

Srinagar
Saturday
July 18 | 2026
2 Safar 1448 AH
Issue No: 171
Volume: 16
Pages: 08
Price: Rs 02/-

16TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION HEADLINES TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless

LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS
ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR ALL PRINTING NEEDS
NEWSPAPER | BOOKS | FLYERS | LOGO | FLEX | MAGAZINES
VISING CARDS | BROCHURES | 3D BOARDS | COVER PAGES
WEDDING CARDS | CALLIGRAPHY | WALL PAINTINGS
9999038812
9419008414
Radio Colony,
Gund Hassibhat, Lawaipora Srinagar-190017

More Than 350,000 Pilgrims Have Completed the Pilgrimage in the First 15 Days: LG Manoj Sinha

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, JULY 17: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said that more than 350,000 pilgrims have completed the annual pilgrimage in the first 15 days, describing the smooth progress of the sacred journey as a result of coordinated efforts by the administration, security agencies, local residents and service providers.

The Lieutenant Governor made the remarks while visiting the Nunwan Base Camp in Pahalgam, where he reviewed the arrangements for the ongoing pilgrimage and directed all government departments to function in mission mode to ensure the safety, comfort and welfare of pilgrims.

"Today marks 15 days since the pilgrimage began, and in these 15 days more than 350,000 pilgrims have completed the pilgrimage. By the grace of Lord Shiva, the pilgrimage is proceeding

Turn on Page 2



Hydrogen-Powered Train Is a Successful Example of the 'Make in India' Campaign: PM Modi

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JIND (HARYANA), JULY 17: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday flagged off India's first hydrogen-powered passenger train connecting Jind and Sonapat in Haryana, describing it as a successful example of the 'Make in India' campaign and a major milestone in India's journey towards clean, sustainable and technologically advanced transportation.

The launch places India among a select group of countries operating hydrogen-powered passenger trains and marks a significant advancement in the modernisation of Indian Railways. The 89-kilometre route between Jind and Sonapat will be covered in approximately two hours, with the train halting at 12 intermediate stations.

Addressing a public gathering after the inauguration, the Prime Minister said the train dem-



onstrated India's growing technological capabilities and commitment to self-reliance. He asserted that the newly launched service is the world's most powerful hydrogen-powered train, reflecting the country's ability to develop cutting-edge technologies domestically.

Alongside the train launch, Modi dedicated

Turn on Page 2

Tourist boom leaves trail of plastic waste across Kashmir's offbeat destinations

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUL 17: The growing influx of tourists to Kashmir's lesser-known destinations, driven by soaring temperatures across the plains, has triggered concerns over plastic pollution and inadequate waste management, with locals and environmentalists warning that the fragile ecosystems are coming under increasing pressure.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the popular destinations such as Gurez, Tulail, Uri, Sonamarg and Keran Valley in North Kash-

mir have witnessed a sharp rise in number of tourists this summer. However, residents say the boom in tourism has been accompanied by indiscriminate dumping of plastic bottles, food wrappers and other non-biodegradable waste.

In Gurez, locals said the banks of the Kishanganga River and nearby meadows are increasingly littered with waste left behind by visitors. "Many tourists leave their garbage at campsites or scenic spots instead of disposing of it properly. Either they should carry it back or hand it over to local hosts for safe disposal," said

Turn on Page 2

Kashmir sizzles as Srinagar logs third-hottest July day in a decade

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUL 17: Srinagar on Friday recorded its hottest day of the season so far as the mercury touched 35 degrees Celsius, while the Meteorological Department predicted a major shift in weather pattern from July 19, warning of heavy rainfall, flash floods and landslides in parts of Jammu and Kashmir next week.

MeT Department's data accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) revealed that maximum temperature in Srinagar settled at 35.0 degrees Celsius, nearly five degrees above normal and



higher than the previous July high of 34.5 degrees Celsius recorded on July 10.

Official records show the day's maximum was the third-highest July temperature recorded in Srinagar since 2016, after 37.4 degrees Celsius on July 6, 2025, and 36.2 degrees Celsius on July 29, 2024.

The minimum temperature in the city was recorded at 22.0 degrees Celsius, around 3.3 degrees above normal, reflecting unusually warm night conditions.

Elsewhere, Jammu was the hottest place in the Union Territory at 35.8 degrees Celsius, followed by Srinagar and Kupwara

Turn on Page 2

Consistency Is the Key to Achieving Any Goal: Labourers' Sons Inspire with NEET-UG 2026 Success

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, JULY 17: In a powerful testament to determination, perseverance and the transformative power of education, two sons of daily-wage labourers from South Kashmir have cleared the highly competitive NEET-UG 2026 examination, emerging as symbols of hope for thousands of aspiring students from economically disadvantaged families.

Their remarkable achievements underscore that financial hardship is no obstacle to success when matched with discipline, consistency

Turn on Page 2

Govt Prioritises Passage of Key Bills in Monsoon Session

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JULY 17: The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) on Friday finalised its strategy for the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament, with the government placing top priority on securing the passage of key legislation, including Bills to replace recently promulgated Ordinances.

The strategy was discussed during a high-level meeting of the NDA group of ministers chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at Kartavya Bhavan. Home Minister Amit Shah, Women and Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi, and senior NDA allies, including Lallan Singh of the Janata Dal (United), Jayant Chaudhary of the Rashtriya Lok Dal, and Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu of the Telugu Desam Party, attended the meeting.

According to sources, the ministers reviewed the government's legislative agenda for the session beginning on July 20 and discussed measures to ensure the smooth passage of priority Bills. Among the government's immediate legislative objectives

Turn on Page 2

PWD Asst Engineer trapped arrested: CBI

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JULY 17: In a significant anti-corruption operation, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested an Assistant Engineer of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Works Department (PWD) after allegedly catching him red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs. 30,000 for processing compensation related to a house damaged during the execution of a Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) road project in Doda district.

According to an official spokesperson, the accused officer was serving as an Assistant Engineer with the PWD and was associated with the implementation of PMGSY works in Jammu and Kashmir.

Turn on Page 2

Govt. establishes JK4C to combat cyber crimes across J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 17: In a significant step towards strengthening the cyber security architecture and enhancing the capacity to combat cybercrime in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, sanction has been accorded for the establishment of the Jammu & Kashmir Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (JK4C) as an independent organization under the overall superintendence and control of the Director General of Police, J&K.

The newly established JK4C will serve as the nodal cyber-crime coordination agency for the Union Territory and will be responsible for coordinating, preventing, detecting and investigating cybercrimes across Jammu and Kashmir. The Centre will function in close alignment with the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, ensuring seamless

Turn on Page 2

Wular Lake's Future Depends on People Living in Surrounding Villages: CCF, Kashmir

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, JULY 17: Declaring that the long-term survival of Wular Lake hinges on the active involvement of communities living around it, Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) Kashmir Irfan Rasool Wani on Friday said the people of the lake's surrounding villages are the first line of defence against pollution and must play a central role in protecting the fragile ecosystem.

Addressing a programme on Wular conservation, Wani announced that the government is rolling out a cluster-based solid waste management initiative covering 30 villages in the Wular catchment to prevent waste from entering the lake.

"The future of Wular Lake depends on the people living in its surrounding villages. They are the first responders and have a shared responsibility to ensure that solid

Turn on Page 2

Lakhanpur To Be Developed As Street Food Hub In J&K: Jitendra Singh

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JULY 17: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Friday said that Lakhanpur has been selected among 50 towns across the country to be developed as a 'street food hub' under the PM SVANidhi initiative, while announcing the construction of a Rs 1.5 crore gateway monument at the entry point to Jammu and Kashmir.

Turn on Page 2



Chief Secretary Reviews Preliminary PPP Draft

Calls for creating a robust framework to attract investments in J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 17: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting to deliberate upon the broad contours of the preliminary document of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Policy being formulated by the Planning, Development & Monitoring Department through the Centre for Innovation, Technology and Governance (CITaG), with the objective of creating an enabling ecosystem for attracting private investment and accelerating infrastructure and public service development across Jammu and Kashmir.



The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, APD; ACS, Finance; ACS, PWD; Director, IIM-Jammu; Commissioner Secretary, PD&MD; Commissioner Secretary, H&UD; Commissioner Secretary,

Industries; Secretary, Transport; Chief Executive Officer, CITaG; and other senior officers.

Addressing the meeting, the Chief Secretary underscored the importance of building institutional capac-

ity for successful implementation of the proposed policy. He stressed the need for systematic capacity building of officers and officials at different levels so that they are adequately equipped to operationalise the policy in an effective and time-bound manner.

Emphasising the need for delivering tangible outcomes on the ground, Dulloo observed that the Government must lead by example in implementing the policy to instil confidence among investors as well as the general public. He directed the Industries Department to take lead in

Turn on Page 2

چراغ

Preserve Your Ideas
We Bring Them to Life

LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS
ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR ALL PRINTING NEEDS

We Publish in
Arabic | Urdu | Hindi | Persian | Kashmiri

Contact us:
9697071471 | 9999038812
lubaabpublications01@gmail.com

CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

More Than.....

smoothly. There is great enthusiasm among devotees from every corner of the country, and local residents and service providers are also actively contributing to its success," Sinha said.

Chairing a high-level review meeting, the Lieutenant Governor assessed the availability of essential facilities, including drinking water, electricity, telecommunications, accommodation, food, healthcare, emergency services and security. He also inspected the registration counter and reviewed the registration process for pilgrims.

Sinha directed officials to maintain the highest standards of environmental protection, ordering intensified cleanliness drives along both pilgrimage routes and at all camps.

"We are committed to a waste-free pilgrimage, and every department must work together to fulfil this commitment," he said.

With heavy rainfall forecast over the coming days, the Lieutenant Governor instructed the administration and all stakeholder agencies to strengthen contingency plans and ensure the safety and convenience of pilgrims under all circumstances. He also directed that every tent at the base camps must be equipped with a fire extinguisher.

To improve transparency and protect pilgrims from overcharging, Sinha ordered that all services provided during the pilgrimage should strictly operate under a 100 per cent prepaid system. He also instructed officials to regularly obtain feedback from pilgrims and ensure immediate resolution of any issues.

During his visit, the Lieutenant Governor interacted with pilgrims, who expressed satisfaction with the arrangements, particularly the cleanliness, sanitation, accommodation, medical facilities and security. He also met shopkeepers, volunteers, community kitchens and service providers, appreciating their contribution to the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage.

Addressing media persons, Sinha said that the coordinated efforts of the Jammu and Kashmir administration, Police, Army, security forces, the Shrine Board and other stakeholders had significantly enhanced this year's arrangements.

He said the pilgrimage continues to provide a strong boost to the local economy, noting that many pilgrims are purchasing locally produced handloom and handicraft products in response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to support local artisans.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed confidence that the ongoing pilgrimage would be remembered as one of the most successful and well-managed in recent years.

Senior civil, police and security officials accompanied the Lieutenant Governor during the inspection of the Nunwan Base Camp.

Hydrogen-Powered.....

to the nation and laid the foundation stone for development projects worth Rs. 14,700 crore, aimed at strengthening infrastructure and accelerating economic growth in Haryana.

Referring to the ongoing conflict in West Asia, the Prime Minister said India imports substantial quantities of petroleum products, liquefied petroleum gas and fertilisers through the Strait of Hormuz. Despite prolonged regional instability and disruptions in global energy markets, he said the country's development and railway expansion had continued without interruption.

He maintained that India's economic resilience and infrastructure growth had remained strong despite global challenges, contrasting the present situation with earlier years.

Recalling his long association with Haryana, Modi said Jind held special memories for him and expressed confidence that the region would now gain international recognition for hosting India's first hydrogen-powered passenger train.

Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw described the launch as a historic technological achievement made possible through indigenous innovation and strong political commitment to advanced railway technology. He said testing was already underway on the Sonapat-Delhi section and the hydrogen-powered service would eventually be extended to the national capital.

Powered by hydrogen fuel cell technology, the train generates electricity onboard by converting hydrogen into electrical energy, producing only water vapour as a by-product and resulting in zero carbon emissions during operation. Compared with diesel-powered trains, it significantly reduces pollution, lowers dependence on fossil fuel imports, operates with less noise and does not require continuous overhead electrification.

The 10-coach train, equipped with a 1,200-kilowatt hydrogen fuel cell propulsion system producing 3,200 horsepower, can accommodate around 2,600 passengers, making it one of the world's longest and most powerful hydrogen-powered passenger trainsets. Officials said the project represents a major step towards sustainable, energy-efficient and environmentally friendly rail transport in India.

Tourist boom.....

Mumtaz Ahmad, a homestay owner in Gurez. Residents said the absence of a structured waste collection and disposal system has compounded the problem, with litter often finding its way into streams, rivers and nearby habitations.

Surinder Valley in Bandipora district, which

has emerged as a popular summer destination, is also witnessing a rise in plastic waste, locals said.

"The beauty of this place is attracting more tourists, but many are leaving behind plastic waste. If this continues, it will damage the environment that people come here to enjoy," said local resident Aqib Najar.

Visitors also pointed to the lack of basic facilities, including dustbins and signboards encouraging responsible waste disposal.

Environmental activists said the increasing tourist footfall must be matched by better waste management infrastructure and greater public awareness.

"The administration and the public need to work together. Sustainable waste management and responsible tourism are essential to protect these ecologically sensitive destinations," environmental activist Shakir Ahmad said.

Officials said efforts are underway in coordination with local bodies to put in place sustainable waste management measures to preserve the ecological balance of the region's emerging tourist destinations—(KNO)

Kashmir sizzles.....

at 35.0 degrees each. Qazigund recorded 33.2 degrees Celsius, Kokernag 32.9 degrees, Bhardwah 31.5 degrees, Katra 31.8 degrees and Banihal 30.8 degrees, while the tourist resorts of Pahalgam and Gulmarg registered comparatively cooler maximum temperatures of 27.4 degrees and 25.6 degrees Celsius, respectively.

The weather department said hot and humid conditions are likely to continue on Saturday, with brief thundershowers possible at scattered places.

From July 19, weather conditions are expected to change, with rain and thundershowers likely at many places. Heavy rainfall accompanied by brief intense showers is forecast at isolated locations in the Jammu division.

A more active wet spell is expected between July 20 and 22, when widespread rain and thundershowers are likely across Jammu and Kashmir. The department has forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall at a few places in the Jammu division, while some districts in both divisions could witness intense showers and torrential rain.

Rain activity is expected to persist at many places on July 23 before easing to isolated spells on July 24 and 25.

The Met Department has warned of flash floods, landslides and mudslides in vulnerable areas during July 20-22. It also cautioned that heavy rainfall could lead to a significant rise in water levels in rivers and streams, resulting in waterlogging and minor flooding in low-lying areas.

Farmers have been advised to suspend agricultural operations during the period of heavy rainfall, while residents and government agencies have been asked to remain alert and plan their activities accordingly—(KNO)

Consistency.....

and unwavering family support.

Among the successful candidates is Mehran Amin from Batagund village in Verinag, Anantnag district, who secured 610 marks and an impressive All India Rank (AIR) of 7,000. Despite growing up in a modest household with limited resources, Mehran remained focused on his ambition of becoming a doctor through years of dedicated preparation.

Reflecting on his journey, Mehran said that life presents many challenges, but success belongs to those who remain patient and committed to their goals.

"Consistency is the key to achieving any goal," he said, urging students never to lose hope even when circumstances appear unfavourable.

Mehran said his dream of becoming a doctor is driven by a desire to serve society, particularly people who struggle to access quality healthcare. He described medicine as a profession that offers both dignity and the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

Equally inspiring is the achievement of Shariq Muzaffar from Manihal village in Shopian district, who secured 601 marks out of 720 after overcoming disappointment in his first attempt. Rather than giving up, he took a gap year, strengthened his preparation and returned with renewed determination to achieve success.

Sharing his advice with future aspirants, Shariq stressed the importance of building strong conceptual understanding instead of relying on shortcuts.

He revealed that he had considered himself an average student until Class 10, but transformed his academic performance through disciplined study and consistent effort. He said his initial failure in NEET became a learning experience that ultimately helped him succeed.

Shariq credited his mother for her unwavering encouragement and sacrifices throughout his preparation, saying her faith in him gave him the confidence to persevere through difficult times. He also emphasised that the support and encouragement of parents play a decisive role in a student's success.

The achievements of the two young men have been widely celebrated in their respective villages, with residents describing their success as a source of pride and inspiration for rural communities across Jammu and Kashmir.

Their stories serve as a compelling reminder that determination, resilience and family support can overcome economic barriers, inspiring

countless young aspirants to pursue their dreams with confidence and perseverance.

Govt Prioritises.....

is the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which will replace an Ordinance issued last month providing income tax exemption to foreign investors on interest earnings and capital gains from investments in Government Securities. The measure was introduced to attract overseas investment and help ease pressure on the rupee amid the economic impact of the West Asia conflict.

The meeting also discussed the possible introduction of an amended Women's Reservation Bill along with a Delimitation Bill. Government sources expressed confidence that the proposed constitutional amendment could secure the required two-thirds majority with support from several opposition parties.

To address concerns raised by southern states over population-based delimitation, the government is reportedly examining proposals to increase the strength of the Lok Sabha by around 50 per cent across all states to ensure balanced representation.

Another significant proposal expected during the session is the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which seeks to provide the national song Vande Mataram with the same statutory protection currently enjoyed by the national anthem.

The Monsoon Session is also expected to witness sharp exchanges between the government and the opposition. Opposition parties are likely to raise issues including the NEET examination paper leak, the deaths of Indian seafarers in the West Asia conflict, ethanol blending in petrol, and alleged irregularities in donations made to the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

Despite an expected aggressive opposition, the NDA is entering the session with confidence, buoyed by recent Assembly election outcomes and divisions within opposition ranks, which the ruling alliance believes will strengthen its position in Parliament.

PWD Asst.....

The CBI registered a case on July 16, 2026, after receiving a complaint alleging that the complainant's residential house had suffered damage during the construction of the PMGSY road connecting Thathri and Kathawa in Doda district. The complainant was reportedly entitled to compensation amounting to nearly Rs. 10 lakh for the damage caused.

During the course of verification, it was alleged that the Assistant Engineer demanded a bribe of Rs. 50,000 to facilitate the processing and release of the compensation amount. Following negotiations, the accused allegedly agreed to accept Rs. 30,000 from the complainant.

Acting swiftly on the complaint, the CBI laid a trap on July 16 and apprehended the accused while he was allegedly demanding and accepting the bribe amount of Rs. 30,000. The accused was caught red-handed during the operation.

The CBI has taken the accused into custody, and further investigation is underway to ascertain the full extent of the alleged corruption and whether any other officials were involved in the case.

The successful trap operation reflects the CBI's continued efforts to crack down on corruption in public offices and ensure transparency and accountability in the implementation of government welfare and infrastructure projects. (KNC)

Govt. establishes....

coordination with the national cybercrime framework.

According to order issued by home department, the JK4C will be headed by an officer of the rank of Inspector General of Police (IGP), who will function as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Centre.

As part of the restructuring, the subject of cybercrime has been detached from the Crime Wing of J&K Police and will henceforth be exclusively handled by the JK4C.

The Government has further ordered that the existing two Zonal Cyber Crime Investigation Centres of Excellence (CICs) and 23 District Cyber Police Stations shall become integral components of the JK4C, thereby creating a unified and coordinated institutional mechanism for tackling cybercrime across the Union Territory.

The order also stipulates that the proposal for creation of various posts required for the functioning of the JK4C shall be processed separately in accordance with the prescribed procedure after completion of all requisite formalities.

Pending the creation and regular filling of sanctioned posts, the Police Headquarters, J&K, has been directed to deploy the required number of police personnel of the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP) and below from the existing police strength to ensure the Centre becomes operational without delay.

The Government has also approved the organizational structure, tentative staff strength, operational framework, workflow of various verticals, and the functions and responsibilities of different divisions and units of the JK4C, as detailed in the annexure accompanying the Government Order.

The establishment of the JK4C is expected to significantly enhance the Union Territory's preparedness to address emerging cyber threats, improve inter-agency coordination, strength-

en cybercrime investigations, and provide a more robust institutional framework for safeguarding citizens against cyber-enabled offences.

Wular Lake's.....

waste does not reach the lake," he said.

Under the initiative, Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) will be established to scientifically collect, segregate and process solid waste generated in villages around the lake. The project aims to intercept waste at its source and significantly reduce pollution entering one of Asia's largest freshwater lakes.

Wani urged residents of villages in the Wular basin to take ownership of waste management and work collectively towards making their communities models of environmental responsibility. He said government agencies would complement these efforts by creating the required infrastructure and strengthening measures to prevent waste from polluting the lake.

