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Voice To The Voiceless

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Advisor Wani Interacts With Delegations, Reiterates Commitment To Citizen-Centric Governance

Meets series of public, departmental delegations at Raabita Office; assures prompt resolution of public grievances

HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCT 10: Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani today met a series of public and departmental delegations at the Raabita Office and listened to their issues and demands pertaining to various sectors. Delegations representing the power, handicrafts, handloom, floriculture, and education sectors apprised the Advisor of their respective concerns related to public infrastructure, employee welfare, and service matters. Issues of general public importance were also raised during the interactions. The Advisor gave a patient hearing to all delegations and assured that the genuine issues projected will be examined and addressed in coordination with the concerned departments. Reaffirming the Government's commitment to transparent and responsive governance, the Advisor said that regular public interactions are an essential part of the administration's efforts to ensure accountability and deliver services effectively at the grassroots level.

Shri Anayat Ali Choudhary (IPS) Assumes Charge as New SSP Kulgam

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, OCT 10: In a noteworthy development, Shri Anayat Ali Choudhary (IPS) today officially assumed charge as the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kulgam, succeeding Shri Sahil Sarangal (IPS). A formal ceremony marking the occasion was held at the District Police Headquarters Kulgam. The incoming SSP, Shri Anayat Ali Choudhary (IPS), was warmly received by the outgoing SSP, Shri Sahil Sarangal (IPS), along with other senior officers of the district. To mark the official commencement of



his tenure, a Guard of Honour was presented to the new SSP at the DPO Kulgam. In a brief but cordial ceremony, SSP Sahil Sarangal handed over the charge to his successor and extended his best wishes for the successful discharge of duties in the new role. After assuming office, SSP Anayat Ali Choudhary (IPS) convened an introductory meeting with district police officers. During the interaction, he emphasized the importance of maintaining strong public relations, enhancing community trust, and ensuring accountability and accessibility in police functioning to effectively address public concerns. The event concluded with officers extending a warm welcome to the new SSP and expressing confidence that under his leadership, policing in Kulgam will continue to strengthen and evolve in a people-friendly manner.

PDP Leadership Holds Crucial Preparatory Meeting Ahead of Budgam Bypoll

Budgam deserves a representation that listens and delivers: Mohammad Khurshid Alam

Ubaid mehdi

SRINAGAR, OCT 10: The Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Thursday convened a high-level preparatory meeting in Budgam, chaired by the party's General Secretary, Mohammad Khurshid Alam, to review organizational readiness ahead of the upcoming Budgam bi-poll. The meeting witnessed the participation of senior PDP leaders, including District President Mohammad Yaseen Bhat and party candidate Aga Muntazir Mehdi. Other prominent leaders present were Ghulam Rasool Malik, Nayaz-ul-Rehman, Mohammad Ashraf, Mohammad Akbar, Abdul Hameed, Manzoor Ahmad Wani, Mushtaq Zuhami, and Shah Nawaz Ahmad Mir. Addressing the gathering, Mohammad Khurshid Alam

emphasized the significance of the by-election, accusing the National Conference (NC) of neglecting Budgam and failing to deliver on its promises. Budgam deserves leadership that listens, cares, and delivers. The people have suffered long enough due to the negligence and inaction of the National Conference. They cannot be fooled twice," Alam said. He described the PDP as a "people-centric and indigenous alternative," adding that the by-poll offers voters a chance to choose genuine leadership rooted in public service. This election is an opportunity for the people of Budgam to choose a party that prioritizes service over rhetoric. Aga Muntazir Mehdi represents dedication, integrity, and a commitment to uplift every household in the constituency," he stated.



Aga Muntazir Mehdi urged party workers to intensify outreach efforts and ensure the PDP's message of "hope, accountability, and inclusive development" resonates across Budgam. Our strength lies in our unity, our vision, and our unwavering bond with the people. Budgam now has a choice—to continue with neglect or embrace leadership that truly represents them," Mehdi said. Concluding the session, PDP District President Mohammad Yaseen Bhat delivered a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the party leadership for their presence and guidance. We are fully committed to working alongside Aga Muntazir Mehdi to run a people-centric and inclusive campaign that reflects the aspirations of every citizen of Budgam," Bhat affirmed.

After Magam Muharram Row, All J&K Shia Association Urges Unity, Thanks LG for Intervention

Ubaid Mehdi

SRINAGAR, OCT 10: The All Jammu and Kashmir Shia Association (AJKSA) on Friday expressed its gratitude to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for his personal intervention following the grant of bail to the individuals arrested in connection with the Magam Muharram incident in Budgam district. In an official statement issued by the association's president, Molvi Imran Reza Ansari, the organization extended thanks to the administration for facilitating the resolution of the matter

Alhamdulillah! Bail has been granted in the Magam Muharram incident. Deep gratitude to LG Manoj Sinha Ji for his intervention, and heartfelt thanks to all the family members who stood firm and acknowledged the mistake," the statement read. Molvi Imran Ansari described the episode as a "profound lesson for everyone", emphasizing that such incidents should never be repeated. He urged the community to uphold discipline, unity, and respect for law during all future religious events and processions in the Valley. The AJKSA further stressed that

peace and coordination between religious organizers and the administration are essential for the smooth conduct of Muharram and other congregations. The case stems from an incident during the Muharram processions in Magam, Budgam, where several youths were booked by police for allegedly raising Palestine and Iranian flags. The arrests had led to public protests and a shutdown in Magam earlier this week. Following appeals from community leaders and family members, the detainees were granted bail, bringing an end to days of tension in the region.

Kulgam Bids Emotional Farewell to SSP Sahil Sarangal (IPS)

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, OCT 10: In a heartfelt and emotional farewell, the Jammu and Kashmir Police and District Administration Kulgam on Friday bid adieu to Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Shri Sahil Sarangal (IPS), whose transfer has left a deep sense of admiration and sadness among officers and the local populace alike. A special farewell function was organized at the Mini Secretariat Kulgam, jointly by the Police and District Administration, to honour the officer's exemplary service, unwavering dedication, and remarkable leadership during his tenure in the district. Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Kulgam Athar Aamir Shafi Khan (IAS) praised the outgoing SSP for his professionalism, leadership qualities, and people-centric approach. "SSP Sahil Sarangal (IPS) led from the front and worked tirelessly to maintain peace, order, and public confidence in the police force. His humility, sense of duty, and proactive attitude have left a lasting impression on all of us," the DC said, adding that his contribution would be remembered for years to come. Additional SP Kulgam Aftab Ahmad highlighted the officer's role in strengthening the policing framework in the district. "Under his leadership, the police not only enhanced law and order measures but also deepened public outreach and community trust. His guidance was an inspiration for the entire team," he remarked. CO 9 RR Kumar Varun and CO CRPF 18 BN also spoke on the occasion, acknowledging SSP Sarangal's close coordination with the security forces in ensuring peace and stability in the region. They appreciated his calm demeanor, sharp decision-making, and commitment to inter-agency cooperation. Officials and colleagues collectively lauded SSP Sarangal's humane approach, tireless efforts, and people-friendly policing style. They described his transfer as a significant loss for the district, emphasizing that his tenure would be remembered for his integrity, empathy, and effective policing initiatives that brought the administration and the community closer. The farewell event was attended by ADC Vigar Giri (JKAS), ACD Bilal Ahmed Kamgar (JKAS), ACR Reyaz Ahmad Shah (JKAS), ASP NHW Mumtaz Ali Bhatti (JKPS), all SHOs, and district officers. Participants expressed their heartfelt gratitude and extended best wishes to SSP Sahil Sarangal (IPS) for his future endeavours, noting that his departure marks the end of a highly impactful and memorable chapter in Kulgam's policing history.

