hidden to be forgotten. Even the reports that took years to prepare have brought no relief.

Meanwhile the Chenab has continued its ruthless work. Fertile fields that once bore golden maize, rice, wheat, and lush green trees are now only a part of the riverbed. Dozens of kanals of land have been consumed. Farmers who once held their heads high with pride in their harvest now work as daily wage laborers. Families that tilled the land for generations have been forced to leave their homes. Some have migrated in despair, others live in temporary huts, many have sought shelter with relatives, and a few even sleep in the cattle sheds that once housed their animals. For people who believed in dignity, hard work, and self reliance, this transformation is nothing less than unbearable humiliation.

When the river swallows homes, the official help does not arrive in time. By the time relief reaches the villages, the people have already lost everything. Police prepare reports, papers move from one desk to another, but the victims are left stranded. Compensation, when it arrives, is far too little to repair the damage. Rehabilitation projects remain locked in government files. For the people who live through the terror of every flood, the feeling is bitter. They ask whether they are truly citizens of this nation or forgotten voices lost in the noise of bureaucracy.

The story of destruction does not end with homes and fields. It strikes at the heart of cultural and spiritual life as well. For centuries the people of these villages performed the last rites of their

loved ones on the banks of the Chenab. Those sacred grounds carried the memories of generations. Today those places too have been consumed by the river. The pain of this loss was most visible when an elderly woman, Vidya Devi, affectionately known as Chachi Ji, passed away. Tradition demanded that her cremation be held on the riverbank as had been done for countless ancestors. But the ground was no longer there. The family was forced to borrow land from another villager to perform the final rites. The entire community wept that day. It was not only the grief of one family but the sorrow of a whole people watching their traditions vanish.

The threat extends to important spiritual and cultural landmarks. Gijiya Kai Devta, Khairvadh Ziarat, and the Gurudwara at Dera Baba are all in danger. These places are not merely sites of worship. They are the spiritual heartbeat of the villages. People pray there for prosperity, health, and wellbeing. They gather there as a community, strengthening bonds of faith and unity. The possibility that these landmarks may disappear under the floodwaters is unimaginable. To lose them would be to lose centuries of cultural identity and shared history.

The destruction has grown worse in recent months. Since August 2025, more land has been washed away, more houses have collapsed, and more families have been displaced. Officials including patwaris and tehsildars have visited the affected areas. They have prepared fresh reports and forwarded them to the Reasi administration. At Dera Baba Seri, houses are literally sinking into the earth. Yet people fear that once again all this will remain only on paper. They remember that since 1989 every flood has followed the same pattern. Reports are prepared, promises are made, and then everything is buried in files. Recently there was a glimmer of hope when the Deputy Commissioner of Reasi, Ms Nidhi Malik, visited Dera Baba Banda on the ninth of October.

The people welcomed her with warmth. They showed her their broken homes and shared their pain. For a moment they felt that someone in authority had finally witnessed their suffering with her own eyes. But deep inside their hearts, a fear remained that this visit too might end as just another gesture of sympathy. After thirty five years of patience the people can wait no longer. Every flood chips away at their hope. Every wave erases a piece of their past and their future. Yet in all this time they have never broken the law. They have never blocked roads, never raised angry slogans, never turned to violence. They have continued to place their trust in democracy, appealing again and again with dignity. Their restraint is admirable, but continuing to deny them justice is itself a great injustice.

The demand of the people is not complicated. They want a protective wall built from Bhabbhar Gijiya Kai Devta to Chumbian. For outsiders this may appear to be a matter of infrastructure, but for the people it is far more than that. The wall represents safety for their children, dignity for their families, and protection for their traditions. It is not simply a wall of stone and cement. It is a shield for their survival and a promise for their future.

The villagers fold their hands before the government. They plead not to be abandoned, not to be made homeless, and not to be stripped of their traditions and faith. They want to live with dignity in their ancestral lands, not wander as displaced people begging for shelter. This is not just an appeal for protection against a river. It is a struggle for identity, for culture, and for survival.

If action is taken now, many lives and livelihoods can still be saved. If delay continues, the loss will not remain limited to homes and fields. It will break the spirit of entire communities, shatter their bonds, and erase their cultural memory. The people of Bhabbhar Brahmana & Rasiyalan, Chumbian, and Dera Baba Banda have already waited patiently for thirty five years. They cannot endure another thirty five. They want their children to inherit a future of safety and peace, not fear and displacement.

The Chenab continues to flow. At times it is calm, at times furious. For the people of these villages every wave brings a new test. Every flood is a trial of their patience and their faith. Yet they do not let go of hope. They still believe that the government can save them. They still pray that their cries will be heard. They still believe that before it is too late, someone will rise to protect them.

The author is a Eminent Dogri and Urdu Writer

## When Freedom Came with Fire: The Tragedy of Partition

■ Munish Bhatia

The history of India's independence is as glorious as it is painful. On August 15, 1947, when the country was freed from British rule, that moment was the result of years of struggle and sacrifice for countless Indians. The glory of the tricolour flag and the dream of self-rule were realized, but with this freedom came a deep, bloody tragedy—the partition of the country. This was a time when, on one hand, people were singing songs of freedom, while on the other, millions of hearts were in mourning. While every street and home were being decorated with the tricolour for the celebration of independence, the fire of hatred and violence was also flaring up in those very streets. The sun of self-rule rose, but its rays brought darkness. The air was filled with the smell of blood, shops in markets were looted, and thousands of homes were reduced to ashes. The scene at that time was as if someone had set fire to a fair of dreams—a fire that shook the very foundation of humanity. Children, the elderly, women—no one was safe.

The decision to partition forced approximately 1.4 crore people to leave their homeland. People living in Punjab, Bengal, and border areas were compelled to abandon their homes, farms, and shops to seek refuge on unfamiliar land. People coming to India from Pakistan and those going to Pakistan from India, lost their old identities. In their own country, they were called "refugees"—a word that deepened their wounds. Their broken houses, burnt walls, and scattered broken bangles in courtyards bore witness to the devastation of their lives. The colors of those bangles, whose wearer was now lost in some unknown direction. The most horrific scenes of that era were seen on railway tracks. Trains known as

"refugee trains" were often found filled with dead bodies. In many places, entire compartments were found without a single living passenger—just silent corpses and layers of dried blood. Partition not only snatched away land and property, but it also tore the threads of relationships. The hands of innocent children were separated from their parents. The vermillion of married sisters was washed away by tears and rain. Crimes that defiled the dignity of Mother India took place—incidents of mass violence, abduction, and exploitation of women were the bitter reality of that time. Villages and cities were engulfed in the fire of hatred, and peace turned into ashes. Even the wealthy were forced to spend nights in tents.

According to historians, approximately 10 to 20 lakh people died during the partition, and more than 1.4 crore people were displaced. Thousands of incidents of violence and abduction against women were recorded. These figures are not just numbers on paper; every number is the story of an incomplete life. Politically, some leaders called partition a "necessary compromise," but for the public, this compromise proved to be a dreadful deal. New seats of power were adorned, but the caravan on the streets was scattered. Children who used to laugh and play in their courtyards were now in orphanages. Family heads were either killed or forced to live their lives in refugee camps. The sight of refugee camps in Delhi, Amritsar, Lahore, Dhaka, and Kolkata narrated a different kind of pain. Temporary homes made under tarpaulin, long queues for rations, people struggling with disease and hunger—all this continued to deepen the mental wounds of that generation. The condition of the refugees became even more pathetic during the monsoon months. Wet clothes under leaking tarpaulins, rotis covered in mud, and shivering small children in the cold

wind—this sight would shake anyone to their core. Many families did not have a single dry sheet to cover themselves. Sleeping on waterlogged ground caused their bodies to stiffen, and continuous exposure to rain led to diseases like fever, cough, and pneumonia. On cold nights when the wind pierced to the bone, this went on for months, and every morning, some people would fall victim to the cold and illness, becoming silent forever. Although the darkness of hatred was deep during the partition, the light of humanity was also seen in some places. Many Hindu, Muslim, and Sikh families saved each other's lives at the risk of their own. These stories prove that the flame of humanity never completely goes out.

