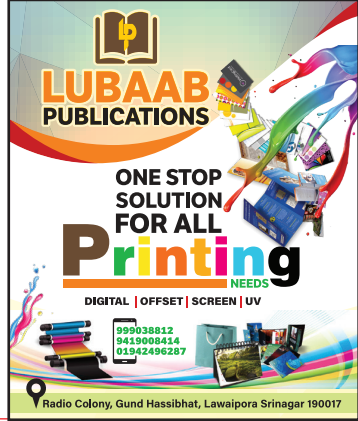


Srinagar
Saturday
September 20 | 2025
26 Rabi ul Awal, 1447 AH
Issue No: 224
Volume: 15
Pages: 12
Price: Rs 02/-



Youth Must End Colonial Legacy for India's Progress: LG

LG Delivers Keynote at National Seminar on Indian Languages at NIT Srinagar

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 19: With the peace and stability, with the spirit of unity and common goals, and fostering a strong collective identity, India will achieve robust development, the Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha said on Friday. He was speaking at a national Seminar on Integration in Indian languages organised by National Institute of Technology, Srinagar and Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti.

The Lieutenant Governor said India's rich linguistic landscape is a source of strength. He said hundreds of languages and dialects have helped in building a cohesive society, which is driving transformation and development.

"Despite diverse background, languages, dialects and ideas, a common national identity and shared consciousness unite us all. We must harness the power of unity in diversity for nation-building. Our effort should be to ensure that Hindi continues to serve as an essential bridge, connecting



people from different linguistic backgrounds, motivate people to learn other languages, enhancing mutual cooperation and economic integration," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said that all the sections of the society must also strive to preserve, and promote the rich cultural heritage inherent in all Indian languages.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon youth to transcend linguistic differences and unite the nation to transform India into Viksit Bharat.

"You have to create a glorious and developed India by completely eliminating every trace of colonial mindset," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said the entire world is looking towards India with hope for future prospects.

"The 21st century is India's century. It is written in stone. Consistent growth and productivity will make India a dominant global power," the Lieutenant

● Turn on Page 2

Industrial Growth Should Create Jobs for Youth, Artisans: CM



■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 19: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today directed the Industries & Commerce Department to adopt a proactive and inclusive approach in strengthening Jammu and Kashmir's industrial ecosystem, with a special focus on employment generation, sustainability and competitiveness.

Chief Minister emphasized the need for hand-holding of MSME units which are in distress but still revivable with minimal government intervention. He asked officials to identify such units at an early stage so these do not become defunct. "Such units can generate significant employment if supported in time," he said.

Chief Minister expressed concern on slow progress under capital expenditure during current fiscal particularly under PMEGP & REGP schemes asking the department to at least match the last year's progress.

Chief Minister also reviewed the New Central Sector Scheme aimed at encouraging new investments and incentives provided under the scheme. CM assessed the claim wise progress achieved under the scheme and called for completion of targets fixed under the NCSS.

He also asked Industries Department to prioritize setting up of industries for which either raw material is readily available or the market is locally available for finished products.

● Turn on Page 2

Election Commission Unveils New Guidelines

EVM ballot papers to feature colour photos



■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 19: In a major step to make voting more convenient and transparent, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has revised guidelines for the design and printing of

● Turn on Page 2

Political Purge:
EC axes 12 more
J&K parties for failing to
contest elections

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 19: Nearly a month after delisting three J&K-based parties, the Election Commission on Friday deregistered 12 more political parties from the Union Territory.

According to an official order, a copy of which is in possession of the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the poll body struck off the registration of 12 parties that failed to contest any election in Jammu & Kashmir over the past six years.

These parties did not participate in

● Turn on Page 2

CS For Strengthening Nursing Education

Calls It Backbone of Healthcare System

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 19: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired a meeting to comprehensively review the quality and standards of nursing education across the Union Territory, emphasizing that nursing forms the backbone of the healthcare delivery system.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Health & Medical Education; Prin-

cipals of GMC Jammu and Srinagar; Chairperson, J&K Allied & Healthcare Council (A&HCC); Registrar, J&K Nursing Council; Principals of Nursing Colleges, and other senior officers.

During the review, the Chief Secretary took stock of the functioning of newly established Nursing Colleges across districts, including the range of courses offered and the enrolment of students. He directed that diploma-level courses should

be progressively upgraded to degree and postgraduate programmes in order to build advanced capacities in the nursing sector.

He further instructed for early completion and operationalization of Nursing Colleges at Sopore, Kulgam, Shopian, and Budgam, besides exploring the feasibility of establishing such colleges at few left out districts. The Chief Secretary

● Turn on Page 2

No dual govt in J&K, says BJP's Raina

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 19: Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, Ravinder Raina on Friday sought to put to rest speculation about a "dual government" in Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that both the Lieutenant Governor and the elected government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah are working in complete coordination for the

● Turn on Page 2

Elected govt won't step down, will fight for statehood, people's rights: Dy CM

■ HT News Network

KULGAM, SEP 19: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, on Friday said the biggest issue confronting the people of Jammu and Kashmir is getting back whatever was snatched from them, including the statehood.

Addressing a gathering on the sidelines of the function here, the Dy CM, as per the news agency—Kashmir News

Observer (KNO), said some people expect the ruling elected regime to step down. "But the government is committed to fighting for the restoration of the rights of people that have been snatched," he said.

Choudhary said the National Conference has always fought for the rights of the people and will continue to do so. He said that restoring statehood is

● Turn on Page 2

PM Modi-led Govt stands with you: Union Minister

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEP 19: Assuring the flood-hit farmers in Jammu region that the Centre is with them, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday said that PM Modi-led government is concerned about their plight and will extend all necessary assistance.

The Union Minister, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) visited flood-hit areas of Jammu

to assess damage to crops and infrastructure. "The Centre is with you. We will spare no effort in providing assistance to the farmers. I have come here to see the situation myself and understand the loss," the Union Minister told the farmers and displaced residents.

Chouhan said, "The Centre has already sent inter-ministerial teams from the Ministries of Home Affairs, Jal Shakti, Rural Development, and Agriculture

● Turn on Page 2

India Shaping Destiny with Decisive Action, Preparedness: Rajnath Singh

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, SEP 19: Asserting that India shapes its destiny through decisive action and preparedness, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said that success of 'Operation Sindoor' has sent a clear message to the world that victory is a routine outcome for Bharat in any operation.



Speaking at an event held in South Block, New Delhi, to mark 60 years since the 1965 India-Pakistan war, the Defence Minister, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), referred to the military response to the April 2025 terror attack in Pahalgam. "The Indian armed forces acted with firm resolve during

● Turn on Page 2

PDD Launches Massive Parallel Training Sessions Across J&K

780 Linemen Receive Hands-On Training on Electrical Safety

■ HT News Desk

JAMMU, SEP 19: With a view to foster safety-first culture in the power sector, and in line with the Government's emphasis on conducting employee training in a structured and regular manner, the Electrical Inspectorate of the Power Development Department (PDD) has launched massive parallel training sessions across all districts of J&K.

The training programs are care-

fully structured so that each district is covered, ensuring that all linemen and contract workers engaged on the electrical system are trained with the basic safety practices, during this first phase.

This initiative marks a significant step toward institutionalized capacity building, aimed at improving operational efficiency and prioritizing safety, aligning with the department's future plan of establishing dedicated Power Training Institute for all power



employees across J&K.

The said training sessions, which commenced last month, are currently in progress and so far, 780 linemen have been trained through a combination of theoretical sessions and hands-on demonstrations, with a special focus on use of safety gears and other essential workplace precautions. These sessions have so far been conducted in the districts of Budgam, Srinagar, Pulwama, Shopian, Bandipora, Jammu, Kathua,

while the remaining districts are scheduled for the coming weeks.

Considering human safety a top priority, line staff have also been instructed to raise awareness among the general public regarding electrical hazards—particularly those arising from weather vagaries such as snapped wires or infrastructure damage caused by flash floods. A general safety advisory, along with detailed Do's and Don'ts, has been clearly

● Turn on Page 2

LITSTREAM

Find Weekend Pullout
Inside This Issue....

*Tired of rushing through headlines?
We've got just the thing.
Every week, Headlines Today
brings you an exclusive pullout,
the 'LITSTREAM' packed with big
ideas, untold stories, lifestyle buzz,
and voices that inspire.*



It's fresh. It's different. It's the part of the paper you'll want to keep aside for your coffee break, your travel bag, or your weekend downtime.

So don't just read the news, hunt for the pullout and make it your weekly ritual. LITSTREAM - INSIDE THIS ISSUE OF HEADLINES TODAY.....

CS reviews inter-departmental action plan to strengthen food safety in J&K

Flying Squads to conduct surprise checks on high-risk products

HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 19: In a significant step aimed at safeguarding public health and ensuring the availability of safe and quality food products, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired an inter-departmental coordination meeting to review the comprehensive action plan on food safety across the Union Territory.

The review comes in the backdrop of recent seizures of substandard meat and dairy products in different parts of the UT, raising serious concerns over food adulteration and public safety.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA; Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Secretary, H&ME; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; Secretary, Law; Commissioner, FSD; Director, FCS&CA, Jammu/Kashmir; DG, Budget; Director Health, Jammu/Kashmir besides other senior officers.

During the deliberations, the Chief Secretary directed the Food and Civil Supplies Department to take stringent action against unlabelled and non-standard packaged food items, particularly imported products that fail to specify ingredients and product details, terming such practices as blatant violations of law.

He took a detailed appraisal of the action plan prepared by the Food Safety Wing in collaboration with key departments, including Housing & Urban Development, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and District Administration. The plan lays out both immediate and long-term measures to eradicate the entry of substandard food items into J&K and ensure strict compliance with food safety norms.

Key Features of the Action Plan, as laid out by the Commissioner, DFCO constitutes formation of joint inspection teams and flying squads for surprise checks, particularly



targeting high-risk sectors such as meat, milk, and bakery products. It also envisages accomplishing district-wise mapping of food businesses, including primary producers, processors, and vendors, to enable targeted inspections.

One more feature of this robust action plan is the strengthening of infrastructure & surveillance. It involves establishment of check-points and cold-chain facilities at toll plazas, entry points, and major transport routes for high-risk food consignments. Besides strict monitoring of consignments from outside states to prevent import of substandard products.

It also encompasses addressing the deficit of nearly 257.5 lakh kg

of meat through regulated and safe supply mechanisms and development of modern slaughterhouses with frozen storage facilities for scientific meat processing and distribution.

Another pillar of the strategy is enforcement of mandatory sanitary and hygiene practices at meat shops and other food hubs and deployment of qualified veterinary officers for routine inspections.

Launch of mass awareness campaigns in collaboration with NGOs, SHGs, and cooperatives to educate citizens on food safety and hygiene. Additionally initiatives to encourage public reporting of food adulteration and related malpractices would also be encouraged.

Monthly meetings of District Level Advisory Committees (DLACs), comprising officials from multiple departments, to review progress and address challenges.

Food Safety Wing to lead licensing, inspections, and traceability, while Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Departments promote good agricultural and veterinary practices. District Administrations will expedite legal proceedings against violators.

Chief Secretary Dulloo emphasized that effective inter-departmental coordination will be the cornerstone of this initiative. He directed all concerned departments to work in close synergy to ensure that only safe, hygienic, and quality food reaches the markets.

This comprehensive strategy is not just about regulation but also about building awareness, accountability, and trust. This comprehensive action plan is a comprehensive initiative to protect the public health and ensuring the availability of safe and quality food for all. The administration urges all citizens and food business operators to support this initiative for the collective well-being of the Union Territory.

Mumtaz Writers Forum Holds Well-Attended Literary Conference at GHSS Kachwa Kreeri

HT News Desk

BARAMULLA, SEP 6: A grand literary conference was organized on Thursday by the Mumtaz Writers Forum, Kalantarpayan, at Government Higher Secondary School, Kachwa. The event witnessed a large gathering of writers, poets, students, and prominent citizens of the area.

The conference was graced by MLA Baramulla, Mr. Javed Ahmad Baig, as the chief guest, while Principal of Higher Secondary School, Mr. Sharjeel Abbas Khan, attended as the guest of honor.

The inaugural session was presided over by Mr. Nadeem Bukhari. During this session, short stories were presented by Shabnam Tilgami and Abid Ashraf, while Shahid Dilnavi delivered a thought-provoking paper. The welcome address was delivered by Mumtaz Rasheed, President of the Forum.



Following the inaugural session, a grand mushaira (poetic symposium) was held, where a galaxy of renowned poets presented their verses. The proceedings were conducted by Mehraj Maqami and Peer Hilal Ahmad.

The poets who participated included Shabnam Tilgami, Mumtaz Rasheed, Ishaq Majrooh, Sharif Qadri, Nadeem Bukhari, Syed Roshan Qamar, Farooq Wagoori, Shahid Dilnavi, Riaz Rabbani, Rasheed Roshan, Masoom Gulzar, Peer Hilal Maqami, Master Ghulam Hassan Wani, Mohammad Maqbool Shaheen, Mir Ahsanullah, Yousuf Jameel, Ghulam Hassan Darvesh, Shamim Ahmad Shamim, Ghulam Hassan Banri Payeen, Mohammad Saleem Baig, Mashkooor Maqami, Maqbool Magray Hame, Abid Ashraf, Waheed Ahmad Ganai, among others.

The conference was attended in large numbers not only by the students of the school but also by leading personalities of the Kunri region, who warmly applauded the contributions of the poets and writers.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Javed Ahmad Baig lauded the event and emphasized the importance of organizing such literary gatherings. "These programs are the need of the hour to guide our younger generation away from distractions and towards knowledge and literature," he remarked.

In his concluding address, Principal Sharjeel Abbas Khan urged writers and poets to shoulder their social responsibilities and use their pen for the betterment of society.

Finally, Mehraj Maqami wrapped up the program with a vote of thanks, extending gratitude to all participating poets, writers, students, media representatives, the J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, the Information Department, Baramulla, and especially Principal Sharjeel Abbas Khan for their support in making the event a success.

KVIC Jammu Launches Special Drive under Seva Parv to Support SC/ST Beneficiaries

Farooq Rather

JAMMU, SEP 19: The Jammu office of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has launched a special drive under the Seva Parv initiative, with a focused approach to support Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) beneficiaries under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP).

As part of the campaign, a bankers' meeting was held on September 19, 2025, under the chairmanship of Mr. Rajesh Kumar, State Director, KVIC Jammu. The meeting saw participation from key stakeholders, including Ms. Shivali, Joint Director, District Industries Centre (DIC) Jammu; Mr. Anil Kumar Sharma, Nodal Officer, PMEGP; Mr. Neeraj Balhotra of J&K Bank; Dr. Sandeep Kotwal, Executive Officer, KVIB; officials from DIC, lead banks, Lead District Managers (LDMs), the Department of Posts, and others.

The programme commenced with the Swadeshi Pledge under the Khadi Mahotsav banner. During the meeting, Mr. Anil Kumar Sharma delivered a detailed presentation outlining:

The performance of PMEGP in Jammu & Kashmir,

Progress in sanctioning and disbursing cases for SC/ST beneficiaries, Objectives and modalities of the special drive under Seva Parv.

Key decisions taken during the meeting included:

Early clearance of all pending SC/ST beneficiary cases, Review and rectification of cases with documentation issues, Ensuring SC/ST applicants who also belong to minority communities, women, Persons with Disabilities (PWD), or ex-servicemen furnish valid SC/ST certificates to expedite subsidy disbursement.

Officials emphasized that the special drive will continue in a phased manner, with the next meetings scheduled to be held in Srinagar and Leh (Ladakh).

A directive was also issued to all participating banks and implementing agencies to clear all pending and rectification cases of SC/ST beneficiaries before October 15, 2025.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Rajesh Kumar, State Director, KVIC Jammu, reaffirmed the Commission's commitment to inclusive growth and its priority support to SC/ST communities under PMEGP.

DC Kupwara chairs NTEP Review Meeting on TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

HT News Desk

KUPWARA, SEP 19: A District Level Review Meeting under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Program (NTEP) was today held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse (IAS), to review the progress of the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and analyze block-wise performance of NTEP activities across the district.

The meeting conducted in online mode owing to ongoing Swasth Nari-Sashakt Pariwar Abhiyan (SN-SPA) and Nikshay Camps, was attended by the CMO Kupwara, BMO, and block-level NTEP staff. District TB Officer presented detailed data highlighting achievements made under the programme as well as



gaps and challenges requiring immediate attention.

During the review, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized intensified Active Case Finding in all Panchayats with active involvement of MLHPs and ASHAs, besides strengthening surveillance and community awareness. He directed health administrators to ensure accountability of doctors for timely referral of presumptive patients for NAAT-based TB testing and urged for collective efforts to overcome operational challenges in field implementation.

DC reiterated that consistent monitoring, block-wise progress analysis, and community participation are crucial for achieving the objectives of the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan. He called upon all stakeholders to work in a mission mode so that Kupwara district can move steadily towards the goal of a TB-Free district in line with the vision of "TB Mukht Bharat."

Kashmir World Film Festival (KWFF) Announces its 5th Edition, Scheduled for 1st Nov to 7th Nov 2025

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 19: The highly anticipated Kashmir World Film Festival (KWFF) will return for its 5th edition this year, from 1st November to 7th November 2025. This celebration of cinema brings together filmmakers, industry professionals, and film enthusiasts from around the world, offering a unique platform for cultural exchange in the breathtaking Kashmir Valley.

Since its inception in 2017, KWFF has been a key player in showcasing not only the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir but also giving voice to emerging filmmakers from the region. As the festival celebrates its milestone 5th edition, this year's program will feature an expanded lineup, including international films, workshops, panel discussions, and cultural programs. These elements aim to highlight the diversity of global storytelling while fostering meaningful dialogues between different cultures. "We are thrilled to mark the 5th edition of KWFF," said

Mushtaaque Ali Ahmad Khan, Founder of KWFF. "It's a significant milestone, and we are committed to continuing our mission of providing a platform for both local and global filmmakers. The power of cinema brings people together, and we look forward to creating an inclusive and vibrant space for cultural exchange and creative expression."

The festival will feature a curated selection of films across multiple genres, including drama, documentaries, animation, and experimental cinema. Audiences can expect an immersive experience with screenings, engaging filmmaker sessions, industry expert discussions, and an awards ceremony recognizing outstanding achievements in various categories such as Best Feature Film, Best Short Film, Best Documentary Film, Best Student Film and Best Films in other categories.

This year's festival will also maintain a strong focus on regional cinema, with special emphasis on films made by Kashmiri filmmakers. KWFF remains a vital

platform for showcasing local talent, providing them with a global audience while also contributing to the growth of the Indian and international film industries. As part of this focus, the festival will dedicate an entire day to films that highlight women's issues and another to films that engage with children's interests.

A Platform for Collaboration and Inclusivity

KWFF has seen tremendous growth since its inception. In its previous editions, the festival hosted over 15,500 attendees, with a particularly strong youth presence. Films from 15 countries—including the USA, Italy, Iran, Afghanistan, South Korea, and others—were showcased, and more than 460 films were submitted. The festival's impact is evident in the overwhelming media coverage, with over 500 media mentions, including in international, national, and regional outlets.

"We are proud to continue our association with prestigious film organizations such as the National Film Development Corporation



(NFDC), Mumbai and Film & Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune," said Mushtaaque Ali Ahmad Khan. "Their ongoing support is integral to KWFF's success. This year, we are also excited to welcome some of Bollywood's most celebrated actors and filmmakers. Their participation further elevates the festival's status and attracts wider audiences."

The festival also continues its deep engagement with local filmmakers, particularly from Jammu & Kashmir, with the aim of fostering a vibrant artistic community within the region.

Expanding Cultural Horizons & Youth Engagement

KWFF's role in promoting the global and local film industries is invaluable, particularly for the

youth of Kashmir. The festival's educational initiatives, including workshops and masterclasses, have provided over 550 students from various colleges and universities with a deeper understanding of filmmaking. Through these initiatives, KWFF hopes to nurture future filmmakers and continue bridging the gap between the international film community and the creative talent in Kashmir. In addition to its regular film screenings, the festival aims to shine a spotlight on films shot in Kashmir, celebrating the region's beauty and the cinematic potential it offers.

