

Srinagar
Wednesday
August 26 | 2026
11 Rabi' al-Awwal 1448 AH
Issue No: 203
Volume: 16
Pages: 12
Price :Rs: 2/-

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BRIEFLY

Worker Dies After Falling From Height at Sidhra Tawi Bridge

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, AUG 25: A 45-year-old worker died after reportedly falling from a height at the Sidhra Tawi Bridge in Jammu on Tuesday. The deceased has been identified as Budhi Singh, a resident of Ramban who was presently staying at Sidhra.

He was brought to Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) Jammu by a co-worker, where doctors declared him brought dead.

The body was shifted to the mortuary for postmortem and other legal formalities. [KNT]

Bear Attacks Orchard Workers in Kulgam, Two Injured

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

KULGAM, AUG 25:Two persons were injured after a bear attacked a group of people working in an orchard at Ahmadabad village of Damhal Hanjipora in Kulgam district on Tuesday.

The injured have been identified as Abdul Salam Teeli, a resident of Ahmadabad, and Bilal Ahmad Kholi, a resident of Danipora, Damhal Hanjipora.

Following the attack, both injured persons were shifted to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Damhal Hanjipora for treatment. Their condition is stated to be stable.

Syed Irshad, in-charge of the DH Pora Wildlife Control Room, said a cage has been set up in the area to trap the bear. [KNT]

Under-Construction Flyover Collapses in Vijaypur, One Killed, Three Injured

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SAMBA, AUG 25, One person was killed and three others injured after an under-construction flyover collapsed in the Jakh area of Vijaypur in Samba district on Tuesday.

The structure reportedly gave way during ongoing construction work, resulting in the casualties.

The injured were shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment. Their condition was not immediately known.

Authorities have initiated an investigation to ascertain the circumstances leading to the collapse. [KNT]

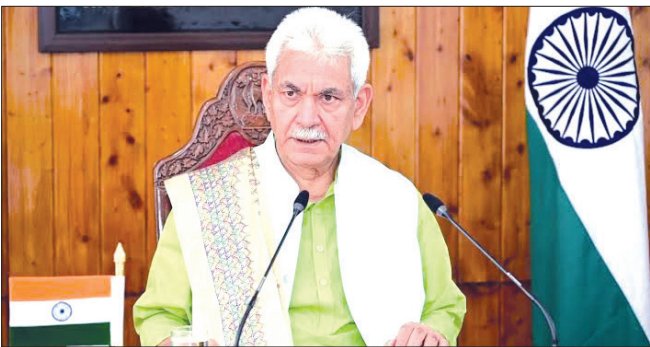
Crime Branch Chargesheets Man for Allegedly Cheating Cancer Patient's Husband

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, AUG 25, :The Economic Offences Wing Kashmir of Crime Branch J&K has filed a chargesheet against a Jammu-based man accused of allegedly cheating a complainant of lakhs of rupees by promising to arrange medicines at a cheaper rate for his wife, who was suffering from cancer.

Let Us Pledge to Live by His Values of Love, Kindness and Universal Brotherhood : LG Manoj Sinha

LG extends greetings to people on eve of Milad-un-Nabi



HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 25: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday extended his heartfelt greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the eve of Milad-un-Nabi, saying the life and

teachings of Prophet Muhammad remain an eternal beacon of peace, equality and compassion. Calling upon people to draw inspiration from the Prophet's message of love, kindness and universal brotherhood, the Lieutenant Governor urged everyone to work

collectively towards building a more harmonious, inclusive and united society.

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha has extended his greetings to the people on the eve of Milad-un-Nabi, marking the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad.

In a message the Lieutenant Governor said: "On the blessed occasion of Milad-un-Nabi, I extend my heartfelt greetings and best wishes to everyone.

The life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad remain an eternal beacon of peace, equality, and compassion for all humankind. On this sacred day, let us pledge to live by his

>>> MORE ON P 02

Strengthening Aatmanirbharta in Defence : Rajnath Singh Clears DRDO Missile Technology Transfer

Move to enable Indian defence industry to manufacture conventional missile systems developed by DRDO



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the transfer of technology of all conventional missile systems developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation

(DRDO) to the Indian defence industry for indigenous production, a move aimed at strengthening Aatmanirbharta in defence. The initiative is expected to accelerate industrial-scale production of indigenous missile systems, expand the role of Indian companies and MSMEs in the defence supply chain, enhance domestic value addition, reduce import dependence and strengthen the country's defence manufacturing ecosystem.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the transfer of technology of all conventional missile systems developed by the Defence

>>> MORE ON P 02

Heightened Vigilance and Proactive Policing : DGP Reviews Milad Security

Security, crowd management and traffic arrangements reviewed across J&K ahead of major religious events

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 25: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat on Tuesday reviewed security arrangements for Eid Milad-un-Nabi and other forthcoming events across the Union Territory, directing officers to maintain heightened vigilance and ensure effective coordination among field formations. The review meeting at Police Control Room Kashmir focused on

>>> MORE ON P 02



HT BOTTOM NEWS

People Come With Love in Their Hearts and Prayers on Their Lips : Hazratbal Draws Thousands

Revered shrine illuminated as devotees gather for night-long Shab Khwaani; elaborate traffic arrangements put in place

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 25: Thousands of devotees gathered at Dargah Hazratbal on Tuesday evening ahead of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), filling the revered shrine and adjoining areas with prayers, naats, durood-o-azkar and religious fervour. With devotees arriving from different parts of Kashmir for the night-long Shab Khwaani, authorities put elaborate traffic diversions, parking and route-management arrangements in place to regulate the heavy movement of vehicles and ensure the peaceful and smooth conduct of the religious observances.



Thousands of devotees gathered at Hazratbal on Tuesday evening ahead of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), filling

the shrine and adjoining areas with spiritual fervour.

>>> MORE ON P 02

"Keep Sick Children Home": Flu Rise Sparks Fresh Health Alert Across Schools

Pulmonologist Dr Naveed urges parents to prevent classroom transmission; masks, ventilation, hand hygiene and vaccination stressed

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, AUG 25: Amid a reported rise in influenza cases, pulmonologist Dr Naveed has urged parents to keep children suffering from flu-like symptoms away from schools, stressing that responsible action at the family level can play a crucial role in preventing wider community transmission. He advised people to remain vigilant without panicking and recommended masks in crowded places, regular hand hygiene, proper ventilation



of indoor spaces, isolation of symptomatic patients and annual influenza vaccination, particularly

>>> MORE ON P 02



Sakeena Itoo reviews Health Sector Scenario in Chanapora Constituency

Also e-inaugurates Dialysis Unit at CHC Surankote

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 25: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today reviewed the overall health sector scenario and availability of healthcare facilities in Chanapora constituency, with focus on strengthening public health infrastructure and ensuring accessible, responsive and quality medical services for the people.

The meeting was attended by MLA Chanapora, Mushtaq Guroo; Principal GMC Srinagar and other senior officers of health and medical education department.

During the review, the Minister took detailed stock of the functioning of health institutions in the constituency, availability of doctors, paramedical staff and other manpower, essential medicines, diagnostic facilities, infrastructure, equipment and other patient-care services.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the requirements of healthcare institutions in the constituency and identify areas requiring immediate intervention. She stressed that



healthcare delivery should remain centred around the needs of patients, particularly those belonging to economically weaker and vulnerable sections of society.

Sakeena Itoo called for ensuring uninterrupted availability of essential medicines

and consumables besides strengthening diagnostic and emergency services at health institutions. She also emphasised optimum utilisation and timely maintenance of available medical equipment so that patients do not have to travel outside the constituency for

basic healthcare requirements.

The Minister directed the officers to closely monitor manpower availability and ensure that sanctioned human resources are utilised effectively. She maintained that strengthening primary and secondary healthcare facilities is essential for reducing the burden on tertiary care hospitals and providing timely treatment closer to people's homes.

Sakeena Itoo underscored that every healthcare institution must function with a strong sense of public service and accountability. She directed the concerned authorities to prepare a time-bound action plan for addressing the gaps identified during the review and submit regular progress reports.

The Minister reiterated the Government's commitment towards building a robust, accessible and people-centric healthcare system across Jammu and Kashmir, with special emphasis on strengthening healthcare delivery at the grassroots level. Later, the Minister also e-inaugurated Dialysis Unit at Government Community Health Centre Surankote, marking an important addition to specialised healthcare facilities available to the people of the area.

Sakeena Itoo extends Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) greetings

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 25: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo has extended her heartfelt greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), marking the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

In her greeting message, the Minister said that this sacred day reminds us of the timeless values of compassion, kindness, and service to humanity, which form the essence of the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet (SAW). She expressed hope that this pious occasion will inspire people to strengthen bonds of brotherhood, promote peace and harmony, and work collectively for the welfare of society.

"On this revered occasion, let us pledge to walk on the path of truth, compassion, and selfless service shown to us by the Prophet Muhammad (SAW)", she said.

The Minister also highlighted that true way of celebrating this blessed and sacred day is to uphold the values of empathy, patience, and mutual respect in our daily lives.

Sakeena Itoo also prayed for the peace, prosperity, and well-being of all citizens, particularly the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Deputy Chief Minister extends Greetings on Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW)

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, AUGUST 25: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, has extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW).

In his message, Deputy Chief Minister said that the sacred occasion is a reminder of the noble teachings of the Holy Prophet (SAW), who showed humanity the path of truth, compassion, and service to mankind.

He expressed hope that the blessed day will inspire people to uphold the values of peace, harmony, mutual respect, and brotherhood, thereby fostering unity and collective progress in society. Deputy Chief Minister added that the true way of celebrating this day is by practicing patience, spreading goodwill, and extending support to those in need.

Surinder Choudhary also prayed for peace, prosperity, and well-being of all citizens, especially the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Satish Sharma extends Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) greetings

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 25: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, Science & Technology and ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma, has extended his heartfelt greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), marking the blessed birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (SAW). In his message, the Minister said that Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) is a sacred occasion that reminds humanity of the timeless message and noble teachings of the Holy Prophet (SAW), centred on compassion, peace, justice, kindness, brotherhood and selfless service to humanity. Satish Sharma said that the life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) provide enduring guidance for building a society founded on mutual respect, harmony, tolerance and concern for the welfare of others.

DC Srinagar reviews renovation works at Narayan Temple Bulbul Lanker under Heritage Conservation scheme

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 25: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Tuesday visited the Narayan Temple at Bulbul Lanker in the Share-Khaas area of the District to inspect the renovation and upgradation works being taken under the Government's Heritage Conservation Scheme.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Qureshi, IAS Probationer Aakash Garg, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad, Superintending Engineer R&B North, Shabir Ahmad, SDM East, Zubair Ahmad, Chief Medical Officer, Dr Tahir Sajad, Executive Engineer, Water Works Division, Aijaz Rafiq, Executive Engineer, R&B Division Core, Arif Hazari,



Executive Engineer KPDC, Syed Abrar, Tehsildar Khanyar, Syed Shahid, ZMO MR Gunj, Dr Shafqat, Executive Engineer, City Drainage SMC, and other concerned.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the conservation works being executed on the Temple and its allied structures on heritage pattern.

The DC emphasized the need for quality execution, close coordination among departments and timely

completion of the works on the religious and heritage assets while upgrading associated infrastructure while ensuring that the heritage character and architectural significance of the temple are preserved.

He also directed the concerned agencies to address issues related to essential services and infrastructure in a coordinated manner so that the restoration work progresses smoothly and the site receives the required civic and utility support.

SEC gives go ahead to Rs 664.54 Cr Disaster Recovery interventions

1,227 Works and 8,804 Houses to be Restored across J&K

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 25, 2026: The State Executive Committee (SEC) of the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRR&R), chaired by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today accorded approval to a comprehensive set of disaster recovery and reconstruction interventions to be taken up across Jammu and Kashmir under the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) assistance sanctioned by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) through the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Principal Secretary, Home; Commissioner Secretary, Forests; Commissioner Secretary, School



Education, besides senior officers of DMRR&R and representatives of other concerned departments. The third meeting of the SEC reviewed the action plans submitted by various departments for undertaking restoration and reconstruction works aimed at rebuilding damaged public infrastructure, restoring essential services, reviving livelihoods and strengthening the disaster resilience of communities across the UT. The approved interventions involve an immediate financial outlay of Rs 664.54 Cr, covering 1,227

infrastructure works and restoration of 8,804 fully and severely damaged houses.

Chairing the meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasised that the sanctioned assistance should be utilised strategically as per the original proposals to create a stronger and more disaster-resilient Jammu and Kashmir rather than merely restoring the damaged infrastructure only. He directed all concerned departments to ensure optimum and timely utilisation of the available funds, stressing that the entire assistance package should contribute.

DC Budgam reviews implementation of Classes of Joy- Teaching at Right Level (TaRL), focused on improving FLN learning outcomes

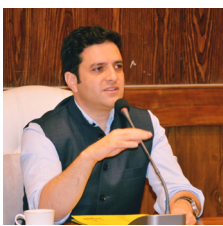
■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, AUGUST 25: Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today reviewed implementation of Classes of Joy-Teaching at Right Level (TaRL) and focused on improving FLN learning outcomes during a meeting held at the Conference Hall, Budgam.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Education Officer (CEO) Budgam, Principal DIET Beerwah, all Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs), all Zonal Education Planning Officers (ZEPOs), and representatives from the Pratham Education Foundation.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of the progress and implementation of the TaRL initiative across the district. Discussions focused on the effective rollout of the programme, teacher capacity building, classroom-level implementation and measures to improve foundational learning outcomes among students.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated the importance of Teaching at the Right



Level in bridging learning gaps among children by aligning teaching practices with their actual learning levels rather than merely their age or grade.

