

# J&K Govt committed to best facilities for cancer patients: CM Omar

Addresses World Cancer Day event at GMC Jammu

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 04

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today addressed a World Cancer Day event at Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu, reaffirming the Government's proactive role in ensuring the best possible facilities for cancer patients as well as healthcare professionals.

The programme was organised by GMC Jammu under the theme 'J&K Fights Cancer' to mark World Cancer Day.

The event was attended by Minister for Health & Medical Education Ms. Sakina Itoo, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Jammu West Arvind Gupta, MLA Uri Dr. Sajjad Shafi, Secretary Health & Medical Education Department Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed, Principal GMC Jammu Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, renowned oncologist Dr. Sameer Kaul, senior professors, doctors, faculty members and students.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister expressed hope for a future when the world would truly be able to celebrate World Cancer Day as the day cancer is eradicated. "Till then, we have to manage this disease as best as possible," he



said. Sharing personal experiences, CM Omar Abdullah spoke with deep empathy about the emotional and psychological toll cancer takes on patients and their families. He recalled moments of waiting anxiously for scan results, witnessing loved ones undergoing chemotherapy and radiation, and the pain of losing family members to the disease.

"This disease terrifies people, it terrifies the patient, it terrifies their family, not only because of the prognosis and treatment, but also because of the financial implications," he remarked.

Highlighting the critical role of the Government in combating cancer, the Chief Minister outlined three major responsibilities.

He stressed the importance of supporting research and development,

ensuring quality medical education and facilitating doctors and oncologists in advancing cancer care. He expressed hope that future generations may one day speak of cancer as a disease of the past.

The Chief Minister also underlined the need for robust screening infrastructure, noting that cancer often becomes fatal due to late detection. "Early screening is essential so that this terrible disease can be detected at the earliest stage," he said.

Emphasising the Government's commitment to building strong treatment facilities within Jammu and Kashmir, CM Omar Abdullah said efforts are being made to ensure that fewer patients need to travel outside the region for advanced cancer treatment.

"Our responsibility is to ensure that the least number of patients possible

need to travel outside J&K to avail the best possible healthcare facilities," he stated.

The Chief Minister further stressed the need for a strong financial safety net for economically weaker cancer patients, as the burden of treatment is far heavier on the poor.

Assuring that the Government would act on all suggestions emerging from such events and workshops, he said, "Please rest assured that my Government will not ignore a single one of them. We are committed to ensuring the best possible facilities in our hospitals and the best possible safety net for our patients."

The Chief Minister concluded by expressing admiration for doctors and medical students for choosing the medical profession, acknowledging the sacrifices made by them and their families.

# AIIMS Jammu observes World Cancer Day with Patient-Centric Initiatives

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JAMMU, FEB 04

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Jammu observed World Cancer Day 2026 with a series of patient-focused and awareness-driven activities, reaffirming its commitment to compassionate oncology care. The observance was held under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) D.N. Sharma, Executive Director & CEO, and Prof. (Dr.) Shabab Lalit Angurana, Dean Research and Head, Department of Radiation Oncology, in line with this year's global theme, "United by Unique."

The programme highlighted the individuality of each cancer journey while underscoring the strength of collective support. A key highlight was the "Human Experience" session, where cancer patients and caregivers shared their personal stories, reflecting the emotional and psychological dimensions of treatment.



Caregivers spoke about the challenges of supporting loved ones, while patients expressed gratitude for the empathetic care provided by AIIMS Jammu's doctors, nursing staff, residents, and faculty.

As part of the observance, a Poster Competition was organised on February 3 to promote cancer

awareness and prevention, drawing enthusiastic participation from students and staff. Awareness sessions were also conducted by healthcare professionals, focusing on early detection, multidisciplinary treatment approaches, and the importance of emotional well-being during cancer care.

The event concluded

with the distribution of care baskets to patients and caregivers, followed by a ceremonial cake-cutting and balloon release symbolising hope and resilience. Through these initiatives, AIIMS Jammu reaffirmed its dedication to patient-centered care and community awareness, standing united with those affected by cancer.

## 2-day Dogri Poetry Festival begins at Jammu

Sahitya Akademi, JKAACL unite to promote Dogri language, poetry

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 04

The Sahitya Akademi, under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) today inaugurated a two-day Dogri Poetry Festival at the Writers' Club, K.L. Sehgal Hall-Jammu.

The inaugural session commenced with a welcome address by Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Shanmukhananda, who highlighted the Academy's sustained efforts towards the promotion and preservation of Indian languages with special emphasis on Dogri.

Convener, Dogri Advi-



sory Board, Sahitya Akademi, presented the introductory address and underlined the importance of Dogri literature in India's multilingual literary tradition. The keynote address was delivered by eminent Dogri writer Khajur Singh Thakur, who elaborated on the evolution and contemporary relevance of Dogri

literature. Speaking on the occasion, Additional Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Lal Chand emphasized the vital role of literary institutions in safeguarding and promoting regional languages and cultural heritage.

