

# JAMMU & KASHMIR

## Dy CM greets people on Eid-ul-Fitr, Nauroz

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, MAR 20

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today extended warm greetings to the people on the auspicious occasions of Eid-ul-Fitr and Nauroz.

He said that both the festivals hold immense religious and cultural significance and reflect the rich composite heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Deputy Chief Minister extolled that Eid-ul-Fitr marks the culmination of holy month of Ramzan-ul-Mubarak, symbolising compassion, gratitude and generosity. He said that Nauroz, to be celebrated on March 21, heralds the arrival of spring and is observed with great religious as well as cultural fervour and joy.

Expressing hope on the sacred occasions, he prayed for the wellbeing, peace and prosperity of all. He urged the people to further strengthen the bonds of coexistence, harmony and brotherhood.

He added that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have always set a shining example of unity, love and communal harmony, celebrating each other's festivals with great enthusiasm and mutual respect.

## Javid Dar extends Eid-ul-Fitr greetings; prays for peace, prosperity

**SRINAGAR, MARCH 20:** Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Co-operative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar today extended heartfelt greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, wishing them peace, prosperity, happiness and well-being.

In his message, the Minister highlighted the profound spiritual and social significance of Eid-ul-Fitr, which marks the culmination of the holy month of Ramzan a period devoted to fasting, prayer, reflection and self-discipline. He said the festival is an occasion to express sincere gratitude to Almighty Allah for granting strength and resilience to observe the fasts and for guiding believers on the path of righteousness.

Javid Dar noted that Eid-ul-Fitr symbolizes the values of compassion, charity, forgiveness and brotherhood, which are essential for building a harmonious and progressive society.

He urged the people to imbibe these virtues in their daily lives and extend a helping hand to the underprivileged, thereby reinforcing the spirit of inclusiveness and social responsibility.

The Minister further said that festivals like Eid serve as a reminder of the importance of unity in diversity and provide an opportunity to strengthen the bonds of communal harmony and mutual respect among different sections of society. He called upon the people to celebrate the occasion with joy and simplicity while upholding the rich traditions of togetherness and cultural harmony.

Expressing hope for a brighter and more prosperous future, Javid Dar said that such auspicious occasions inspire collective efforts towards peace, development and progress. He reiterated the commitment of the government towards ensuring the welfare and upliftment of all sections of society.

## Rana extends Eid-ul-Fitr, Nauroz greetings

**JAMMU, MARCH 20:** Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology, Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, on Friday conveyed his heartfelt greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, saying that the festival inspires all to lead a peaceful life and work for the prosperity of society.

Describing Eid as a festival of gratitude and togetherness, the Minister said that it reflects the essence of patience, self-discipline and spiritual growth observed during the holy month of Ramadan.

Rana emphasized that the occasion serves as a reminder to strengthen bonds of harmony and extend support to the poor and underprivileged and share happiness with them.

Highlighting the values associated with the festival, the Minister also expressed hope that the festival would bring happiness, prosperity and well-being to all and further reinforce the values of unity and brotherhood across the region.

"On this auspicious occasion, let us spread the feelings of love, kindness and compassion while working collectively for the betterment of our society," the Minister added.

While extending Nauroz greetings, Javed Rana said that Nauroz marks the arrival of the spring season and symbolizes renewal, hope and positivity. He added that the festival reflects the enduring values of peace, harmony and cultural diversity.

Rana expressed hope that the occasion would further strengthen the bonds of unity and togetherness among the people and inspire collective efforts towards building a harmonious society.

He also prayed for peace, progress and prosperity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

## Sakeena Itoo extends Eid-ul-Fitr, Nauroz greetings

**SRINAGAR, MARCH 20:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo has extended warm greetings and heartfelt wishes to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the joyous occasions of Eid-ul-Fitr and Nauroz.

In her greetings, the Minister said that Eid-ul-Fitr symbolizes compassion, generosity and gratitude, marking the culmination of holy month of reflection, self-discipline and spiritual rejuvenation. She urged people to embrace the true spirit of the festival by strengthening bonds of brotherhood, extending support to the underprivileged and fostering unity within society.