This bitter chapter of freedom gives us not just a page of history but also a serious warning. The path of hatred, religious division, and violence does not bring lasting happiness to anyone. If we want to move forward today by forgetting these wounds, we must adopt the path of brotherhood, tolerance, and unity. The true price of freedom is not just in waving a flag or celebrating but in remembering the sacrifices because of which we are independent. It is about remembering those millions of faces who left their homes, their land, and everything—with only one hope, with the belief in a new tomorrow.

August 15 gives us a feeling of pride, but at the same time, it also forces us to think: Are we valuing those sacrifices? Have we truly understood the real meaning of freedom? The price of freedom cannot be measured only in blood and tears. It is a legacy that our generation has the responsibility to protect. We must ensure that this painful chapter written on the pages of history is never repeated. True freedom can only be sustained on the foundation of unity, brotherhood, and humanity.



# Ruzazho Village

## A Hidden Gem in Nagaland's Phek District



■ By M S Nazki

The tools necessary to make your life extraordinary! Only the Nagas know how to do extraordinary things! "Victory or defeat is not important, but the fight itself is everything!"

They do say, if you want love to survive, then you better play it right, and know the best things are free, I guess it's time for you to see.....A naughty brat who always joked today also she still works hard.....! But Guess who.....? Leave this to Assam Rifles to find out!

We will tell you a story but the trivia questions need to be answered!

But a clue we will give!

Naga girl traverses path of entrepreneurship to be her own hero!

Nagaland has seen a significant increase in the number of entrepreneurs of late, with many enthusiastic young people venturing into various fields and trying to make a living.

One such entrepreneur is Imsurenla Sanglir, who stood in the 8th rank (History honours) in her graduation (2018) and ranked third in the University in the department of English.

She in 2021 was pursuing a double master's degree in Folklore and Culture Studies while trying to create a niche in business and also help the needy during these difficult times.

"Making arts and crafts has been my hobby and living expenses for a fashion enthusiast is a little too much; also the college bus fare was expensive and I did not want to burden my parents so I decided that as long as I am healthy and breathing I am going to be my own hero," she said.

It was when the government of Nagaland declared to make the state plastic-free and subsequently banned single-use plastics that the idea of creating sustainable tote bags struck her.

That idea took shape when she started her tote bag business known as One X One Nagaland in 2019; and she gave her authentic touch to it either through embroidery or paint.

As she started getting deeper into sustainable ethics, she noticed clothes polluting the environment and so wanted to hype "thrifty culture", and thus curated "Like. Buy. Slay (sound like our words)" with the label "Buy only if you love it". Through this platform, she sells second hand clothes online after sourcing, washing and sanitising it.

"I love giving back to society so I did two different charity drops in 2020 and 2021 where I raised funds to provide cell phones, admissions and help a pregnant lady. I also donate items in different districts in Nagaland by enquiring my friends about the downtrodden families. All this social work makes me content," she said.

This was a story but still this girl's example can be used by others!

If you are innovative then no innovative invention is far away from you! Any individual can do wonders provided he knows he is capable of that! No Specialists are required here!

There's a change in the colors of life, there's a change in the colors of life, baby, I can see them changing, I can see them walking all around you.....!.....Nagas are very capable.....MD!

Nagas are talented but since childhood, we are pampered and have the notion that we should depend on parents until we get a government job or any private job for that matter, so our talents get dusted. We should learn the positive side of the western culture of being independent once we attain the age of 18 (or even younger). Life is not going to be a smooth flow of river; there will be hurdles and strong forces, so one should be ready to face the world at any given point of time," she asserted.

Ruzazho, the village: Ruzazho, the village in Nagaland has a unique history linked to national integration through its connection with Subhas Chandra Bose and the Indian National Army (INA) in 1944. This historical significance continues to make Ruzazho a symbolic location for various national integration initiatives.

Ruzazho's historical connection to nation-

al integration: INA occupation and administration: In 1944, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's Azad Hind Fauj (INA) liberated Ruzazho, making it the first Indian village to be administered by the provisional Azad Hind government.

Freedom fighter Poswuyi Swuro: Ruzazho village headman Poswuyi Swuro served as an interpreter and guide for Bose during his stay. Swuro's crucial role helped bridge communication between the INA and local Naga leaders.

National heritage village: Recognizing its unique role in India's freedom struggle, there have been efforts to have Ruzazho declared a national heritage village, which would further solidify its place in the national narrative.

Recent national integration efforts involving Ruzazho: Cultural events: In 2021, the Ministry of Culture held a cultural program in Ruzazho as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebration, promoting national unity.

"Digital Ruzazho" initiative: As of 2019, initiatives have been proposed to connect Ruzazho with the "mainland" through technology, including establishing free Wi-Fi in the village. The goal is to bring awareness and modern facilities to this historically significant village.

Youth integration programs: Students from Ruzazho have been included in national integration tours for youth from the North Eastern states. These tours, often organized by the Indian Army, take students to other parts of the country to expose them to India's diverse heritage.

The village and the Ministry of Culture, through its cultural centers, actively commemorate Netaji's anniversary and his connection to Ruzazho with enthusiastic participation from the local community.

The 126th birth anniversary of Netaji was observed in Ruzazho in 2023, highlighting the village's historic significance for Nagaland and India.

Poswuyi Swuro, who passed away in 2025 at the age of 106, was considered Nagaland's last living link to Netaji, sharing firsthand accounts that enriched historical understanding. Broader national integration efforts in Nagaland: While not focused solely on Ruzazho, other recent youth programs in Nagaland promote national integration by:

Conducting Special National Integration Camps (SNIC): In December 2024, the National Cadet Corps (NCC) organized an SNIC at Wokha, Nagaland, to foster unity and celebrate India's diverse cultural fabric among cadets from across the country.

Organizing integration tours: The Assam Rifles and Indian Army have regularly flagged off National Integration Tours for students from Nagaland and other Northeastern states, often taking them to major cities and historical sites across India.

But this is the present but the past is unique:

Phek district was officially established on December 19, 1973, when it was created from the former Kohima District. The name "Phek" originates from the Phekrekedze word meaning "watchtower". As one of Nagaland's older districts, its history is rooted in the administrative structure of the state.

Administrative origin: The district was formed by carving out territory from the then existing Kohima District.

Meaning of the name: The name "Phek" is derived from the Phekrekedze language, referring to a "watchtower," which reflects its historical significance in the region.

Some extracts from a writer:

I felt as if Netaji himself was somewhere around. In the rainy months of April 1944, he would have been busy strategising with INA commanders around this same kitchen fire, as it used to be cold over such mountains, even in April. While immersing within thoughts, I had a surprising idea trespassing into my mind. I asked Vekho, "Can I spend tonight inside this memorial house?" He was quite surprised, but did not hurt my urge. He discussed with his fellow villagers. The villagers looked at me with surprise. One old lady told me, "We believe Netaji's soul still stays inside this house. If your soul leaves your body to join Netaji's soul, that will be a tragedy for everyone." I assured them, "I'll not depart so soon for sure as I have miles to go." They all returned me a painful smile.

Finally, adorable Vekho gave the green signal, but with a condition - "One village brave man would accompany you as a guard to provide security if at all anything untoward might happen." I agreed.....Dr. Sunil Mohanty!



I had carefully suppressed my emotions while eagerly listening to this great man who had spent some golden days of his successful life with Netaji. The senior Swuro was keenly explaining experiences in his own language while the younger Swuro was translating that into English.