He directed the concerned officers to ensure effective implementation of the programme at the grassroots level and emphasised close monitoring of classroom practices to assess its impact on students' learning outcomes.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for activity-based, child-centred and joyful teaching methodologies that encourage the active participation of children and help strengthen their Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) skills.

He also appreciated the collaborative efforts of the School Education Department and the Pratham Education Foundation in supporting the district's initiatives towards strengthening foundational learning. He called for sustained coordination among all stakeholders to ensure that the objectives of the programme translate into measurable improvements in classroom learning.

Pawan Singh Rathore attends National Conference with States/UTs & I&PR Secretaries

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25: Special Secretary, Information Department, Jammu & Kashmir, Pawan Singh Rathore, attended the National Conference with States/UTs and Information & Public Relations (I&PR) Secretaries convened by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

The conference brought together senior officers from the Centre and States/UTs to deliberate upon strengthening coordination in the fields of public broadcasting, media, film, creative industries, information dissemination and the emerging Media & Entertainment (M&E) ecosystem. The deliberations also focused on facilitating greater participation of States and UTs in national initiatives and ensuring that the benefits of the rapidly expanding creative economy reach talent and institutions across the country.

A comprehensive agenda covering 15 key areas was discussed during the conference. These included implementation of the "Right of Way (RoW) mechanism for cable operators by State Governments,

roadmap for WAVES 2027, strengthening WAVES Bazaar and market access, expansion of public service broadcasting infrastructure, integration of the Indian Cine Hub (ICH)/Film Facilitation Office (FFO) portal, adoption of the single-window ICH portal for film shooting and live-event permissions, strengthening public service broadcasting through content co-production and State-specific programming, promotion of the live-events sector, capacity building of DIPR officers, transition to the digital framework under the Press and Registration of Periodicals (PRP) Act, 2023, strengthening libraries, promotion of low-cost cinema in rural and underserved areas, accessibility standards in cinema halls, operationalisation of the WAVES State Ecosystem and State partnership for the Create in India Challenge (CIC) – Season 2.

The conference highlighted the WAVES platform as an important national initiative for bringing together the creative industries, technology, startups, investors, creators and global industry leaders.

The proposed roadmap for WAVES 2027 envisages a wider and more diverse ecosystem comprising the CEO Roundtable,



Creatosphere, WAVEX, WAVES Bazaar, Global Leaders' Track, WAVES Cultural, Thought Leaders' Track and Exhibition & Country Pavilions.

The Exhibition and Bharat Pavilion component is proposed to provide a global showcase of India's media and entertainment capabilities, culture and creative industries, besides promoting India as a global filming

destination. The initiative also seeks to facilitate high-value partnerships and deal-making while showcasing Indian intellectual property, innovation and immersive experiences.

The conference also reviewed the role of WAVEX as a start-up accelerator, aimed at providing a platform for media-tech startups and fostering stronger linkages between emerging entrepreneurs, investors, industry leaders and markets. The emphasis was on creating an enabling environment for innovation, entrepreneurship and employment within the Media & Entertainment sector.

A major area of discussion was strengthening public broadcasting through content and community reach. The conference highlighted initiatives such as WAVES OTT, MyWAVES and Gems of India, with emphasis on showcasing State/UT-specific content, culture, tourism, heritage and development stories. Greater participation of local creators, particularly through MyWAVES and the Gems of India initiative, was encouraged to bring district-level talent and unique local stories to wider audiences.



Javed Rana attends Tribal Convention on Forest Rights Act at Pulwama; hints at development of Sangerwani as model tribal tourism village

Announces ₹2.75 cr for revamp of 14 water filtration plants in Rajpora constituency

HT News Network

PULWAMA, AUGUST 25: Maintaining that the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 serves as a catalyst for tribal welfare and livelihood enhancement, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today said that effective implementation of the Act is essential for empowering the forest-dwelling tribal communities, safeguarding their legitimate rights and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities.

He said this while participating in a Tribal Convention on the Forest Rights Act, 2006, at Sangerwani, Rajpora, Pulwama where he also interacted with the locals to assess their grievances.

MLA Rajpora, Ghulam Mohi ud din Mir, MLA Pampore, Hasnain Masoodi, former legislator Mohd Khalil Bandh and officers from the district administration were present on the occasion.

The convention focused on creating greater awareness about the provisions of the Forest Rights Act and strengthening community participation in its effective implementation. Detailed discussions were held on the rights and entitlements



being provided under the legislation, the process for filing and verification of claims and the role of Gram Sabhas and other stakeholders in ensuring that eligible forest-dwelling tribal communities receive the rights guaranteed to them under the Act.

The convention was attended by a large number of people from various areas who raised various sector specific and development demands. They sought intervention of the Minister in early redress of the same.

The people highlighted issues concerning augmentation and

upgradation of water filtration plants to ensure the availability of safe and reliable drinking water. They sought strengthening of healthcare and educational infrastructure, including improvement of existing facilities and provision of better services for the local population. The people also highlighted the need for improvement and upgradation of road infrastructure, particularly the repair of damaged stretches and better connectivity to facilitate smooth movement of people and goods.

Addressing the gathering, the

Minister assured that the government remains committed to strengthen the basic infrastructure and improve the public services, with particular focus on reliable drinking water supply, better healthcare and educational facilities and improved road connectivity. He stressed that the issues raised during such public interactions provide valuable inputs for prioritising development works and ensuring that the benefits of government initiatives reach the people effectively.

Responding to the concerns regarding drinking water, the Minister directed the concerned authorities to undertake the improvement and revamping of 14 filtration plants in Rajpora Constituency. He announced 2.75 crore for the revamping and improvement of water filtration plants, aimed at strengthening water supply infrastructure and ensuring better access to safe and quality drinking water for the local population.

He also directed the Soil Conservation Department to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) worth around 1 crore for taking up soil conservation and related development works in the Sangerwani area.

DC Shopian chairs meeting on setting up De-Addiction Centre



HT News Network

SHOPIAN, AUGUST 25: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta, today chaired a meeting to review the steps for setting up a dedicated District De-Addiction Centre under the Scheme Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction.

The proposed centre aims to provide comprehensive support, treatment and rehabilitation services to individuals affected by drug dependence across the district.

During the meeting, the DC highlighted that the facility will focus on medical treatment, counselling, rehabilitation and social reintegration, while also strengthening preventive measures and community awareness campaigns.

Reaffirming the District Administration's commitment to creating a drug-free Shopian,

the DC stressed the importance of sustained prevention, timely treatment and rehabilitation, along with active collaboration among government departments, community leaders and other stakeholders.

He further underscored that the initiative will help streamline and coordinate de-addiction services at the district level, complementing ongoing anti-drug efforts under the Nasha Mukh Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyaan.

The proposed centre will provide focused and coordinated services for the treatment, counselling, rehabilitation and social reintegration of persons struggling with drug dependence.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; ACR, Shakoar Ahmed Dar; ASP, Rameez Rashid; SDM Zainapora, Bilal Ahmed; Assistant Director Employment, Nida Yousuf; CEO, Bashir Ahmed Shah, and other concerned officers were present in the meeting.

ADDC Bandipora reviews Developmental Works, Undertakes Physical Verification of Languishing Projects in Gurez

HT News Network

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 25: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Bandipora, Nazir Ahmad Mir, today undertook an extensive visit to Gurez Sub-Division to assess the progress of ongoing developmental works and conduct physical verification of languishing projects being executed in the area.

During the field visit, the ADDC carried out on-ground verification of various languishing projects and inspected other ongoing developmental works. He took detailed stock of their physical progress, quality of execution and implementation status, besides interacting with the concerned field functionaries regarding issues affecting the pace of execution.

The ADDC was accompanied by BDO Tulail, BDO Gurez, officials of PHE Sub-Division Gurez and other concerned officers and officials.

Later, the ADDC chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Rural Development Department (RDD), Gurez Sub-Division, wherein scheme-wise progress of various developmental programmes was reviewed in detail. The meeting covered PRI, CDF, DDC, SBM and other RDD schemes, with particular focus



on physical achievements, expenditure, progress of individual works and their implementation status.

All BDOs of Gurez Sub-Division, AEE R&B Gurez and other concerned officers and officials attended the meeting.

Given the limited working season in Gurez, the ADDC directed all concerned officers to accord top priority to the timely completion of developmental works and ensure optimum utilization of the available working window. He directed that all ongoing works be completed by the end of September, wherever feasible, while maintaining the prescribed quality standards. The ADDC stressed the need for regular field-level monitoring, close inter-departmental coordination and prompt resolution of bottlenecks affecting project execution.

DC Kulgam visits Shrine of Hazrat Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Wali (RA) at Chimmer

Farooq Rather



KULGAM, AUGUST 25: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today visited the revered shrine of Hazrat Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani (RA) at Chimmer, D.H. Pora, and paid obeisance at the holy shrine.

During the visit, the DC reviewed the arrangements and facilities being put in place for devotees, particularly in view of the forthcoming Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) celebrations. The Deputy Commissioner took stock of the overall arrangements at the shrine and its adjoining areas, including cleanliness, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, road connectivity, parking and other essential facilities required for the smooth and comfortable movement of devotees.

The DC interacted with members of the shrine management committee, local residents and other stakeholders and took detailed feedback regarding the developmental requirements and issues affecting the area. He assured them that all genuine concerns would be examined and addressed in coordination with the concerned departments.

While reviewing the preparations for Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), the DC stressed the need for coordinated efforts among all concerned departments to ensure adequate arrangements for the expected congregation of devotees.

He directed the officers to ensure proper cleanliness and sanitation in and around the shrine, uninterrupted availability of essential amenities and timely completion of all necessary arrangements.

The DC also directed the concerned officers to remain vigilant and responsive to any requirement that may arise during the Eid Milad celebrations.

Accompanying the Deputy Commissioner were SDM Noorabad Bashir ul Hassan, AEE R & B, Reyaz Ahmad, AEE PDD, Javid Ahmad Wagay and other concerned officers.

DC Anantnag reviews arrangements at major shrines for Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW)

Emphasises seamless facilities, devotee-centric approach for smooth observance

HT News Network

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 25: Ahead of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) and the Friday Following, the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, today visited the Kabamarg and Baba Hyder Reshi (Reshmool) shrines to review the arrangements being put in place for the smooth observance of these auspicious occasions.

Notably, a large number of devotees are expected to visit these shrines and other important places during the holy days.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by the SEs of R&B, Hydraulics, and KPDC, SDM Dooru, ACR, concerned Tehsildars and BMOs, CEOMCA, AEEs/AEs, and other ground-level functionaries.

During the visit, the DC offered prayers and took a detailed assessment of the arrangements concerning sanitation, streetlights, drinking water, power supply, road connectivity, parking, traffic management, healthcare, fire safety measures, and other essential facilities required for the convenience of devotees. He also took stock of the ongoing upgradation and renovation works at these religious sites.

At the shrines, the respective management committees apprised the DC of various requirements necessary for the smooth observance of the holy days.

Taking immediate note, the



DC issued directions to the concerned departments to provide the necessary facilities at these venues in a smooth and hassle-free manner. He instructed them to ensure proper lighting, sanitation and cleanliness, uninterrupted power supply, and other essential facilities at the shrines as well as on the approach roads leading to the religious sites for the convenience of devotees. He stressed that all essential services should remain functional during this period, particularly during the evening and night hours.

The DC directed all concerned officers to ensure the availability of deployed staff throughout the observance and to maintain close interdepartmental coordination in consultation with shrine management committees for

the timely redressal of any emergent issues.

Dr. Bilal called for coordinated and proactive efforts by all concerned departments to ensure that devotees are provided with a safe, clean, and comfortable environment for the smooth observance of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW). He stressed that all arrangements should remain devotee-centric, with a particular focus on providing a convenient and hassle-free environment to people visiting the shrines and mosques to offer prayers.

The DC expressed confidence that with the coordinated efforts of all stakeholders, Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) and the Friday following would be observed smoothly and with religious fervour across the district.

96th DLRC, DCC meeting reviews Banking Performance, Financial Inclusion in Budgam

DC directs banks to accelerate credit flow, improve recovery, ensure timely disposal of sponsored scheme cases growers

HT News Network

BUDGAM, AUGUST 25: Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today chaired the 96th meeting of the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) and District Consultative Committee (DCC) to review the banking performance and implementation of financial inclusion and credit-linked schemes in the district for the first quarter of the financial year 2026-27.

The meeting, held at the Conference Hall, DC Office Budgam, was convened by Lead District Manager, J&K Bank, Mohd Muzaffar.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Javed Ahmad Najar; Lead District Officer, RBI, Amit; Director RSETI, Imtiyaz Ahmad Khan; Chief Agriculture Officer, Farzana;

Chief Horticulture Officer, Shafiq, besides senior officers of various line departments and representatives of banks operating in the district.

Reviewing the district's banking scenario as on June 30, 2026, the meeting was informed that total deposits in the district's 104 bank branches stood at 6,025.36 crore, registering a year-on-year growth of 21.98 per cent from 4,939.36 crore during the corresponding period last year.

Similarly, total advances rose by 9.16 per cent to 5,838.30 crore from 5,347.98 crore, taking the district's Credit-Deposit Ratio to 96.90 per cent, significantly above the benchmark of 60 per cent and reflecting healthy credit absorption in the district. The number of banks operating in Budgam has increased

to 12 with the addition of one more bank during the year.

The meeting also reviewed the district's asset quality and noted that the overall Gross Non-Performing Assets stood at 2.10 per cent, amounting to 122.81 crore. However, elevated NPA levels in certain banks were flagged, and the concerned banks were directed to intensify recovery efforts through all available mechanisms, including SARFAESI action, Lok Adalats and One-Time Settlement drives, before further expediting credit exposure.

Under Priority Sector Lending of the District Credit Plan (DCP) 2026-27, banks collectively achieved 446.29 crore against the first-quarter target of 2,662.65 crore, registering an achievement of 16.76 per cent. The total credit flow across



priority and non-priority sectors stood at 872.52 crore against the annual target of 3,975.78 crore, recording an overall achievement of 21.95 per cent.