While extending her greetings on Nauroz, the Minister noted that the festival represents renewal, hope and the arrival of spring, inspiring optimism and collective progress. She emphasized that such occasions remind society of shared traditions and values that promote inclusiveness and mutual respect.

The Minister also prayed for peace, progress and prosperity of entire Jammu and Kashmir.

## Rana highlights urban heritage, water sustainability at 'Best of My City' Book launch

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, MAR 20

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today attended the launching ceremony of coffee table book "Best of My City" at Jammu. Being organized by Amar Ujala, the event was attended by the prominent citizens, officials and stakeholders from diverse sectors.

The Minister lauded the initiative, emphasizing that such publications serve as an important medium to showcase the cultural richness, historical legacy and developmental journey of cities. He commended Amar Ujala for curating a visually compelling and comprehensive portrayal of urban life, noting that the book reflects the spirit, diversity and aspirations of the people.

While appreciating the creative effort, Rana also used the occasion to draw



attention to pressing environmental concerns, particularly the alarming decline in groundwater levels. He underscored the urgent need for collective action towards water conservation and sustainable resource management.

Stressing the importance of reviving traditional water systems, he called for renewed focus on the restoration and recharge of

hand pumps, bore wells and other indigenous water sources. Highlighting the government's proactive approach, the Minister reaffirmed its commitment towards strengthening the water infrastructure across Jammu & Kashmir.

Rana further emphasized that efficient implementation, coupled with rigorous monitoring, will be key to enhance service delivery

and ensuring long-term water security for the people.

Reiterating Omar Abdullah led government's vision, he called for collaborative efforts among all stakeholders to achieve sustainable development and responsible resource management, ensuring a balanced and resilient future for coming generations.

## Dir Agri reviews final works of Centre of Excellence at Krishi Bhawan Jammu

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, MAR 20

Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta today reviewed the final stage works of the Centre of Excellence (COE) for Entrepreneurship in Precision Vegetable and Floriculture Farming being established at Vegetable Improvement Scheme, Krishi Bhawan, Talab Tillo Jammu.

The Centre of Excellence (COE) is being developed under the NABARD RIDF-XXX scheme with a total investment of Rs. 5.92 crore. The project features a state-of-the-art polycarbonate greenhouse covering an area of 3511 square meters. Speaking on the occasion, the Director stated that the construction of the Centre of Excellence has been completed and the facility will be inaugurated shortly to make it operational for the farming community. He added that the Centre will soon be opened to provide advanced services to farmers across the Jammu Division.



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The Centre of Excellence is expected to play a transformative role in strengthening the agricultural sector by supplying high-quality, high-yielding vegetable and floriculture seedlings. It will also facilitate the adoption of modern and precision farming techniques, thereby enhancing productivity and improving crop quality for farmers in the region.

Highlighting the significance of the initiative, Anil Gupta emphasized that the

Centre will serve as a platform for promoting entrepreneurship in vegetable and floriculture farming. It will equip farmers with modern tools, technical know-how and sustainable agricultural practices, enabling them to increase income and ensure long-term agricultural growth.

The project aligns with the government's vision of promoting innovation, technology-driven agriculture, and sustainable development. The Centre will function as a hub for training, research, and development, benefitting farmers throughout the Jammu Division.

Joint Director Agriculture (SLUB/Farms) Aman Jyoti Sharma, Assistant Botanist, Ajit Singh, I/c COE/Floriculture Dev. Astd. Surinder Radotra along with other officers from Vegetable Improvement Scheme and staff of the Agriculture Department accompanied the Director. Representatives from other concerned agencies were also present on the occasion.

## Market checking intensifies in Ramban town ahead of festival celebrations



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, MAR 20

Under the guidance of

the Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan, market checking drives have been

intensified across district Ramban to ensure fair trade practices during the ongoing festival season.

The inspection team was headed by Tehsildar Ramban, Deep Kumar along with CEO MC Ramban Sudrashan Jamwal and other concerned officers and officials. The team conducted the drive in close coordination with the Police Department.

During the drive, various eateries, vegetable shops and other establishments were inspected to ensure the availability of quality food items and adherence to prescribed rates. The team also verified that shopkeepers were not increasing the prices of essential commodities in view of the festival celebrations.