"When the terrible World War II was announced, all schools were closed," said Swuro. That was when he suddenly had to return back home without completing studies. However, he had the privilege of meeting Netaji during the "Delhi Chalo" campaign in April 1944. Poswuyi continued to open one chapter after another on the Azad Hind Fauj (INA) from his memory lane simultaneously increasing my anxieties.

"When I met Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, the INA and Japanese soldiers had come to our village Ruzazho. As Netaji arrived on a horse back, a sword was hanging around his waist. Recalling the great icon he said, "In fact, Netaji was a more handsome, brighter and stronger personality than any of his available portraits today. When locals gathered around, Netaji asked everyone if there was any educated person in this village. All the villagers took my name and said that I (Poswuyi) was the only one who had passed Class three."

"The next morning Netaji appointed me as DB. I was entrusted with the responsibility of administration of the area. My elder brother Vesuyi Swuro was a soldier in the Assam Regiment.

He was also appointed as a translator by Netaji as he had come home on a six-month leave. Along with this, he gave responsibilities to Gaon Burahs of ten different villages for performing the role of village heads whose main duty was to organise a public meeting. Everyone in the surrounding villages was informed that Netaji, INA and his fellow Japanese soldiers had been camping in Ruzazho for nine days.

We took care of the arrangements to provide them with rations which included rice, vegetables, salt and maize. These were provided free of cost by the villagers. In those times, even our homes did not have enough food to give to our children," narrated Poswuyi, the saga of great sacrifice and patriotism on behalf of the people of North-east India.

"None of the villagers, however, would ever complain while donating food items free of cost, even though their economic condition was not good enough. In addition, most of the villagers were mobilised as porters. Their job was to supply rations, arms and ammunition to various destinations of INA. They were risking their own lives while fulfilling responsibilities. Apart from this, they used to do varieties of works like digging soil and setting up camps on hills, making raw materials available and many such things," Swuro ji summed up.

"As per Netaji's order, I as DB, had to frequently visit nearby villages to collect rations for Azad Hind Fauj. The ration collected was stored at a local place called Vuta Choku or Japan Wobu Ku. Popularly named as Japan Pig Stock Centre, from where various INA and Japanese soldiers were provided with rations," explained Swuro ji.

Both the brothers Poswuyi and Vesuyi were leading the INA and Japanese army from the front. "Once we received reports of the presence of a large number of British troops while marching towards Zunheboto on such a mission. We had no other options left, but to wait at night at Satakha which was 50 kilometres from Ruzazho and eventually,

we were forced to return back to the base camp.

On our way back, the British troops tracked and attacked us near the village of Dzullhami killing three Japanese soldiers and a Naga soldier on the spot, the rest of us returned back safely saving our precious lives," Poswuyi's eyes welled up in tears as he recalled.

What was most heartening was when Poswuyi explained in his tearful eyes, "At the end of nine days before bidding adieu Ruzazho, Netaji told the villagers in his last speech that after winning the war against the British, he would come back to this village again and make arrangements for the construction of school, hospital, while facilitating road development work and drinking water connections through pipes. These things are still remembered by the villagers through oral stories."

A little quieter, taking a deep breath, Poswuyi continued, "Alas ! Netaji did not return, his dream of rural development remaining unfulfilled. And still, some innocent villagers believe that one day Netaji will definitely return back to Ruzazho." His throat was suffocating while uttering these words. In fact, Poswuyi's memory was very touching.

The Evening at Netaji Memorial House:

The ever young man in spirit Shri Poswuyi ji had so much to offer us - memory, history, inspiration and dream. But we could not be merciless to him. We took leave from him and walked around the village with Vekho, turning a perfect guide to us. We went to the historic place where Netaji had addressed the villagers for the first time. We met with two more villagers who had assisted INA, still alive and still energetic, especially while recalling their hero Subhash. We walked further into the village and in the middle of the traditional houses, the memorial house where Netaji had stayed for nine days and nine nights was there. This was a traditional house of Naga design having the thatched roofs meeting at top of the triangle and the base of this triangle was obviously the base of the house - quite beautiful a structure..... Dr. Sunil Mohanty!

Our great host Vekho led us into the memorial house. We saw many old and extremely big rice storage baskets made out of bamboo, the kitchen where food was prepared for Netaji and the cot on which Netaji was resting upon. It was truly a great feeling to see those things related to Netaji. A tremendous vibration of unique kind was to be felt inside. I took a little soil of the house and put it on my forehead. That was a spontaneous tribute to the Great Hero.

The whole village of youth, women, children and even the old, had gathered in front of Netaji memorial house for the special cultural program. About hundreds of young male and women participated in a beautiful traditional war dance wearing traditional attire with swords in their hands. The mesmerizing sound they were uttering was truly unique, never heard before. The women of Ruzazho performed a unique traditional song cum dance 'Loz li' which they used to sing while weaving their traditional garments in different phases, from making thread out of raw cotton to making garment from thread. That was really so lovely a way of working, relaxing and upholding their great cultural legacy at the same time..... Dr. Sunil Mohanty!

Nestled in the scenic Phek district of Nagaland, Ruzazho Village is a hidden gem with a rich historical tapestry. The village is known for its tribal affiliation with the Chakhesang community, one of the major Naga tribes.

Located approximately 78 kilometers from Kohima, the state capital, Ruzazho is a serene settlement surrounded by lush green hills and picturesque landscapes.

One of the worst and toughest battles during the Second World War was fought in the year 1944 between the two colonial empires viz British and Japan at Kohima in the heart of Naga soil, also known as "The Battle of Kohima." Unfortunately, many of the real struggles and stories at ground zero were never sought after and put into records. Hence, most of the stories fed to us are more of one-sided stories from the victors' point of view. Things have changed at present whereby the educated Nagas are pursuing in documenting all those oral stories into writings and recordings (both audio and videos).

Ruzazho Village thus has the legacy of being the first village liberated from British control by Azad Hind Fauj and Subhas Chandra Bose. In recognition of the efforts and service rendered by the Nagas towards the Japanese and Azad Hind Fauj, a tablet was erected at Ruzazho village when the Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu, visited the village in 2021.

In this picturesque village of Ruzazho, Nagaland, 13 Assam Rifles have embarked on a heartfelt mission to weave the threads of national unity and bring the local community closer to a unified identity of nationalism. The overall endeavours, marked by compassion and dedication, resonate deeply within the hearts of the villagers, creating lasting bonds of trust and mutual respect.

The Battle of Kohima was a fierce, 64-day World War II battle in April-June 1944 in Kohima, India, where British and Indian forces repelled a Japanese offensive that aimed to advance into India. Considered a turning point and one of Britain's greatest battles, the fighting was intense and brutal, with close-quarters combat, heavy casualties, and critical defense of key positions like Garrison Hill. The battle was part of the larger Japanese Operation U-Go offensive and resulted in a decisive Allied victory, stopping the Japanese advance into India and protecting Allied supply lines.

Japanese Offensive: In 1944, the Japanese Fifteenth Army launched Operation U-Go, aiming to destroy British and Indian forces in Imphal and Kohima, as well as disrupt Allied preparations for an eventual offensive into Burma.

Strategic Importance: Kohima was crucial because it provided a route into the Brahmaputra Valley and access further into India, threatening to cut off Allied supply lines.

Key Events and Characteristics: Intense Fighting: The battle involved brutal, close-quarters combat in the monsoon-affected jungle, with widespread use of hand-to-hand combat, phosphorus grenades, and snipers.

Siege of Kohima: For a period, British and Indian soldiers were besieged in Kohima, with fierce fighting for key positions such as the tennis court of the Deputy Commissioner's bungalow.

Reinforcements: Allied reinforcements, including 161 Brigade, arrived on April 19th, breaking the siege and allowing the Allies to counterattack.

Turning Point: The battle became the turning point of the Japanese invasion, halting their advance into India.