KU holds training workshop for AISHE nodal officers

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR OCT 10: The AISHE Cell of the Directorate of Internal Quality Assurance (DIQA), University of Kashmir (KU), in collaboration with the AISHE Unit of the Government of J&K, organised a one-day training workshop for nodal officers of the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) to strengthen institutional data management practices. The day-long workshop aimed to familiarise nodal officers from affiliated colleges and satellite campuses of the varsity with the process of accurately filling the Data Capture Format (DCF) on the AISHE portal. The programme included detailed technical sessions, interactive question-answer sessions to clarify operational challenges, and hands-on training to ensure uniform and reliable data submission. Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, in her address, encouraged the participants to ensure precision and consistency in reporting data and said, "Accurate data is the foundation of informed policy and effective academic planning. AISHE provides the evidence base for shaping higher education reforms, and universities must ensure that every figure reported reflects institutional transparency and accountability." Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, high-

lighted the importance of institutional coordination in data management and said that regular capacity-building workshops help strengthen quality assurance mechanisms across the university system. Mr. Sourabh Kant, Assistant Director, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, provided an overview of AISHE, highlighting its significance in maintaining comprehensive national databases for higher education planning. Dr. Asif Iqbal, State Coordinator, AISHE Unit J&K, talked about the operational aspects of data verification and validation. Earlier, in his welcome address, Director DIQA KU and Nodal Officer AISHE, Prof. Manzoor Shah, said that accurate data entry is integral to quality benchmarking and national ranking frameworks. The Statistical Digest 2023-24, compiled by DIQA, was also released on the occasion. The technical session included training on filling the online web-based DCF and addressing the doubts and difficulties of nodal officers. The session was conducted by Mr. Omprakash Bobasya and Mr. Shivam Panday from the Ministry of Education, Government of India. The event proceedings were conducted by Prof. Aijaz Akbar, Deputy Director DIQA KU, while Mr. Waseem Hussain, Assistant Nodal Officer AISHE Cell KU, proposed a vote of thanks.

Dr. Abid Rasheed visits KU's CIRI, applauds advanced research, infrastructure



HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCT 10: Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah (IAS), Secretary to the Government, Health and Medical Education Department, J&K, visited the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research and Innovations (CIRI) at the University of Kashmir (KU) and praised the cutting-edge research, human resource, and state-of-the-art infrastructure developed at the centre. Dr. Shah was accompanied by Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan; Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal; Prof. Iffat Hassan Shah, Principal and Dean, GMC Srinagar, and various other senior officials. During his visit to the centre Dr. Shah interacted with faculty members and researchers and was briefed by Dr. Altaf Bhat, Coordinator CIRI KU, about the ongoing biomedical research and its societal relevance. Dr. Shah commended the University's

initiative in building a competitive interdisciplinary research centre and emphasized the need for collaboration between CIRI and medical institutes to address regional biomedical challenges. "Centres like CIRI mark a shift from brain drain to brain gain. They are enabling scientists trained abroad to return and contribute their expertise to local research and innovation," Dr. Shah noted. Vice-Chancellor KU Prof. Nilofer Khan said that CIRI has created opportunities for overseas-trained scientists and researchers to return to the valley and join ongoing national efforts in science and technology. Registrar KU Prof. Naseer Iqbal added that the University was among the first in the country to adopt a policy supporting the national brain gain mission. He said this approach has helped CIRI attract talent from abroad and build stronger research capacity at home.

Div Com Jammu reviews hospital readiness, civic measures for Dengue control

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, OCTOBER 10: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar today chaired a meeting to review the preparedness of District Administrations and hospitals to prevent the surge of Dengue cases in Jammu Division.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Udhampur, Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Director Urban Local Bodies, the Principal GMC Jammu, Director Health Services Jammu, Joint Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation, Malariologist and concerned Doctors.

The Divisional Commissioner was apprised of the year-wise comparative analysis of the surge in Dengue cases and the vulnerable spots.



Threadbare discussion was held on preparedness of District Administrations and the preventive measures to be implemented for prevention of Dengue. Readiness of hospitals, availability of medical equipment and staff were also reviewed.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the Deputy Commissioners to prepare a plan with involvement of officials of Health ULB, BDO and District Malaria Officers, underlining points of action to control Dengue spread. He further asked for intensified IEC activities and publicity of Dos and Don'ts for protection against Dengue.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the health officials to share the data of Dengue cases with Municipal authorities for timely implementation of anti Dengue measures.

Principal Government Medical College apprised the Divisional Commissioner on the readiness of GMC and Hospitals for Dengue patients.

Samba admin hosts orientation training for field staff to strengthen MGNREGA implementation

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SAMBA, OCTOBER 10: A landmark one-day training programme was organised today to equip Rural Development Department field functionaries from Kathua and Samba districts with advanced technological tools and updated protocols to facilitate seamless implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

The event was inaugurated by District Programme Coordinator (DPC) MGNREGA Ayushi Sudan, who emphasized the critical role of capacity building in achieving the scheme's core objectives of rural employment generation and asset creation.



The programme witnessed active participation from Block Development Officers of the twin districts, along with executive and technical staff from the Rural Development Department, reflecting a unified commitment to programme excellence.

The training curriculum was meticulously designed across seven specialized sessions covering Yukt-dhara portal for GIS-based planning, NMMS eKYC features, electronic Muster Book (eMB) utilization, GeoMGNREGA's geofencing capabilities, SECURE 2.0 for technical estimates and additional functionalities, documentation and record maintenance protocols, and comprehensive guidelines on permissible works under MGNREGA.

The session modules aimed at bridging knowledge gaps and fostering digital literacy among field staff to leverage technology for improved programme monitoring and accountability.

The event culminated with an engaging online quiz and assessment, enabling participants to evaluate their learning outcomes and reinforce key concepts. This training initiative represents the administration's steadfast commitment to building institutional capacity, promoting good governance and ensuring that MGNREGA continues to serve as a powerful instrument for rural transformation and livelihood security in the region.

Capacity Building Programme on Community-Based Disaster Management held at Kupwara

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 10: The District Administration Kupwara, in coordination with the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DDMRRR), today organized a one-day Capacity Building Programme under Community-Based Disaster Management at the ACD Complex, Kupwara.

The programme was presided over by Additional Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad, who also serves as the Chief Executive Officer of District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Kupwara.

The event witnessed active participation from a



range of stakeholders, including Deputy Secretary, DDMRRR, Snobar Jameel; Assistant Commissioner Development Kupwara, Muzaffar Ahmad, BDOs, Panchayat Secretaries; ICDS workers; and other concerned officials.

The primary objective of the programme was to strengthen the capacities of grassroots functionaries and local communities in effective disaster preparedness, response, and mitigation. Emphasis was laid on the importance of community engagement, co-ordination among departments, and proactive planning to minimize disaster-related risks.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADC highlighted the significance of empowering local communities and frontline workers to build resilience against natural and man-made disasters. He appreciated the efforts of the department in organizing the training and encouraged all participants to disseminate the knowledge gained at the community level.

The programme featured expert sessions, interactive discussions, and the dissemination of resource material designed to equip participants with essential skills and best practices in disaster management.

DC Reasi inspects Fisheries and Sericulture Units

Emphasizes use of modern techniques, livelihood promotion

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

REASI, OCTOBER 10: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik today conducted an extensive visit to the District Fish Farms at Sullu and Thanpal to review the ongoing operations, infrastructure and achievements of the fisheries sector in the district.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner took a comprehensive assessment of the breeding processes of Common Carp and Mahaseer, besides reviewing the various stages involved in the breeding cycle. She also inspected the hatchery units and interacted with officials to understand the methodologies adopted for quality seed production and its distribution to local fish farmers.

At the Thanpal Fish Farm, the DC inspected the bio-plant setup and reviewed the maintenance of breeding ponds and other infrastructure facilities. She emphasized the importance of adopting modern fish farming techniques and sustainable prac-



tices to enhance productivity and support the livelihoods of rural fish farmers. She also visited the Fisheries Department Guest House, which is currently under renovation. She directed the officers to ensure that renovation works are completed within the stipulated timeline with due focus on functionality and aesthetics.

The Deputy Commissioner directed officers to focus on improving seed quality, farm management, and capacity-building initiatives for local youth interested in fish culture.

Later, Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik visited the Mulberry Farm at Gran Morh to review the ongoing activities of the Sericulture Department and assess the progress in mulberry cultivation and cocoon production in the district.

The DC was informed that the Gran Morh Mulberry Farm spans over 50 kanals of land, out of which 30 kanals serve as a pre-nursery area where 31,500 cuttings have been planted. It was further apprised that around 15,000 A-class mulberry plants will soon be uprooted and distributed among farmers to promote cocoon rearing and boost sericulture-based livelihood generation.

