



Dr Wahied Khawar Balwan
Associate Professor of Zoology,
Govt. Degree College, Doda (J&K)

Dr Wahied Khawar Balwan is a prolific academician, author, and science communicator serving as Associate Professor in Zoology at Government Degree College Doda, Jammu & Kashmir. With over 92 research publications in UGC-CARE, Scopus, and Web of Science-indexed journals, he has made significant contributions to life sciences. He has authored, edited, or co-authored 76 books—a rare feat in the Union Territory.

Recipient of over 66 national and international awards—including the Innovative Science Teacher Award (DST, J&K) and the Congress of Zoology Gold Medal—Dr Balwan is also honoured with honorary D.Litt. and D.Sc. degrees. He has presented in more than 70 national and

international conferences and delivered over 35 invited lectures.

A passionate mentor, he has guided numerous postgraduate dissertations and co-supervised a Ph.D. thesis. He actively coordinates academic and administrative initiatives, including NEP 2020 implementation, IQAC, AISHE, and internal examinations. As a science communicator, he regularly contributes popular articles under *Vigyan Setu* and *Everyman's Science* series.

Dr Balwan is a fellow of over 35 academic societies and serves as an editor and reviewer for leading scientific journals, continuing to inspire excellence in teaching, research, and community outreach.

Building Knowledge Bridges from the Himalayas: The Inspiring Journey of Dr Wahied Khawar Balwan

In the remote mountainous district of Doda in Jammu and Kashmir, a zoologist is transforming higher education, research culture, and science communication through sheer commitment and prolific scholarly output.

High in the Chenab Valley, where clouds skim the Deodar forests and the challenges of remoteness often overshadow academic ambition, **Dr Wahied Khawar Balwan** is scripting an extraordinary story—one that transcends geography and discipline. A distinguished **Associate Professor of Zoology at Government Degree College, Doda (J&K)**, Dr Balwan is not just an educator but a force multiplier in India's scientific ecosystem.

With over **92 peer-reviewed research publications, 76 books, 65 awards**, and a strong commitment to both formal and informal science education, Dr Wahied is widely recognized as one of the most prolific academic contributors from the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. But it's not just the numbers that impress—it's his unflinching belief in the power of accessible, value-based, and visionary education.

His work is shaping not only young minds in his classrooms but also researchers, civil service aspirants, clinicians, and the public across India and beyond.

Roots of Resolve: A Scholar's Journey from Doda

Born on **July 31, 1980**, D. Wahied Khawar Balwan's academic journey began amid the socio-political and infrastructural limitations of rural Jammu & Kashmir. Despite facing challenges typical of conflict-affected and hilly regions—lack of resources, mobility barriers, and minimal exposure to global research—he rose steadily through the ranks of academia.

His primary field of study, **Zoology with a specialization in Genetics**, became his platform not just for research but for wide-ranging contributions to education, curriculum development, and medical diagnostics.

He pursued his academic work with rigor and passion, eventually earning recognition not just in India, but internationally. He was conferred with an **Honorary D.Litt. by the University of South America** and a **D.Sc. (*honoris causa*)** by Ballbridge University, Republic of Dominica—global acknowledgments of his dedication to science.

Research, Writing, and Reach: An Unparalleled Academic Footprint

Few educators in India have matched Dr Wahied's pace and productivity. His **92 research papers** published in **UGC Care-listed, Scopus, and Web of Science-indexed journals** have significantly advanced the field of genetics and zoology. His scholarly writing delves into subjects ranging from developmental biology and population genetics to environmental biology and health science.

His **76 published books**—including textbooks, reference books, edited volumes, and co-authored works—represent a vast corpus of accessible scientific knowledge. These are now valuable assets to **undergraduate and postgraduate students, NET aspirants, and civil service candidates**, especially in regions where standard academic resources are often scarce.

Dr Wahied is also a prolific **science communicator**. He has written over **65 popular science articles** in magazines and newspapers, especially under initiatives like "Science Connect," "Vigyan Setu," and "Everyman's Science"—demystifying science for general readers and encouraging youth participation.

