

CM Omar lauds HDFC Bank's growth in Jammu and Kashmir

Addresses HDFC Bank’s Annual Function at SKICC

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 30

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, on Friday evening, addressed the annual function of HDFC Bank at SKICC, where he lauded the institution’s growth, resilience and long-term commitment to Jammu & Kashmir.

Highlighting J&K’s tourism legacy, Omar Abdullah recalled the historic description of Kashmir as “heaven on earth” inscribed on the walls of the Red Fort centuries ago.

He remarked that while many regions now market themselves with catchy slogans, Jammu & Kashmir has always stood as the original symbol of natural beauty and tourism promotion.

He urged visitors to explore beyond Srinagar, assuring that their experiences would encourage them to return with families and friends.

Emphasizing the impor-



ance of sustainable tourism, the Chief Minister said, “Our success will not be measured by bringing you here once, but by ensuring you return. Repeat visits are the true measure of our tourism efforts.”

He noted that HDFC Bank has become an important partner in Jammu and Kashmir’s economic progress. With 124 branches and a wide network of ATMs across urban as well as remote areas, the bank has extended

its services to deposits, lending, priority sector financing and customer-driven initiatives, reflecting its deep-rooted commitment to the people of J&K.

The Chief Minister expressed gratitude to HDFC Bank for choosing Jammu and Kashmir for its prestigious annual function, remarking that such events reinforce the growing partnership of J&K with the banking sector.

“HDFC Bank’s presence here today is not just a cel-

ebation of financial success, but a reaffirmation of faith in Jammu and Kashmir’s potential and its future,” Omar Abdullah said.

Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, legislators Farooq Ahmad Shah and Tanvir Sadiq, along with senior managers, representatives, officials of HDFC Bank and delegates who had come from different parts of the country, were also present on the occasion.

Rana reviews restoration of water supply in flood-affected Jammu

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JAMMU, AUG 30

In a proactive effort to restore essential services in flood-affected areas of Jammu, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, chaired a high-level review meeting with key officials, legislators and district heads.

The primary focus of the meeting was to assess and expedite the restoration of disrupted water supply services in the wake of the recent floods.

The meeting was attended by DDC Chairperson Bharat Bhushan, legislators Ch. Vikram Randhawa, Arvind Gupta, Sham Lal Sharma, Dr. Narinder Singh, along with senior officers including Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation, Chief Engineers of I&FC, Jal Shakti, and UEED Jammu, as well as Superintending Engineers and Executive Engineers.

During the session, the Minister was briefed on the ongoing restoration efforts, the progress made so far, challenges faced, and the measures being implemented to speed up relief operations and restore normal water supply.

Rana emphasized the urgency of restoring the water supply infrastructure, particularly in flood-impacted areas, ensuring that residents have access to clean drinking water.

The Minister directed the immediate deployment of water tankers to areas



where the water supply had been severely disrupted. He also recommended utilizing private water tankers on an interim basis to augment the existing fleet of tankers and ensure an uninterrupted water supply.

Additionally, he proposed the use of fire tenders for areas where tankers could not reach, ensuring a continuous supply of water to the affected communities.

To streamline the restoration efforts, Minister Rana directed the nomination of a dedicated nodal officer to coordinate between departments and ensure the timely completion of restoration work.

Furthermore, he instructed the Chief Engineer to oversee the distribution of restoration tasks and rationalize manpower to speed up the restoration process.

The legislators who attended the meeting voiced their constituency-specific challenges, urging a faster pace of restoration. They highlighted areas where water supply had been severely hampered and

called for immediate action. In response, the Minister assured the legislators that their concerns were a priority for the government. He also reassured them that a range of measures were already underway to address the issues and expedite the restoration process.

Rana was informed that restoration work on the Water Supply Scheme in Shitlee is currently progressing in double shifts and will be fully restored within five days.

Additionally, the Power Development Department (PDD) has been instructed to immediately restore the dedicated feeder lines identified by the Jal Shakti Department, which is crucial for the restoration of water supply in the affected regions.

The Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED), in collaboration with the Flood Control Department, has been tasked with working alongside the concerned MLA to develop a comprehensive master plan for the construction of nallas (drains) and restoration of

flood-damaged infrastructure.

This plan will ensure that the water supply infrastructure is fortified and restored in the long term to prevent future disruptions.

Earlier, the Minister visited Bathindi Heights in Jammu to listen to the public’s grievances. Accompanied by former legislator T.S. Tony and senior officials from the Jal Shakti Department, Rana reassured residents that the government was fully committed to ensuring uninterrupted access to drinking water.

Rana stressed that providing safe drinking water to the citizens, especially in the aftermath of the floods, is the government’s primary responsibility.