The meeting reviewed the performance of individual banks and directed those recording comparatively low achievements to take immediate measures to improve

credit flow. Banks were reminded that the figures pertained to the first quarter against annual targets and were asked to accelerate lending and improve performance during the remaining quarters.

Progress under various government-sponsored schemes, including PMEGP, DAY-NRLM SHG Credit Linkage, Kisan Credit Card for Animal Husbandry and Dairy activities, and schemes pertaining to the Handicrafts and Handloom sectors, was also reviewed.

The line departments highlighted that the temporary suspension of the PMEGP portal had affected the timely sponsorship and processing of cases. The Chair directed all banks to dispose of pending cases under government-sponsored schemes on priority and strengthen coordination

with the sponsoring departments to ensure timely sanction and disbursement of eligible cases.

The meeting further reviewed the Financial Inclusion Saturation Campaign under NSFI 2025-30. A total of 339 identified unbanked revenue centres in the district have been allocated among banks for coverage through bank branches, Business Correspondents and Digital Banking Units.

J&K Bank has been allocated 204 centres, followed by J&K Grameen Bank with 42 centres and State Bank of India with 38 centres. All banks were directed to confirm receipt of their allocated centres, submit branch, BC and DBU-wise action plans with clear timelines, and furnish fortnightly progress reports to ensure time-bound saturation.





Nishat Ansari Remembered for His Multifaceted Literary Contributions

JKAACL and Daera-e-Adab Delina Organise One-Day Symposium at Government Degree College Sopore

■ HT News Network

Sopore, August 25 The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL), in collaboration with Daira-e-Adab Delina, organised a one-day symposium at Government Degree College Sopore to commemorate the 26th death anniversary of noted poet, writer, critic, educationist and translator, late Nishat Ansari, and to deliberate upon his life, personality and multifaceted literary contributions. The symposium aimed at paying tribute to the distinguished literary personality while providing a scholarly platform for writers, poets, academicians, teachers, students and literature enthusiasts to critically examine his poetic and prose works and reflect on his enduring contribution to the literary and intellectual landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. The programme was divided into two sessions. The first session comprised the inaugural and academic proceedings, while the second session featured a poetry recital.



The first session was presided over by Fayaz Telgami. Shahnaz Rashid was the Chief Guest, while Sheikh Ghulam Mohammad was the Guest of Honour. Javed Iqbal Khan, Editor of Kashmiri Shiraza, was also part of the presidium. Dr. Gulzar Ahmad Rather, Assistant Editor Kashmiri, JKAACL,

conducted the proceedings. Welcoming the distinguished guests, scholars, writers, poets, teachers, students and other participants, Javed Iqbal Khan highlighted the importance of remembering the contributions of eminent literary figures of Kashmir and undertaking fresh scholarly

and critical studies of their works. Describing Nishat Ansari as a multifaceted literary personality, he said that his contribution was not confined to poetry alone, but extended to prose, education and translation as well. Chief Guest Shahnaz Rashid appreciated the initiative of organising the symposium in memory of Nishat Ansari and emphasised the importance of preserving Kashmir's rich literary heritage. He observed that such academic and literary gatherings provide an effective platform for understanding the contributions of writers and poets in a contemporary context and for introducing their works to younger generations. Guest of Honour Sheikh Ghulam Mohammad highlighted Nishat Ansari's contribution to the literary and intellectual life of Kashmir. Referring to his work in poetry, prose, education and translation, he stressed the need for systematic research, compilation and documentation of his literary legacy. The keynote address was delivered by Shahid Delnawi, who presented a comprehensive overview of Nishat Ansari's.

Awareness Programme on Child Protection and Rights Held at Chillian Chonti Nard



■ HT News Network

The Office of the District Child Protection Officer (DCPO), Budgam, today organised a special awareness programme at Chillian Chonti Nard in the Charar-i-Sharief area, focusing on child safety measures, child rights, legal protection and various welfare schemes available for vulnerable children.

The programme aimed to sensitise local residents about measures for ensuring the safety and protection of children, their legal rights, and the support mechanisms available through government welfare programmes. During the programme, detailed information was shared about the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, with special emphasis on the legal safeguards available to children facing neglect, abuse, exploitation, violence or other forms of rights violations. The officials also highlighted the benefits available under the Sponsorship Scheme of Mission Vatsalya, J&K. Participants were informed that the scheme provides assistance to

vulnerable children, including orphans, children of single parents where there is no earning member in the family, and children whose parents are suffering from chronic or life-threatening diseases. The programme further covered support available for children affected by natural disasters, physically challenged children, and children belonging to families living in extreme poverty. Special emphasis was placed on eligible children from families holding AAY and BPL ration cards. The Office of the District Child Protection Officer urged the public to remain vigilant about the safety and rights of children and to approach the concerned department and competent authorities whenever a child faces neglect, exploitation, abuse, deprivation or any other form of threat. The participants appreciated the initiative and stressed the need for conducting similar awareness programmes in rural and remote areas so that vulnerable children and their families can become aware of their rights and access the benefits of government welfare schemes.

GDC Vijaypur Organises Orientation-cum-Induction Programme

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, AUGUST 25: Government Degree College (GDC) Vijaypur organised an Orientation-cum-Induction Programme for the newly admitted students of Semester-I with the objective of welcoming the students to the college and familiarising them with the academic environment, facilities, and functioning of the institution.

The programme was organised under the able guidance and leadership of the Principal of the College, Dr. Sanjeet Kaur. It commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, symbolising the pursuit of knowledge and enlightenment. Prof. Ritu Bhagat, (HoD Education), delivered the formal welcome address and extended a warm welcome to the newly admitted students. She encouraged the students to make the best use of the opportunities available to



them and actively participate in academic and co-curricular activities.

The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Dr. Naseem Chowdhary, HoD English, who efficiently coordinated the various segments of the event. She familiarised the newly admitted students with the academic environment of the college, its rules and regulations, various departments and facilities,

Sahil Mahajan Releases Devotional Album 'Mere Kashi Vishwanath' in Jammu

■ HT News Network

JAMMU: Maa Bawe Wali Records Managing Director and BJP Co-Convenor, Sanskriti, Art and Culture Cell, Sahil Mahajan released the devotional song album "Mere Kashi Vishwanath" at Gangayal, Jammu. The programme was organised by Rhythm Bar Music and was attended by noted J&K singer Tilak Kumar Gupta, singer Anil Khapra, composer-singers Lucky Verma and Sanjay Kumar, singer and lyricist Amit Madhav, and video director K.K. Mahotra. Speaking on the occasion, Sahil Mahajan congratulated the entire team and said devotional music is an important expression of India's Sanatan cultural and spiritual heritage. He said the devotional song dedicated to Lord

Kashi Vishwanath would inspire faith, devotion and spiritual energy among devotees. Mahajan highlighted Jammu's rich cultural heritage and appreciated the artists for promoting spiritual and cultural values through music. He said such initiatives can also help connect the younger generation with India's traditions and strengthen social harmony. Singer and lyricist Amit Madhav said the bhajan is a humble expression of his devotion and faith towards Kashi Vishwanath and expressed hope that it would receive the blessings and affection of devotees.

The team appealed to devotees to watch and share the bhajan and support the artists through the "Amit Mahadev Presents" YouTube channel.

CUKashmir participates in TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan awareness prog

■ HT News Network

Ganderbal, Aug 25: Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir) today participated (online) in the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan, a nationwide initiative aimed at strengthening awareness, sensitisation and community participation towards achieving the goal of a TB-Free India.

The programme was organised by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India, in collaboration with the University Grants Commission (UGC) as part of its initiatives for Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs). The programme was conducted across HEIs to sensitize students, faculty members and non-teaching staff about tuberculosis, its prevention, early detection, treatment and the importance of eliminating stigma associated with the disease.

At the CUKashmir, the programme was organised by Dean Students' Welfare (DSW) and the Health Centre. Dean DSW, Dr. Jehriul Islam, Medical Officers, Dr. Abid and Dr. Sheeba, Asst Prof. Dr. Harpal Singh, students, faculty members and non-teaching staff from all four campuses of the University participated in the programme at their respective campuses.

Youth-led initiatives can turn Viksit Bharat vision into action: Director NIT Srinagar

■ HT News Network

Jammu, August 24, 2026: AIIMS JaSrinagar, Aug 25: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Tuesday organised a day-long programme under the Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme, featuring a cleanliness drive and a distinguished lecture on waste management aimed at promoting environmental responsibility, sustainability, leadership, innovation and youth participation in nation-building.

The cleanliness drive began from the Fountain Park of NIT Srinagar under the theme "Clean Campus. Stronger Nation" in the presence of Director, NIT Srinagar, Prof. Anurag Mishra. The initiative encouraged students, faculty and staff to contribute towards creating a clean, healthy and sustainable campus.

Prof. Mishra said that a clean and sustainable campus is an important step towards building a responsible society, adding that youth-led



initiatives can help translate the vision of Viksit Bharat into meaningful action.

On the occasion, Registrar NIT Srinagar Prof. Atikur Rehman said that such initiatives strengthen the Institute's commitment to sustainability, discipline, social responsibility and active student participation.

The programme was attended by Dean Alumni and International

Affairs Prof. MA Shah, faculty members, staff and other members of the Institute. NCC and NSS cadets actively participated in the cleanliness drive, contributing to the collective effort to maintain the campus environment.

ANO Lt. Col Dr Natika Kundan, Dr Ashok Kumar, Dr Pramod Kumar, coordinators of NCC, NSS and Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat were also present during the programme.

Government Polytechnic Reasi organises Udyam Jagriti 5.0 College Hackathon (Campaign)

■ HT News Network

REASI, AUGUST 25: Government Polytechnic College Reasi successfully organised Udyam Jagriti 5.0 - College Hackathon/ Campaign under Mission YUVA in the institute as per the directions of district administration. The programme was conducted under the guidance of Additional District Development Commissioner Reasi (Nodal Officer Mission YUVA), Krishan Lal. The event provided an engaging platform for students and aspiring entrepreneurs to understand entrepreneurship, leadership, skill development, industry readiness and overall personality development among students.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by the Principal Dr. Arun Bangotra who briefed the students about the objectives, significance and various activities associated with the Udyam Jagriti 5.0 campaign. He encouraged the students to develop confidence, practical skills, innovative thinking and an entrepreneurial mindset to successfully meet the challenges of the modern professional world.

Er. Himanshu Bakshi, Placement Coordinator under Mission YUVA, focused on sensitising and familiarising



students with the Udyam Jagriti 5.0 Hackathon, particularly the process of idea generation, development and submission. Sheetal Sharma, SBDU Coordinator Reasi, highlighted institutional opportunities for skill development, entrepreneurship pathways and practical learning frameworks that can help students transform their ideas into meaningful opportunities. Palvi Sharma, BHD Coordinator Reasi, focused on student welfare, foundational training and holistic personal growth, encouraging students to strengthen both their professional and personal capabilities.

Saima Paul BHD lead Reasi, spoke about the importance of the campaign and motivated the students to take advantage of the various opportunities and support mechanisms available for aspiring entrepreneurs.

Vikram Rana from the Employment Department emphasised the importance of precision, effective communication and organisational skills in administrative as well as corporate settings. A young Entrepreneur of Reasi.

Tracing the Forgotten Roots

■ Reyaz Badhana

Kolkata August 9, 2026 Driven by the desire to acquaint their metropolitan-city-born offspring with their roots, Goenka community from India and abroad travel back to their ancestral hometown in Fatehpur Shekhawati in Rajasthan every year to reconnect with their heritage, introduce younger generations to family history, and experience local culture firsthand.

The Goenkas, India's wealthy elite from the globe organise "Goenka Sangam" every year on Bhadrapada Amavasya at an ancient Temple Shree Beera Barjee Mandir at Fatehpur Shekhawati in Sikar District in Rajasthan, in memory of their Kuldevi "Beera & Barjee Dadi ji" in which around 600 members of India's super rich Goenkas families pray at Shree Beera Barjee Mandir at Fatehpur Shekhawati for the peace of their ancestors' souls and those of their loved ones.

They perform Puja at their holy temple for their forefathers and seek divine blessings for the younger generations.

Shekhawati cultural traditions are passed to younger generations through oral storytelling, community festivals, and temple gatherings during the five-day festival, which will be celebrated from September 7 to September 11, 2026, this year under the aegis of Shri Shakti Goenka Trust, Kolkata, said Sh Sushik Kumar Goenka, Managing Trustee of the Trust, who is also a promoter Director of the Emami Group of Companies.

