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Srinagar
Thursday
August 27 | 2026
12 Rabi' al-Awwal 1448 AH
Issue No: 204
Volume: 16
Pages: 12
Price :Rs: 2/-

www.dailyheadlinestoday.com
16TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION
HEADLINES TODAY
Voice To The Voiceless



P:12 Dewald Brevis looks at Namibia tri-series as a great opportunity

Nepal Floods Turn Deadly for Pilgrims, Tourists : Hundreds Feared Dead,

105 Indians Among 384 Missing. 37 NRIs unaccounted for after Bhote Koshi River flash floods sweep Rasuwa; 59 Indians were on Kailash Mansarovar Yatra



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

KATHMANDU, AUG 26: A sudden and devastating flash flood in Nepal's Rasuwa district along the Tibet border has triggered a major humanitarian emergency, with 384 travellers, including 105 Indian nationals and 37 NRIs, reported missing after the Bhote Koshi River surged through the region on Wednesday, officials said.

The disaster struck at around 9 am local time, sending a massive volume of water through settlements and travel routes in the mountainous border region. At least four people have been killed, while critical infrastructure and a number of hydropower projects have suffered extensive damage.

According to the Nepal Tourism Board (NTB), 384 travellers are currently reported missing, including 291 foreign nationals and 93 Nepalese citizens. The missing foreign nationals include tourists from India, the United States, Malaysia, the United Kingdom, South Africa, Australia and the Netherlands.

The incident has caused particular concern in India as 105 Indian nationals and 37 NRIs are among those unaccounted for. At least 59 of the Indian nationals were pilgrims travelling for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, according to Samrat Tours and Travel agency.

The flash flood struck the Bhote Koshi River after a sudden surge of water from the Tibet side. The powerful flow affected Rasuwa and Dhading districts bordering Tibet, as well as Nuwakot district southwest of Kathmandu. Several settlements along the river were inundated, while roads and other critical infrastructure were damaged. At least a dozen hydropower projects have also reportedly been affected.

The mountainous terrain and difficult road connectivity in the region have added to the challenges facing rescue and relief teams. Authorities are

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PM Modi to Engage Youth in Khelo India Dialogue

National programme to focus on sports, 2036 Olympics, leadership, fitness and Nasha Mukt Yuva

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES



KATHMANDU, AUG 26:Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the Khelo India Dialogue with young people across the country on Thursday at 11 am through video conferencing as part of National Sports Day 2026 celebrations. Organised by Mera Yuva Bharat, the nationwide programme will bring together youth from colleges across districts to discuss India's sporting ambitions, preparation for the 2036 Olympics, sports infrastructure, coaching, sports science, youth leadership, volunteering and nation-building. The dialogue will also focus on the Nasha Mukt Yuva movement, with participants encouraged to use sports and peer networks to promote a healthy and disciplined lifestyle.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the Khelo India Dialogue with young people across the country on Thursday at 11 am through video conferencing, with the programme aimed at placing youth aspirations at the centre of India's sporting and national development journey.

Organised by Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) as part of the National Sports Day 2026 celebrations, the nationwide programme will involve youth participants at two colleges in every district across States and Union Territories.

The initiative seeks to bring together sports, youth leadership, civic responsibility, volunteering, fitness and nation-building on a common platform. It will provide young people an opportunity to share their ideas and engage with India's sporting ambitions and the broader youth ecosystem.

The national programme will be followed by local interactions involving young participants, MY Bharat volunteers,

>>> MORE ON P 02

Quaternary Care Must Become a Right, Not a Privilege : LG Manoj Sinha

Calls for Quaternary Care Corridor, AI-enabled diagnostics and biomedical research mission in J&K



HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR,26 AUG Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday called for a major transformation of Jammu and Kashmir's healthcare system, asserting that advanced quaternary care must no longer remain the preserve of metropolitan cities or the economically affluent. Addressing the Quaternary Healthcare & Research Summit in Srinagar, Sinha proposed a dedicated Quaternary Care Corridor linking district hospitals and tertiary centres with advanced institutions, alongside AI-enabled diagnostics and a biomedical research mission. He urged hospitals to evolve into research-driven centres capable of organ transplantation, robotic and precision surgery, advanced genomics, cellular therapies and other cutting-edge treatments, stressing that "advanced care must become a right, not a privilege."

The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today addressed the Quaternary Healthcare & Research Summit in Srinagar. He emphasized that the summit marks a turning point

>>> MORE ON P 02

Capacity Building of the Mind Is Vital for India's Global Relevance : Jitendra Singh

Union Minister stresses continuous learning, innovation and stronger government-private sector collaboration

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES



SRINAGAR,26 AUG : Union Minister of State for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Dr Jitendra Singh on Wednesday called for a shift from conventional skill development towards "capacity building of the mind", saying India's global relevance would increasingly depend on its ability to continuously learn, adapt and innovate. Addressing a roundtable in New Delhi, Singh emphasised whole-of-society participation involving government, industry, institutions and civil society, while advocating stronger research investment, private-sector participation, international collaboration and knowledge-sharing. He also highlighted the growing role of platforms such as iGOT and called for a stronger ecosystem connecting research, traditional knowledge and contemporary governance. Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr Jitendra Singh, on Wednesday stressed

>>> MORE ON P 02

Kashmir plains likely to witness heatwave-like conditions in 3-4 days

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, AUG 26 : Temperatures are likely to rise further across Kashmir over the next few days, with the plains, including Srinagar, expected to experience heatwave-like conditions and maximum temperatures approaching 35 degrees Celsius, according to a Kashmir weather forecaster.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 32.7 degrees Celsius on Wednesday, while Kupwara recorded 32.3 degrees Celsius and Qazigund 31.6 degrees Celsius.

Kukernag recorded 30.8 degrees Celsius, Banihal 30.1 degrees Celsius and Bhaderwah 30.2 degrees Celsius. Batote and Pahalgam recorded maximum temperatures of 28 degrees Celsius and 26.8 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Gulmarg, a popular tourist destination, recorded 23.4 degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 35 degrees Celsius, while Katra recorded 32.7 degrees Celsius.

According to the forecast, temperatures across Kashmir are expected to rise during the coming three to four days, with the heat likely to be most intense on Friday and Saturday.

Several plains of the Valley, including Srinagar, could record maximum temperatures close to or around 35 degrees Celsius during the peak period.The forecast indicates that dry and hot weather is likely to continue towards the end of August.

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BRIEFLY

Two POCSO Undertrials Who Escaped Srinagar Jail Traced to Rajasthan, Arrested

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, AUG 26: Two undertrial prisoners facing separate cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, who had escaped from Central Jail Srinagar on August 23, have been traced to Rajgarh in Rajasthan's Churu district and arrested, officials said.

The two have been identified as Farman Khan, a resident of Rajasthan, and Mukhtar Ahmad Gujjar, a resident of Anantnag.

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Man Dies After Tractor Overturns in Beerwah

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

BUDGAM, AUG 26:A 47-year-old man died after a tractor reportedly overturned at Checki Wanihama in Beerwah area of Budgam district on Wednesday.

The deceased has been identified as Abdul Rashid Wani, a resident of Ohangam, Beerwah

He was critically injured in the accident and was shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment, where doctors declared him brought dead.

Police have taken cognizance of the incident and registered a formal case. [KNT]

5.160 Kg Heroin Worth Around Rs 11 Crore Seized, Alleged Mastermind Held in Leh

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, AUG 26:The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Jammu, has busted an alleged cross-border heroin trafficking network with the seizure of 5.160 kilograms of heroin and arrest of three persons, including the suspected mastermind, officials said.

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Two-Storey House Attached in Budgam Drug Case

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

BUDGAM, AUG 26:Authorities have attached a two-storey residential house in Hapatnar, Charar-i-Shareif, falling in Central Kashmir's Budgam district, in connection with a drug-related case registered at Police Station Charar-i-Shareif.

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Laparoscopic Surgery Begins at SDH Beerwah, Two Gallbladder Operations Performed

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

BUDGAM, AUG 26:Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Beerwah has started laparoscopic surgical procedures, with two laparoscopic cholecystectomies successfully performed at the hospital on Wednesday.

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Leopard Trapped in Wire Rescued, Relocated in North Kashmir's Uri

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

Baramulla, Aug 26: A leopard reportedly trapped in wire at Bandi village in the Uri area of Baramulla district was rescued and relocated by the Wildlife Department, officials said.

The animal was found caught in the wire, triggering concern among locals who alerted the authorities.

A team of wildlife officials reached the spot and carried out the rescue operation, safely freeing the leopard from the wire before relocating it to a suitable forest habitat.

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HT BOTTOM NEWS

Hazratbal Resonates With Prayers as 'Moi-e-Muqaddas' Draws Thousands

Omar Abdullah, Farooq Abdullah offer prayers as devotees gather for Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi

HT NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR,26 AUG : Thousands of devotees converged at the revered Dargah Hazratbal in Srinagar on Wednesday to observe Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), with the shrine witnessing night-long prayers, Durood-o-Azkar and Naats before the sacred Moi-e-Muqaddas was displayed before the faithful. Men, women, children and elderly devotees arrived from across Kashmir, turning the shrine into a sea of worshippers seeking peace, forgiveness and blessings. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah also offered Zuhr prayers at Hazratbal, while elaborate arrangements for sanitation, drinking water, healthcare, transport, security and crowd management were put in place by the administration and Waqf authorities.

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Youth Must Create Opportunities, Not Just Seek Jobs : Altaf Bukhari

Apni Party chief calls for stronger government support and a conducive ecosystem for entrepreneurship

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES



SRINAGAR,26 AUG : Apni Party president Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Wednesday urged Jammu and Kashmir's youth to look beyond conventional employment and embrace entrepreneurship as a means of creating livelihoods and generating jobs for others. Speaking at the inauguration of a contemporary jewellery store in Rainawari, Srinagar, Bukhari said even small business initiatives could make a meaningful contribution to the local economy, but stressed that entrepreneurship could not succeed through individual effort alone.

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Continue from Front Page.....

Two POCSO

According to officials, Srinagar Police, with assistance from Rajasthan Police, traced the duo to Rajgarh and apprehended them after a three-day search operation.

Police parties from Srinagar have already left for Rajasthan to take custody of the two and bring them back to Srinagar.

Farman Khan was lodged in Central Jail Srinagar in connection with FIR No. 19/2026 registered at Police Station Lar under Sections 137(2) and 87 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Sections 3 and 4 of the POCSO Act.

Mukhtar Ahmad Gujjar was facing proceedings in FIR No. 20/2026 registered at Police Station Soura under Sections 137(2) and 65(1) of the BNS and Sections 3 and 4 of the POCSO Act.

The duo had allegedly escaped from the high-security prison on August 23, following which police issued lookout notices and launched a manhunt across the Valley and beyond.

Their arrest brings an end to the immediate search for the two escapees, while investigation into the circumstances surrounding their escape from Central Jail Srinagar is continuing. [KNT]

5.160 Kg Heroin

Acting on specific intelligence, an NCB team intercepted a vehicle at Panjtirthi in Jammu and recovered 5.160 kilograms of heroin from two persons travelling in the vehicle. Both accused, who are residents of Baramulla, were arrested.

The seized contraband is estimated to be worth around Rs 11 crore, officials said.

During the follow-up investigation, NCB officials traced another Baramulla resident suspected of supplying the consignment and masterminding the network to Leh in Ladakh. He was arrested two days after the initial seizure.

According to preliminary findings, the heroin is suspected to have originated in Pakistan and entered India through the Uri border sector. The agency is now investigating the suspected supply chain, financial links, transporters, local associates and intended distribution network.

The arrests and seizure are part of an investigation aimed at establishing the forward and backward linkages of the alleged network.

Earlier this month, NCB Jammu had seized 438 grams of heroin on August 12 and another 603 grams on August 13 in separate operations. Further investigation is underway. [KNT]

Two-Storey House

The property has been attached under Section 68-F(1) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in connection with FIR No. 36/2026 registered under Sections 8 and 15 of the Act.

The case concerns allegations relating to the possession, transportation and trafficking of narcotic substances. The allegations are subject to investigation and judicial determination.

Following the attachment, the accused Noor Muhammad Dar has been barred from selling, transferring, leasing, mortgaging or otherwise creating any third-party interest in the property without permission from the competent authority.

The action affects the property pending proceedings under the NDPS Act and does not, by itself, establish guilt in the underlying criminal case. [KNT]

Leopard Trapped

The incident caused concern among residents in the area, who had been advised to maintain a safe distance from the animal until the rescue operation was completed.

The successful rescue and relocation brought relief to locals, while the Wildlife Department's intervention also helped prevent possible harm to both the animal and residents.

Baramulla has witnessed several wildlife-rescue operations this year amid increased human-wildlife encounters. In January, the Wildlife Department rescued a leopard and its cub after they were spotted near a residential area and relocated them to a secure forest habitat.

In April, a leopard and three cubs were also safely rescued from an abandoned house in the Bagh-e-Islam area of Baramulla in a joint operation involving the Wildlife Department, Police and Army.

The district has also witnessed repeated leopard sightings in residential areas in recent weeks, prompting the Wildlife Department to deploy teams and install cages at vulnerable locations to safely capture the animals. [KNT]

Laparoscopic Surgery

The procedures were conducted as token cases by the hospital's surgical and anaesthesia teams, marking the beginning of laparoscopic surgery services at the health facility.

The surgical team comprised Dr Intikhab Alam, Dr Irshad Lone, Medical Officer Surgeon, Showkat Gul, Imtiyaz Reshi and Neelofar Jan, while the anaesthesia team was led by Consultant Anaesthesia Dr Arif Vakil, assisted by Dr Gul Mohammad and Shameem Aga.

The availability of laparoscopic surgery at SDH Beerwah is expected to provide patients in the area access to minimally invasive surgical procedures closer to home, reducing the need to travel to distant tertiary-care centres for such treatment.

The commencement of the service also expands the range of surgical procedures available at the hospital and strengthens its capacity to provide specialised care locally.

The hospital administration said the development was made possible through the coordinated efforts of the surgical, anaesthesia, nursing, technical and other healthcare staff. [KNT]

Nepal Floods

working to establish the whereabouts of travellers who were in or passing through the affected areas when the flood struck.

The Indian Embassy in Kathmandu has activated emergency assistance for Indian nationals affected by the disaster and issued dedicated contact numbers for information and assistance. People seeking help can contact +977 985 131 6807 or +977 970 910 7500.

The Nepal Tourism Board has also issued emergency contacts, including toll-free number 1234, hotline 1144 and Tourist Police number 9851289445.

The Nepal Tourism Board, Tourist Police and tourism-sector stakeholders are coordinating efforts to verify the safety and whereabouts of those reported missing. Authorities are checking travel records and contacting hotels, transport operators and local officials as efforts continue to locate stranded travellers.

The situation remains fluid, and officials cautioned that the number of missing persons could change as communication networks are restored and travellers are able to contact their families or authorities. Families of those travelling through the region have been urged to depend on information issued by official agencies rather than unverified reports circulating on social media.

PM Modi to

sportspersons and public representatives. Youth interested in sports will also get an opportunity to interact directly with leading Indian athletes and medal winners.

A key component of the programme will be Yuva Samvaad, where participants will articulate their aspirations and ideas around five themes.

These include strengthening India's sports ecosystem through improved facilities, coaching, sports science and inclusive participation; preparing athletes for the 2036 Olympics through scientific talent identification and long-term development; and creating youth leaders through governance platforms and MY Bharat-led volunteering.

The dialogue will also focus on empowering young people for Viksit Bharat by promoting civic-mindedness, future-ready skills and structured volunteering.

Another major theme will be the Nasha Mukt Yuva movement, with sport and peer networks being positioned as tools to combat substance abuse. The campaign will also be reinforced through weekly Jan Bhagidari activities under the Prime Minister's 100-week nationwide campaign launched on August 2, 2026.

The Khelo India Dialogue is intended to strengthen youth participation in sports and public life while encouraging young Indians to contribute ideas and take an active role in building a fit, disciplined and sporting nation (PIB).

Capacity Building

the need to focus on "capacity building of the mind" alongside skills to help India remain globally relevant amid rapid technological and societal changes.

Addressing a roundtable on capacity building, Singh said the approach must move beyond individual skill development towards a collective, whole-of-society model involving government, private sector, institutions and civil society.

He said the pace of technological change had made continuous learning indispensable, as knowledge and skills acquired today could become outdated rapidly. Individuals and institutions, he added, must therefore develop the ability to continuously learn, adapt and innovate.

Emphasising institutional coordination, the Minister said organisations needed to work across traditional boundaries to respond effectively to emerging challenges and translate policies into implementation. He also called for greater pragmatism in governance, saying officials should avoid becoming excessively constrained by procedures while discharging their responsibilities within the framework of law.

Singh said capacity building should not be restricted to preparing individuals for specific tasks, but should also cultivate the mindset required to adapt to changing circumstances and global benchmarks.

He stressed that the government alone cannot address all emerging challenges and called for greater participation from the private sector and other stakeholders. Citing the opening of sectors such as space and nuclear energy to private participation, he said India needed stronger cross-sectoral ecosystems to pursue common national objectives.

The Minister highlighted the role of continuous learning platforms, noting that the iGOT platform has more than 40 lakh registered users. He also referred to the National Centre for Good Governance and the Indian Institute of Public Administration as components of India's wider capacity-building ecosystem.

Singh suggested connecting institutions working in this field and highlighted the potential of the Kautilya Centre to link India's traditional knowledge with contemporary state capacity, including for knowledge-sharing across the Global South.

On research and innovation, he referred to the National Research Foundation and the 1 lakh crore RDI funding initiative, calling for greater private participation and investment.

He also advocated creating a stronger culture of philanthropy for research, saying research aimed at improving human welfare should receive greater support alongside traditional philanthropic causes.

Singh further underlined the importance of international collaboration and knowledge exchange, particularly among countries of the Global South.

He said India's capacity-building efforts should ultimately enable individuals, institutions, government, industry and society to contribute collectively to national development and strengthen the country's position in the global knowledge and innovation ecosystem. (PIB).

Quaternary Care

in Jammu Kashmir and India's healthcare journey, where the Union Territory and the nation must move beyond tertiary care and embrace quaternary-level treatment and research to ensure equal access for all citizens.

Recalling his visit to Akhnoor during the "Back to Village" programme in 2020, the Lieutenant Governor shared a poignant interaction with doctors who discussed diagnosis for rare diseases and need for modern equipment. He said this moment revealed the greatest distance confronting us in the UT is the gap between healthcare available in small district hospitals and the healthcare actually required. The Lieutenant Governor stressed that bridging this gap is a national priority.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted India's remarkable progress under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. He said free treatment for more than 56 crore citizens surpassed the combined population of the US, France, Italy, and the UK. He said annual vaccination campaigns in the country covering 7 crore children, equal to the population of the UK. He said even e-Sanjeevani telemedicine providing care to 37 crore people annually, exceeding the population of the US.

"Expansion of infrastructure with 23 AIIMS, 2,045 medical colleges, and in Jammu Kashmir, 2 AIIMS, 10 medical colleges, 2 State Cancer Institutes, a Bone and Joint Hospital, a Paediatric Hospital, 52 nursing colleges, 23 paramedical colleges, and 5 pharmacy colleges are providing robust support to healthcare ecosystem. These figures show that India has succeeded in elevating primary, secondary, and tertiary care. But the time has come to scale up tertiary hospitals into quaternary centres," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also stressed that the advanced care must no longer remain a luxury confined to metropolitan cities.

"Quaternary care should not be a privilege reserved for the economically rich section of society. It must become a right of citizenship and a guarantee of the nation.

For a very long time, quaternary care has been viewed as a luxury available only in metropolitan cities and accessible only to those who can afford it. I wish to state clearly from this platform that this era must now come to an end. The cooperation of all the stakeholders, private hospitals and research centres is essential for fulfilling this resolve," he said.

He called upon hospitals to transform themselves into research institutions capable of organ transplantation, robotic and precision surgery, advanced genomics, cellular therapies, and AI-supported diagnostics. He urged hospitals to allocate annual budgets for specialised infrastructure such as modern operating theatres and proton-beam therapy facilities.

"We must always remember that a quaternary centre should be capable of offering every diagnosis and treatment permitted by science. Therefore, hospitals will also have to make budgetary provisions to access expensive and modern technologies such as robotic surgery, gene therapy, proton-beam therapy and artificial-intelligence-based advanced diagnostics.

