

Srinagar  
Thursday  
August 20 | 2026  
5 Rabi' al-Awwal 1448 AH  
Issue No: 197  
Volume: 16  
Pages: 12  
Price :Rs: 2/-

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Man drowns while saving son in Qazigund

HT NEWS NETWORK  
QAZIGUND, AUG 19 :A man drowned while attempting to rescue his five-year-old son after the child accidentally fell into Nallah Sandran at Nussu Badragund area of Qazigund in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Wednesday. An official told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that the father-son duo had gone to the area to attend a marriage ceremony when the child fell into the water channel.The child, Imad Zahoor (5), was rescued and shifted to Emergency Hospital Qazigund, where he is

SEE ON P-2

Woman dies after being hit by car in Sopore

HT NEWS NETWORK  
SOPORE, AUG 19 :An elderly woman died after being hit by a car near the Bypass in Sopore area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Wednesday. An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the accident occurred when an Alto car, travelling from Sopore towards Bandipora, hit a pedestrian near Sofi Akber Road, Bypass, in Sopore.He said the woman was immediately shifted to District Hospital Sopore for treatment

SEE ON P-2

Man died, pillion rider injured after motorcycle collide with vehicle in Hajin

HT NEWS NETWORK  
BANDIPORA:A 30-year-old man was killed while his pillion rider was injured after the motorcycle they were travelling on was hit by an unknown vehicle at Main Market Hajin in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Wednesday, officials said.An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the duo were travelling on

SEE ON P-2

10 injured after passenger bus accident in Nagrota

HT NEWS NETWORK  
JAMMU, AUG 19 :At least ten persons were injured after a passenger bus met with an accident in the Nagrota area of Jammu on Wednesday, officials said.

SEE ON P-2

SMVDU Sets Sights on Global Knowledge Hub : LG Calls for Innovation-Driven Education

At 23rd Foundation Day, Manoj Sinha unveils 2040 vision focused on AI, research, start-ups and solutions to real-world challenges



HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU,AUGUST 19: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday called upon Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) to emerge as a global centre of knowledge, innovation and human values, urging faculty and students to set ambitious goals in research,

artificial intelligence, entrepreneurship and international collaboration. Addressing the university's 23rd Foundation Day celebrations, Sinha said the institution's success must ultimately be measured by the contribution of its students and alumni to society and the nation, while stressing that universities must move beyond conventional teaching and focus

SEE ON P-2

Omar's Early-Morning Srinagar Sweep Puts Development Projects Under Lens

CM tours all eight Assembly constituencies, reviews key infrastructure works and vows to tackle traffic congestion and parking crisis



HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 19: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday undertook an extensive early-morning tour of Srinagar, beginning at 6:30 am, to assess the progress of major development projects and civic infrastructure across all eight Assembly constituencies. During the tour, Omar inspected projects covering road connectivity, healthcare, heritage conservation,

SEE ON P-2

US Envoy Signals Possible Review of Kashmir Travel Advisory

Ambassador Sergio Gor describes first Valley visit as "wonderful", praises security improvements and says Washington will reassess travel warning

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 19: US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor on Wednesday indicated that Washington may review its travel



advisory for Jammu and Kashmir during his maiden visit to the Kashmir Valley, while acknowledging efforts by the local

SEE ON P-2

ACB Books Officials, Beneficiaries Over Alleged Rajbagh Land Encroachment

Probe flags unauthorised construction, building permission violations and alleged encroachment of around 2.9 kanals of state land



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 19: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB)

SEE ON P-2

J&K Moves to Link Budget Spending with Sustainable Development Goals

Chief Secretary directs SDG-wise roadmap, scheme mapping and outcome-based monitoring under proposed UNDP framework

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR,AUGUST 16: Jammu and Kashmir is set to move towards an outcome-based budgeting framework linking government expenditure with Sustainable Development Goals, with Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo directing officials to prepare a comprehensive roadmap in coordination with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Chairing a meeting to review the proposed strategy, Dulloo called for mapping government schemes against individual SDGs, identifying



development gaps and ensuring that public spending produces measurable outcomes.

SEE ON P-2

HT BOTTOM NEWS

SMC Deserves Applause for Finally Macadamising Rehmat Lane, Umarabad Road

Long-Pending Civic Work Brings Relief to Nearly 100 Households in Umarabad Lane No 5

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 18: After years of waiting, residents of Rehmat Lane Colony, opposite Noora Hospital at HMT, have finally got a properly macadamised internal road, bringing much-needed relief to nearly 100 households and marking a significant improvement in the colony's civic infrastructure.

The completion of the work has been widely welcomed by residents, who had long endured potholes, uneven surfaces, bumps and poor road conditions that made daily movement difficult,

particularly for children, elderly people and emergency vehicles.

Residents have expressed their appreciation to the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), City Roads Division and the concerned field staff for taking up and completing the long-pending work. They specifically acknowledged the efforts of SMC Commissioner Fazlul Haseeb (IAS), Executive Engineer Munir Ahmad Nagoo, AEE Zahoor Ahmad Shah, JE Mudassar Ahmad and Senior Supervisor Imtiyaz Ahmad Wani for

SEE ON P-2



35 J&K Judicial Officers Nominated for Mediation, Arbitration Workshop

One-day Judicial Academy programme to focus on dispute referral, settlement orders and enforcement under new mediation law

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 19: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has nominated 35 judicial officers for a one-day workshop on the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 and the Mediation Act, 2023, aimed at strengthening the judiciary's capacity in alternative dispute resolution. The workshop, scheduled for August 22 at the J&K Judicial Academy in Mominabad, Srinagar, will focus on the legal and procedural aspects of arbitration and mediation, including referral of disputes, drafting of settlement orders and enforcement of mediated



settlements.

The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has nominated 35 judicial officers for a one-day workshop on the Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996, and the

Mediation Act, 2023. An official order accessed news agency Kashmir News Service (KNS) reads, the programme, scheduled for August 22 at the J&K

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Continue from Front Page.....

Man killed, pillion

a motorcycle when an unknown vehicle hit them at Main Market Hajin.

He said both sustained injuries and were initially shifted to SDH Sumbal, from where they were referred to SKIMS Soura for specialised treatment.

The official said that upon arrival at SKIMS Soura, doctors declared one of them brought dead, while the other is undergoing treatment.

The deceased was later identified as Yawar Ahmad Mir (30), son of Mohammad Altaf Mir, a resident of Sumbanora, Bandipora, while his injured pillion rider was identified as Abdul Rashid Makroo (45), son of Abdul Rehman Makroo, a resident of Sudnara, Bandipora.

Meanwhile, an investigation has been taken up—(KNO)

Woman dies

; however, she succumbed to her injuries at the hospital.

She was identified as Azi Begum (70), a resident of Ningli. Police have taken cognisance of the incident and initiated proceedings—(KNO)

Man drowns while

undergoing treatment and is stated to be stable and under observation.

The deceased has been identified as Zahoor Ahmad Ganie, a resident of Nigenpora, who drowned while trying to save his son.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognisance of the incident and initiated proceedings—(KNO)

10 injured

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the accident occurred in the Nagrota area, leaving ten persons injured.

He said that soon after the incident, the injured were shifted to a nearby hospital for medical treatment. Their condition is stated to be stable.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognisance of the incident—(KNO)

SMVDU Sets

students in shaping institutions that nurture not only knowledge but also humility, sensitivity, and responsibility towards society.

Reflecting on SMVDU's journey, the Lieutenant Governor lauded its achievements in education and research. He noted that faculty members have secured around 140 research projects, including international collaborations, and established a state-of-the-art AI and Deep Learning Lab. The University has received 14 patents, incubated 30 start-ups, and launched innovative programmes such as peer-learning. He urged the institution to strengthen industry-academia relations by organising open-house meetings to commercialise patents and innovations.

The Lieutenant Governor stressed that the true measure of a university's success lies in its students and alumni, who carry forward its reputation through their contributions to society and the nation. He encouraged SMVDU to leverage government initiatives such as the Rs. One lakh crore research fund announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on 15th August 2026 and the PM Research Chairs scheme launched earlier this year, to ensure maximum participation in national innovation efforts.

"In the contemporary world, research and innovation becomes meaningful when it finds solutions to real problems, improves the quality of life in society and brings positive change to the lives of ordinary citizens through its contributions across different fields.

On 15 August, the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, made a historic announcement from the ramparts of the Red Fort and allocated Rs.1 lakh crore. He called upon the youth of the country to focus on research and innovation, saying that they should come forward with ambitious dreams. The Government of India had created a robust system of financial support, and that no young person would now face lack of resources.

I would like the Vice-Chancellor to constitute a team comprising faculty members and selected students so that the maximum possible number of applications may be submitted from this University," the Lieutenant Governor said.

In his speech, the Lieutenant Governor underscored that education is the most powerful investment for universities, society, and the nation. He cited foreign university's success in generating revenue through innovation and research as an example, urging Indian universities to aspire to similar heights by focusing on research, innovation, leadership, and entrepreneurship.

The Lieutenant Governor identified key challenges facing Indian universities, including limited research, shortage of faculty, lack of accountability and weak industry linkages. He called for a change in mindset, urging institutions to ask not "What should we teach?" but "What problems must we solve?"

He emphasised that India's youthful population, creativity, and risk-taking ability are its greatest assets, and universities must transform students into creators of opportunities rather than mere job seekers.

Highlighting India's strengths, the Lieutenant Governor pointed to the nation's ability to innovate at low cost, its cultural and linguistic diversity, and its vast diaspora. He urged SMVDU to connect these strengths with its research ecosystem and create solutions for real-world challenges in healthcare, rural economy, urbanisation, and digital innovation.

The Lieutenant Governor also emphasised the importance of holistic education, calling for the promotion of sports, arts, literature, debates, and cultural activities alongside science and technology. He encouraged the University to engage with rural communities, promote sustainable development, and adopt best practices from global education models such as emphasis on fieldwork, industry partnerships, and a strong vocational training system.

Looking ahead, the Lieutenant Governor presented a comprehensive vision for SMVDU by 2040. He urged the University to become a leading global knowledge centre, establish advanced research facilities in AI, robotics, biotechnology, and climate science, and develop digital learning networks across rural Jammu Kashmir. He also called for international student-exchange programmes to strengthen global collaboration.

He said the ultimate purpose of education is not limited to economic development but also the creation of creative human beings who understand themselves, respect nature, and recognise their responsibility towards humanity. He urged SMVDU to harmonise modernity with human values and to resolve to become a pilgrimage centre of knowledge, a laboratory of innovation, and a beacon guiding society towards progress.

"On this Foundation Day, I urge all of you to move beyond established paths and work courageously on the important issues. As efforts are undertaken in this direction, we should ask ourselves: What do we possess that other countries do not? Our nation's greatest wealth and strength is the passion, ingenuity and daring spirit of our youth. We must remember, the light of education becomes complete only when it moves beyond the walls of the University and reaches the last person in society," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor invited suggestions from various stakeholders for the establishment of the state-of-the-art International Museum of Goddess at Katra.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also inaugurated the Self-Help Group's Bakery unit at SMVDU.

Dr Ashok Bhan, Shri Suresh Kumar Sharma and Ms Gunjan Rana- Members of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University; Shri Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Shri Sachin Kumar Vaishya, CEO, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Shri Shiv Kumar Sharma, DIG, Udhampur-Reasi Range; Shri Kumar Abhishek, Deputy Commissioner Reasi; Members of University's Executive Council; Heads of various educational institutions; senior officials, faculty members, staff, and students of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University attended the foundation day celebrations.

Omar's Early

traffic management and sports facilities, directing authorities to accelerate works and ensure that their benefits reach residents within stipulated timelines.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today undertook an extensive early-morning tour of Srinagar city, covering all eight Assembly constituencies, to take stock of ongoing development works, inspect key infrastructure projects and assess the delivery of public facilities and civic amenities on the ground.

Beginning the tour at around 6:30 am, the Chief Minister visited a number of important project sites covering road and traffic infrastructure, healthcare, heritage conservation, sports facilities and other urban development works. He reviewed the physical progress of the projects with officers and executing agencies and sought timely completion of works so that their intended benefits reach the people at the earliest.

At Barbar Shah in Habba Kadal, the Chief Minister inspected the site for the proposed multi-span bridge over Choot Khul, a project aimed at improving connectivity to Shehar-e-Khaas and easing traffic congestion in the area.

The bridge is being executed by the PW(R&B) Department, Srinagar Core Division, at an estimated cost of 32.50 crore. Designed as per IRC codal standards and MoRTH specifications and taking into account the requirements of Seismic Zone-V.

The Chief Minister was briefed that the bridge is expected to facilitate smoother movement of commuters heading towards Shehar-e-Khaas, streamline traffic flow, improve road safety and strengthen urban mobility in the historic core of the city.

The Chief Minister also inspected the newly constructed building of the Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC), Maharaj Gunj. The upgraded facility, located in the historic heart of Shehar-e-Khaas, is intended to strengthen primary healthcare delivery and improve patient care through enhanced infrastructure.

The project has an estimated cost of 262.54 lakh under UT CAPEX and is being executed by the Public Works Department (R&B), Kashmir. Work commenced in November 2024 and is scheduled for completion by November 20, 2026.

During his inspection of the medical facility, the Chief Minister was informed that brickwork, internal plastering, door and window framework, tile work on all three floors and window fixing have been completed. Electrical works are about 85 per cent complete, while the fire-fighting system has been completed. Roofing of the adjacent building (Structure-B) has also been completed and overhead water tanks installed.

At Mirza Kamil Sahib Chowk, Hawal, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for the beautification, upgradation and junction improvement project, aimed at improving traffic management, pedestrian movement and the overall appearance of the important urban junction.

The project, under the UT Sector, has a cost of 132.85 lakh. The proposed works include upgradation of the existing road pavement, development of pedestrian-friendly footpaths, new kerbs and drainage arrangements, road markings, traffic signage, bollards, delineators and glow studs. The project also provides for modern LED street lighting, decorative illuminated

butterfly and tree sculptures, and solar traffic blinkers at pedestrian crossings to enhance pedestrian safety.

At Sub District Hospital (SDH) Habak, Hazratbal, the Chief Minister inspected the ongoing construction of the new hospital building and reviewed the progress of the long-pending project.

The project had remained stalled for a considerable period and was revived after the present Council of Ministers granted the required norm relaxations, paving the way for its resumption and eventual strengthening of medical services in the area.

The Chief Minister inspected the ongoing upgradation of SDH Habak, Hazratbal, which has a revised project cost of 54.49 crore and envisages a two-phase facility comprising two basements, four storeys and a 50-bed hospital. He directed the concerned authorities to maintain momentum and ensure that the upgraded facility is completed within the stipulated timelines.

The Chief Minister next inspected the ongoing conservation and restoration of the historic Aali Masjid at Eidgah, being undertaken by the Department of Culture.

Reaffirming the immense historical, architectural and spiritual importance of the centuries-old monument, he directed the authorities to ensure meticulous conservation and timely completion of the project while maintaining the character and heritage value of the structure.

The first phase of the conservation and restoration project has a cost of 487.94 lakh and is being executed by the Public Works Department (R&B), Kashmir, under the Archives head. Work commenced in July 2025 and is expected to be completed by October 2026.

The scope of the project includes waterproof cement concrete works, wooden flooring, CGI sheets and painting, Khatam Band work, papier-mâché, chiselling of Devri, strengthening of roofing, ashlar stone work and Devri cornices. The Chief Minister was informed that roof, wooden flooring inside the mosque and Khatam Band work have already been completed.

The Chief Minister also reviewed the major road-safety infrastructure project involving construction of flyovers at Parimpora and Shalteng Junctions on the Srinagar Bypass (NH-44).

The project, being executed under Road Safety Works on EPC mode, has an approximate total length of 2,000 metres, with elevated portions of 105 metres at Parimpora and 92 metres at Shalteng. The six-lane facility has a deck width of 14 metres for the specified carriageway arrangement and provides for approaches, service roads, drainage and utility corridors.

The estimated cost of the project is 85 crore with a project duration of 48 months. The Chief Minister was also briefed that strengthening of the truss has been completed.

At SKIMS Medical College and Hospital, Bemina, the Chief Minister reviewed the progress of two major institutional buildings—the 250-bedded IPD Block and the College/Laboratory Block.

The 250-bedded IPD Block has an approved cost of 83.94 crore. The project has achieved 80 per cent physical progress and is targeted for completion by December 2026.

The College/Laboratory Block has an approved cost of 88.23 crore. The project has achieved 66 per cent physical progress and is targeted for completion by December 2027.

The Chief Minister also inspected the site of the new High Court Complex at Rakh-i-Aksha, Bemina, a comprehensive project having an approved cost of 908.20 crore.

The main building, comprising two basements, ground floor and six upper floors, will house courtrooms, Judges' chambers and lounge, Bar rooms, meeting rooms and podium parking.