Goenka Recognition Award function will be organised on 10th September 2026 to honour the individuals belonging to Goenka community who have performed exceptional and distinguished service in the field of trade, social service, sports, Arts, Science, education, literature and health said Sh Arun Kumar Goenka, Chairman, Goenka Recognition Award Committee 2026. The committee has invited online nominations to select individuals, which may be submitted by any persons who are qualified to nominate. A nomination for yourself will also be taken into consideration. The nominations are in process, and the names of the winners will be



announced on 1st September 2026, said Sh Arun Kumar Goenka, Chairman, Goenka Recognition Award Committee 2026.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Sh Bhajan Lal Sharma will be the chief guest in the award function, while Rajasthan Urban Development and Housing Minister Shri Jhabar Singh Kharrar will preside over the function. Sh Harsh GOENKA chairman of RPG Group, Sanjiv Goenka

Chairman of RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group, Viveck Goenka -- Chairman, Managing Director and Editorial Director of the Indian Express Group, BK GOENKA chairman of Welspun World Subhash chandra Chairman Zee TV, RS Goenka Joint Chairman Emami Group, Anjani Kumar GOENKA Founder GD Goenka School Girdhari Lal Goenka Chairman Golden Goenka Group of Companies, Sh Akash Goenka Director Goldy

Spices are some of the illustrious members of the Goenka Community. Sadhvi Shraddha Gopal Saraswati (also known as Maahi Didi), a well-known spiritual storyteller (katha vachak) and founder of the Data Devi Foundation, will deliver sermons on spiritual awakening, Vedic wisdom, morality, and the practical art of living based on holy texts like the Bhagavad Gita, Ramayana, Upanishads, and Bhagavatam for the first three days from 6th to 8th September 2026. All local population is invited for the sermons and prasad so that maximum people benefit. A motivational session will be conducted by Mumbai-based motivational speaker Krishna Goenka on 8th and 9th September 2026 to inspire participants, boost morale, foster a positive mindset, and encourage personal or professional growth to provide practical tools to help individuals overcome challenges and achieve their goal Mrs Krishna Vijayvargiya, a local folk singer, will perform Jagran on 10th September, while Yog Guru Manoj Sharma will deliver a lecture on yoga philosophy, asanas and meditations during the event

HT EDITORIAL

Responsible Action Is the Best Defence Against a Growing Flu Threat

The reported rise in influenza cases in Kashmir should serve as a timely reminder that public health emergencies do not always begin with dramatic headlines. Sometimes, they begin with something as ordinary as a child going to school with fever, cough, sore throat or other flu-like symptoms. The warning issued by pulmonologist Dr Naveed that children showing symptoms of influenza should not be sent to school therefore deserves serious attention from parents, schools and the administration alike. It is a simple precaution, but one capable of preventing a much wider chain of transmission.

There is often a tendency to treat seasonal flu as a minor illness that requires little more than routine medication and a return to normal life. Such an attitude can be dangerously casual. While many healthy individuals recover without serious complications, influenza can pose a greater risk to infants, elderly people, pregnant women and those with underlying health vulnerabilities. A child who carries an infection into a classroom may unknowingly expose teachers, classmates and, eventually, several families.

Schools are particularly sensitive environments for the spread of respiratory infections. Children sit together for hours, share classrooms and activities and naturally interact closely with one another. Expecting a symptomatic child to attend school simply to avoid missing classes is therefore misplaced. A few days of absence are far better than allowing an infection to move through an entire classroom.

Parents have a crucial role to play. The first responsibility should be to observe a child's health before sending him or her to school. If a child develops significant flu-like symptoms, keeping the child at home until recovery is a responsible decision, not an unnecessary precaution. Parents should also avoid sending children back to school merely because their fever has temporarily subsided. Medical advice should be sought whenever symptoms are severe, persistent or concerning.

Schools, too, cannot remain passive observers. They should strengthen basic infection-control practices, encourage hand hygiene, ensure adequate ventilation and avoid creating an environment where children feel compelled to attend classes despite being unwell. School authorities should also maintain clear communication with parents regarding symptoms and responsible attendance.

The wider community must equally recognise that prevention begins with simple habits. Wearing masks in crowded or poorly ventilated places, washing hands regularly, avoiding close contact when ill and keeping indoor spaces properly ventilated are inexpensive measures that can make a meaningful difference. Annual influenza vaccination should also be considered, particularly for people belonging to high-risk groups, in consultation with healthcare professionals.

At the same time, the public must resist the temptation to turn an increase in flu cases into a cause for unnecessary alarm. Dr Naveed's message that there is "no need to panic" is equally important. Public health depends on a balance between vigilance and calm. Fear can create confusion, while complacency can accelerate transmission. What is needed is informed caution.

The administration and health authorities should also ensure that accurate information reaches the public. Whenever seasonal infections rise, misinformation and exaggerated claims can spread almost as quickly as the disease itself. Clear guidance on symptoms, preventive measures, vaccination and when medical attention is necessary should be communicated through schools, healthcare institutions and public information channels.

Ultimately, controlling the spread of influenza cannot be left to doctors alone. It requires cooperation from parents, schools, students, employers and the community. Sending a sick child to school is not an act of commitment to education; it is an avoidable public-health risk. Education can wait for a few days. An infection, once transmitted, may not.

The principle should therefore be simple and uncompromising: if a child is sick, keep the child home, seek appropriate medical advice and allow recovery before returning to school. A little caution today can prevent a much bigger health problem tomorrow



Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

A school is not merely a collection of classrooms, buildings, and walls. It is a sensitive institution where the future of society is shaped. It is a place where children develop intellectually, emotionally, socially, and morally. Therefore, maintaining safety, discipline, and a peaceful educational environment is not merely an administrative duty, but an essential element of meaningful and quality education.

In this context, Deputy Commissioner Rahul Narwal's directives to government schools in Hansi district, prohibiting anyone entering without permission or unauthorized access to the premises, are noteworthy. These directives emphasize a point that is often forgotten: schools should be places of learning, not places prone to unnecessary disturbance, disruption, and security problems.

Schools are community-based institutions. In rural and semi-urban areas, a government school can be an important public institution, especially as a community center. Public importance does not necessarily mean public access. In a broad sense, the community includes the school, but the school must be committed to the education and well-being of its students every day. Therefore, no one should be allowed to enter classrooms, disrupt teachers, or interfere with educational activities simply because the school is a public building.

Unauthorized intrusion can impact the learning process in many ways. Entering a classroom and engaging in unnecessary conversations with teachers, contacting students without permission, or bringing personal issues or problems into the school environment can disrupt learning. Students become distracted, teachers are distracted, and discipline is compromised. If this happens during exams, school events, and other important academic activities, the consequences can be even more serious.

This isn't just a discipline issue. Today, the issue of school security is multifaceted. Improved access control involves protecting children, staff, protecting important files and digital

hardware, and preventing untoward incidents. Unauthorized entry into school premises, whether by adults or children, can cause serious problems. Therefore, maintaining visitor records, understanding their intent, and obtaining appropriate permissions are crucial components of institutional security.



What's interesting about the Hansi administration's directives is that they aren't intended to isolate schools from society. Instead, they emphasize the need for proper permission and a legitimate purpose for entry. Parents, education officials, inspection teams, and other authorized individuals must have good reasons for visiting schools. Parents and schools should communicate constructively with each other to support children's progress. However, this communication should occur through a system that doesn't disrupt classroom teaching.

Appointments for parents can be scheduled, and schools can have a visitor register and a clear policy regarding meeting times with school officials or teachers.

This will help ensure that any genuine concerns are addressed confidentially and respectfully, and that the academic routine is not disrupted. The aim is not to isolate the school from the community, but to establish a disciplined and accountable

system for school/community interaction.

Another problem is that influential people sometimes exert pressure on schools. The functioning of any educational institution should not be affected by political, social, or personal influence. Sometimes, people are brought into schools to resolve personal matters, intimidate teachers, or interfere in administrative matters. These activities not only undermine discipline but also undermine the dignity and independence of educational institutions.

Effective teaching is possible only when there is no intimidation or unnecessary pressure from outside the school. School should be a place where conflict or displays of influence are not permitted. Therefore, it is crucial for teachers and school administrators to protect themselves from such interference to ensure the quality and integrity of education.

But strict orders are not the solution to this problem. Schools must have clear and practical mechanisms to implement these guidelines. It is important for all institutions to maintain a visitor register and record the reason for their visit. Visitors may only be received by teachers or students with the knowledge of the relevant official, and entry should be monitored, especially when children are in school. In larger schools, if possible, security personnel, designated entrances and entry points, and appropriate surveillance systems may also be considered.

However, it's also important not to make schools overly restrictive and/or overly intimidating. Schools are institutions of openness, trust, and learning.

A "one-size-fits-all" approach can create unnecessary hardship for parents and leave the community feeling alienated from the school. The real challenge lies in striking a balance between accessibility and safety.

Principals and headmasters are at the center of this process. They are not only administrative officials who carry out government directives, but also custodians of the educational environment. All teachers, non-teaching staff, students, and parents should know that the safety and sanctity of the school campus is everyone's responsibility.

— Dr. Priyanka Saurabh
(Dr. Priyanka Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

There is nothing more important than health.



SURINDERPAL SINGH

The way the people live in cities is changing rapidly. Population growth, migration, expanding economies, increasing traffic and rising demand for better public services are putting enormous pressure on traditional urban settlements. Planned colonies were once considered the ideal answer to these challenges because they introduced organized roads, residential areas, markets, parks, schools and other basic facilities. However, the challenges of the modern world are far more complex.

Today, the concept of the smart city has emerged as a possible next step in urban development. A smart city is not simply a city filled with computers, cameras and digital devices. It is a city that uses technology, scientific planning, efficient infrastructure and responsible governance to make urban life safer, cleaner, more convenient and sustainable. This raises an important question: Are smart cities really the future of planned colonies, or are we simply giving old urban planning ideas a technological makeover?

Traditional planned colonies were designed mainly around physical infrastructure. Roads were laid out systematically, residential plots were divided according to a plan, parks and schools were provided and commercial areas were placed at suitable locations.

This approach was much better than uncontrolled development. However, many planned colonies eventually developed problems such as traffic congestion, inadequate parking, overflowing waste, water shortages, poor drainage

and insufficient green spaces. The original plan often remained unchanged while the population and lifestyle of residents changed dramatically.

Smart colony can overcome some of these limitations by continuously monitoring and managing its infrastructure. Sensors, digital systems and data analysis can help authorities understand how water, electricity, traffic and waste-management systems are being used. Thus, the future may not be about abandoning planned colonies. Instead, it may be about transforming planned colonies into intelligent and responsive communities.

What Makes a City or Colony Smart?
A smart city should have several interconnected features.

SMART TRANSPORTATION
Traffic congestion is one of the biggest problems in growing cities. Smart traffic signals, real-time traffic information, intelligent parking systems and better public transport can reduce unnecessary delays. Instead of simply constructing more roads, authorities can use data to understand where congestion occurs and why. Public transport can also be improved so that people do not have to depend entirely on private vehicles.

INTELLIGENT WASTE MANAGEMENT
Waste management is another major challenge. In many colonies, garbage collection follows a fixed schedule regardless of whether bins are empty or overflowing. Smart waste systems can use sensors to indicate when bins need collection. Collection routes can then be adjusted according to actual requirements. This can save fuel, time and manpower while improving cleanliness. However, technology alone cannot solve the waste problem. Waste segregation at source, recycling and responsible behaviour by citizens remain essential.

SMART WATER MANAGEMENT
Water is becoming one of the most valuable urban resources. Smart water meters, leak-

detection systems and digital monitoring can help identify wastage and reduce unnecessary consumption. A truly smart colony should also promote rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and the reuse of treated wastewater wherever appropriate. The objective should not merely be to supply more water but to use every drop intelligently.

SMART ENERGY SYSTEMS
Modern colonies consume enormous amounts of electricity. Smart grids, energy-efficient buildings, LED lighting, rooftop solar systems and automated energy monitoring can reduce consumption. Streetlights, for example, need not operate at maximum intensity throughout the night. Intelligent systems can adjust lighting according to movement and environmental conditions while maintaining public safety.

GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE SPACES
A city cannot become smart merely by installing digital equipment. If it has polluted air, disappearing trees, inadequate parks and excessive concrete, it cannot truly be called a smart city. Green belts, urban forests, parks, cycling tracks and pedestrian-friendly spaces are essential components of intelligent urban planning. The smartest city is not necessarily the one with the greatest number of gadgets. It is the one that provides a healthy balance between technology, nature and human life.

One of the most important advantages of smart urban development is the possibility of better governance. Digital platforms can allow citizens to report problems such as broken streetlights, overflowing drains, damaged roads or water leakage. Authorities can monitor complaints and track whether they have been resolved.

Digital payment systems and online public services can reduce unnecessary paperwork and save citizens' time. Data can also help administrators make decisions based on actual conditions rather

than assumptions.

But technology must serve people. A smart system that is complicated, inaccessible or poorly maintained is not truly smart.

Smart infrastructure can be expensive. Sensors, communication networks, intelligent traffic systems, surveillance infrastructure and digital platforms require significant investment. Poorly planned projects may also become expensive burdens on local governments. Therefore, cities should not attempt to make everything smart overnight. Development should be phased, practical and need-based. A colony may begin with simple improvements such as LED streetlights, rainwater harvesting, waste segregation, solar energy, digital grievance systems and efficient public transport. More sophisticated systems can be introduced later. Smartness should be measured by results, not by the number of technologies installed.

Another important concern is inequality. Not every citizen has the same access to smartphones, high-speed internet or digital services. Elderly people, economically weaker sections and people with limited digital literacy may struggle with technology-based systems. Therefore, smart cities must remain inclusive. Digital services should be supported by physical help centres and other accessible alternatives. A city cannot call itself smart if technology makes life easier for some people while making essential services more difficult for others.

Smart cities depend heavily on data. Cameras, sensors, digital payments and connected devices can generate enormous amounts of information. This creates an important question: Who owns this data, and how is it protected?

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR...

An Honour Well Deserved : Dr Syed Jehangir Bukhari's Contribution to Journalism Recognised

Dear Editor,

I am delighted to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Mr Jehangir Bukhari, Editor-in-Chief of Daily Headlines Today, on being conferred with an Honorary Doctorate in recognition of his long-standing contributions to journalism, media, and social service at a prestigious ceremony held in New Delhi.

The honour, conferred by the World Cultural and Educational Organisation, is a fitting recognition of Mr Bukhari's sustained association with journalism and his commitment to highlighting issues of public importance, social concern and community welfare. His journey in the media field has been marked by dedication, perseverance and a consistent endeavour to place matters concerning society before the public.

As Editor-in-Chief of Daily Headlines Today, Mr Bukhari has played an important role in shaping the newspaper's editorial vision and strengthening its engagement with issues affecting the common people. His contribution reflects the broader responsibility of journalism—to inform, create awareness, raise legitimate public concerns and contribute constructively to society.