Highlighting the issue of legacy waste, the CCF said the government, along with the concerned departments, would undertake scientific remediation of old dumping sites. He referred to the ongoing restoration of the Zalwan dumping site in Bandipora, where authorities are implementing court directions to clear accumulated waste and restore the area.

He said the Wular Conservation and Management Authority, in collaboration with the Forest Department, is implementing the lake's comprehensive conservation plan with equal emphasis on ecological restoration, sustainable tourism and livelihood generation for local communities.

Emphasising that infrastructure alone cannot ensure the lake's protection, Wani said meaningful and sustained public participation would determine the success of conservation efforts. He stressed that responsible waste management practices at the village level are essential to preserving Wular Lake for future generations.

Lakhanpur To.....

The minister, who was accorded a warm welcome by street food vendors and traders during his visit to the Lakhanpur Vendors Market, said the Narendra Modi government has, for the first time, prioritised the welfare of street vendors through a dedicated national scheme.

Addressing vendors and traders, Singh said successive governments had ignored the concerns of street vendors, but the PM SVANidhi scheme has brought them into the mainstream by providing financial assistance, dignity and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

He said Lakhanpur's selection in the first phase of the Street Food Hub initiative reflects the government's commitment to empowering small vendors while creating organised, hygienic and visitor-friendly vending spaces.

According to the minister, the proposed Street Food Hub will be developed in two clusters near the old bus stand and the Sales Tax Office in Lakhanpur market. Spread over 1,754.25 square metres, the project will provide modern vending infrastructure while promoting Dogra cuisine and other regional delicacies.

Located at the gateway to Jammu and Kashmir from Pathankot and on the route to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, Lakhanpur witnesses heavy movement of tourists, pilgrims and transit travellers, making it an ideal location for the project, he said.

Singh said the government had received 126 proposals from 32 states and Union Territories covering 106 Urban Local Bodies and seven Census Towns, with Lakhanpur being selected in the first phase.

The Union minister also announced that a landmark gateway to Jammu and Kashmir, along with beautification works at Lakhanpur, will be developed at an estimated cost of over Rs 1.5 crore.

He said part of the funding would come from his Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) allocation, while the remaining amount would be mobilised from other available resources.

During the visit, Singh inaugurated a statue of Maharaja Gulab Singh at Lakhanpur, describing it as a tribute to the Dogra ruler's contribution to nation-building and the history of Jammu and Kashmir.

Referring to major infrastructure projects in the region, the minister said the long-delayed Shahpur Kandi project has become operational, while work on the Ujh Multipurpose Project is expected to begin soon after the project reaches the final stage of approvals.

He said the Ujh project, pending for decades, would significantly improve irrigation facilities in Kathua, Samba and parts of Jammu district besides ensuring better utilisation of water resources.

Singh also said approvals have been obtained for naming Kathua railway station after Shaheed Captain Sunil Sharma and expressed confidence that

the formal process would be completed shortly.

On the issue of shifting the vehicle fitness testing facility from Kathua to Samba, the minister said the move was necessitated by the establishment of a modern automated testing facility at Samba and added that a similar facility for Kathua was under consideration.

Local vendors thanked the Union minister for securing the Street Food Hub project for Lakhanpur, saying it would provide a cleaner, organised and dignified working environment while improving facilities for pilgrims, tourists and other visitors.

Chief Secretary....

formulation of the policy by suitably refined it and incorporating the suggestions received during the meeting so that a comprehensive and well-structured policy document is finalised within the next month.

Referring to global best practices, the Chief Secretary cited the World Bank's well-established STEP model, describing it as a dynamic and self-evolving framework that enables efficient project execution with minimal procedural hurdles. He called for developing a similar institutional model tailored to the unique requirements, administrative structure and developmental priorities of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Secretary further directed CITaG to proactively identify a pipeline of viable PPP projects across sectors and simultaneously establish a robust institutional mechanism and implementation framework to facilitate their timely execution once the policy is notified.

Speaking during the meeting, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shailendra Kumar, observed that the overarching objective of the proposed policy is to leverage private investment for creating public assets and delivering quality public services for the welfare of the people. He emphasised that while drawing from national and international best practices, the policy should remain rooted in the local context, addressing Jammu and Kashmir's unique developmental priorities, challenges and opportunities.

Earlier the Chief Executive Officer, CITaG, gave a detailed presentation on the proposed policy framework, highlighting the prevailing PPP landscape across the country and the existing scenario in Jammu and Kashmir. The presentation outlined the need for a comprehensive, transparent and investor-friendly policy to position the Union Territory as a preferred destination for private investment in key sectors.

The presentation proposed a streamlined regulatory framework aimed at reducing procedural bottlenecks by facilitating timely statutory approvals, including No Objection Certificates (NOCs), environmental clearances and other mandatory permissions, thereby making the investment process more efficient, predictable and less cumbersome for prospective investors.

It further envisaged a multi-sectoral institutional mechanism with clearly defined roles and responsibilities to facilitate appraisal, approval, monitoring and implementation of PPP projects through a coordinated government setup, ensuring time-bound decision-making and seamless project execution.

The proposed policy identified several high-potential sectors for PPP interventions in Jammu and Kashmir, including urban infrastructure, solid waste management, agriculture, food processing, energy, power, tourism, hospitality and healthcare, where private participation can significantly enhance service delivery, infrastructure creation and economic growth.

The presentation also elaborated upon the proposed framework for identification and prioritisation of projects, transaction structuring, operational modalities, legal architecture, governance safeguards, grievance redressal mechanism and a well-defined institutional hierarchy with clearly delineated powers and responsibilities to ensure transparency, accountability and effective implementation.

During the deliberations, the Administrative Secretaries and Heads of Departments offered valuable suggestions and sector-specific feedback for further strengthening the proposed policy framework, with emphasis on making it practical, implementation-oriented and aligned with the developmental aspirations of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting concluded with a consensus to further refine the draft policy by incorporating the suggestions received from various departments and to evolve a comprehensive, transparent and investor-friendly PPP framework capable of unlocking private investment, accelerating infrastructure development and fostering sustainable economic growth in Jammu and Kashmir.

JKTPO showcases J&K's textile heritage at Bharat Tex 2026; New Zealand Minister visits J&K pavilion

HT NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI, JULY 17: The Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO), under the aegis of the Industries & Commerce Department, government of Jammu and Kashmir, successfully showcased the region's rich handloom, handicraft and textile heritage at Bharat Tex 2026, held from 14-17 July 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The event provided a premier international platform for the manufacturers, exporters, buyers, designers and sourcing agencies from across the globe.

Approximately 20 exhibitors from across Jammu and Kashmir participated under the J&K Pavilion (Hall No. 11, Ground Floor), presenting an impressive collection of traditional and contemporary textile products before thousands of domestic and international buyers, exporters, retailers, sourcing agencies, designers and industry stakeholders.

The pavilion showcased an extensive range of premium handmade products, including GI-tagged Pashmina shawls, GI-tagged Kani shawls, GI-tagged Kashmiri carpets, handmade GI Pashmina rugs, fine wool stoles, shawls, scarves, chain stitch rugs, handcrafted bags and several other authentic products representing the unparalleled craftsmanship and cultural richness of Jammu and Kashmir. The participation enabled the local arti-



sans, weavers, cooperatives and MSMEs to showcase their products, establish valuable business linkages and explore new domestic and international market opportunities.

A major highlight of the exhibition was the visit of Hon. Mark Patterson, New Zealand's Minister for Rural Communities and Associate Minister for Agriculture and Regional Development, to the J&K Pavilion. The delegation

was accompanied by Mr. Mathew Ayers, Deputy High Commissioner of New Zealand, Mr. Andy Caughey of Wool Impact Limited, Aotearoa New Zealand; Dr. Romesh Khajuria, Chairman, (JKWDMA), Mr. R.C. Khanna, Chairman, WWPEC; Mr. H.S. Bhalla, Vice Chairman, WWPEC and Mr. Sanjay Chawla, Executive Director, WWPEC.

During the visit, the delegation interacted with the exhibitors

and appreciated the exquisite craftsmanship, rich handloom traditions and exceptional quality of the products displayed by the artisans of Jammu & Kashmir. The delegation was briefed on the Jammu and Kashmir's rich heritage in wool, pashmina, handloom and handicrafts and textile products, promoting sustainable value chains, technology exchange and enhancing trade and investment opportunities

between India and New Zealand.

Speaking on the successful participation, Managing Director, JKTPO, stated that participation in such events reflects JKTPO's continued commitment to provide global market exposure to the artisans, weavers and entrepreneurs of the Union Territory. The overwhelming response received at the J&K Pavilion demonstrates the growing appreciation for our GI-tagged products and traditional crafts. Such national and international platforms play a vital role in connecting our producers with buyers, promoting exports, strengthening sustainable livelihoods and positioning Jammu and Kashmir as a leading destination for premium handloom and handicraft products.

Throughout the four-day exhibition, the J&K Pavilion witnessed encouraging footfall from buyers, exporters, retailers, designers, sourcing agencies and textile professionals from India and overseas, generating significant business enquiries and opening new avenues for market expansion for participating enterprises.

The visit of the New Zealand delegation further highlighted the growing scope for international collaboration in the wool and textile sector. This reaffirmed the shared commitment of both sides to explore mutually beneficial partnerships supporting innovation, sustainability, value addition and market development.

PhysicsWallah (PW) Celebrates Student Performance in NEET 2026

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, July 17: Education company PhysicsWallah (PW) has announced its NEET 2026 results, with multiple students securing spots in the top NEET All India Rank (AIR).

Ravikant Diwakar (AIR 55), Shivansh Anand (AIR 152), Divyansh Jaiswal (AIR 173), and Sakshi Kumari (AIR 192) were some of the high-performing students, to name a few. These achievements are a testament to the flexibility of the learning ecosystem that PW tries to provide, with students securing high scores through either online courses or offline, tech-enabled PW Vidyapeeth centres, depending on their individual preferences and learning styles.

Additionally, an event was held in Srinagar, celebrating the strong performance of students. Junaid Shah (AIR 1864), Rومان Manzoor (AIR 2633) and Ikhlāq Mohammad Lone (AIR 3156), amongst others, were some of the high-performing students of PhysicsWallah in the city.

"I am so happy to see my hard work pay off," said Ravikant Diwakar. "PW's batches completely cleared up all my confusion. The teachers explained the concepts so well that I actually understood the logic behind the formulas instead of just memorising them. Whenever I got stuck on a tough problem, the video explanations showed me the right steps instantly, which saved me a lot of time."

"Getting this score feels amazing, and I'm glad all my effort worked out," said Shivansh Anand. "The biggest help for me was the daily practice papers. Taking those regular tests taught me exactly how to pace myself and manage my time without panicking. The teachers also helped clear my doubts and showed me where I was making mistakes, which helped me fix them before the real exam."

Alakh Pandey, Founder and CEO of PhysicsWallah (PW), said, "Congratulations to every NEET 2026 aspirant who poured their hard work, discipline, and heart into this journey. Your dedication is truly commendable. To those celebrating their results today, your success is well-earned. And to those who fell short of their goals, remember that this exam is just a single milestone, not the measure of your worth or your future. Your potential is vast, and this is merely one chapter in a long, successful journey ahead."

PhysicsWallah's (PW) approach to NEET coaching is built on offering accessible, affordable, and high-quality learning. The platform integrates tech-led solutions such as daily practice questions, mock tests with video solutions, 24x7 doubt resolution, and AI-personalised revision journeys, ensuring that students stay on track, regardless of their location or background. This year, approximately 20 lakh students appeared for NEET (UG) 2026, with 11.21 lakh candidates qualifying for admission to various undergraduate medical programmes.



J&K Govt Reshuffles 17 Information Department Officers; Shabir Ahmad Bhat Appointed Field Publicity Officer, Kashmir

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, July 17: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Friday ordered a major administrative reshuffle in the Information Department, transferring and posting 17 officers across the Union Territory with immediate effect.

The transfers were ordered through Government Order No. 28-JK(ID) of 2026 dated July 17, 2026, issued by the Information Department, Civil Secretariat, in the interest of administration.

Under the new postings, Shabir Ahmad Bhat has been appointed as Field Publicity Officer, Kashmir, while Showkat Hussain Ganie (JKAS) has been transferred and posted as District Information Officer (DIO), Kulgam. Sajad Ahmad Shah has been appointed as the new District Information



Officer, Shopian. The order, issued by Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Alice Vaz (IAS), also provides for the transfer and posting of several other District Information Officers, Editors and Information Officers at various locations across Jammu and Kashmir as part of a wider administrative reorganisation aimed at strengthening the functioning of the department.

In his new role, Shabir Ahmad Bhat will be responsible for coordinating field publicity and public outreach activities across Kashmir. Showkat Hussain Ganie, who was previously serving as DIO Shopian, will now head the department in Kulgam, while Sajad Ahmad Shah will take over as DIO Shopian.

The government has directed that all officers covered under the transfer order shall be deemed relieved from their present places of posting with immediate effect to enable them to assume their new assignments without delay.

DC Kupwara inaugurates Aadhar Seva Kendra

HT NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA, JULY 17: Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has operationalised a new UIDAI Aadhaar Seva Kendra (ASK) at Kupwara, marking another significant step towards strengthening resident-centric Aadhaar services in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The UIDAI Aadhaar Seva Kendra was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, in the presence of Chief Planning Officer, Kupwara, Parvaiz Ahmad Lone. The inauguration ceremony was hosted by UIDAI Regional Office, Chandigarh and attended by V. Siva Subramanian, Deputy Director, UIDAI, and Shoaib Mohammad Khan, State Project Manager, UIDAI. Representatives from service provider, Rajnish Mehta,

Regional Manager BLS International; Peer Mubashir Shah, Cluster Manager, and Aijaz Ahmad Wani, Operations Manager were also present on the occasion.

The newly established Kupwara Aadhaar Seva Kendra is equipped with four operational Aadhaar enrolment and update kits to provide seamless Aadhaar-related services to residents. The centre offers a comprehensive range of Aadhaar services under one roof, including new enrolment, demographic updates, biometric updates, document verification, correction of Aadhaar details, and grievance redressal.

The Aadhaar Seva Kendra functions on all working days except public holidays, ensuring greater accessibility, convenience, and an enhanced service experience for residents of Kupwara and the surrounding areas. During his visit,

the Deputy Commissioner interacted with residents availing Aadhaar services and the staff at the centre. He reviewed the Aadhaar enrolment and update procedures and appreciated the efforts being made to provide efficient, transparent, and citizen-friendly services.

UIDAI officials informed the Deputy Commissioner that the centre has been designed as a fully inclusive and resident-friendly facility with amenities such as wheelchair accessibility, accessible washrooms, comfortable waiting areas, and a dedicated grievance redressal mechanism. Residents can also conveniently book appointments online for Aadhaar services through the UIDAI Aadhaar Appointment Portal. Mandatory Biometric Updates (MBU) for eligible children aged 5 to 17 years are currently being provided free of cost up to 30 September 2026.

Chief Secretary Focuses on EoDB Reforms in J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, July 17: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting to review the best practices adopted by leading States in promoting Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) and Ease of Living, with a view to examining their suitability for implementation in Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by various Administrative Secretaries and senior officers of the concerned departments.

At the outset, the Chief Secretary was given detailed presentations on the governance and regulatory reforms undertaken by the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat, highlighting their initiatives aimed at creating a business-friendly ecosystem through simplification of procedures, digital governance, regulatory reforms and citizen-centric service delivery.

The presentations outlined a wide range of initiatives adopted by the two States, including reduction in regulatory compliances, elimination of redundant

procedures, end-to-end digitization of government services, strengthening of single-window systems, rationalization of inspections, decriminalization of minor regulatory offences, investor facilitation mechanisms, time-bound service delivery, simplification of land and construction-related approvals and adoption of technology-driven governance models.

The reforms implemented under the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP), District BRAP, deregulation initiatives and Jan Vishwas framework were also highlighted during the meeting.

Reviewing the reforms presented during the meeting, the Chief Secretary observed that Jammu & Kashmir has already undertaken several governance reforms over the past few years and now needs to further accelerate the pace of administrative transformation by adopting proven national best practices suited to the Union Territory's governance framework.

He stressed that reforms aimed at improving Ease of Living should

complement economic reforms by ensuring hassle-free access to government services, minimizing procedural delays and enhancing public satisfaction.

The Chief Secretary emphasized that immediate focus should be laid on rationalization and whitelisting of services, further simplification of regulatory processes, decriminalization of minor offences and undertaking the necessary amendments in the relevant Acts, Rules and regulations to create a more enabling and investor-friendly ecosystem.

Addressing the officers, the Chief Secretary observed that sustained and well-directed reforms invariably translate into greater investor confidence and increased investments. He said that several States and UTs have emerged as frontrunners in governance reforms and service delivery, and Jammu & Kashmir should proactively emulate such proven best practices rather than reinventing the wheel.

He remarked that there are numerous success stories across the country that offer valuable

learning opportunities for the UT. By adopting these tested models and adapting them to local requirements, J&K can accelerate its reform agenda while avoiding duplication of effort and ensuring faster outcomes.

He directed the Centre for Innovation, Transformation and Governance (CITaG) to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the reforms already implemented in the Union Territory vis-à-vis those adopted by leading States, and accordingly prepare a roadmap outlining the future course of action. He stressed that such an assessment should clearly identify the existing gaps and prioritize reforms that can be implemented in the days to come.

Underscoring the importance of adopting an investor-centric approach, the Chief Secretary said that all reforms must be viewed from the perspective of entrepreneurs and investors rather than from the standpoint of government departments. He maintained that governance systems should be designed to make compliance simpler, approvals faster

and service delivery more efficient and transparent.

He further impressed upon CITaG to formulate a comprehensive, well-defined and time-bound action plan with clearly identifiable milestones and measurable outcomes for implementation of these reforms in Jammu & Kashmir. He also directed the organisation to maintain close coordination with the concerned authorities in Maharashtra and Gujarat to gain a deeper understanding of their reform processes, implementation strategies and institutional mechanisms so that the best practices can be effectively adapted to the needs of the Union Territory.

The meeting concluded with a consensus that the adoption of proven governance models from across the country, suitably customized to local requirements, would significantly strengthen institutional efficiency, enhance investor confidence and further the Government's vision of achieving higher standards of Ease of Doing Business and Ease of Living in Jammu & Kashmir.

DC Ganderbal reviews arrangements for Independence Day-2026 celebrations

HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, JULY 17: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today chaired a high-level meeting to review arrangements for the smooth and befitting celebration of the forthcoming Independence Day across the district. Reviewing department-wise preparedness, the DC stressed close coordination among all stakeholders to ensure that the national festival is celebrated with dignity, enthusiasm and active public participation.

The meeting reviewed arrangements for the district-level function at Qamaria Stadium, Ganderbal, including security, traffic management, seating, parking arrangements, barricading, sanitation, drinking water, uninterrupted power supply with backup, medical facilities, fire and emergency services, public address

system, transportation, hospital-ity, illumination of government buildings and other logistical requirements.

It was informed that the National Flag will be hoisted by the Chief Guest, followed by a march past by contingents of District Police, CRPF, Armed Police, SSB, Police Training School Manigam, Forest Protection Force and students from educational institutions. Patriotic cultural performances by school students will also be presented.

The DC directed all departments to complete assigned works well before the scheduled rehearsals and ensure proper illumination of the Mini Secretariat and other government offices, bridges and clock tower to ensure a festive atmosphere during the festival.

He instructed that special cultural programmes highlighting patriotism, social harmony and

awareness under Nasha Mukti Abhiyan be organised while showcasing the district's rich cultural heritage. The full dress rehearsal will be held on August 13 ahead of the main celebrations on August 15. The Chief Medical Officer was directed to deploy medical teams and ambulances during rehearsals and the main event, while the Municipal Council was asked to ensure cleanliness and sanitation. Departments concerned were instructed to provide uninterrupted drinking water, electricity and other essential facilities.

The DC directed the District Information Officer to ensure effective public address arrangements and wide dissemination of the Flag Code. He also asked all departments to install hoardings highlighting their major developmental achievements and prepare jhankis (tableaux) showcasing the district's development

journey, innovative initiatives and public welfare programmes.

Emphasising wider public participation, the DC said Independence Day is an occasion to celebrate the nation's unity, democratic values and collective progress. He directed the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Kangan, all Tehsildars and concerned officers to ensure enthusiastic celebrations at subdivision, tehsil, block, Panchayat, ULB level and in all educational institutions so that the spirit of the national festival reaches every corner of Ganderbal.

The meeting was attended by the Additional District Development Commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Chief Executive Officers of Wular Manasbal Development Authority and Sonamarg Development Authority, Superintending Engineers of KPDC, PW (R&B), senior officers of civil.