The proposed Western Block, comprising two basements, ground floor and five upper floors, will accommodate the judicial branch, Registrar chambers, library, lawyers' chambers, cafeteria, medical branch, archives and podium parking. The Eastern Block, also comprising two basements, ground floor and five upper floors, will house the administration branch, Registrar chambers, meditation chamber, lawyers' chambers, cafeteria, archives and podium parking. These two blocks are yet to be tendered.

The project also envisages, in Phase-II, a police constabulary, judicial block, guest house, auditorium and residential quarters. The overall complex is planned to provide 1,600 car-parking spaces, including 265 spaces in Podium-1 and 115 spaces in Podium-2 of the main building.

The Chief Minister subsequently inspected the site for the proposed Mominabad Vehicle Underpass (VUP), intended to reduce traffic congestion and facilitate seamless movement along the National Highway.

The proposed four-lane RCC T-Beam Slab type underpass will have a 22.50-metre main carriageway, service roads with paved shoulders on both sides, a one-kilometre total main-carriageway approach length and drainage/utility corridors. The viaduct will have a vertical clearance of 5.5 metres.

The Chief Minister also reviewed associated traffic infrastructure proposals, including the underpass at Nowgam Railway Station and the Foot Over Bridge at Children Hospital, Bemina. The Nowgam underpass will have a 25-metre main carriageway, service roads on both sides and a 5.5-metre vertical clearance, besides a 270-metre railway approach road. The proposed FOB at Children Hospital, Bemina, will have a length of 48.5 metres and width of 3.19 metres, with steel fabrication and staircases on both sides. Lift provision has also been envisaged for persons with disabilities, senior citizens and

women.

The combined sanctioned amount for these works is 31.52 crore.

At Gindun Sports Complex, Rajbagh, the Chief Minister inspected the recently completed main swimming pool, a state-of-the-art aquatic facility aimed at promoting competitive swimming, diving and other aquatic sports in Jammu and Kashmir.

The project, which was initiated in 2014 and had remained languishing during 2019–20 due to paucity of funds, was subsequently revived. Completed in November 2025 and commissioned in July 2026, the facility has been developed at a cost of 20.60 crore.

The international-standard swimming facility has a 50-metre by 25-metre pool with 10 lanes, a maximum depth of 3.88 metres and minimum depth of 1.40 metres, along with 1-metre, 3-metre and 5-metre diving platforms. It includes gender-based changing rooms and washrooms, 50 storage lockers, seating capacity for 300 spectators, modern filtration, circulation and disinfection systems, lifeguard and pool management facilities, equipment storage, barrier-free access and fire-safety and emergency provisions.

The Chief Minister also reviewed the Training-cum-Toddler/All-Weather Heated Pool facility and inspected the newly completed Gymnastic Hall at Gindun, Rajbagh.

The gymnastic hall, measuring 110 feet by 70 feet and covering around 8,700 square feet, has been developed as a dedicated facility for gymnastics training and indoor sports activities. The project was initiated on June 19, 2023, at an advertised cost of 328.77 lakh, and was completed in July 2026.

Speaking after the tour, the Chief Minister described the extensive visit as a recognition of the importance of Srinagar and the need to give focused attention to both capital cities of Jammu and Kashmir.

"We are the only area in this country where there are two capitals—Srinagar in the summer and Jammu in the winter. It is obvious that both cities need to be given special attention. We left at 6:30 in the morning to inspect some important projects, and around 10–12 projects were reviewed in the city. Most of the projects are in good progress. We need to give a push to one or two of them," he said.

J&K Moves

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting to assess the strategy proposed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for aligning the annual budget of Jammu & Kashmir with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with emphasis on outcome-based planning, convergence of schemes and evidence-based allocation of public resources.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Information Technology; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Secretary, Agriculture; Director Planning, besides senior officers and representatives of various departments.

The UNDP team made a detailed presentation to provide a preliminary roadmap for aligning public expenditure with the Sustainable Development Goals, outlining a structured approach for integrating SDGs into the budgeting and public financial management architecture of the Union Territory.

Taking note of the strategy presented by UNDP, the Chief Secretary directed the Planning Department to constitute a dedicated team to work in close coordination with the UNDP team and formulate a comprehensive roadmap identifying the interventions required under each SDG for achieving the desired targets over the coming years.

He emphasised the need to undertake a comprehensive mapping of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and UT Government schemes against the respective SDGs so that the contribution of each scheme towards individual goals and targets is clearly established. He further called for identifying the additional interventions and resource requirements that may be necessary to bridge existing gaps and accelerate progress towards the identified targets.

The Chief Secretary stressed that achievement of the SDGs cannot be confined to individual departments or isolated schemes, as several goals require cross-cutting interventions and coordinated action across multiple sectors. He called for leveraging existing schemes and programmes while simultaneously assessing the requirement for additional funding under appropriate budgetary provisions.

ACB Books

has registered an FIR against several officials and beneficiaries over alleged illegal construction and encroachment of state and Kahcharai land in Srinagar's Rajbagh area. The case followed a joint surprise check and subsequent verification, which allegedly found violations in building permissions, unauthorised expansion of a multi-storey structure and encroachment of around 2.9 kanals of state land in the River Jhelum flood basin and prohibited fringe area.

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered an FIR against several officials and beneficiaries in connection with alleged illegal construction and encroachment of state land in the Rajbagh area of Srinagar, officials said on Wednesday.

The FIR, registered as FIR No. 10/2026, followed a joint surprise check and subsequent verification into allegations of construction of a multi-storey building in the flood basin and fringe area of the River Jhelum, the ACB said in a statement.

The verification allegedly found violations in the grant and subsequent modification of building permissions, including a substantial increase in the plinth area and height of the building without obtaining mandatory no-objection certificates

(NOCs) from the concerned departments.

The probe also revealed alleged encroachment of around 2.9 kanals of state/Kahcharai land besides construction over drainage infrastructure and within the prohibited river-fringe area, it said.

The FIR names then Senior Town Planner of the Srinagar Development Authority (SDA) Muneer Ahmad Khan, then Joint Commissioner (Planning) of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) R K Tutoo and then in-charge Assistant Town Planner SMC Ulfat Jan, besides other concerned officials.

Beneficiaries Gulzar Ahmad Sheikh and Parveena Akhter have also been named in the case.

The accused have been booked for alleged abuse of official position, criminal conspiracy and facilitating unauthorised construction and encroachment under provisions of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act and the Ranbir Penal Code, besides other applicable provisions.

The investigation is underway, the ACB said. (KNS).

US Envoy Signals

"My visit to Kashmir is a wonderful experience. Everybody here knows I'm the US Ambassador to India, and this is an important part of India. I'm here visiting for the first time. It is an incredibly beautiful place, and so I'm thrilled to be here," Gor told reporters after his meeting with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah as per news agency Kashmir News Service (KNS). The US Envoy said the discussions with the Chief Minister were "very good" and that there were "follow-ups" that would be taken back to Washington and Delhi.

"We look forward to building this relationship forward," he said.

Significantly, Gor indicated that the US State Department's travel advisory for Jammu and Kashmir, which currently advises Americans against all travel to the region, could be reviewed.

"The last thing I'll share with you is the United States puts out travel warnings, and every so often we re-evaluate those travel warnings. I cannot make any big announcements here today, but it is something we're going to look at," he said.

The Ambassador acknowledged the efforts of the local administration in improving the security situation.

"The Chief Minister here, the Government here, we believe have made some incredible steps to keeping this area safer, and making it more safe, and so we will be looking at if the travel warning that is imposed, that is recommended by the United States, is something that should be downgraded," he said.

"As I said earlier, this is a beautiful area. I think a lot of Americans would enjoy coming here and seeing the beauty and opportunities that exist here," he said.

Gor is also scheduled to meet Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha during his stay before proceeding to Ladakh on Thursday. (KNS)

SMC Deserves

their coordination and supervision.

The residents also appreciated the support extended by local MLA Tariq Ahmad Karra and the concerned administration in facilitating the development work.

Pertinently Special appreciation was conveyed to Sharp Construction Company for executing the macadamisation work, which has given the colony a significantly improved appearance while making the road safer and more convenient for residents and visitors.

For a residential community that has grown to around 100 households, residents said the upgraded road was more than a cosmetic improvement, as it would facilitate smoother commuting, safer movement of schoolchildren and elderly residents and quicker access for emergency services.

This is not merely a road improvement; it is a long-awaited change that has made everyday life easier for us," residents said, expressing hope that similar attention would be given to other pending civic issues in the area.

35 J&K

Judicial Academy in Mominabad, Srinagar, will follow law, practice and procedure under the arbitration framework, as well as the role of judges in mediation — including referral of disputes, drafting of settlement orders, and enforcement of mediated settlements, according to the order issued by the Registrar General's office.

Additional District & Sessions Judges nominated include Farooq Ahmad Bhat (Srinagar), Yahaya Firdous Ahanger (Budgam), Anjum Ara (1st Additional, Srinagar), Ahsan Ullah Parvez Malik (Bandipora), and Ramesh Lal (Sopore).

Chief Judicial Magistrates among the nominees are Tsewang Phuntsog (Kargil, virtual mode), Manzoor Hussain (Handwara), Iqbal Ahmad Akhoun (Bandipora), Phuntsog Angmo (Leh, virtual mode), and Riyaz Ahmed Choudhary (Shopian).

Other judicial officers nominated include Rafia Hassan (Presiding Officer, Fast Track Court, Kulgam), Fariqa Nazir (Special Mobile Magistrate, Pulwama), Mudasar Farooq Ganaie (Secretary DLSA, Pulwama), Rajeev Kumar Tadyal (Sub Judge, Bijbehara), Lubna Sultan (Special Mobile Magistrate, Anantnag), and Junaid Imtiaz Mir (Sub Judge, Srinagar).

The list also features Shafeeq Ahmad Malik (Sub Judge, Chadoora), Imran Haneef Khan (Special Mobile Magistrate, Baramulla), Easart UI Nabi (Special Mobile Magistrate, Budgam), Altaf Ahmad Mir (Sub Judge, Vailoo), Muneer Ahmad Bhat (Addl. Spl. Mobile Magistrate, Awantipora), Tasneem Kawoos (Munsiff, Budgam), Arshad Aziz Qureshi (Munsiff, Anantnag), and Amaan Nissar (Munsiff Tral, Pulwama).







## Div Com Kashmir reviews preparations for Eid Milad-un-Nabi, Friday Following

Directs DCs to ensure availability of essential commodities, services to public

### HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 19: In view of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (S.A.W.) and the following Friday, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg convened a high-level meeting on Wednesday to assess and strengthen arrangements at major mosques and shrines across the Kashmir Division.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners, Commissioner SMC, SSPs, VC LCMA, senior officials from various departments, including KPDCI, PHE, FCS&CA, PWD, Food Safety, Legal Metrology, LCMA, Wakf Board, Health, Police and Traffic departments, along with religious representatives from prominent shrines.

The Divisional Commissioner conducted a detailed assessment of essential facilities at major religious sites, including Hazratbal Shrine, Jenab Sahib Saura, Assar-i-Sharief Kalashpora, Aham-i-Sharief Bandipora, Kabamarg Anantnag and Pethmakham Budgam, besides other mosques and shrines expected to witness significant gatherings for night prayers.

He gave special emphasis on arrangements at Hazratbal Shrine, where more than one lakh devotees are anticipated to participate in



congregational and night prayers. Garg instructed the concerned departments to ensure that all arrangements remain fully functional throughout the occasion.

The Chief Engineer, KPDCI was directed to maintain an uninterrupted power supply at Hazratbal, along with a reliable backup arrangement through DG sets. The PHE department was asked to establish sufficient

smooth traffic flow.

Emphasising the need for adequate shelter and crowd-management facilities, the Divisional Commissioner directed Wakf authorities to make advance arrangements for tents at designated religious locations.

The Commissioner of SMC was instructed to undertake an extensive sanitation and cleanliness campaign at Hazratbal Shrine and its surrounding areas.

To safeguard public health, joint market-inspection teams were ordered to monitor food quality, hygiene standards and pricing around markets and religious sites. Garg stressed strict action against traders found violating prescribed quality standards or resorting to overcharging.

The Health Department was directed to establish medical camps and deploy personnel according to duty rosters, while Fire & Emergency Services were instructed to position fire tenders at vulnerable and strategically important locations to ensure a rapid response in case of any emergency.

Religious leaders attending the meeting expressed satisfaction with the arrangements being undertaken for the occasion.

## DC Ganderbal reviews progress on AgriStack Farmer Registration

### HT News Network



GANDERBAL, AUGUST 19: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today chaired a meeting to review the progress achieved under AgriStack farmer registration in the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the work completed so far and took stock of the progress in generation of farmer IDs and registration of eligible farmers. He directed the concerned officers to expedite the remaining work and ensure maximum coverage within the stipulated timeline.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to organise registration camps at the field level to facilitate generation of IDs and ensure wider coverage of eligible farmers. He stressed upon regular monitoring of the camps and the progress achieved through them.

He further emphasised dissemination of information among farmers regarding AgriStack registration and the benefits associated with the digital farmer database, so that eligible farmers are adequately informed and encouraged to complete the registration process.

## Sheetal Nanda chairs meeting on increasing human-wildlife conflict mitigation

### HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 19: Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment Department, Sheetal Nanda, today convened a meeting to review the rising incidents of Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) and assess the measures for its effective and timely mitigation across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Suneesh Buxy, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K; Rajinder Singh Tara, Secretary, Forest Department; Secretary Technical; Regional Wildlife Wardens of Jammu and Kashmir and all Wildlife Wardens of the UT.

Dr. Suneesh Buxy made a detailed presentation on the current status of HWC in the UT and outlined the initiatives undertaken by the department for its mitigation.

The presentation covered

the key drivers of HWC, operational challenges, existing response mechanisms, infrastructure and manpower gaps, identified conflict hotspots, rescue operations, community awareness efforts and the proposed Integrated Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Framework for 2026-29.

Sheetal Nanda directed all the concerned officers to formulate species-specific and situation-specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for scientific, effective and timely mitigation of HWC incidents, including rescue, capture, handling, transportation, release/rehabilitation and post-rescue monitoring. She also instructed the department to ensure prompt settlement of compensation cases for victims. She stressed the need for inter-departmental coordination with Police, District Administration and allied wings of the Forest Department for immediate

response to SOS calls.

Further, she directed for constitution of district-level coordination committees and asked the Wildlife Protection Department to submit a comprehensive action plan under CAMPA dedicated to address the HWC across J&K. The plan should assess requirements related to habitat improvement, conflict mitigation, infrastructure, equipment, manpower, preventive measures and other interventions at identified HWC hotspots, she added.

Sheetal Nanda also emphasised augmenting the existing infrastructure and equipment to enhance preparedness for handling HWC situations. She directed the department to leverage media platforms including TV, radio and social media for large-scale public awareness and sensitization.

## Committee on Public Undertakings reviews performance of JKMSCL Committee directs Corporation to ensure uninterrupted availability of medicines for fatal diseases

### HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 19: The Committee on Public Undertakings (CoPU) of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today convened for a meeting at Assembly Complex here to review the functioning and overall performance of the Jammu & Kashmir Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (JKMSCL).

The meeting was led by Chairman, Mir Saifullah and attended by Members of the Committee, including Aijaz Ahmad Jan, Pawan Kumar Gupta, Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani, Rajiv Jasrotia, Saif ud Din Bhat, Mian Mehar Ali, Arjun Singh Raju, Mohan Lal and Rafiq Ahmad Naik.

Chairman Bureau of Public Enterprises, MD NHM, MD JKMSCL, Special Secretary Health and Medical Education department, Director Health Services Kashmir, Director Finance Health and Medical Education department, Director Ayush, Principals of all GMCs, CMOs of various districts



and other concerned officers, besides Secretary JKLA, Manoj Kumar Pandit and other officers of Assembly Secretariat.

During the meeting, the Committee took detailed stock of procurement, supply, distribution and availability of essential medicines and medical equipment for health institutions across Jammu and Kashmir. The committee also held comprehensive discussion on

the functioning of the Corporation, with particular focus on ensuring timely procurement and uninterrupted supply of essential and life-saving medicines to Government hospitals, Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres and other healthcare institutions.

Addressing the meeting, the Chairman emphasised on availability of medicines, especially those required

for the treatment and management of fatal and critical diseases. He directed the Corporation to maintain adequate buffer stocks of such medicines so that patients do not face any difficulty due to shortages at any healthcare facility.

The Chairman also stressed on the need for a robust inventory management mechanism to monitor the availability, consumption and replenishment of essential medicines in real time. It called for regular assessment of the requirements of individual health institutions and directed that procurement and distribution mechanisms be strengthened accordingly. While reviewing the procurement process, the Committee sought details regarding the status of supplies, pending procurements, stock position and distribution network of the Corporation. The Committee called for greater efficiency and transparency at every stage of procurement and supply to ensure optimum utilisation of public resources.

## VC JKLCMA directs intensified Lake Cleaning Operations

### HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 19: The Vice Chairman, JKLCMA, Khurshid Ahmad Shah, today undertook an extensive on-site assessment of Dal Lake to take stock of the ongoing cleaning and conservation activities being carried out by the Authority.