The New Delhi ceremony also witnessed the recognition of several distinguished personalities from different fields, including noted cinematographer Vinu Dara Singh, Tihar Jail Superintendent Ajay Bhatia, Shot Put Gold Medallist Dr Richa Sood, and Yogesh Rana, who were honoured for their respective achievements and contributions.

For Mr Bukhari, the Honorary Doctorate is not merely a personal achievement but a significant milestone in a professional journey devoted to journalism, public awareness and social service. Such recognition also serves as encouragement for young journalists and aspiring media professionals to pursue their profession with honesty, responsibility, courage and dedication.

On behalf of readers, well-wishers and members of the media fraternity, I once again convey my warmest congratulations to Jehangir Bukhari Sahab on this prestigious recognition. May this honour inspire him to continue his valuable work with the same commitment and professionalism and may his journey ahead bring many more achievements and distinctions.



With warm regards,
Wani Arfat
(Regular Columnist)

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Different People, Different Stories



Sahil Manzoor

Education never simply means getting employment, handsome salaries, and all that comes with a job. Education simply means gaining control over everything within ourselves our anger, arrogance, dishonesty, jealousy, and other weaknesses. True education develops our character and teaches us how to deal with life.

How beautiful it is whenever I see educated people engaging in different livelihood activities. We know that in our country, almost everyone wants a government job. Yet, those who get into government service often start complaining: "What is so special about a government job?" I have a friend whose earnings are many times higher than mine. I also have a neighbour who earns in a few days what some people earn in an entire month.

My perspective regarding employment is quite clear. People who have zeal, enthusiasm, and a thirst to do something in any field rarely complain about what they have achieved or what they have lost. Different people have different stories when it comes to their choices of employment.

Some people may not be highly qualified, yet they have positive smiles on their faces and live their lives happily. On the other hand, some highly qualified people, such as engineers, teachers, doctors, and lecturers, complain that their earnings are insufficient, that they cannot afford a luxurious lifestyle, or that they cannot live like princes.

How Can We Be Happy?

For me, earnings are not everything. I believe in satisfaction. The person who is satisfied with his or her qualifications, profession, and earnings is a successful person. No one can defeat such a person's dreams or easily make them unhappy.

Actually, it is our own mindset that often creates problems. We keep looking at what others are doing without knowing their background. Different people have different strengths and different financial circumstances, so it is not possible for everyone to sail in the same boat.

Some people can make something great from very small things, while others have bigger opportunities because of their family background, financial status,

education, or other advantages. Yet, they sometimes fail to make good use of those opportunities. This raises an important question: why do some people have great opportunities but fail to use them to achieve their life goals?

Today, this thought came into my mind, and I decided to write about it.

Literally, I have been enjoying delicious masala (a mixture of gram) and lawasa tandoori chapatti for the last couple of decades, along with chutneys of different varieties, such as coriander, chilli powder, green chilli, curd, and pieces of salad.



One of the sellers from Parneva, Khansahib, Budgam, has been selling these items for a long time. I like his behaviour and the way he presents his masala and lawasa with delicious chutney. He keeps the chutney in copper utensils, which adds to the traditional charm. What attracts me most is his behaviour. Even when members of the community call him "Sir," he remains humble and gentle.

Today, I see similar food items being sold outside colleges, schools, sports stadiums, and other busy places. Such efforts by our educated youth to earn a livelihood should be appreciated. The government should support them by providing financial assistance and suitable permanent spaces so that they can earn with dignity and with proper governmental support.

There are great minds in the government, and I hope such initiatives for employment and self-reliance among our youth will be appreciated and supported.

How Can We Generate Employment with Little Financial Support?

We can start a business from a footpath and

gradually build it into a successful enterprise within a few years through honesty, hard work, and enthusiasm.

Anyone can become what he or she wants to become, but proper guidance and a great vision are necessary. Willingness plays a vital role and can uplift a person from any situation. There is no need to start a business with millions. When you start small, you remain calm because you have less fear of bankruptcy and fewer financial pressures.

I always try to learn from zero and then move higher. The higher you go, the calmer and wiser you should become.

Education

We should never claim that we are educated and then ask why we are unemployed.

or your kind consideration, an educated person should never give up simply because employment opportunities are limited. How is it possible that you spend 20 or 30 years learning how to tackle life's issues and deal with problems, but when it comes to employment, you give up?

Never blindly follow what others say. Come out of your comfort zone and try your best. Success does not come through discussions and lame excuses. It comes through hard work, patience, willingness, and perseverance.

Different people have different stories, different opportunities, and different journeys. What matters most is not how much we earn, but how meaningfully and honestly we live our lives.

Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

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Austerity in Marriage



Rayees Ahmad Kumar

Marriages are strongly recommended in Islam. The Prophet (PBUH) says, "Nikah is my Sunnah; whoever denies it is not among us, and we have nothing to do with him." It is through marriages that a clan is preserved and its roots give rise to new branches. When nikah becomes expensive, zina becomes cheap. Therefore, we must take every possible step to make weddings as simple and affordable as possible. After a child is born, parents aspire to provide him or her with a good education so that, in the years ahead, he or she does not become a financial liability upon them. Once the child has received a good education and secured a good job, the parents then wish to find a suitable life partner for their loved one. But once the nuptial knot is tied, they often forget the most important aspect of the wedding ceremony—the manner in which a wedding should be celebrated and the teachings of our beloved Prophet (PBUH) regarding simplicity and austerity in marriages. Due to extravagance in marriages, thousands of girls belonging to low-income families have crossed the marriageable age. Extravagance in marriages among economically well-off families is not only one of the biggest evils in our society, but it also proves to be a disaster for those families and parents who cannot afford luxurious items for their daughters. With each passing day, new customs and traditions are emerging in Kashmir, which is known as the Pir Vaer, where we ought to live with simplicity and celebrate our weddings with austerity. Unnecessary customs such as Thaph Travin—the first step before the wedding, in which a few people from the groom's side visit the bride-to-be's home, where they eat, drink, and exchange money and gifts, placing a heavy financial burden on both parties—have added to the expenses. Similarly, Pialas Trawun, a decades-old custom in which a few people from the groom's side used to visit the girl's home with an amount of Rs 1,100, signifying the agreement between the two families, has also become unnecessarily expensive with the introduction of new and costly practices. Pachhi, in which a large number of men and women from both



of girls above the age of 35 to 40 are waiting for marriage. Instead of spending extravagantly on the weddings of their own children, if well-off families come forward to help children from poor backgrounds, especially daughters, get married, it would not only help uproot one of the biggest evils in our society but would also bring great relief to such families. Individuals, social groups, NGOs and religious organisations must come forward and encourage people to give up extravagance in weddings and instead adopt simplicity while tying the nuptial knots of their beloved children. This, besides making our society healthier, will also develop a tradition of saving our money, energy and resources for more meaningful purposes, rather than spending our entire earnings on ceremonies and sinking ourselves into huge debts.

Rayees Ahmad Kumar

Writer is a columnist based in Qazigund Kashmir. He can be reached at rayeeskumar31@gmail.com>

Muntazir Momin Wani

A Voice of Knowledge, Literature and Social Change



Wani Arfat

History tells us that there are always some people in every generation who make society better through their knowledge, good ideas, honesty and hard work. They do not think only about themselves. They also care about the problems of their community and try to solve them. With their knowledge and writing they create awareness, inspire good values and bring positive change. Such people are remembered for their honest work and they become an important part of society.

Jammu and Kashmir is a beautiful land and has always been the land of many talented and thoughtful people. They have made valuable contributions to the fields of literature, journalism, education, and social work. One of these respectable personalities is Muntazir Momin Wani. His ability to think in a balanced way, his responsible writing, his profound knowledge and his continual service to society have made him respected as an author who not only highlights the issues but also makes people think positively towards improving society.

Muntazir Momin Wani hails from Behrampora Chuker Kunzer, a village in the Tangmarg area of Baramulla district in Jammu and Kashmir. He is currently working in Qatar but his heart is still connected with his homeland. Even while living abroad he continues to write on the social, educational, cultural and public issues of Jammu and Kashmir. His strong connection with his people demonstrates that real service is not based on a person's place of residence. It relies on sincerity, responsibility and love to one's society.

One of the best qualities of Muntazir Momin Wani is that he does not take problems in a simple or careless way. He looks at every issue in detail and tries to understand what causes it, what its effects are and what solutions are possible. His articles are written with emotion while remaining based on facts and logic. His main themes are education, youth, social values and public welfare. He believes that the true purpose of writing is not only to disseminate ideas but also to educate, inspire positive thinking, and contribute to the betterment of society. His educational history also shows his love of

learning and knowledge. He completed postgraduate degrees in Clinical Psychology, English and Kashmiri language. He received his early education from Government Middle School Behram Pora. Later he studied in Higher Secondary School Hardushoora, Degree College Bemina and finally completed his higher education at the University of Kashmir. He has a deep interest in different subjects and is a regular reader, which gives him a broad vision and a research-based approach. His writing and public speaking are clear evidence of these qualities.

Muntazir Momin Wani is a writer, researcher, creative author, and columnist. His books such as "Azk Baman Pagahuk Gulab" and "Fikr-e-Iqbal" reflect his keen interest in literature, research and purposeful writing. His work reflects social consciousness, ethical values, and intellectual depth. He not only highlights problems but he also promotes positive thinking, healthy discussion and responsible behaviour. These are the features of a good and responsible writer.

His articles have appeared in Sangarmal, Srinagar Jung, Hafta Roznama Ummat, Gawah Express, Daily Udaan, Educational Quill, Kashmir Uzma and many other newspapers and magazines. His writings not only depict problems, but explain their causes, their impact on society and possible solutions. This is one of the main reasons people from different backgrounds enjoy and value his work.

Muntazir Momin Wani has always given education a prime position in his writings. He believes that education is the best foundation for a successful society. He has often spoken against the mounting educational problems in Jammu and Kashmir.

He advises the young people to spend less time on unnecessary cricket and more time on their studies and future. He also feels that Jammu and Kashmir does not need long summer vacations as the weather here is not as hot as in many other states of India or other countries. He believes that our students are competing with students who continue their education even during the summer season. Therefore, teachers have to also perform their duties with honesty, dedication and responsibility so that a well-educated, responsible and confident generation can be prepared for the future.

Education is one of the most important topics in his writings. He strongly believes that no society can make real progress without quality education, responsible youth and strong moral values. That's



Kashmir Treasure



Kashmir Treasure



why he regularly writes on improving the education system, guiding students, promoting the habit of reading, and building a healthy learning environment. He says education is about more than getting a degree. It is about creating responsible, honest, skillful and confident human beings who can serve society.

Muntazir Momin Wani also uses social media in a positive and responsible way. He frequently shares his thoughts on Facebook and other online media about education, youth, public issues, social values and moral responsibilities. His style is measured, respectful and balanced. When he does not agree with someone he is always polite and respectful. His objective is to spread information, to create awareness, to bring responsibility and to inspire positive thinking in people.

Many people today use social media mainly to become famous or make money. But Muntazir Momin Wani has always given more importance to public awareness, education and social improvement. He doesn't use his online platforms for self-promotion but uses them to discuss issues useful for society.

With this responsible attitude he has become a respected social writer for the good of the people.

He believes criticism should be a way of helping society to improve, not hurting individuals. His writings may disagree, but his language is always polite, respectful and balanced. He does not target individuals. Instead, he focuses on social problems, public behaviour, and issues that need attention. His main goal is to promote positive change by means of healthy dialogue and constructive ideas.

Muntazir Momin Wani always teaches young people to read books, do research, continue higher education, think positively and live a responsible life. He believes that the future of every nation depends on the knowledge, character and awareness of its youth. He advises the young people to value their time, respect moral values, use social media wisely and use their talents to serve the society. His thoughts offer hope, confidence and a positive direction to the younger generation.

His involvement in several public programmes including his video message on World Radio Day

has shown that he believes media is not just a source of information but also a powerful tool for spreading knowledge, culture, awareness and positive values. He advocates the responsible use of modern media to build society and inspire people to fulfill their social responsibilities.

He is a personality of great knowledge, simplicity, honesty, kindness, social responsibility and public service. He has the ability to explain even difficult topics in a simple and easy way that everyone can understand. This quality makes his writings useful to literary readers as well as to ordinary people of all sections of society.

In today's world where personal gain, quick fame and popularity are considered the signs of success, the work of Muntazir Momin Wani becomes all the more valuable. He believes writing is a responsibility and should be used to spread truth, honesty, awareness and public understanding. His articles reflect his concern for society, guidance to the young people and desire to serve the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

By his knowledge, regular study, responsible writing and deep concern for public issues, Muntazir Momin Wani has earned a respected place in the literary, journalistic and social life of Jammu and Kashmir. His writings don't just provide information. They guide the reader to think deeply and play a positive role in society. These qualities make him a serious writer and a reflective intellectual.

In conclusion, Muntazir Momin Wani is one of those personalities who consider knowledge, literature, journalism, and social service as responsibilities rather than professions. Through his books, columns, articles and digital platforms, he has consistently advocated awareness, research, honesty and positive thinking. His life is a testimony to the fact that even one individual can make a difference to society when knowledge is coupled with sincerity, writing with honesty and ideas with a spirit of public service. We pray that he goes on serving Jammu and Kashmir with such dedication, sincerity and commitment and his writings continue to be a source of guidance, hope and inspiration for generations to come.

(Mohammad Arfat Wani is a writer, social activist, and nursing student from Kuchmulla, Tral. He writes on social issues, culture, and public concerns with the aim of raising awareness and inspiring positive change.)

DC directs for civic improvements ahead of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi, Raksha Bandhan

Conducts market checking in Doda Township

■ HT News Network

DODA, AUGUST 25: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda Krishan Lal, today conducted a market inspection of Doda town to assess civic amenities, road conditions, cleanliness and overall arrangements made for the convenience of the general public, particularly in view of the upcoming Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi and Raksha Bandhan festivities.