LCMA shares Dal Lake restoration, weed management expertise with LDA Manipur

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 17: A delegation from the Loktak Development Authority (LDA) Imphal, Manipur led by its Project Director, Heisnam Balkrishna visited the Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA), Srinagar to study the functioning of the Authority and its initiatives for the conservation and management of Dal Lake and exchange the experiences in management of waterbodies.

The delegation called on the Vice Chairman, J&K LCMA, Khurshid Ahmad Shah, and held discussions on lake conservation, aquatic weed management, ecological restoration, environmental monitoring, and other technical aspects of lake management.

During the interaction, the Vice Chairman briefed the delegation on the organizational structure, mandate and functioning of LCMA and highlighted the scientific and sustainable interventions being implemented for the restoration and long-term conservation of Dal Lake.

He emphasized that such interactions among lake management agen-

cies facilitate the exchange of technical knowledge, innovative practices and field experience, thereby strengthening conservation efforts across the country.

During a technical session attended by senior officers, engineers, and scientists of LCMA, the visiting team was apprised of ongoing restoration works, mechanized weed harvesting, environmental monitoring and other conservation initiatives.

The delegation also expressed keen interest in the floating jetties installed by LCMA at various locations of Dal Lake and explored the possibility of introducing similar infrastructure in Loktak Lake.

The delegation later visited Dal Lake to oversee the weed management operations, restoration activities and floating jetties being undertaken by JK LCMA.

The visit concluded with both organizations reaffirming their commitment to continued technical co-operation and the exchange of best practices for the conservation and sustainable management of Dal Lake and Loktak Lake.

Commissioner SMC inspects Integrated Animal Birth Control Centre at Tengpora

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 17: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb, today conducted a comprehensive inspection of the Integrated Animal Birth Control (ABC) Centre and Cattle Pond at Tengpora to review the functioning of the Corporation's stray animal management facilities and assess ongoing measures aimed at strengthening animal welfare, public health, and urban sanitation.

The Commissioner was accompanied by the Joint Commissioner (Administration), Executive Engineers, DFO SMC and other senior officers of the Corporation.

During the visit, the Commissioner reviewed the implementation of the Animal Birth Control Programme, including the sterilization and anti-rabies vaccination of stray dogs in accordance with the Animal Birth Control Rules and the guidelines of the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI). He also inspected the veterinary infrastructure, operation theatres, post-operative recovery units, cattle shelters, feeding arrangements, sanitation facilities, and other essential support infrastructure at the integrated complex.

Interacting with veterinary professionals and field personnel, Commissioner emphasized strict adherence to prescribed animal welfare protocols and directed the concerned officers to ensure scientific, humane, and efficient management of stray dogs and cattle while maintaining the highest standards of veterinary care, hygiene, and sanitation. The Commissioner directed the officers to undertake extensive plantation across the premises to improve the environmental ambience of the facility and stressed the need for intensive sanitation and regular upkeep of all sections. He further instructed that appropriate signage be installed at all functional units to facilitate better identification and operational efficiency. To strengthen animal care services, he also directed the establishment of a modern feed preparation and distribution facility with a robust inventory and stock monitoring system to ensure the timely availability and efficient management of animal feed. Highlighting the importance of the integrated facility, the Commissioner observed that it is a vital component of the Corporation's strategy for scientific and humane stray animal management, contributing significantly to public health, rabies control, environmental hygiene, and sustainable urban governance. He reaffirmed SMC's commitment to continuously upgrading the facility through modern infrastructure, improved operational systems, and best management practices.

The inspection forms part of Srinagar Municipal Corporation's sustained efforts to modernize civic infrastructure, promote responsible animal welfare practices, and build a cleaner, safer,

SKUAST-K VC Chairs 13th Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting of KVK Anantnag

Inaugurates state of Art High-Density Cherry and Apple Orchard

HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, JULY 17: Vice Chancellor of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganie, on Friday chaired the 13th Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Anantnag to review the centre's achievements and discuss future strategies for strengthening the agricultural sector.

Among others the meeting was attended by Director Extension, SKUAST-K, Dr. Rehana Habib Kanth; Registrar, SKUAST-K, Prof. Azmat Alam; Associate Director Research (ADR), Khudwani Centre, Dr. Najeeb Rehman; Head, KVK Anantnag, Dr. Ishtiaq Khan; heads of other KVKs from South Kashmir, Chief Agriculture Officer Anantnag Shahnawaz Ahmad Shah, Subject Matter Specialist Horticulture Department Anantnag, scientists, agri-entrepreneurs and progressive farmers.

During the meeting, Dr. Ishtiaq Khan, Head, KVK Anantnag,



presented a comprehensive progress report of the Kendra through a PowerPoint presentation, highlighting its achievements, ongoing programmes, extension activities and future roadmap. Members of the Scientific Advisory Committee held detailed deliberations on the

functioning of KVK Anantnag and suggested measures to further enhance its outreach and impact among the farming community.

On the occasion, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganie inaugurated a High-Density Cherry and High-density apple Orchards developed

by KVK Anantnag under HADP as part of its efforts to promote modern horticultural practices in the region.

The Vice Chancellor also released the Annual Progress Report and Action plan of KVK Anantnag, showcasing the institution's accomplishments over

the past year.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Ganie said that SKUAST-K, through its network of Krishi Vigyan Kendras, has played a transformative role in bringing scientific innovations and modern technologies to farmers, leading to significant improvements in the agriculture and horticulture sectors across Kashmir.

He said that after the successful promotion of high-density apple cultivation, the university has now initiated the promotion of high-density cherry orchards and scientific watermelon cultivation through KVK Anantnag, aiming to diversify farm income and enhance productivity.

The Vice Chancellor also interacted with agri-entrepreneurs, who shared their innovative farming tools & models, success stories and experiences. He appreciated their efforts and encouraged them to continue adopting technology-driven and market-oriented farming practices, assuring them of continued support from SKUAST-K.

DC Ganderbal reviews arrangements for Urs Mubarak of Hazrat Qamar-Ud-Din Bukhari (RA)

HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, JULY 18: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today convened a meeting of district officers to review and finalize the necessary arrangements for the upcoming Urs Mubarak of Hazrat Qamar-Ud-Din Bukhari (RA) to be held in Ganderbal.

Representatives of Qamaria Auqaf Trust informed during the meeting that the week-long Urs Mubarak will commence from the 21st of July while the main Urs day shall be observed on 25th. The main congregation is expected to witness a significant gathering of devotees at the revered shrine of Hazrat Qamar-Ud-Din Bukhari (RA) in Reshipora Sallora.

A detailed discussion was held regarding the various arrangements

required for the smooth and successful conduct of the religious event.

The meeting finalized comprehensive plans related to uninterrupted power supply, safe drinking water, medical facilities, fire safety, transport and parking, sanitation, security, and traffic regulation.

The DC directed all concerned departments to ensure that all arrangements are put in place well before the commencement of the Urs to provide a smooth, safe, and comfortable experience for the devotees. The Fire & Emergency Services Department was instructed to deploy fire tender at the venue, while the Health Department was asked to station an ambulance with adequate emergency medicines and medical staff.

The Municipal Council Ganderbal was directed to maintain cleanliness

in and around the shrine premises, including the approach roads.

To ensure safety and order during the large gatherings, the Police and Traffic Departments were tasked with maintaining security and managing traffic regulations effectively. The ARTO was asked to ensure proper transport and parking arrangements for the convenience of the devotees. The Executive Engineer KPDC was directed to ensure uninterrupted power supply during the Urs days and to keep a generator set ready as backup.

DC assured the representatives of Qamaria Auqaf Trust that the district administration is committed to ensuring that all necessary facilities are in place to facilitate a peaceful and spiritually enriching experience for the devotees participating in the Urs Mubarak.

DC Samba reviews preparations for Independence Day 2026 celebrations

HT NEWS NETWORK

SAMBA, JULY 17: Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan today chaired a meeting with district officers to review the arrangements for the smooth, dignified and successful celebration of Independence Day 2026 across the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a comprehensive review of preparations for the main function to be held at Rani Suchet Singh Sports Stadium, Samba. She directed all concerned departments to complete their assigned works well in advance and ensure seamless coordination for the successful conduct of the national event.

The DC instructed the concerned departments to ensure proper sanitation and cleanliness at the venue and its surrounding areas. She also directed the Power Development Department to ensure uninterrupted power supply and illumination of all important Government buildings, bridges and the main venue. The Jal Shakti Department was asked to make adequate arrangements for safe drinking water, while the concerned department was directed to install a robust Public Address System for the smooth conduct of the programme.

The Education and Youth Services & Sports Department were instructed to coordinate cultural programmes, march past rehearsals and other ceremonial activities reflecting the patriotic spirit and cultural diversity of the district. The Deputy Commissioner also stressed strict adherence to the Flag Code of India while displaying the National Flag at all government offices and public institutions. The DC asked the Police Department to put in place comprehensive security, traffic regulation and parking plans to facilitate smooth movement of participants and the public. She further reviewed the arrangements for the felicitation of distinguished individuals and presentation of awards during the function.

The Chief Medical Officer was directed to ensure adequate medical facilities, including deployment of medical teams, ambulances and emergency healthcare services at the venue.

Food Safety Department intensifies enforcement drive, 95 inspections conducted across UT

48 food samples lifted for quality, safety and labelling compliance

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 17: Continuing its efforts to safeguard public health and enhance consumer confidence, the Food Safety Department, Jammu & Kashmir, has intensified its enforcement and surveillance activities across the Union Territory.

The organization is undertaking sustained inspections

and enforcement sampling to ensure that food available in the market is safe, wholesome, and compliant with the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

As part of the enforcement drive, 95 inspections were conducted across all districts of the Union Territory. During the inspections, 48 food samples were lifted for analysis to verify their quality, safety, and

compliance with prescribed food safety standards. In addition, samples were collected for label scrutiny to ensure adherence to mandatory labelling requirements and to protect consumers from misleading claims and misbranded food products.

The food samples collected comprised of Edible Oils, Spices, Honey, Cereal Products, Milk & Milk Products, Sugar, Sweets

& Confectionery (SBC), and Prepared Foods.

The analytical results of these samples will determine their conformity with the prescribed standards, and strict legal action shall be initiated against Food Business Operators found violating the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the regulations framed thereunder.

The Organization also ap-

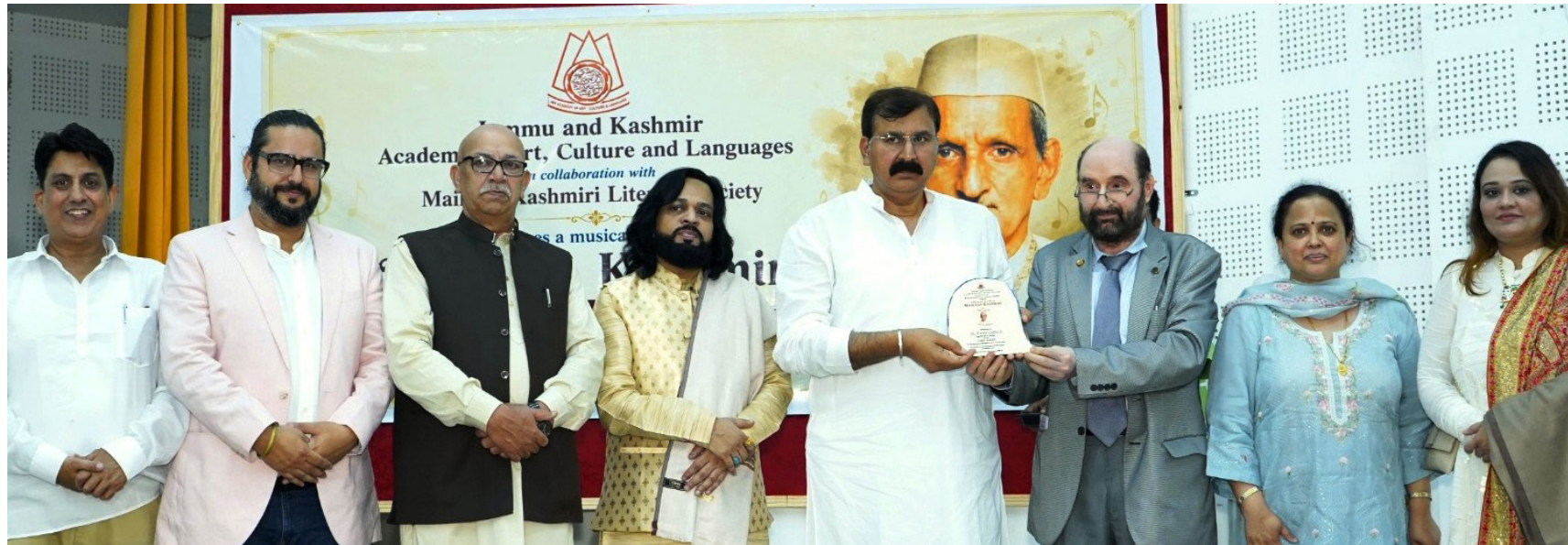
pealed to consumers to remain vigilant while purchasing food products by checking manufacturing and expiry dates, ensuring proper labelling, and purchasing only from licensed food business operators. Consumers have been requested to report any suspected unsafe or adulterated food product through Toll-Free Helpline No. 104 or email at cfsjandk.fnd@jk.gov.in.

JKAACL organises musical program to commemorate birth centenary of Maikash Kashmiri

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JULY 17: To commemorate the birth centenary of the eminent Kashmiri, Hindi and Urdu writer Pt. Kailash Nath Kaul popularly known as Maikash Kashmiri, the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL), in collaboration with the Maikash Kashmiri Literary Society today organized a captivating musical evening at K.L. Saigal Hall, Jammu. The event brought together literary enthusiasts, artists, scholars and admirers of the legendary writer to celebrate his rich literary and cultural legacy through music and discourse.

Member of Legislative Assembly Jammu West Arvind Gupta was the chief guest on the occasion. In his address, he paid glowing tributes to Maikash Kashmiri, describing him as one of the finest literary voices whose writings transcended linguistic and cultural boundaries. He said that the literary and musical heritage of great personalities like Maikash Kashmiri should be preserved and promoted among the younger generation, as such initiatives strengthen the cul-



tural fabric of society and inspire future generations to remain connected with their roots. Recalling his childhood days as a student of Dewan Badrinath (DBN) School, he fondly remembered the institution's rich cultural environment and appreciated the participation of its students in paying homage to the legendary writer through music.

Earlier, Additional Secretary Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages

Sonali Arun Gupta welcomed the dignitaries, artists and audience on behalf of the Academy. She highlighted the Academy's commitment to preserving and promoting the rich literary, artistic and cultural traditions of Jammu and Kashmir. She remarked that commemorating the birth centenary of literary icons such as Maikash Kashmiri is not merely a tribute to an individual but a celebration of the timeless values of literature, creativity and cultural

harmony that continue to inspire society.

The programme commenced with an introduction to the life and literary contributions of Maikash Kashmiri by Niharika Sher, a member of the Maikash Kashmiri Literary Society. This was followed by an insightful paper presented by Deepak Buttki, who eloquently highlighted the multifaceted personality of Maikash Kashmiri and his remarkable contribution to Kashmiri, Hindi and Urdu

literature.

Adding a melodious beginning to the evening, students of Dewan Badrinath School, Jammu presented a group song based on the writings of Maikash Kashmiri, which was warmly appreciated by the audience.

The highlight of the evening was a mesmerizing musical presentation by renowned singers Kashif Nizami and Shabab Nizami, who enthralled the audience with soulful renditions of Maikash Kashmiri's ghazals and

songs. Their performance beautifully reflected the lyrical depth and emotional richness of the poet's compositions. The musical recital was ably supported by Azhar Shakil on Violin, Zia Khan on Tabla and Kazim Ali on Sarangi, whose accompaniment added further brilliance to the programme.

Following the musical presentation, the participating artists and the students of Dewan Badrinath School were felicitated by the Chief Guest in

recognition of their outstanding performances. On the occasion, Arvind Gupta also honoured eminent singer Seema Anil Saigal, Kashif Nizami and Shabab Nizami by presenting them with traditional shawls in recognition of their distinguished contribution to music. As a token of gratitude, the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages and Maikash Kashmiri Literary Society presented a memento to the MLA for gracing the occasion and encouraging the promotion of the region's rich literary and cultural heritage. The proceedings of the event were conducted by noted writer and broadcaster Dr. Liaqat Jafri, who skillfully connected the various segments of the programme while highlighting significant milestones in the life and literary journey of Maikash Kashmiri.

The programme concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by Colonel Sanjeev Kaul, son of Maikash Kashmiri, who expressed gratitude to the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, artists, scholars and all those present for joining in celebrating the enduring literary and musical legacy of his father.

'Rang Tarang-2026' Concludes at IIM Jammu with a Spectacular Celebration of Creativity, Culture and Management Education

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JULY 17: The grand performing arts festival 'Rang Tarang-2026' concluded on a vibrant and inspiring note today at the Mandapam Auditorium of IIM Jammu, showcasing 17 outstanding presentations encompassing theatre, music and dance. Featuring the participation of more than 150 student artists, the festival transformed the campus into a dynamic cultural arena where creativity, teamwork and artistic excellence came together in a remarkable celebration of talent.

The valedictory function was presided over by Prof. B. S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, who, in his address, emphasized the growing relevance of arts and performing arts in contemporary management education. He observed that while management institutions are traditionally known for developing analytical and business acumen, the challenges of the future demand leaders who possess empathy, creativity, emotional intelligence and effective communication skills. According to him, the performing arts provide one of the most powerful platforms for nurturing these qualities by encouraging collaboration, discipline, confidence, innovation and resilience.

Prof. Sahay remarked that every performance on stage reflects meticulous planning, teamwork, leadership, time management and problem-solving—qualities that are equally essential in the corporate world. He noted that exposure to theatre, music and dance enables students to become more sensitive, socially aware and culturally rooted individuals while enhancing their ability to think creatively and lead with compassion. Congratulating all the participants, faculty mentors and organizers, he appreciated the festival for creating an ecosystem where learning extends far beyond classrooms and textbooks, making IIM Jammu a unique institution that integrates management education with holistic personality development.

The entire festival was conceived, designed and directed by Padma Shri Balwant Thakur, who was supported by a dedicated team of nearly 40 student directors, writers, designers and technicians. Over the past three years, Balwant Thakur has conceptualized and developed exclusive Performing Arts and Visual Arts courses for the Integrated Programme in Management (IPM) students at IIM Jammu. These innovative courses, unique in the landscape of management education in India, have been carefully designed to empower young minds through structured artistic engagement and experiential learning.

Speaking about the philosophy behind the initiative, Balwant Thakur said that performing arts are not merely extracurricular activities but powerful instruments of education and personality transformation. He explained that theatre, music and dance cultivate confidence, creativity, communication skills, critical thinking, emotional balance and collaborative leadership—qualities indispensable for future managers and entrepreneurs. He emphasized that every student is encouraged to discover hidden potential, overcome stage fear, express ideas with conviction and develop sensitivity towards society and culture. Through an immersive process involving scriptwriting, direction, acting, music, choreography, design and production management, students experience the complete journey of creating a performance, thereby learning leadership, responsibility and teamwork in the most practical manner.

Pi Jam Foundation brings together J&K innovation ecosystem to strengthen pathways for student Innovators

■ GULFAM BARJI

AWANTIPORA, JULY 17: PI JAM Foundation, in collaboration with the Department of School Education and the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), organised a special programme titled "Raah: Strengthening Pathways for Student Innovators in Schools" at the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (CIED) IUST, Awantipora. The programme was inaugurated by Prof. Shameem Ahmad Shah, Registrar, IUST in the presence of representatives from the Department of School Education, NIT Srinagar, Samagra Shiksha, the J&K Board of School Education (JKBOSE) and other academic innovation and industry organisations. A major

highlight of the event was the Student Innovation Showcase, where 18 talented students from different schools across Kashmir presented their innovative projects and received valuable feedback and mentoring from experts. Speaking on the occasion, Shuaib Dar, Chief Executive Officer of PI JAM Foundation, said that the initiative aims to connect young innovators with mentorship, incubation support and entrepreneurial opportunities so that their creative ideas can be transformed into practical solutions. Prof. Shameem Ahmad Shah appreciated the initiative and encouraged students to develop sustainable solutions to local challenges while fostering a spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship for the benefit of society.



Massive Crackdown on Illegal Sand Mining in Pulwama: Five Illegal Ramps Razed, Huge Sand Stock Seized; FIRs Registered

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA, JULY 17: In one of the biggest coordinated crackdowns on illegal sand mining in recent months, a joint enforcement team comprising the Flood Control Department, Geology & Mining Department, Police, and Revenue Department launched a surprise operation at Samboora-Literbal, a notorious hotspot for illegal sand extraction along the River Jhelum.