A Festival of Hope and Peace

In a region historically lacking in cinema infrastructure, KWFF is proud to offer a unique opportunity to the people of Kashmir—especially its youth—to experience world-class films and international cinema. This year, KWFF is also dedicated to spreading the message of peace and inclusivity, in line with Gandhi's vision of Kashmir as a beacon of hope. By promoting collaboration, understanding, and creative

expression, the festival aspires to continue its role as a symbol of hope and resilience in Kashmir.

About Kashmir World Film Festival (KWFF)

Launched in July 2017, the Kashmir World Film Festival is a pioneering event that has established itself as a cultural bridge, connecting Kashmir with the global film community. KWFF not only celebrates the art of cinema but also promotes regional filmmakers, fostering cultural dialogue and global collaboration. The festival has become a key platform for emerging talent and continues to contribute to the cultural revitalization of Kashmir through the power of storytelling.

For more information, registration details, and event schedules, please visit: (Website Link).

Contact: Kashmir World Film Festival (KWFF)

Phone: +91 990 666 9999

Email: director@kwff.in

Website: kashmirworldfilmfestival.com

Surinder Choudhary along with Sakeena Itoo visit DH Pora Kulgam, lay foundation stone of Rest House

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KULGAM, SEP 19: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, along with Minister for Education, Health and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo today visited Damhal Hanji Pora and laid foundation stone of Rest House which will come up with an estimated cost of 2.94 crore.

Addressing a large gathering, the Deputy Chief Minister said the government is com-

mitted towards improving infrastructure across all sectors to provide better services to the people. He directed the concerned engineering wing to ensure timely completion of the Rest House and other projects while maintaining quality standards.

The Deputy CM said that the government led by Omar Abdullah is determined to fulfil all promises made to the people. He further stated that several projects are going on to boost



connectivity, public amenities, and holistic development, in line with the government's vision of inclusive growth across Jammu & Kashmir.

The Deputy CM added that transparency, accountability, and a pro-people approach remain the government's top priority.

Speaking on the occasion, Sakeena Itoo said that under the leadership of the Omar Abdullah, the government is working with a clear vision to ensure holistic

development across all regions of J&K.

She further stated that the establishment of the Rest House will add to development profile of this area.

The Health Minister highlighted that the current government has restarted several long-pending projects, besides many new projects have been sanctioned, particularly in health sector, to improve overall well-being of the people.

DC Ganderbal chairs NCORD meeting, reviews measures to curb drug menace

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

GANDERBAL, SEP 19: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today chaired a meeting of the District-Level Committee on Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) here to review the measures being undertaken to curb the drug menace in the district.

The meeting discussed key issues, including intensifying anti-drug awareness campaigns, strengthening enforcement measures against drug peddlers and its trafficking to curb drug abuse more effectively.

During the meeting, DC stressed the need for strict action against drug peddlers through coordinated and intensified efforts and emphasized awareness programs in schools regarding the harmful effects of drug abuse.

Chief Education Officer was directed to ensure regular sensitization sessions in schools. It was further instructed that no tobacco products should be sold within 100 meters radius of schools, and violators must be strictly fined.

DC directed constitution of joint inspection teams comprising officers from the Health Department, Revenue (Tehsildars), Police, and Rural Development (BDOs) to conduct surprise checks within their respective jurisdictions.

Discussions were also held on identification of drug hotspots, wherein Police was directed to remain extra vigilant in such areas by establishing nakas and intensive surveillance. Random scanning of courier services was also deliberated upon, and it was decided that special nakas shall be established at all entry points of the district to prevent transport of drugs through courier services.

The meeting also reviewed the functioning of the Drug De-addiction Centre, and the Chief Medical Officer briefed the chair about its status.

Furthermore, DC took stock of the ongoing wild cannabis destruction drives, status of Nasha Mukta Panchayats, implementation of computerized billing systems by chemists, and installation of CCTV cameras in medical shops.

District Drug Inspector was directed to submit a detailed report regarding suspension of drug licenses of shops found violating norms during inspections.

DC reiterated the commitment of the district administration to make Ganderbal a drug-free district through coordinated efforts of all stakeholders, and sought active cooperation of the public in this regard.

DAY-3 of Sewa Parv: Budgam conducts wide range of activities

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, SEP 19: District administration Budgam today observed Sewa Parv with a series of activities focusing on cleanliness, nutrition, environmental awareness, social inclusion, and community responsibility.

The day-long programmes were organized across different sectors with enthusiastic participation from students, locals, social organizations, and government departments.

To spread the message of Swachhata, a comprehensive cleanliness drive was organized in block Budgam, Chadoora, SK Pora, BK Pora and all other blocks of the district, where officials, volunteers, students, and community members actively participated.

The drive covered public spaces and community areas, reinforcing the importance of sanitation and individual responsibility in keeping surroundings clean.

As part of its environmental protection campaign, District Pollution Control Board Budgam carried out an anti-polythene drive at tehsil Budgam, where traders,



vendors, and the general public were sensitized about the harmful effects of polythene use. Officials also urged citizens to adopt eco-friendly alternatives and pledged to minimize plastic consumption in daily life.

In collaboration with NIFT Budgam, another cleanliness campaign was carried out at important locations, where students and youth volunteers came forward to contribute their efforts. The initiative highlighted the crucial

role of educational institutions in nurturing a culture of responsibility towards environmental sustainability.

Pir Panjal Forest Division (Soil Range Budgam) conducted an eco-awareness programme at Govt. Higher Secondary School Soibugh, attended by a large number of students and staff. Resource persons from the Forest department spoke on issues like biodiversity conservation, sustainable lifestyles, and protection of natural resources.

The interactive session encouraged students to adopt small but impactful measures in their daily lives for safeguarding the environment.

Under Poshan Abhiyan, the Poshan Project organized multiple awareness programmes across ICDS centres. During the sessions, nutritious recipes and food demonstrations were presented to pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children, stressing the importance of balanced diets, use of locally available food, and healthy cooking methods.

Adding a strong social welfare dimension, Social Welfare de-

partment held games and recreational activities for senior citizens, providing them an opportunity for interaction, enjoyment, and a sense of inclusion in community events. These activities aimed at promoting the well-being of the elderly while acknowledging their valuable role in society.

In another significant programme, men from different localities were brought together for awareness and pledge-taking, where they were sensitized about their responsibilities in safeguarding the dignity and protection of women and children. The initiative not only created awareness but also encouraged men to become proactive allies in building a safe and respectful social environment.

The diverse activities organized today under Sewa Parv reflected the essence of observance of selfless service, awareness, and active citizen participation.

The events also underlined the collective resolve of the people of Budgam to work together for a cleaner, healthier, and more inclusive district.

Sewa Parv-2025: Awareness/ cleanliness drive held at Achabal Anantnag

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

ANANTNAG, SEP 19: As part of the ongoing Sewa Parv campaign, Kokernag Development Authority (KDA) under the leadership of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and in collaboration with SDPO Achabal, today organized an awareness-cum-cleanliness drive at Achabal.

The drive commenced from Achabal Chowk and culminated at the historic Achabal Garden.

Employees from KDA and other departments, along with local volunteers, actively participated in the ini-



tiative. They collected garbage and litter from the roadsides and within Achabal Garden to restore cleanliness and spread awareness about environmental responsibility.

Speaking on the occasion, CEO KDA said that Sewa Parv offers an opportunity to reinforce the importance of cleanliness

and environmental care while also expediting developmental works.

He further added that a series of activities under Sewa Parv will continue within the KDA jurisdiction till October 2, 2025, focusing on community service, public welfare, cleanliness drives, awareness campaigns, and outreach programmes.

Participants pledged to continue their efforts towards maintaining cleanliness and preserving the natural beauty of Achabal, making it a model for sustainable development and community participation.

Community welfare & awareness activities mark day-3 of Sewa Parv at Pulwama

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

PULWAMA, SEP 19: The third day of the ongoing fortnight-long Sewa Parv celebrations in Pulwama was marked by a wide range of community welfare and awareness activities organised by various departments and institutions across the district.

The programmes witnessed enthusiastic participation of schools, colleges, municipal bodies, Rural Development, Health, Social Welfare, Forest and Social Forestry departments, reflecting a strong spirit of collective service and public engagement.

Educational institutions carried forward the campaign by organising anti-drug rallies, poster-making and essay-writing competitions, and disaster management drills. As part of the education-focused initiative 'Volunteering in Schools for Special Classes,' special classes were conducted to support learning outcomes, while donation drives for books, stationery, and clothes for underprivileged students were also held, promoting compassion and inclusivity.

Municipal Council Pulwama, along with other municipalities, undertook major sanitation drives, including cleanliness campaigns in public spaces, springs, markets, bus stands, and riverbanks. Door-to-door campaigns on solid waste management were carried out to spread awareness at the grassroots level. Municipal bodies also held awareness programmes on flagship schemes like PM SVANidhi and PMAY 2.0, encouraging people to avail benefits of government initiatives.

Rural Development department organised cleanliness drives in panchayats and public institutions, mobilising local communities for sustainable sanitation practices.

Furthermore, under the Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan, women-focused health initiatives were held across the district. Special screening camps, maternal and child healthcare awareness sessions, and counselling programmes were organised at Community Health Centres (CHCs), Primary Health Centres (PHCs), and Ayushman Arogya Mandirs. Doctors and paramedical staff provided preventive and curative services to a large number of beneficiaries, particularly women and adolescents, ensuring robust community outreach.

The celebrations of Sewa Parv will continue in the coming days and weeks with a series of programmes aimed at deepening public awareness, encouraging volunteerism, and fostering inclusive community development.

Arrangements for Navratra, Dussehra & Maha Navami Reviewed at Udhampur

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

UDHAMPUR, SEP 19: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, today chaired a comprehensive meeting with officers of line departments, representatives of civil society, and market associations to review and finalise arrangements for the upcoming holy festivals of Navratra, Dussehra, and Maha Navami.

During the meeting, threadbare discussions were held on critical arrangements including security deployment, uninterrupted power and drinking water supply, sanitation, first-aid facilities, fire safety, market regulation, and traffic management. Officers were directed to adopt a proactive approach to ensure smooth and peaceful conduct of festivities.

Special focus was laid on security preparedness. The Police Department was instructed to make adequate security arrangements in and around temples, congregation sites, and Dussehra grounds to avoid any untoward incident. The Traffic Department was asked to chalk out a plan for traffic regulation and deploy sufficient personnel at key locations to prevent congestion.



To curb overcharging and black-marketing, a committee was constituted to conduct regular market inspections. Shopkeepers were directed to prominently display the approved rate list of essential commodities. The DC also urged the business community to maintain fair trade practices during the festive season.

The Executive Engineer PHE was directed to ensure an uninter-

rupted supply of safe drinking water, while the Xen PDD was asked to maintain continuous power supply, especially during evening hours when large gatherings are expected at temples and community venues.

The Municipal Council was tasked with ensuring proper sanitation and waste management across the town. It was directed to intensify cleanliness drives and

maintain hygiene around religious places, procession routes, and public grounds. Civil society members were also encouraged to extend their cooperation in maintaining cleanliness and decorum during the festivities.

The DC emphasised the importance of inter-departmental coordination, urging all stakeholder departments to work in close synergy so that devotees and

visitors may celebrate the festivals in a safe, clean, and well-organised environment.

The meeting was attended by senior officers of district administration, representatives of market associations, religious committees, and members of civil society, who assured their full cooperation for the smooth conduct of Navratra, Dussehra, and Maha Navami celebrations.



Sewa Parv-2025: DC Srinagar initiates work on Public Toilet Complex at DC office

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 19: As part of the ongoing fortnight-long Sewa Parv campaign, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Friday initiated construction work on Public Toilet Facility complex at DC Office Complex.

The new facility is being constructed to enhance public sanitation and civic amenities within the complex to promote cleanliness, hygiene and public welfare.

The public convenience includes separate washrooms for male, female and persons with special abilities.

Speaking on the occasion, DC reaffirmed the district administration's commitment to ensuring improved cleanliness, hygiene, and accessibility for both office employees and visiting citizens and said that this was initiated today under the Sanitation & Hygiene vertical of the ongoing Sewa Parv 2025.

Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz UI Aziz; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Executive Engineer R&B, citizens, stamp vendors and other associated persons were present on the occasion.

Sewa Parv 2025 Day 3: District Kishtwar hosts disaster management drills, health camps & awareness rallies

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KISHTWAR, SEP 19: As part of the ongoing Sewa Parv 2025 campaign, a series of impactful activities and awareness programs were organized across District Kishtwar today featuring awareness camps on disaster management, health and wellness, fisheries sector, nutrition, community welfare and others.

The SDRF team conducted a Disaster Management Demonstration and Workshop on fire safety at Government Higher Secondary School. The session included live demonstrations on fire evacuation, handling extinguishers and adopting preventive safety measures. Mock drills on earthquakes, fire and other emergencies were also carried out to equip students with practical knowledge and preparedness.

The Health Department organized snakebite awareness drives across the district, where medical staff educated people about timely medical assistance, avoiding harmful traditional practices and preventive measures. Alongside, medical check-up camps were also held.

The Fisheries Department launched outreach programs for the Fishermen Community, spreading awareness about government welfare schemes like PMMSY, HADP, KCC and ATMA support services. The initiative encouraged Fishermen to avail scheme benefits for socio-economic empowerment.

The Municipal Council Kishtwar conducted awareness among street vendors regarding registration under the PMSVANI Scheme to ensure their inclusion in livelihood benefits.

Meanwhile, a spirited anti-drug and



anti-tobacco rally was organized at HS Sigdi Bhata under the theme "Say No to Drugs, Say No to Tobacco."

The ICDS Department carried out multiple activities under Sewa Parv and Poshan Maah. These included sensitization sessions on reducing sugar, salt and oil intake to combat obesity, father-led complementary feeding recipe competitions, and community pledges on nutrition.

Similar activities were held across Sub-Division, Tehsil, and Block levels by Health, RDD, ICDS, Forest, Education, Social Welfare and Agriculture departments, ensuring widespread participation and awareness.

The day's events highlighted the spirit of Sewa Parv 2025—uniting communities through awareness, preparedness and collective responsibility for a healthier, safer and more resilient society.

Week-long Aapda Sakhi training prog. begins at SDRF 1st Bn Hqrs Srinagar

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 19: To empower women at the grassroots level in disaster preparedness and response, a week-long Aapda Sakhi Training programme commenced today at the Headquarters of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) 1st Battalion, Srinagar.

Aapda Sakhi Training program was attended by Ramesh Kumar Angral, Director, Homeguards Kashmir; Imtiyaz Hussain Mir, Director Civil Defence & SDRF Kashmir; Masroor Ahmad Mir, Commandant, SDRF 1st Battalion and other senior civil and Police officers.

Aapda Sakhi Training program witnessed active participation of senior officers/officials and 78 women trainees drawn from various districts of Kashmir province viz. 20 Aapda Sakhi from Social Welfare, 20 Aapda Sakhi from Rural Development, and 20 from Health & Medical Education department, besides 18 from Civil Defense, wardens/volunteers are also taking part in the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Homeguards emphasized the importance of integrating women into the disaster management framework. He stated, "Women are the backbone of our community, and their involvement as Aapda Sakhis will significantly enhance grassroots preparedness and resilience during any emergency."

Addressing the officers, officials and Aapda Sakhi trainees, Director Civil Defence & SDRF Kashmir highlighted the critical role of Aapda Sakhis as community first responders and advocates for resilience in disaster-prone regions.

He reiterated SDRF's commitment to community outreach and capacity building.

Earlier during the inaugural session, dignitaries highlighted the critical role of Aapda Sakhis as community first responders and advocates for resilience in disaster-prone regions. They commended the enthusiasm of the trainees who had come from different corners of the Kashmir valley to participate in this specialized program.

Aapda Sakhis, under the broader ambit of community-based disaster risk reduction, are to be trained and empowered to respond effectively to emergencies such as earthquakes, floods, fires, and other natural or human-induced disasters.

The week-long training program will cover essential modules including basics of disaster preparedness, first aid and emergency response, fire safety and rescue operations, Risk communication and community mobilization, and Mock drills and hands-on exercises.

The program is being conducted under the guidance of SDRF trainers and disaster management experts, ensuring a blend of theory and practical learning for the participants.

This inaugural event marked a significant step forward in building a resilient community through women-led disaster preparedness efforts across Jammu & Kashmir.

Training program on HIV/AIDS, STDs, HIV/AIDS Act-2017 held for ASHA Coordinators

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 19: A training program on HIV/AIDS, STDs, and the HIV/AIDS Act, 2017 for ASHA Coordinators from various districts and blocks of the Kashmir division was successfully conducted today by the J&K AIDS Control Society in collaboration with the National Health Mission, J&K, and with the support of the Directorate of Family Welfare, MCH, and Immunization, J&K.

Around 10 District ASHA Co-

ordinators and 20 Block ASHA Coordinators were sensitized on the fundamentals of HIV/AIDS and the related issues by the expert speakers from the J&K AIDS Control Society.

The training program, an initiative under the Intensified IEC campaign for HIV/AIDS awareness in Jammu and Kashmir, was inaugurated by Dr. Jehangir Bakshi, Project Director, J&K AIDS Control Society (chief guest of the event) in the presence of Dr

Poonam Sethi, Director, Family Welfare, MCH & Immunization, J&K, and UT Nodal Officer, NHM, J&K, along with Associate Program Manager, ASHA NHM, J&K.

Dr Bakshi highlighted the objectives of the Intensified IEC campaign for HIV/AIDS awareness and the role of the ASHAs in facilitating the campaign.

The trained ASHA Coordinators will further train the ASHAs under them who shall have to conduct door to door outreach

to the households under their supervision with the awareness messages on HIV/ AIDS and the related issues.

Dr Monika Wali, Dy. Director, CST highlighted the role of ASHA Coordinators in facilitating the IEC campaign for HIV/AIDS awareness. Imtiyaz Khan, AD Lab Services, delivered a lecture on the fundamentals of HIV/AIDS, Dr Malooqa, imparted awareness on the basics of STDs followed by an orientation lecture on the HIV/ AIDS Act, 2017 by Sabiha Iqbal,

Assistant Director, Mainstreaming, JKACS.

Other officers/officials who attended the program included Dr. Tabasum Firdous, Dy. Director, Headquarters; Dr. Rumissa Shawl, Dy. Director, IEC, Dr. Monika Wali, Dy. Director CST; Nisaar Dar, DD Prevention; AD BTS; AD Finance; AD Procurement from J&K AIDS Control Society and official from DHS Kashmir.

The programme concluded with certificate distribution among the participants.

Sewa Parv-2025: Awareness, Health, Sports & Community Programmes organised across Doda

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

DODA, SEP 19: As part of the ongoing Sewa Parv 2025 celebrations, a series of impactful activities were conducted across District Doda under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh.

The programmes, organized by various departments and institutions, highlighted the theme of "Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi"—promoting development alongside cultural and social values.

The Department of Social Welfare, under the supervision of DSWO Tariq Qazi, organized an Awareness-cum-Distribution of Assistive Devices Camp at Malothi, Panchayat Panjgrain in Bhalla Block.

The event included awareness on welfare schemes, sensitization on drug prevention, girls' education, gender equality and distribution of assistive devices among specially-abled persons.

The Health Department, under the leadership of CMO, Dr. Om Kumar and the guidance of BMOs, held multiple special health screening camps at PHC Changa (Block Gandoh), PHC Bharath (Block Ghat) and other health institutions.

The camps focused primarily on female patients, with emphasis on ANC check-ups, immunization, anemia awareness, general health check-ups and preventive healthcare under the "Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan." Mobile Health Teams from RBSK and RSKS also extended services to women, children and adolescents across the district.

Meanwhile, the Youth Services & Sports Department Doda, under the leadership of DYSSO Jaffer Haider Sheikh, celebrated Sewa Parv 2025 through a grand sports festival. Thousands of students participated in chess, volleyball, kho-kho, cricket and athletic



competitions.

The event showcased youth empowerment, discipline, fitness and community participation, turning the campaign into a vibrant celebration of sports, culture and national pride.

Additionally, the Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Department organized special awareness programmes in villages and Panchayats across the district. Farmers were sensitized about schemes including JKIP, HADP, PMFBY, Smart KCC, Soil Health Cards, Natural Farm-

ing, PMDP and Farm Mechanization. These initiatives highlighted sustainable agriculture, self-reliance and community empowerment, aligning with the national theme of "Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi."

The District Administration reaffirmed its commitment to celebrating Sewa Parv 2025 as a festival of service, awareness and empowerment, ensuring that every section of society—youth, women, farmers and the differently-abled—benefits from inclusive development and welfare schemes.