The DC was accompanied by ADC Anil Kumar, ASP Mohammad Aslam, Tehsildar and officers and officials from PWD R&B, PHE, PDD, Municipal Council and other concerned departments.

The DC directed PWD R&B



authorities to undertake immediate repairs of damaged roads and ensure

proper maintenance of road infrastructure at all identified

locations.

The Municipal Council was directed to ensure immediate removal of dirt and garbage from all areas of the town and maintain cleanliness on a regular basis. He further directed the Municipal Council to keep footpaths clear of encroachments and obstructions, emphasizing that footpaths are meant exclusively for pedestrians.

The DC also directed that damaged footpaths and drains be repaired on priority to ensure safe and convenient movement of pedestrians and improve the overall civic infrastructure of the town.

He instructed shopkeepers and business establishments not to place

goods, barricades or any other obstructions on footpaths. The concerned agencies were directed to ensure that pedestrian pathways remain accessible to the public at all times, especially during the upcoming festive occasions.

The DC further directed the PHE authorities to immediately repair damaged and leaking water-supply pipes and ensure uninterrupted and adequate water supply to residents. He emphasized that all concerned departments must work in close coordination and undertake prompt corrective measures to improve cleanliness, road connectivity, drainage, water supply and pedestrian facilities across Doda town.

DC Udampur chairs DDMA meeting; Reviews restoration works in rain affected areas

■ HT News Network



UDHAMPUR, AUGUST 25: Deputy Commissioner Udampur Minga Sherpa, who is also the Chairman of the District Disaster Management Authority, today chaired a meeting to review the assessment of temporary and permanent damages caused by heavy rainfall.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh; Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh and other senior officers from concerned departments attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the DC conducted a detailed department-wise review of temporary and permanent restoration works, including road projects. He stressed the need for close coordination among all line departments to strengthen disaster mitigation measures and ensure a prompt, effective and coordinated response across the district.

DDC reviews progress of JJM Schemes in Doda District

■ HT News Network

DODA, AUGUST 25: District Development Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal (Chairman District Jal Jeevan Mission) today chaired a meeting to review the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) (District Water & Sanitation Mission) in the District. He assessed the progress of the ongoing initiatives aimed at strengthening rural drinking water supply and ensuring tap water connectivity to households across the district.

The meeting focused on reviewing the physical and financial progress of JJM schemes, along with the status of their implementation and completion.

Detailed discussions were held on the Har Ghar Jal (HGG) certification, particularly the gap between villages reported as Har Ghar Jal and those formally certified. The meeting also reviewed the status of Rural Piped Water Supply Scheme (RPWSS) ID creation and geo-tagging of water sources.

The status of water quality testing and monitoring was also reviewed, with emphasis on regular testing to ensure the supply of safe and potable drinking water to rural households.

The meeting further assessed the status of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) and discussed issues requiring timely resolution for effective implementation.

The concerned officers were directed to closely monitor the progress of JJM works, ensure timely completion of pending activities and maintain proper documentation and reporting. Emphasis was laid on strengthening inter-departmental coordination to achieve the objectives of the Jal Jeevan Mission and ensure sustainable and quality drinking water supply in rural areas of the district.

DC Poonch reviews performance of banks, Implementation of Govt schemes in DLRC meeting

■ HT News Network

POONCH, AUGUST 25: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today reviewed the performance of banks for the quarter ended June 2026 of FY 2026-27 here at a meeting of District Level Review Committee (DLRC) held in the conference hall of the DC office.

The meeting assessed the achievement of banks under the Annual Credit Plan (ACP) and the credit disbursement under the Government-sponsored schemes during the quarter.

At the outset, Lead District Manager (LDM) Sanjeev Rasotra informed the meeting that the banks operating in district Poonch achieved a total business of Rs. 7295.38 crore.

The deposits in district Poonch increased from Rs. 4197.38 crore as on 30 June 2025 to Rs. 4750.79 crore as on 30 June 2026, registering a YoY growth of 13.18%. Advances increased from Rs. 2249.53 crore as on 30 June 2025 to Rs. 2534.57 crore as on 30 June 2026, registering



a YoY growth of 12.67%. The CD Ratio of the district stood at 53.24% as on 30.06.2026.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed upon the banks and concerned departments to make concerted efforts towards improving the CD Ratio and Priority Sector Lending in the district. He emphasized the need to ensure that adequate credit reaches eligible beneficiaries and that Government-sponsored schemes translate into tangible economic opportunities, particularly for unemployed youth.

The DC stressed the effective implementation of schemes such as Mission YUVA, PMEGP, REGP, so that unemployed youth can achieve self-sufficiency through

various self-employment and livelihood programmes of the Central and UT Governments. He also directed the concerned sponsoring agencies and lending institutions to improve credit performance under the Priority Sector and ensure timely disposal of eligible cases.

The meeting also reviewed PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, with directions to increase lending and outreach under the scheme so that its objectives of promoting rooftop solar power generation and access to free electricity can be effectively achieved.

The Deputy Commissioner further emphasized the need for vigorous implementation of Social Security Schemes.

Swachhata Sankalp Campaign held in Bhandarwah ADC flags off Rally, Calls for collective responsibility towards cleanliness

■ HT News Network

BHANDARWAH, AUGUST 25: A "Swachhata Sankalp" campaign was organised today in Bhandarwah under the aegis of the Directorate of Urban Local Bodies, Jammu, with the objective of strengthening awareness about cleanliness, sanitation, responsible waste management and environmental protection among the community.

The programme was graced by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sunil Kumar Bhutyal, who flagged off the Swachhata Sankalp Rally in the presence of Executive Officer (EO) Ravi Saini, Principal, Boys Higher Secondary School Dr. Kailash Kumar, besides other officials, students and members of the local community.

The campaign witnessed enthusiastic participation in a series of activities, including a cleanliness drive,



awareness programme, cleanliness pledge and rally. Students, officials and locals actively participated in the rally and spread the message of cleanliness, hygiene and responsible waste disposal across the town.

The dignitaries emphasised that cleanliness must be adopted as a continuous community responsibility rather than being confined to a one-day campaign. They stressed the need for proper waste disposal, protection of public

spaces, environmental conservation and active participation of citizens in maintaining a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

The organisers called upon citizens, particularly students and youth, to become ambassadors of cleanliness and encourage their families and communities to adopt good sanitation practices and contribute towards building a cleaner and greener Bhandarwah.

DC Ramban chairs DLRC, DCC Meeting; Stresses meeting priority sector targets

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, AUGUST 25: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired the District Level Review Committee (DLRC), District Level Consultative Committee and District Level RSETI Advisory Committee (DLRAC) meeting to assess the performance of banks and review the implementation of the financial inclusion and social security schemes in the district, with a special focus on the Priority Sector.

The meeting was attended by CPO Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather; GMDC Ravinder Anand; ACD Sheraz Ahmed; Lead District Officer RBI Sorabh Gupta; LDM Davinder Singh; Director RSETI S. Harvinder



Singh; Cluster Head J&K Bank Nirdesh Sharma; AGM NABARD Nikhil Sharma and senior officers of District Administration and Bankers.

The meeting was informed that the district's Credit-Deposit (CD) ratio has increased by 3.68%, reaching 71.68% as on June 30, 2026, compared to the previous fiscal year ended on March 31, 2026. An amount of 92.79 crore has been spent under the

Priority Sector, achieving 13.20% of the 702.83 crore Annual Credit Plan (ACP) 2026-27 targets. The Non-Priority Sector saw a credit outlay of 117.61 crore.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Bankers to achieve the targets under priority sector especially Education, Housing and Social Infrastructure. He directed bankers to work in close coordination with all line

departments for better implementation of schemes and service delivery. The DC instructed banks to organize more awareness camps in uncovered areas to sensitize the public about various social; security, financial inclusion and youth and job oriented schemes.

Calling for swift processing of loan cases under PM VISHWAKARMA and KCC, the DC stressed on timely benefits to local youth. He also directed Departments and Bankers to intensify their efforts to achieve the targets under PMEGP and other schemes providing loans to the youth under Mission YUVA. He also directed the officers to take lead in implementation of PMMY, PMSBY, PMJJBY and APY schemes in the district.

Annual Kousar Nag Yatra-2026 concludes with participation of over 800 devotees

■ HT HT NEWS DESK

REASI, AUGUST 25: The annual Kousar Nag Yatra-2026, one of the significant religious pilgrimages of District Reasi, culminated in a safe, orderly and well-coordinated manner, with more than 800 devotees from different parts of the district participating in the pilgrimage. The successful conduct of the Yatra was facilitated through close coordination among the District Administration, Police, security agencies, NDRF, MRT, Health Department and other concerned departments and agencies.



The Yatra commenced from Reasi on August 21, 2026, in the morning and proceeded through Arnas, Dharmari, Mahore, Sungri, Chassana and Sarsote, before reaching the sacred Kousar Nag Sarovar on August 23, 2026, around noon. Upon reaching the holy lake,

the devotees performed Pooja and other religious rituals as per tradition.

The pilgrimage involved an approximately three-day trek through the mountainous foot track from Sarsote to Kousar Nag Sarovar, passing through Sari, Gorwan and Kousar Gali.

In view of the challenging terrain and the remote nature of the route, the district administration put in place comprehensive arrangements to ensure the safety, security and convenience of the pilgrims throughout the Yatra.

A dedicated deployment comprising personnel from various security and response agencies was maintained along the Yatra route. A large number of personnel from the National Disaster Response Force and Mountain Rescue Team were deployed to facilitate emergency response and ensure the safety of pilgrims, particularly along the difficult trekking stretches.

Workshop on Aquifer Mapping, Groundwater Management held at Kathua

DC stresses sustainable conservation, scientific management of groundwater resources

■ HT News Network

KATHUA, AUGUST 25: The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), Ministry of Jal Shakti, North-West Himalayan Region Jammu, in collaboration with the District Administration Kathua, today organised a one-day workshop on "Aquifer Mapping and Ground Water Management Plan in Parts of Kathua District and Dissemination of CGWB Data".

The workshop was held in the Conference Hall, DC Office.

Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma, chaired the workshop, organised with the objective of disseminating findings of the National Aquifer Mapping and Management (NAQUIM) studies and enhancing awareness and capacity among stakeholders regarding sustainable groundwater management.

Regional Director, CGWB Jammu, Dr. M. Sivkumar,

welcomed the Chief Guest and other dignitaries. ADDC Surender Mohan Sharma, Chief Planning Officer, Ranjit Thakur, Head and Chief Scientist, Krishi Vigyan Kendra Kathua, Dr. Vishal Mahajan, Senior Scientist CGWB, Rakesh Rana, Hydrogeologist Mohammad Abid Khan, Hydrogeologist Kush Kumar, Geo-Physicist Gulshan Kumar and officers and officials from various departments attended the workshop.



In his inaugural address, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the critical importance of groundwater in meeting the requirements of drinking water supply, agriculture and other sectors. He stressed the need for adopting scientific conservation and management strategies to ensure long-term sustainability of groundwater resources. The technical sessions commenced with an overview of the mandate and

activities of CGWB and presentations on groundwater management and associated challenges in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Dr. Vishal Mahajan elaborated on groundwater use and agricultural sustainability, while Hydrogeologist Mohammad Abid Khan presented insights into the regional geology and groundwater conditions of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

Hydrogeologist Kush

Kumar delivered a detailed presentation on the findings of the NAQUIM study, groundwater availability, challenges and management plan for parts of Kathua district. The presentation also covered geochemical remediation strategies for treatment of acidic groundwater, including calcium hydroxide neutralisation and limestone dosing. A detailed technical and interactive discussion was also held on groundwater-related issues.



REVIVE THE UNIVERSAL MESSAGE OF PROPHET SAW: HAKEEM YASEEN GREETES UMMAH ON EID MILAD-UN-NABI

Seeks Adequate Facilities At Shrines, Masjids, Khanqahs Across J&K"

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, 25 Aug:* President of Jammu and Kashmir People's Democratic Front (PDF) and former Cabinet Minister Hakeem Mohammad Yaseen has called upon Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to put in place elaborate, foolproof and comprehensive arrangements for the sacred observance of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) throughout Jammu and Kashmir. In a statement, Hakeem Yaseen said that the Birth Anniversary of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAW) - Rehmat-ul-lil-Alameen is the most sacred and spiritually elevating occasion for the Muslim Ummah across the globe. The Holy Prophet (SAW) is the embodiment of mercy, love, justice, patience, tolerance and

guidance for all mankind. He urged the administration to ensure befitting and adequate arrangements at all the venues of Seerat Conferences, Milad Majalis and processions, particularly with focused attention at the revered shrine of Dargah Hazratbal, Srinagar, besides all major shrines, Khanqahs, Imam Bargahs and Masjids across the Jammu and K a s h m i r. He stressed on greater synergy and coordination among all line departments - J&K Police, Traffic Police, Health & Medical Education, Jal Shakti, KPDCL, SMC and all Urban Local Bodies, R&B, Fire & Emergency Services, Transport and District A d m i n i s t r a t i o n s. Hakeem Yaseen laid special emphasis on ensuring robust security, smooth and effective traffic management,



uninterrupted electricity and potable water supply, proper cleanliness and sanitation, adequate medicare, ambulance and emergency services, proper illumination, parking facilities, crowd management, and facilities for drinking water, washrooms and Wuzu. He said, "Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) is not just a festival, but a moment to revisit and revive the universal and timeless message of our Beloved Prophet

(SAW) who taught the world the lessons of mercy, justice, dignity, brotherhood and peaceful coexistence. The administration must ensure that every devotee is facilitated to observe this pious day with full devotion and reverence." He also demanded special and dedicated arrangements at Dargah Hazratbal and other major shrines masjid's where lakhs of devotees are expected to throng, and sought a well-planned and advance mechanism to regulate the rush and movement of devotees. Extending his heartiest greetings to the entire Muslim Ummah on the eve of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), Hakeem Yaseen prayed for peace, harmony, unity, prosperity and well-being of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the entire humanity.