During the operation, authorities demolished three illegal access ramps allegedly being used to facilitate unauthorized sand mining. The ramps were reportedly owned by Ab Ahad Ganie (son of Ab Rahman Ganie), Ubaid Ahmad Ganie (son of Farooq Ahmad Ganie), and Sajad Ahmad (son of Ab Samad Ganie), all residents of Literbal, Samboora.

The enforcement team also seized a huge stockpile of illegally extracted sand dumped on the land belonging to the alleged violators. Officials said these unauthorized ramps had become the primary entry points for illegal mining operations in the area, and their permanent dismantling is expected to significantly curb the menace.

Legal proceedings have been initiated, including the registration of FIRs against the alleged ramp owners.

As part of the extended drive, the joint team also demolished two more illegal ramps at Lelhar using heavy machinery, further tightening the noose around illegal mining operators along the Jhelum.

In addition to the demolition and seizure, challans were issued to several empty tipper trucks that were intercepted while attempting to enter the riverbed for illegal loading, sending a strong warning to transporters involved in unauthorized mining activities.

Officials described the operation as part of a sustained campaign to safeguard the River Jhelum, protect public infrastructure, and preserve the environment.

भारत सरकार
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

nbt.india

چنار
کتاب فیسٹیول

CHINARA BOOK FESTIVAL
3rd EDITION
SKIED, Srinagar

District Administration
Srinagar

NCPUL

CULTURAL PROGRAMMES

18 JULY

WAHEED JELLANI

S. R. THEATRE

NATIONAL BHAND THEATRE

KASHMIR ROUF DANCE

YOMBURZAL YOUTH CLUB

HT EDITORIAL

Saving Lakes Should Begin at Home

The health of a lake is rarely determined by the water alone. It is shaped by the choices people make every day, how they dispose of waste, protect natural resources and respond to the environmental challenges around them. For water bodies under increasing pressure from pollution, unplanned development and climate change, community participation is no longer an option; it is the foundation of successful conservation.

Wular Lake, one of Asia's largest freshwater lakes and an ecological treasure of Jammu and Kashmir, is a reminder that environmental protection cannot be achieved through government action alone. Scientific waste management, restoration of degraded sites and improved infrastructure are all essential, but these measures can deliver lasting results only when local communities become active partners in safeguarding the ecosystem.

The decision to extend scientific solid waste management to villages surrounding the lake is a step in the right direction. Preventing waste from entering water bodies at its source is far more effective than attempting to clean pollution after the damage has already been done. Such initiatives can also improve sanitation, public health and the quality of life in rural communities while protecting biodiversity.

However, infrastructure by itself cannot solve environmental problems. Waste segregation, responsible disposal practices and a collective sense of ownership are equally important. Residents living around lakes, rivers and forests are often the first to witness environmental degradation and, therefore, are best placed to prevent it. Their participation transforms conservation from a government programme into a people's movement.

The larger lesson extends well beyond Wular Lake. Across the country, wetlands, rivers and forests are under growing stress from human activity. Their future depends on a shared commitment involving governments, local bodies, civil society and citizens alike. Environmental stewardship must become a part of everyday life rather than an occasional campaign.

Protecting nature is ultimately an investment in our own future. Clean lakes mean cleaner water, healthier ecosystems, sustainable livelihoods and greater resilience against climate change. If communities embrace this responsibility with determination, the legacy they leave behind will not merely be a cleaner environment but a more secure and sustainable future for generations to come.

Chief Patron Of Lubaab Publications Group:
Syed Sad Ud Din Bukhari (Saidi),
Printer Publisher, Owner And Editor:
Syed Jahangir Bukhari,
Printed At: Lubaab Publications, Radio
Colony Gund Hassibhat Lawaipora
Srinagar -190017,
Gen. Manager: Sheikh Mushtaq Ahmad
Cell No - 9697071471,
Editorial Section: 7006846797,
Multimedia Section: 9419008414,
Advertisement Section: 9697071471
RNI No: Jkeng/2011/39231
dailyheadlinestoday@gmail.com
headlinestoday2024@gmail.com

Kashmir's Next Revolution Will Not Rise from Concrete, but from Its Fields



■ SHAHID QADRI

As dawn breaks over the emerald paddy fields of Kashmir, the first rays of sunlight touch orchards heavy with apples, saffron fields waiting to bloom, and vegetable farms that have sustained generations. The sight is breathtaking, yet behind this beauty lies a silent struggle. Thousands of farmers continue to battle shrinking landholdings, unpredictable weather, escalating input costs, and fluctuating market prices. They are the custodians of our food security, yet many of them remain uncertain about their own future.

The future of Kashmir will not be determined solely by highways, shopping complexes or expanding urban skylines. It will be written in its villages, nurtured in its fields, and harvested by the hands of its farmers. If the Valley truly seeks economic resilience, employment generation and sustainable development, agriculture must once again occupy the centre stage of public policy.

The world has entered an era where agriculture is no longer measured by the strength of a farmer's muscles but by the power of scientific knowledge. Nations that invested in research, innovation and technology transformed agriculture into a thriving industry. Kashmir possesses every natural advantage to emulate such success. Fertile soil, abundant water resources, diverse agro-climatic zones and a farming community rich in traditional wisdom provide an unmatched foundation for growth. What is required is a determined effort to merge this heritage with modern science.

Encouragingly, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has initiated several ambitious interventions aimed at revitalising the sector. Programmes such as the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), support for horticulture, protected cultivation, apiculture,

fisheries, livestock, sericulture and floriculture reflect a renewed commitment to rural prosperity. These initiatives have the potential to transform agriculture into a profitable enterprise, provided they reach every deserving farmer with efficiency, transparency and continuity.

Agricultural development, however, cannot be achieved by government departments alone. It requires the collective strength of institutions, scientists, financial agencies, non-governmental organisations and, above all, informed farmers.

The Department of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, Floriculture and Sericulture together form the backbone of Kashmir's rural economy. Their role extends far beyond distributing seeds or subsidies. They are responsible for transferring scientific innovations from laboratories to farms, guiding farmers in adopting modern cultivation practices, managing pests and diseases, conserving natural resources and improving productivity.

Among the most valuable bridges between science and farming are the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs). These institutions quietly work at the grassroots, conducting demonstrations, organising training programmes, introducing climate-resilient technologies and equipping farmers with practical skills. Every successful demonstration in a village inspires dozens of neighbouring farmers to embrace innovation. Their contribution deserves far greater recognition and expansion.

Similarly, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) has emerged as a beacon of agricultural research. From developing improved crop varieties to promoting precision farming, integrated pest management, high-density orchards and post-harvest technologies, the university continues to shape the future of agriculture in the region. Yet, the distance between research stations and remote villages must be narrowed further. Scientific breakthroughs achieve their true purpose only when they improve the lives of ordinary farmers.

Perhaps the greatest investment any society can make is not in machinery but in knowledge. Today's farmer must understand soil health, weather forecasting, digital agriculture, artificial intelligence, water management, organic certification, market trends and value addition. Agriculture has evolved into a science, and every farmer deserves access to that science. Regular training programmes, exposure visits, digital advisory platforms and farmer education initiatives should become integral components of rural development.

Equally significant is the role of NGOs and community-based organisations. Working at the grassroots, they promote sustainable farming, empower women, organise self-help groups, encourage organic cultivation and connect farmers with markets. Their efforts complement government programmes and help ensure that no farmer is left behind.

Kashmir's unique climate offers extraordinary opportunities that much of the country cannot replicate. The Valley is naturally suited for high-density apple orchards, walnuts, almonds, cherries, saffron, lavender, medicinal and aromatic plants, floriculture, mushrooms, honey production, trout farming and high-value vegetables. Instead of following a uniform agricultural model, Kashmir must build an economy based on its own climatic strengths and natural advantages.

This vision also calls for specialised centres of excellence dedicated to apples, saffron, walnuts, medicinal plants, floriculture, mountain agriculture and climate-resilient farming. Such institutions would accelerate research, improve quality, strengthen exports and prepare farmers to meet global standards.

Agriculture is no longer confined to producing food. It drives food processing, cold storage, packaging, transportation, exports, tourism and countless rural enterprises. Every prosperous farm creates employment beyond its boundaries. Every successful orchard strengthens the regional economy. Every trained farmer becomes an entrepreneur capable of inspiring an entire community.

For decades, the youth of Kashmir have looked towards government employment as the only path to stability. It is time to redefine that aspiration. A scientifically managed orchard, a modern dairy unit, a commercial mushroom farm, a lavender plantation or a successful beekeeping enterprise can generate livelihoods with dignity and sustainability. Agriculture must be presented not as the occupation of last resort but as the profession of the future.

Climate change presents an undeniable challenge. Unseasonal snowfall, erratic rainfall, prolonged dry spells and emerging pests threaten traditional farming practices. This makes scientific agriculture not merely an option but a necessity. Investment in climate-resilient crops, efficient irrigation systems, precision farming and sustainable land management will determine whether Kashmir's agriculture flourishes or falters in the coming decades.

The story of Kashmir has always been intertwined with its land. Every orchard planted, every seed sown and every harvest gathered carries the hopes of families who have nurtured these fields for generations. Their resilience deserves more than admiration; it deserves unwavering support. If policymakers continue to invest in research, education, innovation and market infrastructure; if institutions work together with farmers rather than merely for them; and if society begins to value agriculture as the cornerstone of economic progress, Kashmir can witness an agricultural renaissance unlike any in its history.

The Valley has every ingredient for success—fertile land, gifted farmers, scientific institutions and visionary policies. What remains is the collective resolve to transform potential into prosperity.

The next chapter of Kashmir's development will not be written in boardrooms alone. It will be written in the fragrance of saffron fields, in the blossoms of apple orchards, in the golden waves of paddy, and in the determined hands of every farmer who continues to believe that the soil beneath his feet still holds the promise of a brighter tomorrow.

The author from Gohan Kokernag. He can be reached at findqadri@gmail.com



■ KHURSHID RESHI

Water is the most precious natural resource and a priceless gift of God. It is essential not only for human beings but for every living creature on Earth. Without water, life cannot exist. Yet, despite its importance, we continue to misuse and waste this invaluable resource.

Today, the world is witnessing the effects of global warming and climate change. One of the most serious consequences is the growing scarcity of water. Villages, towns, and cities alike are facing an alarming shortage of clean drinking water. This crisis is affecting agriculture, horticulture, public health, and the daily lives of millions of people.

Water is indispensable for drinking, cooking, bathing, farming, and maintaining hygiene. However, while water resources are shrinking, our consumption continues to increase. Springs, streams, rivers, ponds, and wells are drying up due to changing climatic conditions and human activities. Many people struggle every day to obtain safe drinking water.

Ironically, much of this scarcity is the result of our own carelessness. Water is often wasted through overflowing tanks, leaking taps, and excessive use



of electric pumps for irrigating kitchen gardens and home lawns. Many people leave taps running unnecessarily, forgetting that every drop of water is precious.

At the same time, instead of protecting our natural water sources, we are polluting them with waste and other harmful materials. If this trend continues, the situation will become even more critical. A day may come when people will have to struggle and even fight for every drop of water. Humans, animals, birds, and other living creatures will all suffer from this growing crisis.

Water conservation is no longer a choice—it is a necessity. We must use water wisely, repair leaking taps, harvest rainwater, protect our springs, rivers, ponds, and wells, and spread awareness about responsible water use. Small actions taken by each one of us can make a significant difference.

Let us remember that every drop counts. By conserving water today, we can ensure a healthier, safer, and more sustainable future for generations to come.

The author from Kupwara

HT SATURDAY-GOSSIP

The Taste of Words



■ YOUSUF MIR

It was the third Sunday of July. Sahil went to Hayatpora to visit his new friend, Tahir, at his shop.

After exchanging greetings, they asked about each other's families, as friends usually do. Sahil also inquired about their mutual friend, Aslam, who was living abroad.

"Yes, he is doing well," Tahir replied with a smile. "But remember one thing. Whether a person is considered good or bad depends on time. Time itself passes the judgment."

Sahil remained silent for a few moments before asking, "Do you have any proof?"

Tahir smiled confidently.

"You must have heard the saying, 'The pen is mightier than the sword.' There was a time when the sword was the yardstick of power. Kingdoms were

built by the sword. But the standards of power changed. New gadgets replaced the sword. Yet the strength and spirit of the pen remain as powerful as ever, and perhaps they always will. In the same way, words are too powerful."

"What gives words their power?" Sahil asked.

"Their taste," Tahir replied.

After a brief pause, he repeated, "The power of words lies in their taste."

Sahil looked at him thoughtfully.

"And what is the taste of words?"

"Sincerity."

After another thoughtful pause, Tahir continued, "Sincerity is the true taste of words. And yes, sincerity must be accompanied by courage. Sincerity without courage is incomplete, and courage without sincerity is incomplete. They are two sides of the same coin."

After a moment of silence, Tahir began to tell a story.

"A man had heard of a Hakim who was said to heal people through his words. He found the claim difficult to believe and decided to discover the truth for himself.

When he arrived, he found a large crowd waiting outside. His curiosity grew even stronger.

When his turn came, he entered the



Hakim's room. To his surprise, the Hakim spoke to him in an unusually harsh tone. The behaviour was completely different from everything he had heard. The sharp words made his face turn red with anger.

The Hakim quietly checked his blood pressure. It had risen considerably.

The visitor wanted to leave, but remained standing in silence.

Then, within moments, everything

changed. The harshness disappeared from the Hakim's voice. His words became gentle. He sincerely apologised for his behaviour.

The visitor felt as though a completely different person was standing before him. The burden in his heart began to disappear.

After a short while, the Hakim checked his blood pressure again. It had returned to normal.

Smiling, the Hakim placed his hand on the visitor's shoulder and said, 'Now tell me... do you still believe that words cannot heal? My harsh words raised your blood pressure. My gentle words brought it back to normal. That is the taste of words and the true use of language. Never forget this: words are not merely a means of speaking; they are also the pathway to another person's heart.'

The visitor left with a smile and a lesson he would never forget.

Sahil sat quietly, reflecting on every word of the story.

Finally, he looked at Tahir and said, "Today I have truly understood that the real power of words lies in their taste."

Tahir nodded silently.

The steam rising from their cups of tea slowly faded into the air, but one truth remained forever in the hearts of both friends:

Sincerity is the true taste of words.

This short story explores how the true power of words and language, guided by sincerity and courage, can transform hearts, attitudes, and relationships
Email: yousufmir555@gmail.com

Drowning incidents in Kashmir Valley

Nature is benevolent an sometimes dreadful



■ SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

Clear, crystal-clear rivers are meant to quench our thirst, not to be polluted or used recklessly for swimming. Nature is benevolent, but at times it can also be very dreadful. It is heartbreaking that during the current year, a number of drowning incidents have been reported from different places.

Every year, such heart-wrenching incidents occur. Bathing in large water bodies should be permanently banned, and stringent action should be taken against those who pollute and dirty natural resources. These resources possess a unique beauty; their flowing water, serenity, and charm are always at their peak. Humans should never turn such natural resources into bathtubs or swimming pools.

Nature is Incredible

It leaves nothing stationary. It calls you, pampers you, makes you happy. Nature bestows upon us mesmerizing surroundings. It is beautiful, joyful, limitless, and full of mysteries. It attracts, enchants, and sometimes terrifies. It can bring catastrophe, demolish great structures, silence the noisiest moments, or compel a scream from the quietest soul.

From a religious perspective, everything that happens is under the supervision of the Almighty. Life and death are not random—each moment, even the rustling of leaves, occurs only by His will, as described in the Holy Quran. So why do we worry? Why do we fear what is already destined?

The answer, though simple, carries deep wisdom: we have a duty to act responsibly. The Almighty has commanded us to take safety measures and protect ourselves and others. We are not permitted to be careless or ignorant. Crying and shouting in moments of regret will not change what was avoidable through preparation and awareness.

Heat, Summer, and the Shift Toward Risk

Kashmir lies in the extreme north, and we are accustomed to bitter cold. During Chillai Kalan—from December 21 to the end of January—temperatures dip as low as -15°C. Yet we endure it with proper arrangements: traditional timber ovens, hammams, and layered winter clothing.

WATER IS BEAUTIFUL, BUT CAN BE DANGEROUS

— STAY ALERT. STAY SAFE. SAVE LIVES. —

Rising Cases. Silent Losses. Urgent Awareness.

**A MOMENT OF CARELESSNESS
CAN LAST A LIFETIME
OF REGRET**

COMMON CAUSES

- SWIMMING IN UNSAFE OR UNMONITORED WATERS
- JUMPING INTO RIVERS, LAKES & CANALS
- ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION NEAR WATER BODIES
- LACK OF AWARENESS & SAFETY PRECAUTIONS
- CHILDREN PLAYING NEAR WATER WITHOUT SUPERVISION

PREVENTION STARTS WITH US

- AVOID SWIMMING IN DEEP OR UNKNOWN AREAS
- SWIM ONLY IN DESIGNATED & SAFE ZONES
- ALWAYS SUPERVISE CHILDREN NEAR WATER
- DO NOT SWIM UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL
- LEARN BASIC SWIMMING & LIFE-SAVING SKILLS
- REPORT ANY RISKY ACTIVITY OR EMERGENCY IMMEDIATELY

YOUR AWARENESS CAN PREVENT TRAGEDIES

BE RESPONSIBLE. BE CAREFUL. BE A LIFE SAVER.

TOGETHER, WE CAN PROTECT PRECIOUS LIVES.

DOZENS OF LIVES LOST EVERY YEAR

SPIKE IN INCIDENTS DURING SUMMER MONTHS

AFFECTING ALL AGE GROUPS ESPECIALLY YOUTH & CHILDREN

MOST INCIDENTS DUE TO NEGLIGENCE & LACK OF SAFETY AWARENESS

Winters, though harsh, are peaceful, and the snow-laden forests and towering mountains reflect the divine beauty of the region.

But summer, starting around June 21 until September 21, presents a new challenge. Between June and late July, the valley experiences scorching heat, especially in urban areas. With few green spaces or cooling infrastructure, people often turn to public parks for relief. Sadly, many of these parks have been replaced with commercial spaces like parking lots.

In the 1990s, Iqbal Park served as a vital retreat for residents from Solina, Sarai Bala, Half Chinar, and surrounding areas. Just a few kilometers from the Zabarwan Mountains, it provided free access to fresh air and open space. Today, with entry fees imposed even on locals, many feel excluded. Development should unite the people—not foster divisions based on affordability.

The Rush Toward Water — and the Danger That Follows

To escape the heat, youth from cities flock to villages, where glacial streams and clear water bodies offer natural relief. These

rivers, sourced from melting glaciers, rush with terrifying force—like water driven by powerful motors. Though visually appealing, they are extremely dangerous.

Drowning incidents in Kashmir are steadily rising. These aren't isolated accidents—they happen year after year. The key reason? Lack of proactive safety measures. We often react after tragedies, rather than act in advance—be it in road safety, infrastructure, or water-related risks.

Case Study: Raiyar-Ich, Budgam

The residents of Bhatti Mohallah, Raiyar-Ich, Khansahib (Budgam) have been urging the government for over ten years to construct a mini-connectivity bridge. Despite repeated appeals, nothing has been done.

Recently, a minor girl and a 20-year-old biker narrowly escaped drowning in a canal at the same site. The community had already submitted a formal request to the district administration and even filed a written complaint at Police Station Khansahib. Yet, the danger remains.

Without proper infrastructure, the area

remains a hazard. A connectivity bridge must be constructed immediately to prevent future tragedies. Authorities must act before more lives are lost.

What Needs to Be Done?

To prevent further loss of life, the following steps are essential:

1. Ban Open-River Bathing in Tourist Areas

The administration should impose a strict seasonal ban on bathing in high-risk water bodies, particularly at:

Shali Ganga (Doodhpathri)
Lidder River (Pahalgam)
Dal Lake (Srinagar)
Jhelum River (across various districts)

These sites must be under CCTV surveillance, with fines or penalties for violations.

2. Develop Public Swimming Pools

Each district should have affordable, accessible swimming pools. Swimming must be taught not only for safety, but also to promote sports and recreation in water-based activities.

3. Launch Public Awareness Campaigns
Through schools, mosques, social media,

and community halls, the government should educate the public—especially young people—about drowning risks, safety practices, and emergency response.

4. Protect and Respect Water Bodies

Open defecation, littering, and pollution of rivers degrade not just the environment, but also community health. Our rivers are lifelines for thousands of villages—supporting drinking water, irrigation, and ecology. It's our moral duty to keep them clean and pollution-free.

The rising number of drowning incidents in the Kashmir Valley is a tragedy that can be prevented. These deaths are not inevitable. They are the result of neglect—both individual and institutional.