The Azad Hind Fauj, also known as the Indian National Army (INA), was an armed force founded by Indian nationalists during World War II to fight for India's independence from British rule. Led by Subhas Chandra Bose, the army was formed primarily from Indian prisoners of war captured by the Japanese in Southeast Asia and Indian civilians living abroad. It was established with support from the Japanese Empire and operated primarily from Singapore, serving as a potent symbol of patriotism and a key component of India's freedom struggle.

Subhas Chandra Bose played a pivotal role in reorganizing and leading the Azad Hind Fauj, making it a powerful force in the Indian independence movement.

The army was initially formed in 1942 with support from Japan, but it gained significant momentum and a renewed focus under Bose's leadership in Singapore in 1943.

The Azad Hind Fauj was composed of tens of thousands of Indian prisoners of war and civilians, who volunteered to fight for the liberation of their country!

I give me blood, and I will give you freedom!" and "When we stand, the Azad Hind Fauj has to be like a wall of granite; when we march, the Azad Hind Fauj has to be like a steam-roller!".....Subash Chander Bose!



# BLUEBERRY

## Recall Upgraded Over Listeria Risk

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued its highest-level risk warning over a recent recall of hundreds of boxes of organic blueberries due to possible listeria contamination.

Alma Pak International LLC, a Georgia-based food manufacturer, issued a voluntary recall for 400 boxes of organic blueberries weighing 30 pounds each. The boxes were primarily shipped to one customer in North Carolina.

The manufacturer initiated the recall on June 9 after receiving positive test results for Listeria monocytogenes following routine testing. The affected boxes include the lot numbers 13325 G1060 and 13325 G1096.

On July 1, the FDA issued a Class I Trusted Source risk classification for the recall, which indicates "a situation in which there is a reasonable probability that the use of, or exposure to, a violative product will cause serious adverse health consequences or death."

Healthline couldn't reach Alma Pak for comment, but the company told Newsweek in a statement that "the affected product was fully recovered prior to reaching the retail market. As a result, no product was sold to consumers, and there was no risk to public health."

"Alma Pak International has implemented additional corrective actions and preventive controls to further strengthen its already rigorous food safety systems. All products at Alma Pak undergo comprehensive testing, in addition to a strong environmental monitoring program. In response to the incident, intensified vector sampling was conducted to support the company's proactive 'seek and destroy' commitment. All subsequent samples collected during this enhanced monitoring process tested negative for

Listeria monocytogenes, further confirming the effectiveness of the food safety program," the statement continued.

What to know about listeria  
Foods contaminated with Listeria monocytogenes may lead to foodborne illnesses ranging from mild to severe symptoms.

Less severe symptoms of listeria infection (listeriosis) generally resolve in 1-3 days and typically include:

- fever
- nausea and vomiting
- diarrhea
- muscle ache

When foodborne illness from listeria contamination becomes severe, it can be life-threatening. These symptoms may include:

- headaches, neck stiffness
- confusion, loss of balance
- convulsions

Severe infections are particularly dangerous for newborns, adults over age 65 and those with weakened immune systems.

Young infants, pregnant people, older adults over 65, and immunocompromised individuals are most at risk for severe illness from listeria.

If you experience flu-like symptoms or develop any of the above symptoms after eating, it's important to contact your doctor right away. Early treatment for listeria infection can help prevent severe illness.

How does listeria bacteria grow?  
Despite the FDA's recently issued high-level risk warning for blueberries, the general public need not panic.

"Blueberries are generally safe for consumption. While contamination can happen, it's rare, and proper handling usually keeps the risk very low," said Mi-

chelle Routhenstein, MS, a registered dietitian with Entirely Nourished, specializing in heart disease.

While the overall risk is low, Listeria monocytogenes may develop in food products during the manufacturing process.

"Listeria can grow if the berries come into contact with contaminated water, dirty equipment, or unclean surfaces during harvesting or packaging. It can also grow if the berries aren't kept cold enough or if workers don't follow proper hygiene practices," Routhenstein told Healthline.

"Listeria can also spread through cross-contamination. This occurs when ready-to-eat foods come into contact with surfaces or equipment that have been contaminated with the bacteria. For example, using the same cutting board for raw meat and then for fruit or vegetables without proper cleaning can lead to contamination and potential illness," she said.

How to lower your risk of listeria

You can minimize your risk of listeria contamination in blueberries and other fresh fruits by washing them thoroughly under running water before preparing, cooking, or eating them.

Routhenstein suggested using a produce brush to wash any fruits with firm skins or rinds.

She noted that properly storing fruits in the refrigerator and keeping them away from raw meats and other possible sources of contamination can also help lower one's risk.

"It's also important to eat them within a few days and to clean your hands, kitchen surfaces, and containers before and after handling fresh produce," she advised.

Courtesy Healthline

# Rising Heat Fuels Dengue Spread to New Regions

■ Rodielon Putol

There's a heat-driven health crisis creeping in – not with coughing or fevers in a doctor's office, but with buzzing mosquitoes.

Dengue fever, a disease that used to stick mostly to tropical zones, is breaking borders and heading toward cities and countries that never had to worry about it before. The reason? It's getting warmer.

Dengue is far more than a nuisance. The illness often starts with high fever, headaches, and body aches. In some cases, it spirals into internal

bleeding, organ failure, and death.

Once mostly seen in places like Brazil and the Philippines, it's now on track to affect millions more across both Asia and the Americas.

Until now, scientists had a pretty good hunch that heat played a role in dengue's spread. What this new study makes clear is just how big that role is – and how dangerous the trend could become.

The analysis looked at 1.4 million records of dengue across 21 countries, mainly in Central and South America, plus Southeast and South Asia. The research shows that even small

increases in average temperature are already making dengue infections worse and more widespread.

"The effects of temperature were much larger than I expected," said Marissa Childs, the lead author from the University of Washington. "Even small shifts in temperature can have a big impact for dengue transmission, and we're already seeing the fingerprint of climate warming."

Dengue doesn't spread well in just any heat. It thrives in a narrow band of temperatures. The peak danger zone? Around 82°F. That's the sweet spot where mosquitoes

are most active and the dengue virus replicates fast.

This means that as previously cooler cities and regions warm up, they're becoming perfect breeding grounds for mosquitoes that carry dengue. This includes major population centers in Mexico, Peru, and Brazil. Many are just now reaching that danger zone, and that's where the biggest spikes are expected.

The study found that hotter areas already above this optimal temperature might actually see slight dips in dengue spread. But those declines don't come close to cancel-

ing out the massive increases elsewhere. The total global impact is still a steep rise in infections.

Between 1995 and 2014, warmer temperatures were responsible for 18% of dengue infections across the 21 countries studied. That's not a future estimate – it's already happened.

Based on current rates, over 4.6 million extra dengue cases have been caused by climate-driven warming every year.

Looking ahead, things could get worse, and fast. Depending on how much greenhouse gas emissions rise,

cases could jump another 49% to 76% by 2050. That means more than double the current number of dengue infections in places that are already home to over 260 million people.

"Many studies have linked temperature and dengue transmission," said Erin Mordecai, senior author of the study. "What's unique about this work is that we are able to separate warming from all the other factors that influence dengue – mobility, land use change, population dynamics – to estimate its effect on the real-world dengue burden."

earth.com

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# Sufi Coordination Committee, Ehsaas Foundation Pay Tribute to Ghulam Ahmad Sofi on 20th Death Anniversary

■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, SEP 15:** The Sufi Coordination Committee in collaboration with Ehsaas Foundation today paid rich tributes to the legendary Kashmiri Sufi singer, Ghulam Ahmad Sofi, on his 20th death anniversary. Sofi, who passed away on September 15, 2005, is remembered for his soulful voice and immense contribution in keeping the tradition of Kashmiri Sufi music alive.