During the inspection, the Vice Chairman visited various locations of Dal Lake, particularly the Gagribal Basin, and took stock of the progress of the ongoing cleaning activities on site. He reviewed the deployment of manpower and machinery, including Watermasters, harvesters, and grabbers, and assessed the effectiveness of the measures being undertaken for the removal of weeds, aquatic vegetation, accumulated waste, and other floating material from different sections of the lake.

During the field inspection, the Vice Chairman identified specific locations for the deployment of the hired lake cleaning machinery. He directed the concerned officers to ensure that the machinery is deployed at the identified spots in a planned and effective manner to intensify the ongoing lake cleaning operations.

Khurshid Ahmad Shah emphasised the need for a systematic and area-specific



approach to lake cleaning, with priority being given to locations experiencing heavy weed infestation and excessive accumulation of aquatic vegetation. He particularly directed that focused cleaning measures be undertaken in the area around SKICC and Lalit Ghat where the 1st International Film Festival is scheduled to be held from September 07 to September 10, 2026, ensuring that the designated area is adequately cleaned and maintained in advance of the event.

He directed the field staff and concerned officers to maintain close monitoring of the cleaning operations and ensure that the machinery remains operational and is utilized to its optimum capacity. He also called for regular assessment of the cleaned areas to prevent re-accumulation of weeds and waste.

## J&K sets district-wise roadmap for sports infrastructure, wider access to facilities: Comm Secy YS&S

### HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 19: Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports department, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, today chaired a review of the department's sports infrastructure, ongoing capital works, Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) projects and programmes for strengthening sports and youth engagement across Jammu and Kashmir.

The review took stock of the work undertaken by the department over the past several months. It set out a district-level roadmap for expansion, upgradation and better utilisation of sports facilities, with particular emphasis on equitable access, athlete development and time-bound completion of projects.

The meeting was attended by Director General Youth Services & Sports J&K Anuradha Gupta, senior officers of the department, Planning, Financial Advisor and Sports Council representatives, Chief Planning Officers, District Statistical and Evaluation Officers and District Youth Services & Sports Officers from across the Union Territory.



A detailed presentation was made on the portfolio of sports infrastructure projects taken up under Capex, SASCI and CSS, along with the status of ongoing works, funding, execution and future requirements. The department has taken up 210 new sports projects under Capex and 17 projects under SASCI, with a cumulative investment of over 500 crore. Against these projects, around 160 crore have already been released to the concerned Heads of Departments and executing agencies.

Dr Shahid Iqbal directed the concerned agencies to expedite tendering and execution while maintaining quality standards and ensuring that projects are completed within

the approved timelines. He stressed that the focus should not only be on creation of new assets but also on making existing infrastructure functional, accessible and suitable for regular sporting activity.

The Commissioner Secretary directed the Chief Planning Officers, District Statistical and Evaluation Officers and District Youth Services & Sports Officers to undertake a comprehensive district-wise assessment of sports infrastructure, including playgrounds, stadiums, indoor facilities and other sporting assets.

The assessment will identify infrastructure gaps, underserved areas and facilities requiring augmentation.

Existing assets will be mapped and geotagged and district plans will form the basis for prioritising new infrastructure as well as upgradation of existing facilities.

Dr Shahid Iqbal called for greater involvement of local youth and sporting communities at the planning stage so that facilities are designed around actual local requirements and receive sustained community utilisation. He asked for according particular attention to border and remote areas, hilly and difficult terrain, tribal areas and other underserved regions besides ensuring adequate sporting opportunities in schools, colleges and other educational institutions. The approach will seek to create a more balanced sports ecosystem in which access to facilities is not determined by geographical location, he added.

The Commissioner Secretary emphasised that infrastructure planning must be linked with a clear pathway for identification, nurturing and development of sporting talent. Facilities are to be assessed not merely as physical assets but for their ability to support regular coaching, competitions, access to equipment, fitness and conditioning, talent identification and progression of promising athletes.



# DC Ganderbal reviews arrangements for Eid-ul-Milad-un-Nabi (S.A.W)

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, AUGUST 19: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today chaired a meeting to review the preparations and arrangements for the smooth and peaceful observance of Eid-ul-Milad-un-Nabi (S.A.W) across the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the arrangements being put in place at all major shrines and religious places where celebrations and congregational gatherings are scheduled to be held, with particular focus on security, traffic management, road connectivity, drinking water, healthcare, power supply, sanitation and other essential facilities.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments to ensure that adequate arrangements are put in place at each identified shrine and venue well in advance so that devotees and the general public do not face any inconvenience during the celebrations.

The Health Department was directed to ensure deployment of medical teams, ambulances and essential medicines at identified locations, while the Power Development Department was asked to ensure uninterrupted power supply and keep necessary backup arrangements



in readiness.

The R&B authorities were directed to ensure proper condition of roads leading to the shrines and congregation points and undertake necessary repairs wherever required. The Jal Shakti authorities were asked to ensure adequate and uninterrupted drinking water supply at all identified venues.

The Deputy Commissioner also stressed upon proper cleanliness, sanitation and waste management around shrines, mosques and other congregation points, directing the concerned agencies to ensure that all locations are kept clean before, during and after the celebrations.

Reviewing traffic arrangements, the ARTO and Traffic Police were directed to formulate an effective traffic management plan, regulate vehicular

movement and ensure smooth movement of devotees, particularly at locations expected to witness large gatherings.

The Deputy Commissioner further directed all concerned officers to undertake advance field inspections of the identified shrines and venues and ensure completion of all arrangements within the stipulated timelines. He stressed upon close coordination among all departments and prompt response to any requirement during the celebrations.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated the commitment of the District Administration to ensure safe, peaceful and well-organised Eid-ul-Milad-un-Nabi (S.A.W) celebrations across the district and directed all stakeholders to work in close coordination for the

convenience and welfare of devotees.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Chief Medical Officer Ganderbal, Executive Engineers of R&B Ganderbal and Kangan, Executive Engineer PDD, officers from Jal Shakti, ARTO, Traffic Police and other concerned officers. The R&B authorities were directed to ensure proper condition of roads leading to the shrines and congregation points and undertake necessary repairs wherever required. The Jal Shakti authorities were asked to ensure adequate and uninterrupted drinking water supply at all identified venues.

The Deputy Commissioner also stressed upon proper cleanliness, sanitation and waste management around shrines, mosques and other congregation points, directing the concerned agencies to ensure that all locations are kept clean before, during and after the celebrations.

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The Deputy Commissioner further directed all concerned officers to undertake advance field inspections of the identified shrines and venues.

## DC Anantnag inaugurates Aadhaar Seva Kendra at Batengoo

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 19: Deputy Commissioner (DC), Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, today inaugurated the UIDAI-approved Aadhaar Seva Kendra (ASK) located at Batengoo.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by the Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Tariq Ahmad Malik,

Project Manager, Cluster Manager, and Operational Manager along with staff and the local public.

Following the inauguration, the Project Manager UIDAI briefed the Deputy Commissioner on the operational features of the facility and the full range of citizen-centric services related to Aadhaar available at the centre.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC stressed the importance of smooth, efficient, and hassle-free service delivery to the public. He urged the management and staff to ensure high standards of operational quality so that local residents can access Aadhaar enrolment and update services seamlessly.



Notably, services like fresh Aadhaar enrolment, mandatory biometric updates for children, Cross Limit DOB, demographic updates (name, address, mobile number), and document verification services under UIDAI standards are available at the Aadhaar Seva Kendra Centre located at Ground Floor, Near Whiz Kidz STEM School Batengoo.

## Shopian Admin urges Farmers to complete AgriStack Registration for generation of Unique ID

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, AUGUST 19: District Administration Shopian has urged all farmers to approach their concerned Patwaris/Revenue field staff and complete registration under AgriStack for generation of the unique Farmers ID.

The initiative will create a comprehensive digital database of farmers and facilitate seamless access to agriculture-related benefits, including Direct Benefit Transfer, crop insurance, soil health cards and institutional credit.

Meanwhile, Revenue officials and field

staff have been directed to expedite the exercise, ensure proper verification and maintain data quality. Special assistance has been advised for elderly and marginal farmers.

Registration and verification under AgriStack is currently underway across the district through dedicated camps, with all villages being covered in a phased manner.

Farmers are urged to cooperate with the field staff and complete their registration at the earliest to ensure that no eligible farmer is left out.

## ADC Kulgam reviews arrangements for Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) Celebrations

■ Farooq Rather



KULGAM, AUGUST 19: A meeting of officers and members of local auqaf management committees was today held under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Vikar Ahmad Giri, at Mini Secretariat Kulgam to review the arrangements for the upcoming celebrations of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW).

Deliberations were held on provision of all requisite facilities including drinking water, sanitation, medical care, uninterrupted power supply, adequate transport services, and parking facilities for devotees.

Fire & Emergency Department was instructed to station fire tenders at shrines where large congregations are expected. Municipal authorities were directed to put in place proper sanitation measures well in advance at shrines and Khankahas, particularly at Ziyarat Shareef Kulgam, Qaimoh, Gufbal, Yaroo Hazratbal, Chimmer, Kund, and other prominent locations.

Traffic and MV Departments were directed to ensure smooth transport facilities and proper route management across the district, while the CMO was instructed to make available adequate medical facilities and ambulances at key places.

The ADC instructed all departments to put in place elaborated arrangements across the district to ensure smooth celebrations of Eid Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) across the district. He also stressed on intensifying market checking to oversee fair market practices and ensure availability of essential commodities.

The meeting was attended by ACD, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar, Dy.SP HQ Nisar Ahmad, Dy.SP Traffic Mohd Aslam, Exen Jal Shakti, CMO, EO, MC and other officers and officials.

## Bandipora Admin urges farmers to complete AgriStack registration for generation of Unique Farmers IDs

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 19: The District Administration Bandipora has urged all farmers to approach and attend Revenue Camps being organised in their respective villages and complete registration under AgriStack for generation of the unique Farmers ID.

The camps have already been conducted at various locations and will continue to be organised to ensure that every eligible farmer is informed and facilitated to complete the registration process.

The initiative will create a comprehensive digital database of farmers to facilitate seamless

access to agriculture-related benefits, including Direct Benefit Transfer, crop insurance, soil health cards and institutional credit.

Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, has personally visited and reviewed several Farmer ID registration camps, taking stock of the awareness, mobilisation and registration arrangements. She had emphasised sustained field-level outreach and effective dissemination of information so that no eligible farmer remains unregistered due to lack of awareness.

All eligible farmers are requested to attend the camps in their respective areas and

carry their Aadhaar details, mobile number and other required particulars for registration.

Meanwhile, Revenue officials and field staff have been directed to expedite the exercise, ensure proper verification and maintain data quality. Special assistance has been advised for elderly and marginal farmers.

The District Administration has called for continuous awareness and mobilisation at the grassroots level to ensure that the message reaches every eligible farmer and that no farmer is left out of Farmer ID generation for want of information.

## Deputy Commissioners of Udhampur, Ramban visit 1,800 MW Sawalkote Hydroelectric Project Headquarter at Tanger

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, AUGUST 19: Deputy Commissioners of Udhampur and Ramban along with a team of senior officers of the twin-districts today visited the headquarters of the Sawalkote Hydroelectric Project here at Tanger, to take stock of progress made on the 1,800 MW project – which is going to be the biggest hydropower utility in Jammu Kashmir.

The delegation was led by

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Minga Sherpa and Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Muhammad Alyas Khan. They were accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Revenue and Collector, Sawalkote Project, Shokat Hayat Mattoo, Divisional Forest Officer, Udhampur, Sandeep Divyaji Behera and District Mining Officer, Udhampur, Sunil Sharma along with besides other revenue and police officials. Head of Project, Sawalkote Hydroelectric

Project, Satnam Singh, briefed them at length on the current status of work. He briefed about overall development of the project, key infrastructure components, status of dam and access tunnels and roads. He also laid out the project's forward roadmap, outlining the sequence of regulatory milestones ahead – beginning with anticipated approval from the Public Investment Board (PIB), to be followed by clearance from the Cabinet Committee.

# DC Bandipora reviews arrangements for Chota Amarnath Yatra; Stresses ‘Zero Waste Yatra’

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 19: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today chaired a meeting to review and assess arrangements for the upcoming Maha Dhyaneswar (Chota Amarnath) Yatra, scheduled to be held on August 28.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the security arrangements for the Yatra and stressed the need for adequate safety and security measures for the pilgrims. She directed the Police Department and the concerned Block Development Officer to conduct a thorough track visit and assess the safety of the route, besides identifying and addressing any potential concerns

well in advance.

The DC also reviewed the medical arrangements to be put in place at Sharda Mandir, Kaloosa, and along the Yatra track, directing the concerned authorities to ensure adequate medical facilities and prompt response mechanisms for the pilgrims.

Threadbare discussions were also held on sanitation, transportation, electricity, drinking water supply, deployment of fire tenders, refreshments and provision of ponies for the convenience and safety of the devotees. The concerned departments were directed to ensure that all arrangements were put in place well before the commencement of the Yatra and that close inter-

departmental coordination was maintained.

Emphasising the importance of cleanliness during the pilgrimage, the Deputy Commissioner called for active participation of all stakeholders under the Swachhta 50-50 campaign, urging officers, volunteers, pilgrims and the public to contribute towards ensuring a cleaner and greener Yatra.

The Deputy Commissioner announced that this year's Yatra would be observed as a 'Zero Waste Yatra', with Swachhta bags to be provided to pilgrims to facilitate proper collection and disposal of waste. She stressed that cleanliness and environmental responsibility should remain a collective priority throughout the Yatra.



The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments to remain proactive and ensure that every necessary arrangement was completed in a coordinated manner to facilitate a safe, smooth, clean and comfortable pilgrimage for all devotees.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl, and Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Shabir Ahmad Wani, while Senior Superintendent of Police Bandipora, Ajaz Ahmad Zargar; Commanding Officer 14RR; Assistant Commissioner Development, Bandipora; Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti, Bandipora; Executive Engineer, PDD, Bandipora;

Chief Medical Officer, Bandipora; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Bandipora; Tehsildar Bandipora; Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Bandipora; Assistant Director, Fire & Emergency Services, Bandipora; Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Bandipora; and representatives of the concerned departments and civil society, and other officers attended the meeting virtually. Emphasising the importance of cleanliness during the pilgrimage, the Deputy Commissioner called for active participation of all stakeholders under the Swachhta 50-50 campaign, urging officers, volunteers, pilgrims and the public to contribute towards ensuring a cleaner and greener Yatra.



## Prof. Anurag Misra assumes charge as Director, NIT Srinagar Says focus will be on efficient administration, innovation, entrepreneurship and holistic development of students

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Aug 19: Prof. Anurag Misra on Wednesday assumed charge as Director of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, succeeding Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, in accordance with the orders of the Ministry of Education.

Prof. Misra was warmly received by Dean R&C, along with outgoing Director Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia. After assuming charge, Prof. Misra held a meeting with the Deans and Heads of Departments.

He sought inputs from the academic leadership and assured that genuine concerns would be examined and addressed on priority. Addressing the Deans and HoDs, Prof. Misra said the institute's students, faculty and staff must remain at the centre of all institutional efforts. "Our collective priority should be to strengthen NIT Srinagar as an institution of excellence. Every decision and initiative must ultimately contribute to better opportunities for our students,



stronger academic and research outcomes, and a more efficient and responsive institutional system," he said.

Prof. Misra assured the institute community of his full support and called for collective efforts to achieve institutional goals. "An institution can progress only when its faculty, officers, staff and students work together with a shared sense of purpose.

I look forward to working with the entire NIT Srinagar community to take the institute to greater heights," he said.

Outgoing Director Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, who joined NIT Srinagar in 2024, while interacting with the new Director and the institute leadership, highlighted the importance of continuity in institutional development. He said the welfare of students,

faculty and staff, along with the overall progress of NIT Srinagar, should remain the collective focus of the institute community. During his tenure, Prof. Kanaujia spearheaded several initiatives aimed at strengthening the Institute's administrative and academic systems. These included the implementation and strengthening of the e-Office system, streamlining of administrative processes, major academic decisions and initiatives for implementation of NEP 2020, strengthening of GIF support and incubation activities, and promotion of sports and student-centric activities.

Prof. Kanaujia also emphasised the importance of building upon the initiatives already undertaken and ensuring continuity in the Institute's developmental journey.

"Progress is always a collective endeavour. The support of faculty, officers, staff and students is essential for taking the institute forward. The focus must remain on strengthening NIT Srinagar as a premier centre of learning, research and innovation.

## ZEO Nishat Family Felicitates Noordin Shah and Saira Parveen on Prestigious Recognition

Felicitation Brings Pride to ZEO Nishat

■ HT News Network

Srinagar: It was a proud and memorable occasion for the entire ZEO Nishat family as Mr. Noordin Shah, I/C Samagra Shiksha/PM POSHAN, and Ms. Saira Parveen, Cultural Coordinator, Zone Nishat, were honoured with prestigious Felicitation Certificates/Awards by the Worthy Director School Education Kashmir on the occasion of 15th August 2026, in recognition of their dedicated services, sincere efforts and commendable contribution to the field of education and



departmental activities. The recognition of the two officials was warmly welcomed by the officers, Headmasters, teachers and staff associated with Zonal Education Office Nishat. Their achievement was described as a matter of immense pride not only for the recipients but for the entire

educational fraternity of Zone Nishat.