DC Ramban reviews anti-narcotics measures at NCORD meeting

HT NEWS DESK

RAMBAN, AUGUST 25: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired a meeting of the District-Level Narco Coordination Committee (NCORD) to review anti-narcotics measures and strengthen efforts to curb drug abuse across the district under the Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan.

The meeting was attended by SSP Arun Gupta; Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak; Chief Medical Officer Dr. Kamal Zadur; DSWO, CEO, CHO, CAO, Medical Superintendent District Hospital, CEO MC, Drug Control Officer and officers from various enforcement and line departments. SDMs, ACD, Tehsildars and other concerned officers participated in the meeting virtually.

The Deputy Commissioner directed SDMs, Tehsildars and the Excise Department to take strict action against the illegal cultivation of poppy and cannabis in their respective



jurisdictions. He called for immediate action wherever such cultivation is detected.

Reviewing the implementation of directions issued in the previous NCORD meeting, the DC directed the Drug Inspector to intensify enforcement drives in coordination with the concerned Tehsildars and Police Department against the illegal sale and misuse of psychotropic drugs. He also called for inspection of private courier services to prevent their misuse for transportation of narcotic

substances. Reviewing the functioning of the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) at District Hospital Ramban, the DC directed the Medical Superintendent to ensure proper functioning of OPD and IPD facilities and provide quality medical care, counselling and follow-up support for effective rehabilitation and prevention of relapse.

The Deputy Commissioner said that after the successful conduct of the 100-Day Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Campaign in the district,

concerted efforts would continue to curb drug abuse and strengthen the anti-narcotics campaign.

He directed the District Social Welfare Officer, Chief Education Officer and other concerned officers to intensify awareness activities through IEC campaigns in government and private educational institutions. He also called for sensitisation of drivers and transport operators and directed the departments to involve members of Beopar Mandals, NGOs and other community organisations in the campaign. The Excise Department was asked to prepare a comprehensive awareness plan with special focus on youth.

The DC further directed SDMs and Tehsildars to complete the required parameters for declaring drug-free Panchayats and Blocks in the district. The Assistant Commissioner Development and Tehsildars were asked to activate Mahila Samitis and youth clubs and involve them actively in awareness and community mobilisation activities.

5-day Bakery Training for SHG Women concludes at Samba

HT NEWS DESK

SAMBA, AUGUST 25: The five-day Bakery Training Programme organised under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme for members of Women Self-Help Groups

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Abdul Hameed Chaku, S/o Late Ghulam Rasool Chaku, R/o Ishber, Nishat, Srinagar, hereby inform the general public that the General Power of Attorney executed in favour of Khaja Ghulam Ahmed Chaku, S/o Late Abdul Rehman Chaku, R/o Panditpora, Rainawari, Srinagar, on 5th September, 1979, has been cancelled/revoked by the undersigned.

Accordingly, the general public, banks, financial institutions, Government/ Semi-Government institutions, registration authorities and all other concerned are hereby cautioned and informed not to undertake or entertain any transaction whatsoever in respect of the person, property or affairs of the undersigned on the basis of the said Power of Attorney, as the same stands expressly cancelled/revoked by the undersigned. Any transaction, document, representation or action undertaken on the basis of the aforesaid Power of Attorney after its cancellation/ revocation shall be at the sole risk and responsibility of the person(s) relying upon the same, and the undersigned shall not be responsible or liable for any such transaction or action.

Abdul Hameed Chaku
S/o Late Ghulam Rasool Chaku
R/o Ishber, Nishat, Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connections registered on my Father's name GH MOHI UD DIN RATHER S/O...AB KAHLIK RATHER Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040003446 wants to be registered on my name IRSHAD AHMAD RATHER S/O GH MOHI UD DIN RATHER If anybody have any objection in this regard He/ She may file his/ her objection in the concerned PD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name...IRSHAD AHMAD RATHER
S/O...GH MOHI UD DIN RATHER
R/O...WARIPIRA BALLA
BLOCK...WAGOORA

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby published for the information of the general public that, Mudasiir Ahmad Lone, S/o Ab Gaffar Lone, R/o Chandrigam, Aishmuqam, am interested in obtaining a D-Class Contractor Card. Any person having any objection regarding the same may contact the concerned department within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained.

Name: Mudasiir Ahmad Lone
S/o: Ab Gaffar Lone
R/o: Chandrigam, Aishmuqam

associated with NRLM Samba concluded here today amid a grand valedictory function.

The training, organised by the District Social Welfare Department, aimed at equipping women with practical bakery skills and promoting entrepreneurship, self-reliance and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

District Development Commissioner Ayushi Sudan formally presented certificates to the women members of Self-Help Groups who successfully completed the five-day Bakery Training Programme, acknowledging their participation and successful acquisition of bakery skills during the training.

The programme was attended by Principal Food Craft Institute, Jammu Jyoti Bhatti; Lecturer/Resource Person, Food Craft Institute Gagan Deep; representatives from Women Self-Help Groups, NRLM, and officers of the district administration and Social Welfare Department.

Interacting with the trained women, Ayushi Sudan appreciated their enthusiasm, participation and efforts throughout the five-day training programme. She encouraged the participants to make effective use of the skills acquired during the training and explore opportunities for establishing their own bakery units and other income-generating activities.

The DDC emphasized that skill development,

PUBLIC NOTICE

My son's name has been wrongly written as INAAMI IQBAL S/O PEER MOHDI IQBAL on his Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No. :8541 0158 8399 while his correct name is PEERZADA INNAM S/O PEERZADA MOHAMMAD IQBAL R/O THINDIMA which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the office of concerned Adhaar authority of India within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name...PEERZADA MOHAMMAD IQBAL
F/O...PEERZADA INNAM
R/O...THINDIMA

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Name...HAUL AHMAD GANIE
F/O UZAIR AHMAD GANIE
R/O...BURZAWACHAN

entrepreneurship and collective enterprise can play a vital role in promoting women's economic independence and self-empowerment. She encouraged the SHG members to work collectively, prepare viable proposals and transform their newly acquired skills into sustainable livelihood opportunities. The district administration Samba assured the participating Self-Help Groups of all possible support and facilitation for establishing bakery units in the district and encouraged them to come forward with innovative and viable proposals. The initiative is aimed at strengthening women-led enterprises, generating employment opportunities and contributing to the local economy. Jyoti Bhatti appreciated the participation of the SHG women and highlighted the importance of practical, skill-based training in enabling women to become self-reliant and economically

empowered.

Gagan Deep, who imparted training during the programme, interacted with the participants and encouraged them to continuously hone their skills while maintaining quality and hygiene standards in bakery production and entrepreneurship.

District Social Welfare Officer Samba Shahid Iqbal Mughal highlighted the Department's efforts towards implementing women-centric initiatives under the BBBP Scheme and linking skill development with livelihood generation and economic empowerment of women.

The valedictory function concluded with appreciation for the trainees, the Food Craft Institute, Jammu, NRLM, Samba and all stakeholders for their contribution towards empowering women through skill development, entrepreneurship and livelihood-oriented initiatives.

Director FCS&CA Jammu holds meeting with Gold, Silver Traders

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, AUGUST 25: Director Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Jammu Rajesh Kumar Shavan today chaired a meeting to discuss measures for protecting consumers against misleading practices in the sale of gold, silver and artificial jewellery.

The meeting was attended by Joint Controller Legal Metrology, Deputy Director F&R, Deputy Director Supplies, Chief Accounts Officer Directorate of FCS&CA, various Swarnakar Associations from Jammu, Udhampur, Katra and Reasi besides Assistant Directors of Jammu Division along with their Area inspectors. During the meeting detailed discussion was held with regard to complaints regarding artificial/non-conforming articles being sold in the market by representing them as gold or silver, particularly in areas having high pilgrim and consumer footfall. Concerns regarding purity, hallmarking, weight, billing and misleading representation of making charges were also discussed. The Director emphasised the need for close coordination among BIS, Legal Metrology Department and the Department of Consumer Affairs to ensure fair and transparent trade practices while protecting the interests of both consumers and genuine traders. It was decided that joint awareness programmes and stakeholder meetings would be conducted at the district level. The concerned authorities were also directed to undertake regular/random inspections and take appropriate action against persons found indulging in unfair or misleading trade practices. The meeting also stressed upon generating greater awareness regarding BIS hallmarking and HUID verification, proper disclosure of weight, purity and other charges and strengthening the consumer grievance redressal mechanism.

The Director reiterated that coordinated efforts of all stakeholders are essential to restore consumer confidence, promote transparency and curb unfair trade practices in the jewellery trade. It was decided that the next awareness camp shall be held at Katra. The meeting also stressed upon generating greater awareness regarding BIS hallmarking and HUID verification, proper disclosure of weight, purity and other charges and strengthening the consumer grievance redressal mechanism. The Director reiterated that coordinated efforts of all stakeholders are essential to restore consumer confidence, promote transparency and curb unfair trade practices in the jewellery trade.

DIPK-5012/26

Send Date: Aug 25 2026

(Er. Mohammad Waseem)
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Anantnag

Beyond the Diagnosis: Lung Cancer, Psychological Challenges and the Journey Towards Hope



Dr. Uzma Naqash

Lung cancer is not only a physical illness; it is an experience that can profoundly affect a person's emotional, psychological, social and family life. While medical treatment focuses on controlling the disease, the emotional impact of diagnosis and treatment also deserves equal attention. Fear, anxiety, sadness, uncertainty, loneliness and concerns about the future can become significant challenges for patients and their families.

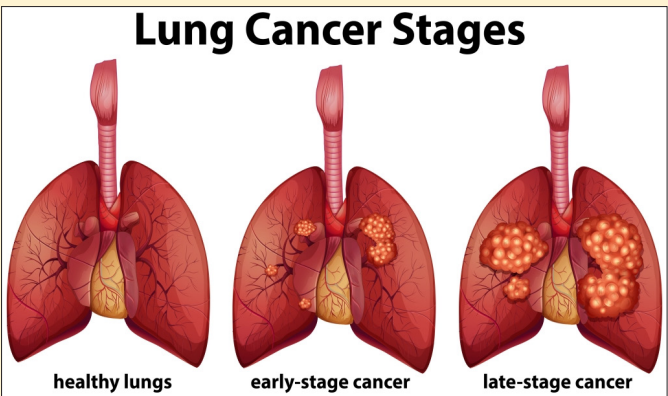
The Emotional Impact of Diagnosis

Receiving a lung cancer diagnosis can be overwhelming. Patients may ask themselves, "Why me?", "Will I recover?" or "What will happen to my family?" Fear of treatment, financial concerns, physical changes, breathlessness, fatigue and uncertainty about the future can increase psychological distress.

Some individuals may experience anxiety, depression, sleep difficulties, loss of confidence or difficulty accepting their diagnosis. These emotional reactions are not signs of weakness; they are understandable responses to an extremely challenging life experience.

The Hidden Challenges of Lung Cancer

The psychological journey does not end after diagnosis. Surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy and other treatments



may affect a person's energy, independence, body image and ability to perform everyday activities. Patients may also experience fear of recurrence, worries about death, changes in relationships and concerns about employment and financial responsibilities. Caregivers and family members can experience emotional exhaustion, helplessness and anxiety while trying to support their loved one.

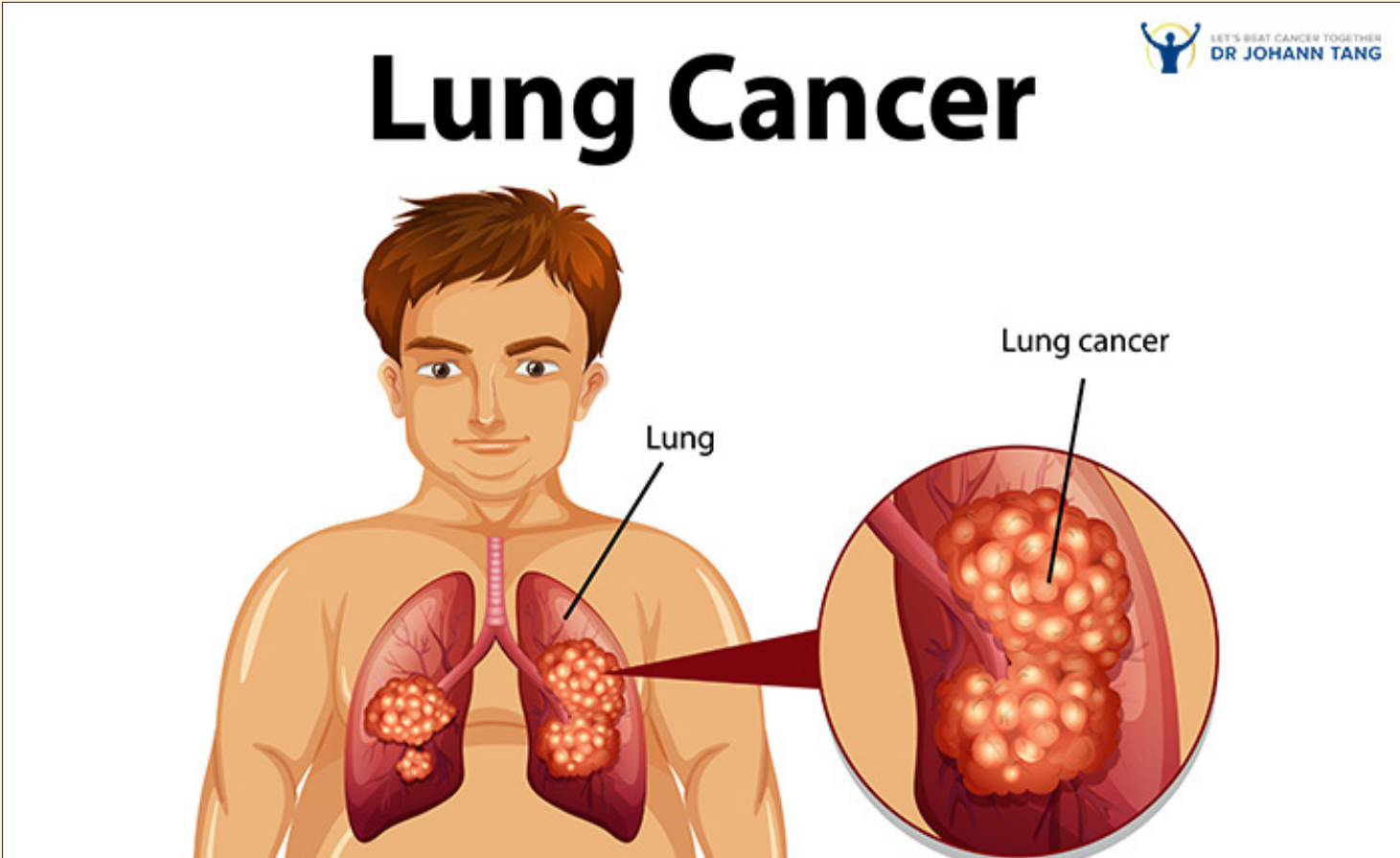
Stigma and Misconceptions

Lung cancer can sometimes carry social stigma, particularly because of misconceptions about smoking and personal responsibility. However, lung cancer can affect people with different backgrounds and risk factors. Blaming or judging a patient can increase emotional suffering and may prevent them from seeking support.