While preparing the annual budget, hospitals should allocate funds each year for specialised infrastructure. This will enable them to gradually develop facilities such as modern operating theatres for delicate and complex procedures," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also suggested building of a new corridor to connect district hospitals and tertiary centres directly with quaternary-care institutions, accelerating diagnostics, imaging, and specialist consultations. He said telemedicine and AI-enabled diagnostic tools should be integrated into standard healthcare infrastructure.

The Lieutenant Governor appealed for expanded fellowship and training opportunities in organ transplantation, oncology, genomics, and critical care.

"Advanced care is impossible without advanced specialists," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also suggested a mission uniting Himalayan states, Jammu Kashmir, universities, hospitals, private institutions and innovators to jointly advance biomedical research and overcome funding challenges.

"We must develop new inventions ourselves instead of importing innovation from abroad," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor urged that hospitals be regarded as strategic national assets just like highways and ports, ensuring their preservation and development with equal dedication.

"We must create a robust quaternary-care framework that guarantees equal access to the son of a farmer and to a millionaire living in a city. This task will not be easy, but it must be undertaken as a matter of national dedication and service. Let us work together at this summit to prepare a strategy that will be remembered for the precise and effective implementation of these goals," he said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor released Summit Souvenir and several publications.

Dr. M. Srinivas, Member, NITI Aayog; Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Dr. Digambar Behera, President, National Academy of Medical Sciences; Dr. Kameshwar Prasad; Shri M Raju, Commissioner Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department; Prof. M. Ashraf Ganie, Director SKIMS; heads of various institutions, researchers, scientists, and senior officials were present.

Kashmir plains

The anticipated rise in temperatures comes amid a spell of predominantly dry weather across the Valley, with residents likely to experience warmer-than-normal afternoons in the plains over the next few days.

Weather conditions in the higher reaches, however, are expected to remain comparatively cooler than the plains—(KNO)

Hazratbal Resonates

Thousands of devotees gathered at the revered Dargah Hazratbal in Srinagar on Wednesday to observe Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), with the shrine witnessing night-long prayers, Durood-o-Azkar and Naats, followed by the display of the Holy Relic of Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

From Tuesday evening, men, women, children and elderly devotees began arriving at Hazratbal from different parts of Kashmir, many carrying prayer mats and making their way towards the shrine as the night-long Shab Khwaani got underway.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the gathering was not merely an annual religious observance but an emotional return to a place that has remained at the centre of Kashmir's spiritual life for generations.

Inside and around the shrine, devotees raised their hands in prayer, seeking forgiveness, peace and blessings, while religious scholars and preachers spoke about the life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

Following the morning prayers, the Holy Relic—Moi-e-Muqaddas, revered by devotees as a relic of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), was displayed before the faithful.

The moment left many devotees emotional as they prayed and tried to catch a glimpse of the sacred relic, drawing more people towards the shrine.

For Mohammad Yaseen, a devotee who attended the prayers, the occasion carried a message extending beyond the shrine. "His message of peace has been to us, and in this way we have been taught that we too need this peace in the entire world," Yaseen said.

The gathering at Hazratbal also carried a message of compassion, humanity and brotherhood, with devotees saying that the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) remain relevant in a world witnessing conflict and uncertainty.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah also offered Zuhr prayers at Dargah Hazratbal on the occasion. "People come with love in their hearts and prayers on their lips," said Mohammad Sultan Bhat, a devotee, describing what Hazratbal means to him on the occasion.

Holy Relic remains centre of devotion

The display of the Holy Relic remains one of the most significant moments of Eid-e-Milad celebrations at Hazratbal, drawing devotees from across Kashmir.

The shrine, which houses the sacred relic, traditionally witnesses one of the Valley's largest religious gatherings on the occasion. Similar Milad gatherings were held at major shrines and mosques across Jammu and Kashmir, where religious scholars delivered sermons on the life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

The Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board and district administration had made elaborate arrangements at Hazratbal, including facilities for drinking water, sanitation, lighting, transport, healthcare and crowd management.

Security arrangements were also strengthened around major religious places, particularly Hazratbal, with police maintaining heightened vigilance in view of the large gatherings.

Traffic plan in place

Youth Must

He called upon the government to provide aspiring entrepreneurs with a supportive ecosystem, easier opportunities and the necessary institutional backing to establish and sustain their ventures.): Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari has urged the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to explore entrepreneurship and create their own livelihood opportunities.

He also called upon the government to provide all possible support and a conducive environment to help young people establish and sustain their businesses.

He was speaking on the occasion of the inauguration of 'The Story,' a contemporary jewellery store, in the Rainawari area of Srinagar.

Congratulating the owner of the establishment, Burhan Qadir Bhat, on the launch of the new venture, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said that he feels encouraged whenever he sees young people taking the initiative to start their own businesses and build livelihoods through their own efforts.

"Even if a business starts on a small scale, the initiative itself is commendable. It not only creates a source of livelihood for the entrepreneur but can also generate employment opportunities for others," he said.

He said that Jammu and Kashmir has limited employment opportunities, therefore self-employment is important for the younger generation.

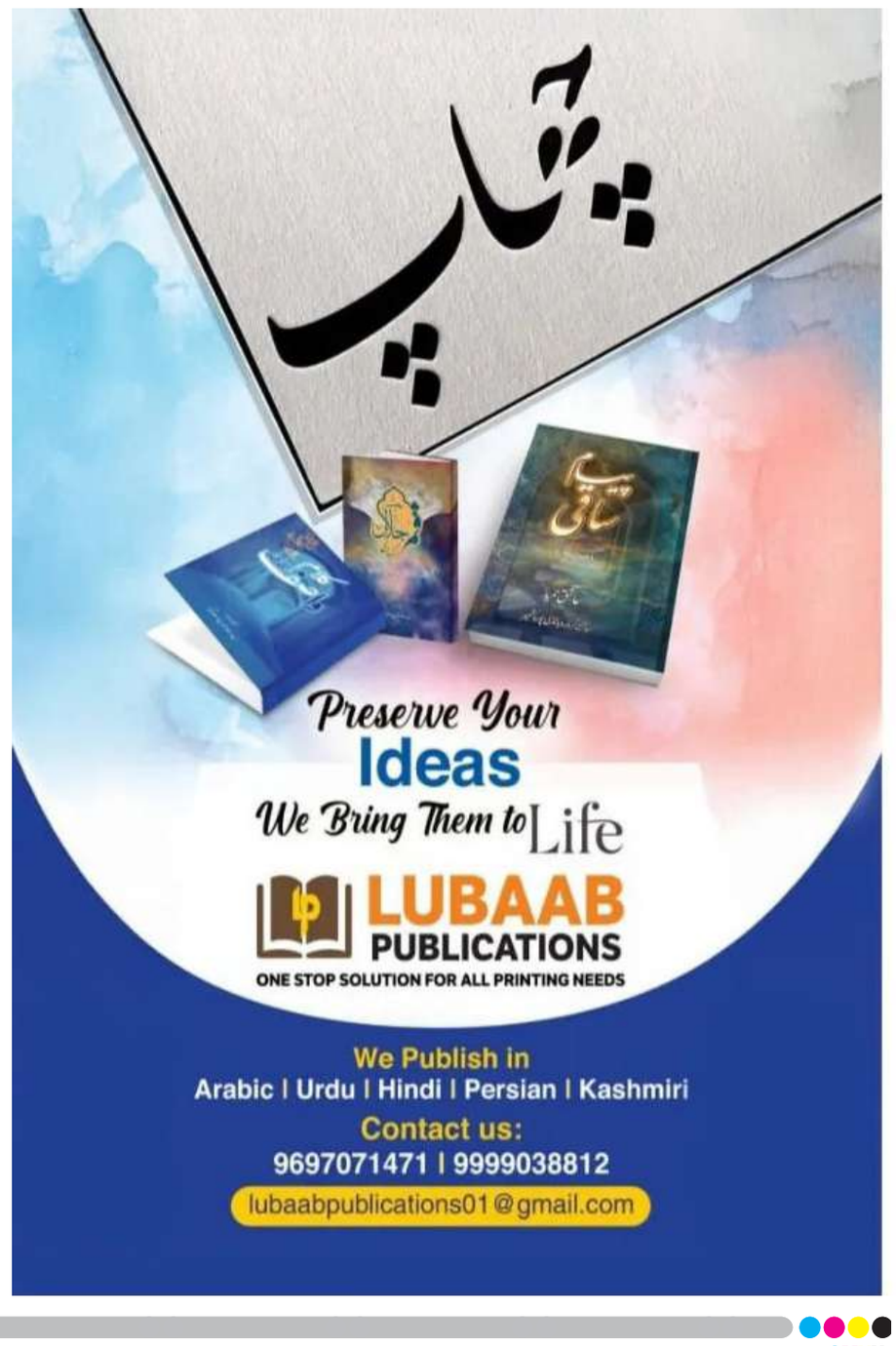
"Given the limited job opportunities available here, I have always encouraged our youth to think beyond seeking jobs and instead explore opportunities to create their own ventures.

At the same time, Apni Party president stressed that encouraging entrepreneurship cannot be the sole responsibility of young people.

He called upon the government to ensure a supportive ecosystem for aspiring entrepreneurs.

'The Story' is a modern retail establishment offering designer jewellery and other lifestyle and fashion products.

On the occasion, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari was accompanied by several senior party colleagues, including party's District President Srinagar and Constituency In-charge Central Shalteng Zaffar Habib, Provincial Youth President Kashmir Jibran Dar, Joint Secretary District Srinagar Khursheed Ahmad Makhdoomi, Mudasir Malik, Abrar Ahmed, Javaid Bangroo, and others. (KNS)



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NITI Aayog Member Dr. M. Srinivas calls on Lieutenant Governor; discusses key development priorities and way forward for the UT

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, August 26: Dr. M. Srinivas, Member, NITI Aayog, along with a team of senior officials from NITI Aayog, called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, at Lok Bhavan, Srinagar. The NITI Aayog delegation comprised Shri Anurag Goyal, Senior Adviser; Shri Subhash Chandra Meena, Economic Adviser; Dr. Muniraju S.B., Deputy Adviser; Dr. Shobith, OSD (Health); and Ms. Sumaya Yusaf, Innovation Lead, Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog.



During the meeting, Dr. M. Srinivas and the NITI Aayog team presented a comprehensive assessment of the development landscape of Jammu Kashmir, highlighting achievements, key sectoral gaps and possible interventions for accelerating the socio-economic development of the Union Territory. The assessment covered major sectors including Education, Skill Development and Employment, Health and Nutrition, Agriculture and Horticulture, Industry and MSMEs, Urbanisation, Tourism, Infrastructure Connectivity, Water Resources, and Renewable Energy and Power.

The delegation highlighted the need to further improve educational outcomes and infrastructure, strengthen industry–academia linkages and employment opportunities, address human-resource and infrastructure gaps in the health sector, and improve primary healthcare delivery. In agriculture and allied sectors, emphasis was placed on irrigation, modernisation of horticulture, reduction of post-harvest losses, cold-chain and processing infrastructure, livestock services, value-chain development and stronger market linkages.

For accelerating economic growth and employment generation, NITI Aayog suggested promotion of sector-specific industrial clusters, strengthening of MSMEs and employment-intensive manufacturing, improvement in logistics and export infrastructure, promotion of green mobility and development of a stronger innovation and start-up ecosystem in the UT. The presentation also highlighted measures for sustainable urban development, including improved water security, sewage treatment, river rejuvenation, faster implementation of AMRUT 2.0 and PMAY-U, improved urban roads and expansion of public transport.

The tourism potential of Jammu Kashmir was also discussed, with emphasis on improving last-mile connectivity and visitor amenities, promoting border, eco, rural and homestay tourism, and leveraging the UT's infrastructure for MICE and event tourism. NITI Aayog further highlighted the importance of timely completion of connectivity projects, improved water conservation and irrigation infrastructure, and greater utilisation of renewable energy potential, particularly through decentralised solar energy and PM-Surya Ghar.

The Lieutenant Governor appreciated the comprehensive sectoral assessment and shared the significant development initiatives undertaken in Jammu Kashmir in recent years. He observed that the Government of India and the J&K UT Administration are working together towards the vision of "Viksit Jammu Kashmir", with sustained emphasis on infrastructure creation, improved public service delivery, employment generation, investment and inclusive socio-economic development.

The Lieutenant Governor suggested that NITI Aayog may undertake a focused assessment and identify actionable measures for making Dal Lake cleaner and ensuring its long-term ecological sustainability. He also emphasised the need to examine the factors contributing to delays in completion of major development and infrastructure projects in Jammu Kashmir.

J&K HC Acquits Former BDO in 2009 Bribery Case, Sets Aside Conviction

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court has acquitted Habibullah Kumar, a former In-charge Establishment Clerk at the Block Development Office (BDO), Larkipora Shahabad, Anantnag, in a 2009 bribery case, holding that the prosecution failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that he had demanded or voluntarily accepted illegal gratification. Justice Sanjay Dhar set aside the trial court's conviction and two-year sentence, observing that the prosecution's case was weakened by contradictions in the complainant's evidence, the absence of independent verification of the alleged initial demand and the failure of the shadow witness to see the alleged exchange of money.

The judgment was pronounced on August 21, 2026, after being reserved on July 30 by a bench of Justice Sanjay Dhar. The court also dismissed the charge sheet against Kumar and ordered that his bail and surety bonds stand discharged.

Kumar had challenged the judgment of the Special Judge Anticorruption, Kashmir, Anantnag, dated August 21, 2025, by which he had been convicted under Section 5(1)(d) read with Section 5(2) of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act. The trial court had sentenced him to two years' simple imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 21,000. In default of payment, he was to undergo another six months of simple imprisonment.

The case originated on September 10, 2009, when Bashir Ahmad Dar, a Helper posted at the BDO office in Larkipora Shahabad, lodged a complaint with the Vigilance Organization, Kashmir. Dar alleged that he and five other Helpers had been granted in-situ promotion with effect from November 1, 2008, and that Kumar, who was then working as Incharge Establishment, had demanded Rs 300 from each employee for preparing their arrears bills.

According to the prosecution, Dar collected Rs 1,800 from the six employees and approached the Vigilance Organization, which registered FIR No. 25/2009 under the corruption law and Section 161 of the Ranbir Penal Code. A trap team headed by Inspector Farooq Hussain Mir was subsequently constituted, with Nazir Ahmad Lone, a Senior Assistant in the Commercial Tax Department, Srinagar, associated as an independent witness.

The prosecution case was that Dar produced 18 currency notes of Rs 100 denomination before the trap team. After a pre-trap demonstration, the team proceeded to the BDO office. Dar entered Kumar's room while Lone remained outside near a window. The prosecution alleged that Kumar demanded and accepted Rs 1,800 from Dar and placed the money in the back pocket of his trousers.

The vigilance officials subsequently recovered the money from Kumar's pocket. His hands and the pocket of his trousers were washed in sodium carbonate solution, which, according to the prosecution, turned pink. The solutions were sealed and sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory in Srinagar. Kumar was arrested at the spot.

After investigation, the Vigilance Organization found the offences established and, following sanction for prosecution issued through Government Order No. 19-GAD(Vig.) of 2010 dated March 29, 2010, presented the charge sheet before the trial court. Charges were framed on December 13, 2010, and Kumar pleaded not guilty.The High Court, however, found serious shortcomings in the prosecution evidence. Justice Dhar noted that the prosecution was required to establish three essential elements in a case of this nature: the initial demand for illegal gratification, demand and voluntary acceptance of the tainted money during the trap.

Jammu & Kashmir Digital Creators & Influencers Platform Launched

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, August 26, 2026: The Jammu & Kashmir Digital Creators & Influencers (JKDCI) platform has been launched as a dedicated professional network to bring together digital creators, social media influencers, social activists and responsible digital voices from across Jammu & Kashmir.JKDCI is an initiative of the Nations Development Association (NDA), supported by Shree Vaishno Institute (SVI) and The Nations Herald as supporting organisations. The platform aims to connect digital creators with Government awareness campaigns, public welfare initiatives, youth engagement programmes, education, social awareness activities and other matters of public interest.Speaking on the initiative, Sushil Singh Charak, Chief Functionary, Nations Development Association (NDA), said, "JKDCI is an effort to bring responsible digital voices together and connect their reach, creativity and influence with public welfare and positive social change. Digital creators can play an important role in strengthening public awareness and participation."

Shivani Vaid Sharma, Chief, Women Wing, NDA, said that women and young digital creators can make a meaningful contribution to awareness campaigns, community development and constructive social dialogue.

Manpreet Kour, State Coordinator, Jammu & Kashmir, said that JKDCI will connect creators from different districts and strengthen the outreach of important government and social initiatives.

Adv. Shubham Kaith, State Legal Coordinator, NDA J&K, said that a responsible digital ecosystem also requires awareness about legal responsibilities, digital conduct and ethical communication.

Karan Singh, State DCI Coordinator, NDA J&K, said that JKDCI will go beyond being a digital network by providing a platform for dialogue, collaboration, knowledge-sharing and collective efforts on issues concerning society and public welfare.

With the support of NDA, SVI and The Nations Herald, JKDCI will facilitate events, interaction programmes, awareness activities and "Manthan Sessions", providing digital creators and influencers an opportunity to discuss important public and social issues and contribute constructive ideas.

The initiative aims to build a responsible, professional and socially conscious digital community in Jammu & Kashmir, utilising the reach and potential of digital media for public awareness, welfare, youth engagement.

'Save Jammu's Trade and Employment': Shiv Sena Signature Campaign Continues for Second Day

Jammu Tawi must be the Main and Final Railway Terminal.

■ HT News Network

Jammu, August 26: With the objective of protecting Jammu's trade, employment and economic interests, the Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu & Kashmir unit continued its signature campaign for the second consecutive day at the historic Raghunath Bazaar today.Led by State President Manish Sahni, Shiv Sena workers interacted directly with shopkeepers and traders and collected signatures in support of the campaign. Traders extended their strong support to the demand for Jammu's rightful share in the railway network and for protecting the local economy.



Speaking on the occasion, Sahni said, "Will Jammu now be reduced to just a signboard? A train arrives, blows its whistle and leaves Jammu behind for Katra and Kashmir. Our traders need business, our youth need employment, and we too have families to support."

He said development is welcome, but not at the cost of Jammu's interests. Jammu Tawi should be developed as the main and final railway terminal for major long-distance trains, with regular, fast connecting train services to Katra and Srinagar. This would ensure that passengers get off in Jammu, visit its markets and spend locally, thereby strengthening the city's economy.

Sahni asserted, "If we want to save Jammu's trade and employment, we must secure Jammu's rightful share in the railway network." He said the signature campaign would be extended to other major markets, and the signatures collected would be submitted to the Prime Minister and Union Railway Minister along with a memorandum.

BBDST demand early restoration of civil amenities.

■ HT News Network



Jammu August 26 :- Bawa Bhair Dev Sathan Trust (Regd) on Wednesday expressed deep concern over the callous attitude of the Govt. for not paying any heed toward the connectivity for the pilgrims who visiting the shrine regularly, because despite the lapse of one year of washing away the steel bridge.

Interacting with media persons, Chairman of Bawa Bhair Dev Sathan construction committee, Former Dy. Commissioner B.S.Jamwal, It's General Secretary Ritiz Khajuria and others alleged that not even a single penny on the restoration of the track and repair of shrine which had badly damaged during the massive flood on 26th of August 2025,despite best efforts of the shrine management to follow the issues with the concerned authorities including concerned political set up from time to time, but all efforts went in vain. "The lakhs of devotees who had planned their visit covering their religious, ritual had to abandoned the visit to shrine, which is most unfortunate, "they added.

BBDST President Balwant Singh, General Secretary Ramesh Sharma and NMC President Subash Shastri also expressed its dismay for not having included the road project in the recently approved project which after Persuasion of two year was got prepared by the concerned authorities under PMGSY, not even a single department officers/officials visited the shrine to access the lost occurred there for providing first aid and repair. Trust however is making all out efforts to provide minimum facilities to the pilgrims by way of leveling of earth damaged and minor of repair of bathing Ghats, electricity, water etc.

Om Parkash Sharma, Kirpal Singh, Subash Sharma, Terseem Sharma, Joginder Singh, Sita Ram, Mohinder Kumar, Girdhari Lal and others members of the Trust also appealed the J K U T administration to kindly address the immediate natured restoration issue by having than audit of losses conducted on priority as ancient shrine is facing utter isolation of facilities.