On behalf of the ZEO Nishat and all officials of the Zonal Education Office Nishat, heartfelt congratulations are extended to Mr. Noordin Shah and Ms. Saira Parveen on receiving this prestigious recognition from the Directorate of School Education Kashmir. Their honour is a testament to their sincere efforts, dedication, professionalism and commendable contribution towards the education sector and various departmental activities.

## KU's E-YUVA centre holds workshop on transforming scientific ideas into successful ventures

■ HT News Network

Srinagar Aug 19: The BIRACE-YUVA Centre at the Department of Biotechnology, University of Kashmir (KU), organised a one-day national workshop on "Beyond Laboratory: Transforming Scientific Ideas into Successful Ventures" at the Main Campus. The workshop aimed to familiarise college students, graduates and aspiring innovators with the fundamentals of scientific entrepreneurship and equip them with the knowledge and skills required to translate laboratory research and scientific ideas into viable, market-oriented ventures. Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor, KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, emphasised the

importance of creating stronger linkages between scientific research, innovation and entrepreneurship.

"Scientific knowledge must not remain confined to laboratories; it should be translated into solutions that address real-world challenges. By nurturing an entrepreneurial mindset among our young students and researchers, we can create an ecosystem where innovative ideas are turned into meaningful ventures and contribute to the development of society," she said. Coordinator, BIRACE-YUVA Centre, KU, Dr. Asif Amin, provided an overview of the Centre and its initiatives for promoting student-led innovation and entrepreneurship in biotechnology and life sciences.

## CBC Udampur hosts pre-publicity events at Sainik Cooperative Public High School Tikri

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, AUGUST 19: In a vibrant lead-up to the upcoming 2-day Integrated Communication Outreach Programme, the Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Field Office Udhampur, on Wednesday organised a pre-publicity event at Sainik Cooperative Public High School Tikri. The event served as a curtain-raiser for the Photo Exhibition on Nasha Mukht Bharat and Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita scheduled to commence from August 20, 2026.

The programme featured a series of youth-centric activities, including a Seminar, Quiz Contest, Lectures by dignitaries and Cultural Programmes on the themes of "Nasha Mukht Bharat, Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita and Flagship Programmes of Government of India". The initiative aimed to sensitise students about the flagship schemes and developmental projects of the Government of India.

Ex. Serviceman Capt. Durga Singh, Founder member of the School graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. In his address, the Chief Guest lauded the CBC's efforts in bringing vital government information to the grassroots level.

## SKUAST-K transfers HADP-funded Exotic Mushroom Technology to Agriculture Department for Scaling up High-Value, Circular Bioeconomy

HT News Network

Srinagar, Aug 19: In a significant step towards taking Jammu & Kashmir agriculture into the realm of high-value, knowledge-driven and circular bioeconomy, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir today transferred its patented exotic mushroom production technology to the Department of Agriculture for wider dissemination among farmers and agri-entrepreneurs across the Union Territory.

The technology, developed by the University's Mushroom Research and Training Centre (MRTC), includes production technologies for three high-value exotic mushrooms—Shiitake, King Oyster and Enoki—along with the associated strains. The technology transfer, organised by the Directorate of Research, SKUAST-K,



marks an important milestone in taking University research from laboratories and research stations to farmers, entrepreneurs and markets.

The initiative is particularly significant as the exotic mushrooms can be cultivated using locally available woody agricultural and horticultural biomass, including apple-pruning waste, which is otherwise often burnt or discarded. The technology thus converts an

environmental liability into an economic resource, creating a waste-to-wealth model while reducing biomass burning and promoting sustainable agriculture.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, said exotic mushroom cultivation represents the transition from conventional agriculture to high-value, resource-efficient and knowledge-intensive agriculture. He said these mushrooms

## JU's Bhaderwah Campus Organises Start-up Workshop; Students Pitch Innovative Business Models



■ Amir Iqbal Khan

Bhaderwah, August 19: To cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset and provide students with real world industry exposure, the School of Management Studies (SOMS) at Bhaderwah Campus, University of Jammu, organised a one day workshop on "Start-up and Entrepreneurship" in collaboration with Mudralaya Fintech Pvt. Ltd. here on Wednesday. The workshop organised under the leadership of Rector Prof. Rahul Gupta and coordinated by Incharge Head SOMS Dr. Umesh Choudhary served as a platform for budding management graduates to interact directly with industry professionals and venture builders.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Umesh Choudhary emphasised the department's vision of shaping graduates into self-reliant leaders.

"Our primary commitment is to nurture students not just as job seekers but as job creators, innovators and

future entrepreneurs who can contribute meaningfully to the regional and national economy," Dr. Choudhary said.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Bhaderwah, Vinod Sharma graced the occasion as the chief guest while US based licensed psychologist Dr. Nelu Zia attended as the guest of honour.

A team from Mudralaya Fintech Pvt. Ltd. comprising Chief Executive Officer Kunal Dalotra, Chief Marketing Officer Rupali Thakur and Founder's Associate Rohit conducted interactive sessions on business planning, risk assessment and sustainable venture development.

A key highlight of the event was a pitch presentation where students from BBA, B.Com and MBA programmes showcased six innovative business ideas. The industry experts evaluated the business models providing actionable feedback on market scalability, execution frameworks and commercial viability.

## Two-Day Theatre Seminar on "Modern Theatre and Youth of Kashmir" Concludes at Kashmir Government Polytechnic College



HT News Network

Srinagar, August 18, 2026: A two-day theatre seminar on "Modern Theatre and Youth of Kashmir" concluded successfully at Kashmir Government Polytechnic College, Gogji Bagh, Srinagar, bringing together prominent theatre experts, artists, scholars, critics and young theatre enthusiasts. The seminar was organised with the objective of creating meaningful dialogue on the present state of modern theatre in Kashmir and exploring the role of youth in strengthening and carrying forward the region's rich theatrical tradition. The two-day programme was divided into three major sessions—an inaugural session, paper-reading session and lecture session. The sessions provided a platform for theatre practitioners, scholars and critics to share their experiences, research and perspectives on contemporary theatre. During the paper-reading sessions, prominent theatre personalities and scholars including Majeed Majazi, Shakir Shafi, Sheikh Fatima, Hakeem Javed, Shahzad Shabir, Mantasha Shuja, Shahid Malik and Shabeer Hakak presented their papers on various aspects of modern theatre, its development, challenges

and relevance to young people. The lecture sessions featured eminent theatre personalities and experts including Bashir Bhawani, Mohammad Amin Bhat, Nisar Naseem, Hamayun Qaisar, Shafiq Qureshi, Dr. Nishtar, Shakeel Rehman, Shabir Mujahid, Bashir Qadri and Dr. Sohan Lal Koul. The speakers discussed different dimensions of theatre, including contemporary theatrical practices, acting, direction, writing, theatre criticism, experimentation and the changing relationship between theatre and society. The experts emphasised that theatre is not merely a form of entertainment but an important medium of social communication, cultural expression, education and preservation of identity. They highlighted the need to encourage young people to participate in theatre and create more opportunities for their training, experimentation and professional development. The speakers also discussed the challenges faced by theatre practitioners in Kashmir and stressed the importance of institutional support, collaboration among theatre groups and greater engagement of educational institutions with theatre and performing arts.

## CUKashmir, ICSSR holds seminar of GST Reforms 2.0: Sectoral Growth Prospects and Challenges

■ HT News Network

Ganderbal, Aug 19: Department of Commerce, School of Business Studies, Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir) in collaboration with the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi, began a two-day national seminar on "GST Reforms 2.0: Sectoral Growth Prospects and Challenges", at the Tulmulla campus here Wednesday.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, said the introduction of GST represented a significant transformation of India's indirect tax system, while the subsequent reforms were aimed at addressing emerging challenges and making the system more responsive to



the needs of citizens and businesses. He called for a balanced approach in which taxation supports economic activity while encouraging environmental consciousness, social responsibility and responsible consumption. Prof. A. Ravinder Nath highlighted the importance of examining GST reforms from the perspective of

different income groups and sectors, particularly agriculture, manufacturing and services. CUKashmir VC expressed hope that the deliberations would result in substantive recommendations capable of contributing to policy discourse and could eventually be placed before the appropriate authorities, including the GST

Council.

Vice-Chancellor, Ravenshaw University, Prof. (Dr.) Arka Das Mohapatra, who was the chief guest on the occasion, appreciated CUKashmir for creating a platform where academic knowledge, policy experience and field-level perspectives could converge. He noted that taxation ultimately affects the everyday lives of citizens and, therefore, the success of tax reform should be assessed not merely by the sophistication of its structure but by whether its benefits reach ordinary people. Prof. Mohapatra called for greater attention to affordability, quality of services, environmental responsibility and socially conscious taxation. He suggested that taxation policies could

encourage environmentally responsible manufacturing and healthier consumption patterns, while ensuring that essential goods remain affordable for economically vulnerable sections of society.

Additional Commissioner, Sales Tax, J&K, Mr. Parvez Ahmed Raina, explained the practical dimensions of implementing GST Reforms 2.0. He identified three key features of the reform process—simpler rate architecture, sectoral rationalisation and a new phase of compliance. Mr. Raina said that while the rationalisation of rates could enhance affordability and purchasing power, its implementation also presented challenges relating to rate transitions, classification, input tax credit (ITC), refunds.

Ministry of Culture, Government of India  
NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DRAMA  
(An Autonomous Institution of Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)  
THEATRE IN EDUCATION CENTRE, SRINAGAR  
In collaboration with  
J&K ACADEMY OF ART, CULTURE & LANGUAGES  
ORGANISES

### 15 DAY WRITING WORKSHOP FROM 3<sup>RD</sup> Sep. 2026

The National School of Drama, Theatre in Education Centre, Srinagar in collaboration with J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages is going to organize 15-day writing workshop in Srinagar. The workshop aims to develop the core writing skills, writing process, craft of creative writing and enhance the play writing techniques under the guidance of NSD experts.

Interested aspirants may collect the application forms from NSD, TIE Centre, Cultural Academy Campus, Lal Mandi, Srinagar from 16th August to 31st August 2026 between 11:00am to 4:00pm.

Register your name before the workshop begins  
➤ Admissions is free on the first cum first serve basis.  
➤ After the completion of workshop certificates will be awarded to all the participants.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:  
1. Copy of Aadhar Card.  
2. Passport size photograph.  
3. Credentials in support of writing experiences.  
For further information contact 9419059895

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Director National School of Drama



HT EDITORIAL

# When the Weather Changes, Kashmir Must Change Too...

Erratic rainfall, rising temperatures and extreme weather underline the need for greater climate preparedness across J&K

Jammu and Kashmir’s latest spell of rainfall is yet another reminder of how unpredictable weather is becoming across the Himalayan region. With Jammu recording 88.7 mm of rain in the past 24 hours, and significant rainfall reported from Samba, Kathua, Katra and Udhampur, the Meteorological Department has warned of further spells of rain and thunderstorms, along with the possibility of flash floods, landslides and mudslides.

While such weather fluctuations are not unusual for the region, their increasing unpredictability deserves closer attention. The Kashmir Valley, in particular, has witnessed noticeable changes in weather patterns in recent years, with warmer periods, irregular rainfall and sudden intense showers increasingly becoming part of the seasonal experience.

These changes cannot be attributed to a single weather system or rainfall event. However, the broader phenomenon of global warming and climate change is altering weather patterns across the world, and the Himalayan region remains particularly sensitive to these changes. Jammu and Kashmir, with its mountains, glaciers, forests, rivers and fragile ecosystems, is naturally vulnerable to extreme weather.

The answer, therefore, is not to view every heavy shower as a crisis, but to become better prepared for changing climatic conditions. Stronger drainage systems, protection of wetlands and water bodies, responsible construction, better maintenance of roads and slopes, and effective early-warning mechanisms can significantly reduce the risks associated with intense rainfall.

Agriculture also needs greater climate awareness. Farmers require timely weather information and practical guidance to plan harvesting and other operations when rainfall patterns become less predictable.

The latest advisory from the MeT should consequently be seen as both a weather update and an opportunity to reflect on preparedness. Climate change may be a global challenge, but its effects are increasingly being experienced locally.

Kashmir may not be able to control the changing climate, but it can certainly prepare better for it.

# The Shadow Of Memories In My Eyes



BY-MOOL RAJ

Have you ever heard an old song on the radio and felt your whole childhood come rushing back in one breath?

Now I wonder if maybe they just keep walking back into those old rooms more often than I do.

I plan to visit my old school gate, even if it now sells mobile phone covers instead of candy.

Readers might have noticed my infatuation with the past. I often relate my childhood experience to a modern day issue. I often drag my school or university days when I write about today's youth. I love my past, but sometimes what worries me the most is what if these memories disappear or fade gradually. As we age, our memory becomes weak and we start forgetting the past events. Occasionally, I struggle to remember the name of someone who I met a couple of weeks ago.

I still have several friends who narrate a two decade old event with minute detail. I envy their brain health. Now I find this excellent blog on Minute Mirror site which says something that gave me real comfort.

I think that forgotten memories may not be gone at all. They may just be sleeping. Scientists studied fruit flies, of all creatures, and found something remarkable. When they placed these tiny flies back in an environment similar to where a memory first formed, that memory came alive again. It was not dead. It was only quiet, waiting for the right door to knock on.

Now I am no scientist, friends. I am just a man who spends too much time looking backward. But when I read this, something in my chest loosened up a little. Because I always feared that my old memories were leaking out of me, drop by drop, the way water leaks from a cracked clay pot. I feared that one day I would wake up and my childhood street would be gone from my mind, my mother's voice reading me stories would be gone, the smell of my school canteen would be gone.

But this research tells a gentler story. It tells me that memory is not a candle that simply

burns out. It is more like a lamp switched off in a room I stopped visiting. The lamp is still there. The bulb still works. I only need to walk back into that room, and somehow, the light comes on again.

Think about it, friends. Have you ever caught a scent, maybe of rain falling on dry earth, and suddenly you are eighty years old again, standing on your grandmother's veranda? Have you ever heard an old song on the radio and felt your whole childhood come rushing back in one breath? That is not magic. That is your brain finding the right key for a door it had quietly locked.

Of course, the article is honest enough to admit that scientists still do not fully understand everything. Sometimes the brain brings back memories that are not entirely true. It mixes things up. It adds a little color here, removes a little detail there. Human memory, unlike a fruit fly's, is a complicated thing. But even with its flaws, I find this idea beautiful. Our memories are patient. They do not vanish just because we stop visiting them. They simply wait.

I think of my old friends, the ones who can recall an event from twenty years ago as if it

happened yesterday. I used to envy them, thinking their brains were simply built better than mine. Now I wonder if maybe they just keep walking back into those old rooms more often than I do. Maybe remembering is not only about a strong brain. Maybe it is about visiting.

So here is what I plan to do, friends. I plan to walk old streets again. I plan to visit my old school gate, even if it now sells mobile phone covers instead of candy. I plan to play those old songs my father used to hum while shaving in the morning. I plan to open every quiet room in my mind, one by one, and let the light back in.

Because somewhere in me, my mother is still calling me in for dinner. Somewhere in me, my school bell is still ringing. Somewhere in me, a boy is still running home before the street lights come on.

They are not gone.  
They were only sleeping.  
And tonight, God willing, I intend to wake every single one of them up.

THE AUTHOR IS A REGULAR COLUMNIST AND FREELANCE WRITER

# From Sheep's Wool to Bone Regrowth

## A New Scientific Breakthrough



Dr. Vijay Garg

What if a material commonly associated with sweaters, blankets and carpets could one day help the human body repair damaged bones? Scientists are exploring exactly this possibility by transforming sheep's wool into a biomedical material designed to support bone regeneration. The breakthrough highlights how an everyday natural resource can become a promising tool in regenerative medicine.

Researchers at King's College London have developed a material based on keratin, a strong natural protein found in wool. Their recent work showed that wool-derived keratin could support the growth of new bone tissue in living animal models. Importantly, the newly formed tissue showed structural characteristics that were closer to healthy natural bone than those produced using a commonly used collagen-based material.

From Wool Fibre to Medical Material  
Sheep's wool is rich in keratin, the same family of structural proteins found in hair, skin and nails. Instead of using wool simply as a textile fibre, scientists can extract and process its keratin to create specialised biomedical structures.

The researchers developed keratin-based scaffolds that can be placed at sites where bone has been damaged. A scaffold does not simply replace the missing bone. Its purpose is to provide a temporary structure that can support cells and guide the body's natural repair processes.