On this occasion, members of both organizations visited Sofi



Sahab's graveyard, where they offered floral tributes, prayers, and Fatiha in remembrance of his invaluable contribution to Kash-

miri Sufi music.

Akhtar Hussain, Chairman of the Sufi Coordination Committee, said: "Sofi Sahab's voice continues

to echo in the hearts of Kashmiris. His contribution to Kashmiri Sufi music is timeless and will forever remain an inspiration for

generations to come."

Vice Chairman of Ehsaas Foundation, Burhan Nazir, in his message said: "Remembering Sofi Sahab is not just about recalling a great artist but about preserving and continuing the message of love, peace, and spirituality that he spread through his music."

The organisations also pledged to work collectively for the preservation of Kashmiri art, culture, and Sufi traditions, ensuring that Sofi's legacy continues to inspire future generations.

## Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written as MOHD HUSSAIN MANSOOR PANDITH in the qualification certificate/ documents while my correct name is MOHAMMAD HUSSAIN MANSOOR S/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD PANDITH which needs to be corrected .If anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may file his/her objection in the office of concerned authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**Name....MOHAMMAD HUSSAIN MANSOOR  
S/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD PANDITH  
R/O ATHOORA  
Distt....BARAMULLA**

## Public Notice

This is for the information of the general public that I intend to apply for the Date of Birth Certificate of my ward Visal Fatima, D/o Ajaz Ali Mir and Chesfeeda Akhtar, whose date of birth is 25/03/2018.

If anyone has any objection, they may file the same in the office of Block Development Officer, Singhpora Pattan within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

**Ajaz Ali Mir  
(Father of Visal Fatima)**

## Public Notice

This is for the information of the general public that I intend to apply for the Date of Birth Certificate of my ward Amber Zehra , D/o Ajaz Ali Mir and Chesfeeda Akhtar, whose date of birth is 07/06/2017.

If anyone has any objection, they may file the same in the office of Block Development Officer, Singhpora Pattan, within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

**Ajaz Ali Mir  
(Father of Amber Zehra)**

## Public Notice

This is for the information of the general public that I intend to apply for the Date of Birth Certificate of my ward Midhat Zehra, D/o Fida Hussain Rather and Rubeena Akhtar, whose date of birth is 12/08/2018.

If anyone has any objection, they may file the same in the office of Block Development Officer, Singhpora Pattan within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

**Fida Hussain Rather  
(Father of Midhat Zehra)**

## Public Notice

This is for the information of the general public that I intend to apply for the Date of Birth Certificate of my ward Shajraan Ali Rather, S/o Fida Hussain Rather and Rubeena Akhtar, whose date of birth is 20/06/2020.

If anyone has any objection, they may file the same in the office of Block Development Officer, Singhpora Pattan, within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

**Fida Hussain Rather  
(Father of Shajraan Ali Rather)**

## The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education Sub Office Baramulla

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby noticed that my father's name has been incorrectly in my school records, as Mohammad Altaf Mir while his correct name is Altaf Ahmad, Mir , now i have applied for the correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection at The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education sub Office Baramulla Within a period of 07 days after that no objection will be accepted.

**Name: FARDEEN ALTAf MIR  
S/O: ALTAf AHMAD MIR  
ROLL NO 307032038 SESSION  
ANNUAL YEAR 2024 /25  
R/O: PAZWALPORA  
RAFIABAD POST OFFICE ZETHEN  
DIST BARAMULLA**

## Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written as MOHD HUSSAIN MANSOOR PANDITH in the qualification certificate/ documents while my correct name is MOHAMMAD HUSSAIN MANSOOR S/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD PANDITH which needs to be corrected .If anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may file his/her objection in the office of concerned authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**Name....MOHAMMAD HUSSAIN MANSOOR  
S/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD PANDITH  
R/O ATHOORA  
Distt....BARAMULLA**

## Public Notice

I, Rubeena Akhtar C/O Ghulam Ahmad, resident of Sallar, Anantnag, Pehalgam, hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned as Rubeena Jan C/O Ghulam Ahmad.

My correct name is Rubeena Akhtar C/O Ghulam Ahmad. Both names refer to the same person.

**Sd/- Rubeena Akhtar**

## Javid Dar reviews status of NH-44 restoration

Stresses on priority movement for fruit-laden trucks

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, SEP 15:** Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar, today undertook an extensive tour of National Highway-44 (NH-44) to assess the status of fruit-laden truck movement and review infrastructure challenges affecting transportation.

The Minister interacted directly with truck drivers, traders, and transport officials at Qazigund, emphasizing the need to give top priority to fruit-laden trucks to prevent delays and safeguard the interests of farmers and traders.

During the visit, he also inspected damaged stretches of the highway in Udhampur district, reviewing ongoing repair works and coordination



between agencies to ensure smooth and safe traffic flow.

DIG Udhampur Sridhar Patil and other senior officers briefed the Minister about the restoration works and traffic clearance in Udhampur particularly the Tharad -Balli Nallah stretch where extensive damages have occurred

SSP Udhampur Amod Ashok Nagpure; SSP Traffic Adil Hamid and several prominent citizens were also present during the visit of Minister.

Earlier, during the tour, the Minister also chaired a review meeting at DC Office Ramban, which was attended by DDC Chairperson Dr. Shamshad Shan; MLA Banihal Sajjad Shaheen; MLA Anantnag East-Shangus, Reyaz Ahmad Khan; MLA, Anantnag West, Abdul Majeed Bhat; Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, SSP Ramban Arun Gupta and other senior officers.

The Deputy Commissioner briefed the Minister on measures taken to ease congestion, particularly between Banihal and Nashri, and on arrangements made for meals and support services to stranded drivers and passengers by the district administration, J&K Police, and NHAI.

Minister Dar urged the Deputy Commissioner and SSP to personally monitor traffic management on NH-44 and ensure uninterrupted passage for fruit-laden trucks, reiterating the government's commitment to minimizing losses to the farming community.

## Comm. SMC reviews & finalizes preparations for celebration of 'Sewa Parv' & 'Angikaar-2025'

■ HT News Desk/ DIPR

**SRINAGAR, SEP 15:** A meeting to review and finalize the arrangements for the celebration of 'Sewa Parv' and 'Angikaar-2025' was today convened under the chairmanship of Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb, here.

Commissioner emphasized that 'Sewa Parv,' scheduled to be observed from 17th September to 2nd October 2025, reflects the spirit of public service, community participation, and collective responsibility. He further underlined that 'Angikaar-2025,' continuing through the end of October, is aimed at strengthening citizen engagement and promoting sustainable development initiatives across the city.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on the proposed activities, awareness campaigns, and outreach programs to ensure maximum involvement of citizens and stakeholders. Commissioner directed all concerned officers to work in close coordination and ensure that the activities are conducted in an organized and impactful manner.

It was informed that as part of the celebrations, several initiatives will be undertaken under flagship schemes of the Government of India, including PMAY-U, PM SVANidhi, DAY-NULM, AMRUT, NCAP and SBM 2.0. These will encompass housing facilitation and awareness under PMAY, support and credit linkages for street vendors



under PM SVANidhi, livelihood promotion through DAY-NULM, awareness on water conservation and urban infrastructure under AMRUT, air quality improvement campaigns under NCAP, intensified cleanliness and anti-plastic drives under SBM 2.0.