Nature is a gift—but only when respected. With careful planning, awareness, and infrastructure, we can save lives and create a safer, cleaner, more compassionate Kashmir.

Let us not wait for another innocent life to be lost.

Let us act now.

sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

Views, Opinions, facts etc Expressed by the Authors are their Own and Headlines Today doesn't acknowledge the viewpoint in any manner. And the claims made by the advertisers, promoters through their write-ups need to be ascertained by the readers and Headlines Today Shall not be held responsible for any misleading information in any manner...

Ginger Packet with Immense Health Benefits



■ SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

Today we are experiencing the cold days of winter, so it is common to get involved in a number of health-related issues like cold, throat infections, cough and many more.

So, try ginger every day in your food items and take a sufficient quantity of ginger for better health.

Our body needs an adequate amount of food and all the basic components of food. These include minerals, vitamins, fiber, fats, etc. Humans are the most beautiful creatures of the Almighty in this universe. The Almighty has bestowed upon us infinite blessings in various forms, whether it's food items, natural objects or the whole environment that covers us like a blanket.

Today I am going to highlight the health benefits of ginger (adrak). Ginger has immense health benefits such as: it helps to detox our body, it has antibiotic properties, and it can help with the prevention of cancer.

(Note: Some lines mentioned "garlic," but your title is about ginger. If you want, I can correct that fully.)

We are exposed to a wide range of chemicals and compounds daily while living in the world. Many of these compounds are not healthy and may even be harmful to the body. The environment, water and food include: personal care products containing chemicals, household cleaners, radiation from nuclear plants, pesticides and chemicals used in agriculture.

Garlic is a powerful detox food that promotes glutathione production by

Ginger PACKET with IMMENSE HEALTH BENEFITS

Nature's golden root in every pack – pure, powerful and packed with goodness for a healthier you, every day.

NATURAL ANTIOXIDANT
Helps protect cells from damage and slows down the aging process.

SOOTHES COLD & COUGH
Ginger has natural antiviral and antibacterial properties that relieve sore throat and congestion.

AIDS WEIGHT MANAGEMENT
Boosts metabolism, helps in fat burning and supports healthy weight management.

REGULATES BLOOD SUGAR
Helps improve insulin sensitivity and supports healthy blood sugar levels.

AIDS DIGESTION
Ginger helps stimulate digestive juices, reduces bloating and relieves indigestion.

BOOSTS IMMUNITY
Rich in antioxidants and anti-inflammatory compounds that help strengthen immunity and fight infections.

RELIEVES NAUSEA
Effective in reducing nausea and vomiting caused by motion sickness, pregnancy or chemotherapy.

REDUCES INFLAMMATION & PAIN
Natural anti-inflammatory properties help relieve joint pain, muscle soreness and arthritis.

SUPPORTS HEART HEALTH
Helps lower bad cholesterol (LDL), improves circulation and supports overall heart health.

PURE & NATURAL GINGER
RICH IN GOODNESS

100% NATURAL

NO PRESERVATIVES NO ADDED COLOURS PREMIUM QUALITY

NUTRITION IN EVERY ROOT

VITAMINS B6, C & E MINERALS MAGNESIUM, POTASSIUM POWERFUL ANTIOXIDANTS ESSENTIAL OILS & GINGEROLS

SMALL ROOT BIG BENEFITS
Make Ginger a part of your daily life for a healthier tomorrow.

EASY TO USE

GINGER TEA: A warm soothing cup every day.
COOKING: Enhance the flavor and health of your meals.
GINGER JUICE: Refreshing and detoxifying natural drink.
SMOOTHIES: Add a healthy kick to your daily smoothies.

PURE. NATURAL. POWERFUL.
GOODNESS OF GINGER – IN EVERY PACK.



antibiotic that can fight infections and bacteria in sliced, crushed or diced cloves. Garlic extracts have been shown to suppress the growth of protozoa, viral infections, and numerous bacteria like Salmonella, as well as fungal elements. Allicin is believed to be a possible antibiotic replacement. It also helps when used along with prescribed antibiotics.

Garlic helps prevent one of the lethal diseases nowadays called cancer (CA). According to research, consuming fresh garlic can help reduce the risk of colon cancer. According to the IOWA Women's Health Study, women who ate garlic regularly along with vegetables and fruits were 35% less likely to get cancer.

Garlic also helps reduce cholesterol levels. Cholesterol is a fatty component in the blood. There are two kinds of cholesterol: bad LDL cholesterol and good HDL cholesterol. Too much LDL and not enough HDL can cause serious health issues. Garlic has been shown to lower total cholesterol and LDL levels by 10 to 15 percent. Eating garlic does not affect good HDL cholesterol. If you have a family history of heart disease or suffer from heart problems, you should consider adding garlic to your diet.

Garlic helps reduce blood pressure among patients. It is a special spice to include in your diet if you suffer from high blood pressure or hypertension. Even if you do not like the taste of garlic, taking garlic supplements will still give you benefits such as lowering high blood pressure, treating fever and many more. Keep in mind that the amount of supplement you take should equal four cloves of garlic each day.

Dear champs, I care a lot about your health. For God's sake, take fresh and healthy food items. One more thing: exercise is very important for you if you want to stay fit, smart, attractive and healthy.

sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

Garlic has antibiotic properties. Garlic contains allicin. Allicin is a bioactive

liver enzymes. It provides important detoxifying components, including mul-

tipale bioactive selenium and sulphur compounds.

THE PSEUDOSCIENCE

■ SURINDERPAL SINGH

In an age where information travels faster than ever before, distinguishing scientific truth from misleading claims has become an essential life skill. Social media, the internet and digital platforms have made knowledge widely accessible, but they have also provided fertile ground for the spread of misinformation. Among the most persistent forms of misinformation is pseudoscience—beliefs and practices that imitate science without following the principles that make science reliable. Although pseudoscience often appears convincing, its acceptance can have serious consequences for public health, education and society.

Science is built upon observation, experimentation, evidence and critical thinking. Every scientific claim must be tested, verified, and open to revision if new evidence emerges. Pseudoscience, however, lacks these essential qualities. Instead of relying on carefully conducted research, it frequently depends on personal testimonials, selective evidence, emotional appeals and unverified claims. Stories of individual success are often presented as proof while rigorous scientific studies are ignored. Such anecdotal evidence may sound persuasive, but it cannot establish whether a claim is genuinely effective or simply the result of coincidence, placebo effects, or other unrelated factors.

One of the defining features of pseudoscience is its resistance to being disproved. Genuine scientific theories invite testing and welcome criticism because they seek truth rather than validation. Pseudoscientific beliefs, on the other hand, are

often modified whenever evidence contradicts them. Rather than accepting negative findings, proponents create new explanations to preserve their original claims. This unwillingness to accept evidence separates pseudoscience from authentic scientific inquiry.

Another common characteristic is the use of scientific-sounding language without clear meaning. Technical terms, complex jargon, and impressive-looking diagrams can create an illusion of credibility while lacking measurable evidence or scientific accuracy. Such presentation often confuses the public, making it difficult to distinguish between legitimate scientific discoveries and unsupported assertions.

The contrast between science and pseudoscience is not merely academic—it has significant real-world consequences. Science advances through skepticism, peer review, replication of experiments and transparent sharing of evidence. Every scientific conclusion remains open to revision as new knowledge emerges. Pseudoscience, however, often discourages questioning and portrays criticism as hostility. This dogmatic approach allows misinformation to persist despite overwhelming scientific evidence to the contrary.

The consequences can be particularly dangerous in healthcare. History has shown how false medical claims can discourage people from accepting proven treatments and preventive measures. The anti-vaccination movement, fueled by thoroughly disproven claims linking vaccines to autism, contributed to the return of diseases that had once been effectively controlled. Similarly, reliance on untested alternative therapies may delay proper medical treatment,

putting lives at unnecessary risk.

Beyond medicine, pseudoscience weakens public confidence in scientific institutions. Climate change denial, conspiracy theories, and misinformation surrounding emerging technologies create confusion and polarize public opinion. When trust in scientific evidence declines, societies struggle to respond effectively to global challenges such as pandemics, environmental degradation and technological risks. Sound public policy depends upon informed citizens who can distinguish reliable evidence from unfounded speculation. At the individual level, persistent belief in pseudoscience may reduce critical thinking and encourage decisions driven by emotion rather than evidence. Once people become deeply attached to unsupported beliefs, they often reject contradictory information, reinforcing misinformation and making constructive dialogue increasingly difficult. This cycle not only affects personal decisions but also shapes public attitudes and influences democratic decision-making.

The most effective defense against pseudoscience is scientific literacy. Schools, universities, media organizations and scientific institutions must work together to promote evidence-based thinking, logical reasoning, and healthy skepticism. Citizens should be encouraged to ask important questions: What is the evidence? Has the claim been independently verified? Can it be tested? Has it undergone scientific scrutiny? Such habits of inquiry are fundamental to responsible decision-making.

THE AUTHOR IS A FACULTY IN SCIENCE DEPARTMENT SRI AMRITSAR SAHIB PUNJAB.

DR TASADUK HUSSAIN ITTOO

PHYSICIAN

MBBS, PGDFM(CMC Vellore), B.Sc, FRCP(London, UK), FRSPH(London, UK), CBIOL(UK), CSci(UK), MRSB(UK), MAcadMed(UK)

FELLOW, INTERNATIONAL DIABETES FEDERATION (IDF FELLOW, BELGIUM)

MEMBER, AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS (ACP, USA)

ACADEMIC LIFE MEMBER, RESEARCH SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF DIABETES IN INDIA (RSSDI)

JKMC REGD. NO. 15414

WILL BE AVAILABLE AT

UMEED DAY CARE AND DIAGNOSTICS

NEAR PETROL PUMP, MATTAN ANANTNAG

FOR APPOINTMENT CONTACT THE BELOW NUMBER.

7006309882

DAY CARE
Chemotherapy & Day Care Services

X-RAY
Digital X-Ray Services

USG
All Types of Ultrasound Services

LAB
All Pathology Tests & Investigations

OPD
Consultation by Experienced Doctors

Umeed daycare and diagnostics

Umeed daycare and diagnostics

Umeed daycare and diagnostics

Umeed daycare and diagnostics

Umeed daycare and diagnostics

Umeed daycare and diagnostics

Umeed daycare and diagnostics

Umeed daycare and diagnostics

NEAR PETROL PUMP, MATTAN K.P ROAD, ANANTNAG

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection name has been wrongly registered SHABIR AHMAD RATHER Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040018564 wants to be registered on correct name SHAHID NABI RATHER R/O PACHAR CHNADOOSA .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

**Name...SHAHID NABI RATHER
R/O .. PACHAR CHANDOOSA**

Public Notice

I have lost my Service Army ID Card , Adhaar Card and Pan Card at Lal Chowk Srinagar if anybody found Kindly return it to below mentioned address otherwise I am applying for duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact concerned authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**Name....AB RASHID DAR
S/O Late GH MOHAMMAD DAR
R/O .PALPORA PATTAN
Contact 7006841298 & 9596271457**

Public Notice

It is here by notified that my name & Date of Birth is wrongly mentioned as BUTT KHURSHED AHMAD & Date of Birth is 01/03/1967 in my passport bearing passport No ...N7086181 while my correct name is KHURSHED AHMAD BHAT & correct Date of Birth is 04/09/1970 as per adhaar record which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact with passport office srinagar within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

**Name....KHURSHED AHMAD BHAT
S/O MOHD ASSADULLA BHAT
R/O HAIL JAGIR , Dist....BARAMULLA**

Laptop Care House

Wholesale Dealer Of New And Pre Used Laptops

DEALS IN ALL KINDS OF LAPTOPS AND ACCESSORIES

REPAIRING OF: ALL TYPES OF LAPTOPS & DESKTOPS



Public Notice

In the school record the mother's name of my children (HARIS SHABIR) has been mentioned as AFROZA BEGUM instead of ROZI BEGUM .Now I am applying for its correction if anybody having any objection in this regard he / she may file same to the GOVT HIGH SCHOOL WATERGAM within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**Name....SHABIR AHMAD SHEIKH ,
F/O HARIS SHABIR**

Public Notice

My name has been wrongly mentioned as IFTIKHAR MUSTAFA in my Date of Birth certificate bearing Registration No.B202601052610000110 while my correct name is IFTIKHAR MUSTAFA WANI which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the BDO OFFICE WAGOORA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name....IFTIKHAR MUSTAFA WANI

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KALANTRA / KREERI

Subject: Application of FAROOQ AHMAD GOJER DEADER S/O LAL U DIN GOJER DEADER for the issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar and Bakerwal)in favour of FAROOQ AHMAD GOJER DEADER, ADIL FAROOQ GOJER DEADER , SOHAIB FAROOQ GOJER DEADER & SAYIMA FAROOQ

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of ST . in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village BANDI BALLA and belongs to the ST caste and GOJAR DEADER community, having annual income is 295000/PA the details of the family of the applicant are as follows

- 1...FAROOQ AHMAD GOJAR DEADER self 40 years Labour
- 2.... SALEEMA BEGUM wife 38 years House wife
- 3...ADIL FAROIQ son 18 Years student
- 4..SOHAIB FAROOQ son 16 Years student
- 5...SAYIMA FAROOQ daughter 14 years student

The applicant has applied for Issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar & Bakerwal) certificate in favour of Self

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

NAIB TEHSILDAR KALANTRA

HT - NEWS

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KALANTRA / KREERI

Subject: Application of NAZIR AHMAD GOJAR DEADER S/O SAIF DIN GOJAR DEADER for the issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar and Bakerwal)in favour of NAZIR AHMAD GOJAR DEADER , TAHIR NAZIR GOJAR DEADER ZAHID AHMAD DEADER QUFAYAT NAZIR GIJAR DEADER & SUMAIRA NAZIR

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of ST . in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village BANDI BALLA and belongs to the ST caste and GOJAR DEADER community, having annual income is 135000 /PA the details of the family of the applicant are as follows

- 1...NAZIR AHMAD GOJAR DEADER self 45 years Labour
- 2.... SHAFIQA BEGUM wife 42 years House wife
- 3...TAHIR NAZIR GOJAR DEADER son student
- 4..ZAHID AHMAD GOJAR DEADER son student
- 5..QUFAYAT NAZIR GOJAR DEADER son student
- 6...SUMAIRA NAZIR daughter student

The applicant has applied for Issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar & Bakerwal) certificate in favour of Self

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

NAIB TEHSILDAR KALANTRA

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KALANTRA / KREERI

Subject: Application of MOHAMMAD AKRAM DEADER S/O KHAN MOHAMMAD DEADER for the issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar and Bakerwal)in favour of ABDUL QAYOOM DEADER , ZUBAIR AHMAD DEADER ,OWAIS AKRAM DEADER son and IMRA AKRAM daughter

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of ST . in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village BANDI BALLA and belongs to the ST caste and DEADER community, having annual income is 155692 the details of the family of the applicant are as follows

- 1...MOHAMMAD AKRAM DEADER self 50 years daily wager
- 2.... MAQSOODA BEGUM wife 67 years House wife
- 3...ABDUL QAYOOM DEADER son 30 years student
- 4..ZUBAIR AHMAD DEADER son 25 years student
- 5...IMRA AKRAM daughter 21 Years //
- 6...OWAIS AHMAD DEADER son 17 years//

The applicant has applied for Issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar & Bakerwal) certificate in favour of Self

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

NAIB TEHSILDAR KALANTRA

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG

NIT 47 OF R&B/Anantnag/2026-27 /E-TENDERING/4103-12

DATED 16-07-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs in Lacs)	T.D Cost (in Rs)	E/M (In Rs)	Time
1.	Upgradation of Department of Community Medicine at Main Campus Dailgam GMC Anantnag	5.50 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 4.66 + (18% GST Amount 0.84)	300	11000/-	15 Days

Major Head of Account: District Capex (Health GMC) PRI Grants

Class of Contractor: CEE, DEE Class & MSME's Only

Project Authority: District Development Commissioner Anantnag.

Position of AAA: Accorded vide Order No. 306- DDCA of 2026, Dated 15.07.2026.

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

S . No.	Particulars	Dated		
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice		16-07-2026	
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From	16-07-2026	(01:00 PM)
		To	21-07-2026	(04:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From	16-07-2026	(01:00 PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To	21-07-2026	(04:00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid(online)		22-07-2026	(10:30 AM)
			In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag.	

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag [Tender Inviting Authority] (NIT No. Name of Work/Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag (Tender receiving Authority). (The Date of EMD (CDR/FDR/BG) should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date and validity of EMD at the time of opening of Bids shall be a period of 45 Days beyond Bid Validity of 120 Days). The same EMD should not be used in more than one Tender/Bid.

2. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.

3. The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released 60 days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. The date of Performance Security (CDR/FDR/BG) should be after the date of issuance of letter/LOI to deposit the performance security. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor be forwarded to Higher Authorities for a period of 01 Year.

4. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released 60 Days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.

5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag

6. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.

f. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.

NOTE: Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

8. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

9. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document), EMD and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.

10. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

11. Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

12. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

13. All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

**Sd/- (Er. Mohammad Waseem)
Executive Engineer, R&B Division Anantnag**

DIPK: 3412/26 | Dated: 17-07-2026

JKSHC

JAMMU & KASHMIR STATE HAJ COMMITTEE



HAJ 2027 (1448 H) IMPORTANT GUIDELINES

1

PASSPORT

PASSPORT VALIDITY

- Passport must be valid till **31 December 2027**.
- Passport must be valid on the date of application.

31 DECEMBER 2027

2

MAX 5 MEMBERS

COVER / GROUP

- A group can have maximum **5 members**.
- Minimum age – **18 years** on the date of application.

GROUP HEAD

3

COVER HEAD

- Cover Head must be a **male member**.
- Minimum age – **18 years** on the date of application.

COVER HEAD

4

MOBILE NUMBER & WHATSAPP

- Cover Head must use his own mobile number.
- WhatsApp must be active on the same number.

5

FORM SUBMISSION

- Fill the form yourself.
- Do not let anyone else fill the form using your mobile number.
- Do **not share** your OTP with anyone.

OTP

SHARE OTP

6

NOMINEE

- Nominee: Son / Daughter / Parents / Spouse (**Legal heir preferred**)
- Add only one nominee who will perform Hajj in your place.

NOMINEE

PHOTOGRAPH

7

BANK DETAILS (ACCOUNT HOLDER MUST BE COVER HEAD)

- Account must be in the name of the Cover Head.
- Provide correct & active bank account details.
- Account must be active.

J&K Bank

Pay Rupees

CANCELLED

A/c No. 12345678901234

JOIN OUR OFFICIAL WHATSAPP GROUP

For Haj 2027 Updates

Bait-ul-Hujaj (Haj House), Bemina, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, India - 190017

+91 194 249 5365

https://www.jkshc.org/

JOIN VIA WHATSAPP LINK

https://chat.whatsapp.com/Lxp9Sdes7r0Ad0RmRdcAfm?sz=qt&p=a&m=1

SCAN QR CODE TO JOIN

Aapki Tayyari – Aapka Aaram – Hamari Zimmedari

Space Devoted by Headlines Today, Purely in Public Interest

Satish Sharma inaugurates, launches development projects worth over Rs. 10 crore in Chhamb

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JULY 17: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today inaugurated and laid foundation stones for a series of landmark developmental projects across the Chhamb Constituency.

These development initiatives reaffirm the Jammu and Kashmir government's unwavering commitment to accelerate infrastructure development, strengthen the public service delivery and ensuring equitable growth across rural and border areas.

The extensive programme witnessed the inauguration and foundation stone laying of projects collectively valued at over 10 crore, encompassing roads, bridges, administrative infrastructure, sports facilities, healthcare and veterinary services. The initiatives are expected to significantly enhance connectivity, improve access to essential public services, strengthen the rural infrastructure and create new opportunities for socio-economic development.

The Minister inaugurated the Thandi Choi-Sainth Road, developed at a cost of 1.50 crore. He described road connectivity as the backbone of economic growth saying that well-developed road infrastructure not only shortens the travel time but also

facilitates trade, education, healthcare access and overall regional development.

"The government is committed to ensure that even the remotest villages are connected with quality infrastructure. Better roads translate into better opportunities, improved livelihoods and enhanced quality of life for our people," he remarked.

At Kharah Balli, the Minister laid the foundation stone for the new Tehsil Office Building, to be constructed at an estimated cost of 76.74 lakh. He said the modern administrative complex will bring government services closer to the people, improve administrative efficiency and provide a more citizen-friendly environment for the delivery of public services.

On the occasion, Satish Sharma also inaugurated the Bridge at Kharah, constructed at a cost of 3.45 crore. The bridge is expected to provide reliable all-weather connectivity to several adjoining villages, facilitating easier movement of residents, students, farmers and emergency services.