Food Safety enforcement drive conducted in Doda Town to curb sale of unsafe Meat

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

DODA, SEP 19: In Compliance with the Jammu and Kashmir High Court directions to curb the sale of unsafe Meat, a multi-department team conducted a thorough market inspection in Doda town, today. The drive was carried out on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh and under the close supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner Anil Kumar Thakur.

A team comprising officers from the Food Safety Department, Legal Metrology, FCS&CA, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Municipality and Sales Tax Department inspected around 20 meat shops, dhabas selling cooked meat and other allied establishments. The purpose of the inspection was to check the quality, hygiene standards and compliance with the legal provisions of different departments. Encouragingly, no rotten meat or unsafe food items were found during the inspection.

However, to further strengthen food safety practices, 12 improvement notices were served to meat sellers for compliance with hygiene and regulatory parameters.

The Legal Metrology Department imposed a penalty of 5,000 for violation of LMD norms, while the FCS&CA Department levied a fine of 800 against those using domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes.



The District Administration has reiterated its commitment to ensuring safe, hygienic and quality food for the public. Regular inspections will continue in the coming days and strict action will be taken against violators to protect the health and rights of consumers in Doda.

HT EDITORIAL

Heartening! Circulation of newspapers sees an increase

At a time when most people believe that print journalism has lost its relevance a recent survey report has highlighted a positive development. The survey report has said that there has been an increase in the circulation of newspapers in the country. The survey report said that there has been an increase of almost three percent in the circulation of the newspapers in the first six months of the present year.

The figures dished out by the survey report are heartening since the circulation of the newspapers had witnessed a dip over the past few years. The increase in the circulation of newspapers is also significant since there has been an influence of social media on the people across the country. As on date there are people who make the use of social media for their daily need of news even though the credibility factor is under a question mark.

At the same time there are people who go through the e-paper and PDF versions of the daily newspapers and as such give a miss to the reading of print copies of the newspapers. Some of the newspapers have put a charge for the e-paper reading of the newspaper and there are offers in this regard as well. Some of the newspapers had to waive off the e-paper charges after it was found that not many people are willing to pay for the charges.

There is a section of people, even a small one who still believe that the real taste of reading news is by going through the print copy of the same. These people say that news in detail can be read only when a reader has a hard copy in his or her hand. They opine that in the digital version one can only read the headlines of the news since it is difficult to stick to a mobile for a long time and that too for reading news.

It is an established fact that a printed copy of a newspaper is no less than a gazette and this becomes evident as and when a person needs a copy of a particular newspaper for obtaining some information or going through government advertisement. In other words it can be said that despite the challenges nobody can deny the importance of a newspaper and that too the hard copies of a particular newspaper.



Chief Patron Of Lubaab Publications Group:
Syed Sad Ud Din Bukhari (Saidi),
Printer Publisher, Owner And Editor:
Syed Jahangir Bukhari,
Printed At: Lubaab Publications, Radio
Colony Gund Hassibhat Lawaipora
Srinagar -190017,
Gen. Manager: Sheikh Mushtaq Ahmad
Cell No - 9697071471,
Editorial Section: 7006846797,
Multimedia Section: 9419008414,
Advertisement Section: 9697071471
RNI No: Jkeng/2011/39231
dailyheadlinestoday@gmail.com
headlinestoday2024@gmail.com

The Modern Misunderstanding of a Woman's Nurturing Role



■ **Dr. Aamir Wani**

In today's world, success is often measured in salaries, titles, and possessions. Yet, in the rush to put a price tag on every contribution, we have quietly devalued one of humanity's most essential roles — the nurturing heart of a woman. Once regarded as the foundation of families and societies, it is now often dismissed simply because it does not appear on an income statement.

Many now see nurturing as a secondary or lesser role, assuming that real power lies only outside the home. One of the most damaging misconceptions is the belief that nurturing — especially within the home — is somehow inferior, outdated, or limiting to a woman's potential. This misunderstanding has been fueled by cultural shifts, economic pressures, Westernisation, and distorted definitions of success.

Modern society tends to measure a person's worth almost exclusively in economic terms — how much they earn, what professional title they hold, or how publicly visible their work is. While this may seem reasonable in some contexts, it overlooks the value of a woman's nurturing responsibilities, which rarely generate direct income or public recognition.

This perspective ignores a deeper truth: the emotional, moral, and spiritual shaping of future generations — much of which takes place in the home — often has far greater long-term impact than many celebrated public achievements. While the rise of workplace opportunities for women is a welcome development, it has also brought unintended consequences: the assumption that choosing to focus on the home is a waste of talent or education.

A woman who chooses to be a full-time mother or homemaker is often met with pity or judgement, as though she has 'settled' for less. In reality, such a decision can be intentional, rooted in faith, purpose, and a clear understanding of true value. Historically, the home was recognised as the central institution of civilisation, and the one who managed it held dignity and influence. Today, media and pop culture often portray domestic life as unambitious or even oppressive, eroding the younger generation's



respect for homemaking and parenting.

The Consequences of Neglecting Nurturing

1. Emotional Disconnection Within the Family

Children thrive on emotional availability. When a mother's presence is reduced to short conversations, hurried meals, and brief routines, children may feel unseen and undervalued. Over time, this can lead to withdrawal, behavioural problems, and vulnerability to negative influences.

Nurturing requires more than physical presence—it calls for active engagement, listening, noticing moods, and guiding children through moral challenges. Emotional intimacy in marriage also needs time and care; when professional demands consume a woman's energy, her spouse may feel emotionally abandoned, creating distance and tension.

A mother is often the first and most consistent moral teacher in a child's life. In her absence, children may turn to peers, media, or online influencers for guidance. Such influences are rarely aligned with the family's values, leading to beliefs and behaviours that clash with their upbringing.

2. Increased Dependence on Outsiders for Parenting

As both parents in modern families immerse themselves in careers, traditional nurturing roles are increasingly outsourced to daycare centres, nannies, boarding schools, or relatives. While

sometimes necessary, this arrangement can carry long-term consequences for a child's emotional, psychological, and moral growth.

No matter how capable, external caregivers cannot fully replace a parent's influence. Over time, children may bond more closely with caregivers than with their own parents, weakening natural family connections.

When the home becomes just a place to sleep instead of a centre of love and moral grounding, children may form stronger attachments to outsiders. As this pattern continues, parents may feel less responsible for active involvement, further widening the emotional gap.

MESSAGE:

When a woman negates her nurturing role whether intentionally or unintentionally, the loss is not just personal, it is generational. Professional achievements may earn salaries and organisation, but the shaping of hearts within the home is an eternal investment. Careers will eventually end, but the influence and mother has on our family will echo through generations...

I confirm that this article is my original work and has not been published elsewhere.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

email: iamaamirwani@gmail.com

GLORIOUS REVOLUTION THE BANEFACTOR OF HUMANITY



■ MUFTI NIZAMUL HAQ NADWI

In universe, an unprecedented and timeless revolution took place that not only transformed the universe extraordinarily, but also gave new direction to the humanity and Worldview. This great revolution brought back humanity to its original position where human beings should stand before Almighty Allah. This revolution wore humanity such a fine and prestigious jewellery of morality and character which is above all than other fine ornaments. Humanity as whole was given such a colourful spectrum which resembles and seems similar to Colour of Allah. This magnanimity brought whole humanity to stand on the high and revered position, enlightened the darkest ignorance with the "light of knowledge" replaced unfamiliarity (unacquaintedness) with "orientation" (knowledgeable and informed) and changed sinful and black guard with "righteous character" immortality with "highest morality" and Malversation (mis or wrong doings) with "chaste conduct" and good behaviour. Oppression and coercion with "justice and equity" the evil and bad deeds with good deeds and virtuous qualities. Aware restrained and condemned humanity to sovereignty, humanity buried under customs and traditions was lifted to stand high on human standards, every pure



and good thing is declared lawful (Halal) and permissible and every impure and wicked thing as unlawful (Haram). The people struggling with chains of human slavery were given the lessons of servitude to Allah and the people who had limited their hard work and hardships to worldly life were encouraged to immortal and eternal life in the hereafter, providing such a support to the sobbing and groaning humanity in the last moment that became the greatest support of all supports. The human boat trapped in the swamp of sins and transgression and closed with all avenues of escape was pulled out of this whirlpool in such a way that it is out of question for humanity to fall back in the quagmire. The path that human's had taken until now, leading them to destruction and ruins were all closed and only one path which guarantees ever lasting success was opened and that is the path of

islam which if followed, success is being achieved in the religion and world. This path was not only shown to follow but insisted others to follow.

Islam taught us compassion and mercy towards poor and helpless, encouraged us to act with sympathy and grieving for orphans and widows and placed the emperor's crown on the heads of slaves and helpless, ended all the distinctions and differences of high-low, superior-inferior, master and slave and constructed a society in which God-fearing and accountability of hereafter stands merit. One who is perfect in these two things shall be considered an ideal and perfect human being. This revolution dashed all the boundaries of Arab-non Arab, European-Asian and no significance remained there for Colour and creed, black and white. All human beings were declared as the children of One couple having equal rights at the level of humanity.

and no human being is superior in status than other one. This revolution taught shepherds and herdsman of deserts the lessons of being world conquerors and rulers. They put before the world such a remarkable accomplishments and achievements which would be remembered as long as the world existed and established an environment of equality and mutual cooperation in which goats and wolf's drink water from the same whirl (a situation of harmonious coexistence where differences are set aside), mutual barriers were put down and even natural enemies coexist peacefully. A revolution which kept the king and a common man equally accountable in particular matter and if a common man is questionable, the king is also equally questioned in the same courtyard. This revolution from home upto dealing with trade, economics and politics had given new dimension to the world and inspired new soul in every field of life. A revolution that not only overthrows an existing government or system, but also fundamentally reshapes foundations of the society. This ideal way of life neither existed in the past nor anyone does had the perception of its importance in mind.

The great and glorious revolution brought up by the Prophet Muhammad (Saw) in the land of Arabs four, teen hundred years ago, world still had its features and characteristics and its impacts and shadows shall always be present forever until the day of judgment. Rather, with these imprint's the world will stand survived and when these imprint's are over, the structure of this universe would be wrapped up. This would be the final result or final destination of the universe .

Views, Opinions, facts etc Expressed by the Authors are their Own and Headlines Today doesn't acknowledge the viewpoint in any manner. And the claims made by the advertisers, promoters through their write-ups need to be ascertained by the readers and Headlines Today Shall not be held responsible for any misleading information in any manner...

Black Pottery is a Treasured Heritage in Ukhrul Manipur



■ M S Nazki

Ruk Jana Nahin Tu Kahin Haar Ke, Katon Pe Chalke Milenge Saaye Bahaar Ke.....Assam Rifles message to the people of Ukhrul, Manipur! Suraj Dekh Ruk Gaya Hai, Tere Aage Jhuk Gaya Hai, Jab Kabhi Aise Koi Mastana, Nikle Hai Apni Dhun Mein Deewana, Sham Suhani Ban Jaate Hain Din Intezaar ke, O' Rahi.. O' Rahi.. O' Rahi.. O' Rahi!.....The song of wife which everyone in Ukhrul should sing!

Every man has his secret sorrows which the world knows not; and often times we call a man cold when he is only sad.

Heaven knows we need never be ashamed of our tears, for they are rain upon the blinding dust of earth, overlying our hard hearts. I was better after I had cried, than before--more sorry, more aware of my own ingratitude, more gentle.

She was a genius of sadness, immersing herself in it, separating its numerous strands, appreciating its subtle nuances. She was a prism through which sadness could be divided into its infinite spectrum!

In Indian myth, "Nagarjuna" refers to two distinct figures: the hero Nagarjuna, the son of the Pandava Arjuna and Naga princess Ulupi, a character featured in the Oriya tradition of the Mahabharata who is honored with a special festival at the Puri Jagannath temple. The other Nagarjuna is the famous Buddhist philosopher and Acharya, a medieval figure who developed the Madhyamaka school of Buddhism and was known for his profound understanding of 'emptiness' (sunyata)!

The man from Ukhrul:

Machihan Sasa is a renowned master craftsman from Longpi Kajui, Ukhrul, Manipur, recognized for his mastery of the ancient art of Longpi pottery. Awarded the prestigious Padma Shri in 2024 for his contributions to art and culture, he is credited with preserving and reviving this unique hand-moulded black pottery, which uses serpentine stone and brown clay without a wheel and is known to enhance food flavor.

Sasa has trained hundreds of villagers in this tradition, creating a sustainable livelihood and ensuring the art form's transmission to future generations.

Artistic Legacy: He has dedicated over five decades to Longpi pottery, an ancient craft rooted in the Neolithic period.

Padma Shri Award: He received the Padma Shri in 2024 for his exceptional dedication to preserving and promoting the Longpi pottery tradition.

Unique Craft: Longpi pottery is a rare, black clay pottery made without a potter's wheel, using a special combination of black serpentine stone and brown clay.

Cultural Preservation: Sasa has been instrumental in training over 300 individuals, ensuring the survival of this unique cultural heritage and creating a sustainable income source for the villagers.

Village Origin: He hails from the village of Longpi Kajui in the Ukhrul district of Manipur.

The alchemists: The Hero Nagarjuna (Mahabharata Folklore)

He is the son of the Pandava hero Arjuna and the Naga princess Ulupi. Oriya Mahabharata, his story appears in the Oriya version of the Mahabharata by Sarala Dasa, where he is a mighty warrior. The deity Jagannath is sometimes depicted as this heroic Nagarjuna, a tradition known as the Nagarjuna Beshha, which features a warrior's costume.

The story continues further: India's "Eastern Alchemist," a title referring to the most prominent figure in ancient Indian alchemy, is Nagarjuna (also spelled Nagarjunacharya). He was a scholar and monk known for his extensive laboratory experiments in alchemy and metallurgy, documented in texts like the Rasaratnakara. Nagarjuna is credited with developing methods for transmuting base metals into gold and creating gold-like alloys, a process whose technology is still used for imitation jewelry today.

Key contributions of Nagarjuna: Transmutation of Metals:

He developed methods to convert base metals into gold, though the "gold" was a substance that looked and shone like gold.

Metallurgy: He conducted extensive experiments in metallurgy, laying the groundwork for creating alloys and purifying metals.

"Gold-Shine Mechanism": His techniques for creating a golden luster are still used in the jewelry industry to make imitation gold.

Documentation: He wrote important texts on alchemy and metallurgy, such as the Rasaratnakara, providing detailed instructions for various processes.

Scientific Legacy: 10th-11th century historian Al Beruni recognized Nagarjuna as a "famous representative" of Indian Alchemy.

Black Pottery:

While the Longpi black pottery tradition of the Tangkhul Naga community in Manipur is centuries old and has no single documented founder, the modern revival and promotion of the craft can be largely attributed to Machihan Sasa. Sasa, a recipient of national and state awards and the Padma Shri, dedicated his life to preserving the art, training villagers, and popularizing Longpi pottery through national and international platforms.

Ancient Craft: The origins of Longpi black pottery are ancient, tied to the Tangkhul Naga community and with no single founder.

Machihan Sasa's Role: He is recognized as a pivotal figure in the modern era for his efforts in reviving and sustaining the craft, teaching it to his villagers, and gaining national recognition.

A Family Tradition: Machihan Sasa learned the art from his father, Kuishim Sasa, and passed it on to his son, Mathew Sasa, ensuring its continuity.

Community-Based: Traditionally, it was a communal activity among the Tangkhul Naga people, and Sasa's work brought it back to the forefront of the village's economy.

Nungbi Kajui: Machihan Sasa hails from the Nungbi Kajui village in Ukhrul district, which is one of the villages where the craft originates.

Black pottery is a durable, dark-hued ceramic made from clay mixed with iron-rich materials or black serpentine stone, then shaped, dried, and fired at high temperatures, often using a unique reduction firing process that results in its distinctive color and dense, non-porous substance. It is a traditional craft found in various cultures, such as in Manipur, India, where Longpi black pottery is a treasured heritage, and in Nizamabad, India, known for its own distinct style.

Key Characteristics: Dark Color: The deep black color is achieved through specific clay compositions and firing techniques, including reduction firing in which the absence of oxygen in the kiln creates a black, non-porous surface.

Material Composition: It is made from fine-grained clay mixed with ingredients like iron-rich materials or serpentine stone, giving the finished product a rich iron content.

Durability: The high-temperature firing and dense, non-porous nature of the pottery make it strong, durable, and often suitable for cooking and serving.

Handmade Craft: Many forms of black pottery, such as those from Manipur, are entirely handmade without the use of a potter's wheel, highlighting the artisanal skill involved.

Manipur's black pottery, specifically the Long-

pi black pottery, is a traditional handicraft from the Tangkhul Naga community in the Longpi villages near the Ukhrul district. It is handmade from a mixture of black serpentine stone and brown clay, then shaped, polished with a local tree leaf, and finally fired in a bonfire. This durable and eco-friendly pottery is valued for its unique natural finish, rich iron content, and ability to keep food warm and cook faster than conventional vessels.

That is what I find so wonderful, that not a day goes by....hardly a day, without some addition to one's knowledge however trifling, the addition I mean, provided one takes the pains!.....Lt General V. Lakhera the DG Assam Rifles has indeed set very high standards!

And this is what Assam Rifles are doing in Ukhrul:

Black pottery, locally known as Longpi Hampai, is one of the most distinctive crafts of Ukhrul district in Manipur. Rooted in the Tangkhul Naga tradition, this art form dates back to the Neolithic era, around 10,000 BC. The pottery is crafted without a wheel, using a unique blend of black serpentine stone and special brown clay found only in Longpi and neighbouring villages such as Longpi Kajui, Longpi Khullen, and Nungbi. Each piece is hand-shaped and fired in open flames, making it both eco-friendly and durable.

Apart from its striking aesthetic, black pottery is valued for its culinary benefits-it retains heat, enhances flavor, and has natural non-stick qualities. Traditionally, it held ritual and social importance, being used in weddings, festivals, and as household heirlooms. Today, it has gained recognition in interior décor, luxury dining, and global handicraft markets, with rising demand in India and abroad.

The Government of India has taken steps to support this craft by promoting it under One District One Product (ODOP) and launching projects to improve artisan training, marketing, and e-commerce reach.

For the Assam Rifles and defence families, supporting black pottery is more than cultural appreciation -it is nation-building. By preserving this heritage, they strengthen local livelihoods, foster pride, and safeguard an art form that is both ancient and timeless.

All stories come to an end but we will end this one on a lyrical note: Saathi Na Caravan Hai, Yeh Tera Imtihan Hai, Yun Hi Chala Chal. Tu Dil Ke Sahare, Karli Hai Manzil Tujhko Ishare, Dekh Kahin Koi Rok Nahin Le Tujhko Pukar Ke, O' Rahi.. O' Rahi.. O' Rahi.. O' Rahi.....(Dedicated to the people of Ukhrul.....MD)!



Pancreatic Cancer: Cigarette Smoke May Fuel Tumor Growth and Spread

A new study has shed light on how cigarette smoking can worsen pancreatic cancer. It has long been understood that there was a link between smoking and pancreatic cancer, but the exact mechanism was unclear.

Now, a group of scientists has discovered that certain chemicals in cigarette smoke actually reprogram the immune system in a way that helps tumors grow and spread. This could point to new treatment strategies for pancreatic cancer, which currently has very few options.

According to the authors, their findings are significant because pancreatic cancer is one of the deadliest types of cancer, with only a five-year survival rate of 13%. The full results of the study were published on September 4 in *Cancer Discovery*. The Hirshberg Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research adds further context, noting that it is the third leading cause of cancer-related death in the United States. In 2025 alone, it is estimated that more than 67,000 Americans will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, and nearly 52,000 will die from it.

Effects of smoking on pancreatic cancer

The research, carried out by a team at the University of Michigan, combined lab experiments, mouse models, and

human tissue samples.

They focused on a group of chemicals in cigarette smoke called aryl hydrocarbon receptor ligands (AhRLs).

These include well-known carcinogens such as dioxins. To mimic smoking, mice were treated with cigarette smoke extract or with 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD), a powerful AhR ligand.

The researchers then implanted pancreatic cancer cells directly into the animals' pancreases to track tumor growth. They also used genetically engineered mice to tease apart how different immune cells responded to these smoke-related chemicals. Finally, they compared the mouse findings to human pancreas tissue from organ donors and cancer patients.