During the inspection, several shop owners were fined for violating rules and regulations.

The authorities reiterated that strict action will continue against violators to safeguard consumer interests.

The district administration urged all traders to maintain hygiene standards, display rate lists and follow government guidelines to avoid penalties.

## Satish extends Eid greetings; calls for unity, mutual harmony

**SRINAGAR, MARCH 20:** Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, IT, Transport, Youth Services & Sports and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Eid.

In his message, the Minister conveyed sincere wishes for peace, prosperity and well-being of all citizens. He expressed hope that the sacred festival would bring immense joy, happiness and blessings to every household across Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting the spiritual and social significance of Eid, Satish Sharma said that the festival embodies the timeless values of compassion, generosity, sacrifice and brotherhood. He noted that Eid is an occasion to strengthen communal harmony and promote a sense of unity and mutual respect among people from all walks of life.

The Minister urged the people to celebrate the festival in its true spirit by reaching out to the underprivileged and marginalized sections of society. "Eid teaches us to share our happiness with others and to ensure that no one is left behind in moments of celebration," he remarked.

Reaffirming the government's commitment towards ensuring availability of essential commodities during the festive period, Satish Sharma maintained that adequate measures have been put in place to maintain smooth supply of food grains, LPG and other essential items across markets. He also emphasized strict monitoring to prevent black marketing, hoarding and overpricing, ensuring that people do not face any inconvenience during the festivities.

The Minister further highlighted the importance of youth engagement and community participation during such occasions, urging young people to take a lead in promoting harmony, cleanliness and social responsibility in their respective localities.

He also called upon the transport authorities and service providers to ensure seamless mobility for the public during Eid, facilitating safe and hassle-free travel for those visiting their families and loved ones.

Satish Sharma prayed for sustained peace, progress and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir and reiterated the government's resolve to work tirelessly for welfare and development of the people.

He appealed to the public to celebrate Eid with responsibility, maintain cleanliness, and adhere to public safety norms, so that the festival remains a joyous and inclusive occasion for all.

## DC Kathua inspects LPG distribution, assures adequate supply

**KATHUA, MARCH 20:** Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today visited Vimal Gas Agency to review the availability and distribution of domestic LPG in the district.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner stated that there is no scarcity of domestic LPG and adequate stock is available to meet the demand of consumers. He reassured the public that the supply chain is functioning smoothly and there is no need for panic.

The DC informed that teams have been constituted to keep a close vigil on LPG distribution and to ensure that no hoarding or black marketing takes place. He emphasized that strict action will be taken against any such violations.

Providing further details, the DC said that the booking cycle for LPG refills has been streamlined, with the next booking permitted after 25 days in urban areas and 45 days in rural areas. He also added that the OTP-related issues have been resolved and the system is now functioning in a regulated manner.

The Deputy Commissioner urged people to follow the prescribed booking norms and avoid unnecessary rush at distribution points.

ADC Kathua Vishavjeet Singh accompanied the DC during the visit. Owner of Vimal Gas Agency, T R Bhagat was also present.

## DDC Poonch reviews progress of Vibrant Village Programme-II



**POONCH, MARCH 20:** District Development Commissioner (DDC) Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of the Vibrant Village Programme-II, an ambitious initiative of the Ministry of Home Affairs aimed at transforming the socio-economic landscape of border areas.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on achieving full saturation across key thematic areas identified under the programme. The DDC emphasized the need to bridge critical gaps in essential sectors, including network connectivity, road accessibility and household electrification in border villages.

Stressing accountability and timely execution, the District Development Commissioner directed all concerned departments to upload details of ongoing works on the designated portal for effective monitoring and transparency. He also underscored the importance of promoting sustainable livelihood opportunities in border villages under public livelihood initiatives.

The DDC further instructed departments to conduct comprehensive gap analyses across all thematic areas and submit detailed reports to the DC Office for necessary action.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC said that the Vibrant Village Programme is poised to become a transformative initiative for the border district. He reiterated that the district administration remains committed to ensuring inclusive development and significantly enhancing the quality of life for residents of border villages.