In addition, the DC inspected the attached mulberry block, where 8,500 mature mulberry plants are currently growing. These plants serve as a source of cuttings, while the remaining plants are provided to farmers for cocoon production.

Among others present during the visit were AD Fisheries Masood Anwar and District Sericulture Officer Rajiv Gupta.

DC Ganderbal chairs DLC meet on PMAY 2.0 Urban

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today convened a meeting of the District Level Committee (DLC), here to review and decide cases under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY 2.0).

During the meeting, the committee thoroughly examined the applications received under the scheme, which aims at fulfilling the vision of 'Housing for All' by providing pucca houses to the eligible beneficiaries belonging to the Economically Weaker Sections, Low-Income Groups, and other entitled categories.

After detailed deliberations and verification of documents, the committee accorded approval to several cases under PMAY 2.0. These approved cases will now move forward for sanction of financial assistance enabling the beneficiaries to construct or upgrade their dwelling units.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC stressed upon transparency and fairness in the selection process and directed the concerned



officers to ensure that all genuine and deserving applicants are provided timely benefits. He further instructed the Urban Local Bodies to keep close coordination with field staff so that timely verification, monitoring, and assistance is provided to the applicants.

DC further directed the Revenue and Municipality officials to complete the verification process of the remaining applicants within a week's time.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Ahmad; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Lead District Manager, Tehsildar Ganderbal, Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Ganderbal and representative from Housing Board.

DC Baramulla Chairs meeting to Resolve Land issues for BSNL 4G Tower Installation

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 10: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a meeting in his office chamber to address land issues arising from the saturation of BSNL 4G mobile towers in the district.

The meeting focused on measures to expedite the installation of BSNL 4G towers and resolve land-related bottlenecks that have delayed network expansion.

The DC directed officers from the Revenue Department and BSNL to conduct a joint field visit to identify and finalize suitable locations for tower installation and

submit a detailed report within a week.

He emphasized the need for close co-ordination between departments to ensure timely execution of projects and to strengthen mobile network connectivity, particularly in uncovered and remote areas.

The DC underlined that the initiative is part of the district administration's ongoing efforts to enhance digital infrastructure and improve communication facilities for residents in all parts of Baramulla.

The meeting was attended by SDM Uri, Tehsildars of Uri, Boniyar, and Dandigwacha, as well as the Divisional Engineer of BSNL Baramulla and other concerned officers.



PG College Rajouri hosts workshop on "Mental Health: Issues and Concerns"

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

RAJOURI, OCTOBER 10: In observance of World Mental Health Day, the Government Post Graduate College Rajouri today organized a thought-provoking and socially relevant workshop themed "Mental Health: Issues and Concerns."

The event aimed to promote awareness, reduce stigma and encourage open conversations about psychological well-being among the youth.

The Deputy Commissioner graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while the College Principal Prof. Zamir Ahmed Mirza presided over the event. The programme was organized by the Department of Sociology and the National Service Scheme (NSS) under the

academic supervision of Prof. Khaleeq Ahmed.

In his keynote address, Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma underlined the problem of rising incidence of stress, anxiety and depression among students and young professionals. He emphasized the importance of nurturing psychological resilience, building emotional intelligence and breaking the social stigma attached to mental health.

Interacting with the students, the DC discussed pressing issues such as social isolation, digital dependency and suicidal tendencies, urging the youth to become advocates of mental well-being and community support.

Prof. Khaleeq Ahmed, in his scholarly presentation elaborated



on the biological, social and cultural dimensions of mental health. He highlighted the need for early intervention, empathetic communication and institutional support mechanisms to address mental health challenges and promote holistic wellness.

Earlier, the session began with a welcome address by Prof. Mur-taza Ahmed, who emphasized the necessity of integrating mental health literacy into academic curricula and community outreach programmes. His remarks set the intellectual tone for the deliberations that followed.

The event was attended by distinguished faculty members and nearly 300 students, who actively participated in the interactive ses-

sions with enthusiasm and curiosity.

In his presidential address, Prof. Zamir Ahmed Mirza lauded the efforts of the organizing team and reiterated the moral and institutional responsibility of colleges to cultivate environments conducive to emotional wellness and compassionate dialogue.

He also extended gratitude to the Deputy Commissioner for his inspiring and insightful address.

The workshop concluded with an engaging interactive session and a formal vote of thanks, leaving participants motivated to carry forward the message of mental health awareness and collective well-being in their communities.

DC Budgam chairs District TB Forum meeting to Strengthen TB Control Measures

Holistic support and Vigilance key to TB Eradication in Budgam: DC

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 10: A District TB Forum meeting was held today under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, to review and strengthen ongoing efforts under the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan in the district.

The meeting was attended by CMO Budgam, STO Kashmir, DTO Budgam, other concerned officials as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations, TB Champions, Nikshay Mitras, and all staff associated with the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP).

The DC took comprehensive review of TB-related activities across the district.

The Chair was apprised about the progress achieved under the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan, identified existing gaps in diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up, and deliberated on strategies to enhance service delivery.

The DC Emphasised on improving case detection, treatment adherence, and patient support mechanisms, especially for MDR-TB patients.

He assured full administrative support for strengthening TB control measures in the district. He highlighted the importance of a holistic approach to TB management, including nutritional support, vocational rehabilitation, and social welfare for patients undergoing long-term treatment.

He commended the efforts of



Nikshay Mitras for their active role in providing nutritional assistance and counselling to TB patients, acknowledging their contribution to patient retention and treatment success.

The DC stressed the need for accurate and timely reporting of TB-related data under the NTEP, underlining its critical role in monitoring progress and formulating effective interventions.

He instructed all officers to take necessary corrective measures to address gaps in outreach, treatment monitoring, and community awareness.

The meeting further discussed measures to enhance treatment success rates, increase awareness about TB prevention, and ensure that vulnerable patients receive comprehensive

support, including regular health check-ups, nutritional supplements, and access to government welfare schemes.

The DC maintained that the District administration is committed towards eradicating tuberculosis from Budgam by strengthening multi-sectoral co-ordination, engaging community stakeholders, and leveraging technology for effective monitoring.

He also highlighted that sustained administrative attention, combined with active community participation, is key to building a TB-free Budgam.

He directed all officers and stakeholders to work collectively towards achieving the objectives of the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan, ensuring that no patient is left untreated or unsupported across District.

J&K Police, Forest Department Collaborate for Capacity Building Training on SOPs in North Kashmir

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 10: A specialized two-day training program for the Forest Frontline officers of the Forest Territorial and Forest Protection Force concluded today at the District Police Lines, Baramulla.

The training focused on equipping the Forest personnel with the necessary skills and adherence to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for effective vehicle checking and frisking.

The inaugural day emphasized the role of Forest Guards in enforcement, particularly their duties re-



lated to vehicle inspections. A key module covered the Legal Aspects of enforcement, providing a comprehensive overview of relevant legislation, including the Indian

Forest Act, the Wildlife Protection Act, and the Arms Act.

The training also focused on practical training modules on vehicle checks, techniques for identifying contraband, methods for spotting and seizing illegal items such as illegally harvested timber, wildlife products, and unauthorized weapons.

On day two the participants were made aware on safe and lawful Frisking techniques and safety protocols. The session thoroughly covered the legal boundaries, ensuring personnel understood the limits and legality of personal searches.

The training also focused on

strategies for handling resistance and managing confrontational situations professionally. Safety and Communication, covering the use of protective gear, enhancing Personal Safety through situational awareness, and ensuring Team Co-ordination through effective communication during operations was also covered during the training program.

The training culminated in intensive Mock Drills, where participants engaged in simulated scenarios to practically apply their newly acquired knowledge on vehicle checks and frisking procedures in a controlled environment.

Mission Vatsalya Bandipora Conducts Surprise Inspection of Darul Uloom at Gamroo

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 10: In line with the ongoing efforts to ensure the protection and welfare of children residing in institutional care, officials from the District Child Protection Unit, Child Welfare Committee, Juvenile Justice Board, and Child Helpline Bandipora conducted a surprise inspection to Darul Uloom at Gamroo, Bandipora.