The results were striking. Both cigarette smoke and TCDD accelerated pancreatic tumor growth in mice — but only if their immune system was intact. That means the chemicals weren't damaging tumor cells directly. Instead, they were altering the immune response.

The key player was a receptor called AhR on CD4+ T cells. Once activated, these cells began producing more of a molecule called IL-22 and also boosted the number of regulatory T cells (Tregs).

Normally, Tregs keep the immune system in check. But in this case, they prevented CD8+ T cells — the ones that

usually attack cancer — from doing their job. In other words, smoking tipped the balance of the immune system away from fighting tumors and toward letting them grow. The team also saw that exposure to TCDD promoted early precancerous changes in the pancreas, suggesting that chemicals in cigarette smoke may play a role not just in cancer progression but also in its initiation.

Human tissue samples told a similar story. Smokers had more activation of the AhR pathway, and pancreatic tumors from smoking patients contained more Tregs. The number of these suppressive cells also tracked with how much the patient had smoked over their lifetime.

Future treatments for pancreatic cancer

According to the authors, what they have learned could potentially lead to new treatments that block AhR activation or reduce the suppressive effect of Tregs.

This could help the immune system mount a stronger anti-cancer response, especially in smokers.

They additionally note that, since AhR ligands are also found in pollutants and industrial chemicals, the findings may carry wider public health significance.

However, Asfar Azmi, PhD, director of the Pancreatic Cancer Research Initiative

at the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, who was not involved in the study, urges caution in interpreting what the findings mean.

"Although this research represents an important step forward, it's still early," Azmi said, adding that much of the evidence comes from labs, animal studies, and findings from human tissues.

"That means the results show a mechanism linking smoking and pancreatic cancer, but they don't prove that every smoker will develop this cancer, or that blocking this pathway will automatically prevent it," he told Healthline. Azmi noted that more clinical research is necessary before these findings will actually change doctors' practices regarding the treatment of pancreatic cancer.

Quitting smoking lowers pancreatic cancer risk

Najeem al Hallak, MD, MS, a medical oncologist with the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, said that "the message is clear that quitting smoking is one of the most important steps people can take to lower their risk of pancreatic cancer," al Hallak wasn't involved in the study.

He further pointed out that smoking cessation may help reduce people's risk of many other cancers, as well as heart and lung diseases.

"Even reducing exposure helps," al Hallak told Healthline, "but the greatest benefit comes from complete cessation."

If you are a heavy smoker, al Hallak recommended speaking with your doctor about pancreatic cancer risk and whether you qualify for specialized monitoring or risk-reduction programs.

He also acknowledged the difficulties of smoking cessation, offering smokers some encouraging words. "Quitting is hard, but it is absolutely possible, and thousands succeed every day," he said.

The first step in quitting? Speak with your personal physician. "They can guide you to nicotine replacement (patches, gum, or lozenges) or medications that reduce cravings," al Hallak said.

Finally, al Hallak added that seeking support is essential. "Counseling, support groups, and quit lines (e.g., 1-800-QUIT-NOW) double your chances of success," he said. Additionally, al Hallak suggests planning for your triggers. For example, if you are accustomed to smoking after meals or with coffee, create a healthier alternative that you can do instead.

Finally, he urged that you don't give up after slips. "Many people need several tries before quitting for good," al Hallak said. "Each attempt builds skills for the next."

Courtesy Healthline



HEADLINES TODAY INVITES CONTRIBUTIONS

Are you a writer, poet, storyteller, columnist, or feature writer with a passion for literature or health writings? Headlines Today offers a platform to share:

Literature Section: Well-crafted essays, literary articles, reflections, and creative writings.

Health Section: Well-researched articles, expert columns, and in-depth feature reports from professionals and specialists.

Send your contributions to:

Dr Basharat Khan

Honorary Editor: Literature & Health Sections (HT) at

chogalwriter76@gmail.com

YOUR WORDS CAN INSPIRE, INFORM, AND IGNITE; LET THEM BE HEARD.



ESSCO PLACEMENTS PVT. LTD
Your Future begins here

ADMISSION Open

Study In BANGLADESH!

- ✓ MBBS / BDS / Engineering / Other Professional Courses
- ✓ Top Government & Private Universities
- ✓ Hassle-free Admission Process
- ✓ Visa, Documentation & Travel Assistance
- ✓ 100% Genuine Consultancy – Trusted by Thousands

Why Choose Us?

- Guaranteed Admissions in Top
- Govt. & Private Universities
- Full Support with Visa, Documentation & Travel
- Affordable Fee Structures
- Experienced & Trusted Consultancy

• Limited Seats Available

Apply Early to Secure Your Spot!

Visit us today and take the first step towards a brighter future!

For More Details, Contact Us Now:
Umer Abad, Zainkote, HMT, Sgr.
7006710373 - 7051779981
info@esscoplacements.com, esscoplacements@gmail.com
www.esscoplacements.com

**INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH & HYGIENE
COLLEGE OF NURSING & ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES**

APPROVED BY J & K PARAMEDICAL & NURSING COUNCIL /INC.
AFFILIATED a UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU

ADMISSIONS OPEN

#1 Nursing College in Jammu

THROUGH BOPEE SCORECARD

www.jphnursingcollegejammu.org

LAST CHANCE

**D-PHARMA (RECOGNISED BY PCI)
B.SC. (NURSING)
POST BASIC B.SC. (NURSING)
GENERAL NURSING & MIDWIFERY
MULTI-PURPOSE HEALTH WORKER (M/F)**

LOCATED IN THE HEART OF THE CITY | STATE-OF-THE-ART INFRASTRUCTURE | 100% PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE IN TOP HOSPITALS | WELL EQUIPPED LAB. & DIGITAL LIBRARY AFFORDABLE FEE STRUCTURE (PAYABLE IN EASY INSTALLMENTS) | SAFE HOSTEL FACILITIES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS SEPARATELY

IPH&H Institutional Campus Near Kangar Morh, Kot Bhalwal, Jammu, J&K - 181122

7051179677 | 8082531040 | 8082657200

Public Notice

It is hereby notified that my name has been incorrectly mentioned in my Aadhar regard Ayaz Ahmad Shiekh S/O Ab Ahad Shiekh while his correct name is Shiekh, Ayaz Ahmad S/O Shiekh Ab Ahad R/O Magam Handwara now we have applied for the correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the Nayabat Office Magam within a period of 07 days after that no objection will be accepted .

**Name: SHIEKH AYAZ AHMAD
S/O : SHIEKH AB AHAD
R/O: MAGAM/Tehsil/ Handwara
District/Kupwara**

Public Notice

It is hereby notified that my Name dob and Address has been incorrectly mentioned on his Adhar card, 680097103158 as Waseem Ahmad Shah S/O Ab Jabar Shah R/O Vodapora DOB 14/01/2002 while his correct Name Address DOB is Waseem Jabar Shah S/O Abdul Jabar Shah R/O Khuramabad Handwara DOB 05/04/2004 now I have applied for the correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection concerned authority / UIDAI office within a period of 07 days after that no objection will be accepted.

**Name: WASEEM JABAR SHAH DOB 05/04/2004
S/O ABDUL JABAR SHAH
R/O: KHURAMABAD TEHSIL HANDWARA DIST KUPWARA**

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my father's name GH AHMAD WANI S/O AB AZIZ WANI R/O TILAGAM Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0213040000215 wantsto be registered on name HILAL AHMAD WANI S/O GH AHMAD WANI R/O TILAGAM .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication ofthis notice after that no objection will be entertained

**Name....HILAL AHMAD WANI
S/O GH AHMAD WANI , R/O TILAGAM PATTAN**

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION SUB OFFICE BARAMULLA

Public Notice

It is hereby noticed that my father's name has been incorrectly in my school records, as Mohammad Altaf Mir while his correct name is Altaf Ahmad, Mir , now i have applied for the correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection at The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education sub Office Baramulla Within a period of 07 days after that no objection will be accepted.

**Name: FARDEEN ALTAF MIR , S/O: ALTAF AHMAD MIR
ROLL NO 307032038 SESSION ANNUAL YEAR 2024 /25
R/O: PAZWALPORA
RAFIABAD POST OFFICE ZETHEN DIST BARAMULLA**

Public Notice

My daughters name has been wrongly written as FARHAT SHOWAT D/O SHOWAAT AHMAD MALIK in her date of Birth certificate while her correct name is FARHAT SHOWKET D/O SHOWKET AHMAD MALIK R/O WAGILLA which needs to be corrected .If anybody having any objection in this regard he/ she may file his /her objection in the office of TEHSILDAR Wagoora/BDO Wagoora Within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

**Name... SHOWKET AHMAD MALIK
F/O FARHAT SHOWKET
R/O WAGILLA , ZONE ...WAGOORA**

Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written as MOHD HUSSAIN MANSOOR PANDITH in the qualification certificate/ documents while my correct name is MOHAMMAD HUSSAIN MANSOOR S/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD PANDITH which needs to be corrected .If anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may file his/her objection in the office of concerned authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**Name....MOHAMMAD HUSSAIN MANSOOR
S/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD PANDITH
R/O ATHOORA, Distt....BARAMULLA**

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer Public Works (R&B) Division Awantipora

NO: T-1/EEA/4370-75 | Dated: 16/09/2025

Extension Notice

Subject: UDDDC2526100008-(Construction of Chain Link Fencing of Graveyard from Cowshed of Manzoor Ahmad to House of Tariq Ahmad Sheikh at Iqbal Colony Ward No 3 at MC-Awantipora Phase-2nd.

Reference: This office e-NIT No.44/EEA/RNB of 2025-26/3805-15 Dated28 -08-2025.

The critical dates for the above noted NIT are hereby extended as under:

1	Bid Submission End Date	24-09-2025 up to 4.00 P.M
2	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	25-09-2025 at 12.00 P.M

All other terms & Conditions shall remain same as per above mentioned NIT.

Sd/- Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora.

DIPK: 6419/25 | Dated: 19-09-2025

Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department

Public Health Engineering Division, Bijbehara

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS | e-NIT No.-:28/PHE/BIJ of 2025-26 (e-Tendering)

Issued under endorsement No.PHE/BIJ/5600-22Dated :-18.09.2025

For and on behalf of theLieutenant Governor, J&K UnionTerritory e-tenders (in SingleCoverSystem)areinvitedonpercentagebasisfrom approved andregistered Govt. contractors, for theworksmentionedbelow: -

SNo.	Nameofwork	Advt. Cost	E/M	Class	T.D Cost	Time
1.	Restoration of WSSKrad disrupted due to floods of 26 Aug and 03 Sep 2025	14.63	43,890	BEE, CEE, DEE	1000	1 Month

Position of Accord of Administrative Approval :- Accorded

Position of Technical Sanction : Accorded

01. The Bidding documents consisting ofqualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities(B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmentalwebsitewww.jktenders.gov.inasper scheduleofdatesgiven below.

S. No.	Description	Date DD	MM	YYYY	Time
1	Publishing date of NIT	19	09	2025	02:00 PM
2	Download start date	19	09	2025	02:00 PM
3	Bid submission start date	19	09	2025	02:00 PM
4	Bid submission end date	24	09	2025	04:00 PM
5	Bid opening date	24	09	2025	04:15PM

02. Bids must be uploaded on Jketenders.gov.in with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt/e-Challan infavour ofExecutiveEngineerPHEDivisionBijbehara(Tender receivingauthority).

03. EarnestMoneyequivalentto3%ofAdvertised cost shallhavetobeuploadedbythetendererinshapeofCDR/FDRwithoutwhichtendertendershallnotbeentertained.

04. The quantity of items in the BOQ are purely on tentative basis just to arrive at a genuine / exact comparative cost. ThequantityitemsintheBOQcanincreaseordecreaseandshallnotbementionedintheallotmentorder.

05. The successful bidder shall have to respond within the minimum possible time (not more than 03 hours) to execute the requisite job failing which the Engineer In-charge or the authorized supervisory staff shall be at liberty to get the job executed / completed through any other means on the risk and cost of the allottee. If the allottee will fail to respond in time continuously for 03 turns his contract shall be deemed to have been cancelled and the job shall be put to fresh tenders after forfeiting of his performance security and shall be debarred to take part in any other tendering process of the Division.

06. The tenderer shall have to satisfy himself regarding all aspects like topography of the area, climatic conditions, geographical conditions within the peripherals of the area, before tendering for the work of the particular area at his own expenses.

07. The tenderers have to submit the tender online without any addition or alteration in the rate schedule items or any conditions thereof. No conditional tender whatsoever shall be entertained even if the rates shall be lowest one.

08. The tenderer has to understand fully the nature of work or works as per proper nomenclature of items of work inrate/quantitiescheduleintheformofBOQ.

09. The tenderer has to sign a deed at the time of allotment and has to give full details of men and machinery available withhim or he has to give a written bond duly stamped as per norms of providing men and machinery as required forexecutionofanyoftheworkorworksallottedtohim.

10. The successful bidder has to remain in close liaison with the Divisional Office/ Sub Divisional Officer ofPHE Division Bijbehara till the expiry of the contract, besides the tenderer shall have to remain available during the contract period.

11. Sincetheworkareofemergentnature,therefore,inordertoexecuteworkaretobecarriedoutduring execution period as mentioned.

12. ThePaymenttotheconcerned agencyshallbemadeasper availabilityoffunds.

13. Any item of work not included in the BOQ but required for the completion of the work, shall be executed by the contractor, as directed by the Department. Such extra item shall be paid on J&K SOR2022 rates with allotted appreciation/depreciation of the contractor. In case such item does not figure in J&K SOR 2022, the same shall be paid as per the current market rate analysis (LMR), to be approved by the competent authority. Workdoneclaimshastobesupported withpre,duringandpostphotographicvidence.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, J.S PHE Division Bijbehara

DIPK: 6391/25 | Dated: 19-09-2025



SOLIAH IDARATUL ALOOM SCHOOL

(Under – YASEIN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES INDIA FOUNDATION)
NARBAL, BUDGAM - JAMMU AND KASHMIR. PH: 9541330128, 9906760128. E-mail: yesnarbal@gmail.com

UDISE: 01041600208

MANAGING COMMITTEE BODY OF SOLIAH IDARATUL ALOOM SCHOOL

S.N	Name	Parentage	Residence	Qualification	Designation	Occupation	Contact number	Photo
1	BASHIR AHMAD SHEIKH	GH MOHAMMAD SHEIKH	SHEIKH MOHALLA, NARBAL	MA	Chairman	Social worker	9596164651	
2	SYED SHAMIM AHMAD	SYED GHULAM RASOOL	SHEIKH MOHALLA, NARBAL	Graduation	Secretary	Social worker	9797839400	
3	SHEIKH MARFU UL BASHIR	BASIR AHMED SHEIKH	SHEIKH MOHALLA, NARBAL	Graduation	Vice Chairman	Business	9596164651	
4	DANISH SIDIQ BHAT	MOHAMMAD SIDIQ BHAT	SHERI MOHALLA, NARBAL	Graduation	Join Secretary	Business	8082030774	
5	MOHAMMA D FAROOQ SHEIKH	GULAM RASOOL SHEIKH	YARI GUND, NARBAL	MA, B. Ed	Advisor	Principal	9797980511	
6	SYED AZRA	SYED MOHI UD DIN BUKHARI	GOTAPORA, ARATH	MA, B. Ed	Member	Teacher	6006515839	
7	ZAHOOR AHMED BHAT	ABDUL SALEEM BHAT	SHERI MOHALLA, NARBAL	10th	Member	Business	7006502287	
8	ULFAT JAN	GHULAM MOHAMMAD BHAT	GHAT, SOZETH, GORI PORA BEERWAH	10th	Member	Business	7006510245	

Yours fatefully

GOVERNMENTOF(U.T.)JAMMU&KASHMIR

Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.

Ground Water Division Srinagar

Baghi-Ali-Mardan,NowsharaSrinagar.

E-mail:- hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in | Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

Extension Notice 2nd

For Sr.No.16, 17, 18, 19,26,27,28 &30

Subject: 1. Construction of Bore Well Near Masjid Shareef Khanday Mohalla at Salia District Anantnag (Block Khoveripora) Panchayat Salia-B.

2. Construction of Bore Well at Gund Shumhall District Anantnag (Block Khoveripora) Panchayat Shumhall.

3. Construction of Bore Well at Yall Bon Mohallah District Anantnag (Block Khoveripora) Panchayat Shumhall.

4. Construction of Bore Well at Kasana Mohalla District Anantnag (Block Khoveripora) Panchayat Vainagbal-A.

5. Construction of Bore Well with motor NHO Mushtaq Sheikh Kutbal Sheliopora District Anantnag (Block Achabal) Panchayat Halqa Sheliopora.

6. Construction of Bore Well with Motor near Masjid Shareef Ganiepora Sheliopora District Anantnag (Block Achabal) Panchayat Halqa Sheliopora.

7. Construction of Bore Well with motor NHO Haji Gul Mohd Sheikh Herpora Sheliopora District Anantnag (Block Achabal) Panchayat Halqa Sheliopora.

8. Construction of Bore Well at Maqdampora NHO Mohd Hussain Ganie, Shabir Ahmad Wani, Ali Mohd Wani and Others District Anantnag (Block Achabal) Panchayat Halqa Akingam-A.

Reference: This office e-NIT No. 40-JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2025-26, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/ Camp./6037-48, dated: 30-08-2025. Bearing Tender ID No. 2025_PHE_286326_16, 17, 18, 19, 26, 27, 28 & 30.

Due to "NO Response" for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 18-09-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	03-10-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	04-10-2025 11.00 AM

NOTE:

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.

No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./7199-7208 | Dated: 18-09-2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer

Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt. Ground Water Division Srinagar

DIPK: 6399/25 | Dated: 19-09-2025

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION TANGMARG

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (CIVIL WORKS) | NIT No: 54/R&B of 2025-26 | Dated: 19-09-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost	T.D Cost	E/M	Time	Class	Tender Call
1	Up-gradation / Landscaping Compound Area near 62a Hut.	2.49	200/-	4980/-	20 days	DEE	1st
2	Renovation of Washrooms / Kitchen of CEO's Hut at Gulmarg.	2.48	200/-	4960/-	20 days	DEE	1st
3	Re-construction of staff Quarter Kitchens.	2.45	200/-	4900/-	20 days	DEE	1st

M.H of Account: 3452 Non-Plan

Position Of AAA: Accorded

Position of funds: Assured

Project Authority: Gulmarg Dev. Authority

Position of T.S: Accorded

1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	18-09-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	19-09-2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	19 -09-2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	29-09-2025 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	30-09-2025 11:00 AM

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Dated between bid submission start date and bid submission end date) with NIT No. , Serial No. and name of work to be deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender inviting authority)

3. All the bidders must upload Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority) (The Date of earnest money/Bid security should be between the Bid Submission start date and Bid submission End date, otherwise bids shall be rejected).

4. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority) as per rule-171 (I) of GFR 2017. The earnest money/ Bid security @2% shall be released to the successful bidder only on receipt of Performance Security @ 5% of Contract value which shall be released after successful completion of DLP /maintenance period.

5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority).

6. The earnest money/ Bid security in favour of unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of original Treasury Challan.

7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

8. The earnest money shall be forfeited, If:-

i. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

ii. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

iii. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

iv. Failure of successfully bidder to submit the performance security within the time period (as per JKPWD Engineering Manual 2020) i.e 21 Days from the issuance of latter of acceptance, after that the work will be put to fresh tenders without any notice to the contractor and the EMD will be forfeited.

No: R&B / Divn./ Tang/ 4337-40 | Dated: 19-09-2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg

DIPK: 6411/25 | Dated: 19-09-2025

JKEDI organizes Startup Idea Challenge Boot Camps at Srinagar, Katra, Kathua and Banihal; innovative ideas shortlisted

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU/SRINAGAR, SEP 19: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) continued its mission of fostering innovation and empowering youth through entrepreneurship by organizing J&K Startup Idea Challenge – Boot Camps at the Government Sri Pratap College, M.A Road, Srinagar, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University - Technology Business Incubator Centre (SMVDU-TBIC), Katra, Government Degree College for Women, Kathua and Govt. Degree College Banihal. The events, held under the J&K Startup Policy 2024–2027, witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, aspiring entrepreneurs, and faculty members.