Senior officers of the Corporation and representatives from allied departments were present in the meeting and shared their valuable inputs. Commissioner called all participants to ensure smooth execution of the planned activities, while reiterating the significance of spreading awareness about various welfare schemes and encouraging active community participation.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

## Office of the Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Awantipora

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

**NIT No: 57/EEA/R&B of 2025-26/4237-47 | Dated: 15 -09-2025**

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways sand other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	T.D Cost	Time	Class
1.	Repair and Renovation of AEE Residential Quarter Pampore.	1.95	200/-	25 days	DEE

**Earnest money (In Rupees): 2% of Adv. Cost**

**M.H of Account: 2216(023-M&R)FY 2025-26**

**Project Authority: PWD (R&B)**

**Position Of AAA: Accorded vide No: Authorization No: ARD/CESK/2025-26/42 Dated: 19/08/2025.**

**Position of funds: Committed**

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	15-09-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	15-09-2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	16-09-2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	25-09-2025 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	26-09-2025 12:00 PM

1. Every participating contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder. (As per circular No. 01(ADM) FD of 2025 Dated 08-07-2025 of J&K Finance Department )

(The participating contractor may disclose his Bank Account as per the format, devised as Annexure- A of the NIT and submit/ upload the same accordingly at the time of submission of the bid).

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Dated between bid submission start date and bid submission end date) with NIT No. , Serial No. and name of work to be deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender inviting authority)

3. All the bidders must upload Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender receiving authority) (The Date of earnest money/Bid security should be between the Bid Submission start date and Bid submission End date, otherwise bids shall be rejected).

4. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender receiving authority)as per rule-171 (I) of GFR 2017. The earnest money/ Bid security @2% shall be released to the successful bidder only on receipt of Performance Security @ 5% of Contract value which shall be released after successful completion of DLP /maintenance period.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Awantipora**

**DIPK: 6246/25 | Dated: 15-09-2025**





39th NCORD meeting

# DC Budgam urges community-driven fight; calls for stronger enforcement & rehabilitation measures

77 Kanals & 18 Marlas of Wild Cannabis destroyed this Month; 38 FIRs lodged against culprits, 35 challaned

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 15:** The 39th District-Level NCORD (Narco Coordination) Committee meeting was today convened at the DC office Budgam under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat to review measures taken against drug abuse, and to chart fresh strategies for a drug-free Budgam.

At the outset, DC reviewed the action taken on previous NCORD directions. It was informed that wild cannabis has been destroyed on 77 kanals and 18 marlas of land along major roads and embankments across the district during this month, while 38 FIRs have been registered, 35 challans against

culprits engaged in illicit cultivation.

DC called for a multi-pronged strategy of deterrence, enforcement, treatment, and awareness. He directed all line departments to intensify efforts against narcotics cultivation and peddling. He instructed the BDOs, EOs, Agriculture and Excise departments to ensure that all roads, embankments, and panchayat areas are cleared of cannabis and poppy cultivation.

He lauded earlier efforts but urged for continuous, proactive and visible action so that people develop confidence in the administration's resolve.

Dr Bilal stressed that 100% CCTV coverage and Computerized Billing Systems (CBS) must



be ensured in all drug stores across the district for transparency and accountability. It was informed that Budgam has 630

retail and 225 wholesale chemist outlets, all of which remain under strict monitoring. DC directed the Assistant Drug Con-

troller to conduct frequent inspections and take strict action against violators.

It was also given out that 117 calls have been received on the Tele-MANAS mental health helpline, showing its growing role in providing psychological and community support.

DC called for further publicity of such services so that people battling addiction or mental health challenges can seek help confidentially.

DC further directed the Excise Officer to work in close coordination with Revenue and Police for destruction of illicit crops and lodging of FIRs.

SDMs were directed to hold meetings with religious scholars and community stakeholders at

the sub-divisional level to encourage sermons against drug abuse and formation of 'Nasha-Mukt Panchayats.'

Rural Development Department was directed to organize Gram Sabhas dedicated to drug abuse awareness. DSWO was instructed to conduct mega IEC drives across villages, towns, and schools for mass awareness.

CMO Budgam was directed to ensure 24x7 availability of medical facilities at the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) in District Hospital Budgam.

Reiterating the zero-tolerance approach, DC said that district administration will continue to act tough on peddlers, narcotic crop cultivators, and traffickers with strict punitive action, while

simultaneously extending every possible handholding to victims of addiction.

He further said that this war cannot be won by administration alone; it requires cooperation, coordination, and collaboration of departments, civil society, community leaders, parents, teachers, and religious scholars.

DC underlined that there is a need for adopting a holistic, community-driven approach to eliminate drugs from Budgam as a whole.

The meeting was attended by ADC Budgam, SDM Beerwah, SDM Chadoora, Assistant Drug Control Officer, DYSP HQs, Principals of Government Degree Colleges, Executive Officers of Municipal Committees, and other concerned stakeholders.

BGSBU observes Engineers' Day

## University Registrar delivers Lecture on Advancements in Foundation Engineering

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**RAJOURI, SEP 15:** Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU) today celebrated Engineers' Day with great fervor and enthusiasm to pay tribute to the legendary engineer and Bharat Ratna awardee, Sir M. Visvesvaraya on his birth anniversary.

On the occasion, a series of events were organized by the Department of Civil Engineering, including interactive sessions, lectures and discussions highlighting the contribution of engineers in nation-building and technological advancement.

Registrar BGSBU Abhishek Sharma also joined the celebrations and delivered a special lecture to the 7th semester Civil Engineering students, wherein he shared insights on profes-



sional ethics, innovation in engineering, and the importance of adopting

modern practices to address contemporary challenges.

The Registrar encouraged the students to imbibe the spirit of dedication, creativity and problem-solving, which define the engineering profession. He stressed upon the role of young engineers in contributing to sustainable development and transforming society through innovation.

The faculty members appreciated the Registrar's interaction with students, noting that such initiatives serve as a motivation for budding engineers to excel academically and professionally.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Er. Vaseem Ahmed, HOD, Civil Engineering. He expressed gratitude to all participants and reiterated the university's commitment to nurturing competent and socially responsible engineers.

## GCW Parade hosts Induction Programme for Freshers

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**JAMMU, SEP 15:** The Government College for Women (GCW) Parade Ground hosted an impressive Induction Programme for the newly admitted students of Semester-I (Session 2025-26), aimed at welcoming the fresh entrants and familiarizing them with the academic framework, facilities, and values that the college stands for.

The programme began with a warm welcome from the Principal, Dr. Ravender Kumar Tickoo, who congratulated the students for securing admission in one of the region's premier women's educational institutions. In his address, he emphasized the importance of discipline, commitment, and academic rigor. He also highlighted the college's achievements across academics, co-curricular, and extracurricular fields, encouraging students to actively engage in holistic

development and to uphold the institution's legacy.

Faculty members provided a detailed introduction to the curriculum structure, explaining the Major Course, Minor Course, Multidisciplinary Course, Value-Added Course, and Skill Enhancement Course. They also elaborated on the examination patterns, library resources, sports infrastructure, ICT-enabled classrooms, and student support services including NSS, NCC, career counselling, and skill development initiatives. The sessions emphasized the importance of value-based education, gender sensitization, and leadership development to prepare students for both academic and professional challenges.

Special awareness sessions were conducted to ensure students are well-informed about anti-ragging regulations, grievance redressal mechanisms, and institutional safety measures. The

students were also guided about accessing laboratories, research opportunities, sports facilities, cultural activities, and various welfare schemes that support their growth.

Coordinators from different committees and clubs encouraged students to actively participate in academic forums, cultural events, community service, and leadership roles, assuring them that these experiences will help build confidence and expand their horizons.

The programme was executed under the supervision of Prof. Anjali Abrol (Dean Academic Affairs), with valuable support from all the Deans of the College—Dr. Ritu Mangotra (Dean Humanities), Dr. Sanjeet Kour (Dean Sciences), Dr. Alpina (Dean Research), Prof. Samta Sharma (Dean Social Sciences), and Dr. Sunita Raina (Dean Commerce)—ensuring a seamless and structured orientation experience.

## GCOE Jammu celebrates Hindi Diwas

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**JAMMU, SEP 15:** The Department of Hindi and IQAC Government College of Education organized a series of engaging events, including a Poetry Recitation and Slogan Writing competition to celebrate Hindi Diwas. The events, aimed at promoting the richness and significance of the Hindi language, were a resounding success, with enthusiastic participation from students and faculty alike.