The purpose of the visit was to evaluate the standard of care being provided and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and Mission Vatsalya guidelines.

During the visit, the team thoroughly inspected the infrastructure and available facilities at institutions. The officials also interacted with the children to assess their living conditions, educational status, and overall well-being.

The authorities of the institutions were directed to improve the living standards of the children by ensuring access to proper accommodation, nutritious food, clean drinking water, sanitation, and adequate clothing. They were further instructed to strengthen safety and security measures within the premises to ensure a safe and protective environment for all children residing there.

Additionally, the officials warned the management not to engage or involve children in collecting donations from public places, as such practices are strictly prohibited and constitute a violation of Child Rights.



Recognizing the onset of the harsh winter season, the concerned were given a 15-days deadline to make all necessary arrangements to safeguard the health and comfort of the children. The institutions were advised to ensure the availability of proper heating arrangements, warm clothing, bedding, and other essential facilities to cope with winter conditions.

The DCPO Bandipora emphasized that regular monitoring and surprise inspections will continue to be carried out to ensure compliance with child protection norms and to uphold the welfare and dignity of children living in institutional care.

DLSA Shopian visits Special Jail Pulwama

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER, 10: In a significant move aimed at decongesting prisons and safeguarding the rights of under-trials, a team from the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Shopian today conducted a dedicated visit to the Special Jail in Pulwama.

The visit was planned to gather crucial data for the upcoming Under-Trial Review Committee (UTRC) meeting.

The delegation was led by Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel (LADC), DLSA Shopian, Rafie Ahmad Ganie and was accompanied by Deputy Chief LADC and Assistant LADC.

The primary objective of the visit was to identify under-trial prisoners who are eligible for early release with a specific focus on those who may be considered for bail or other forms of relief in the forthcoming UTRC meeting.

The team conducted a meticulous review of case records and held detailed interactions with the inmates to assess their individual circumstances.

During the interactions, the legal team verified the status of pending cases, the duration of incarceration and the legal avenues available for each inmate. Special attention was paid to inmates who have been detained for periods exceeding the potential sentence for their alleged offences, those who are ill, elderly or juveniles as per the guidelines of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).

This initiative is part of the ongoing efforts directed by NALSA and the J&K Legal Services Authority (JKLSA) to ensure access to justice and the humane treatment of prisoners.

DLSA Shopian observes world Mental Health Day at DHS

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER, 10: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian in collaboration with Health Department Shopian today observed World Mental Health Day under the theme "Mental health in humanitarian emergencies" at District Hospital, Shopian.

The programme was organized under the guidance of Chairman DLSA Shopian, Mehmood Ahmad Chowdhary & Secretary DLSA, Mudasar Farooq.

The programme aimed to spread awareness, educate people and enhance their understanding about mental health conditions and equip them with the skills necessary for addressing these issues.

The resource persons, Adv. Dawood Ahmad Khan (Deputy LADC) & Adv. Mohammad Amir Mir highlighted the objectives of organizing this awareness programme.

The programme was attended by staff Members of DLSA Shopian, Doctors & Para Medical Staff of District Hospital and Para Legal Volunteers.

Training on c-Vigil App for Flying Squads and Static Surveillance Teams Conducted

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 10: In view of the upcoming Bye-Elections 2025 to the 27-Budgam Assembly Constituency, a one-day training programme on the c-Vigil App was organized today at the New Conference Hall, DC Office Complex, Budgam.

The training aimed to familiarize the Flying Squads and Static Surveillance Teams, including their designated Magistrates and accompanying Police Officials, with the effective use of the c-Vigil App.

Pertinently, c-Vigil App is an im-



portant digital tool developed by the Election Commission of India to ensure transparency, accountability, and swift redressal of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) violations during elections.

During the session, officers were briefed on the operational features of the app, including real-time reporting,

geo-tagged complaint submission, and verification mechanisms. The emphasis was laid on prompt response and coordination between field teams to ensure free, fair, and ethical elections in the district.

The participants underscored the importance of the training and use of technology in monitoring election-related activities and maintaining the sanctity of the democratic process.

The programme was attended by GM DIC budgam (Nodal officer MCC), DIO NIC, Magistrates and Police Officials of the Flying Squads and Static Surveillance Teams.

BGSBU observes World Mental Health Day

Registrar delivers Keynote Lecture

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

RAJOURI, OCTOBER 10: To mark World Mental Health Day, Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU) organized an open lecture on the theme "Mental Health: Building Resilience and Well-being."

The event aimed to foster awareness, encourage open conversations and promote a supportive environment for emotional wellness among students and faculty.

Registrar of the University Abhishek Sharma delivered the keynote address. He highlighted

the growing importance of mental health in academic settings and emphasized the need to view it with the same seriousness as physical health. He underlined the importance of early identification of symptoms such as prolonged stress, anxiety, mood fluctuations and social withdrawal, noting that early intervention can play a decisive role in recovery and resilience.

He also drew attention towards the Johari Window model, explaining how self-awareness and feedback can help individuals better under-



stand their emotions, behaviour and areas of personal growth. He encouraged students to remain open to constructive feedback, build trust and express their feelings without hesitation. Such practices, he noted, strengthen emotional intelligence and interpersonal relationships—both essential for mental well-being.

He further urged faculty members to foster an empathetic and inclusive learning environment, while stressing the need for structured feedback and support systems

within the University to make mental health resources accessible to everyone.

Students from various departments participated actively in the session. Heads of departments and senior faculty members were also present, reflecting the University's commitment to nurturing a culture of care, openness and mental well-being on campus.

The event concluded with an engaging interactive session, where students shared their thoughts on coping mechanisms, resilience and the importance of seeking timely help.

Mission YUVA Boosts Youth Entrepreneurship in Baramulla with 350 Cases Approved

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 10: In a progressive step towards empowering the youth and fostering economic self-reliance, the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC), Baramulla, has approved 350 entrepreneurship proposals under the flagship Mission YUVA initiative.

This milestone reflects the district administration's commitment to creating sustainable livelihood opportunities and nurturing entrepreneurial talent among young people.

The meeting, presided over by Deputy Commissioner Minga Sherpa, witnessed the approval of 350 cases under the Nano scheme. These projects will receive comprehensive financial and institutional support, enabling young entrepreneurs to transform their ideas into viable enterprises across sectors such as services, retail, manufacturing, and innovation-driven businesses.

Deputy Commissioner emphasized that youth are the cornerstone of socio-economic progress and urged all concerned departments to work in close coordination to ensure efficient implementation, timely release of funds, and sustained mentoring support. He encouraged all stakeholders to actively contribute toward enabling young innovators to become catalysts for growth and development in the district.

The DC also directed the Lead District Manager and Cluster Heads to closely monitor Branch Managers to expedite the sanctioning and disbursement of approved cases. A branch-wise report will be shared with higher authorities of J&K Bank to address delays in approvals.

Additionally, a control room will be set up at the DC office to coordinate with BHDs and SBDU to streamline the implementation of Mission YUVA at the district level.

HT EDITORIAL

Time to restart international buyer-seller meets

There was a time when a buyer-seller meet was a regular feature on the business horizon of Kashmir valley and this event would be held in Srinagar preferably at SKICC. With the passage of time a change has taken place in this regard and buyer-seller meets are not only organized in Srinagar but in the other parts of Kashmir valley. Such events give an opportunity to the artisans to showcase their products before a large audience.

On Friday Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh inaugurated a three days buyer-seller meet at Budgam to promote traditional handicrafts and facilitate market linkages for local artisans and producers. The buyer-seller meet is being organised by Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) and is sponsored by Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, under National Handicraft Development Programme (NHDP). The meet is held as a part of on-going efforts to support and revitalize Jammu and Kashmir's rich handicraft heritage.

The meet will serve as a key platform for local artisans to showcase their unique craftsmanship and build sustainable commercial relationships with buyers, thereby contributing to economic empowerment of the region's artisan community. Around 50 artisans showcasing a diverse range of handmade GI-tagged products like Pashmina, Kani Shawls, Sozni embroidery, paper mache, chain stitch, Basohli paintings, crewel work and more are taking part in the meet. The event has attracted 40 national buying houses operating across various international markets.