In animal experiments, the wool-derived material helped guide new bone growth across damaged areas. The findings suggest that keratin could provide a useful biological environment for bone-forming cells and could eventually contribute to new approaches for repairing skeletal defects.

Why Bone Regeneration Matters  
Bone has a remarkable ability to repair itself. Small fractures can heal naturally because bone tissue is continuously remodelled. However, large defects caused by severe injuries, disease, surgery or other conditions can be much more difficult to repair.

Doctors may currently use bone grafts or synthetic and biological materials to help bridge larger defects. Each approach has advantages and limitations. This has encouraged scientists to search for materials that are biocompatible, structurally appropriate, affordable and capable of supporting natural tissue regeneration.

Keratin is attractive because it is a naturally derived protein with properties that can encourage cell attachment and growth. Research over several years has investigated keratin-based scaffolds, hydrogels and composites for applications including bone and other forms of tissue regeneration.

The Importance of the Scaffold  
One of the most interesting aspects of this research is that scientists are not claiming that wool itself simply "turns into bone." Instead, keratin extracted from wool is processed into a carefully designed biomedical material.

The scaffold acts as a temporary framework. Cells can interact with it, attach to it and gradually produce new tissue. As healing progresses, the scaffold can be integrated into the biological repair process and, depending on its design, eventually break down.

Earlier research also explored keratin-hydroxyapatite materials as potential bone-graft substitutes. Studies found that such materials could be biocompatible and participate in the natural remodelling of bone, although their performance depended strongly on the composition and structure of the material.

A Sustainable Medical Resource  
The discovery has another important dimension: sustainability. Wool is a renewable biological resource, and some wool from farming operations has relatively low commercial value or may be treated as waste. Turning such material into high-value biomedical products could create an additional use for an agricultural resource.

King's College London researchers have highlighted this sustainability advantage, noting that wool can provide a naturally derived and potentially scalable source of keratin.

This approach reflects a broader trend in modern science: looking at biological materials not as waste but as sources of useful molecules and structures. Agricultural by-products, algae, plant fibres and animal-derived proteins are increasingly being investigated for applications in medicine, engineering and environmental technology.

From Laboratory Discovery to Human Treatment  
Despite the excitement, an important distinction must be made between a promising experimental material and an established medical treatment.

The recent findings involve animal testing, not routine treatment in human patients. Before a wool-derived bone-regeneration product could become widely available, researchers would need to establish its safety, effectiveness, durability and long-term behaviour through further preclinical research and appropriately designed human clinical trials.

Questions about manufacturing, sterilisation, consistency, immune responses and performance under different types of bone defects would also need careful investigation.

Therefore, the discovery should be viewed as an encouraging step rather than a finished therapy.

A New Direction for Regenerative Medicine  
The significance of this research extends beyond sheep's wool. It demonstrates the potential of biomimetic materials—materials designed to work with the body's own biological processes rather than simply replacing damaged tissue.

The ultimate goal of regenerative medicine is not merely to fill a defect but to encourage the body to rebuild functional tissue. Keratin-based materials could become part of that strategy if future research confirms their safety and effectiveness in humans.

A humble material from the farm may therefore be opening an unexpected door in advanced medicine. From wool fibre to purified keratin, from keratin to a biological scaffold, and from scaffold to new bone formation, the journey illustrates how science can transform ordinary resources into extraordinary possibilities.

The story is a reminder that scientific breakthroughs do not always begin with exotic materials. Sometimes, innovation starts by looking at something familiar in an entirely new way. Sheep's wool may have been valued for generations for keeping people warm; in the future, its proteins could also help scientists develop new ways of helping damaged bones heal.

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# Role Models and Leadership Inspiring Change



By M S Nazki

These women are as brave as men!  
The monsoon rain hammered against the metal roof of the UN compound in Goma. Commander Elena Vance stared at the digital map of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Red blips flashed near a remote village named Kanya.

-A local militia had cut off the supply roads. Over two hundred displaced women and children were trapped inside a makeshift sanctuary.

-The main peacekeeping battalion was twelve hours away, bogged down by flooded rivers.

-“We can’t wait for heavy armor,” Elena said. She looked around the briefing table at her team—an all-women tactical peacekeeper unit from India, Uruguay, and Nigeria. “The militia is closing in. We move now with the light armored vehicles.”

-“Lieutenant Aisha Bello, a veteran logistics officer from Nigeria, tapped the screen. “Our mandate is protection. Let’s move, her voice calm but firm. “Our mandate is protection. Let’s move.”

-“Within twenty minutes, three white UN armored personnel carriers rolled out into the torrential downpour. Elena sat in the lead vehicle, her hand gripping the radio handset. The blue helmet felt heavy on her head, a stark symbol of hope and a massive target all at once.

-As they ascended into the dense, misty hills, the road deteriorated into mud. The vehicles slid dangerously close to the ravine edges. Inside, the team remained silent, checking their

gear and watching the tree line.

-Suddenly, a loud crack echoed over the roar of the engines. A fallen mahogany tree blocked the path ahead.

-“Ambush!” Aisha yelled over the comms. Muzzle flashes erupted from the thick foliage. Bullets pinged harmlessly off the reinforced steel of the UN vehicles, but a tire on the second carrier blew out.

-They were stuck in the kill zone. Elena didn’t hesitate. “Do not return fire unless directly engaged. Standard defensive formation. Shield the damaged vehicle!”

-“She popped the hatch, exposing herself to the rain and sporadic gunfire. Using a megaphone, she spoke in fluent Swahili, her voice booming across the hillside. “We are United Nations peacekeepers!”

-We are here for civilians! Cease fire immediately!

-“At the same time, Sergeant Maya Lin, an expert mechanic from the Indian contingent, crawled out of the back of the second vehicle. Mud caked her uniform instantly. Staying low beneath the chassis, she worked with furious speed to engage the run-flat tire system while bullets tore through the leaves above her.

-Elena kept her position in the hatch, unmoving, projecting total authority. Her refusal to panic sent a psychological ripple through the woods. The militia forces, expecting a panicked retreat or an immediate firefight, hesitated. The gunfire slowed to a stutter.

-“Vehicle two is operational!” Maya gasped into her headset, sliding back inside the steel hull. “Move, move, move!” Elena ordered.

The lead vehicle rammed the fallen tree, shoving it just far enough off the muddy track to clear a path. The convoy surged forward, breaking through the ambush zone and leaving the bewildered militia behind in the mist.

-An hour later, the white vehicles tore into the village of Kanya. The militia elements surrounding the sanctuary scattered into the bush at the sight of the arriving armor.

-Elena was the first out of the vehicle. She didn’t look for enemies; she walked straight toward the terrified families hiding inside the village church. When the women inside saw the blue helmets—and realized the soldiers wearing them were women—the tension in the air dissolved.

-Tears turned into cheers. Aisha immediately began distributing medical supplies and high-energy rations.

-Maya established a secure perimeter, while Elena sat on the dirt floor with the village elders, planning a permanent security post.

-They had not fired a single shot, yet they had won the day. As night fell over Kanya, the rain finally stopped. Elena stood watch by the perimeter, looking out at the peaceful village. She knew the peace was fragile, but tonight, two hundred people were safe because a few brave women refused to back down.....

-The story which we got:

-General DhiraJ Seth, COAS, today felicitated the women officers from ASEAN nations undergoing the ASEAN-UN Women Military Officers Course (hat us V), conducted by the Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping UNPK, New Delhi. Interacting with the 11 women officers from ASEAN countries and Indian women officers, he acknowledged their commitment and contribution towards strengthening women’s participation in UN Peacekeeping. The UNWMOC, being conducted from 10-21 August 2026 at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi, provides pre-deployment training to military officers.

This initiative was announced by the Defense Minister at the 3rd India-ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM) in Kuala Lumpur in 2025, underscoring India’s commitment to enhancing the role of women in UN Peacekeeping, regional cooperation and capacity building.

-The four pillars of the Women, Peace and Security agenda- These four pillars align gender equality and peace as shared goals – and responsibilities.

-Prevention: First, conflict should be avoided or ended whenever possible. Where there is gender equality, conflicts are less likely. And where there is conflict, parties must prevent all forms of violence against women and girls.

-Protection: The rights and safety of women and girls must be protected. Considerations must be given for the ways in which they are impacted, especially by sexual violence.

-Participation: All decisions about peace and security, from local councils to the international stage, must include women. With equal and meaningful participation, peace and security processes are more inclusive, and therefore more legitimate and more durable.

-Relief and recovery: To rebuild after conflict or crisis, women and girls have specific needs. Often, they are primary caretakers for children and elders. Women-led organizations play a vital role here, ensuring safe access to food, water and hygiene products during conflicts, and after the dust settles.

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# Saleem Yousuf's "Sada-e-Qafas"

*A New Literary Voice of Faith, Emotion and Expression*

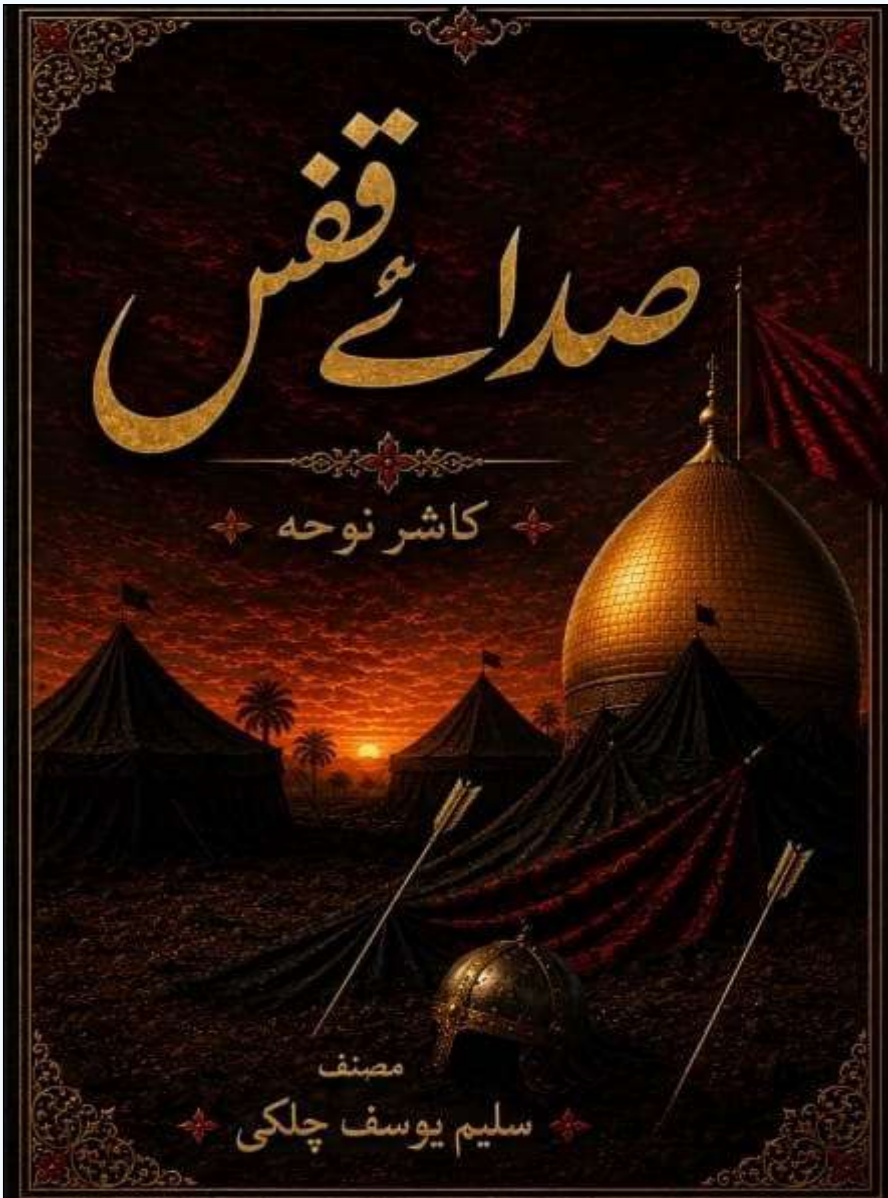
moving manner.

The verses evoke the atmosphere of Karbala with such emotional intensity that the reader is able to visualise the tragic events and feel the pain, sacrifice and steadfastness associated with them. The work seeks to transform historical memory into an emotional and literary experience for the reader. Karbala is not merely an event of history; it has become an enduring symbol of sacrifice, patience, courage, moral conviction and the struggle between truth and falsehood. For centuries, its message has continued to influence literature, art and human consciousness. Through "Sada-e-Qafas" Saleem Yousuf has connected himself with this rich literary and devotional tradition and has made an effort to contribute to the genre of religious and devotional literature.

The emergence of "Sada-e-Qafas" is particularly significant at a time when devotional literature needs greater attention and encouragement. The work may also inspire young writers to explore this important literary tradition and enrich it with their own creative voices.

Saleem Yousuf's journey from his first book, "Karpoola Sehar" to "Sada-e-Qafas" represents more than the passage of time. It reflects a process of reading, observation, experience, intellectual development and creative maturity. Writing a book is undoubtedly a challenging task, but sustaining one's creative identity and returning before readers with renewed thought and expression is an even greater challenge. His second publication demonstrates his continued engagement with literature and his determination to carry forward his creative journey. Yousuf's contribution is not confined to writing and publishing books. He is also associated with literary and cultural activities through the Inder Cultural Forum Inderkot Sumbal Sonawari. His involvement in promoting literary and cultural programmes demonstrates his belief that literature should not remain confined to the pages of a book but should play an active role in the intellectual and cultural life of society.

In the present era, when the habit of reading is facing increasing competition from modern forms



of entertainment and digital media the decision of a writer to devote time and energy to creating and publishing a book is itself a positive and encouraging development. Books continue to serve as an important bridge between human beings and ideas and the arrival of every meaningful new publication offers fresh hope to the literary community.

"Sada-e-Qafas" is one such literary effort. It not

only carries Saleem Yousuf's literary journey forward but also invites readers interested in devotional poetry, human emotions, spirituality and intellectual expression to engage with his work.

The true success of a literary work lies not merely in the number of people who read it, but also in the thoughts and emotions it awakens in them. A meaningful book can make readers reflect, raise

questions within their minds and encourage them to look at familiar realities from a different perspective. It is this quality that elevates literature beyond entertainment and makes it a vehicle for the development of human consciousness.

Kashmir has a long and distinguished tradition of poetry, literature, Sufi thought, folk traditions and cultural expression. Its soil has produced generations of poets, writers, intellectuals and artists who have enriched the region's cultural heritage. The new generation of writers can carry this legacy forward by giving it fresh expression in accordance with the needs and sensibilities of the contemporary age.

The publication of "Sada-e-Qafas" can therefore be viewed as a positive step in this continuing literary tradition. For Saleem Yousuf it is not merely his second book but also the beginning of a new chapter in his literary journey. Through this work, he has sought to strengthen his voice in the field of devotional poetry and literary expression.

On the occasion of the publication of "Sada-e-Qafas" Saleem Yousuf deserves heartfelt congratulations and good wishes. It is hoped that the book will receive appreciation from readers and literary circles and encourage the author to continue his creative work with greater confidence and commitment.

In today's rapidly changing world, encouragement of writers and cultural workers has become more important than ever. Society needs sensitive writers who can observe their surroundings, give expression to human emotions and contribute towards reconnecting the younger generation with books, reading and thoughtful reflection.

May Saleem Yousuf's literary journey continue with the same sincerity, dedication and intellectual commitment. May his pen continue to give voice to human emotions, may his thought acquire greater depth and breadth, and may his writings contribute to the promotion of positive thinking, awareness and literary taste in society.

May the pen remain alive, thought remain illuminated, and the fragrance of words continue to spread.

## The Historian Who Made History Speak

*Remembering Sumit Sarkar and His Enduring Legacy*



Amir Hussain

SUMIT SARKAR (1939–2026)

The passing of Professor Sumit Sarkar, one of the most distinguished historians of modern India, marks the end of an extraordinary scholarly life. His death is a profound loss not only to the academic community but to everyone committed to understanding India's past through evidence, critical inquiry and intellectual honesty.

Sarkar was much more than an accomplished historian. He was an inspiring teacher, an influential scholar and a

Nationalists, Subalterns (2017) and Uncollected Writings (2025), further reflected the breadth of his scholarship. He also contributed significantly to the study of gender and social reform through works such as Women and Social Reform in Modern India and to debates on caste through Caste in Modern India, both associated with his scholarly collaboration with Tanika Sarkar.

For students of history, however, Sarkar's importance cannot be measured by a bibliography alone. His greatest contribution was methodological. He taught readers to question historical assumptions, examine evidence carefully and recognise that the past cannot be reduced to the actions of a few prominent political leaders.