At Srinagar, the boot camp was held at the Government Sri Pratap College, M.A Road, Srinagar. The camp was inaugurated by Professor Bashir Ahmad, Principal of the College who underscored the need of organizing such initiatives more frequently to build and nurture a

vibrant startup ecosystem in the U.T of Jammu and Kashmir.

Twenty two participants presented their ideas before the jury comprising of faculty of the college, Lead Bank Manager from J&K Bank and officers/officials of JKEDI. Sh. Ahsan Qadir, District Nodal Officer (DNO), JKEDI Srinagar deliberated on the details of the J&K Startup Policy 2024–27 while Dr. Sameer Jan Baht, Incharge, CEER, JKEDI presented the keynote address.

At Katra, the boot camp under the J&K Startup Idea Challenge was held at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University - Technology Business Incubator Centre (SMVDU-TBIC), Katra to boost the startup ecosystem of the Union Territory in line with the J&K Startup Policy 2024–27.

Chand Kishor Sharma, Joint Director, JKEDI, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. In his address, he highlighted the various interventions and workshops being implemented by JKEDI under the J&K Startup Policy 2024–27 and urged students to think innovatively and work towards building sustain-



able entrepreneurial ventures while

Dr. Kumud Ranjan Jha, Vice-Chairperson, TBIC, graced the

event as Guest of Honor and encouraged the participants to nurture their ideas into impactful startups. Dr. Sanjay Mohan, CEO, TBIC, was also present at the event who appreciated the JKEDI's role in building startup ecosystem. Smt Divya, Manager TBIC was also present at the event.

Abhilash Kumar Braroo, District Nodal Officer (DNO), JKEDI Reasi, delivered the keynote address, outlining the agenda of the session and setting the tone for discussions on innovation, entrepreneurship, and opportunities available under the J&K Startup Policy 2024–27 while Zahid Ali Dar, Project Manager, JKEDI, spoke on the importance of the J&K Startup Idea Challenge workshop emphasizing the opportunities available for budding entrepreneurs.

The Bootcamp witnessed enthusiastic participation, with 110 students attending the session. A total of fourteen students pitched their ideas, out of which twelve were shortlisted for the next round of the Startup Idea Challenge.

At Kathua, the Boot Camp,

held at Government Degree College for Women, Kathua was graced by Chand Kishor Sharma, Joint Director, as the Chief Guest in presence of Dr. Savi Behl, Principal, Govt. Degree College for Women, Kathua.

He emphasized the importance of entrepreneurship in youth empowerment. Dheeraj Handoo, District Nodal Officer (DNO) JKEDI Kathua, presented details of the J&K Startup Policy 2024–27, and guided students on startup idea pitching. A motivational address was delivered by Arun Singh, Founder & CEO of Techez Workstation and Software Solutions Private Limited. A total of 04 participants pitched their ideas before a distinguished jury comprising JKEDI officials, and faculty members of the college, out of which eleven ideas were shortlisted for the next stages.

At Banihal, the boot camp was held at Govt. Degree College Banihal. The event was inaugurated by Dr. Mohammad Shafiq Katoch, Principal of the college, who emphasized the importance of nurturing a vibrant start-up ecosystem in J&K. Experts from

JKEDI and JK Bank, actively guided participants. A highlight was the pitching session, where eight innovative business ideas were presented, reflecting creativity and problem-solving zeal across technology and sustainable models.

Tasneef Rasool Parry, District Nodal Officer (DNO), JKEDI, Ramban engaged the students on the pretext of the incentives of the J&K Startup Policy 2024–27 while Mohsin Abrar (In charge Recovery and Repayment, JKEDI) laid the outline of the stages of J&K Startup Idea Challenge.

These boot camps served as vibrant platforms for idea exchange, motivation, and entrepreneurial learning. The dignitaries and jury members across districts lauded JKEDI's sustained efforts to nurture entrepreneurship and innovation at the grassroots level. By providing mentorship, exposure, and support, JKEDI is reinforcing its mission to strengthen the startup ecosystem and empower the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to become job creators rather than job seekers.

DC Doda reviews progress of District Capex works

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

DODA, SEP 19: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Harvinder Singh today chaired a comprehensive review meeting in the DC Office to assess the progress under the District Capex Budget 2025–26.

The meeting brought together key officers and sectoral heads to evaluate physical and financial achievements, identify bottlenecks, and ensure the timely execution of developmental projects across the district.

The meeting focused on a comprehensive review of the progress made under District Capex 2025–26, including assessment of the number of works sanctioned, tendered, allotted and taken up for execution across different sectors and grant-wise divisions.

The meeting also deliberated on the financial status of ongoing projects and the current status of works uploaded on the E-compedium. Further, the discussions covered the closure of works on the BEAMS portal for PV validation, constituency-wise details of works executed under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and other relevant issues.

Senior officials, including the Additional District Development Commissioner Roshan Lal; ACD Din Mohd Afaq; CPO Manesh Kumar Manhas; Superintending Engineers from PWD, JPDCL and Hydraulic Circle, as well as sectoral officers from Agriculture, Education, Youth Services & Sports, Medical and Forest Departments, participated in the review. Executive Engineers of REW and the Ground Water Division joined the meeting through virtual mode. Block Development Officers, representatives of JAKEDA and other line departments were also present with updated data on works accorded, tendered, allotted and executed.

The CPO presented a detailed overview of progress under the District Capex Budget 2025–26 through a PowerPoint presentation.



The meeting reviewed the number of works sanctioned, tendered, allotted, and taken up for execution. Detailed discussions were held on the financial status of ongoing projects, non-feasible works with justifications, uploading of works on the E-compedium, closure of projects on BEAMS for the PV portal and constituency-wise status of works under CDF. The DDC emphasized transparency, timely tendering and strict quality monitoring to ensure effective utilization of resources and faster delivery of public assets.

The DDC issued directions to departments lagging behind schedule to adhere to strict deadlines, prioritize people-centric and community-demanded works and ensure third-party monitoring for quality assurance.

The review included detailed assessment of departments such as RDD, Health, Power Development Department, School Education, PWD (R&B), Jal Shakti, PHE Division, Irrigation & Flood Control and CDF grants. A block-wise review of CDF works was conducted with respective BDOs, along with an examination of physical and financial progress reports regarding the Capex 2025–26 budget. The DDC directed all concerned stakeholders not to compromise on quality while executing developmental works and to complete all pending projects within stipulated timelines.

Arrangements Reviewed for Navratra, Dussehra and Ram Navami Festivals at Reasi

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

REASI, SEP 19: Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik, today chaired a meeting of district officers, representatives of civil society, and members of the Durga Natak Mandli, Reasi, to review and finalise arrangements for the smooth celebration of the upcoming Navratra, Dussehra and Ram Navami festivals in the district.

The Durga Natak Mandli apprised the DC about their scheduled programmes, which include the staging of the traditional Ram Leela, the Dussehra Festival, and the Parikrama Yatra of Mata Vaishno Devi Parvat, events that draw a large number of devotees and spectators every year.

Detailed deliberations were held on arrangements related to sanitation, security, power and water supply, streetlight repairs, medical support, fire safety and



crowd management. DC Nidhi Malik directed the BDOs and EO, Municipal Council to ensure proper cleanliness drives both in the town and surrounding rural areas, with special focus on temple complexes and congregation points.

The Chief Medical Officer was instructed to station adequate medical staff, along with an ambulance, at the General Zorawar Singh Sports Stadium on Dussehra day to deal with any emergencies. The Fire Services Department was directed to position a fire tender at the venue as a precautionary measure.

The PDD Department was asked to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply during Ram Leela shows and Dussehra festivities, while the PHE Department was directed to provide safe drinking water through tankers at congregation points. The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti, was tasked with making

barricading and safety arrangements at the Ram Leela Ground to facilitate smooth crowd movement.

Underscoring the significance of social messaging during cultural celebrations, DC Reasi urged the Durga Natak Mandli to incorporate awareness about the "Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan" in their Ram Leela performances and Dussehra day events, to sensitize the public against the menace of drug abuse.

She further stressed the need for inter-departmental coordination and active public cooperation to ensure that the festivities are celebrated in a safe, disciplined, and joyous manner.

The meeting was attended by SSP Reasi Paramvir Singh, ADC Rakesh Kumar, CMO, XEN PWD, and representatives of the Durga Natak Mandli, besides other senior officers of the district administration.

Relief Commissioner inspects Transit Migrant Accommodation at Nutnussa and Kulangam

■ HT News Desk

KUPWARA, SEP 19: The Relief Commissioner, Arvind Karwani, today visited Nutnussa and Kulangam area of Handwara sub district to take review of the ongoing construction work of Transit Migrant Accommodation.

During the visit, Relief Commissioner enquired from the concerned engineers about the status of the construction work and got detailed feedback regarding the progress of the projects.



On the occasion, the Relief Commissioner impressed upon the concerned officers to ensure completion of the projects within the stipulated time frame. He was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Handwara Javed Naseem Masoodi, Tehsildar Handwara, Zeeshan Khan, Executive Engineer R&B, Farooq Ahmad Shah, and other concerned officers.

Public Notice

It is hereby informed that my name has been incorrectly recorded in my L.C.R. bearing No. 8309 as "Zahra Shaikh." The correct name is "Shaikh Zahra Mohammed Ali," daughter of Mohammed Ali.

Any person having any objection to this correction may raise the objection within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice.

Shaikh Zahra Mohammed Ali
D/o Mohammed Ali
R/o Thila Khandi.

Public Notice

I Shabir Ahmad Alaie S/O Kh. Gulam Mohd Alaie R/O Sozeith Goripora Tehsil. Narbal District Budgam States that my Father's name has been recorded as Gh Mohd Alaie instead of Kh Gulam Mohd Alaie in my Character ROLL (Service Records) during my enrollment in J&K Police and want to rectify the same. If any body having any objection regarding the subject matter he may appear before Commandant IRP 9TH / IRP 13TH Bn. Within seven days positively and after stipulated period no objection shall be entertained. Shabir Ahmad Alaie

S/O Kh Gulam Mohd Alaie
R/O Sozeith Goripora District Budgam.

Public Notice

I Have lost my School Discharge Certificate of Class 8th Session 2004 some where at home .Now I Have applied for its Duplicate

If any body having any objection in this regard he /she can approach His/Her Objection with Headmaster Govt High School Kanihama within the period of 7 days after that no no objection will be considered

Name :-Nusrat Amin
D/O:- **Mohammad Amin Najar**
R/O Chakpora **Kalan Check No 2 B K Pora**
Budgam
Cell No**7780811914**

Public Notice

I, Rifat, D/o Mohammad Ibrahim Joo Resident of Gund Khawaja Qasim near Higher Secondary school Kanter Bug Baramulla 193401, do hereby state that I have changed my name from Rifat Ajaz to Rifat

In future I shall be known as Rifat. If any body having any objection in this regard he /she can approach His/Her Objection with Concerned Department within the period of 7 days after that no no objection will be considered.

Name :-Rifat D/O:- Mohammad Ibrahim Joo
R/O Bug Baramulla **193401**
DISTT**BARAMULLA**

Public Notice

This is an information for general public that in my Bank account No:0832040100002914, my name and address was mentioned as Rubeena Bano, D/O Mohd Muzuffar, R/O Arhama kangan Gandarbal. Now I want to apply for Change my name and Address as per my Aadhaar Card as Rubeena Akhter, W/O Riyaz Ahmad Kalas, R/O Aragam Bandipora, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Manager jammu and kashmir Bank branch office Garoora Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Rubeena Akhter.
W/O **Riyaz Ahmad Kalas.**
R/O **Aragam Bandipora, District Bandipora.**

Public Notice Office of the Tehsildar, Sankoo

It is hereby notified that my name has been incorrectly recorded in my L.C.R. certificate as "Zahara Shaikh." The correct name "Shaikh Zahra," daughter of Mohammed Ali. Any person having any objection to this correction may kindly approach the Office of the Tehsildar, Sankoo, within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice.

Shaikh Zahra
D/o **Mohammed Ali**

Public Notice

It is hereby notified that my name has been incorrectly mentioned in my Aadhar regard Ayaz Ahmad Shiekh S/O Ab Ahad Shiekh while his correct name is Shiekh, Ayaz Ahmad S/O Shiekh Ab Ahad R/O Magam Handwara now we have applied for the correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the Nayabat Office Magam within a period of 07 days after that no objection will be accepted .

Name: SHIEKH AYAZ AHMAD
S/O : **SHIEKH AB AHAD**
R/O: **MAGAM/Tehsil/ Handwara**
District/**Kupwara**

India ignores EU criticism of its participation in Zapad exercise with Russia

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, SEP 19: Amid the EU's criticism of India's participation in the Zapad exercise with Russia, the MEA said today that several other countries, including NATO members such as the US, Türkiye and Hungary have also participated in the exercises as observers.

The Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at a briefing today: "As regards the objectives and details of our participation in the ZAPAD exercise in Russia, I would refer you Ministry of Defence

press release dated 09 September 2025. I would also like to point out that several other countries, including NATO members, such as US, Türkiye and Hungary, are also participating in the exercise as observers."

On September 17, EU Foreign Policy chief Kaja Kallas said that Brussels is using a "carrot and stick" approach with India and expects New Delhi to make certain choices that align with the EU's vision of a rules-based international order.

Kallas expressed particular concern over India's participation in the Zapad 2025 joint



military drills with Russia and Belarus, which took place near

NATO borders from September 10 to 16.

She said that she had raised these issues directly with Exter-

nal Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar.

Kallas had remarked about India's participation in the military exercise and its purchase of Russian oil as being a hurdle in the India-European union Free Trade Agreement.

India sent a 65-member contingent, including personnel from the Army, Air Force, and Navy, to participate in the Zapad 2025 exercise in Russia.

Meanwhile, Russian foreign ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova said Moscow values India's decision to join the exercises and rejected criticism from

the EU and NATO allies.

Zakharova pointedly asked when will the West "finally understand the futility and indeed, the absurdity of trying to dictate terms to sovereign states."

"The solid foundation of the Russian-Indian 'specially privileged strategic partnership' rests on mutual respect, equality, consideration of each other's interests, and very importantly our shared aspiration to promote a unifying, non-confrontational agenda on the international stage," RT quoted her as saying. UNI

ED intensifies probe into Andhra Pradesh liquor scam, seizes incriminating evidence

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, SEP 19: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) announced on Friday that its Hyderabad Zonal Office recently conducted search operations at twenty locations across Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Thanjavur, Surat, Raipur, Delhi NCR, and Andhra Pradesh. These searches are part of an ongoing money laundering case (PMLA) related to the Andhra Pradesh liquor scam.

The operations targeted the premises of entities and individuals alleged to have facilitated kickback payments through bogus and inflated transactions. The searches resulted in the recovery and seizure of incriminating material that provides evidence of these fake transactions, which were used to generate and move Proceeds of Crime (POC).

Items seized included bogus invoices and transport challans containing details of non-existent vehicles, parallel invoices showing differential and inflated prices, and chat messages evidencing the involvement of certain accused individuals who are absconding and believed to be in Dubai.

The chats also detailed the transfer of POC to them. Unaccounted cash amounting to Rs. 38 lakh was seized from one location, along with ledgers indicating the remittance of POC worth several crores abroad.

The ED initiated its investigation based on an FIR registered by the Andhra Pradesh CID under various sections of the IPC, concerning an estimated loss to the government exchequer of Rs. 4,000 crore. On February 5, 2025, the A.P. Government constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the case.

The FIR alleged that under the 'new liquor policy' in effect from October 2019 to March 2024, the accused engaged in 'brand killing and new brand promotion.' This involved sidelining popular liquor brands (such as McDowell's, Royal Stag, and Imperial Blue) that refused to pay kickbacks, while promoting new or spurious brands in exchange for substantial payments from distilleries and suppliers. The shift from an automated procurement system to a manual one created opportunities for manipulation in the Orders for Supply (OFS).

The SIT has filed a chargesheet and supplementary chargesheets alleging:

The replacement of the automated system with manual approvals to manipulate brand-wise indenting and supply volumes.

Favoring a select group of distilleries and marketing firms.

Coercing suppliers into paying 15-20% of their invoice value as kickbacks, under threat of having their brands suppressed or delisted.

Creating shell distilleries to channel funds and secure inflated OFS volumes.

Appointing key officials who facilitated brand approvals, manipulated eligibility norms, and suppressed dissenting suppliers.

The chargesheets further allege that kickbacks generated through procurement manipulation and fake vendor payments via shell companies, were used for election purposes, personal benefit, and transferring funds abroad.

The ED's investigation revealed that certain accused persons deliberately discouraged orders for established brands, withheld legitimate payments from distilleries, and pressured distilleries to make illicit payments in exchange for OFS. A money trail investigation uncovered that portions of payments from the Andhra Pradesh State Beverages Corporation Limited (APSBCL) to suppliers were funneled to various entities under the guise of supplying goods or services. These transactions were found to be bogus, with the recipients being either non-existent shell entities or unrelated persons. In cases where entities were legitimate, the transactions were inflated. Funds were also transferred by suppliers to jewellers to acquire gold or cash, which was then handed over to the accused as kickbacks. Thus, bogus and inflated transactions were used to siphon off funds under the cover of business, facilitating the generation and movement of illicit kickbacks.

Further investigation is ongoing. UNI

Delhi Police bust inter-state module of radicalised people who incited youth through WhatsApp groups

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, SEP 19: Delhi Police Special Cell has busted an interstate module of radicalized individuals who were allegedly attempting to wage war against India by spreading through WhatsApp groups radical ideology and inciting youths to carry out jihad, targeted killings and violence against other communities.

Some arrested individuals, accused of plotting anti-India activities on the instructions of a Pakistan-based handler, were promoting videos of Islamic preachers through WhatsApp groups to incite youths in India, sources in the Special Cell of the Delhi Police told UNI.

The sources confirmed that Ashhar Danish and Kamran Qureshi were active on a WhatsApp group where videos of extremist preachers were being shared to radicalize young people.

During interrogation, police learned that Ashhar Danish had hidden potassium nitrate for making bullets in Ranchi. He had also experimented with chemicals to create a highly explosive substance, which he later destroyed. Police have now recovered one kilogram of potassium nitrate at his behest.

The Special Cell arrested Aaftab Nasir Qureshi (25), a resident of Kalyan (Mumbai); Sufiyan Abubakar Khan (20), a resident of Thane (Maharashtra); and Mohd. Huzaiif Yaman alias Suleman alias Gouz (20), a resident of Nizamabad (Telangana), along with others. According to the Special Cell, all were part of an interstate module of radicalized individuals allegedly attempting to wage war against India by spreading radical ideology.

The first arrest in the case was made after the Special Cell received a tip-off that one or more



members of suspected radicalized social media groups, led by Ranchi resident Ashhar Danish, were attempting to buy weapons from Mewati gangs. Upon investigating this information, the

police learned that members of this module were active in several states.

The police identified that Aaftab Nasir Qureshi and Sufiyan Abubakar Khan were in Delhi.

Japan's credit rating agency praises GST reforms, defies 50pc U.S. Tariffs and Trump's 'Dead Economy' Jibe

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, SEP 19: Japan's Rating and Investment Information Inc. (R&I) today applauded India's economic strength even as the country is currently facing a steep trade barrier of 50pc tariff imposed by the US.

The R&I raised India's long-term sovereign credit rating to 'BBB Positive' from 'BBB' with a 'Stable' economic outlook.

The upgrade comes weeks after the United States imposed 50 percent tariff on Indian goods and amid claims by some U.S. commentators that India is a "dead economy."

Earlier this year, in August, Donald Trump had called India "Dead Economy," expressing disappointment with India over buying cheap oil from Russia. Moreover, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, countering the jibe by the US President said "Indian economy is doing very well and contributing more to global growth than US."

R&I said the U.S. move could have unsettled a smaller or export-dependent economy, but India's growth is powered largely by domestic demand and therefore insulated from the full impact.

Real GDP expanded 6.5 percent in FY2024, and the economy surged 7.8 percent year-on-year in the April-June 2025 quarter, convincing analysts that the headline tariff risk will have only a "limited effect" on the outlook.

'Real GDP' is the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) adjusted for inflation,



providing a more accurate measure of economy's actual production and growth over time.

The agency also appraised decision to simplify the Goods and Services Tax (GST) as a key reform underpinning the upgrade. Beginning this month, the government will introduce a two-tier GST structure with lower rates, a change designed to boost private consumption.