Leading from the Front: Teaching, Mentoring, and Curriculum Development

At the Government Degree College, Doda, Dr Wahied wears many hats. Besides teaching zoology, he actively contributes to the institution's academic ecosystem as:

- **Coordinator of Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)**
- **Convener of Admission and Examination Committees**
- **Coordinator for Skill Courses and AISHE (All India Survey on Higher Education)**
- **Contributor to NEP 2020 implementation at college level**

He has mentored **numerous M.Sc. dissertations** for students affiliated with Barkatullah University, Bhopal; Lucknow University; and the University of Jammu (Institute of Human Genetics). In 2021, he **co-supervised a Ph.D. scholar** awarded the doctoral degree in Zoology from Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University, Agra, and he also conducted **Ph.D. viva voce** for scholars from Marathwada University in 2021 and 2023.

His teaching effectiveness is echoed in **consistent student feedback**, peer admiration, and departmental excellence.

Thought Leadership in Conferences and Academia

Dr Wahied is a regular presence at **national and international conferences**. He has:

- **Presented research in over 70 seminars/conferences**
- **Participated in 110+ academic events (seminars, courses, workshops)**
- **Delivered 35+ invited/plenary/resource person lectures**
- **Chaired or co-chaired 20 technical sessions**
- **Organized 10 major conferences and workshops**

Such sustained engagement with the academic community has allowed him to influence curriculum discourse, research trends, and inter-disciplinary collaboration—especially between life sciences, health sciences, and environmental studies.

He is also a **fellow member of 35 academic and research bodies**, signifying his broad-based intellectual footprint.

Awards and Recognitions: An Honours Gallery

Dr Wahied has been conferred with **66 national and international awards**, a testament to his scholarship, pedagogy, and innovation. Some notable accolades include:

- **Innovative Science Teacher Award** by the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir
- **Congress of Zoology Gold Medal** by Zoological Society of India
- **Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Award** by the Asian Biological Research Foundation
- **Honorary D.Litt. and D.Sc.** degrees for contributions to biological sciences and education

These awards reflect not just individual excellence but the symbolic rise of Jammu & Kashmir in India's scientific map, largely catalysed by leaders like Dr Wahied.

Research Impact on Society: Science That Serves

Dr Wahied's work is far from ivory tower academia—it actively improves lives. His doctoral research offered **first-of-its-kind diagnostic insights** in J&K, aiding **clinicians and medical scientists** in understanding regional health and genetics.

Moreover, his **books serve as lifelines** for students preparing for civil services, competitive exams, or higher education—particularly in underserved and conflict-affected areas. His writing simplifies complex biological processes, bringing clarity and confidence to learners often left behind in the educational race.

His contribution to **scientific temperament, career guidance, and curriculum democratization** has enabled thousands of learners across linguistic, geographic, and economic barriers to dream bigger and study better.

Vision for Viksit Bharat: Empowering India Through Education

For Dr Wahied, the vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047** is deeply personal. He believes that: "A truly developed India will be one where no student is deprived of quality education because of their location, language, or limitations."

His roadmap for contributing to India's development includes:

- **Developing bilingual and affordable academic resources** in life sciences for rural and remote learners
- **Establishing a Research and Training Centre** for young scientists in J&K focusing on genetics, ecology, and public health
- **Mainstreaming NEP 2020 reforms** through faculty training and curriculum enhancement
- **Promoting inter-disciplinary science through local-to-global linkages**, especially in mountain ecology and human genetics
- **Elevating J&K as a national hub for science writing, conferences, and publishing**

Final Reflections: A Scientist of the People, for the People

Dr Wahied Khawar Balwan is the embodiment of the scholar-citizen—someone whose research uplifts diagnostics, whose books democratize learning, and whose lectures ignite young minds. His profile challenges the stereotype that scientific excellence is limited to metros or elite institutions.

As India gears up for the Amrit Kaal leading to 2047, **Dr Wahied stands as a beacon of possibility**—that a professor in the remote Doda district can not only publish widely and teach deeply but also help **reshape India's scientific and educational future**.

His advice to young scientists and educators is simple, yet profound: "Let your roots inspire your reach. Great science isn't just about high-tech labs—it's about high purpose."

Conclusion: Lighting the Lamp of Learning in the Mountains

From genetics labs to conference podiums, from newspaper columns to student mentoring, **Dr Wahied Khawar Balwan** continues to prove that knowledge—when shared with sincerity and purpose—can transform individuals, institutions, and indeed, nations. He is not just a rising star in the landscape of Indian science; he is **a guiding light** in how education must evolve—collaborative, contextual, and committed to upliftment.