In the past international buyer-seller meets were organized in Srinagar and in the same people coming from different parts of the globe took part. Some of the visitors placed orders for different Kashmir made products and in such a manner there was promotion of tourism as well. Due to some unavoidable circumstances the international buyer-seller meets were discontinued. The need of the hour is that such activities are organized in the same manner as they used to be in the past.

All the stakeholders should put in their efforts in this regard and the major role has to be played by the union territory government. The people at helm should take pro-active measures so as to motivate the foreigners to come to this place and take part in business related events like international buyer-seller meets. This would give a much needed boost to the handicrafts sector of Kashmir. The artisans would be encouraged to make more beautiful products and at the end of the day the Kashmir economy will grow.

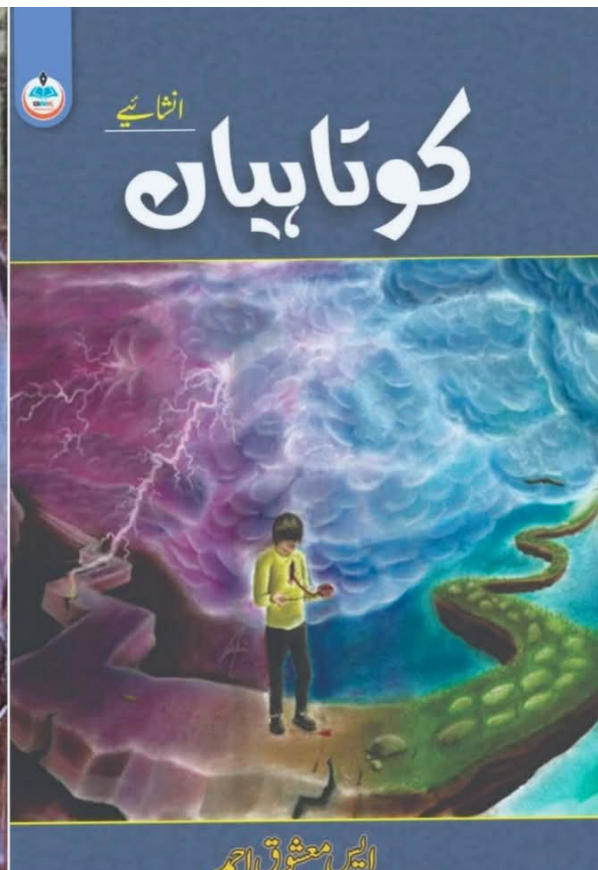
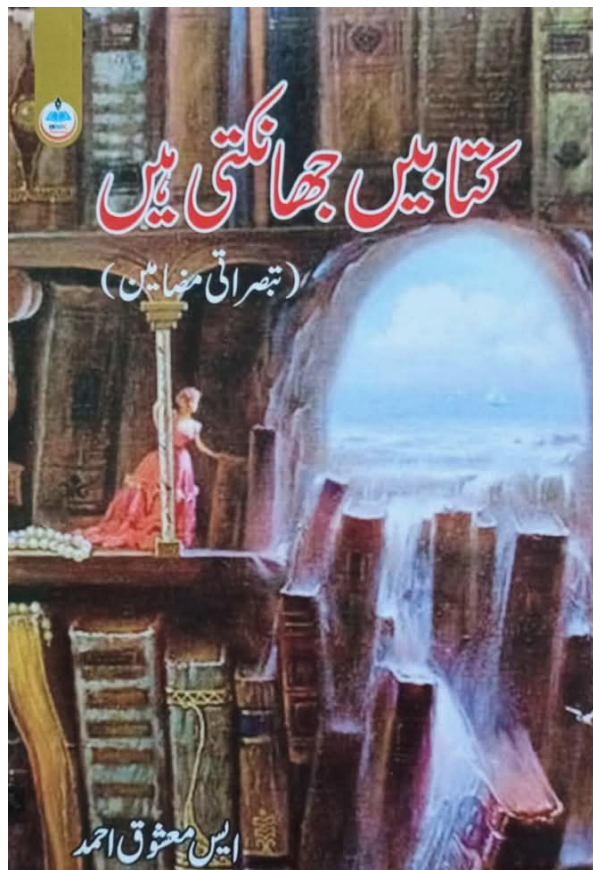
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S. Mashooq Ahmed A Brilliant Star of Urdu Literature of Kulgam, Kashmir



S. Mashooq Ahmed is counted among India and Pakistan's best choice, renowned essayists, and his essays bear witness to both his outstanding creative abilities and nuanced understanding of Urdu literature.

His essays are not only distinguished by their distinctive style but also by analysis depth, refined language, and challenging themes, which combined position him firmly in the world of literature. Thus far, he has written four great books: "Main Ne Dekha" (assays and sketches), "Dabistan-e-Kashmir ke Darakhshan Sitare" (essays on Kashmiri authors and poets), "Kootahiyan" (assays), and "Kitaaben Jhankti Hain" (commentary and criticism). Not very long ago, Farida Anjum compiled a collection of his essays in a book named "Adabi Mashooqiyat", which only goes to underscore the value of his work.



S. Mashooq Ahmed, hailing from the picturesque district of Kulgam in Kashmir, is a unique personality in Urdu literature. Not only is he a masterful essayist, but he is also a distinguished commentator, short story writer, and poet. His literary pen name, S. Mashooq Ahmed, has become synonymous with a mark of excellence that leaves a profound impression on the minds and hearts of every literary connoisseur and scholar.

S. Mashooq Ahmed has made an illustrious place for himself in literature. I have come to know him over the past few months by reading what he has written, and what immediately impressed me was the thoughts of his mind, the acuteness of his imagination, and the innovation of his style. Each of his commentaries and essays is a salve to the heart and an enlargement of the mind as he effortlessly introduces life experience, human emotion, social reality, and intellectual consideration into language that is simultaneously familiar and deeply resonant. Not only do his words evoke the reader, they also guide the reader into new directions of thought and reflection, and thus his writing is a guiding light in contemporary Urdu literature.

S. Mashooq Ahmed's love of literature often runs deep, and his affection for the essay form is no secret in literary circles. His essays carry a rare aesthetic and intellectual beauty that makes an impression on the reader's mind, possessing a flawless mix of elegance and depth that few authors can offer. As a critic, Mashooq reads books with care and fastidiously notes their key points and offers in-depth, perceptive critiques. His critiques do not only reveal the significance of the work that he discusses but also call upon readers to read books more deeply, exposing them to different levels of thought and imagination. Published through newspapers, magazines, and media, his works bring intellectual satisfaction and guidance, inspiring aspiring writers and readers of books as well.

S. Mashooq Ahmed is counted among India and Pakistan's best choice, renowned essayists, and his essays bear witness to both his outstanding creative abilities and nuanced understanding of Urdu literature. His essays are not only distinguished by their distinctive style but also by analysis depth, refined language, and challenging themes, which combined position him firmly in the world of literature. Thus far, he has written four great books: "Main Ne Dekha" (assays and sketches), "Dabistan-e-Kashmir ke Darakhshan Sitare" (essays on Kashmiri authors and poets), "Kootahiyan" (assays), and "Kitaaben Jhankti Hain" (commentary and criticism). Not very long ago, Farida Anjum compiled a collection of his essays in a book named "Adabi Mashooqiyat", which only goes to underscore the value of his work.

Every line and every thought in Mashooq Ahmed's writing is a call to reflection, reminiscent of the richness of the human experience. His writing lingers on the complexities of life, on the subtlety of social behavior, on the richness of human emotions, and on what literature is all about. Through his unique blend of social observation, subtle humor, satire, and verbal agility, he conveys the richness of human experience, and his work becomes a source of guidance not only in Kashmir but across the whole subcontinent. Mashooq Ahmed is a great writer in every literary genre, but every work that he produces reflects his deep love of literature, his wide intellectual vision, and his sensitivity to human emotions.

S. Mashooq Ahmed's artistic temperament, reflected in his own special style and firm commitment to literary excellence, is a magnificent addition to Urdu literature. Every essay, review, and article written by him raises new standards of literary and intellectual excellence. He is not only a writer but also a perceptive guide, awakening readers to the facts of life, society, language, and literature. His writings evoke emotions, provoke thoughts, and illuminate the enduring richness of Urdu literature and language.