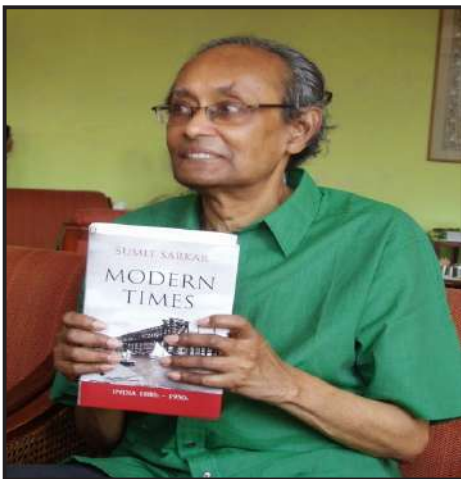
His scholarship also reminds us that nationalism itself was neither uniform nor uncontested. The making of modern India involved diverse social groups, competing political visions and complicated relationships between elites and ordinary people. By bringing these complexities

to reconsider established assumptions.

Among the many lessons his scholarship leaves behind is the importance of intellectual independence. Sarkar engaged deeply with major historiographical traditions while remaining willing to question them. His work demonstrates that a historian's responsibility is not to confirm what society already believes about the past, but to investigate the past critically.

For generations of students, Sumit Sarkar was a name encountered through textbooks, university courses, research papers and historiographical debates. For generations of historians, he was also a scholar whose arguments demanded engagement. And for those fortunate enough to have studied under his intellectual influence, directly or indirectly, he represented something even greater: the possibility of approaching history as a serious moral and intellectual endeavour.

His death leaves behind an immense scholarly



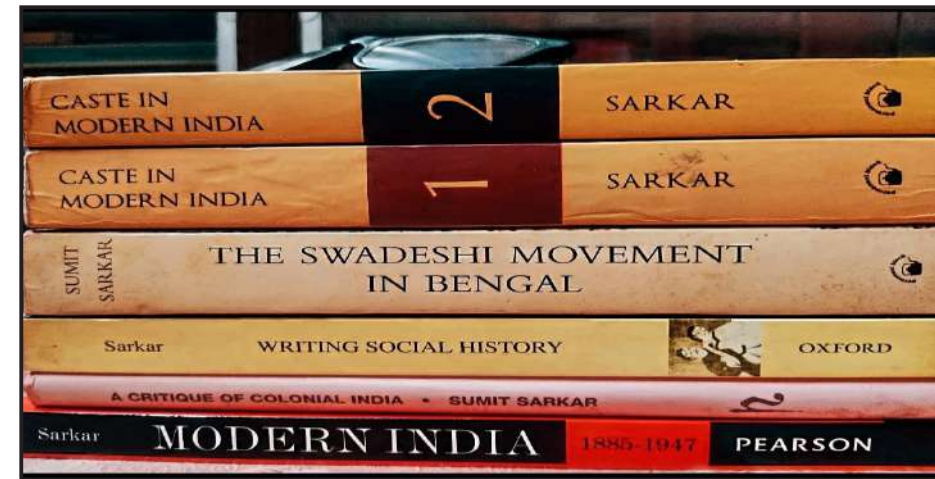
thinker whose work fundamentally shaped the study of modern Indian history. His scholarship challenged simplified narratives of nationalism and colonialism and encouraged historians to examine the complex relationship between political movements, social groups, class, culture and popular participation.

His landmark work, The Swadeshi Movement in Bengal, 1903–1908 (1973), established him as an important authority on Indian nationalism.

Through meticulous research, he examined the Swadeshi movement not merely as a political episode but as a complex social phenomenon. His Modern India, 1885–1947 (1989) subsequently became one of the most widely read works on India's colonial and nationalist history and influenced generations of students and scholars.

Sarkar's intellectual contribution extended far beyond these two books. His Writing Social History (1998), A Critique of Colonial India (2000), Beyond Nationalist Frames: Post-Modernism, Hindu Fundamentalism, History (2002), and Modern Times: India, 1880s–1950s (2014) demonstrated his continuing engagement with the changing questions and debates surrounding Indian history.

His later works, including Essays of a Lifetime: Reformers,



into historical analysis, Sarkar helped broaden the intellectual boundaries of Indian historiography.

His influence also extends through the scholars he taught and mentored. For me, his intellectual legacy carries a particularly meaningful connection: my mentor, Dr. Biswamoy Pati, completed his PhD under Professor Sumit Sarkar's guidance. In this sense, Sarkar's influence is not confined to his published works; it travels through generations of historians, teachers and students who continue to engage with the questions he raised.

This is perhaps the most enduring form of a historian's legacy. Books may have publication dates, lectures may eventually end and scholars may pass from the academic world, but ideas continue to travel through classrooms, research, conversations and the work of those whom they have inspired.

Sarkar's passing therefore invites not only mourning but reflection. At a time when history is increasingly invoked in public debates, his commitment to rigorous historical inquiry remains especially significant.

His work reminds us that history is not simply a collection of inherited narratives. It is an intellectual discipline requiring evidence, interpretation, questioning and a willingness

to inherit. The Swadeshi Movement in Bengal, Modern India, Writing Social History, Modern Times and his other works will continue to be read, debated and reassessed. Future historians may agree with some of his interpretations and challenge others. That continuing debate itself is part of his legacy.

A historian's immortality does not come from escaping historical change. It comes from becoming part of the intellectual history of generations that follow.

Historians may depart, but their ideas remain immortal. Professor Sumit Sarkar's life and scholarship have left an enduring imprint on the study of modern India. As students of history, we will remember him not merely for the books he wrote, but for the questions he taught us to ask, the evidence he taught us to examine and the intellectual curiosity he inspired.

His voice has fallen silent, but the historical conversations he began will continue.

Amir Hussain  
Scholar of History  
9682345352

## A Crisis of Exams, Jobs and Justice: Jharkhand Must Find the Right Balance



Lalit Gargg

The student agitation over government recruitment examinations in Jharkhand, which has continued for the past twenty-five days, has now entered a new and more complex phase. Amid mounting pressure from protesting students, allegations of irregularities in recruitment examinations, and serious questions over the credibility of the examination system, the Hemant Soren government has announced the cancellation of the JSSC-CGL, the 14th JPSC examination, and several other recruitment examinations, including those associated with TDPL. The government has also announced that examinations conducted since 2014 will be investigated and that steps will be taken to reform the recruitment system. While this decision has brought considerable relief to protesting students, it has simultaneously created a serious crisis of employment and future prospects for thousands of young people who had already been selected and were serving in government jobs. This contradiction makes Jharkhand's current recruitment controversy much more than a case of examination malpractice; it has become a serious question of justice, administrative accountability, and human sensitivity.

The student agitation, which began at Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium in Ranchi on July 25, 2026, was against alleged paper leaks, irregularities, and lack of transparency in JPSC and JSSC recruitment examinations.

The students demanded a fair investigation into the examinations, cancellation of processes found to be compromised, and stringent action against those responsible. Student leader Devendra Nath Mahto undertook a sixteen-day hunger strike. Following the government's announcement, he ended his fast, although some students continue to demand an

investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The government has issued a list of 44 examinations to be cancelled through eight separate notifications.

If a question paper has been leaked, organised malpractice has taken place, or serious irregularities have been proven to have compromised the selection process, an investigation and, where necessary, cancellation of the examination is undoubtedly justified. The confidence of millions of young people competing for government jobs can be sustained only when they are assured that their hard work will not be rendered futile by brokers, corrupt officials, examination authorities, or candidates using unfair means. Therefore, the students' demand for a transparent and impartial recruitment system is entirely legitimate.

However, the situation becomes far more serious when a collective irregularity in an examination results in the removal of candidates who have been selected and appointed, even though there is no evidence of individual wrongdoing on their part. This is the fundamental question being raised by the employees selected through the JSSC-CGL examination. The examination was conducted in December 2023. Following allegations of a paper leak, it was conducted again in September 2024. The matter reached the courts, and after the judicial process, the results were declared. Successful candidates were issued appointment letters, and many of them joined government service. Now, with the entire process being cancelled, nearly 2,000 selected employees have been directly affected. According to available information, around 1,975 appointments have been impacted by the decision.

These employees maintain that they appeared for the examination through the prescribed procedure, qualified on merit, received appointment letters, and joined government service. If corruption occurred at any level, it must certainly be investigated. But treating every selected candidate as guilty and terminating their employment cannot be considered just. After securing government jobs, many young people took loans, assumed financial responsibilities for housing and other necessities, and gave up other employment opportunities.

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## Arvind Gupta's Rs 61.47-lakh healthcare push gets administrative nod; 3 ambulances approved

### ■ HTHT NEWS DESK

Jammu: Jammu West MLA Arvind Gupta's major initiative to strengthen emergency healthcare services has received administrative approval, paving the way for the procurement of three advanced ambulances at an estimated cost of Rs 61.47 lakh.

The ambulances will be procured from the funds allocated to Arvind Gupta under the Constituency Development Fund Scheme for the financial year 2026-27. One Force Traveller T1 Type-B BS-VI air-conditioned ambulance will be provided each to the State Cancer Institute Jammu, Super Speciality Hospital Jammu and Government Medical College Hospital Jammu. Each

ambulance is estimated to cost Rs 20.49 lakh.

Reacting to the approval, Arvind Gupta said that accessible and efficient healthcare remains one of his foremost priorities. He said the three ambulances would strengthen patient transportation and emergency response facilities at Jammu's leading government hospitals.

"Every minute matters during a medical emergency. These ambulances will help ensure that critically ill patients receive timely, safe and reliable transportation. Strengthening public healthcare infrastructure is not merely a development initiative—it is a commitment to protecting precious lives," Gupta said.

He added that the State Cancer Institute, Super Speciality

Hospital and GMC Jammu cater to patients from across the Jammu region and other areas, making the enhancement of their emergency transport facilities extremely important.

"Thousands of patients and their attendants depend on these institutions every day. My endeavour is to utilise the Constituency Development Fund for projects that directly benefit people and address their most urgent needs," he stated.

The office of the District Development Commissioner, Jammu, has sought Gupta's confirmation for releasing the approved amount to the executing agency so that the procurement can be undertaken during the current financial year.

The ambulances will be

procured through the Chief Medical Officer, Jammu, in accordance with the prescribed CDF guidelines and government financial procedures, including procurement through the GeM portal.

Gupta reaffirmed that healthcare, civic infrastructure and essential public services would continue to receive priority under his development agenda. He assured that further initiatives would be taken to improve facilities and deliver tangible benefits to the people of Jammu West and the wider Jammu region. Gupta reaffirmed that healthcare, civic infrastructure and essential public services would continue to receive priority under his development agenda. He assured that further initiatives.

## Javed Rana emphasises strengthening rural road connectivity in Mendhar

### Directs for expediting works under PMGSY

### ■ HTHT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, AUGUST 19: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today emphasised the need to further strengthen the rural road connectivity in Mendhar constituency under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), particularly in remote and hilly areas, to ensure better access to essential services and socio-economic opportunities.

He made these remarks while reviewing the progress of PMGSY works in Mendhar constituency at a meeting convened at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu, which was attended by senior officers of the concerned departments.

Reviewing the status of PMGSY works in Mendhar, the Minister enquired about the progress of ongoing works and the status of the tendering process. He directed the



concerned officers to maintain close monitoring of all ongoing projects and ensure their timely completion while adhering strictly to prescribed quality standards.

Rana underscored that reliable road connectivity is particularly important for Mendhar, given its hilly terrain and geographically difficult areas. He said that PMGSY roads play a vital role in connecting the remote habitations with administrative centres and facilitating access to education, healthcare, markets and other

essential services.

Taking note of the roads and road infrastructure damaged due to recent rains, flash floods and landslides in Mendhar, the Minister directed the officers to expedite the tendering process for eligible damaged roads proposed for inclusion under PMGSY so that restoration works can be taken up on priority and connectivity restored at the earliest.

He exhorted the officers to complete all necessary procedural formalities without delay and ensure that eligible

damaged road stretches are processed for inclusion under the PMGSY framework expeditiously. He also stressed effective coordination among the concerned departments to address bottlenecks and accelerate the execution of restoration works.

The Minister emphasised that restoration of damaged road connectivity must remain a priority, particularly in remote areas of Mendhar. He called for a proactive and result-oriented approach to minimise the inconvenience being faced by the people.

Rana reiterated the government's commitment to ensure equitable development and last-mile connectivity, stating that robust rural infrastructure is essential for improving the quality of life and creating better socio-economic opportunities for the people.

### Govt of Jammu & Kashmir

### OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER DISTRICT INDUSTRIES CENTRE, SRINAGAR

#### Public Notice

M/s Zargar Metal Works, I/E BAMK, Srinagar stands formally registered with this office under No. 01/003/09443/PMT/MSME dated 28.06.2022 for the activity of "Manufacturing of copper utensils by hand tools" as partnership concern of (1) Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Zargar and (2) Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Zargar both son's of Ali Mohammad Zargar R/o Budoo Bagh Khanyar, Srinagar.

Now the partners of the unit has approached this office with the request to change of constitution of the unit by way of retirement of one partner namely Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Zargar son of Ali Mohammad Zargar R/o Budoo Bagh Khanyar, Srinagar.

Any person having any objection with regard to the above mentioned change of constitution by way of retirement of partner in favour of the unit, shall report to the Office of General Manager, District Industries Centre, Srinagar within a period of 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

DIPK-4757/26

Send Date: Aug 19 2026

General Manager

District Industries Centre

Srinagar

### Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

Phone:-01933-295302 E-mail:-techrpbulp786@gmail.com

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION PULWAMA.

#### TENDER NOTICE

E-NIT No: 106/EEP/RNB/of 2026-2027/ 5388-98 Dated: 18 /08/2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT term e-tenders (In Single Cover system) are invited on **%age Basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Government for the following work :-

| S. No | Name of Work                                    | Adv. Cost (Rs. Lacs.) | Cost of T/D (Rs. ) | Earnest Money (In %age.) | Time of Completion in working Days | Class of Contract | Major Head of Accounts      | Administrative Accord Approval No:   | Call No: |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| 1     | Middle school kakapora (Minor Repairs ) sno.244 | 0.97                  | 200/=              | 2% of ADV. cost          | 15 working days                    | DEE               | PM Shree During PAB 2025-26 | AAA:396-Chirag of 2026 dt.04.02.2026 | Ist call |
| 2.    | High School Pahoo Minor repairs (242 sno.)      | 1.00                  | 200/=              | 2% of ADV. cost          | 15 working days                    | DEE               | PM Shree During PAB 2025-26 | AAA:396-Chirag of 2026 dt.04.02.2026 | Ist call |

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of date given below:-

|    |                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Date of Issue of Tender Notice          | 18 - 08-2026                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 2. | Bid downloading Start Date              | 18 - 08-2026 from 10:00 A.M                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 3. | Bid submission Start Date               | 18 - 08-2026 from 10:00 A.M                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 4. | Bid Submission End Date                 | 25 - 08-2026 upto 0 4:00 P.M                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 5. | Date & time of opening of Bids (Online) | 27 - 08-2026 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Div.Pulwama                                                                                                                 |
| 6. | Submission of Performance Security(PS)  | . Upload a Copy of Performance Security(PS)/ Tender Fee to be deposited in Account No:0470010200000099 IFSC: JAKA01ALANG) Account Name: Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank PW(R&B) Zone South |

In light of Circular issued by Finance department Vide No:FD-code/290/2026 Dated 22.05.2026 and

circular issued by worthy Chief Engineer PW(R&B)Department South Kashmir Vide order No:CE/R&B/SK/WS/2095-2111 Dated: 05.06.2026 ,the following conditions are mentioned below:-

1.Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document/Tender Fee to be deposited in Cash in **Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA01ALANG).**

2.All the bidders must deposit Earnest money /Bid security equal to **2%** of advertised cost in Cash in **Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA01ALANG)**

3. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value to be deposited in Cash in Pulwama MC Holding Account Executive Engineer R&B Pulwama Bearing Account no. 0054010200003470 ,IFSC: JAKA0GOLDEN), which shall be released after successful completion of DLP /maintenance period..

**The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama**  
**The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.**

Head Draftsman  
DIPK-4736/26

Technical Officer  
Send Date: Aug 19 2026

Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Pulwama

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I Nissar Ahmad Bukhari father of Syed Ayaan Nissar Bukhari resident of Kreeri District Baramulla want to inform the general public through this notice that my name and my wards name has been mistakenly mentioned in the school records Syed Ayaan Nissar son of Syed Nissar Ahmad Bukhari instead of Syed Ayaan Nissar Bukhari son of Nissar Ahmad Bukhari, Now I want to correct it. In this regard if anybody has any objection they may contact the Principal SRM Welkin Educational Trust Sopore within seven days after that no objection will be entertained

Nissar Ahmad Bukhari  
Father of Syed Ayaan Nissar Bukhari  
R/O:- Kreeri District Baramulla

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Gh Ahmad sheikh S/o Jum Sheikh do hereby notify the general public that I am the registered consumer of electricity connection bearing Consumer No. 0206050002644. I have decided to transfer the said electricity connection in the name of Gh Mohi ud din Ganie S/O Gh Ahmad Ganie. If any person has any objection regarding this transfer, he/she may file the same in writing before the Concerned AEE/Executive Engineer, PDD Sub-Division within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained and the transfer shall be processed as per rules.