Continuing the developmental programme, the Minister laid the foundation stone for the Chaprial-Bardoh Road, a major connectivity project worth 2.50 crore. He said the project would improve transportation facilities, strengthen rural connectivity and provide a much-needed boost



to agriculture, trade, tourism and other economic activities in the area.

Recognising the pivotal role of sports in youth empowerment and nation-building, Satish Sharma inaugurated the newly constructed Volleyball Court at Pallanwala, built at a cost of 20.99 lakh.

"J&K youth possess immense talent. It is our responsibility to provide them with the best possible infrastructure and opportunities so they can excel at the national and international level. Sports not only produce champions but also promote discipline, confidence, fitness and social harmony," he said.

The Minister also distributed

medical equipment aimed at strengthening healthcare facilities in the area and improving the quality of healthcare services available to the local population. He said the Government continues to invest in health infrastructure to ensure accessible and affordable healthcare for every citizen.

Later, Satish Sharma laid the foundation stone for the Veterinary Hospital at Khour, a project estimated to cost 2.07 crore. He observed that livestock forms the backbone of the rural economy in many parts of Jammu and Kashmir and strengthening veterinary infrastructure would directly benefit the farmers by improving animal health-

care, productivity, and income generation.

Addressing public gatherings during the programme, the Minister said that the government is working tirelessly to ensure that developmental benefits reach every village, every household and every citizen through sustained investment in infrastructure and public welfare.

"Development is meaningful only when its benefits reach the common people. Every project that we have inaugurated or launched today has been carefully planned to address the needs of the local population and improve their quality of life. Our government remains committed to create modern infrastructure, strengthening institutions, and ensuring that every region progresses on the path of inclusive and sustainable development," the Minister said.

Satish Sharma also interacted with the local residents, public representatives, youth, and members of various community organisations, patiently listening to their concerns and developmental aspirations. He assured them that all their genuine issues raised during the interaction would be examined on priority for prompt resolution.

Senior officers from the district administration, engineers from executing agencies, local public representatives and local residents were present during the programme.

PM Gati Shakti training programme conducted at Shopian

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, JULY 17: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone today presided over a district-level training programme on PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan at the Mini-Secretariat, Shopian.

The programme was organised to enhance the capacity of district officers in leveraging PM Gati Shakti digital platform for integrated infrastructure planning and coordinated project implementation.

Addressing the participants, the ADDC highlighted the importance of PM Gati Shakti initiative in ensuring seamless planning, avoiding duplication of works and accelerating infrastructure development through convergence among departments.

He stressed the need for timely updation of departmental data on the portal and directed officers to make optimum use of the platform for efficient planning, monitoring and execution of developmental projects.

The ADDC called for close collaboration among all departments to ensure the successful implementation of the PM Gati Shakti framework and facilitate sustainable, inclusive and well-planned development across the district.

Master trainers imparted detailed training to the participating officers and officials on the effective use of the PM Gati Shakti portal, including GIS-based planning, infrastructure mapping, data uploading, digital layers, and preparation of integrated development proposals. The sessions also covered the significance of accurate data entry and the use of the portal for evidence-based decision-making.

Officers discussed district-specific infrastructure requirements, implementation challenges and measures required for improving the quality of information uploaded on the portal.

GM, DIC, Shurjeel Ali Naik; CPO, CEO, CMO, other officers and officials of various departments attended the training.

DC Kulgam visits Mata Kulwagishori Temple Bungam and Mata Katyani Temple Kakran

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, JULY 17: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam today visited Mata Kulwagishori Temple, Bungam, and Mata Katyani Temple, Kakran, to review and finalise arrangements for the smooth conduct of the Annual Maha Yagya.



During the visit, the DC took stock of the preparations and inspected the facilities being put in place for devotees. He reviewed arrangements related to drinking water, sanitation, health services, security, and other essential amenities.

The DC directed all concerned departments to ensure that all arrangements are completed well in time and that round-the-clock coordination is maintained for the smooth and hassle-free conduct of the religious event.

The DC was accompanied by ADC Viqar Ahmad Giri, Tehsildar Kulgam, CEO, Municipal Council Kulgam, and other officers.

SKUAST-K reviews Research Roadmap at 58th, 59th REAC meetings

VC calls for farmer-centric, demand-driven research to advance bioeconomy, agribusiness and climate-resilient agriculture

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 17: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) on Wednesday convened the 58th and 59th meetings of the Research and Extension Advisory Committee (REAC) to review the University's research and extension agenda, assess progress on key initiatives, and chart future priorities for technology development and dissemination.

Chairing the meetings, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai called for demand-driven, farmer-centric and impact-oriented research to advance the bioeconomy, agribusiness, climate-resilient agriculture, value addition, entrepreneurship and technology commercialization. Congratulating the Univer-

sity's scientists for developing improved crop varieties and farmer-oriented technologies, he said these focus areas would be pivotal in realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 and positioning Jammu & Kashmir as a hub of innovation-led agricultural development. He also released several university publications during the meeting.

Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension, presented the agenda and highlighted REAC's role in aligning the University's research and extension programmes with the evolving needs of farmers and other stakeholders.

The committee reviewed the Action Taken Report (ATR), proposals for varietal release before the University Varietal Release Committee (UVR) and State Seed Sub-Committee (SSSC), progress of minikit trials, and



fresh research proposals submitted by various faculties and research stations.

The House was informed that SKUAST-K has transferred 87 technologies to end users, released eight improved crop varieties, advanced 13 additional varieties for release, and initiated 15 minikit trials to facilitate on-farm validation

and wider adoption of the technology.

The university also reported significant outreach through its extension programs, training 5,550 beneficiaries under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), 6,550 through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), 850 through the Directorate of Extension, and 16,000 partici-

DC Kulgam reviews implementation of welfare schemes under JKBOCW Welfare Board

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, JULY 17: Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today reviewed the implementation of welfare schemes being provided under the Jammu & Kashmir Building and Other Construction Workers (JKBOCW) Welfare Board.

During the review, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Labour Department to ensure the registration of only genuine con-



struction workers under the JKBOCW Act. He further instructed the Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC), Labour Officer (LO), and Labour Inspector (LI), Kulgam, to conduct regular inspections of construction sites to identify and register genuine workers, ensuring that welfare benefits reach deserving beneficiaries in a transparent, fair, and effective manner.

The meeting was attended by ADC, JDP, ALC and other officers.

IFA, Home Department reviews CapEx expenditure; stresses GeM procurement, budget discipline, zero creation of liabilities

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 17: The office of the Internal Financial Advisor (IFA), Home Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, today conducted a meeting, held in two sessions, with the Drawing & Disbursing Officers (DDOs) of the Home Department at the Police Headquarters.

The meeting was initiated by the Additional Director General of Police (Headquarters), J&K Police, while both the sessions were chaired by Shakeel Maqbool,

IFA, Home Department.

The meeting focused on two key agenda points. The first was a detailed review of the Home Department's Capital Expenditure with directions to expedite the fund disbursal and clear pending payments without delay. The second was to ensure strict compliance with the General Financial Rules, 2017, to maintain financial discipline and prevent creation of any new liabilities.

In his address, the IFA laid strong emphasis on financial



discipline and said that all supply orders must be placed through the Government e-Marketplace wherever items are available on the portal. He directed that budget should invariably be blocked at the time of placing any supply

order and no order shall be issued without ensuring budget availability.

The IFA further stated that payments for received supplies shall be made exclusively through GeM-PFMS integration and creation of liabilities without budgetary provision must be scrupulously avoided. He also stressed that all sanctions should be accorded strictly within the competence of the sanctioning authority as per the Delegation of Financial Powers and within the allocated budget.

The sessions witnessed active participation of the DDOs of the Home Department, including those from Jammu and Kashmir Police, Fire & Emergency Services, Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), Prisons Department, Prosecution Department, Home Guards and SDRF, among others.

The participants apprised the IFA of the issues being faced by them and were assured that wherever the support of the IFA office or enhancement of delegation is required, the same is being looked into.

Health Camp held at Vibrant Village Amroyee in Karnah

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA, JULY 17: A comprehensive health camp was organised today at vibrant village Amroyee in Karnah Sub-Division to provide accessible healthcare services to the residents of the remote border area. During the camp, free medical consultations were provided to the residents, while X-ray services were also made available through a Handheld X-Ray (HH X-Ray) machine,



enabling on-the-spot diagnostic support.

The camp also facilitated the generation of Ayushman Vay Vandana Cards and Golden Cards for eligible beneficiaries, thereby helping residents avail the benefits of government-sponsored healthcare schemes. In addition, a team from the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) was deputed to the camp to conduct health screening and provide necessary healthcare services to children. The initiative reflects the administration's commitment to taking essential healthcare services to the doorstep of people residing in remote and border areas, ensuring inclusive and accessible healthcare for all.



CareEdge cuts India's current account deficit for FY27, expects BoP to return to surplus

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUL 17 : CareEdge Ratings has sharply lowered its current account deficit (CAD) projection for FY27 to 0.8-1.2pc of GDP, from its earlier estimate of 2.1pc, citing lower crude oil prices, resilient services exports, robust remittances, and an improvement in merchandise exports.

The ratings agency expects the moderation in oil prices to significantly reduce India's import bill, while continued strength in services exports and inward remittances will help keep the external balance in check. Its revised forecast assumes average crude oil prices of USD 80-85 per barrel during FY27.

On the capital account, CareEdge Ratings expects net foreign direct investment (FDI) to more than double to USD 15 billion in FY27 from USD 6.9 billion in FY26, supported by healthy gross FDI inflows and slower growth in repatriation.

The agency also expects recent measures announced by the government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to boost foreign capital inflows.

It estimates that concessional swap windows for FCNR(B) deposits, External Commercial Bor-



rowings (ECBs), and Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings (OFCBs) could together attract USD 45-60 billion in inflows during FY27.

It projected India's capital account surplus to surge from an estimated USD 2 billion in FY26 to around USD 73 billion in FY27.

Combining the stronger capital account with the narrower current account deficit, the agency expects India's Balance of Payments (BoP) to return to a surplus of USD 25-30 billion in FY27, reversing deficits of USD 23.6 billion in FY26 and USD 5 billion in FY25.

"We are lowering our current account deficit projection for FY27

to 0.8-1.2% of GDP from our previous projection of 2.1pc. The lowering of the CAD projection is mainly because of moderation in crude oil prices and resilience in services exports and remittances, coupled with an improvement in merchandise exports," said Rajani Sinha, Chief Economist, CareEdge Ratings.

She added that the government's and RBI's recent measures are likely to drive stronger capital inflows, with total capital flows expected to rise to around USD 73 billion in FY27 from USD 2 billion in FY26, helping move India's BoP into surplus and easing pressure on the rupee.

CareEdge also highlighted that private transfer inflows, largely

comprising remittances, grew 14.5% year-on-year to USD 155 billion in FY26. Early data for April indicates this momentum has continued into FY27, providing further support to India's external account.

The ratings agency said the projected improvement in India's external position is expected to support the rupee, although gains could be moderated by RBI's foreign exchange operations.

During the recent geopolitical conflict in West Asia, depreciation pressures on the rupee prompted RBI intervention, resulting in the central bank's forward foreign exchange book rising to around USD 107 billion by the end of May, compared with USD 68 billion at the end of January.

With the rupee stabilising, the RBI may gradually unwind part of its forward positions, which could limit any sharp appreciation even as the BoP improves. However, CareEdge cautioned that renewed geopolitical tensions in West Asia could continue to introduce volatility.

The agency maintained its constructive outlook on the Indian currency but marginally revised its forecast, expecting the USD/INR exchange rate to average between 93 and 94 during FY27. UNI

India to see slower growth in 2026 amid global headwinds: Moody's Analytics

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUL 17: India's economy is expected to moderate this year as escalating geopolitical tensions, softer global demand and persistent trade uncertainties weigh on economic activity, according to Moody's Analytics.

Despite the slowdown, the country is projected to remain one of the fastest-growing major economies globally.

In its latest global outlook, Moody's Analytics said the world economy is entering a period of slower expansion, with growth expected to ease to 2.5% in 2026, compared with a long-term potential of over 3%, before improving modestly to 2.8% in 2027.

The report said India, like many other major economies, is likely to experience weaker growth momentum as slowing external demand, elevated commodity prices and ongoing trade frictions create headwinds for economic activity.

Moody's noted that the rapid expansion of artificial intelligence (AI)-related investments has prevented a sharper global slowdown.

It said economies and industries linked to AI are continuing to outperform, while sectors less exposed to the technology are facing increasing pressure from geopolitical uncertainty and rising operating costs.

The report identified renewed tensions in West Asia, uncertainty over US trade policies and escalating trade friction involving China as the biggest risks

to the global economy. Although it expects disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz to gradually subside, Moody's cautioned that higher energy and food prices have already started feeding into inflation across several economies.

According to the agency, the resurgence in inflation is likely to complicate the task of central banks, which are now balancing slowing economic growth against persistent price pressures. It added that monetary policy alone may have limited effectiveness in addressing supply-driven inflation caused by disruptions in global commodity and energy markets.

On the positive side, Moody's said the ongoing AI investment cycle has emerged as a key support for Asia's export-driven economies. Rising demand for semiconductors, data centres and advanced computing infrastructure has boosted exports from technology-focused economies such as Taiwan, South Korea and Japan.

India has also benefited from stronger regional technology demand, although the gains have been relatively modest compared with some of its Asian peers.

Looking ahead, Moody's warned that risks remain skewed to the downside. A renewed escalation of conflict in West Asia, prolonged disruption to energy supplies through the Strait of Hormuz or heightened volatility in global financial markets could significantly weaken the global growth outlook and potentially push the world economy towards a recession. UNI

Industrial and warehousing leasing rises 12pc to 22 million sqft; Delhi NCR, Chennai lead: Report

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUL 17 : India's industrial and warehousing real estate market maintained strong momentum during the first half of 2026, with Grade A leasing rising 12pc year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to nearly 22 million square feet across the country's top eight cities, despite global geopolitical uncertainties impacting supply chains.

According to the latest market data by Colliers, Delhi NCR and Chennai emerged as the strongest-performing markets, jointly accounting for more than 45pc of total leasing activity during H1 2026. Other major logistics hubs, including Mumbai, Pune and Bengaluru, also recorded healthy demand, with each city crossing 2 million square

feet of Grade A space absorption.

While leasing activity remained robust overall, demand moderated slightly in the second quarter. Grade A space uptake stood at around 11 million square feet in Q2 2026, down 1pc sequentially from the previous quarter, largely due to supply chain disruptions triggered by the ongoing conflict in West Asia, it said.

However, the report noted that demand is expected to strengthen in the coming quarters, supported by India's continued focus on boosting domestic manufacturing, provided global geopolitical risks remain contained.

Third-party logistics (3PL) companies continued to dominate the market, accounting for around 30pc of total leasing during H1

2026. Engineering companies emerged as the second-largest occupier segment with a 21pc share, followed by e-commerce firms at 16pc.

The report also highlighted growing occupier diversification. Leasing by the electronics sector reached 1.4 million square feet during the first half of the year, registering nearly two-fold annual growth, reflecting increasing demand from electronics manufacturing and allied industries.

Demand remained concentrated in established logistics corridors. Bhiwandi in Mumbai and Farukh Nagar and NH-48 in Delhi NCR together accounted for more than one-third of the total leasing activity during H1 2026.

Large transactions continued

to drive market activity, with deals exceeding 200,000 square feet contributing nearly 40pc of total leasing. E-commerce companies accounted for over 30pc of these large transactions, followed by automobile manufacturers and 3PL operators, each contributing more than 20pc. Delhi NCR recorded the highest number of large deals, followed by Chennai.

On the supply side, developers delivered nearly 25 million square feet of Grade A industrial and warehousing space during H1 2026, representing a 27pc year-on-year increase. The strong pipeline reflects sustained developer confidence and a focus on building modern, technology-enabled logistics facilities.

Delhi NCR and Mumbai to-

gether accounted for more than 40pc of new completions during the period. In the second quarter alone, completions reached 12.2 million square feet, up 22pc year-on-year. Bengaluru and Pune also witnessed significant expansion, with each city adding over 3 million square feet of new supply—almost double the level recorded in the corresponding period last year.

The surge in new supply pushed overall vacancy levels higher to 17.2pc at the end of H1 2026 as fresh completions outpaced leasing activity. Despite the increase in vacancies, average rentals continued to rise across key micro-markets, supported by the growing share of premium industrial and warehousing developments entering the market. UNI

Crisil FCI Index improves in June on easing US-Iran tensions, stronger rupee and favourable FPI inflows

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUL 17 : Crisil's Financial Condition Index (FCI) rose to - (negative) 0.2 in June from - (negative) 1.2 in May after remaining below the comfort band of one standard deviation from the long-period average for three months due to easing geopolitical situation, slight strengthening of the Rupee, and favourable FPIs, said the monthly Macroeconomics First Cut.

The report "Easing on Uneasy Truce" noted that June was a stabler month in terms of geopolitical uncertainties following the US and Iran signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), and low crude prices improved several macro parameters.

Crisil said that despite a stronger US dollar, the rupee strengthened 0.7pc against the greenback for the first time in four months.

Regarding Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs), the report noted that FPIs invested USD 0.5 billion, which is due to the government and RBI's easy regulatory policies.

The benchmark 10-year government security (G-sec) yield was down 13 basis points (bps), averaging 6.90pc. Bank credit growth also surged at 18.6pc compared to 9.5pc in the corresponding period last year (CPLY).

Crisil noted that losses continue in equity markets on average in June declined 0.4 and 0.6 pc respectively. The rating agency pointed out the rationale of FPI outflows in equity and the downward revision in RBI's growth forecasts.

The report warned that inflation is expected to rise and slow down growth in this fiscal year.

"Producers will likely pass on the sharp rise in energy and other input costs to consumers, hardening core inflation. Food inflation faces risks from a below-normal monsoon and El Niño conditions. We expect retail inflation to rise to 5.1pc this fiscal from 2pc in fiscal 2026," the report said.

Crisil also highlighted that higher input cost pressures, forecast of below-normal monsoon, and softer global growth will dampen the development journey.

"We expect gross domestic product growth to moderate to 6.6 from 7.7pc. We expect the RBI to carefully monitor these developments before deciding on further rate actions. One rate hike of 25 bps in the second half of this fiscal is possible," the report added. UNI

Stock markets fail to hold early gains, weigh down by weak global cues

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

DELHI, JUL 17: The Indian Stock Markets on Thursday failed to hold on to their early gains and ended flat in a volatile session. Indices were weighed down by weak global cues and profit booking.

At close, the Sensex was up 1.44 points at 77,186.87, and the Nifty was down 5.75 points or 0.02 percent at 24,072.75.

Among the sectors, Nifty Consumer Durables was up 1.48%, Media up by 1.18% registering strong gains while the other gainers were Nifty IT up by 0.67%, Auto up by 0.46%, and FMCG up by 0.25%.

On the losing end were Nifty Realty declined by 1%. Bank Nifty fell 0.30%, while the Financial Services index dropped 0.51%.

On the Nifty index, around 29 stocks ended lower with the key name were Eternal, SBI Life Insurance Company, and Bajaj Finserv ending as the top laggards while the gainers were HCL Technologies, InterGlobe Aviation (IndiGo), and Wipro.

More than 100 stocks touched their 52-week high on the BSE, including Biocon, Welspun Corp, Cemindia Projects, Honasa Consumer, Divis Labs, JB Chemicals, Torrent Pharma, Laurus Labs, Shyam Metals, Ipca Labs, Sai Life Sciences, Star Health, Phoenix Mills, Welspun Living, among others.

Indian rupee ended lower for the second consecutive session, finishing 58 paise lower at 96.20 against the US dollar.

ICI Lombard General Insurance tumbled 10%, MRPL surged 10% after the company reported a profit for the June 2026 quarter.

Jindal Saw gained 5% after investors reacted positively to the company's earnings, while IIFL Finance extended its winning streak for a second consecutive session, rising another 4.3%.

Bharat Electronics slipped 0.9%, HDFC Bank lost 0.8%, and Shriram Finance was down 0.8%. UNI

NSE to launch derivatives on Nifty India FPI 150 Index

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MUMBAI, JUL 17: The National Stock Exchange (NSE) officially announced here on Thursday that it has received approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to introduce derivatives on the Nifty India FPI 150 Index, expanding its equity derivatives product suite, which would offer foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) another benchmark-linked hedging instrument.

The derivatives contracts will be launched on August 12, 2026, according to an NSE statement.

Commenting on the development, Sriam Krishnan, Chief Business Development Officer, NSE, said the introduction of derivatives on the Nifty India FPI 150 Index would complement the exchange's existing range of index derivative products.