JUNTEU felicitates VC Prof. Umesh Rai over historic resolution of long pending 147 kanals land issue

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, Aug 26: The Jammu University Non-Teaching Employees Union (JUNTEU) today felicitated Vice Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai for the resolution of the long-pending matter concerning 147 kanals and 11 marlas of land adjoining the University's main campus at Rakh Bahu, which was under the possession of the Army, paving the way for the University to address its growing academic and infrastructural requirements. As part of the resolution, the UT Administration of J&K will hand over 2,062 kanals and 17 marlas in Tehsil Nagrota and 62 kanals in Tehsil Jammu to the Army in lieu of the land adjoining the University campus.Addressing the gathering, Prof. Umesh Rai thanked JUNTEU for the gesture and said the availability of the additional land would help the University plan its future academic and infrastructural expansion in a systematic manner. He expressed gratitude to all concerned authorities and stakeholders for their support in resolving the long-pending matter.



JUNTEU President Dr. Rakesh Chib appreciated the Vice Chancellor's sustained efforts and visionary leadership, saying the development would open new avenues for academic expansion, infrastructure development and better facilities for students, scholars and employees.JUNTEU General Secretary Pankaj Gupta also lauded Prof. Rai's proactive approach towards addressing the University's long-standing infrastructural requirements. He said the development would have a lasting impact on the academic and administrative growth of the institution and benefit generations of students and scholars.Vice President Gurmeet Singh, along with Ram Singh, Arjun Singh and Sourav Chalotra, also expressed gratitude towards the Vice Chancellor and welcomed this landmark development.

The land issue dates back to the original allotment for establishment of the University campus at Rakh Bahu in 1973. The matter was pursued by successive University administrations and gained renewed momentum during Prof. Rai's tenure.

The JUNTEU congratulated the entire University fraternity and expressed confidence that the additional land would significantly strengthen the University's future academic,research and infrastructural capabilities. Addressing the gathering, Prof. Umesh Rai thanked JUNTEU for the gesture and said the availability of the additional land would help the University plan its future academic and infrastructural expansion in a systematic manner. He expressed gratitude to all concerned authorities and stakeholders for their support in resolving the long-pending matter.

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DC Ganderbal chairs District Level NCORD Committee Meeting

Directs intensified action against Drug Abuse

■ HT News Network



GANDERBAL, AUGUST 26: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today chaired the monthly meeting of the District Level Narco Coordination (NCORD) Committee to review the measures being undertaken by various departments to curb drug abuse and strengthen enforcement, prevention, awareness and rehabilitation efforts across the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the action taken by different departments and stressed upon strengthening inter departmental coordination and adopting a sustained, result-oriented approach to tackle the menace of drugs.

The Assistant Controller Drugs, Ganderbal, was directed to intensify inspections and coordinate closely with the Police Department for strict action against drug peddling, violations by drug sellers and illegal sale or distribution of drugs. He also directed that cases involving violations be pursued promptly and appropriate action be taken as per law.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the ARTO to expedite the process for cancellation of driving licences, as per rules, in cases involving persons found engaged in drug peddling.

He further directed that prosecution of drug peddling cases be intensified and stressed that strict action be taken against those found involved in drug peddling or facilitating the illegal distribution of drugs. He also called for effective measures to discourage drug consumption, particularly among youth.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to strengthen surveillance of courier and other channels vulnerable to transportation of drugs, in coordination with the Police Department, to prevent the movement and distribution of narcotic substances.

He further directed the concerned departments to ensure installation of CCTV cameras at identified vulnerable locations to strengthen surveillance and deterrence against drug-related activities.

Reviewing preventive measures, the Deputy Commissioner directed that wild cannabis plants be identified and destroyed at the block and panchayat level, with regular field level monitoring to prevent their spread.

The Deputy Commissioner also called for intensification of awareness programmes across the district, particularly in educational institutions and among youth and communities, focusing on the harmful effects of drug abuse, prevention, counselling and rehabilitation.

All departments were directed to ensure regular conduct of awareness activities and submission of Action Taken Reports (ATRs) regarding the directions issued so that progress can be effectively monitored.The Deputy Commissioner emphasised that combating drug abuse requires a whole of society approach, with coordinated efforts involving enforcement agencies, health institutions, educational institutions, local administration and community stakeholders.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated the commitment of the District Administration to take strict, coordinated and sustained measures against drug abuse and drug peddling and called upon all stakeholders to work collectively towards making Ganderbal a safe, healthy and drug-free district.

DC visits Ziyarat Sharief of Hazrat Mir Syed Hussain Simnani (RA) Kulgam, Ziyarat Sharief Qaimoh on Milad- ud-Nabi

Reviews arrangements, prays for peace and prosperity

■ Farooq Rather



KULGAM, AUGUST 26: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today visited the revered Ziyarat Sharief of Hazrat Mir Syed Hussain Simnani (RA) at Kulgam and Ziyarat Sharief Qaimoh on the auspicious occasion of Milad un Nabi.

During his visit to the revered shrine of Hazrat Mir Syed Hussain Simnani (RA), the Deputy Commissioner paid obeisance and offered prayers for peace, prosperity and the well-being of the people of the district and the entire Jammu & Kashmir.

The DC also took stock of the arrangements put in place for devotees visiting the shrines. He interacted with members of the shrine management committees and reviewed facilities including drinking water, sanitation, electricity, traffic management and medical aid.

At Ziyarat Sharief Qaimoh, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with local residents and representatives and took feedback on various issues concerning the development, upkeep and maintenance of the shrine.

He directed the concerned departments to ensure adequate facilities, timely resolution of public issues and seamless management of the arrangements for devotees and visitors.

The local residents and shrine management representatives appreciated the visit of the Deputy Commissioner and expressed hope that the issues raised during the interaction would be addressed at the earliest.

The DC was accompanied by senior officers of the district administration.

NCB Jammu Busts Cross-Border Heroin Cartel; 5.16 Kg Drugs Seized, 3 Arrested

■ HT News Network



Jammu, Aug 26: In an intelligence-led operation, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Jammu on Wednesday said a major cross-border heroin trafficking cartel was busted, resulting in the seizure of 5.16 kg of drugs and the arrest of three persons, including the suspected mastermind.

Acting on specific intelligence on Saturday, a vehicle was intercepted at Panjtirthi in the heart of Jammu and heroin worth crores of rupees was recovered from two of its occupants, both residents of north Kashmir's Baramulla district, a spokesperson of the NCB said.

An immediate follow-up action was launched based on crucial leads regarding another resident of Baramulla, who is the suspected mastermind and supplier of the drug trafficking network.

The NCB team traced him to Leh district of Ladakh where he was arrested on Monday, within two days of the seizure.

Prima facie investigation indicates that the seized heroin forms part of an organised cross-border supply chain, with the contraband suspected to have originated from Pakistan and entered India through the Uri border sector, the spokesperson said.

LG VK Saxena inaugurates 2nd Suru Summer Festival virtually

Calls for making Suru a premier mountain tourism destination

■ HT News Network



Kargil, August 26: Lieutenant Governor, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, today virtually inaugurated the 2nd Suru Summer Festival 2026, being organised at Damsna in the picturesque Suru Valley on August 26–27 to showcase the region's rich cultural heritage, spectacular landscapes, adventure potential and unique way of life.

Suru Summer Festival has been included among the nine UT-level festivals under the 'Celebrate Ladakh' calendar, reinforcing the Administration's vision of promoting Ladakh as a year-round tourism destination.

Highlighting the immense tourism potential of Suru Valley, L-G Shri Saxena said the valley offers a unique combination of dramatic Himalayan landscapes, lush green valleys, rivers, culture and adventure, and has the potential to emerge as one of India's leading mountain tourism destinations. He noted that Suru has already received national and international attention, including recognition by National Geographic among its 25 Best Destinations to Visit in 2025.

The iconic Nun-Kun massif, with Nun Peak rising to approximately 7,135 metres and Kun Peak to around 7,077 metres, along with the valley's mountaineering and expedition potential, the Lieutenant Governor said, provides a strong foundation for positioning Suru as a premier destination for high-altitude adventure tourism.

L-G Shri Saxena emphasised that the Suru Festival should evolve beyond a two-day celebration into a signature tourism platform that takes Suru to the world, celebrates its mountains, culture and people, and creates sustainable livelihood opportunities for local communities. He highlighted the potential for river rafting, paragliding, cycling, trekking, fishing, nature walks and other adventure activities, which can create opportunities for local youth as guides, instructors, operators and entrepreneurs. He stressed that such activities should be developed beyond the festival period to make Suru an all-season experiential destination, while maintaining safety, professional standards and responsible tourism practices.

The Lieutenant Governor also underlined the importance of showcasing Suru's traditional way of life. Its farmlands, local produce, livestock, handicrafts, cuisine and village life, he said, can provide visitors with authentic local experiences.

Making a special appeal to the youth and entrepreneurs of Suru, the Lieutenant Governor urged them to become active partners in building the valley as a distinctive tourism destination. He said that while the Government can provide infrastructure, connectivity, promotion and policy support, a tourism destination is ultimately built by its people, entrepreneurs and local communities.

He called upon the people of Suru to focus on quality, cleanliness, hospitality and authentic experiences, noting that every visitor who leaves the valley with a memorable .

Director Agriculture Kashmir visits S.M Farm Padgampora

Reviews seed production initiatives

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR, AUGUST 26: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, on Sunday visited the Seed Multiplication Farm at Padgampora, Pulwama, to assess ongoing activities and review the progress of seed production initiatives.

During the visit, the Director specifically inspected the different blocks, Seed processing Plant and workshop where he evaluated the current status of activities related to seed multiplication.

He reviewed the overall working of the Farm, including field operations, crop management practices, and preparations for quality seed production to meet the region's agricultural requirements, as the harvesting season of major cereal crops is commencing shortly.

The Director emphasized the critical role of departmental seed multiplication farms in achieving self-reliance in quality seeds for various crops, to support farmers and enhance agricultural productivity in Kashmir.

Farm Manager, Padgampora, Malik Reyaz Ahmad, was also present on the occasion and provided detailed insights into farm management, infrastructure, and day-to-day operations.

The Director interacted with field staff and officers, directing them to adopt modern scientific practices and work in a mission mode to ensure timely availability of certified seeds to the farming community. He reiterated the department's commitment to upgrading seed multiplication farms, across Kashmir, and strengthening post-harvest management for better outcomes.

This visit underscores the Directorate of Agriculture Kashmir's continued focus on strengthening seed infrastructure and promoting sustainable agriculture practices across the valley.

Director Agriculture was accompanied by Joint Director Extension, Mujtaba Yehya and Deputy Director Planning Javeed Ahmad Shah.

Doda Police Solves Theft Case; Accused Arrested, Stolen Property Recovered

■ HT News Network

Doda, August 26, 2026:

In a swift and well-coordinated operation, Police Station Doda solved a theft case by arresting the accused and recovering the stolen property.

The case was registered on the complaint of Irshad Ahmed, S/o Nizam Din Batt, R/o Beoli, Doda, who reported theft from his residence. Accordingly, FIR No. 238/2026 U/S 331(3)/305 BNS was registered at Police Station Doda and investigation was taken up.

Acting promptly, a dedicated police team of Police Station Doda launched an investigation and, through technical surveillance, analysis of CCTV footage and credible human intelligence, succeeded in identifying and apprehending the accused, namely Rubina Begum, W/o Rehmatullah Batt, R/o Beoli, Doda.

During the course of investigation and on the disclosure of the accused, the police recovered one inverter battery and one HP LPG cylinder from another accused, namely Javed Ahmed, S/o Mohd Hanief Khanji, R/o Bhagwah, Doda. The stolen property was recovered and seized in accordance with due legal procedure.Further investigation is underway to ascertain the involvement of the accused in other similar cases and to explore any further links connected with the theft.

Threats to Kashmiri Hindu employees must be dealt with firmly: Bharat Priye

Urges security agencies to identify culprits, ensure safety and restore confidence among PM Package employees

■ HT News Network

Jammu: JKPCC Kissan Congress Chairman Bharat Priye today expressed serious concern over reports of threats and intimidation targeting displaced Kashmiri Hindu employees serving in the Valley under the Prime Minister's Package, saying that such incidents are unacceptable and must not be allowed to undermine the confidence and sense of security of employees engaged in the rehabilitation process.

Bharat Priye said that the employees appointed under the Prime Minister's Package have been serving the people of Jammu and Kashmir despite difficult circumstances and that their safety, dignity and security must remain a priority for the administration and all concerned agencies. He stressed that any attempt to intimidate or threaten them could create fear and uncertainty among employees and adversely affect the broader process of rehabilitation and their return to normal professional life in the Valley.

He urged the Jammu and Kashmir Police, security agencies and civil administration to take the matter seriously and conduct a thorough investigation into every such incident. He called for the identification and questioning of all persons involved in issuing threats or attempting to intimidate the employees, so that those responsible are brought to justice in accordance with law.

"No individual or group should be allowed to threaten or intimidate government employees on the basis of their identity or place of origin. Such acts cannot be permitted to create an atmosphere of fear and insecurity," Bharat Priye said.

He emphasized that merely responding to individual incidents would not be sufficient and that the concerned agencies must take effective preventive measures to ensure that such incidents are not repeated. He called for strengthened security arrangements wherever required and regular assessment of the security concerns being faced by displaced employees working in different parts of the Valley.

Bharat Priye further said that the rehabilitation of displaced Kashmiri Hindu families is not merely an administrative exercise but an important process aimed at restoring confidence, dignity and a sense of belonging among those who were



forced to leave their homes under extremely difficult circumstances. He appealed to the administration to maintain continuous communication with the affected employees, promptly address their grievances and ensure that no employee feels isolated or vulnerable while discharging official duties.

The JKPCC Kissan Congress Chairman also urged political parties, civil society organisations and community representatives to refrain from politicising security-related incidents and instead work collectively to promote peace, communal harmony and an environment where every citizen can live and work without fear.

Bharat Priye said that strict and timely action against those responsible for threats would send a clear message that intimidation has no place in a democratic and peaceful society. He expressed hope that the concerned agencies would investigate the matter with seriousness, identify all culprits and take appropriate legal action so that no one dares to repeat such acts in future.

He reiterated that the safety and dignity of Kashmiri Hindu employees serving in the Valley must be protected and that every genuine effort should be made to strengthen their confidence in the administration and the rehabilitation process.

The JKPCC Kissan Congress Chairman also urged political parties, civil society organisations and community representatives to refrain from politicising security-related incidents and instead work collectively to promote peace, communal harmony and an environment where every citizen can live and work without fear.

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University of Jammu Hosts Workshop on Entrepreneurship and Commercialization via RAHI

■ HT News Network



Jammu, August 26: The School of Biotechnology (SBT), University of Jammu, organized a one-day interactive workshop on "Entrepreneurship and Commercialization via RAHI (Regional Accelerator for Holistic Innovations)", at the University of Jammu. The workshop aimed to provide participants with an understanding of emerging opportunities in biotechnology, with particular emphasis on innovation, startups, entrepreneurship and the translation of biotechnological research for societal development. The programme commenced with the welcome address by Prof. Madhulika Bhagat, Director, School of Biotechnology, University of Jammu, followed by an interactive session by the Chief Guest, Prof. Rajat Sandhi, Director, PI (PU-IIT Ropar)-RAHI North Cluster. Prof. Sandhi explained the role of PI-RAHI in connecting institutions, academia and entrepreneurs, besides providing mentorship, financial support and guidance for establishing startups. He motivated the students to develop innovative solutions to real-world problems and explained the important features of startups and the Startup/Business Model Canvas. He also apprised the participants about various government schemes and initiatives, including SISFS, NIDHI, AIM, PI-RAHI, IGNITE and SPARKS, and discussed emerging startups across different states and cities. The second talk was delivered by Ms. Neha Arora, Chief Operating Officer, PI-RAHI, who emphasized the role of accelerators in strengthening the startup ecosystem. She highlighted the growing startup culture in North India and discussed various myths and realities associated with startups. Ms. Arora also explained the criteria used by investors to evaluate startups, including innovation, market potential, scalability and business viability. She further emphasized that lack of adequate focus on marketing and market outreach is one of the major reasons for startup failure. Her session provided valuable insights and practical guidance to the participants aspiring to pursue entrepreneurship. The workshop was also attended by Mr. Vikrant Dogra, Chairman, Unati Agri Allied and Marketing Multistate Cooperative Society Limited (UAMMCL), who interacted with students, researchers, faculty members and aspiring entrepreneurs and provided insights into the evolving startup ecosystem, innovation opportunities and entrepreneurial pathways. The programme concluded with an emphasis on strengthening the interface between biotechnology research, innovation, entrepreneurship and societal development, while encouraging participants to explore opportunities for translating scientific knowledge into socially relevant and entrepreneurial ventures. The programme was attended by distinguished faculty members of the School of Biotechnology, University of Jammu, including Prof. B.K. Bajaj, Prof. Sanjana Kaul, Dr. Ritu Mahajan, Dr. Ankit Mahajan, Dr. Sheetal Ambardar and Dr. Bharathiraja. The event was coordinated by Dr. Nisha Kapoor, Dr. Yash Paul Khajuria and Ms. Kamaldeep Kour.

Milad-un-Nabi Rally from Nehalpora Concludes at Tapper



■ JOHN WANI

Pattan ,26 Aug(HT)A peaceful and religious rally was taken out from Nehalpora on the occasion of Milad-un-Nabi , with a large number of people, including youth and children, participating with great enthusiasm. The rally passed through various routes and culminated at Tapper, where participants expressed their love and devotion to Prophet Muhammad through Durood-o-Salam and Naat recitations.

Speakers on the occasion highlighted the teachings and noble character of Prophet Muhammad , emphasizing the importance of peace, brotherhood, unity, compassion and mutual respect in society.

The participants said that commemorating Milad-un-Nabi is an opportunity to remember the blessed life and teachings of the Prophet and to incorporate his message of peace and humanity into everyday life. The rally concluded peacefully, with special prayers offered for peace, prosperity and the well-being of the people.

Startup Idea Challenge 2.0 held at GDC Sopore

■ HT News Network



BARAMULLA, AUGUST 26: As part of the strategic interventions under the J&K Startup Policy aimed at encouraging youth to become problem-solvers and fostering an entrepreneurial mindset, the J&K Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), District Centre Baramulla, organized its first Startup Idea Challenge 2.0 of the year at Government Degree College (GDC) Sopore today.

Around 60 students registered for the boot camp, with several participants pitching innovative ideas addressing diverse problem statements and real-life challenges.

The ideas presented by the students focused on promoting tourism, improving utility management, addressing day-to-day household problems, waste management, and post-harvest management, reflecting the participants' creativity and problem-solving approach.

The panel of experts comprised Dr. Syed Muzaffar, Principal, GDC Sopore; Anayat Sheikh, Senior Manager, J&K Bank; Mohd. Saleem, Founder, Chinar Naturals; Dr. Nadia Bhat; and Dr. Iffat, Associate Professors, GDC Sopore.

The programme aimed to identify promising and innovative ideas among young students and connect them with the wider startup ecosystem, while encouraging them to explore entrepreneurship as a pathway to solving local challenges and creating sustainable opportunities.

Youmi Shaban observed at Kunan Bandipora

■ HT News Network



BANDIPORA, AUGUST 26: Youmi Shaban was observed at Kunan Bagund, Bandipora, to commemorate the life, spiritual legacy and literary contribution of renowned Sufi poet and saint Muhammad Shaban.

The programme, organised by Bazm-e-Shaban Literary Forum under the patronage of Adbi Markaz Kamraz, was held in collaboration with the Department of Information and Public Relations, Bandipora, and J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages.

The event featured literary and scholarly deliberations highlighting the enduring relevance of Sufi thought and the contribution of Sufi saints to Kashmir's cultural and literary heritage.

The programme was followed by a Gram Lok session organised by Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, providing a platform to poets from different villages to showcase their creative works.

The programme was attended by President AMK J&K Mohammad Amin Bhat, Vice President Shakir Shafi, noted writer and scholar Mehtab Manzoor, Kashmir Philosophical Foundation Patron Mir Tariq and Sahitya Akademi member Majeed Majazi, besides scholars, writers, poets, devotees and admirers of Sufi literature.