He assured the public that all necessary measures were being taken to restore the flood-hit water supply infrastructure at the earliest. The government is focused on speedy restoration, and with the cooperation of all stakeholders, it aims to bring normalcy back to the affected regions as swiftly as possible.

CM Omar Abdullah reviews restoration of Sgr-Jmu National Highway and other roads

Focus on opening NH-44, ensure supply of essentials to cut-off areas and using alternate routes to isolated districts: CM

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 30

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a high-level meeting to review the restoration works on Jammu–Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) and other major roads damaged by the recent incessant rains.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Home, Principal Secretary Public Works (R&B), Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir, several Deputy Commissioners, and senior officers from BRO, NHIDCL, NHA, J&K Police and other concerned departments.

The Chief Minister directed authorities to ensure swift restoration of road connectivity, smooth traffic movement and uninterrupted supply of essentials, particularly to the Kashmir Valley and remote areas of Jammu division. He emphasized the need for close inter-departmental coordi-



nation and timely updates to respond promptly to public needs.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo briefed the meeting about the condition of NH-44, describing its restoration as the top priority since it is the lifeline connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country. He stressed the importance of facilitating movement of perishable commodities like fruit from the Valley and highlighted the grim situation in areas such as Kishtwar and Udhampur, which are facing outages of power, drinking water, road connectivity and mobile networks.

He further underlined

the need for temporary restoration of highways such as Dhar–Mahanpur, Ramban–Gool, and Reasi–Mahore to reconnect affected districts.

The Chief Minister enquired about the stock position of ration, fuel and medicines in cut-off places like Bani, Kishtwar, Reasi and Udhampur. He directed officers to replenish supplies through alternate routes — including via Anantnag for Kishtwar and through Baderwah for Bani — until full restoration of roads is achieved.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu informed the meeting about the ongoing restoration works on NH-

44, resumption of supplies into the Valley, and special trains being run to facilitate passengers and tourists. He assured that there is no shortage of ration, fuel or other essentials in Jammu and efforts are being made to keep cut-off areas adequately stocked. Similarly, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir informed that the Valley has sufficient supplies of fuel and ration.

The Chief Minister also directed that all roads under BRO, NHA, NHIDCL and other agencies that remain disconnected be monitored closely, with status reports shared with his office twice daily — morning and evening.

Itoo inaugurates 1st Annual MMFDIACON25 International Endocrinology Conference at Sgr

Emphasis on addressing diabetes, its complications in elderly population

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 30

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo today emphasized on the need to strengthen preventive and curative healthcare systems for the elderly population as diabetes has emerged as a silent yet pressing health challenge among our elders.

The Health Minister made these remarks while delivering the key note address after inaugurating 1st Annual MMFDIACON25 International Endocrinology Conference at Government Medical College (GMC) here today.

The conference was organised by GMC Srinagar in collaboration with the Department of Endocrinology of Super Speciality hospital, MMF Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies on Ageing and Moul Mouj Foundation.

The conference, themed “Elders Deserve Better: Diabetes and its Complications in the Elderly - An Interdisciplinary Approach,” brought together experts and professionals from various fields to discuss the latest developments and challenges in managing diabetes and its complications in the elderly.

In her key note address, the Minister emphasized on the importance of addressing diabetes and its complications in the elderly population, highlighting the government’s commitment to improving healthcare outcomes. She stressed on the urgent need to strengthen preventive and curative healthcare systems for the elderly population, particularly those grappling with chronic conditions like diabetes.

“Diabetes in the elderly is not just a medical issue but also a social challenge. Our elders deserve compassion, timely diagnosis, and collaborative treatment strategies that address the full spectrum of complications. This conference is a significant step toward building that holistic model of care,” she said.



The Minister congratulated GMC Srinagar for holding such academic event on a topic of immense public health importance. She emphasized on the crucial role of healthy ageing in ensuring the well-being of society and noted that while diabetes is rapidly increasing among the elderly, its rising prevalence in the young population is equally alarming. She stressed that combating diabetes requires a multi-pronged approach, ranging from lifestyle modification and diet to sustained physical activity.

Commending the efforts of the organizing committee and GMC Srinagar, Minister Sakeena emphasized on the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in tackling diabetes-related complications. She assured that the government is committed to advancing specialized healthcare facilities, strengthening preventive programs, and ensuring wider access to diagnostic and treatment services in both urban and rural areas of Jammu & Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal/Dean, GMC Srinagar and Patrons of the conference, Dr. Iffat Hassan Shah highlighted that GMC Srinagar and its associated hospitals remain at the forefront of healthcare delivery in Kashmir, with a special focus on the needs

of the elderly population. HoD Endocrinology, Dr. M. Hayat, in his address underlined the urgency of the conference theme, noting the multiple and complex complications of diabetes witnessed among elderly patients, which necessitate interdisciplinary discussion and intervention, while as Senior Consultant Geriatrics and Academic Convener, CISA, Dr. Zubair Saleem reaffirmed that CISA and MMF are committed not only to the treatment of ageing parents in Kashmir but also to advancing academic research and policy dialogue in geriatrics.