Gh Mohi ud din Ganie  
S/O Gh Ahmad Ganie

### PUBLIC NOTICE

In the Bank records bearing Account No. 0101040100004024, my name and address have been mentioned as Syed Sarwar Hussain S/O Syed Baker Razvi, R/O 19 Sundar Plaza, M.G. Road, Pune 411, whereas my correct name and address are Syed Sarwar Razvi S/O Syed Baqar Shah, R/O Sheeshgari Mohalla, Khanyar, Srinagar. Now, I want to apply for correction of the same in the bank records. If any person has any objection in this regard, he/she may contact the B/M, J&K Bank, Khanyar Branch, within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After seven days, no objection shall be entertained.

Syed Sarwar Razvi  
S/O Syed Baqar Shah  
R/O Sheeshgari Mohalla, Khanyar, Srinagar  
Cell No.: 8899022099

Correct Name: Syed Sarwar Razvi  
Correct Father's Name: Syed Baqar Shah

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My Name wrongly mentioned in my Passport bearing passport no T 2381992 as Umar Gulzar Tali instead of Umar Gulzar per Adhaar record which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the passport office srinagar within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name:-UMAR GULZAR  
S/O GULZAR AHMED TALI..  
R/O KREERI BARAMULLA

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is here by notified that my name has been incorrectly mentioned in my Bank Account as SHAOIB AHMAD BHAT bearing Account No.0139040100011913 while my correct name is SHOIB MOHAMMAD BHAT S/O GH MOHAMMAD BHAT which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of J&K BANK KREERI authority of India within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name:-SHOIB MOHAMMAD BHAT  
S/O... GH MOHAMMAD BHAT  
R/O...TETTRAN TANGMARG  
Account No..0139040100011913  
Dist...BARAMULLA

### IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS SOPORE

In the case of MOHD RAFFEQ PARRAY S/O MUSHTAQ AHMAD PARRAY R/O NOORBAGH  
C E O MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SOPORE /BDO SANGRAMA /BDO SOPORE  
Non applicant  
NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

whereas the above case titled case is under process in this court there in to the non applicant u/s 13 (3) of the registration of Birth & Death Act 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant/ applicants SON namely MOHD HAIDER S/O MOHD RAFFEQ PARRAY as 29/06/2021 (dd/mm/ yy ) at GURO Hospital Whereas through the medium of this proclamation the public at large informed that in case anyone has any objection for the issuance of direction with respect to the registration aforementioned Birth event he/she shall file the same before this court in person on through counsel within seven days from the date of publication of this proclamation if the date fixed is declared holiday the matter will be taken on the next working day .

EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS SOPORE

### IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS SOPORE

In the case of FEROZ AHMAD PARRAY S/O MUSHTAQ AHMAD PARRAY R/O NOORBAGH applicant  
C E O MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SOPORE /BDO SANGRAMA /BDO SOPORE  
Non applicant  
NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

whereas the above titled case is under process in this court there in to the non applicant u/s 13 (3) of the registration of Birth & Death Act 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant/ applicants DAUGHTER namely BUSHRA FEROZ D/O FEROZ AHMAD PARRAY as 21/06/2017 (dd/mm/ yy ) at M C H SOPORE Whereas through the medium of this proclamation the public at large informed that in case anyone has any objection for the issuance of direction with respect to the registration aforementioned Birth event he/she shall file the same before this court in person on through counsel within seven days from the date of publication of this proclamation if the date fixed is declared holiday the matter will be taken on the next working day

EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS SOPORE

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Azi Bano, W/o Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh, R/o Parimpora, Near Ahli Hadees Masjid, Srinagar, hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded in my Passport bearing No. J7209915 as "Sheikh Azi Bano", whereas my correct and actual name, as per my Aadhaar Card and other official documents, is "Azi Bano."

I intend to get the said discrepancy corrected in my passport and all other official records, so that my name is recorded as "Azi Bano" everywhere.

Any person having any objection in this regard may communicate the same to the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

Azi Bano W/o Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh  
R/o Parimpora, Near Ahli Hadees Masjid, Srinagar

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Waseem Hassan S/o Gh Hassan Bhat, R/o Watapora, Bandipora, hereby inform the general public that the spelling of my name in the Registration Certificate (RC) document of my vehicle Maruti Alto 800, bearing Registration No. JK157169, has been wrongly recorded as "Waseen Hussan" instead of my correct name "Waseem Hassan", as per my Aadhaar Card and other official documents.

I intend to get the said error corrected in my RC document and have my name recorded as "Waseem Hassan." In this regard, if anybody has any objection, they may kindly contact the ARTO Office, Bandipora, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After expiry of the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained.

Waseem Hassan S/o Gh Hassan Bhat  
R/o Watapora, Bandipora 193502

### Office of The Executive Magistrate 1st Class Narbal District Budgam Notice For the General public

is notified that the applicant namely Nazir Ahmad Bhat S/o Mohammad Ramzan bhat R/o yarigund Tehsil Narbal District Budgam applied for the Date of Birth of his Own namely Nazir Ahmad Bhat S/o Mohammed Ramzan Bhat. The applicant intends to register the Date of Birth of his Own as per school records / medical Board is 06/11/1966

If any one has objection in this regard, Convince Office of the Executive Magistrate 1st Class Narbal District Budgam within the period of seven days. After completion of said period no objection will be entertained.

20/08/2026

### Office of The Executive Magistrate 1st Class Narbal District Budgam Notice For the General public

is notified that the applicant namely Abdul Rahim Sheikh S/o Late Ghulam Ahmad Sheikh R/o Kawoosa Khalisa Tehsil Narbal District Budgam applied for the issuance of Death certificate of his father Ghulam Ahmad Sheikh S/o Habibullah Sheikh

The applicant intends to register the Date of his of his father per Masjid Committee 30/03/1990

If any one has objection in this regard, Convince Office of the Executive Magistrate 1st Class Narbal District Budgam within the period of seven days. After completion of said period no objection will be entertained.

20/08/2026

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ  
بیشک تم الله کے ہیں اور تم اسی کی طرف لوٹ کر جائے والے ہیں۔

**تَزْیَّیَات (وَضَاحَت)**

مسٹر عبدالسلام شاہ ولد غلام احد شاہ ساکن کریشبورہ خان صاحب  
تخصیص خان صاحب ضلع بیگام انتقال کر کے (17 اگست 2026)  
(3 ربیع الاول 1448ھ) ان کی رسم جہلم 20 اگست 2026 ہوئی  
اللہ تعالیٰ ان کو مغفرت عطا فرمائے۔  
عوام سے مودبانہ اپیل ہے کہ کسی قسم کا کوئی پھل یا  
لفافہ وغیرہ ساتھ نہ لائیں۔

**بینے**  
نمبر 1: عبدالرشید شاہ  
نمبر 2: فاروق احد شاہ  
نمبر 3: شاہ مخمل ریستوران کے اوپر عبدالقیوم شاہ  
+91 99067 08680





# Spring Silk Cocoon auction begins in Srinagar with Focus on Fair Prices for Growers

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, August 19: The Spring Silk Cocoon Auction Market for Kashmir commenced today at the Sericulture Complex, Srinagar.

The market was inaugurated by Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, Director Sericulture, in the presence of departmental officers, cocoon growers from various districts of Kashmir Division and buyers from within and outside the Union Territory.

The Cocoon Auction Market has been organized with the objective of ensuring fair and remunerative prices to cocoon growers through a transparent and competitive bidding process. The initiative is part of the Department's continued efforts to strengthen the sericulture sector and improve the economic well-being of silkworm rearers.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director reiterated the Department's commitment to providing adequate market facilities to cocoon growers and ensuring better returns for their



produce. He also highlighted the focus on expanding the infrastructure base by establishing more Silkworm Reeling Units across Jammu & Kashmir to promote local silk production.

"Our aim is to ensure that the cocoon produce generated in Jammu & Kashmir is

largely consumed within the Union Territory itself. This will not only boost the local silk industry but also help our farmers realize better returns for their produce," Bhat said.

The auction market is expected to contribute significantly towards enhancing the income of cocoon growers by facilitating

direct interaction between sellers and buyers, promoting competitive bidding and ensuring transparent price discovery. The Department has put in place arrangements for the smooth conduct of the auction, including proper space allocation, weighing and quality assessment facilities. Cocoon growers and buyers actively participated in the auction process. The growers appreciated the arrangements and transparent mechanism adopted by the Department, expressing hope for better returns in view of the improved quality and quantity of cocoons produced across Kashmir Division.

The buyers also appreciated the quality of cocoons available at the market, noting improvement in both quality and quantum compared to previous years.

The successful commencement of the Cocoon Auction Market marks another significant step towards empowering cocoon growers, strengthening the local silk value chain and revitalizing the silk industry in Jammu & Kashmir.

## DDC Doda holds Public Outreach Programme at Sewa Block Chiralla, Reviews developmental issues

HT News Network



DODA, AUGUST 19: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda Krishan Lal today visited Sewa Block, Chiralla and participated in a Public Outreach Programme (Block Diwas) aimed at addressing the public grievances and developmental issues at the grassroots level.

The DDC was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer Manesh Kumar ; Assistant Commissioner Development Din Mohd Afagi ; District Social Welfare Officer Zubair Ahmed ; Tehsildar, Block Development Officer and other district and sectoral officers.

A large number of local residents and adjoining areas participated in the programme and put forth their issues and demands before the DDC and officers.

The departments established stalls to disseminate information about government schemes and welfare programmes and facilitate registration of eligible beneficiaries. Awareness and registration activities were carried out under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), PM-SYM, PMEGP, Mission Yuva and financial inclusion schemes. Information regarding self-employment and social assistance schemes was also provided to the public. A health check-up camp was organised along with awareness activities under the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP).

During the interaction, residents raised several important developmental issues, seeking improvement of roads, establishment of a J&K Bank branch and a Primary Health Centre in the area, augmentation of drinking water in the Panchayats facing scarcity, expediting pending Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works, filling of vacant teacher posts in the local Government Higher Secondary School and improvement of mobile and internet connectivity.

The public was informed that out of 222 JJM schemes, 112 have been completed, while the work on remaining schemes is at different stages. The DDC directed the stakeholder department to closely monitor the pending works and ensure that the identified issues are addressed on priority. Complaining about poor mobile network connectivity, the public sought early activation of mobile towers already erected in the area. Responding to the issue, the DDC informed that a district-wide assessment of low-connectivity and shadow areas has identified the requirement of 16 additional mobile towers, which were subsequently sanctioned by the Government of India. He informed that around 30 out of approximately 49 planned towers have already been radiated, while two completed towers in the Chiralla area are awaiting the required radiation equipment.

## JKEDI Pulwama concludes Management Development Programme under RAMP at Abhama

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, AUGUST 19: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Pulwama, in collaboration with the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), successfully concluded two Management Development Programmes (MDP-11 and MDP-12) under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) initiative at Abhama, Pulwama.

The programmes trained 49 entrepreneurs, equipping them with structured, high-quality training designed to enhance their entrepreneurial skills and strengthen business capabilities.

The valedictory ceremony was attended by Nafia Nazir, Senior Manager P&A/Range Officer South (K); Raiyees Manzoor, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Pulwama;



Iftikhar Bashir Lone, Assistant Faculty; Mohd Yasir, Assistant Faculty and S.Imran, Program Co-facilitator.

Interacting with the participants, M Nafia Nazir reviewed the progress of the program and highly appreciated the efforts of JKEDI Pulwama in organising impactful capacity-building programmes in the far-flung areas of Pulwama district. She commended the enthusiasm and active participation of the women entrepreneurs and encouraged them to apply the knowledge and skills

gained to establish sustainable and growth-oriented enterprises.

Furthermore, Raiyees Manzoor emphasised the importance of such initiatives in promoting entrepreneurship and empowering women at the grassroots level, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas.

Participants expressed heartfelt gratitude to the course team and JKEDI for their dedicated guidance and support in successfully organising the program.

## DC Ramban reviews arrangements for Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, AUGUST 19: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Aliyas Khan today convened a meeting of the officers and representatives of religious organizations to finalize arrangements for the observance of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (S.A.W.).

Senior Superintendent of Police Arun Gupta; Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Charak; ACR Shokat Hayat Mattoo; ACD Sheraz Ahmed and other concerned officers; besides Heads of various Masjid Committees and representatives from the Muslim community attended the meeting.

The DC held a comprehensive review of arrangements related to sanitation, water and power supply, security, traffic management, market regulation and availability of essential commodities. He directed the officers of the PDD and Jal Shakti Department to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply during the celebrations.

The Deputy Commissioner asked Masjid Management Committees to share the routes, timings and venues of religious processions and other events scheduled on the occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi with the civil administration and police to facilitate adequate civil, security and traffic arrangements.

Similarly, Executive Officers of Municipal bodies were directed to ensure proper



cleanliness in Ramban, Batote and Banihal markets, particularly around mosques. The Municipal authorities were also asked to replace and repair dysfunctional streetlights ahead of the Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi. The Health Department was also asked to ensure adequate healthcare facilities and medical arrangements.

Directions were also issued to SDMs and Tehsildars to convene similar meetings in their respective jurisdictions and ensure all necessary arrangements.

The DC urged the heads of religious organizations to disseminate the message of the Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Campaign among the youth and the community and encourage people to collectively contribute towards making Jammu & Kashmir Drug free.

## DC Rajouri chairs RTA meeting

■ United News of India

RAJOURI, AUGUST 19: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today chaired a meeting of the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) here at Dak Bungalow to deliberate upon the matters related to the issuance and regulation of transport permits in the district. The DC is the chairman of Regional Transport Authority.

The meeting was attended by SSP Gaurav Sikarwar, DySP Traffic Ajaz Ahmed and ARTO Ashiq Rafiq Malik.

The ARTO (Member secretary RTA) placed 25 applications before the Authority for issuance of Letters of Authority for purchase of four-wheeler autos, 10 applications for six-tyre mini-buses, applications pertaining to change of route permits, and three applications for issuance of Letters of Authority under the MUMKIN Scheme.

## DDC Poonch reviews implementation of District Capex Budget, SDRF 2026-27

■ HT News Network

POONCH, AUGUST 19: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today reviewed the progress and implementation of works under the District Capex Budget and State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) for the financial year 2026-27 here at a meeting held in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by Superintending Engineer of Hydraulic Circle, Vipan Kumar, Assistant Commissioners Panchayat, Rakesh Sharma, Assistant Commissioner Development Shakeel Ahmed Malik, Chief Executive Officers



of Municipal bodies, District Youth Services & Sports Officer, Executive Engineers of PWD (R&B), Jal Shakti, JPDC, Ground Water Division, REW and other concerned departments, besides accounts officials. At the outset, the DDC reviewed the status of Administrative Approval and Allotment (AAA), tendering and allotment of proposed works under the District Capex Budget 2026-27. The concerned officers informed the meeting about the progress achieved in their respective departments and

the status of ongoing works.

The meeting also took a detailed review of the physical and financial progress of temporary and permanent works being undertaken under SDRF 2026-27. The DDC sought updated information regarding the status of sanctioned works, expenditure incurred, works completed and those presently under execution. The DDC directed the departments to closely monitor the progress and ensure that the sanctioned works are taken up and completed within the stipulated timelines. The officers were further directed to ensure that bottlenecks, if any, affecting the progress of works are identified and resolved.

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BARAMULLA, AUGUST 18: JARAMBAN, AUGUST 19: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Aliyas Khan today convened a meeting of the officers and representatives of religious organizations to finalize arrangements for the observance of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (S.A.W.).

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attended the meeting.

The DC held a comprehensive review of arrangements related to sanitation, water and power supply, security, traffic management, market regulation and availability of essential commodities. He directed the officers of the PDD and Jal Shakti Department to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply during the celebrations.

The Deputy Commissioner asked Masjid Management Committees to share the routes, timings and venues of religious processions and other events scheduled on the occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi with the civil administration and police to facilitate adequate civil, security and traffic arrangements.

Similarly, Executive Officers of Municipal bodies were directed to ensure proper cleanliness in Ramban, Batote and Banihal markets, particularly around mosques. The Municipal authorities were also asked to replace and repair dysfunctional streetlights ahead of the Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi.

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The DDC was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer Manesh Kumar ; Assistant Commissioner Development Din Mohd Afagi ; District Social Welfare Officer Zubair Ahmed ; Tehsildar, Block Development Officer and other district and sectoral officers.

A large number of local residents and adjoining areas participated in the programme and put forth

their issues and demands before the DDC and officers. The departments established stalls to disseminate information about government schemes and welfare programmes and facilitate registration of eligible beneficiaries. Awareness and registration activities were carried out under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), PM-SYM, PMEGP, Mission Yuva and financial inclusion schemes. Information regarding self-employment and social assistance schemes was also provided to the public. A health check-up camp was organised along with awareness activities under the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP). During the interaction, residents raised several important developmental issues, seeking improvement of roads,



establishment of a J&K Bank branch and a Primary Health Centre in the area, augmentation of drinking water in the Panchayats facing scarcity, expediting pending Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works, filling of vacant teacher posts in the local Government Higher Secondary School and improvement of mobile and internet connectivity.