Traffic Advisory Issued for J&K Highways Amid Slow Movement, Rain Forecast

■ HT News Network

JAMMU/SRINAGAR, AUGUST 26: Traffic Police Headquarters, Jammu and Kashmir, has issued a detailed traffic advisory for August 27, cautioning commuters about slow traffic movement and hazardous road conditions on major highways amid a forecast of rainfall over the next few days. Traffic authorities said very slow movement was observed on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) between 4 PM on August 25 and 4 PM on August 26. The slowdown was attributed to a single-lane, undulating and uneven road surface at Dawal in Udhampur, a single-lane stretch between Marog and Kishtwari Pather, and the breakdown of two vehicles between Nashri and Ramban. At Dawal, traffic was being regulated over a nearly 30–40 metre single-lane stretch.

In view of the inclement weather forecast by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the Traffic Police has advised the public to undertake journeys only after confirming the latest road status from Traffic Control Units (TCUs) at Jammu, Ramban and Srinagar. Commuters have also been advised to follow updates issued through the J&K Traffic Police's official social media platforms.

Passengers and light motor vehicle operators have been advised to prefer daytime travel on the Jammu-Srinagar NH-44 and avoid night journeys, particularly between Ramban and Banihal, due to the risk of shooting stones and landslides and ongoing construction work.

Restrictions on Tankers Due to widening work by the National Highways Authority of India on the Digdol–Khooni Nalla stretch, movement of Kashmir-bound oil and gas tankers will remain restricted during daytime from 7 AM to 7 PM. The movement of tankers loaded with inflammable material is also restricted through tunnels.

Accordingly, up-bound tankers will be permitted beyond Chenani only between 5 PM and 5 AM. Tanker operators have been advised to plan their journeys accordingly. Traffic Police has further urged goods-carrier operators transporting fresh, perishable goods and livestock to strictly follow the advisories issued from time to time. Heavy Motor Vehicle operators have been advised against overloading and instructed to carry sufficient fuel and ensure the fitness of their vehicles before commencing their journey. Commuters have also been advised to avoid unnecessary halts between Ramban and Banihal, particularly near landslide- and shooting-stone-prone areas.

Traffic Plan for August 27 Subject to fair weather and satisfactory road conditions, LMVs, passenger vehicles, private cars and goods carriers will be permitted to ply on NH-44 from both Jammu towards Srinagar and Srinagar towards Jammu. Motorists have been directed to maintain lane discipline and avoid overtaking and wrong-lane driving to prevent congestion.

Security Forces convoys will also be permitted from both directions, subject to favourable weather and road conditions and after confirmation from TCU Ramban.

Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag Road On NH-244, LMVs and private cars will be allowed from both directions, subject to fair weather, good road conditions and clearance from NHIDCL. Vehicles will be permitted from PP Parana towards Anantnag between 8 AM and 4 PM, and from Daksum towards Kishtwar between 9 AM and 4 PM.

Hot, Humid Weather to Continue in Jammu Kashmir

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness generally hot and humid conditions over the coming days, with brief spells of rain and thundershowers forecast at scattered places and the possibility of intense localised showers triggering flash floods, mudslides and landslides, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar said.According to the latest forecast, brief spells of rain and thundershowers are likely during the early morning and afternoon hours from August 26 to 28.Between August 29 and 31, light to moderate rain and thundershowers are expected at scattered to many places. Brief spells of intense rainfall may occur during the early morning and afternoon hours.

The weather is likely to remain generally hot and humid on September 1 and 2, with isolated areas receiving brief spells of rain and thundershowers, mainly during the early morning and afternoon.From September 3 to 5, brief spells of rain and thundershowers are expected at isolated places, while generally hot and humid conditions are likely to continue.The Meteorological Centre cautioned that intense showers over small, localised areas could lead to flash floods, mudslides and landslides.

Leopard Trapped in Wire Rescued, Relocated in North Kashmir's Uri

■ HT News Network



A leopard reportedly trapped in wire at Bandi village in the Uri area of Baramulla district was rescued and relocated by the Wildlife Department, officials said.

The animal was found caught in the wire, triggering concern among locals who alerted the authorities.

A team of wildlife officials reached the spot and carried out the rescue operation, safely freeing the leopard from the wire before relocating it to a suitable forest habitat.

The incident caused concern among residents in the area, who had been advised to maintain a safe distance from the animal until the rescue operation was completed.

The successful rescue and relocation brought relief to locals, while the Wildlife Department's intervention also helped prevent possible harm to both the animal and residents.

Baramulla has witnessed several wildlife-rescue operations this year amid increased human-wildlife encounters. In January, the Wildlife Department rescued a leopard and its cub after they were spotted near a residential area and relocated them to a secure forest habitat.

In April, a leopard and three cubs were also safely rescued from an abandoned house in the Bagh-e-Islam area of Baramulla in a joint operation involving the Wildlife Department, Police and Army.

The district has also witnessed repeated leopard sightings in residential areas in recent weeks, prompting the Wildlife Department to deploy teams and install cages at vulnerable locations to safely capture the animals.

Balwant Thakur Meets Dr. Karan Singh, Presents His Three Latest Publications

■ HT News Network

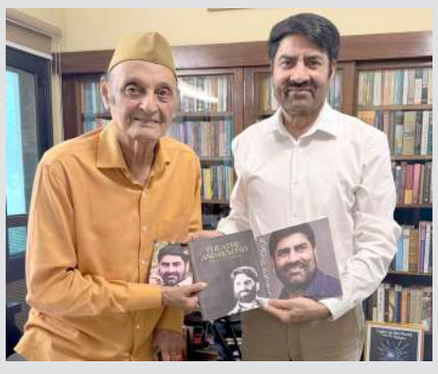
New Delhi, August 26, 2026: Renowned theatre director, cultural visionary and one of India's most celebrated practitioners of contemporary theatre, Balwant Thakur, met former Sadar-e-Riyasat of Jammu and Kashmir and former Union Minister Dr. Karan Singh at his residence in New Delhi today and presented him the first copies of his latest publications, offering a comprehensive and compelling insight into his extraordinary creative journey and multifaceted contribution to Indian theatre and the arts.

Published by Avant Publishing Services Pvt. Limited and authored by the eminent scholar, writer and theatre critic S. D. Sharma, the two books—Theatre and Beyond and 16 Facets of a Cultural Visionary—explore different dimensions of Balwant Thakur's personality, artistic vision, innovations and enduring contribution to the cultural landscape of Jammu and Kashmir as well as the national and international theatre scene.

Over the years, Balwant Thakur has emerged as a distinctive and influential voice in Indian theatre, earning recognition far beyond the geographical and linguistic boundaries of Jammu and Kashmir. His remarkable ability to transform local cultural narratives into theatre of universal appeal has earned him international appreciation, with admirers and critics describing him as the "Magic Man of Indian Theatre" for his extraordinary capacity to create theatrical experiences that transcend language, region and cultural barriers.

At the same time, his contribution to Dogri theatre has established him as the "ultimate stalwart of Dogri theatre" a distinction rooted in decades of sustained creative work, experimentation, institution building and relentless advocacy for Dogri language and culture. Through his landmark productions, innovative theatre practices and commitment to nurturing new talent, Thakur has not only enriched Dogri theatre but has helped bring it to national and international platforms, giving it a distinctive identity in the larger landscape of Indian theatre.

Theatre and Beyond examines this unique journey in considerable depth. The publication highlights Thakur's pioneering innovations in theatre and, particularly, his remarkable success in developing new constituencies for theatre and



the arts. His work has consistently challenged the conventional understanding of where theatre belongs, whom it should address and how it can engage with society. By taking theatre to unconventional spaces, diverse audiences and new cultural contexts, he has demonstrated that theatre can become a dynamic instrument of communication, community engagement and cultural transformation.

The book also throws light on Thakur's ability to blend tradition with experimentation. His theatre draws deeply from the cultural roots of Jammu and Kashmir while employing contemporary theatrical idioms, enabling regional stories and traditions to speak to audiences across India and the world. This ability to remain rooted while simultaneously being global has become one of the defining characteristics of his creative philosophy.

The second publication, 16 Facets of a Cultural Visionary, presents an equally fascinating exploration of the many dimensions of Balwant Thakur's personality. Through sixteen carefully examined facets, S. D. Sharma portrays him not merely as a theatre director but as an artist, innovator, institution-builder, cultural strategist, mentor, communicator and visionary whose influence extends well beyond the stage.

The presentation of the books to Dr. Karan Singh assumes special significance. Both personalities have made enduring contributions to the cultural and intellectual life of Jammu and Kashmir and have played important roles in carrying its rich cultural heritage to wider national platforms. Dr. Karan Singh has remained a distinguished voice in India's intellectual, cultural and public life, while Balwant Thakur has devoted his creative career to transforming the cultural possibilities of Jammu and Kashmir through theatre and the performing arts.

These three publications, therefore, represent much more than a documentation of an individual's achievements. Together, they chronicle a remarkable cultural journey from the revitalisation of Dogri theatre to the creation of new theatrical languages, audiences and platforms, and from regional cultural expression to international recognition.

Balwant Thakur's journey is ultimately a story of imagination backed by institution-building, innovation strengthened by cultural roots, and a regional artistic vision achieving global resonance. His recognition as the "Magic Man of Indian Theatre" and the "ultimate stalwart of Dogri theatre" reflects the extraordinary range of his contribution and the lasting impact of his work.

The books are expected to become valuable reference material for theatre practitioners, scholars, researchers, students and cultural enthusiasts seeking to understand contemporary Indian theatre, the evolution of Dogri theatre and the remarkable cultural journey of one of India's most innovative theatre personalities.

HT EDITORIAL

When Roads Become Death Traps, The Pir Panjal Pays The Price...

The tragic road accident in Surankote, Poonch, in which six people lost their lives and several others were injured, is yet another grim reminder that for the people of the Pir Panjal region, travelling on the road can still be a matter of life and death. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has rightly expressed grief over the loss of lives and directed the authorities to provide the best possible medical treatment to the injured and all possible assistance to the affected families. Such immediate intervention is necessary, but the recurring nature of road accidents in the hilly districts demands a much larger question: how long can the people of Pir Panjal be expected to pay the price for inadequate road infrastructure?

The Pir Panjal region is strategically important, geographically challenging and home to a large population spread across mountainous and remote areas. Yet, despite years of development, many communities continue to depend upon narrow, congested, poorly engineered and vulnerable roads. Steep gradients, sharp curves, inadequate road width, weak protective infrastructure, landslides, poor visibility and the absence of modern traffic-management systems combine to make journeys particularly hazardous.

Every accident, however, should not simply be attributed to driver error or bad luck. Human negligence can certainly contribute to crashes, but infrastructure is equally important. A road designed for modern traffic, with proper engineering, crash barriers, adequate shoulders, lighting at vulnerable points, scientific drainage, road markings, signage and emergency response facilities can significantly reduce both the frequency and severity of accidents.

This is where the Pir Panjal region continues to face a serious infrastructure deficit.

The people living in Poonch, Rajouri and adjoining mountainous areas have for decades endured difficult terrain and inadequate connectivity. Roads are not merely transport facilities for these populations; they are lifelines connecting villages with hospitals, educational institutions, markets, government offices and employment opportunities. When these lifelines remain narrow, fragile or inadequately engineered, ordinary citizens bear the consequences.

The issue therefore goes beyond the construction of individual roads. What is required is a comprehensive modern highway and road-connectivity strategy for the Pir Panjal region. The objective should be to bring mountain connectivity at par with contemporary safety standards while respecting the fragile ecology of the Himalayas. Modernisation should include safer road geometry, tunnels and viaducts wherever scientifically justified, slope stabilisation, intelligent traffic monitoring, emergency lay-bys, crash barriers and rapid accident-response mechanisms.

There is also a compelling economic and strategic argument. Better connectivity would not only save lives but also transform the economic prospects of these frontier districts. Tourism, agriculture, horticulture, small businesses and local trade can flourish when reliable all-weather roads connect remote communities with larger markets. For border and frontier populations, improved connectivity is also an important component of national resilience and security.

The authorities must therefore stop viewing fatal road accidents merely as isolated tragedies. A pattern of recurring accidents on difficult mountain roads is a public-policy warning. Each fatal crash should trigger an engineering and administrative review of the road concerned: Was the road adequately designed? Were protective barriers installed? Was the carriageway sufficiently wide? Were warning signs and markings visible? Was the road properly maintained? Was emergency medical assistance available within a reasonable time?

The answer to these questions should determine where public investment is directed.

The families who have lost loved ones in Surankote cannot be compensated by infrastructure promises. The injured deserve the best medical care, as the Chief Minister has directed. But the strongest tribute to those who died would be to ensure that another family does not receive a similar tragic phone call tomorrow.

The Pir Panjal people deserve more than sympathy after every accident. They deserve safe roads before the accident happens. For a region that has contributed immensely to the social, economic and strategic strength of Jammu and Kashmir, modern and safer connectivity cannot remain a luxury. It must be treated as a basic public necessity—and, above all, as a matter of human dignity and the right to life.

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Rakshabandhan in changing times



Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

India is a country full of diversity, where every festival not only symbolizes religious faith but also strengthens social and cultural ties. One such special festival is Raksha Bandhan, which symbolizes the sweetness, love, and protection of the brother-sister relationship. However, with changing times, society, technology, and thinking, the meaning of Raksha Bandhan is also changing. This change is not limited to rituals, but is also evident in the spirit, purpose, and social context of this festival.

Raksha Bandhan is deeply rooted in Indian history, mythology, and social traditions. Whether it's the story of Draupadi and Lord Krishna or the popular historical tale of Queen Karnavati sending a Rakhi to Humayun, Rakhi has long been associated with feelings of affection, trust, and protection. Traditionally, a sister would tie a Rakhi on her brother's wrist, and the brother would vow to protect her. This relationship was deeply rooted in love, trust, and devotion.

But today, Raksha Bandhan is no longer limited to blood relations. Many women tie rakhis to friends, colleagues, teachers, soldiers, and even nature itself. This shift indicates that "raksha" is no longer just an individual's responsibility, but a broader sense of social and emotional responsibility.

The most significant change is that the relationship of protection is no longer one-sided. Today, sisters also say to their brothers, "I will protect you too." This statement paints a complete picture of changing social relationships. Both brothers and sisters can share each other's joys and sorrows, be supportive and protective.

Technology has also transformed the way Rakshabandhan is celebrated. While sending a Rakhi once required a trip to the post office, today digital Rakhis, video calls, online gifting, and virtual celebrations have become new ways to strengthen relationships. Brothers and sisters living abroad or in faraway cities may be physically apart, but the tradition of tying Rakhi and exchanging greetings via video calls has provided a new way to bridge the distance.



Some may associate digital media with a lack of emotion, but the reality is that technology has made it easier to maintain emotional connections across distances. It's the medium that has changed, not the emotion.

The tradition of Rakshabandhan is also changing, even with regard to gifts. Previously, a brother giving sweets and gifts to his sister was considered an expression of love. Today, many sisters have different priorities. They say, "Brother, I don't want gifts; I want some time, leisure, and understanding."

This shift reflects the changing aspirations of the modern woman. Today's sister is self-reliant. She seeks not just financial gifts, but emotional security, mental support, respect, communication, and equal partnership. Therefore, time and sensitivity are becoming more important in relationships than material things.

Traditionally, Raksha Bandhan meant "brother will protect sister." Today, this concept is broadening. Girls are becoming self-reliant and are supporting their brothers financially, emotionally, educationally, and socially. Brothers are also supporting their sisters' dreams and decisions. Thus, Raksha Bandhan is no longer just a festival of protection, but also of mutual cooperation and partnership.

A beautiful extension of this change is seen in responsibility towards nature and society. In many places, the tradition of tying Rakhi to trees has developed. By tying Rakhi to trees, children and women convey the message that our responsibility is not limited to humans; nature also deserves our care and protection. Similarly, sending Rakhi to soldiers expresses respect and emotional connection to the soldiers who protect the country's borders.

This changing nature of Raksha Bandhan also challenges the traditional boundaries of gender roles. Sisters are no longer merely "seekers of protection"; they are self-respecting, self-reliant, and sensitive citizens. In many families, sisters play a vital role in the economic, educational, and social progress of their brothers. This shift indicates that Raksha Bandhan is gradually moving beyond the traditional framework of masculinity and femininity and taking a stance of human values and equality.

While the ways of expressing emotions may have changed in today's busy lives, their importance remains the same. Brothers and sisters are now supportive of each other's lives, not just on Rakhi Day, but year-round. Raksha Bandhan is an opportunity to relive those childhood relationships, filled with fights, resentment, laughter, and immense affection.

In this sense, Raksha Bandhan reminds us that relationships are not just made, they are maintained.

The social aspect of Raksha Bandhan has also expanded. This festival is no longer confined to the traditional family circle; it also expresses the spirit of social harmony, national unity, and human relationships. People from different communities use Rakhi as a medium to express affection and respect for each other. Whether sending Rakhi to soldiers or spreading the message of brotherhood through Rakhi among different communities—these initiatives demonstrate that the spirit of protection and belonging is not confined to any religion, caste, or community.

Dr. Priyanka Saurabh
PhD (Political Science)
Poet | Social Thinker | Columnist

Raksha Bandhan 28th August, 2026

Rakhi Becomes a Pledge for Women's Dignity, Freedom and Empowerment



Lalit Gargg

Raksha Bandhan is not merely a thread tied around the wrist; it represents the profound Indian civilizational ethos in which love, trust, responsibility, affection and protection are woven together. Yet, in a changing society, the meaning of this festival also needs to be understood afresh. The time has passed when the safety of women was considered solely the responsibility of men. Today, women are shaping their own destinies and making their mark in education, science, administration, politics, the armed forces, industry, sports and space exploration. Therefore, the most important question on Raksha Bandhan today should not be whether a brother will protect his sister, but whether we can build a society in which every woman can live with security, freedom and dignity, and pursue her dreams without depending on anyone's benevolence.

The Indian concept of raksha—protection—is far broader than physical security. The Sanskrit expression "Rakshati iti rakshah" conveys the idea that one who protects is a protector. But what must be protected? Not merely the body, but also dignity, freedom, values, thoughts, rights and the sanctity of life. In this broader sense, Raksha Bandhan can evolve from a family festival into a celebration of social responsibility and human values. The tradition of the raksha sutra, or sacred protective thread, is deeply rooted in Indian tradition. In the Vedic ethos, it has been regarded as a symbol of auspiciousness, commitment and protection. Whether it is the traditional account of Indra and Indrani or the practice of a guru tying a sacred thread around the wrist of a disciple, the underlying message is one of accepting responsibility towards those with whom we share a bond. Protection does not mean treating someone as weak; it means honouring relationships through responsibility and care. This is precisely what gives Raksha Bandhan renewed relevance today.

In Indian history, the rakhi has often transcended biological relationships and become a symbol of trust and human solidarity. In Rajput tradition, tying a protective thread to warriors before they departed for battle was associated with courage, victory and auspicious wishes. The medieval story associated with Rani Karnavati of Mewar and Humayun, although narrated in different forms in historical accounts and popular memory, carries a significant cultural message: the rakhi can become a human covenant of trust and protection that goes beyond the conventional brother-sister relationship. The episode of Draupadi and Lord Krishna in the Mahabharata also touches upon this emotional and ethical dimension. The traditional account of Draupadi tying a piece of cloth around Krishna's injured wrist, and Krishna later standing up for her honour, has become deeply embedded in the Indian imagination as a symbol of affection, compassion and responsibility. Its contemporary message is equally significant: relationships are not about receiving alone; they are about standing by one another. Protection is never entirely one-sided; genuine affection carries mutual responsibility.

The modern Indian woman has given an entirely new dimension to this traditional idea. She is no longer merely someone whose protection is expected from others; she is herself an active participant in protecting the family, society and nation. Women in the Indian armed forces are serving on the front lines of national security. Women pilots are representing India's strength in the skies. Women scientists are contributing to space missions. Women athletes are raising the national flag on the world stage, while women civil servants and administrators are helping shape public policy.

Lalit Gargg is Author, Journalist & Columnist
E-253, Saraswati Kunj Apartment
25, I.P. Extension, Patparganj
Delhi–110092, India

Expensive Treatment, A Heavy Burden on Life



Dr. Vijay Garg

Healthcare is one of the most basic needs of human life. When a person falls seriously ill, the first concern should be getting timely and appropriate treatment. Yet for millions of families, the cost of medical care has become a source of deep anxiety. Expensive medicines, diagnostic tests, hospital charges, surgeries and long-term treatments can place enormous financial pressure on families. For many, the struggle is not only against disease but also against the economic burden that comes with treatment.

Medical science has made remarkable progress. Diseases that were once considered untreatable can now often be managed or cured. Advanced surgery, modern diagnostic technologies, specialised medicines and critical-care facilities have saved countless lives. However, these advances can come with high costs. The availability of sophisticated treatment does not always mean that every family can afford it.