One of his most notable works, "Kitaaben Jhankti Hain" is an excellent collection of critical essays, first published in 2024 by GNK Publications. Consisting of 186 pages with

hardcover binding of an advanced kind, the book is intriguing at first sight. Its price of three hundred and fifty rupees hardly reflects the rich literary wealth in store within it. The book is a rigorous reading of literature, and Mashooq Ahmed's close reading, insightful close-reading, and authentic reflection. Each essay not only elucidates regarding the work discussed but also directs to its aesthetic subtlety. His opting for plain language guarantees that the reader is not burdened but instead gets to enjoy a good and enlightening reading experience.

Kitaaben Jhankti Hain does not so much expose individual writings but displays a glimpse of a wide range of authors and writings. Through this compilation, Mashooq Ahmed throws light on the extensive expanse of literature, reflecting his extensive reading, deep love for learning, and mastery over critique. The essays and commentaries published range from fiction, poetry, essay, and criticism to introduce readers to the diverse facets of literary exploration. Of the best essays among them are critical analyses of books by Mohammad Asadullah, Manwar Usmani, Iqbal Hasan Azad, and Ibn-e-Safi, and thematic explorations of contemporary Urdu fiction and introspective writings on human life, philosophy, and literary concepts. This book not only enhances literary understanding but also serves as a handbook for readers to improve his interpretative and analytical skills.

Similarly, "Kootahiyan", a fine collection of twenty-one essays published by GNK Publications, comprises 128 pages and demands special notice with its beautiful cover. Dedicated to his loving parents out of love, respect, and gratitude, the book addresses social and day-to-day life topics in an accessible, easy-to-read manner with a catchy flow that involves readers on a journey of observation, thinking, and reflection. Each essay is humorous, satirical, and thought-provoking, challenging readers to consider different aspects of life. The anthology favors Mashooq Ahmed's observation, extensive reading, and literary ability, and each essay communicates a new message along with an emotional entreaty.

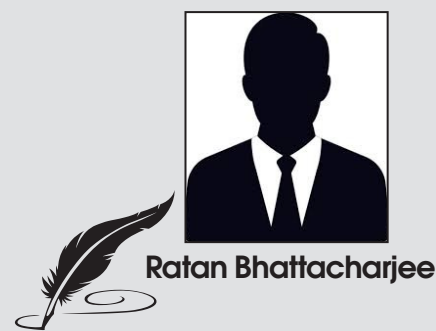
The titles in Kootahiyan—such as "Umar Poochna", "Khushamad", "Dost, Dushman aur Biwi", "Kya Karte Ho", "Bas Chaar Din", "Adhar aur Gaali", "Baheek Khareedne ka Khawab", "Kutte Mein Tera Khoon Bhi Jaon Ga", "Laraai", "Rog Radio aur Adabi Program", "Gaye Bhi Chori Hui", "Phisalna", "Intizaar", "Shafiq Bacholiya", "Zikr-e-Ahd-e-Shabab", "Mirza Tabarak Abadi", "Shadi Shuda aur Kanware", "Soorat Pehchaan aur Paishgoi", "Ashaar ki Man Bhati Sharh", "Modern Mehboob", and "Salaam Name"—ask questions, as readers are compelled to view social realities, human actions, and everyday life in new perspectives. Each essay presents a complete story, a singular experience, and a vibrant imaginative scene, a lasting impression that is remembered in the mind and heart of the reader.

By these essays, readers not only get acquainted with Mashooq Ahmed's skill of observation and literary art but also gain a new vision for looking at day-to-day life, emotions, and social behaviors. The game of joke, criticism, and reflection in these essays makes Kootahiyan a new kind of literary work, offering enlightening and memorable reading to all the readers.

S. Mashooq Ahmed, therefore, is not merely a master essayist, critic, and columnist of Urdu literature but a writer whose works make a profound and lasting impression upon the minds and hearts of his readers. His books, Kitaaben Jhankti Hain and Kootahiyan, evoke thought, ennoble literary taste, and act as beacon lights for mature and new readers of Urdu literature. Beyond any doubt, S. Mashooq Ahmed is a shining star in the world of Urdu literature, whose light will continue to illuminate the literary and intellectual sphere for generations to come.

The author is a passionate writer, social activist, and medical student from Kuchmulla Tral, is also a B.Sc. Nursing student at Ramzaan College of Nursing & Paramedical Sciences, Galander Pampore, Email: wania6817@gmail.com

Nobel Laureate 2025 László Krasznahorkai: Visionary Oeuvre Versus Apocalyptic Terror



Ratan Bhattacharjee

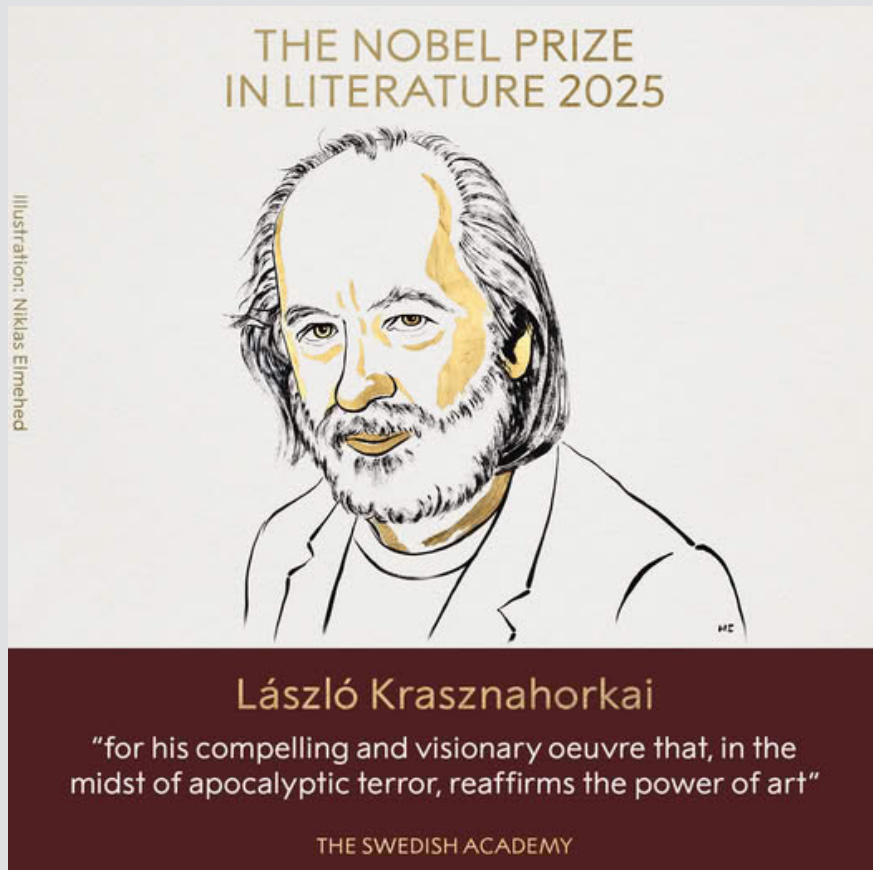
Herscht 07769 (2025), his most recent novel, set in Thüringen, Germany, portrays social unrest against the backdrop of Bach's legacy. Written "in a single breath," it was lauded for its fusion of beauty and chaos . The Boss is enraged by a graffiti artist who is defacing the various monuments to Johann Sebastian Bach in Thuringia with wolf emblems. A Bach fanatic and director of an amateur orchestra, the Boss is determined to catch the culprit with the help of his gang. Florian has no choice but to join the chase. Across these works, Krasznahorkai explores themes of decay, absurdity, metaphysical longing, and the search for meaning in a collapsing world.