Earlier in September, the 56th GST Council put key reforms on the table related to simplified tax structure, sector-wise GST rate cuts wherein majority of goods and services will attract tax of 5pc and 18pc, and administrative and compliance reforms.

Strong public finances and a stable external position added weight to the move. The central government's fiscal deficit narrowed to 4.8 percent of GDP in FY2024, with a target of 4.4 percent for FY2025. Combined cen-

tral-state debt has fallen to around 80 percent of GDP, most of it held domestically, while the current-account deficit remains modest and foreign-exchange reserves are ample.

R&I credited the Modi administration's policies to attract foreign manufacturers, expand infrastructure, and reduce reliance on energy imports, noting that these steps, together with India's young population and rising incomes, should keep growth in the mid-6 percent range for years to come.

Welcoming the upgrade, the Finance Ministry said it reflected "global confidence in India's reform agenda and the resilience of its domestic economy, even amid heightened U.S. tariffs." The decision follows earlier upgrades by S&P and Morningstar DBRS, reinforcing the view that India is emerging as one of the world's most robust large economies despite a turbulent trade environment. UNI

France-Israel Rift Over Palestine Recognition

■ **United News of India**

PARIS/JERUSALEM, SEP 19: France is bracing for a diplomatic and political fallout with Israel after President Emmanuel Macron's decision to formally recognise Palestinian statehood at the United Nations General Assembly on Monday — a move that has placed Paris at the forefront of a deeply divisive issue and drawn warnings of severe retaliation from Jerusalem.

According to European officials and individuals familiar with the Israeli government's internal discussions, Israel is preparing a range of countermeasures, reports Politico.

Options reportedly under consideration include accelerating settlement expansion and annexations in the West Bank, shutting down France's historic consulate in Jerusalem, and encroaching on French-owned religious sites, such as the Sanctuary of the Eleona on the Mount of Olives.

Israeli police entered the monastery complex last year, sparking a sharp diplomatic dispute with Paris.

Deputy Foreign Minister Sharron Haskel has previously cautioned that closing the French outpost — which predates the state of Israel's establishment in 1948 — "was on the table of the prime minister."

French officials have commented that the key question is not whether Israel will retaliate, but rather how forcefully it will enact said retaliation, as PM Netanyahu's government has made its intentions clear over the two-state solution, and declared its refusal to succumb to international pressure on Palestinian statehood.

"Israel won't stop at anything in terms of retaliation," said Karim Amellal, a former French diplomat. Another European envoy warned relations between Paris and Jerusalem were set to "deteriorate enormously," citing Macron's central role in the recognition campaign.

The French leader stunned allies and adversaries alike when he declared over the summer that France would become the most prominent Western democracy to recognise Palestinian statehood. UNI

3 dead after Australian telecommunications failure disrupts emergency calls

■ **United News of India**

SYDNEY, SEP 19: Australia's second-largest telecommunications company has apologised after three customers died during a network outage that impacted hundreds of calls to emergency services on Thursday.

Optus, a wholly owned subsidiary of Singaporean conglomerate Singtel, on Friday confirmed that a network update on Thursday resulted in the failure of calls to Australia's national emergency telephone number, Triple Zero.

Optus Chief Executive

Officer Stephen Rue said at a press conference in Sydney that approximately 600 customers in the states of Western Australia (WA), South Australia (SA), and the Northern Territory (NT) were affected.

"During the process of conducting welfare checks, three of the Triple Zero calls

involved households where a person tragically passed away," Rue said.

Two of the deaths were in SA and one was in WA.

He said that the technical failure has been rectified and that Optus would cooperate fully and transparently with all relevant government agencies

and regulatory bodies.

Optus was in November 2024 ordered to pay more than 12 million Australian dollars (about 7.93 million U.S. dollars) in penalties for a similar national outage in November 2023, during which 2,145 customers were unable to call Triple Zero. UNI



IRP 10th Battalion organises sports events at Mattan under Civic Action Programme

HT Sports Desk / DIPR

ANANTNAG, SEP 19: As part of the ongoing Civic Action Programme (CAP), IRP 10th Battalion organised Kho-Kho Tournament at Govt. High School Kheribal Mattan here.

A total of eight teams comprising boys category and girls category from 07 schools namely GHS Kheribal, GHS Seer, HS Akad, HS Gopalpora, HS Salia, HSS Seer, and HS Fohar of Zone Mattan Anantnag participated in the tournament.

In the boys' category, Govt. High School Gopalpora emerged winner and was awarded cash prize of ₹5,000 along with a trophy, while as runner-up team was awarded with cash prize of ₹3,000 and a trophy. Similarly, in the girls' category, Govt. High School Kheribal secured the first position and won cash prize of ₹5,000 and trophy, while the runner up team Govt. High School Akad was awarded cash prize of ₹3,000 and a trophy.

In addition, medals and participation certificate were distributed to all participants.

Addressing the students on the occasion, Commandant IRP 10th Battalion, Rajinder Katoch highlighted that the event is part of the ongoing efforts of J&K Police to strengthen the Police-public rela-



tions. He urged the youth to refrain from drug abuse, harmful practices, and focus on education and building their bright future.

Yesterday, the IRP 10th Battalion in collaboration with DYSSO Anantnag also held Final of Volley Ball Tournament under Civic Action Programme of J&K Police at Sports Ground Tik Bagh Mattan here.

Total eight teams had participated in the tournament namely GHSS Mattan, GHSS Wanpoh, GHSS Dethu, GHSS Chittergul, GHSS Y.K. Pora, GHSS Vessu, GHSS Dalgam and GHSS Brakpora of district Anantnag.

The Final Match was played between GHSS Wanpoh and GHSS Mattan at Sports Ground Tik Bagh in which GHSS Wanpoh secured victory with an impressive 3:1 win.

DDC Chairman Anantnag, Choudhary Mohd Yousuf was chief guest on the occasion. Commandant IRP-10th Bn, Rajinder Katoch; Dy. CO IRP-10th Bn, Fahad Tak; DYCO IRP-10th Bn, Imtiyaz Ahmad; ZPEO Mattan, SHO Mattan, president Auqaf Committees Mattan/Akoura and other respectable members of the society also witnessed the tournament.

The winning team was awarded with cash prize of Rs. 15000 while as runner up team was awarded Rs. 7000, besides trophies were presented to both teams.

Sports kits, uniform kits, track suits, t-shirts, appreciation certificates, participation certificates and medals were also distributed among players of all participating teams.

The sports events are being held with an aim to encourage students to actively participate in sports, promote healthy lifestyles, and stay away from drugs and other anti-social activities.

Kupwara to Host Frontier Cricket Tournament



HT News Desk

KUPWARA, SEP 19: In order to promote sporting culture and providing suitable platform for young sportsmen frontier premier cricket league is being organised in district kupwara in the month of October 2025.

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara Shri Shrikant Suse chaired a meeting to finalize preparations for the upcoming Frontier Cricket Tournament.

Tournament is being organised with

collaborative efforts of district administration, JK police and Indian army.

Detailed discussions held on tournament logistics, teams participation, publicity strategy, and venue management to ensure a smooth event. Tournament is based on message of "Nashamukt Kupwara" and with objective of creating vibrancy in zero border villages.

The DC expressed confidence that the tournament will boost youth engagement in sports and strengthen community spirit in the district.

SSP Kulgam Inaugurates Inter-District Kho-Kho Tournament for Girls at Govt. Boys HSS, Kulgam

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, SEP 19: In a meaningful stride towards promoting gender inclusivity in sports and empowering young girls through physical activity, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kulgam, Shri Sahil Sarangal (IPS), inaugurated the Inter-District Provincial Level (IDPL) Kho-Kho Tournament 2025 for under-14 and under-17 girls at Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Kulgam.

The event has been organized by the District Youth Services and Sports Department, Kulgam, as part of its ongoing efforts to channel the energy of youth towards constructive and disciplined pursuits. The tournament aims to nurture team spirit, resilience, and healthy competition among young athletes.

This year's championship has attracted 10 teams from across the Kashmir division, involving over 250 girl athletes, who will participate in multiple rounds over the next few days. The impressive turnout highlights the increasing interest of girls in competitive sports and showcases the department's commitment to creating equal sporting opportunities for all. Addressing the gathering, SSP Kulgam Shri Sahil Sarangal emphasized the transformative power of sports in shaping personalities, boost-

ing self-confidence, and promoting physical and mental well-being. He reaffirmed the administration's dedication to enhancing sports infrastructure, identifying talent at the grassroots level, and ensuring that girls receive every opportunity to excel. "Such tournaments not only enhance physical fitness but also impart critical life values such as leadership, teamwork, discipline, and perseverance—qualities that are essential for success both on and off the field," SSP Kulgam said.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by senior officials from the District Youth Services & Sports Department, Kulgam Police, and other dignitaries. Notably, DySP DAR Kulgam Shri Mohd Ayub Rather was present, who along with others, commended the efforts of the young participants and the organizers for conducting the event in a spirited and disciplined manner.

The ceremony concluded with an oath-taking session wherein all participating athletes pledged to uphold the true spirit of sportsmanship, fair play, and unity.

The tournament is expected to not only discover new talent but also serve as a catalyst in encouraging greater female participation in sports, thus contributing to a more empowered and health-conscious society.

SYED FARAKH MEMORIAL

FOOTBALL NIGHT TOURNAMENT

SPONSORS

AL MUQEET CERAMICS, MODERN BAKERY, JAHANA, EMARAT, BUKHARI Electronics, CUREMED, ONLINE HUB, REHAAN, BUKHARI, SHABIR, AL BAIK, FIRST LOOK, KITCHEN, CLASSIC CUISINE, AL QASMI, MIR, DELHI BIRYANI, FLY HIGH, AKHOON JEWELLERS, MAX WATER, WANI BOOK SHOP

BANDIPORA SUPER LEAGUE

ORGANISED BY KASHMIR NEWS BUREAU, ALFAH TRADING CRICKET CLUB IN ASSOCIATION WITH J&K SPORTS COUNCIL

STARTING FROM 28TH SEPTEMBER AT Bandipora Stadium

Media Partners

Kashmir Monitor, HEADLINES TODAY, THE KASHMIR MONITOR, QNS, DG, VOICE, JKNS, KASHMIR, ANI NEWS KASHMIR

ARFATH TOURS Since 1987 HAJ & UMRAH GROUP PURANI HAVELI, HYDERABAD - (TS) INDIA

Haj 2026 (1447 Hijri)

Lowest Budget Package (30-35 Days)

Rs. 4,99,000/- GST 5% Extra, TCS 5% Extra

PACKAGE INCLUDES HAJ VISA, VIA FLIGHT HYD TO HYD, ACCOMMODATION & FOOD

Makkah Building Stay in Aziziya Building 5 DAYS OF ARKAN E HAJJ 8 to 12th Zilhajja With Food

Mina Service Category "D" Transport Mina, Arfath, Muzdalifa Jed-Makkah-Madinah-Jed

Madina Hotel 600 to 700 Meters Distance

PURANI HAVELI, HYDERABAD - (T.G) INDIA, Phone : 040-66338338 Contact: 08686633846 | 09700118674 | 09392644008 | 08977712893 E-mail : arfathhours@gmail.com | arfathhour@yahoo.in

JK FABRICS

SUITING AND SHIRTING

GOWN AND DRESS MATERIALS | PARTY WEAR AND SEMI-PARTY WEAR | COTTON SUITS | WEDDING SUITS | 7-DAY SUITS FOR THE BRIDE

+91-7006764737 | +91-6005078346

NEAR POST OFFICE AL-AZIZIA COMPLEX MAGAM-193401

LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS

ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR ALL Printing NEEDS

NEWSPAPER | BOOKS | FLYERS LOGO | FLEX | MAGAZINES VISITING CARDS | BROCHURES 3D BOARDS | COVER PAGES WEDDING CARDS | CALLIGRAPHY WALL PAINTINGS

999038812 9419008414 01942496287

Gund Hassi Bhat, Radio Colony, Lawaypora, Srinagar

HT Saturday

LitStream

WEEKLY SUPPLIMENT OF DAILY HEADLINES TODAY

Srinagar • Saturday , September 20, 2025 • Issue No: 5 • Volume: 1 • Pages: 8

inside



**"Warmth Amid
Bareness: The Dual
Face of Winter
in Kashmir": Two
Poems of Majrooh
Rashid**

2



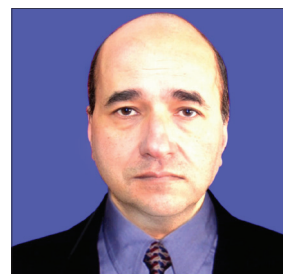
**The Success Story
of My Failure**

7

**SKIMS: The Polar
Star of Kashmir's
Healing Horizon**



3



**Rabies and how
logical thinking
can help**

5

**A Drop of Cosmos
by Lily Swarn:
Where Memory
Slaps You in the
Face**



6

Send your contributions to:
Editor, Headlines Today
Syed Jahangir Bukhari
Email: jahangirbukhari@gmail.com
headlinestoday2024@gmail.com
H Editor, LitStream & Health Digest
Dr Basharat Khan
Email: chogalwriter76@gmail.com

HT Saturday – LitStream

A weekly supplement of **Headlines Today** dedicated to celebrating the literary spirit of Jammu and Kashmir. It showcases the works and contributions of eminent and emerging voices, with a discerning focus on fiction, criticism, translations, short stories, poetry and prose, feature writing capturing the vibrant pulse of the JK's literary landscape.
Editor LitStream
chogalwriter76@gmail.com

Snow Flames "Warmth Amid Bareness: The Dual Face of Winter in Kashmir." Two Poems of Majrooh Rashid

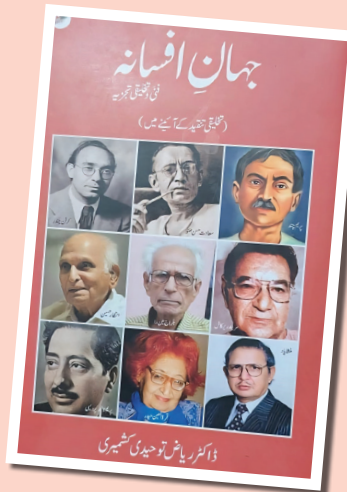
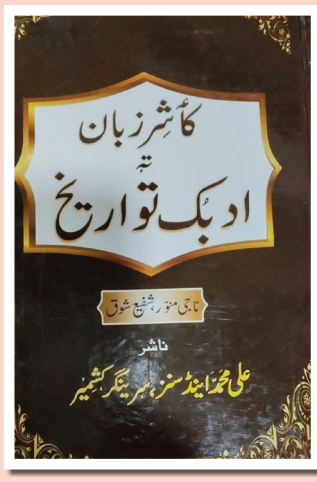
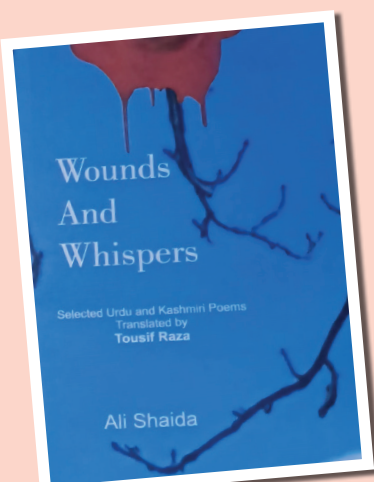


Majrooh Rashid

2

ONE SHELF, MANY WORLDS

ENGLISH, URDU AND KASHMIRI



“Warmth Amid Bareness: The Dual Face of Winter in Kashmir”: Two Poems of Majrooh Rashid



Professor Muhammad Aslam
The poet
aslam1952@gmail.com

Majrooh Rashid (full name: Abdul Rashid Malik) is a contemporary Kashmiri poet who writes in three languages: Kashmiri, Urdu, and English. He superannuated as Professor of Kashmiri at the University of Kashmir a few years back. As a multilingual poet and writer, Majrooh has made significant contributions to the literature of these languages and established a reputation in the literary circles. Although he has been writing in English for a long time, through social media platforms, he made his presence felt as an English poet with the publication of his debut collection, *Snow Flames* (2025). Originally hailing from South Kashmir, he now lives in Srinagar, Kashmir. The two poems under investigation are from *Snow Flames*.

Winter

Winter is round the corner,
isn't it?
No dear it has already encamped
by the banks of the Dal.
Think not of the fall
that befell the planes of Naseem Bagh,
early, took away pale yellow clothes
of their shadows,
while they were engrossed
with cherishing,
bathing in the lake
and sank to the bottom,
feeling ashamed of their bareness.
Look at those water birds
having come from
far off lochs,
escaping severe cold,
by swimming together
in the warmth of the lake.

Interpretation

The poem begins with a tag question that seeks confirmation of his/her statement that winter is approaching—“Winter is round the corner, isn't it?” However, instead of confirming “Winter is round the corner”, the listener corrects the speaker and says that it (winter) has already arrived and “encamped” on Dal Lake like a guest or an intruder—“No dear it has already encamped by the banks of the Dal” (“encamped” is used as a metaphor here).

The next 10 lines (actually a single sentence) shift our attention to Naseem Bagh, a famous Chinar Garden at Hazratnagar, Srinagar, where “Fall” (literally autumn, but figuratively, downfall or loss) has forced the trees to shed their leaves—“took away pale yellow clothes”. The speaker says, “Think not of the fall that befell the planes of Naseem Bagh,” and this has happened “while they [leaves] were engrossed with cherishing, bathing in the lake”. The trees are personified here and imagined as carefree and happy over their reflection in the lake, unprepared for the ensuing nakedness. The fallen yellow leaves sink into the Dal, leaving the trees ashamed of the nakedness (“bareness”)—“and sank



to the bottom, feeling ashamed of their bareness”. This shows how vulnerable winter is. The last sentence (consisting of 6 lines) shifts the scene from loss (“bareness”) to ‘warmth’ that the migratory birds feel; their resilience to withstand coldness. Despite harshness and naked trees, the migratory birds have arrived “from/far off lochs” (“lochs” is a Scottish term for lake) to enjoy the relative warmth of the lake.

Assessment

The poet uses vivid imagery of Dal Lake, Naseem Bagh, and migratory birds not only to depict the winter woes but also to highlight the resilience that comes naturally to withstand winter's onslaught. Winter has already arrived, and the Chinars in Naseem Bagh have become bare and feel ashamed of their nakedness. The trees appear to have been caught unawares and unprepared for this onslaught as they “were engrossed” in enjoying their reflection in the lake. This is tragic as they had to leave their yellow attire. This description evokes the image of decay and loss. However, the tone becomes very positive when the speaker talks about the migratory birds travelling from their distant coldest abodes to enjoy the relative warmth of Dal. There is a sharp contrast here between the

naked trees and the birds taking shelter on the Dal. This dual picture of winter captures both a time of loss and how one could adapt to the winter season and enjoy it, despite its harshness.

“Winter” seems to be a meditative poem in which the poet is thinking about the seasonal transition—blending personification, vivid imagery, and juxtaposition—in the valley of Kashmir. Instead of mourning the destructive power of winter, the poet portrays its soothing nature through birds enjoying the warmth of the lake. The Chinar leaves sinking into the Dal highlight the poet's empathy with Nature, and the finality and burial of life. However, the desolation caused by winter—naked trees feeling ashamed, Naseem Bagh without “yellow clothes” and their usual merriment (“cherishing”)—is put in contrast to “Look at those water birds having come from far off lochs, escaping severe cold, by swimming together in the warmth of the lake.” This suggests that in Winter, there is something more than meets the eye—vitality and resilience to withstand its severity. To the migratory birds, Kashmir seems relatively warm. It is a message for us all that ‘sailing together’ through harsh days would lead to the warmth needed to sustain us in the winter months. Another poem by the same poet, ‘Snowfall’,

portrays a different picture of Kashmir. Let's first read the poem:

Snowfall

Yesterday afternoon,
the snow came dancing down from skies
onto the poor earth,
I felt
as if I watched
an incredible circus show
in which all snowflakes turned
into trapeze artists
performed flying acrobatics
and held me spellbound.
In the meantime
you passed by
and ruffled my hair once again.
The ice was melting on my lashes.