"The introduction of derivatives on the Nifty India FPI 150 Index

will further complement the existing index derivatives product suite. The Nifty India FPI 150 Index represents a broad and diversified segment of the Indian equity market, comprising 150 liquid stocks across multiple segments while maintaining a focus on liquidity and investability, making it a suitable underlying for hedging and portfolio diversification," Krishnan said.

The new derivatives contracts will be available in the equity derivatives segment and will comprise three serial monthly index futures and index options.

All contracts will be cash-settled and expire on the last Tuesday of the expiry month, according to the NSE statement.

The Nifty India FPI 150 Index has been designed to reflect the performance of 150 large and liquid stocks selected from the broader Nifty 500 universe. The constituents are chosen based on their

six-month average foreign investible free-float market capitalisation, ensuring that the index represents stocks that are accessible and investable for foreign investors. The weight of each stock is determined by its foreign investible free-float market capitalisation.

As of June 2026, the financial services sector accounted for the largest share in the index with a weight of 26.15%. It was followed by Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels at 10.03% and Healthcare at 7.51%, highlighting the diversified nature of the benchmark across key sectors of the Indian economy.

The index itself was launched on August 16, 2025, with a base date of October 3, 2022, and a base value of 1,000.

NSE said the methodology is based on foreign investible free-float and the index is rebalanced every quarter to ensure it continues to represent the eligible investment universe. UNI

Jio Financial accelerates full-stack financial push as Q1 profit jumps 156 pc

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MUMBAI, JULY 17: Jio Financial Services Ltd (JFSL) is rapidly transforming into a full-stack financial services platform, with strong growth across lending, payments, asset management and insurance businesses powering a 156 per cent jump in consolidated profit after tax (PAT) to Rs 830 crore in the first quarter of FY27.

The Reliance Group company reported a 141 per cent year-on-year increase in total

income (excluding dividend) to Rs 1,496 crore for the quarter ended June 30, while pre-provisioning operating profit rose 38 per cent to Rs 505 crore, reflecting broad-based growth across its expanding financial ecosystem.

The results underline JFSL's strategy of building an integrated digital financial services platform rather than relying on a single business line. Its lending arm more than doubled its loan book, payments businesses returned to profitability, the asset

management joint venture with BlackRock expanded rapidly, and the Allianz-backed insurance ventures gained traction during the quarter.

The non-banking financial business remained the principal growth engine, with assets under management rising 2.6 times year-on-year to Rs 30,667 crore and quarterly loan disbursements increasing 2.7 times to Rs 11,252 crore. Net interest income surged 118 per cent to Rs 257 crore, while the lending subsidiary posted a PAT of Rs 96 crore.

The payments business also gathered momentum. Jio Payments Bank achieved an operational turnaround, with total income rising 7.7 times to Rs 83 crore and customer deposits increasing 72 per cent to Rs 617 crore. Its business correspondent network expanded more than tenfold over the past year to over 5.27 lakh touchpoints, strengthening its physical distribution network.

Jio Payment Solutions reported a 2.5-fold increase in total payment value to Rs 19,208

crore, while gross fee and commission income rose 6.4 times to Rs 176 crore. During the quarter, it also launched cross-border settlement infrastructure to facilitate international remittances for Indian exporters.

The company's expansion into investment management continued through its joint venture with BlackRock. Assets under management rose 21 per cent sequentially to Rs 18,412 crore, with 18.5 per cent of investors entering mutual funds for the first time. UNI

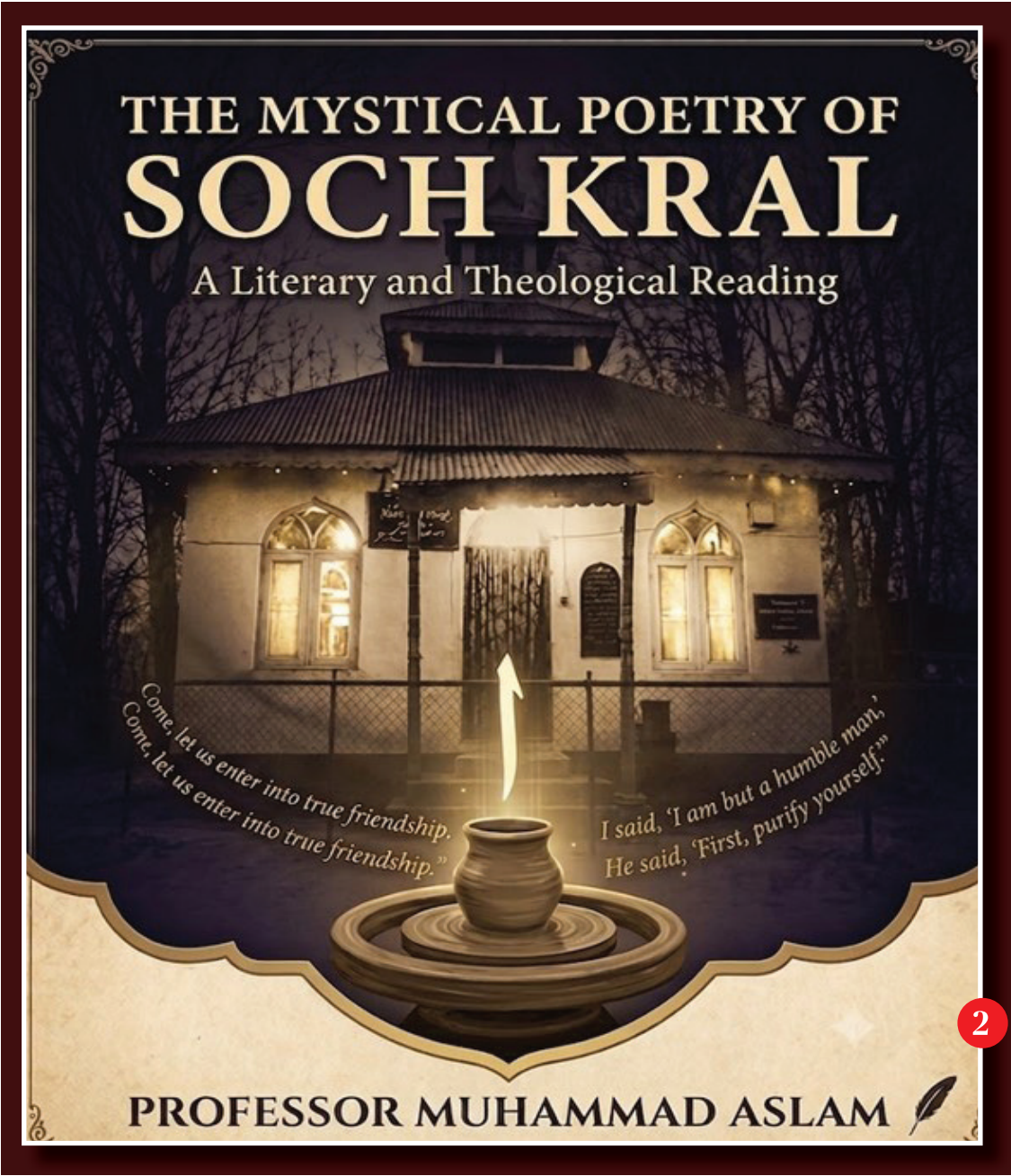


HT Saturday

LitStream

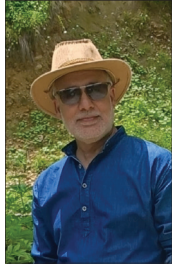
BILINGUAL WEEKLY LITERARY SUPPLEMENT OF DAILY HEADLINES TODAY

Srinagar • Saturday , July 18, 2026 • Issue No: 29 • Volume: 02 • Pages: 16



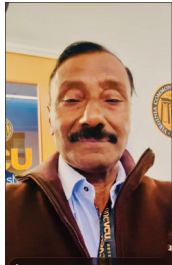
Professor
Muhammad
Aslam

Mushtaque
B Barq



Dr. Fiaz
Maqbool
Fazili

Dr Ratan
Bhattacharjee



Dr Purnima
Singh

POETRY CORNER



Santosh Bakaya



Dibyasree Nandy



Er. Faheema Amin



Sudipta Mishra

PIGEON SERIES – PART 9

THE SACRAMENT OF THE BROKEN WINGS

MUSHTAQUE B BARQ



Mushtaque B Barq

Quality, quantity, function, relation, variation, and wisdom, all these attributes prove mere terms when you are hurt. I candidly confess that the grinder I had willingly promised to purchase remained as. I came home empty-handed; it either slipped through the sieve of my memory, or I permitted it to slip. Regardless, I paid the penalty.

While grinding the corn, my little doll had badly battered her left hand. When I arrived late that night, her three nimble fingers were bandaged. She was screaming hysterically; as she saw me, her cheeks were swollen. Perhaps she had been expecting a surprise, but the sight of her bandaged fingers with-

The sacred door opened, and today, for some unknown reason, the balcony looked dull. A guest arrived and perched on the grill. She threw a handful of battered corn on the floor, but to my surprise, the pigeon was hardly lured. Everything seemed on "mute."

My son tried to add a handful of corn to capture the bird's attention, but nothing worked. Finally, my little doll opened her palm and placed a handful of corn upon it; this time, the bird responded. In the thrill of feeding it, she tried to stroke the bird, thereby exposing her injured hand.

The bird suddenly stopped, shell-shocked. Its eager eyes

fixed intently upon her hand. She smiled gently, but the bird drooped its flexible neck, took a few hesitant steps, and, with all its might, thrashed its fragile body against the grill not once, not twice, but repeatedly, before my son took control.

It had broken its wing, its leg, and God knows what else. The scene was hard to comprehend instantly. The bird dropped its neck into my little doll's lap; she carefully placed her rosy cheeks against its broken wing. I could see her tears staining its feathers, and in her lap, there was nothing but "submission."

The scene forcibly reminded me of Anton Chekhov's *The Suiitor* and Papa, where Kondrashkin declares: "What is the love that fears sacrifice?"

Her battered hand on one side and the broken wing of the bird on the other must have been an unusual experience for me and my son, but to my "better half," it was profound to see how her little doll managed her own pain to feed

the bird. She stood there like an unmoved wooden pole, yet her face narrated the tale of a happy mother.

No camera rolled. No thrill was recorded. If there was something moving and propelling me, it was the yoke of affection upon my shoulders, forcing me to ponder why our children are so obsessed with the objects of their love.

The pigeon, a few sparrows, my entire family, and I, standing on that balcony, looked like a complete cosmos under the Mighty Glare of the Creator. Love, indeed, authors a holy book of its own; all we require is to remove the materialistic cataract from our eyes. The rest will be a treat to behold.

(Dr Mushtaque B. Barq is a noted writer, poet, translator and currently serves as an English Mentor at Cambridge School. A recipient of several honours, including the G.N. Firaq Memorial Award and the Kalidas Literary Award, Ahad Zargar Award. He is known for his poetic finesse and for promoting Kashmiri literary heritage through his work.)

DIGITAL DETOX!

**TRUTH, PATIENCE, AND DISCERNMENT:
UPBRINGING OF OUR CHILDREN –
A MORAL RESPONSIBILITY
IN AN AGE OF DECEPTION.**

BY
DR. FIAZ MAQBOOL FAZILI



Dr. Fiaz Maqbool Fazili

We live in an age where information travels at the speed of light, but truth often limps behind. Never before has humanity had such instant access to knowledge, yet never has it been so difficult to distinguish fact from fiction, evidence from opinion, or truth from carefully manufactured falsehood. Every minute, thousands of headlines, videos, commentaries, analyses, and opinions flood our mobile screens. Some inform, many influence, and far too many deceive.

The greatest crisis of our time is not merely misinformation—it is the erosion of discernment.

Social media has undoubtedly democratized communication. Every individual now has the power to publish, influence, and mobilize. Yet the same technology has amplified rumours.

half-truths, character assassination, hate speech, and propaganda on an unprecedented scale. A fabricated story can reach millions within hours, while the truth often arrives too late—after reputations have been destroyed, families shattered, institutions discredited, and public trust irreparably damaged.

In such an environment, information alone is insufficient. What we desperately need is wisdom, verification, patience, integrity, and moral courage.

More than fourteen centuries ago, the Qur'an laid down a timeless principle that remains profoundly relevant in today's digital age: "O believers! If a wicked person brings you news, verify it carefully, lest you harm people unknowingly and later regret

what you have done.” (Qur’an)

This is far more than a religious injunction. It is a universal ethical framework for journalism, justice, governance, and responsible citizenship. Unfortunately, today's culture encourages the opposite. We share before we verify, react before we reflect, and pass judgment before discovering the facts.

In the digital era, every smartphone owner is effectively a media outlet. Every click, every repost, every forwarded message carries ethical consequences. The responsibility to “do no harm” no longer belongs only to journalists or editors; it belongs to every one of us.

The algorithms that dominate social media are indifferent to truth. Their currency is attention. Outrage, controversy, fear, and sensationalism generate engagement, while nuance and accuracy rarely go viral. Consequently, falsehood often travels farther and faster than truth. Gradually, emotion begins to replace

evidence, confirmation bias replaces critical thinking, and people start believing narratives that comfort their prejudices rather than challenge them with facts.

The first discipline, therefore, is verification.

Do not believe every headline. Trace the original source. Cross-check information through credible channels. Demand evidence before drawing conclusions. When certainty is absent, silence is often an act of wisdom rather than weakness. In an age addicted to constant commentary, restraint has become an ethical virtue.

Equally important is accepting the limits of our control. Many of us sincerely wish to confront every falsehood, correct every misconception, and respond to every provocation. While the intention may be noble, the consequence is frequently emotional exhaustion, frustration, and anxiety.

The reality is simple. You

CONT. ON PAGE 10-11

The poem also articulates a distinctly Sufi conception of knowledge. Genuine knowledge is presented not

as intellectual accumulation but as experiential recognition (*ma rifah*). The imperative, "Come to know your Lord in truth," suggests that authentic knowledge of God transcends rational inquiry and demands spiritual purification. The concluding assertion that the impure soul becomes pure only through knowledge of the Divine echoes the Sufi doctrine of *tazkiyat al-nafs* (purification of the self), whereby remembrance, humility, and submission gradually transform the ego into a receptive vessel for divine illumination.

Stylistically, the poem privileges clarity over ornamentation. Its diction is deliberately simple, relying on imperative verbs, rhetorical questions, and repetitive structures instead of elaborate metaphorical networks. The poem's repetitive cadence resembles the rhythmic quality of devotional exhortation, reinforcing its affinity with oral preaching and spiritual counsel.

Nevertheless, the work reveals certain artistic limitations. The predominance of explicit moral instruction occasionally reduces interpretive ambiguity, leaving comparatively little space for symbolic complexity or multiple layers of meaning. Unlike the highly metaphorical poetry of major Persian Sufi poets, whose imagery simultaneously conceals and reveals mystical truths, this poem communicates its theo-

logical message with direct transparency. The section concerning destiny ("I sought my destiny" in every place...) is comparatively less integrated into the poem's principal thematic movement. While it introduces existential uncertainty, its relationship to the dominant motif of remembrance could have been developed with greater conceptual coherence.

From a literary perspective, the poem belongs to the didactic-mystical tradition rather than the lyrical tradition. Its objective is transformation rather than aesthetic contemplation. Consequently, its success should be evaluated according to its spiritual and philosophical coherence rather than solely according to conventional poetic criteria such as imagery or figurative innovation. The poem's emotional force derives from its persistent ethical interrogation rather than from dramatic narrative or symbolic richness.

Ultimately, the poem presents a unified vision of human existence grounded in Islamic metaphysics. Humanity is portrayed as a being suspended between earthly forgetfulness and divine remembrance, whose tragedy lies not in ignorance but in the loss of primordial knowledge. The repeated call to abandon pride and seek the Divine affirms that redemption remains possible through remembrance (dhikr), self-purification

(tazkiyah), and experiential knowledge (ma rifah). In this respect, the poem embodies one of the central insights of Islamic spirituality: that the journey to God is fundamentally a journey of remembering what the soul has always known.

Conclusion

The two poems discussed above illustrate the distinctive synthesis of poetic artistry, Islamic theology, and Sufi metaphysics that defines Soch Kral's poetry. Though they differ in tone and structure, both poems are bound by a shared spiritual vision: the first unfolds as a dialogue between the seeker and the Divine, charting a path of self-purification and the attainment of ultimate truth; the second turns inward, gently reminding the soul of its primordial origin, its eternal covenant with God, and its authentic purpose in existence.

The poet draws deeply from Qur'anic concepts and core Islamic spiritual traditions, making clear that his mystical insights are firmly grounded in religious orthodoxy rather than existing apart from it. Soch Kral has a rare gift for rendering complex theological ideas into verse that is both accessible and intellectually rich, guiding readers to look beyond the external rituals of religion toward a profound inner realization of faith.

Far more than a regional

Sufi poet, Soch Kral emerges as a perceptive explorer of the human condition. His enduring power lies in the seamless union of literary beauty and spiritual wisdom. His poems continue to resonate not only with students of Kashmiri literature but with anyone engaged in the universal journey of self-knowledge, remembrance of God, and the discovery of the Divine within the human soul.

Readers interested in knowing how English poets have dealt with themes like this may read Emily Dickinson who is known for her mysticism. For instance, this poem of hers could be interpreted as a seeker's quest for the Creator, though in a broader sense, it talks about fidelity to one's purpose—that is what Soch Kral is reminding all the time. Abandoning it would be treason:

When the Astronomer
stops seeking

For his Pleiad's Face—
When the lone British Lady
Forsakes the Arctic Race
When to his Covenant
Needle

The Sailor doubting turns—
It will be amply early

To ask what treason means.

The poem says that a true seeker cannot cease seeking the Creator any more than an astronomer can cease looking at the stars or a sailor can stop trusting the compass. To abandon that quest would be a kind of spiritual betrayal—hence the reference to “treason.”

FROM PAGE 4...

DIGITAL DETOX!...

cannot correct every lie. You cannot silence every propagandist. You cannot transform every mind. What you can transform is your own character. You can choose honesty over exaggeration, fairness over prejudice, evidence over emotion, and dignity over outrage.

True peace begins when we recognise that our greatest responsibility lies not in controlling others but in governing ourselves.

Another urgent necessity is what psychologists now call digital detox.

For millions, the day begins and ends with a glowing screen. Constant exposure to political conflict, violence, disasters, economic uncertainty, endless arguments, and sensational news quietly drains emotional resilience. Research consistently shows that excessive consumption of negative digital content contributes to stress, anxiety,

depression, sleep disturbances, and emotional fatigue.

Disconnecting periodically is not escapism; it is emotional hygiene. Spend time with your family.

Read meaningful books. Walk in nature. Reflect in silence. Pray regularly. Recite the Holy books, whatever faith you follow. Remember God. Serve someone less fortunate. These simple acts nourish the heart in ways no notification ever can. The fourth pillar is

patience.

Modern culture often mistakes patience for passivity. In reality, patience is a disciplined strength. It is the ability to remain principled under pressure, composed amidst chaos, and steadfast despite adversity.

The Qur'an repeatedly reminds believers: "Indeed, Allah is with those who are patient." This divine assurance is not merely theological; it is profoundly psy-

chological. Patience enables clear judgment where panic clouds reason. It allows truth to mature while falsehood consumes itself.

History repeatedly demonstrates that lies may enjoy temporary victories, but they rarely withstand the test of time. Truth may move slowly, but its foundations are enduring.

Another forgotten virtue is gratitude. Modern consumer culture thrives by convincing people they are perpetually incomplete. Social media intensifies this illusion by displaying carefully curated lives, edited successes, and filtered perfection. Rarely do we see loneliness, failure, sacrifice, or grief. Comparison breeds dissatisfaction. Gratitude cultivates contentment.

A grateful heart is less vulnerable to envy, resentment, and endless competition. It discovers abundance where others see scarcity. Human beings are also shaped profoundly by the company they keep.

Spend enough time among those consumed by gossip, cynicism, anger, and conspiracy, and eventually their habits become your own. Surround

yourself instead with people of integrity, learning, compassion, and intellectual honesty. Good character is contagious.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) beautifully illustrated this by comparing good companionship to the seller of fine perfume: even if you purchase nothing, you leave carrying its fragrance.

Perhaps the most dangerous habit of the digital age is instant judgment.

A thirty-second video clip.
A cropped photograph. A
selectively edited recording.
A provocative headline.

Within moments, countless individuals appoint themselves investigator, prosecutor, judge, jury, and executioner. Context disappears. Due process vanishes. Nuance dies.

Justice, however, has never been compatible with haste. The consequences are visible everywhere. Public trust is declining. Relationships are becoming fragile. Institutions struggle to retain credibility. Communities grow increasingly polarised. Individuals experience deeper loneliness and anxiety. No legislation alone can repair this damage.