The public was informed that out of 222 JJM schemes, 112 have been completed, while the work on remaining schemes is at different stages. The DDC directed the stakeholder department to closely monitor the pending works and ensure that the identified issues are addressed on priority.

Complaining about poor mobile network connectivity, the public sought early activation of

mobile towers already erected in the area. Responding to the issue, the DDC informed that a district-wide assessment of low-connectivity and shadow areas has identified the requirement of 16 additional mobile towers, which were subsequently sanctioned by the Government of India. He informed that around 30 out of approximately 49 planned towers have already been radiated, while two completed towers in the Chiralla area are awaiting the required radiation equipment. The DDC said that the matter has been taken up with BSNL on an emergency basis, particularly in view of the security concerns arising from poor connectivity. He expressed confidence that the two towers would be activated as soon as the necessary equipment was made available.



# Adulterated Plate: How Food Fraud Became India's Quiet Health Catastrophe

By Bisma Ashraf



India's relationship with food is rooted in memory, culture and trust. From the aroma of spices in a family kitchen to recipes passed from one generation to another, food represents far more than sustenance. Yet beneath this rich culinary tradition lies a growing threat that is increasingly difficult to see but impossible to ignore: food adulteration.

What was once viewed as an occasional act of fraud has evolved into a persistent challenge across India's food ecosystem. Milk diluted with cheaper substances, spices coloured or extended with inferior materials, edible oils mixed with cheaper substitutes and processed foods manipulated to reduce production costs are symptoms of a larger problem. The issue is no longer simply about dishonest traders; it reflects weaknesses across supply chains, enforcement mechanisms and consumer awareness.

India presents a striking paradox. It is among the world's major food-producing nations, yet millions of households continue to struggle to access safe and nutritious food. Rapid urbanisation, expanding consumer demand, long and complex supply chains and intense competition have created opportunities for unscrupulous



practices. For small producers, economic pressure can encourage corner-cutting, while larger networks can exploit regulatory gaps for profit.

The most troubling aspect of adulteration is its invisibility. Many contaminants cannot be detected by sight, smell or taste. A consumer may therefore continue consuming a contaminated product for months or years without knowing that something is wrong. The consequences can range from acute illness to longer-term health problems, depending on the substance and level of exposure.

Children are particularly vulnerable. Their developing bodies can be more susceptible to harmful contaminants, while low-income families often have fewer alternatives when cheaper food products dominate local markets. Women, who frequently manage household food purchases, are also placed in an impossible position: expected to provide nutritious meals while having little practical means of determining whether the products they buy are genuine.

Modern adulteration has also become more



sophisticated. It is no longer confined to crude substitution or adding cheap fillers. Industrial chemicals, synthetic colours and other substances can be used to imitate the appearance or characteristics of genuine food products. At the same time, scientific methods capable of identifying contaminants are advancing—but their availability remains uneven, particularly at the local level.

India already possesses a comprehensive legal framework through the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). The challenge lies less in the absence of regulation than in ensuring that regulation translates into consistent protection. Shortages of trained personnel, uneven laboratory capacity, fragmented food markets and delays between detection and enforcement can create opportunities for adulteration to persist.

The answer must therefore go beyond periodic raids and headline-making seizures. India needs stronger decentralised surveillance, more accessible testing facilities, better traceability and meaningful penalties for repeat offenders. Mobile laboratories, rapid testing technologies and digital systems that allow consumers and vendors to report suspected adulteration could bring enforcement closer to the marketplace.

Equally important is creating incentives for honesty. Small food businesses should be helped to comply with safety standards rather than being pushed into informality by excessive compliance costs. At the same time, deliberate and repeated violations must attract penalties proportionate to the profits generated through fraud.

Consumers, too, have a role—but responsibility cannot be shifted entirely onto them. Buying sealed and properly labelled products, checking batch and expiry details and purchasing from reliable sources can reduce individual risk. Yet expecting ordinary consumers to become amateur chemists is neither realistic nor fair. Food safety is fundamentally a responsibility of producers, regulators and the state.

The media and civil society have an equally important role. Investigative journalism can expose malpractice, while scientific institutions can develop affordable field-testing technologies. Community organisations can help consumers understand risks and encourage

local accountability. The objective should not be to create panic but to create informed vigilance.

Ultimately, food adulteration is not merely an economic offence. It is a public-health issue and, perhaps more importantly, a crisis of trust. When families begin questioning whether the milk, oil, spices or honey on their tables are genuine, something deeper than food quality is being damaged.

India's food culture has always been built around the idea that what reaches the dining table should nourish both body and soul. Protecting that principle



requires more than laws on paper. It requires laboratories that function, inspectors who have the resources to act, businesses that are rewarded for integrity, consumers who are empowered with information and authorities willing to punish deliberate deception.

The vision is achievable: markets where food products are traceable, purity claims are verifiable, testing is accessible and fraudulent practices carry consequences. Such a system would not only protect consumers but also reward honest producers whose reputations are often damaged by counterfeit and adulterated products.

Food should nourish, not endanger. In a country where the kitchen remains at the heart of family life and cultural identity, safeguarding the purity of what reaches the plate is not merely a regulatory obligation. It is a public-health imperative—and a basic promise that every citizen deserves to receive safe food for the money they pay.

## Causes and Risk Factors of Heart Disease

Heart disease is an umbrella term for any heart condition that affects heart functioning, such as coronary artery disease (CAD), heart arrhythmias (irregular heartbeat), heart attack, and heart failure. Having diabetes, high cholesterol, and autoimmune disease can increase your risk for heart disease.<sup>1</sup>

What Causes It?

Because heart disease encompasses different types of heart conditions, the exact cause(s) will depend on the type of heart disease that you have.

The most common heart disease is a condition called coronary artery disease (CAD), which limits blood flow to the heart.<sup>2</sup>

Note: Coronary arteries are arteries (blood vessels) that bring oxygen-rich blood to the heart.

Plaque buildup is known to cause CAD. Plaque is a fatty and waxy substance made up of cholesterol, calcium, and other minerals. When plaque grows in your heart's arteries (blood vessels), it can restrict blood flow and block oxygen in and out of your heart.

High blood pressure, high cholesterol, and smoking are the most common contributors to plaque buildup in your heart.<sup>2</sup>

High Blood Pressure

Blood pressure is the amount of force your blood puts on the walls of your arteries

as blood flows through them.

If your blood pressure is high, your heart needs to pump harder to push blood through your arteries. This extra force and pressure in your heart can accelerate plaque build-up and damage your blood vessels. Narrowing of the coronary arteries can weaken the heart, making it difficult to pump blood.<sup>3</sup>

Dyslipidemia (Abnormal Cholesterol)

There are two types of cholesterol: high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol and low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol.

HDL cholesterol is known as "good" cholesterol, while LDL cholesterol is known as "bad" cholesterol. Abnormal levels of either can be a risk factor for heart disease. For example:

Too much LDL cholesterol can lead to plaque buildup and limit the function of your arteries.<sup>4</sup>

Low HDL can also lead to plaque buildup, as HDL can't effectively clear LDL.<sup>5</sup>

Van Name JP, Sharma S. Low HDL cholesterol. In: StatPearls. StatPearls Publishing; 2025.

Smoking

The chemicals in cigarettes and other forms of tobacco can cause inflammation in the arteries. When your arteries become inflamed, they narrow and increase the risk of plaque buildup.

People who have been exposed to secondhand smoke (or inhaling smoke from someone else's cigarettes) can also have a higher risk of developing heart disease.<sup>6</sup>

Condition-Related Risk Factors

Having other health conditions can also increase your risk of developing heart disease. Diabetes

Diabetes occurs when your pancreas cannot produce enough insulin or when your body doesn't respond normally to insulin, leading to high blood sugar levels. Insulin is a hormone that helps your body turn glucose (sugar) into energy.

Too much glucose can build up in your bloodstream. Over long periods, this can lead to significant organ damage, including problems with your heart and its arteries.

People with diabetes are also more likely to have high blood pressure and high cholesterol—two causes of plaque build-up in your heart.<sup>7</sup>

Kidney Disease

People who have kidney disease are also at an increased risk of developing heart disease.

Your kidneys are responsible for filtering blood and maintaining salt and fluid balance. Harmful waste can build up in your blood vessels if your kidneys are impaired. Kidney disease can contribute to inflammation, dyslipidemia (abnormal cholesterol), and atherosclerosis.<sup>8</sup>

Autoimmune Diseases

Autoimmune conditions, such as rheumatoid arthritis (RA), Crohn's disease, or lupus, cause inflammation in your body. Untreated inflammation can affect the blood vessels and heart over time.

People with autoimmune conditions may also have traditional risk factors of heart disease, like diabetes and high blood pressure.<sup>9</sup>

Lifestyle Risk Factors Certain lifestyle habits can make you vulnerable to developing some types of heart disease, like CAD.

The good news is that in most cases, you have some level of control over these risk factors, and you can make adjustments to lower your risk of disease.<sup>10</sup>

Obesity: People who are obese are more likely to develop heart disease because they are at an increased risk of high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and diabetes.

Diet: Eating a diet high in salt, added sugars, and saturated fat can lead to obesity, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol.

Sedentary lifestyle: Not getting enough physical activity throughout the day may increase your risk of heart disease. Try to get at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise per week.<sup>11</sup>

Alcohol use: Drinking too much alcohol can raise your blood pressure and make your heart muscle weak. Consuming alcohol is also tied to higher rates of abnormal heart rhythm.

(Health.com)



# Hockey WC:Heavyweights hold firm as chasers make their move on action-packed day four

United News Of India

**AMSTELVEEN (NETHERLANDS), AUG 19:** Australia and the Netherlands' men's sides made it two wins from two on day four of the FIH Hockey World Cup, with India and China's women and Ireland and New Zealand's men also picking up valuable wins.

The Kookaburras fought hard for their 1-0 victory over Spain. Australia dominated possession and circle entries in the first half, with 17 entries to Spain's eight, but couldn't find a way through on Tuesday.

Spain improved after the break and began putting the Australian defence under more pressure.

Ky Willott came closest for the Australians in the third quarter, but his strike hit the post. The breakthrough finally arrived in the 47th minute as Australia were awarded a penalty stroke and Blake Govers coolly buried it in



the top-left corner.

Spain pushed hard late on and earned their first penalty corner with just under two and a half minutes remaining, but Australia's defence held firm to preserve the clean sheet.

After an exceptional game, Lachlan Sharp was named as Player of the Match and said, "I think the team performed

really well today. We pride ourselves on our attack, but I think our defence really stood up today and to hold a good team like Spain to no goals, I think is a really good performance."

Meanwhile, the Spanish women dug deep to avoid a similar fate, pulling off a 1-1 draw against hosts Belgium. It was a dominant first quarter for the

home side who created plenty of scoring opportunities but simply couldn't find the back of the net.

The breakthrough came in the 24th minute when Stephanie Vanden Borre converted a penalty corner to put Belgium 1-0 up. While the Belgians were firmly in control, Spain made the most of their first penalty corner of the match, which came in the 41st minute, Lucia Jimenez firing in the equaliser. That seemed to rally the Spaniards, who raised their intensity for the remainder of the match and held on for a share of the points.

Earlier in the evening, the Netherlands men defeated Argentina 3-1 in a compelling, high-paced encounter.

Captain Thierry Brinkman gave the Dutch an early lead in the seventh minute, but Argentina hit back through Nicolas della Torre's penalty corner four minutes later.

## South Africa name squad for historic Zimbabwe tour

United News Of India

**CAPETOWN, AUG 19:** South Africa Women will tour Zimbabwe for the first time, with the two sides preparing to lock horns in their maiden T20I series.

The visitors will be led by regular captain Laura Wolvaardt but will feature a bunch of new faces, including three uncapped players.

These are seamer Caitlin Wyngaard, who impressed for the SA

Emerging Women during the recent tour against Bangladesh Emerging.

The 21-year-old has earned her maiden national call-up alongside former SAU19 Women starlet Nthabiseng Nini and off-spinner Luyanda Nzuza, who also delivered standout performances for the Emerging side.

The uncapped trio will be joined by Faye

Tunnicliffe, Anneke Bosch, Ayanda Hlubi, Eliz-Mari Marx, Seshnie Naidu, Nondumiso Shangase and Miané Smit - all of whom missed out on the recent ICC Women's T20 World Cup in



England.

Bolstering the line-up further are wicket-keeper batters Sinalo Jafta and Karabo Meso, as well as all-rounders Kayla Reyneke and Annerie Dercksen, according to ICC.

## Nepal boxers step up Asian Games preparations at SAI-NCOE Guwahati



United News Of India

**GUWAHATI, AUG 19:** The Nepal boxing team is undergoing a month-long training camp at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) in Guwahati as part of its preparations for the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, next month.

The seven-member boxing contingent, comprising three women and four men, along with two coaches, arrived at the SAI NCOE Guwahati for the camp that began on August 10 and will continue until September 15, 2026. The Asian Games will be held in Japan from September 19 to October 4, with competitions taking place in Aichi Prefecture and the city of Nagoya.

The Nepal delegation includes coaches Raj Shrestha and Deepak Maharjan, while the seven boxers are Ramisha Shrestha (51kg), Asmita Duwal (54kg), Kusum Tamang

(65kg), Chandra Bahadur Thapa (55kg), Khagendra Roka Magar (60kg), Dan Bahadur Darlami (70kg) and Rabin Nepal (90kg).

The boxers are training under SAI NCOE Guwahati coaches Narendra Rana, Trideep Borah and Pranamika Borah. The sessions are focused on technical development, physical conditioning, tactical preparation and competitive readiness ahead of the Asian Games. The camp has also provided the Nepalese boxers with opportunities to train and spar with boxers from the Indian Army and Meghalaya across different weight categories. The sessions involve athletes with varying levels of competitive experience, allowing the visiting contingent to work against different boxing styles and tactical approaches. The Nepal team has expressed its appreciation to SAI NCOE Guwahati for providing training facilities and support and for creating a suitable environment for high-performance preparation.

## Global Chess League Season 4 tickets go live on BookMyShow

United News Of India

**BENGALURU, AUG 19:** The Global Chess League (GCL), a joint initiative between Tech Mahindra and FIDE, has opened ticket sales for Season 4 on BookMyShow, with Bengaluru set to host six global franchises from September 5 to 13.

Icons, established champions, elite superstars, and the next generation of chess talent will converge on the city for another season of rapid, team-based action, with one place at the board still waiting to be claimed: the fans.

Defending champions Alpine APL Pipers return with Magnus Carlsen leading their title defence, while PBG Alaskan Knights bring together Indian chess great Viswanathan Anand and Arjun Erigaisi.

Ganges Grandmasters pair Ian Nepomniachtchi with returning star Levon Aronian, while Fyers American Gambits are led by 2026 Candidates winner Javokhir Sindarov and Season 2 MVP Nihal Sarin. With the stars ready to make their moves, GCL is inviting fans to make theirs and take their place alongside the action.

Early Bird tickets start at Rs 349, giving fans access to one match and the Festival Arena, while

the Rs 2,999 Premium ticket covers all four matches of the day, along with access to the Festival Arena and Premium Lounge.

With GCL's "Most Important Seat Is Empty" message putting the focus on the fan,

the live experience will extend beyond the boards, with the Festival Arena offering live screenings, commentary, fan experiences, and food on a first-come, first-served basis.

## After Dharamsala & Perth, Padikkal finally finds his Test moment in Galle

United News Of India

**GALLE, AUG 19:** Devdutt Padikkal's brief Test career has taken him through some of the most challenging batting conditions.

From making his debut in Dharamsala to facing the pace and bounce of Perth and now tackling spin in Galle, the Karnataka left-hander has finally announced his arrival



on the international stage in emphatic fashion.

Padikkal was named Player of the Match after playing a starring role in India's 165-run victory over Sri Lanka in the first Test on Wednesday. His marathon 167 in the first innings, followed

by a fluent 44 in the second, laid the foundation for India's commanding win and helped them take a 1-0 lead in the two-match series. The performance was

particularly significant given the backdrop of his early Test career. His

debut came in Dharamsala before he was thrown into the demanding conditions of Perth

, widely regarded as one of the toughest venues for batters because of its pace and bounce.

In Galle, he faced a completely different challenge as the surface gradually offered more assistance to the spinners.

For Padikkal, however, the contrasting conditions have made the start to his Test career all the more rewarding.

"Yeah, it's been one of those things in my career. I started in Dharamsala (Test debut), then a Test in Perth, and now Galle. But I couldn't have asked for anything better. The game was amazing.

I think we played some really good cricket and really happy with the win," Padikkal said at the post-match presentation ceremony. Not a regular in India's Test XI, Padikkal grabbed his opportunity with both hands after being slotted at No. 3 in place of the injured B Sai Sudharsan. His first-innings century was the turning point, as he showed patience and control against Sri Lanka's spinners to build a commanding total for India.

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