The problem becomes particularly serious when a major illness affects a middle-class or low-income household. A family may spend years building savings for education, housing, marriage or retirement. One serious medical emergency can suddenly consume much of those savings. Some families are forced to borrow money, sell property or depend on relatives to pay hospital bills. In extreme situations, illness can push an otherwise financially stable family into long-term debt.

The burden is not limited to hospitalisation. Chronic diseases often require continuous medication, regular investigations and repeated consultations. Patients with conditions requiring long-term care may have to spend money month after month. Even when individual expenses appear manageable, their cumulative effect can become overwhelming.

The situation is especially difficult for families living in rural and economically weaker areas. A shortage of specialised healthcare facilities may force patients to travel to distant cities. Travel, accommodation, food and loss of income add to the medical expenditure. A patient may therefore face two problems simultaneously: the cost of treatment and the cost of reaching treatment.

Another important issue is the relationship between health and employment. When a person becomes seriously ill, the family may lose not only money through medical expenses but also income because the patient cannot work. In some cases, another family member has to stop working temporarily to provide care. Thus, a medical crisis can create a double financial burden—rising expenses and falling income.



Health insurance can provide an important safety net, but awareness and effective coverage remain crucial. People need to understand what their policies cover, what limitations may apply and how claims work. At the same time, insurance systems should become simpler, more transparent and accessible to ordinary families. Coverage should be designed not merely to exist on paper but to provide meaningful protection when people actually need it.

Government healthcare programmes also have an important role. Public hospitals and health centres can reduce the financial pressure on families by providing affordable or free treatment, medicines and diagnostic services. Strong primary healthcare can also help detect diseases earlier, when treatment may be less complicated and less expensive. Preventive healthcare should therefore receive as much attention as advanced treatment.

Prevention is often less costly than cure. Regular health check-ups, vaccination, balanced nutrition, physical activity, clean surroundings and awareness about common diseases can reduce the risk of many health problems. This does not mean that every illness can be prevented; rather, it highlights the importance of building a healthcare system that focuses on prevention as well as treatment.

The pharmaceutical sector also has a significant responsibility. Medicines are essential products, not ordinary consumer goods. Research and innovation require investment, but affordability must remain an important part of the healthcare conversation. Greater availability of quality generic medicines and transparent pricing can help reduce the financial burden on patients.

Hospitals, too, can contribute by improving transparency in billing. Patients and families should be able to understand the expected cost of a procedure, the charges for different services and the alternatives available. Clear communication can help families make informed decisions during stressful circumstances.

Technology may offer additional solutions. Telemedicine can connect patients with doctors without requiring frequent travel. Digital health records can improve continuity of care. Artificial intelligence and data-driven systems may help doctors detect certain diseases earlier and support clinical decision-making. If these technologies are developed responsibly and made affordable, they can improve both access and efficiency.

However, healthcare is not simply an economic issue. It is also a question of dignity and social justice. A person's ability to receive necessary treatment should not depend entirely on the size of their bank account. No family should have to make an unbearable choice between paying a hospital bill and meeting basic household needs.

At the same time, affordability should not mean compromising on quality. Patients deserve safe, evidence-based and effective treatment. The goal should be to create a healthcare system in which quality care is available at a reasonable cost, with special protection for vulnerable families.

Dr Vijay Garg Academic Editor of online Magzine FNBworld.com
Malout Punjab

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Sheikh Al-Sudais' Statement on Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH): Following the Sunnah and Respecting Diversity of Scholarly Opinion



By: Mohammad Reyaz Alam

The recent statement by Sheikh Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Sudais, Imam and Khateeb of Masjid Al-Haram, regarding Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) has once again brought an important religious discussion into focus. He has advised Muslims to follow the Qur'an and Sunnah and to refrain from introducing religious practices that, in his view, are not established by the Shariah and Sunnah.

In my view, the most important aspect of his statement is the emphasis on following the Sunnah of the Prophet (PBUH), remaining connected with the Qur'an, and bringing the teachings of the Prophet (PBUH) into our daily lives. There should be no disagreement with this fundamental message.

Love for Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) cannot be limited to a particular day or occasion. His Seerah teaches us compassion, forgiveness, justice, honesty, respect for neighbours, helping the poor, dignity for women and the vulnerable, equality among human beings and peaceful coexistence. Therefore, one of the greatest expressions of our love for the Prophet (PBUH) is to follow his character and teachings.

The Difference of Opinion on Milad Must Also Be Understood

There has been a long-standing difference of opinion among Muslim scholars regarding Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH). Some scholars do not consider it permissible to establish it as a religious celebration and regard certain forms of it as Bid'ah. Other scholars consider gatherings for Seerah, Durood and Salam, charity, feeding the needy and remembering the life and teachings of the Prophet (PBUH) as permissible expressions of love and gratitude, provided they are not treated as an obligatory religious ritual.

Therefore, Muslims who hold one opinion should not question the faith or intentions of those who hold another opinion.

For me, the real question is: How well do we know the Prophet (PBUH), and how sincerely do we implement his teachings in our lives?

"Prophet for All" — The Spirit Behind My Campaign

In my earlier article, "Prophet for All: Eid Milad-un-Nabi as a Celebration of Humanity and Interfaith Harmony," I highlighted that the message of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was not limited to Muslims alone. The Qur'an describes him as "Rahmatul-lil-Alameen" — a mercy to the worlds.



Therefore, if we remember the Prophet (PBUH) during Milad, the most beautiful expression of that remembrance should be to bring his message into society—to spread love, reduce hatred, help the needy, respect our neighbours and strengthen friendship and harmony among people of different faiths.

Sitting with people of other faiths and sharing the Prophet's (PBUH) message of love, compassion, justice and humanity can become a means of human dialogue and mutual understanding, provided it is never presented as an attempt to impose religious beliefs on others.

Sunnah and Seerah Should Guide Our Lives

Sheikh Al-Sudais' emphasis on following the Sunnah as an expression of love for the Prophet (PBUH) is an important message. I fully agree with this fundamental principle.

At the same time, we must acknowledge that scholars have held different views regarding the form and religious status of Milad. Each side has its own scholarly reasoning and evidence. Therefore, this issue should never become a cause for takfir, hatred, ridicule or hostility among Muslims.

If a Muslim chooses not to observe Milad, that decision should be respected.

Similarly, if a Muslim remembers the birth of the Prophet (PBUH) through Seerah gatherings, Durood, charity, helping the poor and expressing love and gratitude, his sincere religious intention should also be respected.

Our Goal Should Not Be Controversy, But Living the Message of the Prophet (PBUH)

The world today needs the message of the Prophet (PBUH)—a message of mercy, justice, compassion, forgiveness, brotherhood and peace.

Therefore, instead of limiting Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) to religious arguments and mutual accusations, we should ask ourselves:

Does the mercy of the Prophet (PBUH) reflect in our behaviour?

Can we see his justice and compassion in our society?

Do we stand with the poor, weak and needy?

Do we treat people of other faiths with dignity, respect and brotherhood?

If the answer to these questions is "Yes", then we are truly making the Seerah of the Prophet (PBUH) a part of our lives.

My appeal is simple: Let differences over observing or not observing Milad not become a reason for division. Let us follow the Sunnah, understand the Seerah, respect legitimate differences of religious opinion, and take the Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) universal message of mercy, love, peace, justice and humanity to society.

This is the spirit of "Prophet for All."

Mohammad Reyaz Alam
Social Activist & Senior Corporate Professional ,Patna

The Biofuels



SURINDERPAL SINGH

The modern materialistic world is facing two major challenges simultaneously and these includes the growing demand for energy and the urgent need to protect the environment. For more than a century, coal, petroleum and natural gas have been the major sources of energy. Although these fossil fuels have helped industries, transport and economies grow, their excessive use has caused serious problems such as air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, climate change and environmental degradation. In this situation, biofuels have emerged as an important alternative source of energy.

Biofuels are fuels produced from biological materials, commonly known as biomass. Plants, agricultural residues, animal waste, used cooking oil and certain organic wastes can be used to produce biofuels. Unlike fossil fuels, which take millions of years to form, biomass can be renewed within a relatively short period when it is managed responsibly. This makes biofuels an important part of the transition towards cleaner and more sustainable energy.

Biofuels are fuels made from living or recently living biological materials. They can be produced from crops such as sugarcane, maize, soybean and oilseeds, as well as from agricultural waste, forest residues, animal manure, food waste and other organic materials.

The most common biofuels are bioethanol, biodiesel and biogas. Bioethanol can be blended with petrol and is widely used as a transport fuel. Biodiesel can be produced from vegetable oils, animal fats and used cooking oil and can be used in diesel engines after appropriate processing. Biogas is produced when organic matter decomposes in the absence of oxygen. It mainly contains methane and can be used for cooking, heating, electricity generation and, after purification, as vehicle fuel.

The world's dependence on fossil fuels has created several economic and environmental problems. Petroleum and other fossil fuels are limited resources. Their reserves are not unlimited, and their extraction and consumption can damage ecosystems. The burning of fossil fuels releases large quantities of carbon dioxide and other pollutants. These emissions contribute to global warming and poor air quality. Biofuels, when produced and used through environmentally responsible systems, can help reduce dependence on fossil fuels and contribute to lower lifecycle greenhouse-gas emissions.

Biofuels also offer an opportunity to turn waste into something useful. Instead of allowing crop residues, animal waste or used cooking oil to become an environmental burden, these materials can sometimes be converted into valuable energy.

Biofuels have a special connection with agriculture. Farmers produce large quantities of crop residues such as straw, husks, stalks and other organic materials. Some of this biomass can be converted into energy rather than being wasted.

This can create an additional source of income for farmers and rural communities. Biofuel production can also generate employment in areas such as biomass collection, transportation, processing and plant operation.

However, agricultural biomass should not be removed from fields without considering soil health. Crop residues also provide organic matter and nutrients to the soil. Therefore, only an appropriate portion should be used for energy production, while the remaining biomass should continue to support sustainable agriculture.

One of the greatest advantages of biofuels is their potential to support rural economies. Unlike large fossil-fuel extraction projects, many biomass resources are distributed across rural areas. Local collection and processing systems can create employment close to where agricultural and organic waste is generated.

Small-scale biogas plants can provide clean cooking fuel to rural households. Community-based biomass projects can generate electricity and support local enterprises. Such initiatives can reduce dependence on traditional fuels and improve energy access. Thus, biofuels are not merely an energy issue. They can also become an instrument of rural development, employment generation and economic empowerment.

Modern societies generate enormous quantities of organic waste. Food waste, animal manure, sewage and agricultural residues can create unpleasant conditions and environmental problems if they are not properly managed.

Bioenergy technologies can convert some of this waste into useful fuel. Anaerobic digestion, for example, can transform organic waste into biogas and produce a nutrient-rich digestate that may be used appropriately as a soil amendment. This approach represents an important principle of the circular economy: waste from one activity can become a resource for another

India has a large agricultural sector and produces substantial quantities of biomass. This provides significant opportunities for biofuel development.

The country has been promoting ethanol blending with petrol and encouraging the production and use of compressed biogas and other forms of bioenergy.

Surinderpal Singh
Faculty In Science Department
Sri Amritsar Sahib

Kashmiri Marsiya

A Poetic Legacy of Faith, History, Culture and Human Values



Gulfam Barji

Literature is not merely an arrangement of beautiful words; it is a reflection of the cultural identity, collective memory and intellectual evolution of a society. While the political and social history of a region can be understood through official records and historical documents, its emotions, beliefs, sensitivities, cultural practices and collective consciousness are often understood more profoundly through its literature.

Kashmir, with its rich and distinctive cultural and literary heritage, has for centuries produced diverse forms of literary expression that have reflected the aspirations, sorrows, faith, traditions and social life of its people. Among these literary traditions, Kashmiri Marsiya occupies a significant and deeply emotional position.

To regard Kashmiri Marsiya merely as poetry of mourning, grief and lamentation would be to overlook its wider literary, historical and intellectual significance. Marsiya encompasses themes of sacrifice, courage, loyalty, patience, perseverance, morality, justice, faith, human dignity and the eternal struggle between truth and falsehood. It is therefore not merely an expression of sorrow but also an important medium through which historical memory and moral values have been transmitted from one generation to another.

In this context, the scholarly work and intellectual contribution of Dr. Ali Muhammad Qasmi Balhami deserves particular attention. His research and critical approach draw attention to several dimensions of Kashmiri Marsiya that often remain outside the mainstream discussion of Kashmiri literature. His work encourages us to understand a literary genre not merely through its words, poetic structure and emotional expression, but also through its historical background, social context, cultural development and intellectual significance.

A Tradition Rooted in History and Faith

The tradition of mourning and remembrance in Kashmir has deep roots. Generation after generation has preserved this sacred tradition with devotion, sincerity and emotional attachment. Marsiya emerged as one of its important literary expressions and gradually developed into a significant form of poetic and oral expression.

Social conditions have changed with the passage of time. Modes of communication have transformed, cultural priorities have evolved and new forms of literary expression have emerged. Yet Kashmiri Marsiya has retained its fundamental spirit.

The tragedy of Karbala has been remembered not simply as a historical event but as a powerful symbol of sacrifice, truth, courage and moral resistance. The martyrdom of Imam Hussain (RA) and his companions has been portrayed through the poetic imagination as an eternal lesson in steadfastness, loyalty, patience and self-sacrifice.

The greatness of Marsiya lies in the fact that it connects the past with the present. The listener does not merely hear a historical account; rather, he or she becomes connected with a wider moral and intellectual system. The events of history begin to acquire relevance for contemporary life because their ethical lessons continue to address fundamental human questions.

Grief Alongside Intellectual Consciousness

One of the most remarkable characteristics of Marsiya is that grief and consciousness travel together. On the surface, it commemorates a painful historical tragedy, but beneath that emotional layer lie profound questions concerning human existence.

What is truth? What is falsehood? How far can a human being go in sacrificing personal interests for principles? How does a person's true character emerge during times of crisis? What is the meaning of loyalty, courage and selflessness? What does it mean to stand firmly for justice in the face of oppression?

These questions form an important part of the intellectual universe of Marsiya.

That is why a powerful Marsiya does not merely bring tears to the eyes; it also stimulates the mind. It encourages the listener to reflect upon personal conduct, social values and the responsibilities of human beings towards truth and justice.

In this sense, Marsiya rises above the boundaries of mourning poetry and becomes a form of moral and intellectual literature.

The Unique Beauty of the Kashmiri Language

Another important feature of Kashmiri Marsiya is its language. The Kashmiri language possesses a rich vocabulary, distinctive idioms, metaphors, similes and poetic rhythms. Marsiya poets have made creative use of this linguistic heritage to express profound emotions and create powerful poetic images.

When history, tradition and emotion come together in poetry, the past appears to become alive. The listener is transported into an emotional and imaginative world where historical events acquire a contemporary presence.

This literary power transforms Marsiya from a simple narrative into a living cultural experience.

The language of Kashmiri Marsiya is therefore not merely a medium of communication. It is itself a cultural document. Its vocabulary and expressions preserve glimpses of the social life, religious consciousness, local traditions and collective emotions of a particular era.

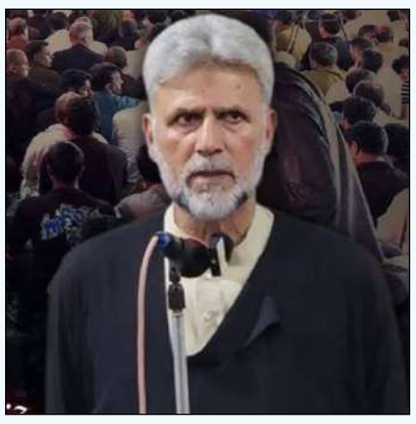
A serious study of Kashmiri Marsiya can consequently provide valuable insights not only into literature but also into the evolution of the Kashmiri language and the cultural history of the region.

Marsiya as a Cultural Record

Every literary tradition carries within itself traces of the society that produced it. Kashmiri Marsiya is no exception. Its verses preserve memories of religious practices, social traditions, linguistic patterns and emotional responses that may not always be available in conventional historical records.

The study of Marsiya can therefore help researchers reconstruct aspects of Kashmir's cultural history.

Its importance extends beyond written texts. The oral tradition associated with Marsiya is equally significant. For generations, Marsiya has been recited and transmitted through the human voice. The tone, pronunciation, pauses, rhythm, emotional intensity and style of the Marsiya reciter contribute greatly to its impact.



In this respect, Kashmiri Marsiya occupies a unique position at the intersection of poetry, oral history, performance and cultural memory.

The Importance of Preserving the Oral Tradition

The oral tradition of Kashmiri Marsiya deserves particular attention. Many elderly Marsiya reciters possess valuable knowledge that may never have been systematically documented.

Their memories, recitation styles, traditional texts and interpretations represent an important part of Kashmir's intangible cultural heritage.

If these traditions are not documented today, there is a real possibility that valuable material may disappear with the passage of time.

Modern technology provides an opportunity to address this challenge. Audio and video recordings of senior Marsiya reciters can be preserved. Rare manuscripts and old texts can be digitised. Interviews with scholars, poets and traditional reciters can be conducted and archived.

A comprehensive digital archive of Kashmiri Marsiya could eventually become an important resource for researchers, students and future generations.

Research as the Key to Preservation

No literary tradition can remain alive merely through emotional attachment. It also requires systematic research and documentation.

Ancient Marsiyas need to be collected, edited, authenticated and preserved. Their poets, historical contexts, manuscripts, performance traditions and linguistic characteristics deserve scholarly investigation.

Universities, colleges, literary institutions and cultural organisations can play a major role in this process by organising seminars, conferences, workshops and research programmes dedicated to Kashmiri Marsiya.

Young researchers should be encouraged to explore its different dimensions, including its literary structure, language, historical background, religious symbolism, social influence and oral performance tradition.

The scholarly attention of researchers such as Dr. Ali Muhammad Qasmi Balhami is important precisely because it directs public and academic attention towards a literary heritage that connects religion, history, culture, language and literature.

Research, however, should not be understood merely as an attempt to preserve the past. Its larger purpose is to establish a meaningful connection between the past and the present.

When a society studies its literary heritage critically and systematically, it gains a deeper understanding of its own cultural journey.

The Universal Message of Karbala

The message associated with Karbala cannot be confined to a particular period, geographical region or social group. Its fundamental human values have universal relevance.

Sacrifice, loyalty, patience, truthfulness, courage, justice, dignity and steadfastness in the face of adversity are values that remain meaningful in every age.

Kashmiri Marsiya has carried these values through the medium of the local language and cultural expression. It has therefore contributed not only to religious remembrance but also to the transmission of ethical and human values.

For this reason, it would be too restrictive to describe Kashmiri Marsiya simply as a form of religious poetry.

At its finest, Marsiya becomes literature about human character.

It reminds us that circumstances may become difficult, but commitment to truth and principles should not be abandoned. It teaches that moral courage is often tested during moments of crisis and that sacrifice acquires meaning when it is made for a higher principle.

This is the point at which Marsiya rises above grief and becomes literature that offers guidance for life.

Connecting the Younger Generation with Its Heritage

One of the greatest challenges before Kashmiri society today is to connect younger generations with their linguistic, literary and cultural heritage.

Young people live in an age of unprecedented access to information. Social media, digital platforms and modern communication technologies have transformed the ways in which people read, listen and communicate.

This transformation presents both a challenge and an opportunity.

Traditional literary forms must be presented through contemporary methods without compromising their authenticity.

Kashmiri Marsiya can be introduced to students through educational programmes, literary discussions, cultural workshops and academic seminars. Selected classical Marsiyas can be made available in digital formats with explanatory notes and translations.

Audio and video documentation can make the traditional art of Marsiya recitation accessible to younger audiences who may not otherwise encounter it.

Schools and colleges can organise literary sessions in which students are introduced to the history, language and literary characteristics of Kashmiri Marsiya.

Such initiatives can help transform Marsiya from a tradition known primarily through specific occasions into a subject of wider literary and cultural study.

Technology and the Future of Kashmiri Marsiya

The digital age offers unprecedented possibilities for cultural preservation.

A properly organised digital repository could include manuscripts, published collections, audio recordings, video performances, biographies of Marsiya poets, interviews with senior reciters, research papers and translations.

Such an archive would not only preserve existing material but could also encourage new research.

Digitisation can also help scholars compare different versions of old Marsiyas, study linguistic changes and understand how the tradition evolved over time.