Hungarian novelist László Krasznahorkai has been awarded the 2025 Nobel Prize in Literature for his "compelling and visionary oeuvre that, in the midst of apocalyptic terror, reaffirms the power of art" as the Swedish Academy praised his work. For decades, Krasznahorkai has been revered as a literary cult figure, known for his labyrinthine prose, philosophical depth, and bleakly comic vision. With this honor, he becomes the second Hungarian to receive the Nobel in literature, following Imre Kertész in 2002. The Swedish Academy praised his work for its ability to "reaffirm the power of art" amid "apocalyptic terror," a fitting tribute to a writer whose novels often unfold in long, unbroken sentences that mimic obsessive thought and existential dread. He was born in 1954 in the small town of Gyula, near Hungary's border with Romania. He studied law and literature before turning to fiction in the early 1980s. In a novel increasingly fragmented and chaotic, Krasznahorkai's fiction offers no easy answers. Instead, it invites readers to endure, to reflect, and to find meaning in the act of reading itself. Krasznahorkai's fiction is defined by apocalyptic landscapes, existential dread, and philosophical inquiry. His Nobel win is not just a personal triumph—it is a celebration of literature's ability to confront darkness with depth, humor, and grace.

His debut novel, *Sátántangó* (1985), was a literary sensation in Hungary. Set in a rain-soaked, decaying village, the novel introduced readers to his signature style: vast, hypnotic sentences, a tone oscillating between cosmic comedy and despair, and characters teetering on the edge of dissolution. The novel was later adapted into a seven-hour black-and-white film by Béla Tarr, cementing Krasznahorkai's reputation as a master of the apocalyptic and absurd. *Sátántangó*, the novel that catapulted him to literary prominence and helped earn him the 2025 Nobel Prize in Literature, is a haunting, apocalyptic masterpiece that explores decay, manipulation, and the illusion of salvation. *Sátántangó* exemplifies this vision—an uncompromising meditation on ruin and resilience. *Sátántangó* 1985 is a bleak portrayal of a Hungarian village awaiting salvation with focus on rural decay and waiting. In *Sátántangó*, the Kafka epigraph—"In that case, I'll miss the thing by waiting for it"—sets the tone for a world suspended in hopeless anticipation.

The *Melancholy of Resistance* (1989) is a satirical and prophetic vision of Western civilization, where violence erupts in a provincial town gripped by paranoia. The novel is a haunting allegory of societal collapse, paranoia, and the fragility of order. Set in a decaying Hungarian town, the novel explores how fear and spectacle can unravel civilization, making it one of the most prophetic works of postmodern literature. The *Melancholy of Resistance* 1989 depicting anarchy, fascism and moral collapse is a surreal allegory of societal breakdown, featuring a ghostly circus and a giant whale.

In *War & War* (1999) a minor archivist discovers a mysterious manuscript and



flee to New York to post it online before committing suicide—a meditation on digital preservation and existential despair. *War & War* 1999 highlights memory, digital preservation, and suicide. The novel is an archivist's quest to save a manuscript before ending his life—an allegory of meaning in a collapsing world. *War & War* (1999) is a hypnotic, unsettling meditation on memory, mortality, and the fragility of meaning in a chaotic world. It's one of his most ambitious novels, and a cornerstone of the literary vision that earned him the 2025 Nobel Prize in Literature.

Seiobo There Below (2008) is a collection of 17 stories arranged according to the Fibonacci sequence, exploring artistic creation and the fleeting nature of beauty. *Stories in Seiobo There Below* 2008 dealing with beauty, impermanence and sacred art are arranged in Fibonacci sequence, exploring perfection through Japanese and European art.

For Kafkaesque influence and philosophical depth, Krasznahorkai is often called the "Hungarian master of apocalypse" and a literary heir to Franz Kafka. His characters are trapped not by politics alone, but by expectation, bureaucracy, and metaphysical dread.

Baron Wenckheim's *Homecoming* (2016) a washed-up nobleman returns to his hometown, igniting chaos among gossiping townsfolk and a mad philosopher. Critics hailed it as "majestic" and "deeply funny." Baron Wenckheim's *Homecoming* 2016 focusing themes of madness, and provincial absurdity offers a comic yet nihilistic tale of a nobleman's return, hailed as his culminating work. Set in contemporary times, Baron Wenckheim's *Homecoming* tells the story of a Prince Myshkin-like figure, Baron Bela Wenckheim, who decides to return at the end of his life to the pro-

vincial Hungarian town of his birth. Having escaped from his many casino debts in Buenos Aires, where he was living in exile, he wishes to be reunited with his high school sweetheart Marika. What follows is an endless storm of gossip, con men, and local politicians, vividly evoking the small town's alternately drab and absurd existence. All along, the Professor—a world-famous natural scientist who studies mosses and inhabits a bizarre Zen-like shack in a desolate area outside of town—offers long rants and disquisitions on his own attempts to immunize himself from thought. Spectacular actions are staged, death and the abyss loom, until finally doom is brought down on the unsuspecting residents of the town.

Herscht 07769 (2025), his most recent novel, set in Thüringen, Germany, portrays social unrest against the backdrop of Bach's legacy. Written "in a single breath," it was lauded for its fusion of beauty and chaos. The Boss is enraged by a graffiti artist who is defacing the various monuments to Johann Sebastian Bach in Thuringia with wolf emblems. A Bach fanatic and director of an amateur orchestra, the Boss is determined to catch the culprit with the help of his gang. Florian has no choice but to join the chase. Across these works, Krasznahorkai explores themes of decay, absurdity, metaphysical longing, and the search for meaning in a collapsing world.

Krasznahorkai's prose is famously difficult. Entire chapters often consist of a single paragraph. His fiction is a slow dance before collapse, where beauty is glimpsed in ruins, and faith is tested by absurdity. Even as he describes decay, his gaze remains tender, preserving fragments of meaning. His sentences stretch across pages, resisting conventional punctuation and narrative struc-

ture. His prose style—often composed of long, unbroken sentences—mirrors obsessive thought and emotional paralysis. Critics describe his syntax as "incantatory," pulling readers into a rhythm of exhaustion and reflection. Krasznahorkai's prose is famously dense and hypnotic. Translator George Szirtes described the novel as "a slow lava flow of narrative." He resists conventional narrative structure. Plot is often secondary to mood, and characters spiral into absurdity, trapped in decaying worlds where meaning flickers and fades. His writing is not escapist—it is a confrontation with chaos, rendered with poetic precision. Critics have described his style as "epic," "madcap," and "philosophical," drawing comparisons to Kafka, Thomas Bernhard, and Beckett. Susan Sontag once called him "the contemporary Hungarian master of apocalypse," while W.G. Sebald praised his universality, likening him to Gogol. His writing is not merely bleak—it is suffused with dark humor, metaphysical inquiry, and a radical faith in language's ability to hold chaos together. Krasznahorkai's body of work spans novels, short stories, and literary reportage. Some of his most acclaimed titles reflect the basics of his creative vision.

Krasznahorkai's writing is steeped in Central European absurdism and moral inquiry. He resists the consolations of plot, preferring instead to explore the inner monologues of characters caught in existential spirals. His fiction often blurs the line between satire and prophecy, comedy and despair. In a 2015 interview, he described his process: "Letters; then from letters, words; then from these words, some short sentences; then more sentences that are longer, and in the main very long sentences, for the duration of 35 years. Despite the complexity of his prose, Krasznahorkai's works have found a global audience for the translators like George Szirtes, Otilie Mulzet, and John Batki. His books have been published by New Directions in the U.S. and Sylph Editions in the U.K., earning him a cult following among readers who relish literary challenge. Earlier he won the 2015 Man Booker International Prize, the 2013 Best Translated Book Award, and the 2019 National Book Award for Translated Literature, among others. Beauty in language and fun in hell - this paradox—beauty in hell—is the essence of his art. With this award, Krasznahorkai joins the pantheon of literary giants—Hemingway, Morrison, Ishiguro, and Tokarczuk. He also brings renewed attention to Hungarian literature, a tradition rich in complexity, irony, and philosophical inquiry. For Hungary, his win is a moment of pride. For readers worldwide, it is an invitation to explore a body of work that challenges, disturbs, and ultimately transforms.

**International Tagore Awardee
Formerly Affiliate Faculty Virginia Commonwealth University &
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New Trend Of Exerting Pressure On Social Media

In today's world, social media has become an inseparable part of our daily lives. Almost everyone uses it — some for information, some for entertainment, and many simply to pass time. There's no denying that social media, when used wisely, can bring real improvement to society. It can expose wrongdoing, raise awareness, and help build a more responsible community.