Interpretation

“Snowfall” is set in a specific moment, yesterday, making it an everyday reality. Snow has come “dancing down from [the] skies”. Personifying the snow, the poet sees joy and grace in its gentle descent. This gleeful dancing of the snow is in sharp contrast to the loss the earth is facing at the moment—barrenness, coldness, and harshness, which is why the poet says that the snow is falling “onto the poor earth”. The dancing of the snow makes the poet turn inwards, and he speaks about how

“I felt”. It was an awesome performance, a circus-like show—lively, dazzling and theatrical—each flake performing like an artist, swinging and floating in the air—“an incredible show in which all snowflakes turned into trapeze artists/ performing flying acrobatics”. The speaker got “spellbound”. While he was in awe of the scene, his attention shifted from this marvel to a personal moment—“you passed by”. This “you” creates a contrast between the cosmic and the human. His/Her presence “ruffled my hair once again”. So the scene is no longer ‘cold’ but warm as the migratory birds found the relative warmth in the waters of Dal Lake in ‘Winter’. “The ice was melting on my lashes” suggests that the speaker has become emotional, and tears in the form of ice are lingering on his eyelashes. This makes the poem absolutely personal and a depiction of the poet's personal grief.

Critical Appreciation of ‘Snowfall’ ‘Snowfall’ is a beautiful poem that uses vivid images of snow falling and dancing. It presents a spectacular show that one sees at a circus. The poet doesn't see winter as a lifeless, bleak, and harsh season, but one that brings out Nature's wonder for humans to watch—“Yesterday afternoon, / the snow came dancing down from skies / onto the poor earth”. The snow becomes a performer—“trapeze artists”—presenting an “incredible circus show”. The scene held the poet “spellbound”.

In the second half of the poem, the focus shifts, and the poet is “ruffled once again” as a silent character “passes by”. This character could be a beloved or an intimate person for whom the poet is feeling very emotional, and “the ice” (tears) rolls down his eyelashes. This is a beautiful image that puts winter chill and warmth of human touch into sharp contrast with each other.

“Snowfall” is written in free verse with uneven lines denoting the falling of snow in rhythmic dance. To me, the poem seems a beautiful example of William Wordsworth's Poetics: “Poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings...” Here, the poet

SKIMS: The Polar Star of Kashmir's Healing Horizon



Akram Siddiqui
sidiquirayan@gmail.com

Adding feather after feather to its cap, Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), the Valley's premier healthcare centre, has, against all odds, stood out strong and drawn indelible marks on the sands of time.

It has been the healing heartbeat of Kashmir since its inception, but the past two years have witnessed a quantum leap in patient care, widening its scope and raising its standards to dizzying heights.

From treating minor ailments to carrying out cutting-edge surgical procedures that can stand shoulder to shoulder with global medical giants, SKIMS has carved a niche not merely in the healthcare map but in the very lifeblood of the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

In the lap of the Himalayas, where winter's icy grip often blocks roads and makes advanced healthcare a challenging task and cumbersome for the most of the poor populace, SKIMS has stepped in like a knight in shining armor. In these two years, it has transformed what once seemed like "wild goose chases" to metro hospitals outside the Valley into homegrown sagas of survival and resilience. For the people here, SKIMS is not just a hospital, it is literally the ark of hope in a sea of despair.

Few of the world-acclaimed achievements SKIMS has achieved for past couple of years are listed here to give local as well as outside population some sense of how SKIMS, under myriad pressures, is doing a yeoman's job for this community.

Microvascular Toe-to-Hand Transplant Surgery.

Among its crowning achievements is the Microvascular Toe-to-Hand Transplant Surgery, a procedure that reads like science fiction. A 20-year-old youth, whose hand had been mutilated in a machine injury, regained not only functionality but also dignity. Through a painstaking 12-hour marathon of precision, surgeons restored his ability to grip and hold. What once seemed an impossible dream in Kashmir became a reality writ large on the canvas of courage.



Swap Kidney Transplant: A Chapter Of Possibility

Another jewel in its crown is the first-ever swap kidney transplant in Jammu & Kashmir. Two families, both standing on the razor's edge of hopelessness due to donor incompatibility, were given a fresh lease of life through donor exchange. With over 550 kidney transplants already behind it, SKIMS didn't just notch another number, it turned the page of history and wrote a new chapter of possibility.

Allogenic Bone Marrow Transplant For Beta Thalassemia.

Equally breathtaking was the allogenic bone marrow transplant for Beta Thalassemia Major. A child shackled to relentless blood transfusions was unchained through science and compassion. For a poor family that could never dream of affording the procedure outside, SKIMS became the ray of light at the end of the tunnel.

Emergency Marvels in Cardiac Care.

In the realm of emergencies, SKIMS once again proved that it is never less than any other institution at any level when it comes to advanced patient care. A patient in cardiogenic shock, standing at death's door, was pulled back into the arms of life by a daring cardiac surgery. What seemed destined for tragedy was flipped into triumph.

Rare Airway Stenting: Preserving Dignity.

Venturing into the uncharted territory of rare airway stenting, SKIMS gave terminally ill

patients something medicine often forgets—not just survival, but dignity, relief, and time with their loved ones. It reminded us that medicine is not only the art of saving life but also the poetry of preserving humanity.

Financial Accessibility: Ayushman Bharat Integration.

Financial accessibility too has been SKIMS' calling card. By bringing advanced procedures under Ayushman Bharat, it reduced the back-breaking burden of travel and cost, sparing families the ordeal of displacement and debt.

Parallel Feats on Global Standards.

While these accomplishments shine brightly, SKIMS has not stopped there. It has stepped into domains that place it shoulder to shoulder with the world's most advanced medical centres.

Liver Transplant Milestone.

Once a distant star in Kashmir's medical imagination, the liver transplant is now a living reality. SKIMS has achieved what once seemed impossible by galloping on the path of performing liver transplants within the Valley itself very soon. For patients of this landlocked region, it meant no more exhausting journeys to Delhi or Chandigarh; it meant rebirth in their homeland. The procedure symbolised not only an organ renewed but also the reclaiming of dignity, heritage, and hope in the very bosom of Kashmir.

ECMO Therapy: Borrowed

Breath, Borrowed Time.

When ventilators fail and lungs surrender, Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) emerges as the last fortress of survival. SKIMS introduced ECMO at par with global intensive care units. For patients drowning in respiratory failure, ECMO became a bridge between life and death, a borrowed breath, a borrowed heartbeat, a borrowed time to fight. In the silence of ICUs, ECMO whispered to families that not all hope was lost.

Oncology: Targeted Therapies and Beyond.

Cancer, the dark plague of modern life, has often demanded journeys outside the Valley. Yet SKIMS has built a fortress of resilience through its Oncology Centre. With precision oncology, immunotherapy, and high-end linear accelerators for radiotherapy, the institute matches steps with global cancer institutions. Every beam of radiation and every targeted molecule at SKIMS is a pledge: that the Valley's cancer warriors will not stand abandoned.

Pediatric Cardiac Surgery: Saving Tiny Hearts.

Perhaps nothing is more heart-rending than a child born with a broken heart. Yet SKIMS has dared to intervene in the most delicate of domains—pediatric cardiac surgery. Through complex interventions that once seemed too intricate for the Valley, it gave infants a future and mothers lullabies in place of laments. Each suc-

cessful surgery here is not merely a medical feat, it is the rewriting of destiny itself.

Neurosurgical Excellence.

The human brain and spine are labyrinths where few dare to tread. At SKIMS, neurosurgeons have performed awake craniotomies, advanced endoscopic skull-base procedures, and minimally invasive spinal surgeries that rival the best in the world. Here, precision is not only technical but profoundly humane: preserving cognition, memory, and the essence of personhood.

Robotic Surgery: The Future In Valley's Hands.

Whispers of the future have already entered the corridors of SKIMS with the adoption of robotic surgical platforms. Once confined to metropolitan hubs, robotic surgery now echoes in the Valley—smaller incisions, shorter recovery, greater precision. What once belonged to tomorrow is now stitched into the fabric of Kashmir's today.

Challenges And Resilience.

Yes, challenges remain: limited resources, staff pressures, administrative hurdles, and supply-chain bottlenecks. Yet, SKIMS has chosen courage over retreat, persistence over excuse, and excellence over compromise.

Its strength lies not merely in steel and scalpel, but in the unflinching spirit of its healers. Nurses, residents, technicians, surgeons, administrators—all carry the burden of expectation, yet convert it into stories of triumph.

The Beacon Of Research And Leadership.

At the helm of this transformation stands Director SKIMS, Prof. Mohammad Ashraf Ganie, a name synonymous with both clinical excellence and visionary leadership. Encouraging researchers and scientists at every step, he has created an environment where inquiry thrives, bureaucracy bows before merit, and science serves society. From the corridors of administration to the apex chambers of decision-making, his footprints mark a clear trail of progress.

The Polar Star Of Our Hopes.

In the last two years, SKIMS has shown that it is not just a tertiary care institute but a sanctuary of the nearly impossible. It has turned despair into hope, tears into smiles, and hopelessness into healing.

Long live SKIMS. May your scalpel remain steady, your heart compassionate, your vision ambitious, and your service ever selfless. For in your wards lie stories of the rare, the forgotten, the hopeless—revived, renewed, redeemed. You are the real polar star of our hopes.

TO BE OR NOT TO BE: THE ETERNAL DILEMMA OF SHAKESPEARE'S HAMLET

Nasir Ali

nasirali440@gmail.com

Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, is home from school to mourn the death of his father, King Hamlet, who has died two months earlier. Hamlet is disgusted by the marriage of his newly widowed mother, Queen Gertrude, to his Uncle, King Hamlet's brother, Claudius, who now has the throne.

Shortly thereafter, a ghost has appeared to guards on nightly watch as well as Hamlet's good friend, Horatio, who thinks the spirit has a likeness to the former King Hamlet. When prompted to speak by Horatio, the ghost will not. Horatio asks Hamlet to wait for the ghost and see if it will speak to him. The ghost of his father beckons Hamlet to follow him and reveals that his brother Claudius poisoned him in the ear. Hamlet vows to avenge his father's murder.

Meanwhile, Laertes, son to the King's advisor Polonius is set to return to France. Before he leaves, he tells Ophelia, his sister, to be weary of Hamlet's affections towards her. Polonius gives Laertes advice on how to act abroad and orders Ophelia to stay away from Hamlet.

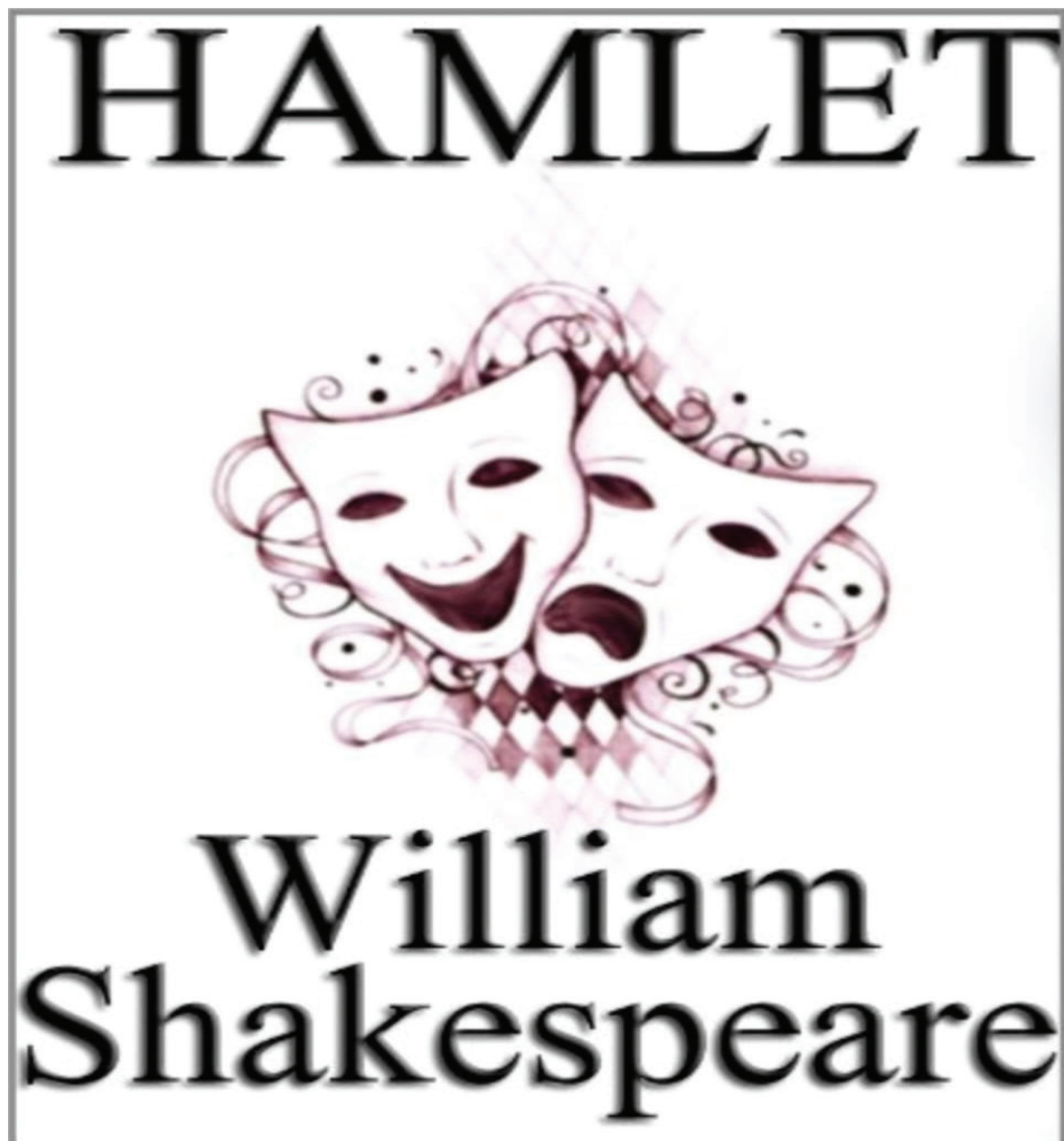
Hamlet's sanity begins to be questioned by all. Claudius and Gertrude are both concerned; Polonius suggests it is Ophelia's rejection of his advances. Claudius and Polonius decide to spy on Hamlet and Ophelia. Claudius further employs Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, two childhood friends of Hamlet, to spy on him further. Hamlet quickly realizes their intentions.

A troupe of players happens to be in town and Hamlet utilizes the actors to determine the validity of his father's murder. He will have them perform the very act of murder, killing a king through poison in the ear, which the ghost has claimed. He asks Horatio to watch Claudius' reaction throughout the play. While the court is watching, Claudius is enraged and leaves the play convincing Hamlet that he is the murderer.

Hamlet comes upon Claudius in the chapel, kneeling down to pray. He considers killing him then and there, but since Claudius is in mid-prayer, and will therefore go to heaven if he dies, Hamlet decides to wait until Claudius is committing some sin, so that he will go to hell like Hamlet's father before him.

Hamlet meets Gertrude in her room and an argument ensues. When he hears Polonius who is hiding behind the curtain shout for help, he stabs him thinking it is Claudius. The ghost appears to Hamlet to refocus him on the task of killing Claudius.

Fortinbras, Prince of Norway,



whose father's lands were seized by the late King, decides to head to Denmark. Claudius demands that Hamlet, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern head for England. Claudius has sent a letter with them ordering Hamlet's execution during the trip. While at sea, however, Hamlet discovers his planned murder and switches the orders, causing Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to be executed. Hamlet returns to Denmark.

Meanwhile back at Elsinore, Ophelia has gone mad with grief. Laertes returns from France and learns it was Hamlet who has killed his father, Polonius. Claudius suggests that Laertes duel with Hamlet and poisons the tip of Laertes foil for a fatal blow. If Laertes loses the duel, Claudius will put poison into a drink for Hamlet. Gertrude enters and announces that Ophelia has drowned.

In the graveyard, Hamlet reminisces on a friend of his whose skull he has found. When the procession arrives with Ophelia's corpse, Laertes and Hamlet argue. A duel is scheduled.

During the fight, Gertrude

accidentally drinks from the poisoned chalice and dies. Hamlet is wounded with the poisoned sword, but in a scuffle, the foils are switched and Laertes is also wounded with the poisoned foil. In dying, Laertes confesses Claudius' plot to kill Hamlet. Hamlet stabs Claudius and Hamlet dies asking Horatio to tell his story. The Norwegian forces arrive at Elsinore, and Prince Fortinbras seizes control of Denmark.

HAMLET WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE AND HAMLET BACKGROUND

The most influential writer in all of English literature, William Shakespeare was born in 1564 to a successful middle-class glove-maker in Stratford-upon-Avon, England. Shakespeare attended grammar school, but his formal education proceeded no further. In 1582 he married an older woman, Anne Hathaway, and had three children with her. Around 1590 he left his family behind and traveled to London to work as an actor and playwright. Public and critical success quickly followed, and Shakespeare eventually became

the most popular playwright in England and part-owner of the Globe Theater. His career bridged the reigns of Elizabeth I (ruled 1558–1603) and James I (ruled 1603–1625), and he was a favorite of both monarchs. Indeed, James granted Shakespeare's company the greatest possible compliment by bestowing upon its members the title of King's Men. Wealthy and renowned, Shakespeare retired to Stratford and died in 1616 at the age of fifty-two. At the time of Shakespeare's death, literary luminaries such as Ben Jonson hailed his works as timeless.

Shakespeare's works were collected and printed in various editions in the century following his death, and by the early eighteenth century his reputation as the greatest poet ever to write in English was well established. The unprecedented admiration garnered by his works led to a fierce curiosity about Shakespeare's life, but the dearth of biographical information has left many details of Shakespeare's personal history shrouded in mystery. Some people have concluded from this fact that

Shakespeare's plays were really written by someone else—Francis Bacon and the Earl of Oxford are the two most popular candidates—but the support for this claim is overwhelmingly circumstantial, and the theory is not taken seriously by many scholars.

In the absence of credible evidence to the contrary, Shakespeare must be viewed as the author of the thirty-seven plays and 154 sonnets that bear his name. The legacy of this body of work is immense. A number of Shakespeare's plays seem to have transcended even the category of brilliance, becoming so influential as to profoundly affect the course of Western literature and culture ever after.

Written during the first part of the seventeenth century (probably in 1600 or 1601), Hamlet was probably first performed in July 1602. It was first published in printed form in 1603 and appeared in an enlarged edition in 1604. As was common practice during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, Shakespeare borrowed for his plays ideas and stories from earlier literary works. He could have taken the story of Hamlet from several possible sources, including a twelfth-century Latin history of Denmark compiled by Saxo Grammaticus and a prose work by the French writer François de Belleforest, entitled *Histoires Tragiques*.

The raw material that Shakespeare appropriated in writing Hamlet is the story of a Danish prince whose uncle murders the prince's father, marries his mother, and claims the throne. The prince pretends to be feeble-minded to throw his uncle off guard, then manages to kill his uncle in revenge. Shakespeare changed the emphasis of this story entirely, making his Hamlet a philosophically minded prince who delays taking action because his knowledge of his uncle's crime is so uncertain. Shakespeare went far beyond making uncertainty a personal quirk of Hamlet's, introducing a number of important ambiguities into the play that even the audience cannot resolve with certainty. For instance, whether Hamlet's mother, Gertrude, shares in Claudius's guilt; whether Hamlet continues to love Ophelia even as he spurns her, in Act III; whether Ophelia's death is suicide or accident; whether the ghost offers reliable knowledge, or seeks to deceive and tempt Hamlet; and, perhaps most importantly, whether Hamlet would be morally justified in taking revenge on his uncle. Shakespeare makes it clear that the stakes riding on some of these questions are enormous—the actions of these characters bring disaster upon an entire

CONT. ON PAGE 7

Rabies and how logical thinking can help



Dr. Arif Maghribi Khan
arifmaghribi@yahoo.com

According to WHO website "Rabies is a vaccine-preventable viral disease which occurs in more than 150 countries and territories. Dogs are the source of the vast majority of human rabies deaths, contributing up to 99% of all rabies transmissions to humans.

Low awareness of the need to seek health care after a dog bite claims the lives of more than 55 000 people each year, mostly in Asia and Africa. India is endemic for rabies, and accounts for 36% of the world's rabies deaths. True burden of rabies in India is not fully known; although as per available information, it causes 18 000-20 000 deaths every year. About 30-60% of reported rabies cases and deaths in India occur in children under the age of 15 years as bites that occur in children often go unrecognized and unreported".