The event saw impressive participation, with students delivering powerful poetry that celebrated Hindi's cultural and literary heritage. The Slogan writing competition was equally compelling, with students displaying creativity and passion in their thought-provoking slogans on the theme of "Koti Koti Kantho ki Madhur Swaradhara, Hindi Hai Humari, Hindustan Humara."

The program was inaugurated by the College Principal, Dr. Jyoti Parihar, who congratulated the Department of Hindi for organizing the series of events that not only highlighted the importance of the Hindi language but also encouraged students to actively participate in preserving and promoting their cultural heritage.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Satish Sharma, a respected linguist and faculty member, who spoke about the enduring significance of the Hindi language in shaping India's national identity.

The events were skillfully organized by Prof. Balwan Singh, the program coordinator, who also took the opportunity to inspire students with valuable insights on the career opportunities available to those proficient in Hindi.

Prof. Singh emphasized the growing demand for Hindi professionals in various fields such as publishing, media, translation, content writing and academia. He encouraged the students to harness their linguistic skills and pursue diverse career paths.

Dr Suraj Prakash from the Urdu department said that Hindi also symbolizes the composite culture of India. It is a symbol of Ganga-Jamuna Tahzeeb.

The program concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Prof Balwan Singh. Dr Shalini Rana, IQAC Convener lauded the efforts of the department and emphasized on the relevance and beauty of the Hindi language. Dr Rajinder Kour and Dr Rakesh Bharti also expressed their views on Hindi Language and Literature.

## District NCORD meeting: DC Srinagar reviews anti-drug measures

Emphasises unified strategy to tackle drug menace

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, SEP 15:** A meeting of District Level Committee on Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) was today held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo here to review anti-drug measures and strategizing further intensifying efforts against drug abuse and trafficking in the district.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Sandeep Chakravarty was also present in the meeting.

The meeting deliberated on key issues, including intensifying anti-drug awareness campaigns, further strengthening enforcement measures against drug peddlers and its trafficking to curb drug abuse more effectively and tightening the noose around drug ped-

dlers through coordinated and intensified efforts.

In addition, efforts of district administration towards enhanced treatment and rehabilitation facilities for people affected by substance abuse were also discussed.

At the outset, DC laid emphasis on implementing a well-coordinated and unified approach to effectively address the drug menace and protect society from its detrimental effects.

DC emphasized for intensifying sustained IEC campaigns across the district to sensitize masses particularly youth about detrimental and harmful effects of drug abuse. He also laid stress on strengthening Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) at SMHS and SKIMS Bemina to ensure better treatment facilities and proper rehabilitation



of drug victims.

He also stressed that curbing the menace requires a comprehensive approach involving strict enforcement, preventive measures, community awareness and effective rehabilitation.

During the meeting, it was

informed that efforts are underway to achieve 100% computerized billing at retail and wholesale pharmacies across the City. While security measures are also being enhanced at ATFs in the district.

Superintendent of Police emphasised that as many as 89 cas-

es have been registered in Srinagar district during current year and 165 drug peddlers have been arrested including 46 PITs. Large quantities of contraband substances were also seized/recovered including brown sugar, Heroin, Charas, Psychotropic Syrup bottles, PSY capsules/tablets, Fuki, bang/poopy straw/cannabis were destroyed, in addition to the cash recovery from the drug peddlers.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Aadil Fareed; Superintendent of Police, Umar Shah; SDM East, Chief Education Officer, Assistant Labour Commissioner, District Social Welfare Officer, and officers of Excise, Drug Control Organization, DYS&S, Heads of ATFs at SMHS, SKIMS Bemina and other concerned.

## DLSA, JJB Budgam organize awareness programme on Juvenile Justice Act-2015

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**BUDGAM, SEP 15:** District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam, in collaboration with the Juvenile Justice Board Budgam, Monday organized an awareness programme on the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

The programme was conducted under the supervision of O.P. Bhagat, Chairman, DLSA Budgam, and under the guidance of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary, DLSA Budgam, and Shaber Ayaz, Principal Magistrate, Juvenile Justice Board Budgam.

The primary objective of the programme was to highlight the key provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act, with a special focus on legal protections for children in conflict with the law, issues related to child custody and guardianship, and the importance

of safeguarding child rights.

To enrich the sessions, Zahoor Ahmad and Yawar Ali, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsels deputed by DLSA Budgam as resource persons delivered insightful presentations and raised awareness among the participants.

In his address, Zahoor emphasized that the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015 consolidates and amends laws concerning children in conflict with the law and those in need of care and protection.

He noted that the Act promotes a child-friendly, best-interest approach to rehabilitation and social reintegration. It establishes mechanisms and institutions for this purpose and mandates registration of all child care institutions. He further highlighted key provisions, including handling heinous crimes committed by children aged 16-18.

## JKEDI conducts Startup Idea Challenge (Boot Camp) at GDC Women Pulwama

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**PULWAMA, SEP 15:** Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Pulwama, hosted a Startup Idea Challenge (Boot Camp) today at Government Degree College (Women), Pulwama, under the J&K Startup Policy 2024-2027.

The event aimed to inspire entrepreneurship, foster innovation, and highlight opportunities within Jammu & Kashmir's vibrant startup ecosystem.

Presided over by Prof. Dr. Sami Jan, Principal of GDC (Women) Pulwama, the event emphasized the significance of the J&K Startup Policy and the pivotal role of youth in driving regional innovation.

Raiyees Manzoor, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Pulwama, engaged with participants, praising their innovative ideas and urged them to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams



with passion.

Syed Gulzar (Associate Professor, Physics), Dr. Tanveer Bilal (Head, Department of Bioresources), Suraya Yousuf (Assistant Professor, Commerce) from GDC Pulwama (Women), and Ansar Ullah Machloo (Head, Centre for Startup Finance, JKEDI), alongside faculty and JKEDI officials were present on the occasion.







# Oman's Sufyan Mehmood Lives His Dream After Defying Family

■ **Shashank Kishore**

**OMAN:** For Sufyan Mehmood, 33, playing in the Asia Cup carries an extra layer of pride. He is the only Omani national in the current squad, a distinction that fills him with great honour. A seam-bowling allrounder known for his accuracy and lower-order hitting, Mehmood would have been in the UK studying - perhaps he might have even had a corporate career - if his father had his wishes. But Mehmood chose to decline an admission to Loughborough University to pursue business administration because he wanted to play cricket.

"Unlike others who come to Oman to make a career, I didn't have those challenges," Mehmood told ESPNcricinfo. "I had all the comforts, and didn't have to worry about building a life. But my challenges were different."

"Everyone in my family were academically inclined. My older brother is a dentist at the health ministry, my younger brother is a petroleum engineer, [and] my younger sister is also a dentist who runs a private practice. My father grew up

the ranks from being a salesman to now being CEO of a company he joined nearly 30 years ago.

"Now, I guess you can understand what my challenges were: how to convince my family I wanted to play cricket in a country that didn't have a culture. But ever since I started, I saw kids in school taking up this new sport, and wanted to play it."

Mehmood first made the Oman Under-15s, he said, in "2005 or 2006 - I can't remember". What he does recall, though, is that on his first tour, to Thailand, he was the Player of the Match in just his second outing. "It was against Iran, I was 14 years old."

From there, he made the Under-17s, and was finally part of the national squad in 2009. "The depth wasn't as much, so if you did well in one or two games, you could progress," he said. "Straight off that Under-19 tour, I played for the senior team."

That must have been a massive moment in his young career, but because games were far and few, the significance of that moment dissipated very quickly.

