

Kashmir Printers' Association Ushers in New Era with Shabir Ahmad as President



The Kashmir Printers' Association (KPA) convened its General Body meeting today in Srinagar, marking a significant moment for the region's printing industry. In a unanimous decision, Mr. Shabir Ahmad of M/s Mehjoor Art Press was elected as the President, and Mr. Shahid Ahmad Malik of M/s Speedway Printers was chosen as the General Secretary for the upcoming term. The elections, held at the association's headquarters, reflect the KPA's commitment to fostering unity and advancing the interests of the printing sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting, attended by a diverse group of printers from across the Kashmir Valley, was conducted in a collaborative and transparent manner. Both Mr. Ahmad and Mr. Malik, respected figures in the local printing community, were elected without opposition, signalling strong confidence in their leadership capabilities. The KPA announced that the remaining members of the working body will be nominated through mutual consultation within the coming week, ensuring a balanced and inclusive executive team.

Mr. Shabir Ahmad, the newly elected President, brings decades of experience in the printing industry through his leadership at M/s Mehjoor Art Press, a well-known establishment recognized for its quality and innovation. In his acceptance speech, Mr. Ahmad emphasized the need for modernization and sustainability in the printing sector. "Our goal is to strengthen the industry by adopting new technologies, promoting eco-friendly practices, and addressing the challenges faced by small and medium-scale printers in the region," he stated. He also highlighted the importance of collaboration with government bodies to secure support for the industry's growth, particularly in the context of Jammu and Kashmir's evolving economic landscape.

Mr. Shahid Ahmad Malik, the new General Secretary, is a dynamic leader with a track record of advocacy for printers' rights at M/s Speedway Printers. In his remarks, Mr. Malik

underscored the association's role in safeguarding the interests of its members amid rising operational costs and market competition. "We will work tirelessly to ensure that our members have access to affordable resources, training, and opportunities to compete in both national and international markets," he said. Mr. Malik also expressed his commitment to fostering dialogue between the KPA and other regional trade bodies to enhance the industry's visibility and influence.

The KPA, a pivotal organization representing printers across Kashmir, plays a critical role in addressing industry challenges, including access to raw materials, technological advancements, and regulatory compliance. The association has been instrumental in organizing workshops, advocating for policy changes, and promoting the region's printing industry as a vital contributor to the local economy. These elections come at a time when Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing renewed economic activities. The KPA's General Body meeting also featured discussions on key issues, such as the impact of digital publishing on traditional printing, the need for subsidized raw materials, and strategies to promote Kashmiri literature and art through print media. The association plans to hold a follow-up meeting to finalize the composition of the working body and outline a comprehensive agenda for the term.

As the KPA embarks on this new chapter under the leadership of Mr. Shabir Ahmad and Mr. Shahid Ahmad Malik, the printing community in Kashmir looks forward to a period of growth, innovation, and collaboration. The association's efforts will be closely watched by industry stakeholders and policymakers alike, as they navigate the opportunities and challenges of a rapidly evolving economic and technological landscape.