Patients need compassion rather than blame, understanding rather than judgment, and support rather than isolation.

The Role of the Mental Health Counsellor

A mental health counsellor or psycho-oncology professional can become an important part of the cancer-care team. Their role is not to replace medical treatment but to address the psychological and emotional needs that accompany illness.



A counsellor can help patients:

- Understand and express difficult emotions.
- Manage anxiety, fear and emotional distress.
- Develop healthy coping strategies.
- Improve communication with family and healthcare professionals.
- Address changes in self-esteem and body image.
- Cope with uncertainty and fear of recurrence.
- Strengthen resilience and emotional adjustment.
- Identify when more specialized psychological or psychiatric support is needed.

Counselling can also provide a safe space where patients can speak openly about fears that they may hesitate to share with family members.

Supporting the Family and Caregivers

Cancer affects the entire family. Caregivers may experience stress, exhaustion, fear and emotional burnout. They may also struggle with balancing caregiving responsibilities with work and family commitments.

Providing caregivers with emotional support, accurate information and opportunities to express their own concerns is therefore an essential component of comprehensive cancer care.

Building Resilience and Coping

Resilience does not mean pretending that everything is fine. It means learning to face difficult circumstances while finding ways to continue living with meaning and dignity. Patients can be encouraged to maintain supportive relationships, follow their treatment plans, communicate openly with healthcare professionals, practise relaxation or mindfulness techniques when appropriate, maintain healthy routines and focus on achievable goals.

Even small moments—spending time with loved ones, enjoying a favourite activity, celebrating treatment milestones or simply having a meaningful conversation—can provide emotional strength.

Communication: A Bridge Between Patient and Care Team

Open and compassionate communication is central to quality cancer care. Patients should feel comfortable discussing not only physical symptoms but also emotional concerns.

Healthcare professionals can help by listening carefully, providing clear information, encouraging questions and involving patients in decisions about their care whenever possible.

When doctors, nurses, counsellors, patients and families work together, cancer care becomes more holistic and patient-centred.

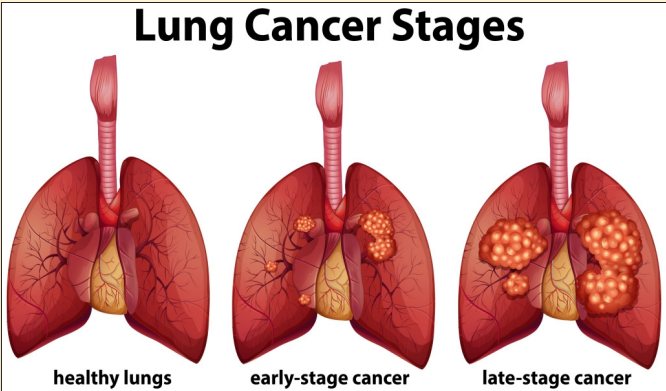
Hope, Dignity and Quality of Life

Hope does not always mean expecting a particular medical outcome. Hope can mean finding meaning in everyday life, maintaining relationships, achieving personal goals, reducing

suffering and preserving dignity. For some patients, hope may be found in treatment and recovery; for others, it may be found in family, spirituality, personal achievements or meaningful moments. Every patient's experience of hope is unique and should be respected.

Quality of life should remain an important goal throughout the cancer journey—not simply an issue to consider after treatment.

Early Psychological Support Matters



Psychological support should not be considered an optional addition to cancer treatment. Emotional distress can influence treatment experiences, relationships, daily functioning and overall well-being. Identifying psychological difficulties early and providing appropriate support can help patients and families navigate the challenges of cancer more effectively.

A Journey Beyond the Diagnosis

A diagnosis of lung cancer can change a person's life, but it does not define the entirety of who they are. Behind every diagnosis is a human being with a story, relationships, dreams, fears and hopes.

Comprehensive cancer care must therefore address both the disease and the person living with it. Medical treatment, emotional support, family involvement and psycho-oncology can work together to create a more compassionate and holistic approach to care.

Conclusion

The journey through lung cancer is undoubtedly challenging, but patients should not have to walk this path alone. With appropriate medical treatment, psychological support, compassionate caregiving and strong social connections, individuals can find ways to cope, adapt and maintain hope.

"Beyond the diagnosis is a person—not just a patient—who needs treatment for the body, support for the mind, compassion for the heart, and hope for the journey ahead."

Kashmiri Doctor Inducted into Prestigious AoME, UK; Awarded Membership and Assessor Role

SRINAGAR: Noted physician, medical educator and public health advocate Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo has been awarded Membership of the Academy of Medical Educators (AoME), UK, in



recognition of his professional commitment, achievements and contribution to medical education.

AoME Membership is a peer-assessed professional recognition awarded to medical educators who demonstrate commitment and achievement against the Academy's Professional Standards, normally meeting most domains at Level 2.

Following this recognition, Dr. Itoo is entitled to use the post-nominal designation "MAcadMED", signifying his Membership of the Academy of Medical Educators.

The Academy of Medical Educators is based at Cardiff University's Heath Park campus and has a longstanding association with, and support from, Cardiff University. AoME is an independent professional organisation dedicated to promoting excellence in medical education and improving patient care through teaching excellence.

In a further professional recognition, Dr. Itoo has also been appointed as an Assessor by the Academy of Medical Educators, entrusting him with responsibilities related to the assessment of applicants seeking membership of the Academy.

The dual recognition of MAcadMED membership and appointment as an Assessor represents an important milestone in Dr. Itoo's continuing professional journey in medical education. It also reflects his engagement with professional standards, assessment and the advancement of medical educators.

Dr. Itoo expressed his gratitude to the Academy of Medical Educators, UK, for the recognition and the opportunity to contribute to the assessment and professional development of fellow medical educators.

The recognition is being viewed as a significant professional achievement for the medical educator from Kashmir, further strengthening his engagement with international standards and professional practice in medical education.



Almuqteet FC Make Emphatic Debut with 7-1 Victory in Srinagar Premier Division



HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 24: Almuqteet Football Club made an emphatic entry into the Srinagar Premier Division Football League 2026, defeating Arco FC 7-1 at the TRC Turf Football Stadium in its first competitive outing.

Making their league debut, Almuqteet FC produced a confident and attacking display, marking an encouraging start for a club with a long-term vision of developing a competitive senior team while creating a strong pathway for young footballers in Jammu & Kashmir.

Almuqteet FC is a football initiative of Almuqteet Systems Private Limited (ASPL), established in 2010 and headquartered at STPI, Rangreth, Srinagar.

Through the club, ASPL aims to bring meaningful corporate support to football and contribute to a more structured and sustainable sporting ecosystem in J&K.

The club's vision is to establish a professionally managed football club and academy that can identify, nurture and develop local talent, while progressively competing at the highest levels of Indian football. Its current squad includes players with experience in Youth National Teams, the I-League, Srinagar Premier Division and Kashmir Super League, supported by an experienced coaching and management team.

Muzamil Mahmood, Head Coach, Almuqteet FC (AFC License), said the manner of the team's beginning was more important than the scoreline. "This is a new club and our vision is to provide a pathway to players and play good-quality football. The result

does not matter much to me; what matters is that we started well and our management has trusted us. This is only the beginning. We have a lot to learn and improve." He said.

Zaffar Owais Andrabi, CEO, Almuqteet Systems Private Limited, congratulated the team and said the victory was only the first step. He said "Kashmir has a remarkable football culture and enormous talent. We need better pathways, stronger structures and more opportunities for young players to progress. We want to build a club that young footballers can look towards a platform that helps them dream, develop and compete, and ultimately takes the talent of Kashmir to the highest levels of Indian football."

Almuqteet FC's focus in future will be on building consistency, developing its players and establishing itself as a significant force in Kashmir football.

Four Himachal players included in Indian women's kabaddi team for Asian Games

United News Of India

NAHAN, AUG 25 : Kuldeep Rana, General Secretary of the Himachal Pradesh Kabaddi Association, stated that the inclusion of four players from the state in the selected team for the Asian Games is a significant achievement.

Ritu Negi from Sirmour is a former captain of the Indian women's kabaddi team and an international player, while Pushpa Rana is the captain of the Himachal Pradesh women's kabaddi team and an international player. Jyoti Thakur from Solan and Bhavna Thakur from Mandi have also been selected.

The team also includes Sanju Devi, Pooja Kajla, Ritu Sheron, Pinky Rai, Manisha Kumari, Rajrani, and Nitika Kumari.

Ritu Negi, from Sharog village in the remote Shillai assembly constituency of Sirmour district, has emerged from a rural background and has

made a name for herself in international kabaddi.

She began playing kabaddi in the eighth grade at Shillai School. In 2006, she was selected for the Sports Hostel Bilaspur through state-level sports trials. She trained at a sports hostel for eight years and during this time reached the national level. Representing Himachal Pradesh, she won gold, silver, and bronze medals. Ritu Negi contributed to the country's gold medal at the 2025 Women's Kabaddi World Cup. She led the Indian team at the Junior Asian Championship held in Malaysia and also captained the team at the 2023 Asian Games. Her record includes a gold medal at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, a gold medal at the 2019 South Asian Kabaddi Championship in Nepal, and a silver medal at the 2018 Asian Games in Indonesia. She was also named the Best Right Corner Defender at the 2018 Asian Games.

Shahbaz powers East into Duleep Trophy SF, Mushtaq keeps North alive



United News Of India

BENGALURU, AUG 25: Two left-arm spinners produced contrasting match-winning performances as Shahbaz Ahmed's all-round brilliance powered East Zone into the Duleep Trophy semifinals, while Abid Mushtaq's late five-wicket burst kept North Zone firmly in the hunt against West Zone on a dramatic third day here on Tuesday.

Shahbaz was the architect of East Zone's emphatic innings-and-210-run victory over North East Zone, combining a career-best 167 with three wickets as East completed one of the most comprehensive wins of the quarter-final stage.

The Bengal all-rounder first rescued East Zone's innings alongside Sudip Kumar Gharami, whose 146 helped them pile up 467 after they had been reduced to 128 for five. Shahbaz's 167 then became the cornerstone of a commanding first-innings total. He followed it up with a three-wicket contribution as North East Zone were dismissed for 111, before East enforced the follow-on. Shahbaz struck again in

the second innings, helping trigger another collapse as North East Zone were bowled out for 146.

The result was never in serious doubt thereafter, with East completing victory by an innings and 210 runs and booking their semi-final place against Central Zone.

At the other Centre of Excellence ground, however, Mushtaq turned what appeared to be West Zone's chase into a last-day thriller.

Chasing 287, West Zone were in complete control at 195 for three, with Ruturaj Gaikwad and Musheer Khan having stitched together a 111-run partnership. Gaikwad made 66, while Musheer was agonisingly dismissed for 96. But Mushtaq's intervention changed the complexion of the contest. He removed Shams Mulani and Mukesh Choudhary in the final over of the day, completing a late collapse that left West Zone at 220 for seven, still 67 short of victory.

Mushtaq's performance was particularly significant because his five-wicket haul on the previous day had already played a major role in restricting West Zone.

Olympian G Sathiyam highlights ecosystem support as key to India's sporting rise

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, AUG 25 : Olympian and Arjuna Award-winning table tennis player G. Sathiyam, alongside senior government officials, investors, and key sports ecosystem stakeholders, gathered at Shangri-La Eros for SPORTSCOM's Annual Session and the second edition of the Giving Wings to Dreams Conclave on Tuesday.

Delivering the keynote address, Sathiyam emphasized that India's transformation into a global sporting powerhouse hinges on sustained, collaborative support across the government, corporate sector, leagues, sponsors, and the broader industry.

Reflecting on his career since age five, he noted how sports have evolved from an extracurricular pursuit into a viable profession and economic driver. "It's not just about athletes. For athletes to perform

in the arena, you need a whole lot of people coming together. Athletes showcase talent, but they perform only when there is immense support from corporates and the government," said Sathiyam.

He stressed the role of grassroots visibility, adding, "When parents start seeing Olympians and Asian Games medalists close to home, they will believe their children can reach the next level. India can truly become a sporting powerhouse."

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