"When I started playing cricket, I didn't know that we would play a

World Cup one day," he said. My parents wanted me to study. So after rejecting my offer from Loughborough University, I enrolled in an Omani university that was affiliated to another UK university - at least temporarily my dad was pacified," he said with a laugh. "I would manage my classes, speak to my professors, tell them I had matches, and cover it up later. They supported me well." But staying back in Oman meant figuring out an alternate career too, outside of cricket.

"Domestic cricket here is basically corporate cricket," he said. "Companies will have their teams in the premier division, they will hire you and give you a job."

"In my first year, I couldn't find any job, so I just found one job outside cricket, in an event management company. I played after working [for] hours. After that year, I got an offer from Enhance, who had a cricket team. I worked for them for four-five years in the HR department before moving to Renaissance Services, where I lead the cricket side. We've won two trophies in the last two years under me."

ESPNcricinfo

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# Jasmine, Minakshi Clinch Historic Golds

■ **United News of India**

**LONDON:** India concluded a sensational campaign at the World Boxing Championships 2025 in Liverpool today, finishing with four medals, including two historic golds. The tournament showcased India's rising stature in women's boxing, with Jaismine Lamboria (57kg) and Minakshi Hooda (48kg) crowned world champions, Nupur Sheoran (80 kg) claiming silver, and Olympian Pooja Rani (80kg) returning with bronze.

Jaismine Lamboria, 24, emerged as one of the stars of the tournament. In the women's 57kg final, she stunned top seed and Paris 2024 silver medalist Julia Szeremeta of Poland, winning 4-1 by split decision. Szeremeta started aggressively with sharp counter-attacks, but Jaismine quickly asserted control from the second round, using her height and reach to dictate the pace. Prior to the final, the southpaw produced four successive 5-0 victories over notable opponents, including Olympians Omailyn Alcalá (Venezuela) and Jucielén Romeu (Brazil), showcasing consistency and com-

posure under pressure.

"This feeling can't be expressed, I'm so happy to be a world champion," Jaismine said. "After my early exit at Paris 2024, I worked on my technique physically and mentally. This is the result of a year's consistent effort."

Minakshi, also 24, created history in the women's 48kg category by edging Kazakhstan's Paris 2024 bronze medalist Nazym Kyzaibay 4-1 in a closely fought final. Her triumph, along with Jaismine's, marked the first time Indian boxers became world champions under the aegis of World Boxing, the new governing body for the sport. Previously, India champions like Mary Kom, Nikhat Zareen, and Lovlina Borgohain had won titles under the earlier federation.

Sheoran narrowly missed out on gold in the women's 80 kg category, losing 3-2 in a split decision to Poland's Agata Kaczmarek, thereby settling for silver. Olympian Pooja Rani, meanwhile, secured bronze in the women's 80kg after going down 4-1 to Englishwoman Emily Asquith in the semifinals.

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# Aziz Hajni

## Remembered On 4th Anniversary

Glowing Tribute Paid to Aziz Hajni During Grand Function at Tygore Hall on his Fourth Anniversary, As A Tribute to Our Cultural Sensibility

Team Headlines Today has also paid glowing tribute to Aziz Hajni Sahib

Patron of LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS Group and Headlines Today Newspaper Syed Sad ud Din Saidi remembered him as the most dynamic personality and lauded his leadership caliber and love towards mother tongue. Chief Editor of daily Headlines Today Jahangir Bukhari described Aziz Hajni sahibs departure from this world as a huge loss to our literary world as Aziz Hajni Sahib had devoted his life for the uplifting of our Kashmiri language and he taught us all the way to revive and preserve the Mother Tongue..... EDITOR IN CHIEF....

### HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, SEP 14:** A grand ceremony was held on Sunday at the Tagore Hall, here, to mark the fourth death anniversary of the late Dr. Aziz Hajni. During the event, speakers recalled Dr. Hajni's literary, linguistic, cultural, and social services and paid him a magnificent tribute in glowing terms.

The ceremony was attended by writers, authors, intellectuals, political and social figures from all over J&K, as well as dignitaries from various sections of society.

The event commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Rameez Ahmed, followed by a Naat rendered by Sagar Sarfaraz.

The first session was presided over by the renowned writer and intellectual, Professor Shad Ramzan, while the distinguished physician, Dr. Muhammad Sultan Khuroo, was the Chief Guest. They were accompanied in the hall by MLA Beerwah,

Dr. Muhammad Shafi; Professor Naseem Shafaie; Manshoor Banhali; and the patron of the Adbee Markaz Kamraz, Dr. Rafiq Masoodi.

In his welcome address, Shakir Shafi welcomed all the guests and highlighted the key aspects of the multifaceted personality of Aziz Hajni. While mentioning Hajni's centuries-old literary tradition, he paid homage to all his predecessors. During this session, Professor Shafqat Altaf and Dr. Shahida Shabnam presented insightful papers on Aziz Hajni's literary contributions. The guests paid a splendid tribute to Hajni Sahib in their addresses. Dr. Khuroo congratulated the Halqa-e-Adab Sonawari and Azhar Hajni for carrying forward the legacy of his father Aziz Hajni.

In his presidential address, Professor Shad Ramzan described Hajni's poetry as that of a sensitive and insightful poet, declaring him a major literary figure. During this session, the Director of School

Education, Kashmir, Dr. G.N. Itoo, distributed certificates and awards among the students who excelled in the Professor Mohiuddin Hajni Memorial Essay Writing Competition. He was accompanied by the Deputy Chief Education Officer, Bandipora, Dr. G.M. Pujoo, and Sheikh Ghulam Muhammad.

In this session, Azhar Hajni and the Provincial President of the National Conference, Showqat Ahmed Mir, also shared their thoughts. The proceedings of this session were conducted by Dr. Riyaz-ul-Hassan.

The second session was presided over by the renowned poet and author of the subcontinent, Professor Muhammad Zaman Azurda, while the Deputy Commissioner of Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, was the chief guest of this session. They were accompanied in the session by Was-eem Raja, Joint Director of the Tourism Department, Rukhsana Jabeen, and Al-Haj Ghulam Nabi Dar.

During this session, Muzamil Hassan

was awarded the Aziz Hajni Gold Medal for securing first position in the M.A. Kashmiri at the Central University for 2024. Subsequently, being discovered by Dr Aziz Hajni long back, Masrat-un-Nisa was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for adding a new voice to Kashmiri music and singing. Shakir Shafi was awarded a certificate for recently receiving the honour of Best Teacher. This year's 'Khalat-e-Aziz Hajni' was conferred upon Aakash Ali Muhammad Mir for his invaluable services in the field of Sufi poetry.

Speakers paid a magnificent tribute to Aziz Hajni in their addresses. In his speech, Athar Aamir Khan described Hajni Sahib as a guardian of the Kashmiri language and culture, even after his passing. Waseem Raja also presented a thoughtful insight about the contributions of Aziz Hajni. On this occasion, in his presidential address, Professor Azurda stated that Hajni Sahib remains our guiding light even after his death. He remem-

bered Hajni's literary traditions with splendid words. The proceedings of this session were conducted by Miraj Bin Saif.

Following this, Waheed Jeelani mesmerized the audience by reciting the works of Aziz Hajni in his captivating voice.

Towards the end of the ceremony, a panel discussion was organized. This session was presided over by Professor Sheikh Muhammad Ijaz, and included Dr. Arif Jan, Deputy Director of the J&K Board of School Education; Professor Manzoor Ahmed; Shabnam Tulgami; G.N. Shakir; and Gulzar Nazki. This session involved a discussion on all important aspects of Hajni Sahib's life. The proceedings were conducted by Dr. Adil Mohiuddin.

During the various sessions, Sagar Nazeer, Abid Ashraf, Tanveer Maqbool, Sagar Sarfaraz, and Shamma Maech entertained the audience by presenting their poetic works.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Majeed Majazi presented the vote of thanks.