Technology should therefore not be seen as a threat to traditional literature. If used responsibly, it can become one of its strongest instruments of preservation and promotion.

Marsiya and the Broader Meaning of Literature

Kashmiri Marsiya also reminds us of the broader purpose of literature.

Literature is not merely entertainment. It creates questions in the human mind. It connects individuals with history and provides intellectual direction.

A meaningful literary tradition enables a society to remember where it came from, understand the values that shaped it and reflect upon the kind of future it wishes to build.

Marsiya performs this function in a particularly powerful manner. Through sorrow, it communicates courage; through remembrance, it creates awareness; through history, it offers moral reflection.

By/Gulfam Barji
Barji Harwan, Srinagar

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Religious fervour marks observance of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) in Kishtwar

Civil, security arrangements ensured by district administration

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, AUGUST 26: The people of District Kishtwar today observed the auspicious occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) with great religious fervor, devotion and enthusiasm.

The day was marked by religious gatherings and a grand procession, with thousands of devotees participating from Jamia Masjid to the Holy Shrine of Shah Farid-Ud-Din Sahib (RA).

The procession was taken out in a spiritual and peaceful manner under the leadership of Imam Sahib, Jamia Masjid, Head of the Majlis-e-Shoura Committee, Farooq Ahmed Kitchloo



along with religious scholars and community elders. The event highlighted the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and spread the message of peace, love and brotherhood.

To ensure the smooth observance of the festival, the district administration, under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma, ensured comprehensive arrangements, including security and logistical measures and other necessary arrangements.

Earlier in the morning, Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma extended warm and heartfelt greetings to the people of District Kishtwar, particularly the Muslim community, as well as the Muslim staff members and their families, on the auspicious occasion of Eid-i-Milad-un-Nabi.

In his message, the Deputy Commissioner said that Eid-i-Milad-un-Nabi is an occasion that inspires everyone to uphold the timeless values of peace, compassion, harmony and brotherhood. He called upon all sections of society to strengthen the bonds of unity, mutual respect and communal harmony and to contribute towards building a peaceful and progressive society.

MP Rajya Sabha Sajjad Ahmed Kitchloo, Senior Superintendent of Police Naresh Singh and ADC Pawan Kotwal were present on the occasion. They extended Eid greetings to the Muslim community and joined the religious procession.

DC Kumar Abhishek reviews preparations for Census-2027 in snow-bound areas

■ HT News Network

REASI, AUGUST 26: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek today chaired a review meeting to assess preparations for Census-2027, with special focus on ensuring smooth and comprehensive enumeration in the snow-bound areas of the district.

The DC reviewed the roadmap and preparatory arrangements for conducting the Census and stressed the need for meticulous planning to ensure accurate, timely and comprehensive enumeration across the district.

He directed the concerned Tehsildars to complete all preparatory activities well in advance and ensure that necessary logistical, administrative and manpower arrangements are put in place for the smooth conduct of the Census. He directed the officers to ensure that no person is left out of the enumeration process.

Meeting was attended by ADC Rakesh Kumar, CPO Narinder Kumar and other concerned officials. He directed the concerned Tehsildars to complete all preparatory activities well in advance and ensure that necessary logistical, administrative and manpower arrangements are put in place for the smooth conduct of the Census. He directed the officers to ensure that no person is left out of the enumeration process.

Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) observed with religious fervour in Bhaderwah

■ HT News Network



BHADERWAH, AUGUST 26: Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) was observed with religious fervour, devotion and enthusiasm in Bhaderwah. A large number of people participated in the special congregations organised to mark the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

The main procession commenced from the historic Jamia Masjid Bhaderwah and passed through the Old Bus Stand and Circular Road before returning to Jamia Masjid, where it concluded peacefully. The procession witnessed enthusiastic participation from people belonging to different age groups.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sunil Kumar Bhutyal along with the Tehsildar Bhaderwah, SDPO Bhaderwah and SHO Bhaderwah, remained present during the celebrations and reviewed the arrangements to ensure the smooth, peaceful and orderly conduct of the procession.

The Administration Bhaderwah distributed sweets and chocolates among children participating in the celebrations. Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) was also observed with religious fervour and enthusiasm at Sarna, Bhaderwah.

Javid Dar inaugurates, lays foundation stones for development projects in Reasi

Stresses strengthening of rural infrastructure, Panchayati Raj institutions, livestock sector

■ HT News Network



REASI, AUGUST 26: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today undertook a day-long tour of Reasi district.

The Minister inaugurated and laid foundation stones for a number of development projects aimed to strengthening the rural infrastructure, Panchayati Raj institutions and livestock-related services.

The Minister inaugurated the Block Development Council (BDC) Office Building at Katra-Hutt Block, constructed at a cost of 128.56 lakh under UT Capex for infrastructure of DDCs.

MLA Mata Vaishno Devi Baldev Raj Sharma, MLA Gulabgarh Er. Khursheed Ahmad and MLA Reasi Kuldeep Raj Dubey accompanied the Minister during the programme.

Addressing the gathering at Katra, Javid Dar said that strengthening the basic infrastructure in rural areas remains a key priority of the government. Planned focus is being ensured that the essential public services and development facilities are made available to people closer to their homes. He said that the government is committed to inclusive, balanced and people-centric development, particularly in rural areas. He stressed that public infrastructure must translate into tangible benefits for the common people.

The Minister laid the foundation stones for the District Veterinary Hospital at Reasi and the District Development Council (DDC) Office Building at Reasi.

Speaking on the occasion, Javid Dar said projects will play an important role in strengthening the veterinary and rural development services, besides supporting the farming community and consolidating the Panchayati Raj system in the district. He assured that the genuine demands and concerns projected by the elected representatives would be examined and addressed on priority. He emphasized that effective coordination between the elected representatives.

Shindara Road mishap:

DC Poonch visits District hospital to enquire about the well being of injured

■ HT News Network



POONCH, AUGUST 26: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma, along with Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik visited District hospital immediately after receiving information about a tragic road accident at Shindra in Tehsil Surankote in which six persons lost their lives and three others sustained injuries.

During his visit to the hospital, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with the attendants of injured persons. He enquired from the medical staff about the condition and the treatment being provided to the injured.

The Deputy Commissioner was apprised that soon after the accident, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Parvez Ahmed Khan, mobilised eight ambulances from the DH and Sub-District Hospital Surankote to the accident site for the rescue and evacuation of the injured.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the health department to ensure that all possible medical care is provided to the injured.

The accident occurred when a vehicle on way from Poonch to Shindra went out of control and plunged into a deep gorge.

The district administration expressed deep sorrow over the loss of precious lives and conveyed its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. The administration assured that every possible assistance would be extended to the affected families and that all necessary medical care would be provided to the injured.

Chari Mubarak marks culmination of Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026 in Poonch; Deputy CM, Legislators participate

■ HT News Network



POONCH, AUGUST 26: Amid religious and spiritual fervour, the Chari Mubarak Yatra was conducted in Poonch, marking the formal culmination of the revered Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026.

Led by Shri Shri 1008 Mahamandleshwar Swami Vishavatmanand Saraswati Ji Maharaj, the procession commenced from the Dashnami Akhara Mandir in Poonch, making its way to the sacred Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Shrine at Rajpura, Mandi.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, MLA Kalakote Thakur Randhir Singh, former MLC Vibodh Gupta, Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma, DIG Rajouri-Poonch Sandeep Wazir besides other officers of the civil administration and police were present.

The Chari Mubarak Yatra was preceded by a special Puja and Havan, amid the resounding chants of Vedic Mantras, at the Akhara Mandir Poonch. Swami Vishavatmanand Saraswati Ji Maharaj, along with numerous religious dignitaries, Yatris and locals congregated for this auspicious occasion.

Following the puja, a guard of honour was accorded to the holy mace and the Yatra to Shri Baba Budha Amarnath Ji temple was started amidst the participation of hundreds of devotees from across the nation, who offered prayers and chanted slogans in reverence to Lord Shiva.

Subsequently, a grand religious gathering was held at a nearby hall, where Swami Ji and other dignitaries delivered enlightening speeches on communal harmony, brotherhood and peace in the region.

The Chari Mubarak Yatra spanned a distance of 25 kilometers, with pilgrims making halts at various stalls arranged by the locals, providing food and refreshments.

DDC Reasi reviews vulnerable road stretches, calls for timely restoration

■ HTHT NEWS DESK



REASI, AUGUST 26: District Development Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek today chaired a meeting to review the progress of slope stabilization and road restoration works at the vulnerable stretch on the R-A-M Road. During the meeting, issues related to BMG Road and Mahore Market Road were also discussed in detail.

The meeting discussed the ongoing restoration works aimed at strengthening the road, preventing further slope failure and ensuring smooth and safe movement of traffic. Officials informed the chair that heavy rainfall, increased hydrostatic pressure and surface erosion had damaged the uphill formation and affected the road infrastructure.

The restoration plan includes construction of toe walls, retaining walls, breast walls and a lined drain along with other protective measures for long-term stabilization of the vulnerable stretch. Advanced slope stabilization measures, including anchoring and soil protection works, are also being taken up based on technical assessments.

The DDC directed the executing agency and GREF officials to expedite the works while maintaining quality and adhering strictly to safety standards. He stressed the need for immediate protective measures at the vulnerable location to safeguard commuters.

He also directed the concerned agency to closely monitor the site and ensure timely completion of the restoration works, particularly in view of the ongoing monsoon conditions.

JMC to transform historic Diwan Mandir Auditorium into a modern community facility

Foundation stone laid for Rs 2.62 Crore renovation and modernization of existing facility

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, AUGUST 26: In a significant step towards preserving a historic community space while strengthening public infrastructure, the foundation stone for the renovation and modernization of the existing Auditorium Hall at Diwan Mandir, Kacchi Chhawani, Jammu was laid today by MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi in the presence of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav.

The ambitious project, estimated to cost 262.50 lakh (2.62 crore), will be fully funded by the Jammu Municipal Corporation through its CAPEX budget. The initiative forms part of the Corporation's broader efforts to beautify and rejuvenate Jammu's historic Old City while upgrading important public and community spaces.

Diwan Mandir holds immense historical, cultural and religious significance for the people of Jammu. Ramlila has been performed at the temple for nearly 150 years, making it an important part of the city's cultural heritage. The residents of the Old City have deep faith and emotional attachment to the temple and its longstanding traditions.

Under the project, the existing auditorium will be



transformed into a modern, comfortable and fully equipped community facility. The renovation will include comprehensive civil works, new carpeting, modular seating, complete air-conditioning, CCTV surveillance, a modern fire-fighting system and a state-of-the-art audio system. These facilities will significantly enhance the safety, comfort, functionality and overall utility of the auditorium while preserving its importance as a cherished community space.

A large number of residents and prominent members of the community attended the foundation stone-laying ceremony and welcomed the initiative. They expressed their appreciation to the Jammu Municipal Corporation for undertaking the long-awaited modernization of the facility and investing in the improvement of the historic Old City. Addressing the gathering, Yudhvir Sethi highlighted the historical and cultural importance of Diwan Mandir and appreciated the efforts being made to strengthen civic infrastructure and public facilities in Jammu East. He said that the modernization of the auditorium would provide residents with a better venue for social, cultural and community activities while complementing the rich heritage of the Old City. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Devansh Yadav, Commissioner JMC, highlighted the various developmental initiatives being undertaken by the Corporation across Jammu city. He said that the JMC is committed to improving public infrastructure, upgrading civic amenities and beautifying the Old City.

Laparoscopic Surgery Begins at SDH Beerwah, Two Gallbladder Operations Performed

■ HT NEWS DESK



Budgam, Aug 26Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Beerwah has started laparoscopic surgical procedures, with two laparoscopic cholecystectomies successfully performed at the hospital on Wednesday.

The procedures were conducted as token cases by the hospital's surgical and anaesthesia teams, marking the beginning of laparoscopic surgery services at the health facility.

The surgical team comprised Dr Intikhab Alam, Dr Irshad Lone, Medical Officer Surgeon, Showkat Gul, Imtiyaz Reshi and Neelofar Jan, while the anaesthesia team was led by Consultant Anaesthesia Dr Arif Vakil, assisted by Dr Gul Mohammad and Shameem Aga.

The availability of laparoscopic surgery at SDH Beerwah is expected to provide patients in the area access to minimally invasive surgical procedures closer to home, reducing the need to travel to distant tertiary-care centres for such treatment.

The commencement of the service also expands the range of surgical procedures available at the hospital and strengthens its capacity to provide specialised care locally.

The hospital administration said the development was made possible through the coordinated efforts of the surgical, anaesthesia, nursing, technical and other healthcare staff.

India's USD 50 bn MedTech goal, Israel's HealthTech strength open doors

■ United News Of India



Bengaluru, Aug 26 India's ambition to build a USD 50 billion medical-devices sector by 2030 and Israel's growing HealthTech ecosystem of around 1,800 companies are opening significant opportunities for deeper collaboration in medical technology, digital health, biotechnology and AI-driven healthcare, a senior Israeli Consulate official said on Wednesday.

Speaking at the Indo-Israel Health Sprint 2026 here, Shilpa Baburaj of the Consulate General of Israel to South India said the complementary strengths of the two healthcare ecosystems could help convert promising innovations into scalable solutions for patients and healthcare systems.

"India is moving beyond its long-established strength as the pharmacy of the world to becoming an increasingly important builder of medical technologies," she said.

She said Israel, meanwhile, had developed strong capabilities in medical devices, digital health, biotechnology and AI-driven healthcare, creating opportunities to combine its ability to rapidly innovate and translate research with India's clinical depth, engineering talent and capacity to build solutions at scale.

Baburaj said the Health Sprint was conceived not merely as another startup programme, but as a platform where healthcare innovators from South India could engage with experts from Israel and India, test their ideas, receive feedback, challenge assumptions and assess how technologies could address real healthcare needs.

She said the Israeli Consulate saw its role as bringing together leading minds from both countries and creating opportunities for partnerships that could eventually translate into tangible healthcare solutions.

"Meaningful partnerships rarely begin with an agreement on paper. They begin with people, with a conversation, a shared challenge, an exchange of ideas and trust to explore what can be built together," she said.

The Health Sprint brought together 15 startups and an expert group of mentors from India and Israel. Baburaj urged the participating startups to make the most of the programme, remain open to feedback and build relationships that continued beyond the event.

She said the real success of the initiative would be measured not by what happened on stage but by the partnerships that emerged afterwards and the solutions that eventually reached patients.

She also thanked the mentors and Team Ginserve for their contribution to building the initiative.

The event was attended by Dr Bhaskar Rajkumar, CEO, Charuka Centre of Excellence for MedTech and HealthTech, Maxim Smagim, Deputy Consul General of Israel to South India, and Dr CV Ben, CEO, JSS Mahavidyapeetha, among others.

India, Japan eye deeper startup ties, deep-tech capital corridor: Piyush Goyal

■ United News Of India



New Dehli:-Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has called for deeper collaboration between India and Japan in startups, deep technology, manufacturing and innovation, as the two countries look to build stronger links between their respective business ecosystems.

Speaking at the India-Japan Startup Roundtable in Tokyo, Goyal said India has emerged as the world's third-largest startup ecosystem, with nearly 250,000 startups established over the past decade.

He highlighted India's large domestic market, growing pool of science and technology talent, digital public infrastructure and expanding innovation ecosystem as key factors that could attract greater Japanese investment and technology partnerships.

The roundtable brought together government officials, investors, corporations, startups and industry representatives from both countries.

Discussions focused on increasing investment, developing technology partnerships and integrating startups and small businesses into wider supply chains.

Goyal proposed a four-part framework for the next phase of India-Japan startup collaboration.

One of the proposals is a Japan-India Deep-Tech Capital Corridor, aimed at bringing more patient capital into early-stage research, deep-tech ventures and commercialisation.

The framework also includes a Two-Way Innovation Bridge connecting universities, research organisations, incubators, laboratories and testing facilities in India and Japan.The third pillar focuses on manufacturing and technology integration, combining India's scale, engineering talent and entrepreneurial ecosystem with Japan's strengths in precision engineering, technology and manufacturing.

The fourth proposal is to establish joint startup pitching platforms that can regularly connect Indian entrepreneurs with Japanese corporations, venture capital funds and strategic investors.

Goyal also highlighted the government's proposed second Fund of Funds of around USD 1 billion, which is expected to focus on deep-tech enterprises.

He invited Japanese investors to participate more actively in India's growing technology ecosystem.

Further, the Japanese stakeholders at the meeting welcomed the growing maturity of India's startup ecosystem.

The event included senior representatives from the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and JETRO, along with executives from around 40 Japanese companies and investment organisations.

Stock markets end lower in rangebound session, Nifty settles around 24,200 mark

■ United News Of India

New Delhi, Aug 26 (UNI) Stock Markets failed to build on last session gains and ended lower in a range-bound session with the Nifty settling around the 24,200 mark.

At close, the Sensex was down 183.15 points or 0.24 percent at 77,472.94, and the Nifty was down 126.80 points or 0.52 percent at 24,207.75. Nifty Midcap ended marginally lower, while smallcap index gaining 0.8 percent.

Among the sectors, metal and private bank indices rose 1pc each, and PSU Bank index added 0.7pc. On the other hand, IT and Infra indices shed 1pc each, auto, consumer durables, Energy, FMCG, oil & gas, realty down 0.5-0.9pc.

On Nifty, the gainers were Kotak Mahindra Bank, UltraTech Cement, Axis Bank, HDFC Life, JSW Steel. On the losing end were Infosys, Power Grid Corp, Bharti Airtel, Tech Mahindra and Shriram Finance.

More than 140 stocks touched 52-week high. These included Anthem Biosciences, Divis Labs, Oracle Fin Services, Laurus Labs, PNB Housing Finance, TVS Motor, Ipca Labs, One 97 Communications (Paytm), Vodafone Idea, AU Small Finance Bank, United Spirits, among others.

Metal stocks were among the top performers. Hindustan Zinc led the rally, surging 5.7pc followed by SAIL, Hindustan Copper, Vedanta, NMDC, and Jindal Steel, which all closed with gains ranging between 2 and 5.6pc.

Varun Beverages emerged as one of the top losers with the stock falling 4pc. DCB Bank shares rose 3.6pc on reports of a potential capital infusion from private equity firms.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited said, "The domestic market ended marginally lower, giving up early gains as sectoral divergence weighed on benchmarks through the session. Inflation concerns receded on tempered US sanctions on Iran, easing domestic bond yields and lifting banking stocks, while metals gained on better realization prospects. However, these gains were largely offset by weakness in IT stocks after the U.S. paused visa appointments amid an immigration crackdown which rekindled margin pressure concerns."

"Investors now await the U.S. Core PCE print for greater clarity on the rate trajectory. A contained core reading would indicate that the recent energy-led inflation spike is transitory, easing rate concerns and supporting flows into emerging markets."

Axis Energy partners with Brookfield-backed Lumara for 400 MW solar project in Andhra Pradesh

■ United News Of India

Hyderabad, Aug 26 (UNI) Axis Energy has partnered with Lumara, a renewable energy platform launched by Brookfield in India, for the development and engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) of a 400 MW utility-scale solar project at Nandipadu village in Nandyal district of Andhra Pradesh.

The project is expected to create employment opportunities for local communities during both the construction and operational phases, the company said in a release on Wednesday.

As part of the partnership, Axis Energy will execute the complete EPC scope for the solar plant, along with development of a 400 kV Pooling Substation (PSS) and an associated 400 kV transmission line connecting the project to the Kurnool

Adani Energy Solutions bags Rs 4,700-Crore Transmission Project in Maha

■ United News Of India



Mumbai, Aug 26 (UNI) Adani Energy Solutions Ltd (AESL) officially announced here on Wednesday that it has bagged a transmission project in Maharashtra with an estimated capital expenditure of around Rs 4,700 crore, to transmit renewable electricity generated in Karnataka to support pumped storage projects of up to 4,500 MW in Maharashtra.

The project will transmit renewable energy generated in Karnataka to Maharashtra and will also support the pumped storage ecosystem in the Satara, Pune and Mumbai Metropolitan Region, the company informed the stock exchanges in a regulatory filing.

The project includes setting up a 765/400 kV substation at Satara, a Kolhapur-Satara 765 kV double-circuit transmission line as well as augmentation of the Kolhapur pooling station, along with associated transmission infrastructure.

The project, called "Network Expansion Scheme in Western Region to Cater to Pumped Storage Potential near Satara (up to 4500 MW) - Part A", was awarded through a Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding process, in which AESL emerged as the lowest bidder, according to a company statement.