Consultant Endocrinology, Dr. Mir Shahnawaz, underscored the need to study and address the unique complications of diabetes in elderly patients, particularly those that affect their quality of life and independence.

During the inaugural session, the Impact Report of the Moul Mouj Foundation was also released.

As part of the conference several scientific sessions were held.

Dr. John Ebnezar, Padmashri and Dr. B.C. Roy awardee, delivered a virtual lecture on frailty fractures in elderly with diabetes. Dr. M. A. Mazaid from Egypt spoke virtually on osteoporotic vertebral risks in elderly diabetics, while Dr. Sergio Rowinski from Brazil virtually discussed adhesive capsulitis

and its management in diabetics.

National experts spoke on a wide range of interdisciplinary topics like Prof. S. M. Salim (HOD SPM, GMC Srinagar), spoke on Epidemiology of T2DM in the Elderly, Dr. Bashir A. Laway (Senior endocrinologist) spoke on Management of Diabetic Sarcopenia, Dr. Tajamul H. Mir (HOD Nephrology, GMC Srinagar) on Diabetic Nephropathy in the Elderly, Prof. Bashir A. Sanaie (HOD Neurology, GMC Srinagar) spoke on Management of Stroke in Elderly Diabetics, Prof. Arshad Hussain (IMHANS-K) on Geriatric Diabetes and Mood Disorders, Dr. Asif Nazir (Consultant Orthopedics, GMC Srinagar) on Diabetic Foot Challenges in the Elderly, Dr. Khurshid Ahmad Bhat (Consultant Endocrinologist) on Managing High-Risk T2DM in Elderly with Multiple Risk Factors and Dr. Wasim Rashid (Consultant Cardiologist, GMC Srinagar) on Cardiovascular Risk Reduction Beyond Sugar Control.

The conference also featured free paper and poster sessions, with enthusiastic participation from delegates representing GMC Srinagar, SKIMS, JLN Hospital, and other GMCs across Kashmir. Three best posters were awarded ₹5,000 (First), ₹3,000 (Second), and ₹2,000 (Third), while the best free paper was given a token award of ₹1,000.

A unique feature of the event was the felicitation of senior citizens for their contributions to society. Among those honoured were governing board members of CISA, representatives of GK Labs for their unwavering support in providing home-based care to MMF, and distinguished doctors including Dr. Farida Ashai, Dr. Abdul Wahid, Dr. G.Q. Khan, Dr. Tafazzul Hussain, Dr. Mushtaq Marghoob, Dr. Tajamul Fazili, and Mr. Abdul Rashid Malik.

A key highlight of the event was a short film on the role of a father in raising his children, produced and directed by Dr. Tajamul H. Mir.

J&K Judicial Academy organizes one-day training programme on Cyber Laws at Srinagar

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 30: Under the patronage of Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), and under the guidance of the Chairperson and Members of the Governing Committee, the Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy organized a one-day training programme on “Cyber Laws & Appreciation and Handling of Digital Evidence” for the Judicial Officers of Kashmir Province and the Union Territory of Ladakh.

The inaugural proceedings were conducted by Sonia Gupta, Director Judicial Academy, who emphasized that the programme aimed to equip Judicial Officers with updated knowledge and practical insights on the emerging and

evolving domain of cyber laws and the effective handling of digital evidence in Judicial proceedings.

The technical sessions were led by Dr. Nisheeth Dixit, an eminent cyber expert from Delhi, who highlighted the growing importance of Judicial awareness in the digital era, where cyber-crime and electronic evidence increasingly shape litigation. He elaborated on recent developments in case law influencing judicial interpretation of digital evidence and discussed the legal framework governing cyber offenses. Dr. Dixit explained procedures for authentication, preservation, and admissibility of electronic records and addressed the challenges faced in handling and evaluating digital evidence.

A key highlight of the session was the

discussion on landmark case laws, including Sanjaysinh Ramrao Chavan vs. Dattatray Gulabrao Phalke [MANU/SC/0040/2015], where the Supreme Court ruled on the admissibility of recorded conversations. It was emphasized that without analyzing the original voice recording, translated transcriptions lack authenticity and cannot be relied upon. Dr. Dixit stressed that source and authenticity are the two crucial factors determining the evidentiary value of electronic records.

The programme featured interactive discussions, case analyses, and practical demonstrations, enabling participants to gain hands-on exposure to the complexities of digital forensics and evidence appreciation.