The real solution lies in

ethical education, intellectual maturity, media literacy, and moral responsibility.

Our children must learn not merely how to use technology, but how to question information, evaluate evidence, distinguish opinion from fact, disagree respectfully, and appreciate that silence is sometimes wiser than immediate reaction.

Perhaps each of us should pause daily and ask three uncomfortable questions:

Do I contribute to truth—or merely amplify noise? Do my words heal divisions—or deepen them? Do I speak after verification—or merely react to emotion?

If every citizen made a simple commitment never to forward unverified information, never to compromise another person's dignity for online attention, never to confuse disagreement with hostility, and always to uphold truth, patience, and fairness, society would become markedly more civil, trustworthy, and peaceful.

Truth does not require loud voices to survive. Falsehood fears only one thing: light. In this age of deception, the greatest act of courage is neither

shouting the loudest nor posting the fastest. It is cultivating discernment, verifying before believing, exercising patience before reacting, and allowing personal integrity to become a source of trust in an increasingly distrustful world.

Civilizations are not ultimately sustained by technology, wealth, or power. They endure because ordinary people choose honesty over convenience, wisdom over impulse, and character over popularity.

That choice remains ours—every day, with every word we speak, every message we forward, and every truth we choose to defend.

(Dr. Fiaz Maqbool Fazili is a senior consultant surgeon, healthcare quality and patient safety expert, columnist, and healthcare policy adviser. He has served in leadership positions in India and Saudi Arabia, including Director of TQM and Hospital Policy Planning at King Fahd Hospital, Madinah, and Consultant Surgeon at SKIMS, Srinagar. A certified healthcare quality professional and clinical auditor, he writes extensively on healthcare standards, patient safety, medical ethics, cancer awareness, and public health.)

FROM PAGE 5...

JHUMPA LAHIRI'S "ROMAN STORIES"...

narrators and philosophical questions about regret and human limitations, whereas Lahiri focuses more on cultural belonging and the immigrant experience.

Zadie Smith also explores multicultural societies, especially in works dealing with race, class, and urban life. Smith's style is energetic, diverse, and socially expansive, while Lahiri's prose is minimalist, delicate, and focused on subtle emotional changes within ordinary lives.

Compared with Haruki Murakami, who blends realism with surrealism to explore alienation and existential uncertainty, Lahiri remains firmly rooted in

realistic human experiences. Both writers, however, share an interest in loneliness and the search for meaning in modern life.

What distinguishes Lahiri is her extraordinary relationship with language. Her decision to write in Italian represents a rare artistic journey of self-reinvention. Unlike many contemporary writers who use multilingualism as a theme, Lahiri has transformed it into a personal creative experience. Thus, while contemporary writers explore globalization, identity, and human uncertainty in different ways, Jhumpa Lahiri's unique contribution lies in her ability to reveal universal emotions

through the intimate stories of ordinary people. Her literature creates a bridge between cultures, languages, and human experiences. From the beginning of her literary career, Jhumpa Lahiri demonstrated an extraordinary ability to illuminate the emotional complexities of displacement. In *Interpreter of Maladies*, *The Namesake*, *Unaccustomed Earth*, and later works, she explored the experiences of immigrants, their children, and the intricate negotiations between homeland and adopted country. *Roman Stories* expands this thematic universe while simultaneously shifting its geographical and linguistic centre. Rome becomes not

merely a backdrop but a living organism, breathing through its neighbourhoods, its multicultural inhabitants, and its layered history. The city itself emerges as one of the principal characters, silently influencing the destinies of those who inhabit it.

One of the defining strengths of the collection lies in Lahiri's remarkable ability to portray migration not as an exceptional condition but as an everyday reality. The characters in these stories come from diverse cultural backgrounds. Some are immigrants who have arrived in Rome seeking opportunity or refuge. Others are native Italians negotiating a rapidly changing soci-

ety. Some are children born into multicultural families, while others are elderly individuals who witness their familiar neighbourhoods transforming beyond recognition.

Through these varied perspectives,

Lahiri presents migration as one of the defining human experiences of the twenty-first century. The boundaries separating insiders from outsiders become increasingly fragile, revealing that every individual carries some form of emotional displacement.

The Rome of these stories is strikingly different from its familiar image in popular imagination. There are no extended descriptions of the Colosseum, the Vatican, or the Spanish Steps intended to enchant tourists. Instead, Lahiri directs the reader's attention toward apartment buildings, crowded buses, schools, courtyards, grocery shops, and quiet suburban districts where ordinary life unfolds with understated intensity. This deliberate shift from monumental history to everyday existence reflects Lahiri's artistic philosophy. Great literature, she suggests, resides not in spectacular events but in seemingly insignificant encounters that gradually reveal the hidden architecture of human emotions. Loneliness emerges as perhaps the most pervasive emotional landscape throughout the collection. Yet Lahiri never presents solitude as merely an individual psychological condition. Rather, loneliness becomes a shared social experience characteristic of modern metropolitan life. Individuals surrounded by millions nevertheless struggle to establish meaningful human connections. Parents fail to understand their children. Neighbours coexist without genuine intimacy. Married couples discover widening emotional distances despite sharing the same physical space. Friends gradually become strangers through silence rather than conflict. These subtle portrayals demonstrate Lahiri's extraordinary sensitivity to

the invisible fractures underlying contemporary relationships.

Language occupies an equally significant place within the stories. Having herself experienced the challenges and liberation associated with adopting Italian as her principal literary language, Lahiri writes with exceptional awareness of linguistic uncertainty. Her characters frequently negotiate multiple languages, accents, misunderstandings, and translations. Communication becomes simultaneously possible and incomplete. Words succeed in conveying information while often failing to express emotional truth. Silence, therefore, acquires extraordinary significance. Much of what matters most remains unspoken, communicated through gestures, pauses, glances, and absences.

Identity remains another central concern throughout *Roman Stories*. Yet identity here is never fixed or singular. The characters inhabit multiple cultural, linguistic, familial, and personal identities simultaneously. An immigrant mother may feel both attachment and estrangement toward her homeland. A child born in Italy may nevertheless experience subtle exclusion because of family origins. Native Romans confront changing neighbourhoods that no longer resemble the city of their childhood memories. Identity therefore becomes fluid, negotiated continuously rather than inherited permanently. Lahiri avoids simplistic definitions of nationality, ethnicity, or belonging, emphasizing instead the complex intersections shaping modern lives.

Women occupy particularly significant positions within the collection. Lahiri portrays daughters, mothers, wives, widows, professionals, immigrants, and elderly women with remarkable psychological depth. Their lives are shaped by domestic responsibilities, professional ambitions, cultural expectations, aging, motherhood, and personal desires.

Yet Lahiri avoids reducing female experience to ideological statements. Her women possess individuality beyond social categories. They make mistakes, nurture hopes, experience disappointment, seek independence, and negotiate relationships with quiet resilience. Their struggles often unfold internally rather than dramatically, revealing Lahiri's preference for emotional nuance over overt conflict.

Children also play vital roles within many stories. They frequently observe adult behaviour with remarkable clarity while remaining unable to fully comprehend its emotional implications. Lahiri consistently resists moral judgment. Her characters are neither heroes nor villains. Instead, they inhabit morally ambiguous situations requiring empathy rather than condemnation. A neglectful parent may simultaneously be deeply loving. An emotionally distant spouse may struggle with invisible grief. An immigrant may experience both gratitude toward a new country and longing for the homeland left behind. By refusing simplistic binaries, Lahiri encourages readers to recognize the complexity inherent within ordinary human behaviour.

Memory functions throughout the collection as both refuge and burden. Characters revisit childhood homes, recall vanished neighbourhoods, remember departed relatives, or mentally reconstruct places transformed by time. Yet memory never provides complete consolation. The remembered past remains irretrievable, filtered through emotion and imagination. Rome itself becomes a city layered with countless personal memories coexisting alongside historical monuments. Critics have frequently associated Lahiri with themes of diaspora, yet *Roman Stories* demonstrates that her literary vision has expanded considerably beyond conventional immigrant narratives.

While migration remains important, the collection ultimately examines universal

questions concerning human connection, isolation, belonging, aging, and change. Rome becomes simultaneously a specific city and a metaphor for every modern metropolis where diverse populations negotiate coexistence amidst rapid social transformation. Consequently, readers from vastly different cultural backgrounds recognize aspects of their own experiences within these stories. The influence of Italian literary traditions subtly enriches the collection without overshadowing Lahiri's distinctive voice. One senses an appreciation for careful observation, understated realism, and philosophical reflection characteristic of much modern Italian fiction. Yet Lahiri integrates these influences seamlessly into her own artistic sensibility, creating a literary style that transcends national categories. Her work increasingly belongs to world literature rather than any single linguistic or cultural tradition.

Perhaps the greatest achievement of *Roman Stories* lies in its quiet confidence. Contemporary literature often seeks dramatic events, sensational revelations, or ideological certainty. Lahiri instead embraces uncertainty, ambiguity, and emotional subtlety. She trusts ordinary lives to contain extraordinary significance. She demonstrates that profound human truths frequently emerge through fleeting encounters, misunderstood conversations, unnoticed gestures, and silent acts of endurance. Such artistic restraint demands attentive reading, rewarding those willing to inhabit the contemplative rhythm of her narratives. The collection also raises significant questions about what constitutes home. Is home determined by birthplace, language, memory, citizenship, family, or emotional attachment? Lahiri deliberately avoids definitive answers. Her characters construct provisional homes within changing circumstances, discovering that belonging often exists less as a geographical fact than as an evolving emotional relation-

**International Dickens Medal
Winner Multi lingual columnist
, poet and short story writer Dr
Ratan Bhattacharjee is a former
Affiliate Facultu of Virginia
Commonwealth University USA
. He may be reached at profra-
tanbhattacharjee@gmail.com**

**(Dr Purnima Singh Associate
Professor of English Vasant
Kanya Girls College Varanasi
and writer, translator and book
reviewer. Her poetry and prose
write ups are published globally
in international magazines)**

The Growling Silence



Santosh Bakava

The silence was howling.
Growling, without words.
Prowling around me
with a sinister aura.

Why was the silence so
indignant?
Who had throttled it?
Why was it wordless?
Where did the words go?
I opened the window. Lo !
The stars made eyes at me.
Round, sparkling eyes.

One of the stars seemed
to have conjunctivitis.
No, it was a squint of disap-
proval.
Were they too trying to eye
me into silence?
No, they wanted me to
speak.
Speak ! Speak ! Speak!
They were glaring me into
speech.

“Speak against the rampant

injustice.
Speak against all - pervasive
unfairness
Speak for the marginalised
For the invisibles.

Catch the world by the scruff of the neck and speak up!
Don't let your tongue lose its use.
Choose between silence and speech."

I chose speech.
Thumping a fist in the air,
I spoke,
poking the world out of its
complacency.
Or, did I?

(Santosh Bakaya, PhD, is a renowned poet, academician, essayist, biographer, novelist, columnist, literary critic, and TEDx speaker. Internationally acclaimed for her poetic biography of Mahatma Gandhi, *Ballad of Bapu*, as well as her work on Martin Luther King Jr. She is the author of 32 widely celebrated books across diverse genres. Her TEDx talk, “The Myth of Writers’ Block,” enjoys immense popularity in creative writing circles.)

HER LOOMING HEARSE (A Sonnet)



Dibyasree Nandy

He dusted sand off the fab-
 rics so fine
 A sea lavender, a shell
 firmly held
 Trudging back; in his
 eyes a spray of brine
 An eager face waiting,
 tears he withheld.
 The sprig meant to grace
 her raven hair long
 On dust now falls, braid
 felled by needles keen
 Yet she waves and greets,
 on her lips a song
 Joy never dimmed despite
 the balding sheen.
 The ocean she loved and
 its many gifts
 Corals, conches and their
 curious trails
 Misty pupils no more wit-
 nessed spindrifts
 But neon lights neath

which she often quails.
On her lap he drops the
water's whispers
Offerings to adorn her
looming hearse.

(Dibyasuree Nandy, in her third decade, began writing in 2020, after completing M.Sc and M.Tech in Applied Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering. A patient of epilepsy, she has authored 'The Labyrinth of Silent Voices-Epistles from the Mahabharata', 'Stardust: Haiku and Other Poems', 'Meteor Shower', 'Fireflies Beneath the Misty Moon', 'April Verses', 'The Terrorist's Journal', 'An Upset Inkpot', 'Tabula Rasa', 'Magic of the Eventyr', 'Fireworks Upon a Cold Sea', 'Winter Plum', 'An Atelier of Despair: A Collection of Ekphrastic Poetry Based on the Works of Vincent Van Gogh', 'The Village of Wind', 'Red Soil', 'The Slate Blue Eyed Hawk', 'O Spring, Once-Beloved', 'Postcards of Forgotten Murders' and 'Amaryllis: Thirty Nights of Spring'. Her first book was enlisted in the 'Journal of Commonwealth Literature' in 2021.)

Barren tree..... My abode.



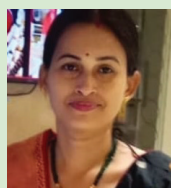
Er. Faheema Amin

I still gossip with the barren tree,
It has the ruins of my nest.
It still is to me what it could be,
In the worst of me and in the best.

I hear the echo of those songs,
Joys loud and sorrows mourn.
To broke twigs my heart belongs,
Where my little bliss was born.

(Er. Faheema Amin is an Electrical Engineering graduate from the National Institute of Technology, Srinagar, and a gold medalist for academic excellence. Alongside her professional work, she nurtures a passion for writing and poetry, with contributions to various magazines. Her work reflects clarity, simplicity, and a thoughtful exploration of human themes)

You, Me and Tea



Sudipta Mishra

Every time I hold a cup of tea,
I remember:
there was a time,
when you sat beside me,
holding my hands
with a promise.

My quiet moments,
small yet reverberating,
breathed life into me.

Sometimes light,
sometimes dark,
between our silences—it held
us close to the softness
of what we were.

Now
it's only the tea
that remains.

and the blankness
where you used to be.

Between sips,
sighs and silence
gather slowly.

I drink it black now,
allowing the bitterness to
grow all over,
as if it could bring back
what will never return.

(Sudipta Mishra is an Indian author, dancer, translator, and editor from Puri, Odisha. She is the author of *Beyond the Pandemic*, *The Essence of Life*, *Songs of My Heart*, and *Super Express*, and has co-edited *Silent Waves in Soliloquy*, an anthology of translated contemporary Odia poetry. A recipient of the Rabin-dranath Tagore Memorial Award and several international honours, she is actively engaged in research, writing, editing, and translation.)

ڈاکٹر رفیق مسعودی

.....سینئر کینیڈین نظمہ.....



بار الہی

دیکھ کس بچارس منور و جھمکھ
سبزار اس منور
تاچہ چہڑے منور
شہنشاہی موختس اندر پڑے و جھمکھ
چوٹے پرتو پرتھ آکارس اندر
پڑے مجھ پیٹہ، ختہ
چوٹے کھچہ کر پڑن کوڑ
چاڈو شرگ
پتہ بڑ دھمہ
ہیر یون چوٹے رقص مجھ جاری
ذہر ڈر پیٹہ نش
پڑے عرھک
پڑے فرھک باعث
یا اللہ..... پڑے جھمکھ

یار رحمۃ اللعالمینؐ

گس کس ویر ہے
گاہ گم سٹنگل مان کو ہمارن
گس کس ویر ہے
لوہ بھارک آگر کتہ کس
کس لگہ ہے پے
اُسی ساری آدم پندر اولاد
لول، محبت سون خیر
اسے گس رنجہ ہے
خوہر ویر نش
ساسہ بدن خدایں نش
یہ چھ ہنر کھیناؤں چاؤں
بے کس ساؤں لہر پانس
ٹپے پچھ ناؤ تھ سوڑے کینہہ
گہر کو وا کھوڑن گئے سائیں کن منور
بس چانی ویر
یار رحمۃ اللعالمینؐ
بس چانی ویر..... بس

قرآن مجید

مکتو خوش بخت چھ تم
ہم حرفہ حرفہ
آپے آپے
ورقمہ ورقہ

قرآن مجید، فرقان حمید

تجدید کہ وقتہ پران چھ
مکتو نور پھٹو چھ تم
ہینچر چشمہ کلام اللہ پران پران فوش ددرایو مکتو
چھلنے چھنے یوان
مکتو گاہہ سمندر چھ تہند و سپو منور
سنگر مان پندر پانچو جاری سپدان
تہنچر رگہ رگہ منور
”الم شرح صدرک“ امچھر ورشن
وڑدکران چھ
قرآن مجھ گاہہ راوان
لامکانس.....
قرآن گوڑھ گاہہ راؤن
گل جہانس خدا یا
قرآن گوڑھ یا الہی گاہہ راؤن
میانس دلہ کس تہہ سیاہ خالس

یاحسینؑ

صحراون منور گل بھولہ راوان
گئے ڈنئے سمندر پنور زان
فرائت کھوتہ اوس عباس علمدارنجی
شہنمہ قطر نیر اوس
اصغر سٹہ ہوا زیاؤ نوڑک
علی اکبر سنور رتہ کول اُس
دجلہ و ریو کیر آولہ کھوتہ زیاؤ
گتھ کران
دوڑو ڈمہ اُس راتس زول کران
ہمبتک پیہ توکل اللہ ہک
مینا حنینہ
چاہے کارواچ دا ستانے چھ
بیون تہہ پدؤن

مینا خندومہؑ

کوہ ماران کہ تھ پر پٹھ
پیلہ پیلہ نظرہ کر تھم
ساری میناؤ سنور و گز آہ و لسنس
رہ پٹھ ٹاٹھ
چون تھر کوہ ماران کو

میتھالو ہینور
ستو اساتو، ہینور
عرشس تام
ہیے ماران کہ خندوم مکتو
اکھ نظرہ پست وڈو دس گن تہہ !!

کینہہ چھنے آلو بوزان

خاموشی ہند زیاؤ تھ سمندر
کتھ نہ گئے کتو
واوے باسان گوہر منور شوکتھ
شیرس نہ موج ورتس
ماجہ نہ گوڑے یاد
کانہہ نہ آلو بوزان
یہ ماقیامت آہو تھو پھنور
..... اسہ چھنے خیمہ ہے

۱۶ دسمبر کہ ناؤ

تہہ شہر اُس گواہان راتس
مکتو مکتو میانس آکٹہ کس درواز
وحشت ناک.....
ناسراڑے
تہہ شہر زن اوس
گستاہ سانس دیوارس
دائرتھ دوان
تہہ شہر باسان اوس
راکھشن ہند زیاؤ تھ ہجوم
شرا کہ آتھن کتھ
خون وٹھو پٹھ پشپان
مینا کٹھس منور اڈن ہوان
تہہ شہر تھوڑوئے راتس
دوہ موصوم نیو شاتہ تہہ
ہینس ہینس رتہ
ہینس وچس منور وڑ
صبح بھولس تامتھ

زوال

صُحائے دزا کوہ تہہ بال ڈھنڈتھ
نار دوان ظلماتن

دوہہ کس گوڑھ کس پٹھ سوار
کمن کمن شہزادن
دگرس دزاو سورے گاش تہہ وٹھیر
گاہہ رُوس زرزراتس وڈتھ
شامس وڈتھ گن زون سیاہ چھس اندر
ساروئے وچھ مگر
کانہہ گوڑوہ احساس
آفتاب کہ زوالگ
نہ ہینس چھس
گن رسہ رسہ پکٹ

نہ رو دکا تہہ نہ روز کا تہہ

لال قلعہ فصل
سنگلاخ دیوار
پنہ آسٹک پاس دوان
مجال چھاز کانہہ والہ اچ فصل
لال قلعہ وسیع مآدان
شائیں عمارت
دیوان عام
دیوان خاص
پر تھ طرفہ، یہ ڈپڑتہ سٹہ شائیں جلال
سٹہ شائیں دہرہ
پیار کی یہ توپ، تیز، تلووار
پینین نیم شاہ جہاں پندر پوشاک
ملہ کائین!
شہزادن!
شہزادن پندر شائیں جامہ
مگر تہہ کتہ
بیوہ عظیم قلعہ بنیو
تہہ کتہ بیوہ تھیا روڑو
اُسی دشمن زیر کران
تہہ کتہ نیم زرق و برق جامہ لا گتھ
پنہ عظیمک پاس دوان اُس
..... ہم ساری خاس اندر خاک
وانا لگھ چھ توئے وٹان.....
”نہ رو دکا تہہ
☆ ☆

حضرت شیخ العالمؒ

کل اے کرکھ کل ہے وری
مٹلے لگی اللہ ہو
پوہ گتھ سہ توہ رزی
دلے وری اللہ ہو