According to the statement, the project will transmit up to 4,500 MW of renewable and storage power, which will be delivered within 36 months.

The project is expected to add 562 circuit kilometres of transmission lines and 9,000 MVA of transformation capacity to the company's portfolio, according to the company statement.

According to the company statement, the project will be implemented by a special purpose vehicle called Satara Power Transmission Ltd.

After the addition, AESL's cumulative transmission network will rise to 29,739 circuit kilometres, with a transformation capacity of 1,43,425 MVA. Its transmission order book now stands at around Rs 85,000 crore.

Commenting on the development, Adani Energy Solutions Ltd CEO Kandarp Patel said, "Pumped storage projects are emerging as a critical enabler of India's clean energy transition by providing the flexibility and reliability required to integrate large-scale renewable energy into the grid.

"The Satara transmission project will create a vital transmission backbone to support both renewable energy evacuation and energy storage deployment, strengthening power flows between Southern and Western India. AESL remains committed to building future-ready transmission infrastructure that enables renewable energy growth, enhances grid stability and supports India's long-term decarbonisation goals," Adani Energy Solutions Ltd CEO Kandarp Patel said. The project includes setting up a 765/400 kV substation at Satara, a Kolhapur-Satara 765 kV double-circuit transmission line as well as augmentation of the Kolhapur pooling station, along with associated transmission infrastructure.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Abdul Hameed Chaku, S/o Late Ghulam Rasool Chaku, R/o Ishber, Nishat, Srinagar, hereby inform the general public that the General Power of Attorney executed in favour of Khaja Ghulam Ahmed Chaku, S/o Late Abdul Rehman Chaku, R/o Panditpora, Rainawari, Srinagar, on 5th September, 1979, has been cancelled/revoked by the undersigned.
Accordingly, the general public, banks, financial institutions, Government/ Semi-Government institutions, registration authorities and all other concerned are hereby cautioned and informed not to undertake or entertain any transaction whatsoever in respect of the person, property or affairs of the undersigned on the basis of the said Power of Attorney, as the same stands expressly cancelled/revoked by the undersigned.
Any transaction, document, representation or action undertaken on the basis of the aforesaid Power of Attorney after its cancellation/ revocation shall be at the sole risk and responsibility of the person(s) relying upon the same, and the undersigned shall not be responsible or liable for any such transaction or action.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of the general public and the concerned department (KPDCL) that I, SHOKI ALIASHAJIRAD/oGhulam Mohammad Shah R/o Hamdaniya Colony, Sec-1, Lane-2, Syed Mohalla, Srinagar is the old consumer holder of electricity connection bearing Consumer ID No.0203010028154.I have transferred all rights of my residential property to YASIR FAYAZ KHANDAY S/o Fayaz Ahmad Khanday R/o Qammarwari, Srinagar through an Irrevocable General Power of Attorney.Now I want to change the name of the said electricity connection from OLD NAME: SHOKI ALAIS HAJIRA to NEW NAME: YASIR FAYAZ KHANDAY.If anybody has any objection regarding the change of name of the said electricity connection, he/she may contact / file objection before the concerned AEE, Electric Sub Division, KPDCL within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice. After the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained and the name change will be processed.
Old Consumer Name: Shoki Alais Hajira D/o Ghulam Mohammad Shah R/o Hamdaniya Colony, Sec-1 Lane-2 Syed Mohalla
New Consumer Name: Yasir Fayaz Khanday S/o Fayaz Ahmad Khanday R/o Qammarwari
Consumer ID No.: 0203010028154

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

My son's Date of Birth has been wrongly written as 28/05/2014 on his Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No ..8186 7984 0254 while his correct Date of Birth is 25/04/2011 which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the office of concerned Adhaar authority of India within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

I hereby declare that I have lost my Driving Licence (JK0120240001699) somewhere while traveling from Zainakote towards Parimpora Srinagar. Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody having any objection in this regard can contact the concerned RTO within seven days of this publication. After that no objection shall be entertained.

LICENCE NUMBER: JK0120240001699 NAME: UMER HABIB PARENTAGE: HABIBULLAH WAGAY ADDRESS: HMT ZAINAKOTE SRINAGAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

I hereby declare that in my Graduation records my DOB is written as 08-07-1996 whereas the correct DOB as per my Aadhaar Card is 07-08-1996. Now i am applying for its correction, if anybody having any objection can concerned authorities within the period of seven days after this publication. After that no objection shall be entertained.
contact
Name: FURQANA REHMAN
D/o: ABDUL REHMAN TELI
DOB: 07-08-1996
Reg. No.: CUS-17-GWC-10583

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of the general public that I, Bakhti Bagum W/o Late Ab. Gani Ganie R/o Hajbagh have applied for change of name of the electricity connection from the name of my late husband.The electricity connection is presently registered in the name of Ab. Gani Ganie bearing Service Connection No. /Consumer ID No.0206050003832, under Domestic Category with Contracted Load of 1 KW, installed at Hajbagh.Now I intend to get the said electricity connection transferred / changed in my own name i.e. BAKHTI BAGUM W/o Late Ab. Gani Ganie.If any person has any objection / claim regarding the change of name of the said electric connection, he/she may file his/her objection before the Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE), Electric Sub Division concerned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After expiry of 7 days, no objection will be entertained and the department shall be at liberty to change the name.Details:

Old Registered Consumer Name: Ab. Gani Ganie
New Applicant Name: Bakhti Bagum W/o Late Ab. Gani Ganie
Consumer ID / Service Connection No.: 0206050003832
Address: Hajbagh
Category: DomesticSd/-

PM Modi assures Nepal of India's full support after deadly flash floods

■ United News Of India

New Delhi, Aug 26 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday conveyed his condolences to Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah over the loss of lives in devastating flash floods and assured the neighbouring country of India's full humanitarian support as rescue and relief operations continued in the disaster-hit Himalayan regions.

In a post on social media platform X, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India stood in solidarity with the people of Nepal during the difficult time and that teams from the two countries were coordinating closely to strengthen rescue and relief efforts.

"Spoke to Prime Minister Balendra Shah and conveyed condolences on the loss of lives due to the floods in Nepal. The people of India stand in solidarity with their sisters and brothers in Nepal at this difficult time," Modi said.

"India is ready to provide all possible humanitarian assistance to Nepal. Our teams are coordinating closely on rescue and relief efforts," he added.

The flash floods struck northern Nepal on Wednesday, unleashing widespread destruction across mountainous border regions. Initial reports suggested that the disaster may have been triggered by a suspected earthquake and a massive ice and rock avalanche on the Tibetan side of the border, sending a powerful surge of water, mud and debris through Himalayan river valleys and into Nepal.



At least 16 to 17 people have been confirmed dead, according to available official assessments, although the number is feared to rise as rescue teams reach remote and severely affected areas. Nearly 400 travellers have reportedly gone missing, including 291 foreign tourists. Among them are at least 105 Indian nationals and 12 British citizens.

The flooding has also left 41 security personnel, including members of the Nepal Police and Armed Police Force, unaccounted for after a border post was overwhelmed by the sudden torrent.

The Bhote Koshi River reportedly surged dramatically at around 9 a.m. local time, carrying enormous quantities of water, rocks and debris through narrow valleys. Settlements in Nepal's Rasuwa district, close to the Nepal-China border, were among the worst affected.

Timure and Syapru Besi suffered extensive destruction, with reports of multi-storey structures collapsing and sections of villages being swept away. Floodwaters and muddy debris also moved further downstream into Nuwakot district, where several residential areas were partially submerged.

Authorities have issued high-water warnings for areas along the Trishuli and Narayani river systems, prompting emergency evacuations and increased monitoring in vulnerable locations. The disaster has also dealt a significant blow to Nepal's power infrastructure, with more than 430 MW of electricity supply reportedly affected after six major hydropower facilities suffered structural damage.

The Rasuwagadhi and Chilime hydropower projects were among the affected facilities. The disruption accounts for more than 12 per cent of Nepal's national hydropower capacity and could further complicate emergency operations and recovery efforts.

India, China agree on eight-point Roadmap to strengthen LAC border management

■ United News Of India



New Delhi, Aug 26 (UNI) India and China have reached an eight-point consensus aimed at maintaining peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), strengthening border management mechanisms and advancing negotiations towards a settlement of the long-standing boundary question.

The understanding was reached during the 25th round of talks between the Special Representatives of India and China held in Beijing, on Tuesday.

India's Special Representative and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and China's Special Representative Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, held a candid and in-depth exchange of views on the boundary question.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, the two sides reaffirmed their commitment to the guidance provided by the leaders of the two countries and agreed that maintaining peace and tranquillity in the border areas was essential for creating an atmosphere conducive to the healthy and steady development of bilateral relations.

The two sides also reaffirmed their commitment to advancing negotiations on a framework for settlement of the boundary question in accordance with the 2005 Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question and the consensus reached during subsequent Special Representatives' talks.

The objective remains to find a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary dispute.

A significant outcome of the latest talks was the decision to advance discussions on an "Early and Substantial Harvest" in the areas of boundary delimitation and border management.

The Expert Group on Boundary Delimitation and the Working Group on Border Management under the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) will take forward these discussions.

The first task of the two groups will be to finalise their respective Terms of Reference, providing a structured framework for their future engagement.

India and China also agreed that any situation arising on the ground would be addressed promptly through existing diplomatic and military channels, including the WMCC, local commander-level meetings and other agreed mechanisms.

Lok Sabha Secretariat notices 20 rebel TMC MPs, seeks replies on disqualification petitions

■ United News Of India



New Delhi Aug 26 (UNI) The Lok Sabha Secretariat has issued formal notices to 20 rebel Trinamool Congress (TMC) MPs, seeking their responses within seven days to petitions seeking their disqualification under the anti-defection law, informed sources said on Wednesday.

The notices, issued on August 25, mark a significant step in the contentious political and legal dispute between the All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) and a group of its Lok Sabha MPs who have broken away from the party and aligned themselves with the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA). The development comes a day after the Supreme Court took up a plea filed by Trinamool Congress leader and party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, who had challenged what he alleged was a prolonged delay and inaction by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla in dealing with the disqualification petitions submitted against the rebel MPs on June 18.

According to the Lok Sabha Secretariat notices, the MPs have been asked to furnish their comments under Rule 7(3) of the Members of Lok Sabha (Disqualification on Ground of Defection) Rules, 1985. The notices were issued in proceedings initiated under Rule 6 of the same Rules.

"You are requested to kindly furnish your comments on the petition in terms of rule 7(3) of the same rule within seven days of the receipt of this letter for consideration of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha," the notice said.

The notices have been issued to MPs named in Banerjee's petitions, including senior TMC leaders Sudip Bandyopadhyay and Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, as well as former cricketer-turned-politician Yusuf Pathan, among others. The dispute centres on the claim of the rebel MPs that they have validly merged into a separate parliamentary bloc associated with the Tripura-based Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI) and, in the process, aligned themselves with the NDA. The AITC, however, has rejected the claim and maintained that the MPs have voluntarily given up their membership of the party, attracting disqualification under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution.

The Tenth Schedule, commonly known as the anti-defection law, provides for disqualification of legislators in specified circumstances.

Delhi govt's Lakshmi Yojana launched, over 4,000 sanction letters handed on day one

■ United News Of India

New Delhi, Aug 26 (UNI) Delhi government's women welfare scheme 'Lakshmi Yojana', to provide monthly financial assistance to beneficiaries, was formally launched on Wednesday with the distribution of the first 4,000 sanction letters to eligible women.



The scheme was launched in the presence of union Minister & BJP Delhi Chief Harsh Malhotra, Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu, and Chief Minister Rekha Gupta.

According to the Chief Minister, so far, more than 9 lakh 22 thousand women across the national capital have registered for the scheme. The launch ceremony saw the distribution of the first 4,000 sanction letters to eligible women. Under the initiative, they will receive Rs 2,500 per month directly into their bank accounts, providing financial support to meet daily needs, support education of their children, and encourage greater self-reliance. Delhi Ministers Parvesh Verma, Kapil Mishra, Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Ashish Sood, Pankaj Kumar Singh, and the BJP MPs Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, Manoj Tiwari, Yogendra Chandolia, Kamaljeet Sehrawat, Bansuri Swaraj, and Praveen Khandelwal, along with other leaders were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Delhi BJP chief said, "This is not just an announcement, but PM Modi's guarantee, a guarantee of every resolve and a guarantee to fulfill women' dream.""Today, with the historic launch of the 'Delhi Lakshmi Scheme' at Talkatora Stadium, the promise made to Delhi's sisters before the 2025 Assembly elections has been fulfilled. The promise of Rs 2,500 per month to Delhi's women power has today moved from resolve to realization. In line with the vision of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi."

Through the Delhi Lakshmi Scheme, Delhi's women will gain financial strength, self-reliance, and the confidence to make their own decisions. Malhotra expressed confidence that under CM Gupta's leadership, the Delhi government remains continuously committed to giving new momentum to women's respect and empowerment. LG Sandhu said that the scheme is rooted in the belief that empowering women strengthens the nation, and this initiative, inspired by PM Modi's vision, will provide direct financial support, advancing dignity, independence and economic security for Delhi's women.

Akhilesh criticises BJP on issue of women safety

■ United News Of India

LUCKNOW, Aug 26: SP chief Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday claimed women have been reduced to mere slogans under the BJP government and urged saffron party leaders, who talk about saluting women, to remember the "atrocities" faced by them in the state.

He also said that his party will give more tickets to women than the BJP in the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls and demanded that the party implement the women's reservation law in the next elections.

Addressing a press conference at the SP headquarters here to announce that his party will launch the "Stree Samman Samriddhi Yojna", if voted to power in the next elections, Yadav claimed that Uttar Pradesh was witnessing the highest level of injustice against women.

SC Judge Sandeep Mehta Writes To CJI Against ACJ Of Rajasthan HC

■ United News Of India

NEW DELHI, Aug 26: Supreme Court judge Sandeep Mehta has urged Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant to appoint with "immediate effect" a chief justice from outside Rajasthan to head the high court in the state, alleging serious administrative irregularities and selective case listings under its acting Chief Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma. South Asians & Diaspora

Justice Mehta, in his three letters dated August 2, 10 and 17, has accused the acting chief justice of the Rajasthan High Court of "maladministration", "malpractices", "nepotism" and "favouritism". The top court judge alleged that Justice Sharma had misused his powers as master of the roster to selectively transfer cases to his own bench, including matters involving influential and wealthy litigants.



Justice Mehta was appointed a judge of the Rajasthan High Court in May 2011. He became Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court in February 2023 and was elevated to the Supreme Court in November the same year.

Justice Sharma was appointed a judge of the Rajasthan High Court in November 2016 and transferred to the Patna High Court in January 2022.

His request for repatriation to Rajasthan on health grounds was not accepted by the Supreme Court Collegium in March 2023.

He was instead transferred to the Punjab and Haryana High Court. The Collegium subsequently recommended his repatriation to Rajasthan in May 2025.

Jairam Ramesh targets Maharashtra CM over 'Modani' favouritism, calls APTEL protest hypocritical

■ United News Of India

New Delhi, Aug 26 (UNI) Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, accusing him of hypocrisy over his reported complaint to Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL) was heavily biased in favour of private power companies. In a post on social media platform X, Ramesh said the Maharashtra Chief Minister had "apparently protested to the Prime Minister that the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL) is biased heavily in favour of private power companies."Questioning the Chief Minister's stand, the Congress leader alleged that the "major recipient" of favourable APTEL decisions in Maharashtra during 2025 and 2026 had been the "Modani conglomerate", claiming that at least four cases had been decided in its favour."But the Maharashtra Govt has itself bent over backwards to favour Modani not only in power projects but also in real estate development projects like at Dharavi," Ramesh said. He alleged that the Maharashtra government's reported concern over the functioning of APTEL appeared to have surfaced only after a decision of the tribunal went in favour of another private company, JSW."The CM's sudden ire at Modani is full of hypocrisy. His complaint to the PM seems to have been triggered by an APTEL decision in favour of another private company JSW," Ramesh said. Ramesh further argued that if the Chief Minister was genuinely concerned about tribunal decisions affecting the interests of the Maharashtra government and electricity consumers.

Sitharaman pitches India as attractive long-term investment destination for Canadian investors

■ United News Of India

New Delhi, Aug 26 (UNI) Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has pitched India as an attractive long-term investment destination for Canadian investors, highlighting the country's large market, strong economic growth, young population, rising consumption and expanding capital markets.

Addressing members of the Indian business community in Toronto, Sitharaman said India's growth story was being supported by structural changes such as rapid urbanisation, the expansion of the middle class and the development of digital infrastructure.

She said these factors were creating investment opportunities across a wide range of sectors and offered international investors a combination of scale and growth that was difficult to replicate.

Sitharaman also pointed to India's digital transformation, saying the country's digital infrastructure has lowered the cost of accessing financial and commercial services while allowing them to reach a much larger population.

Highlighting the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), the Finance Minister said India's real-time payments ecosystem had emerged as a major driver of financial inclusion, efficiency and innovation.

She also identified scope for greater cooperation between Indian and Canadian banks, fintech companies and regulators in developing the next generation of digital financial infrastructure.

The Finance Minister further highlighted the role of the Indian diaspora in Canada in strengthening economic ties between the two countries. She described the community as an important link connecting businesses, financial institutions



and policymakers in India and Canada.

According to Sitharaman, bilateral relations have gained momentum following an agreement between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney in June 2025 to reset ties and build a future-oriented strategic partnership.

The relationship received another boost during Carney's visit to India earlier this year, when the two countries began negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

The two sides also signed a CAD 2.6 billion uranium agreement with Cameco and set an ambition to more than double bilateral trade to CAD 70 billion by 2030.

Sitharaman said the renewed engagement was also broadening the relationship beyond traditional investment and capital flows towards deeper institutional cooperation.

She emphasised that capital markets represented only one part of the potential India-Canada financial partnership, pointing to opportunities for wider collaboration across banking, fintech, payments, regulation and other areas of the financial ecosystem. According to Sitharaman, bilateral relations have gained momentum following an agreement between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney in June 2025 to reset ties and build a future-oriented strategic partnership.

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Sitharaman said the renewed engagement was also broadening the relationship beyond traditional investment and capital flows towards deeper institutional cooperation.

Better Diabetes Care Begins with Science, Innovation and Quality

Doctors emphasize that timely diagnosis and appropriate treatment are critical to reducing the long-term complications of type 2 diabetes. As India's diabetes burden continues to rise, experts believe that improving access to evidence-based therapies, while maintaining high standards of quality, will play a vital role in improving patient outcomes. India is home to more than 100 million adults living with diabetes, a figure projected to exceed 150 million by 2050, making it one of the largest diabetes populations globally.

"India's diabetes burden requires us to look beyond blood sugar control alone," said Dr. Shariq Masoodi, Consultant Endocrinologist, Srinagar, "GLP-1 receptor agonists have transformed the management of type 2 diabetes by addressing multiple aspects of the disease, including weight management and cardiovascular and kidney risk reduction. However, as these therapies become more widely available, it is equally important to ensure they are supported by robust science, proven quality and extensive clinical evidence."

"For complex GLP-1 therapies, quality is not just about the molecule itself," said Dr. Bashir Laway, Consultant Endocrinologist, Srinagar, "It is defined by the science behind the medicine, the recombinant DNA technology used to produce it, the precision of the manufacturing process and the depth of clinical evidence supporting its use. These are critical considerations for physicians when selecting therapies for a chronic condition such as type 2 diabetes, where treatment is often lifelong."

Experts note that type 2 diabetes in India often develops nearly a decade earlier than in Western populations, progresses more aggressively, and is associated with a significantly higher lifetime risk of cardiovascular disease and chronic kidney disease. Yet, only one in ten people with diabetes achieve recommended blood sugar targets, highlighting the need for timely treatment and better disease management.

GLP-1 receptor agonists are increasingly recognized as an important advancement in diabetes care. By stimulating insulin secretion when blood sugar levels are elevated, reducing glucagon release, slowing gastric emptying and regulating appetite, these therapies help address several interconnected aspects of type 2 diabetes.

As access to GLP-1 therapies expands, experts believe the conversation should also focus on quality. For complex peptide-based medicines, quality extends well beyond the active ingredient. It is embedded in the science behind the therapy, the recombinant DNA (rDNA) technology used to develop it, the precision of the manufacturing process, and the strength of the clinical evidence supporting its long-term use.