The presidential address

was delivered by noted Dogri writer Om Goswami, who shared valuable insights into the creative journey of Dogri literature and stressed the need to encourage young and emerging writers.

The proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks by Reeta Khadyal, Editor, Dogri.

## DC Bandipora reviews developmental works during Visit to Gamroo

**BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 04:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Wednesday visited Gamroo and adjoining areas to review the progress of various ongoing developmental works in the district.

During the visit, the DC inspected the under-construction DDC Office Complex at Gamroo and assessed the pace of work. She was informed that the project is nearing completion, with only sanitary and electrical works pending. The DC directed the concerned agencies to expedite the remaining works to ensure timely completion of the facility.

Later, the DC visited the



0.40 MGD Water Supply Scheme at Gamroo Vihara and reviewed its functioning. Officials informed that

the scheme is fully functional and is providing improved drinking water facilities to the local

population. The DC stressed on proper maintenance and sustained service delivery.

Subsequently, the DC reviewed the progress of the Gujar & Bakerwal (G&B) Girls Hostel at Gamroo, being executed by R&B Division Bandipora.

She directed the executing agency to maintain quality standards and adhere to timelines to ensure early completion of the project.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by ACD Bandipora, BDO Bandipora, AEE Jal Shakti Bandipora and other concerned officers during the tour.

## Ministry of MSME organises Mega Two Day Vendor Development Programme in Kashmir

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 04

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), through its field office Branch MSME Development & Facilitation Office (DFO), Srinagar, organised a first-of-its-kind Vendor Development Programme (VDP) involving 9 CPSEs in the Kashmir region, aimed at strengthening market linkages between Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) and local Micro & Small Enterprises (MSEs).

The programme saw the presence of senior officers from the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, including the Director Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir, Massrat Ul Islam; Director KPDCL, Mehmood Ahmad Shah, and Director Industries & Commerce Kashmir, Khalid Majeed.

The programme was organised under the guidance of A.K. Tamaria, Joint Director/Head of Office



MSME DFO Jammu and coordinated by Saheel Alaqband, Assistant Director Branch MSME DFO Srinagar.

The two-day programme witnessed participation from nine leading

CPSEs, including NHAI, NHPC, IOCL, FCI, BPCL, POWERGRID, HPCL, CPWD and NSIC.

Senior officials from these CPSEs participated to deliberate on the Public Procurement Policy of Gov-

ernment of India and its role in promoting and supporting MSEs.

Senior officials from GeM Headquarters, New Delhi, were also present and actively engaged with participating enterprises.

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 04

The World Cancer Day was today observed at the District Headquarters Budgam with a series of awareness and medical education activities aimed at promoting cancer prevention, early detection, and patient-centered care.

The programme was organised by the District Administration Budgam in collaboration with the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Budgam and the Oncology Department of Paras Hospital Srinagar.

The event was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat.

Besides, CMO Budgam, DIO Budgam, NT Headquarters, the programme witnessed participation from senior district officers, health officials, doctors, paramedical staff, and other stakeholders.

Speaking on the occasion, The DC highlighted the growing burden of cancer and stressed the critical importance of awareness, timely screening, and early diagnosis in improving survival outcomes. He emphasised that community-level sensitisation, strengthening of primary healthcare systems, and ensuring timely referrals are essential to combat cancer effectively.

The DC underscored the



role of preventive healthcare, lifestyle modifications, and regular health check-ups in reducing cancer risk. He also drew attention to environmental factors contributing to rising health concerns and spoke about the hazardous effects of pollution, particularly emissions from brick kilns, on public health.

The DC stated that prolonged exposure to polluted air and industrial emissions can aggravate respiratory ailments and increase the risk of serious diseases, including cancer. He stressed the need for strict monitoring of polluting units, adherence to environmental norms, and collective efforts to reduce air pollution in order to safeguard public health.

The DC further called for

greater inter-departmental coordination to address environmental health challenges in a comprehensive manner. He also reaffirmed the commitment of the District Administration to support health initiatives, enhance coordination among departments, and ensure better access to specialised oncology services for the people of Budgam.

The DC called upon health professionals, frontline workers, and community stakeholders to work collectively towards creating a cancer-aware society and improving healthcare delivery at the grassroots level.

On the occasion, Specialist in Oncology, Dr. Shabnam Bashir from Paras Hospital Srinagar delivered a detailed

guest lecture focusing on cancer awareness and management.

She spoke extensively about common cancers, particularly breast cancer and colorectal cancer, highlighting early warning signs, screening protocols, and the importance of timely medical consultation.

Dr. Bashir also emphasised advances in cancer treatment and the need for patient-centric care to improve treatment outcomes and quality of life for cancer patients.

The participants lauded the efforts of the District Administration and appreciated the initiative aimed at strengthening cancer awareness and medical education in the district.