Rabies deaths in India accounts for a substantial portion of global rabies deaths, with India contributing to 36% of the worldwide total. Dog bites are the primary source of rabies transmission in India, accounting for about 96% of cases. Children are particularly vulnerable, with 30-60% of rabies cases and deaths occurring in those under 15 years old. In Kashmir children, old are vulnerable. Women who go for jogging are often attacked by dogs.

Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) recorded five human rabies deaths in 2024, a rise from four deaths in 2023 and none in 2022. The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying attributed these fatalities to the increasing menace of stray dogs. Following steps are logical and practical.

1. Mass Vaccination & Sterilization Drives — Implement ABC (Animal Birth Control) program statewide with urgency.

Ensure 70%+ coverage of anti-rabies vaccination in stray dog populations to break the rabies transmission cycle. Engage NGOs & local veterinary colleges to scale up efforts.

2. STRAY DOG POPULATION MAPPING & CONTROL

Use GIS-based tech and drone mapping to identify high-density stray zones.

Prioritize sterilization and vaccination in urban hotspots and school zones.

Create community feeding

zones to monitor and control stray behavior.

3. WASTE MANAGEMENT REFORM

Strictly regulate meat markets and chicken stalls, especially disposal of hormone-laced waste.

Install sealed community bins and enforce daily municipal garbage collection to cut off food supply for stray dogs.

Penalize illegal slaughterhouses and unregulated chicken waste disposal.

4. CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGIES -Provide

shelters and drinking water points for stray animals during heatwaves and monsoons to reduce stress.

Include animal behavior experts in climate impact panels for urban planning.

5. COMMUNITY AWARENESS & EDUCATION -Launch statewide awareness campaigns on:

How to behave around stray

dogs First-aid after a dog bite Importance of vaccinating pets Train school children and teachers on dog safety through fun modules and puppet shows.

6. STRENGTHENING HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

Ensure free anti-rabies vaccine and immunoglobulin at all Primary Health Centers.

Maintain a 24/7 dog bite helpline and mobile health units for quick response in rural areas.

Track and analyze dog bite data in real time using digital reporting systems.

7. POLICY & LEGAL MEASURES

Update the Animal Birth Control Rules to ensure accountability of local bodies.

Collaborate with RWAs and Panchayats for stray dog census and local control. Incentivize adoption of vaccinated strays by offering pet insurance or discounts on pet products..



A Drop of Cosmos by Lily Swarn: Where Memory Slaps You in the Face



By Nazir Wani
nzwani@gmail.com

Lily Swarn is not writing poetry; she is, more or less, exhaling it. The poems don't merely lie there, gazing beautiful; they rush, throb, and at times smack you in the gut. Each stanza is almost like there's a big, messy orchestra behind it — you're slogging through grief over here, then all of the sudden you're lifted by hope and then, whoa, you're back in the slush of loss yet again. Swarn's that gift for infusing life into every line, squeezing out every ounce of feeling until you're blinking and a little out of breath is worth learning. Her language is soiled with ache and beauty, sewing a wild patchwork of what it means to be human.

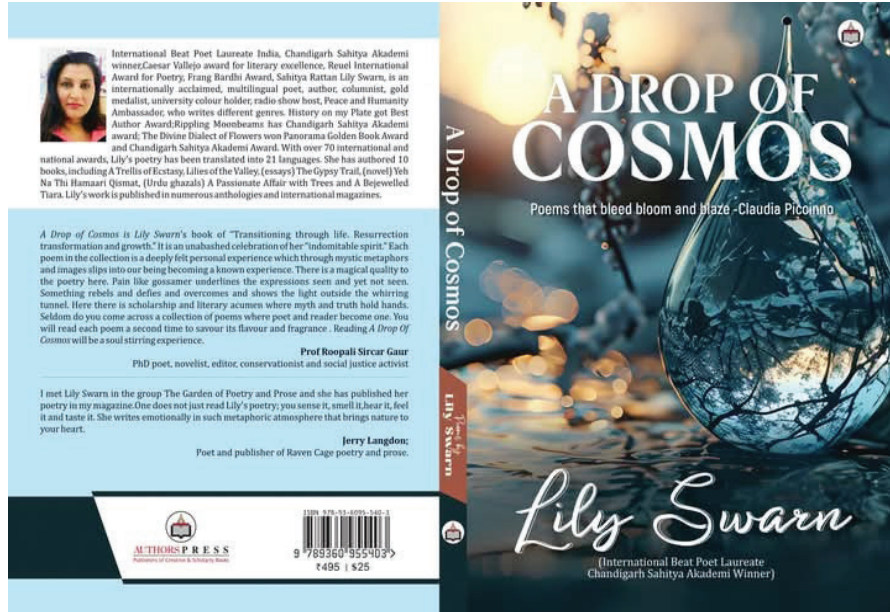
But she drags you right into the tangled morass of memory and loss right out the gate — no warning, no sideways intro. Even in her own words, she appears bruised by the sense of what she's lost:

**Words formed into repulsive shapes
Lopsided squiggles with throttled viruses**

Of startling deaths of dear friends

No showing off — each poem is more like a bloodletting. She refers to her lines as “condensed drops of blood sometimes,” and, really, yeah. This is not poetry for pleasure or decoration; it's survival. She's burning how she feels on the page with a hot iron — and you can smell the singe.

It's already wild, the scope of Swarn — one minute she's in mourning with the entire world, the next she's hatching down into one tight knot of her own private pain.



It's half ancient mythological, half protective mom, her tone. She's had too much of it — of the burning pyres, the don't-give-a-damn world — and she's not cutting any slack for any of it:

**For my eyes saw the pyres of the dead
blazing ire**

**Ire on an unfeeling world
Where those who provide food to the world**

**Perish on the frozen streets
Broken hearted and struck with woe**

But she doesn't leave you to drown. And suddenly you're curled up in her childhood home, surrounded by the warmth of old love and flooding nostalgia:

**Ancestral homes are like warm hugs
Visiting them was like a dip in an ocean of love...**

**Relationships were cozy and tight
knitted**

Her nostalgia isn't even just a faded photograph — it's a stack of old newspapers,

it's talking to painted camels on the wall. There's magic in her remembering:

**The air is heavy with nostalgia
It's the weight of memories piled in the
heap of old newspapers**

**The painting on the wall still knows
my secrets**

**I had shared them often with those
camels on canvas**

Time is the villain and the hero of her universe. It will ruin you, but it will also put you back together — sort of. Swarn understands this paradox; she more or less resides inside it:

**Time that ruins, devastates and scars
Time that caresses, fondles and heals
Time that lets you bounce back again
and again!**

Her roots? Deep. She reels in the Ganga — death isn't the end, it's a cosmic embrace: **The perfect place for embracing death
Is in your benign waters O Ganga
Floating clay dishes with oil lit wicks**

on your surface

Cupping hands full of your water

Offering prayers And then there's her fascination with flesh — yes, the one the other stuff is made of. She regards it like some ancient, storybook, full of secrets and scars:

**Flesh has a brilliant memory
Elephantine and accurate**

It never lies.

Flesh knows

Instinctively Arjunesque!

Chilling so-worst-it-has-to-be-write moments? One woman carrying her life — her actual life — in a beat-up old swag. It's uncooked, it's humanity, it's heartbreak in one image:

**Laboriously she gathered
Her possessions in a**

Tattered cloth bundle

Spilling at the seams.

Knitted brow mangled with

Boulders of life hammering

Her aching knees

But you know what's at the heart of all this? Loving. Not the fluffy, Instagram-filtered kind. The type that has risen from ashes raked through hell, and still blooms:

**Why is love synonymous with spring?
Bahaar ka mausam, the time when
lovers unite**

After a long winter of discontent

A Drop of Cosmos isn't a book — it's an alive, breathing, messy bundle of feelings. Swarn's writing doesn't merely invite you to empathize; it has you dragged over the coals of your own memories. Her lines contain pain as if it were a family heirloom, yet there's light as well — winking through those cracks. She is fragile, ferocious and not at all afraid to reveal her scars. They insist on an amplifier to our feelings, in a world accustomed to flat reduction of all things to sensation." In the end, Swarn's poems are a call to: if you're truly living, you're feeling — big time. And poetry like this? It's more than art; it's sanctuary, rebellion and resurrection writ large.

FROM PAGE 2...

“Warmth Amid Bareness...

blends the dancing of the snow and his personal emotions, making us feel that he, unlike most of us, finds winter enjoyable, despite its chill and desolation. The poet is at his best in making an ordinary natural phenomenon look like a beyondthis-world scene through imagination and his art of writing.

Two Poems: A Comparison In English poetry, Winter has often been used as a powerful symbol of death, stillness, and the inevitable passage of time. Even in canonical poetry, its image is used to convey diverse moods— calm meditation, bleakness, and severity as in, for instance, Robert Frost's Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening and Emily Dickinson's There's a certain Slant of light. Frost says:

My little horse must think it

queer

**To stop without a farmhouse
near**

**Between the woods and frozen
lake**

**The darkest evening of the
year.**

To Dickinson, winter :

Heavenly Hurt, it gives us –

We can find no scar,

But internal difference –

Where the Meanings, are –

**When it comes, the Landscape
listens –**

Shadows – hold their breath –

**When it goes, 'tis like the Dis-
tance**

On the look of Death

To Claude McKay, snow brings moments of contemplation and tidings of ensuing summer (in 'After

the Winter'):

**Some day, when trees have
shed their leaves**

**And against the morning's
white**

**The shivering birds beneath
the eaves**

Have sheltered for the night,

We'll turn our faces south-

ward, love,

Toward the summer isle

Where bamboos spire the shaft-

ed grove

And wide-mouthed orchids

smile.

Majrooh Rashid grounds 'Winter' in the topography of Dal Lake and Naseem Bagh, the twin tourist attractions that are located opposite to each other. The mighty chinar trees of Naseem Bagh show their reflection in

the waters of the Dal from the eastern banks. Chinars shedding their yellow leaves sinking in the lake and feeling ashamed of their nakedness, and the migratory birds thronging the lake are very familiar sights for the locals and non-locals alike. The season might be harsh and bring desolation on the roads, but the arrival of the alien birds from distant places makes us realise that the season's harshness could be withstood through warmth. Amid barrenness and bareness, it teaches us how to adapt and survive through mutual help — “swimming together” and taking one another's warmth. Therefore, the elegiac tone of the poem, in the first half, changes to the enjoyable warmth of the lake that birds feel after arriving here.

In 'Snowfall', Majrooh is enjoying the snow dancing and dazzling

like a circus: “snowflakes turned into trapeze artists / performed flying acrobatics / and held me spellbound.” Unlike 'Winter', it doesn't see winter as deprivation but warmth, personal memory and human connection: “you passed by and ruffled my hair once again. / The ice was melting on my lashes”. While 'Winter' foregrounds nakedness, shame and survival, 'Snowfall' brings to light glee, affection, and spectacular playfulness of Nature.

Both poems are written in free verse without any barriers of rhyme. Words flow like the seasons depicted in the poems. My overall assessment of the poems is that winter is here portrayed neither uniformly harsh nor uniformly enchanting. The season is how one perceives it to be.

The Success Story of My Failure



Mushtaque B Barq
barqz1@gmail.com

Failure has never materialized as a ghost to me. It has, rather, pulled down the curtains of arrogance from my windows, where the vast blue never opened its wings. The glass panes, like me, had only a myopic blur, leaving everything either in its shabby form or at times ruining the essence of completion. With every curtain buried on the lifeless floor, a verve in me — maybe an inner call or just an urgency to rectify a wrong turn — would fill me with extraordinary eagerness to feel chirpy.

Unlike others, the fallen curtain never irritated my eyes, never tangled my soles, and never bothered my interiors. I would say, “My backing will follow once you make a move, and offer justification for my support.” The deadly bundled curtain never reacted to my ignorance. Like it, my own fall never pierced through my lenses to encourage premonitions. My

failures and the fallen curtain were two half-dead companions nestled in my 10-by-10 room — not as unwelcome guests, but as fallen wings of an angel heading toward an unexplored world.

My grandfather lifted the fallen curtain and, with a deliberate jerk, shut the west-facing window. The little light that once spilled in disappeared, and the room turned dim, almost airless. It no longer felt like a place to live, but like a confining cell. In that dimness, only three things remained: his guttural voice, his authority, and my failures — now confronting me together in the same closed chamber.

Success never kissed my windowpane, for a rainbow needs a screen to lure the human eye. God knows what was in the mind of that carpenter who, instead of facing the sun, fixed my window on the setting-sun side. Because of this, the sunset and my failures now shared gelid moments, like a cool breeze after a blazing day.

It was a typical self-exiled state, one held not by force but by choice. Yet the musty smell of curtains and hanging paintings was too harsh, forcing my nostrils to close their own windows. But the crimson at the horizon and my success were inseparable companions like coffee and cockroach. In my 10-by-10 world, failures had occupied much space, leaving

only a corner for dusk to change the hues and shades of my many failures.

Nothing on the plate, an empty room, echoes of errors, and a broken chair propped on pillows meant for occasional guests — the vibrant echo, like my grandfather’s guttural voice, was a common vibration that set my books in order. Ignoring an old man is as difficult as bringing the moon down at noon. His presence only multiplied my penitence. To avoid his lectures and never-ending success stories of his youthful days, I would make him sit on the chair which by no means was ready to resist his bulging belly and huge body frame. To keep him busy, my hands would go around his calf muscles to roll them softly, which he was fond of.

God knows why he hesitated to sit on the chair that had never comforted his back. The first thing he did was lift the fallen curtain, then pull at the chair in its three-and-a-half-legged state. He called out loudly, which brought my brother into the room, and directed him to remove the chair. His authority cemented me behind the bed. The fallen curtain was raised, the west window closed. The room could no longer be called a living space — it was a confine.

With that dim room, with the only window already shut, the echo had long faded away. Now,

that guttural voice, his authority, and my failures stood face-to-face with me in the closed chamber.

“Your commitment to doing your best is something worthy, which I respect,” he announced. The word respect echoed in the room, vibrated through my frozen senses, and moved my eyeballs to celebrate the long-congealed flow. Tears eased my unrest, and I wept with all my might, bringing out the malice of my half-attempts and partially planned policies.

For the first time, he allowed me to cry. Otherwise, my little sob would melt him. But this time he stood like a stone — lifeless, merciless, ignorant. His hands reached for my closed book; he adjusted his glasses on the tip of his big, broad nose. The title wrinkled his forehead more than my wrenched heart. I thought either he had already read it or he had no idea of it. Old men are wise; they hide their nervousness and manipulate surprises well. After all, experience is the eldest son they rely on.

“Siddhartha, a nice choice. Who recommended it?” he asked. I didn’t utter even a whisper. These rolling tears had equated me with Siddhartha; his journey in the novel had just ended for me, in the room, with Buddha before Siddhartha in my feeble frame.

The sage pushed at the walls of my 10-by-10 room by encouraging my tears and silent sobs.

Suddenly, I was a citizen of my own country, its north and south waving to my east and west. He smiled. His eyes, through those thick glasses, appeared like two globes, rolling and rotating freely, letting me travel through them.

My room was changed; so was my mood. The sunrise now pulled at my cheeks so early. Siddhartha and my grandfather were two extremes of my newly found room — a room earlier occupied by the old man alone. Submission shattered my failures into bits. Scars and bruises remained, but healing had begun.

The only regret I was nursing was the novel he had taken for his own studies. I was waiting for the day he would finish it and share a hard stare with me. The reason was obvious: he would discover how Siddhartha seeks knowledge not only from spiritual teachers but also through direct human experiences. When he meets Kamala, the courtesan, she teaches him about physical love, desire, and sensuality.

Then one night, I found the novel back in the room with a few notes on the back page reading: “My son, sensuality is not shame if it teaches you a lesson of love.”

In that moment, I, too, like Siddhartha, understood: wisdom is not the absence of desire or error, but the grace we find within them.

FROM PAGE 4...

TO BE OR NOT TO BE...

kingdom. At the play’s end it is not even clear whether justice has been achieved.

By modifying his source materials in this way, Shakespeare was able to take an unremarkable revenge story and make it resonate with the most fundamental themes and problems of the Renaissance. The Renaissance is a vast cultural phenomenon that began in fifteenth-century Italy with the recovery of classical Greek and Latin texts that had been lost to the Middle Ages. The scholars who enthusiastically rediscovered these classical texts were motivated by an educational and political ideal called (in Latin) *humanitas*—the idea that all of the capabilities and virtues peculiar to human beings should be studied and developed to their furthest extent. Renaissance humanism, as this movement is now called, generated a new interest in human experience, and also an enormous optimism about the potential scope of human understanding. Hamlet’s famous speech in Act II, “What a piece of work is a man! How noble in reason, how infinite in faculty, in form and moving how express and admira-

ble, in action how like an angel, in apprehension how like a god—the beauty of the world, the paragon of animals!” (II.ii.293–297) is directly based upon one of the major texts of the Italian humanists, Pico della Mirandola’s *Oration on the Dignity of Man*. For the humanists, the purpose of cultivating reason was to lead to a better understanding of how to act, and their fondest hope was that the coordination of action and understanding would lead to great benefits for society as a whole.

As the Renaissance spread to other countries in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, however, a more skeptical strain of humanism developed, stressing the limitations of human understanding. For example, the sixteenth-century French humanist, Michel de Montaigne, was no less interested in studying human experiences than the earlier humanists were, but he maintained that the world of experience was a world of appearances, and that human beings could never hope to see past those appearances into the “realities” that lie behind them. This is the world in which Shakespeare places his characters. Hamlet is faced with the difficult

task of correcting an injustice that he can never have sufficient knowledge of—a dilemma that is by no means unique, or even uncommon. And while Hamlet is fond of pointing out questions that cannot be answered because they concern supernatural and metaphysical matters, the play as a whole chiefly demonstrates the difficulty of knowing the truth about other people—their guilt or innocence, their motivations, their feelings, their relative states of sanity or insanity. The world of other people is a world of appearances, and Hamlet is, fundamentally, a play about the difficulty of living in that world.

HAMLET WHAT DOES THE ENDING MEAN?

Claudius and Laertes set Hamlet’s ending in motion when they plan to kill Hamlet during a fencing match. Both Hamlet and Laertes are fatally poisoned during the match, and before he dies, Hamlet kills Claudius. The ending of Hamlet leaves it unclear whether the events leave Hamlet’s struggles with self-doubt unresolved, or whether they in fact

settle his various quandaries.

Hamlet has spent the whole play debating whether to avenge his father’s death and/or to commit suicide, and the finale effectively enables him to perform both acts. What’s unclear, though, is the degree to which Hamlet’s final acts are intentional. For instance, when Hamlet agrees to the match, he suspects there’s a plot against him, but it isn’t clear what he expects to get out of the fight. Does he simply hope to die and put an end to his misery? Likewise, it isn’t clear whether Hamlet gets any satisfaction from finally killing Claudius. When he strikes the fatal blow Hamlet calls his uncle “incestuous” (V.ii.), which suggests a preoccupation with Claudius’s marriage to Gertrude rather than his murder of King Hamlet. These ambiguities leave it unclear what psychological state Hamlet is in when he perishes.

The play’s ending also has important political implications. One of Hamlet’s subplots revolves around an ongoing dispute between Denmark and Norway. This dispute has grown more

inflamed ever since King Hamlet killed the Norwegian monarch, King Fortinbras, in battle. Now the slain king’s son, Prince Fortinbras, plans to invade Denmark. In Act Two, Claudius learns that Fortinbras’s army has been redirected to Poland, and this is the last we hear of Fortinbras for a while.

In the meantime, the turmoil in Elsinore incrementally weakens Denmark’s ruling family. The transition from the late King Hamlet to his brother Claudius has already put Denmark in a vulnerable position. And as Hamlet descends into madness, he not only defaults on his former promise as a statesman, but he also puts the family’s political lineage in jeopardy. The infighting at Elsinore grows, eventually spiraling into the deadly violence of Act Five.

The conditions are therefore perfect when, in the play’s final moments, Prince Fortinbras makes a surprise attack on the castle. With everyone in the Danish royal family dead, Fortinbras achieves an easy victory. In the end, then, the moral corruption of the Danish royal family places Denmark in the hands of a foreign invader.



NEWSPAPER | BOOKS | FLYERS | LOGO | FLEX | MAGAZINES
VISITING CARDS | BROCHURES | 3D BOARDS | COVER PAGES
WEDDING CARDS | CALLIGRAPHY | WALL PAINTINGS