Peptide medicines are inherently complex, and even small differences in manufacturing can influence their structure, stability and biological activity. These variations may ultimately affect how consistently a medicine performs. Recombinant DNA technology, combined with rigorous manufacturing and purification processes, helps ensure consistent quality from batch to batch, giving healthcare professionals confidence that patients receive a therapy that performs reliably throughout long-term treatment.

The confidence in GLP-1 therapies is supported by an extensive body of global evidence, including large randomized clinical trials, real-world studies and years of post-marketing experience. This evidence has demonstrated meaningful improvements not only in blood sugar control, but also in cardiovascular outcomes and kidney protection, helping redefine the goals of diabetes care.

As India continues to strengthen diabetes management, experts believe expanding access must go hand in hand with responsible prescribing, physician-led care and patient education. Together with scientific innovation and high-quality therapies, these efforts can help improve long-term outcomes while reducing the growing health and economic burden of diabetes.

Ultimately, better diabetes care begins with science, innovation and quality ensuring that people living with type 2 diabetes receive treatments they can rely on throughout their care journey.

Disclaimer: Information appearing in this article is for general awareness only. Content is based on provided scientific references. Nothing contained in this article constitutes medical advice or intends to influence independent professional judgement.

Essential Hair Care Tips for Monsoon Season



Shahnaz Husain

The monsoon season has a tendency to create hair trouble for most people, but the type of problem and the severity can vary for each individual.

The level of humidity increases, along with sudden rain showers, sweat, and surrounding elements.

Increased moisture in the air, scalp build-up, frizz and unexpected hair fall are all common concerns that arrive with the rains, making hair care feel like an uphill battle.

These also increase oil secretion, leading to an oily and sticky scalp. This attracts dirt and pollution, making the hair dirty.

. Many also experience the season of hair shedding during the rainy season.

Some amount of hair loss is natural; neglecting to maintain scalp hygiene during the rainy season can result in the worsening of common issues such as dandruff, itching, and fungal infections.

It is frustrating, but it is also very common. The good news is that sticking to the right hair care routine during the rainy season can really help.

1---Use the Right Comb: ------

Are you really using the correct hair comb for your needs? If you are unsure, you are not alone.

You hardly pay any attention while picking out a comb.

It is said that a good hair day often starts with something deceptively simple -- the right comb.

Behind every hairdo that complements your overall look is the use of the best hair comb.

A hair comb for detangling and styling is essential in any hair care routine. It is helpful for dealing with knots, tangles, or wet hair.

Choose the right comb, such as a wide-tooth Neem Comb .

Make sure the teeth of the comb have enough space in between. It prevents unwanted breakage and assists in cutting down frizz.

Clean your comb frequently to avoid hair and scalp infections.

Always comb gently, starting from the ends and working your way up to the roots. Gently comb your hair with a wide-tooth comb to help it untangle more easily.

Remember to wait for your hair to dry before combing, and during monsoon, don't share combs to avoid fungal risks.

2---Short Hair -----

One of the simple tips to stop hair from breaking during this season is to keep it styled short. Short hair reduces the hassle of maintaining it. Long hair is tugged and is prone to thinning.

Humidity causes hair that has already been damaged to absorb moisture from the environment, making split ends more evident and frizz even worse.

Trimming the ends of your hair improves hair growth by removing split or damaged ends.

When the split ends are trimmed every 8 to 12 weeks, the splitting stops from further going up the hair shaft.

This will reduce your hair fall problems by a lot since you won't be exerting on your roots by pulling down on longer hair.

3---- Keep Your Scalp Clean--

When it comes to healthy-looking hair, everything starts at the roots. Healthy hair always starts with a healthy scalp. A clean scalp is the starting point for everything.

Wash your hair frequently to avoid the buildup of dirt, oil, and sweat.

Keeping your scalp clean during the monsoon season is essential to avoid the buildup of dirt, oil, and sweat. Regular washing helps remove these contaminants and lowers the chance of scalp infections, which can lead to hair loss. Washing your hair three to four times a week with shampoo works well during this season.

Pick a shampoo that is gentle yet effective in eliminating grease, sweat, dirt, and any other kind of oil, but without drying out the scalp.

Start a wash routine right away according to your hair type. For instance, people with an oily scalp should wash their hair more frequently, while having dry hair calls for less regular washing.

Regular scalp massage improves blood circulation, resulting in hair growth, controls hair fall, and prevents hair breakage. You can use hair growth serum, spray it on your scalp, and gently massage using your fingertips. The serum also helps with better hair growth

4---Avoid Rain Water -----

While rain showers can be fun, the rainwater can damage your hair, as it can contain pollutants that can weaken and damage your hair.

Your scalp tends to be more itchy when your hair gets wet in rainwater. Rainwater, though seemingly clean, can mess with your scalp's pH, leading to hair problems.

Acidic rainwater and city pollution can settle and irritate your scalp, so wash it soon with a gentle shampoo.

"If it's not possible to wash your hair quickly, make sure to dry your hair using a soft microfiber towel that absorbs water rapidly. Microfiber towels cause less friction and prevent hair fall.

You can take extra care to protect your hair by wearing a raincoat or using an umbrella.

5--- Maintain a Healthy Diet:-----

The health of your hair largely reflects your internal health.

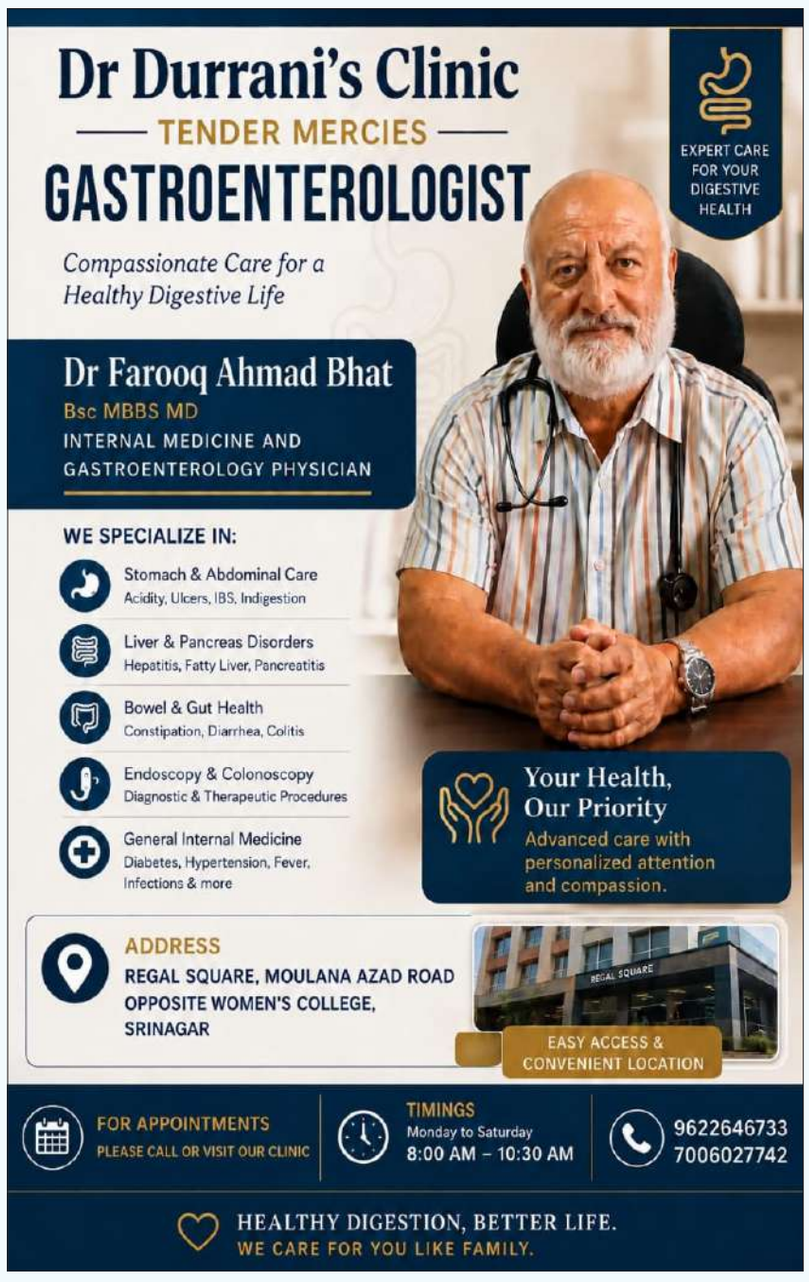
Healthy hair begins from within. Hair follicles need nutrients to grow hair in the first place, so a nutritious diet can help prevent hair loss.

Nutrients protect your hair from damage and help promote hair growth.

While rain might tempt you towards hot and crispy treats, indulging can worsen hair and scalp issues. Opt for a fresh, healthy diet over junk food to protect your locks.

Consuming foods rich in vitamins and minerals, including fruits and vegetables, lean proteins, and whole grains, means your hair gets all the nutrients it requires to grow and become stronger.

Nutritionists suggest consuming: Lean protein, eggs, fish, lentils, nuts, seeds, dark leafy vegetables, and citrus fruits.The author is an internationally famous beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India



District Tennis Ball Cricket Championship Baramulla 2026 Kicks Off in a Colourful Way at Showkat Ali Stadium Baramulla











HT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, AUGUST 26: The District Tennis Ball Cricket Championship Baramulla 2026, featuring Boys and Girls categories, kicked off in a colourful and enthusiastic atmosphere at Showkat Ali Stadium, Baramulla, under the banner of the District Tennis Ball Cricket Association Baramulla.

The opening ceremony witnessed enthusiastic participation from young cricketers, officials, sports enthusiasts and members of the organising association.

District Manager Sports Council Baramulla, Showkat Ahmad and

Incharge Activities DYSSO Baramulla Shabir Ahmad Thoker attended the inaugural ceremony as the Guest of Honour and interacted with the participating players.

He appreciated the efforts of the organisers in providing a platform for young boys and girls to showcase their cricketing talent.

The championship aims to promote tennis-ball cricket at the

grassroots level while encouraging youngsters to participate in sports and develop discipline, teamwork and sportsmanship.

The organisers expressed optimism that the championship will provide exciting cricketing action and help identify promising talent from across Baramulla district.

Sri Lanka erase 213-run deficit, India hit back before rain ends day

United News Of India

COLOMBO, AUG 26: Sri Lanka erased India's imposing 213-run first-innings lead but lost three crucial wickets in a late Indian fightback before rain forced an early close, leaving India firmly in control of the second Test at the Sinhalese Sports Club here on Wednesday.

Sri Lanka, forced to follow on by India after being bowled out for 290 in their first innings, reached 229 for six in 72.4 overs in their second essay to take a 16-run lead. Rain then stopped play at 1637 local time, preventing any further play.

Sonal Dinusha was unbeaten on seven and K Nuwantha on three when play was called off, leaving India needing only four wickets to wrap up the innings and set up a modest fourth-innings chase.

The day initially belonged to Sri Lanka, who responded strongly after India had declared their first innings at 503 for nine. The hosts began their second innings 213 runs behind but staged a determined recovery through Pasindu Sooriyabandara and Kamindu Mendis.

Sri Lanka were 83 for two at lunch, with Sooriyabandara unbeaten on 35 and Mendis on 10. The pair then added 100 runs for the third wicket as Sri Lanka steadily wiped out India's advantage.

Sooriyabandara reached his second fifty of the match off 78 balls, while Mendis brought up his first half-century of the series and his first against India. Sri Lanka reached 150 in 38.3 overs and were 163 for two at the drinks interval.Sooriyabandara survived two difficult chances during his innings. He top-edged a slog-sweep against Manav Suthar, but Mohammed Siraj could not hold a difficult running catch at deep mid-wicket.

Dewald Brevis looks at Namibia tri-series as a great opportunity



United News Of India

WINDHOEK, AUG 26 :One of the exciting prospects in South Africa's squad for the upcoming landmark tri-series against Zimbabwe and Namibia is Dewald Brevis.

The young batting sensation believes a chance to play at the Namibia Cricket Ground in Windhoek, one of the 12 venues at next year's ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, offers a 'great opportunity' to the Proteas.

"I'm very excited. The ground looks beautiful," Brevis told reporters ahead of the T20I tri-series starting August 28.

"Obviously there will always be challenges and conditions, to which you adapt fast, and you make sure when it's a flat wicket, when the conditions are great, that we perform on that.

"And when it's tougher, we find a way to also be positive and make it work. It's exciting, and it's always nice to say if the conditions are tough and you raise your hand as a team and you come on top, it's just a great opportunity."

Namibia are bracing to host the Men's Cricket World Cup for a first time, having successfully staged the ICC Men's Under-19 Cricket World Cup earlier this year.

While South Africa have unveiled a young squad for the upcoming tri-series, Brevis emphasized the fact that the group is looking to make the most of the opportunity.

"I see it as a contest for sure. Obviously, it's younger players, but everyone is very talented and deserves to be here.

"It's an opportunity to represent your country and make your country proud. So, we all are fresh and ready to play."

Brevis, who has featured in 30 T20Is for South Africa, has a century and a half-century to his name.

Right from an impressive Under-19 Cricket World Cup campaign in 2022 to the recent Men's T20 World Cup, the right-handed batter has brought his own unique signature to a strong group of Proteas batters with his fabled no-look shot.

Brevis believes the stroke represents his style of play, and is something that he worked on all by himself.

Bimla Banwala's journey through 100 races continues at Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon

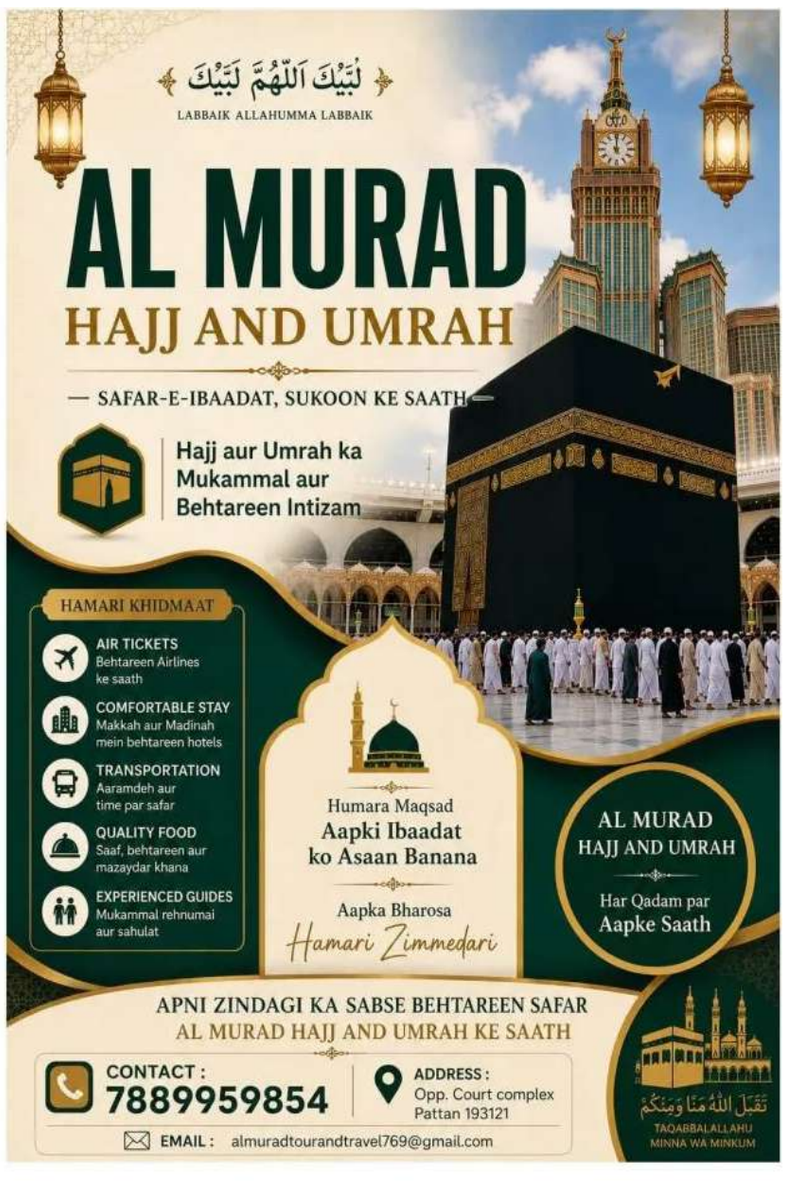
United News Of India

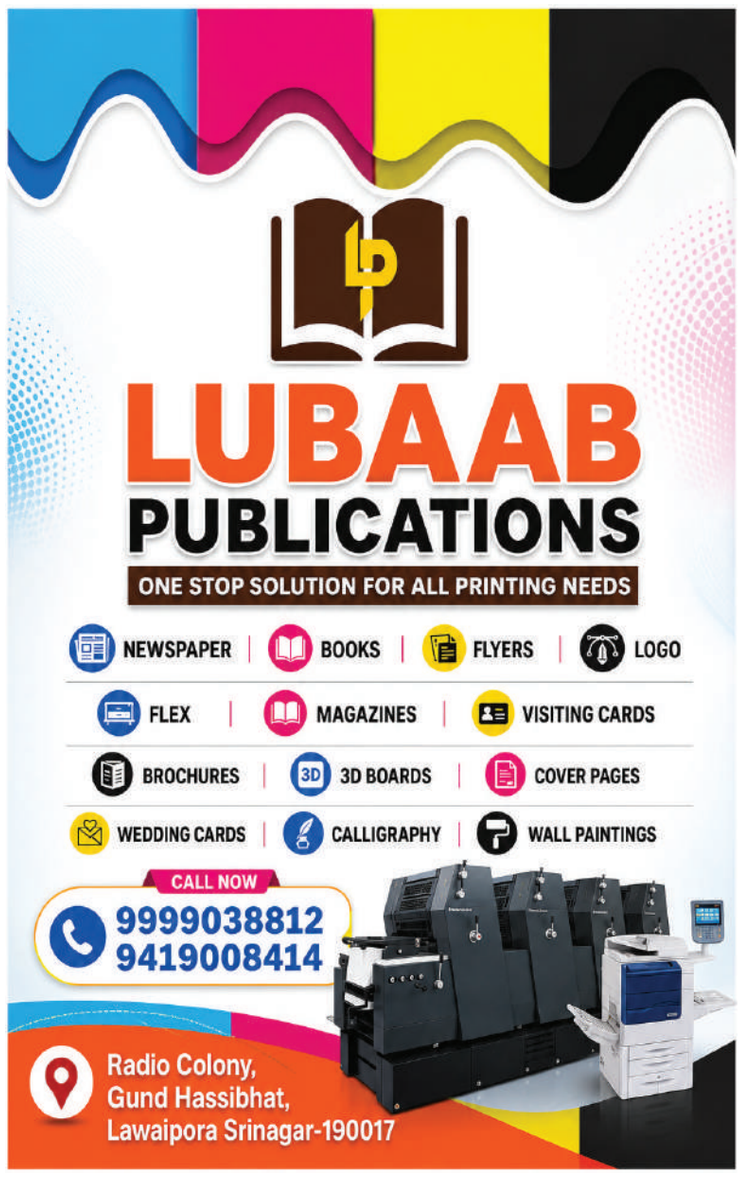
NEW DELHI, AUG 26 (UNI) When 58-year-old Bimla Banwala lines up at the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon, she will be drawing on a journey that has seen her complete more than 100 races, including 50-plus half-marathons, five full marathons, 10Ks and other long-distance events.

A resident of Rohtak, Bimla took up running in 2020 during the pandemic, turning a way to stay active into a passion that now sees her participate in around 10 races every year.

A regular at Procam International's marquee events, Bimla has completed the Procam Slam, the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon, the Tata Mumbai Marathon, the Tata Steel World 25K Kolkata, and the TCS World 10K Bengaluru. For her, however, running is less about numbers and more about the happiness and positivity it brings.

"I started running in 2020, and since then it has become a very important part of my life. I enjoy running in marathon races, and after running, I feel good and have positive energy; my mind remains fresh," says Bimla.What began as Bimla's individual pursuit soon became a shared passion with her husband, Chandrapal Banwala. The couple now travels together for races, taking on new challenges while building memories along the way. Their shared love for running has earned them the affectionate tag of a "power couple" within their running community.A former Army man who joined the forces in 1987, Chandrapal was introduced to sport during his service years, including wrestling. Running became a major part of his life after the pandemic, and he has since completed numerous marathons and ultra-marathons, along with multiple podium finishes.







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