But the real question is: how are we using it? What kind of content do we engage with, and what kind of behavior are we encouraging online? The truth is, our social media activity often reflects our priorities, our values, and sometimes even our insecurities.

Over the past few years, a new and concerning trend has emerged on social media — a trend where people use these platforms not for awareness or connection, but to create influence and pressure. It's a subtle yet visible attempt to project power and closeness to authority.

Whenever transfer orders in civil or police administration are announced, they spread across social media in minutes. There's nothing wrong with sharing such updates — but what follows next is where

This trend doesn't stop there. Even on birthdays or special occasions, people now feel that a simple written wish isn't enough unless accompanied by a photo with the person being greeted. It's as if visibility has replaced sincerity

the real story begins.

Within hours, social media feeds are flooded with photos of people posing with outgoing or newly appointed officers. Most of these pictures were taken months or even years earlier — at a public event, a sports function, or during a casual meeting. These same photos suddenly resurface as "farewell" or "welcome" posts, giving the impression that the person sharing them has a close connection with the

officer in question.

In reality, many of these individuals have never even had a proper conversation with the officer. The purpose of such posts is not appreciation — it's projection: a subtle attempt to show influence, to appear well-connected, and to make others believe they are "close to power."

This trend doesn't stop there. Even on birthdays or special occasions, people now feel that a simple written wish isn't enough unless accompanied by a photo with the person being greeted. It's as if visibility has replaced sincerity.

Those who indulge in such behavior should pause and reflect. These acts do not impress anyone — they often create discomfort and reveal a shallow desire for attention. The public is not naive; people understand when such gestures are genuine and when they are simply attempts to gain relevance.

If we truly wish to make social media a meaningful space, we must use it responsibly — to promote truth, empathy, and public good, not for self-promotion or flattery. Trying to build one's image by pretending to have influence only reduces credibility and respect.

Mental Health Crisis Deepens in J&K: Around 2 lakh treated at IMHANS last year, over 3.7 lakh in GMC Anantnag in five years

Doctors urge collective responsibility to fight stigma, rising drug abuse, delayed treatment

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, OCT 10: Amid a growing mental health crisis across Jammu and Kashmir, doctors say a significant number of people are beginning to come forward and seek treatment, marking a slow but positive shift in awareness and acceptance.

Official data from the Government Medical College (GMC), Anantnag, accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), reveals that over 3.7 lakh patients with mental health issues have been treated at the hospital in the past five years.

Similarly, the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS), GMC Srinagar, has catered to around two lakh patients last year.

“As the only tertiary-level psychiatric hospital in the region, the IMHANS catered to around two lakh patients last year, including those

seeking help for both general mental health problems and substance-use disorders,” Dr Yasir Rather, Professor, Department of Psychiatry, IMHANS, said. “This number itself reflects the growing demand for accessible, affordable, and stigma-free care.”

He said this year’s theme reminds us that mental health care must not be a privilege of peace, but a necessity in times of crisis.

“In Kashmir, where people continue to face layers of uncertainty, recent war-like situations and natural disasters like floods and earthquakes, social stress, and mental health challenges are deeply woven into daily life,” Dr Rather said. “We must work collectively to strengthen community-based mental health services, integrate psychological support into disaster and emergency response, and ensure that no individual, regardless of geography or background, is left behind when it comes to care.”

Dr Yasir added, “Let this day serve as a call to action: to make mental health services accessible in every setting, protect recovery as a human right, and build systems that stand firm even in crisis.”

Doctors, however, warn that the magnitude of mental health problems remains deeply concerning, with depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, and substance abuse being among the most common issues reported.

“Recognising the warning signs in people who have suicidal thoughts and ensuring help through positive support networks is a moral responsibility for all of us,” a senior psychiatrist said, stressing that early intervention can save lives.

He noted that drug abuse has emerged as one of the gravest social concerns, especially among youth. “The percentage of indulgence in drugs has seen a dangerous upsurge in recent years. Young people, in

particular, are falling prey to various kinds of social evils — the most damaging being substance abuse, which destroys both purpose and potential. It’s time to act — now or never,” he added.

Health professionals suggest several simple yet effective steps to maintain emotional well-being. “Engage in at least one physical activity daily, as it helps release endorphins that elevate mood. Seek help from mental health professionals when needed. Avoid negative coping mechanisms such as smoking, self-harm, or social isolation. Also, set emotional and occupational boundaries to prevent burn-out,” doctors advised.

They added that mental illnesses are closely linked to multiple social and behavioural issues, including suicidal tendencies. “Drug addiction remains a major social menace that needs urgent and compassionate redressal,” another expert said.

Experts attribute the higher prevalence of mental health issues in J&K to a combination of turmoil, prolonged stress, and vulnerability due to social and political factors. “The stigma surrounding mental disorders, lack of awareness, and delayed treatment-seeking behaviour make the situation worse. We need a joint, sustained effort to change this,” a mental health specialist observed.

Doctors called for creating supportive living conditions and promoting early childhood development as long-term measures to improve community mental health. “Interventions such as preschool psychosocial programs, nutritional support, and early emotional care can lay strong foundations for a healthier society,” they said.

Strengthening primary health-care systems to handle mental health disorders is equally crucial. “Mental health treatment should be available at the grassroots level

with affordable diagnostic tests and low-cost therapies,” the experts suggested.

They also called for a soft and empathetic approach towards drug addicts, understanding their struggles and addressing root causes rather than solely resorting to punishment.

Doctors further warned that rapid urbanisation, migration, and climate change are emerging as significant stressors. “Economic and social vulnerabilities increase the risk of depression, anxiety, and alcohol use. Displacements caused by extreme weather events and climate-related distress can have long-term mental health impacts on communities,” they said.

Experts agreed that a multi-dimensional approach involving families, schools, community leaders, and healthcare institutions is essential to reverse the rising trend of mental health disorders in Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

■ By Prof. Dinesh Chandra Rai

The observance of World Mental Health Day (10 October) isn’t just a day for advocacy; it’s an annual, non-negotiable deadline for action. The mental health crisis within India’s Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) is no longer a fringe clinical concern; it’s a systemic vulnerability that threatens the very core of our ambition to become a global knowledge superpower. The National Education Policy (NEP 2020) has laid the mandatory, ethical, and regulatory foundation for a solution. The challenge now is for HEI leadership to embrace this framework as the single most critical investment in national human capital.

The need for support is alarmingly clear, with high rates of severe depression and critically low capacity. The traditional, specialist-only model is obsolete, as essential resources are overwhelmingly diverted to crisis intervention, leaving a vast, unmet need for preventive and developmental support. The NEP 2020 mandates a transition. It moves psychosocial support from optional charity to mandatory compliance, explicitly requiring counseling services and the integration of mental health literacy into the curriculum.

The NEP’s Holistic Design for Resilience

The NEP’s vision for holistic education supports mental health through its very design. Crucially, the policy strongly emphasizes the promotion of indigenous, time-tested practices such as Yoga, meditation, and ancient philosophies as fundamental tools for attaining good mental health,

World Mental Health Day and NEP 2020: Making Well-being India’s Success Metric

inner peace, and resilience. This is a powerful shift, seen at institutions like B. R. Ambedkar Bihar University, which has already integrated Yoga and Philosophy into its Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) Undergraduate program as Value Added Course (VAC), setting a proactive model. This core principle gives HEIs the ethical backing to rebuild their entire well-being structure. Beyond these traditional practices, the NEP’s design includes other key curricular provisions. The mandatory inclusion of Life Skills Education (e.g., communication, problem-solving, and emotional intelligence) teaches students to manage daily stress and peer pressure effectively, directly building their ability to cope. Furthermore, the shift to a multidisciplinary and flexible curriculum that stresses understanding over memorization, along with the integration of Vocational Education, significantly reduces academic pressure and anxiety by accepting different abilities and creating multiple, meaningful career pathways. The focus on Value-Based Education (empathy, respect) and mandatory Sports and Physical Fitness activities further help by encouraging social harmony

and using physical health as a necessary tool for stress reduction.

Stepped Care and Peer-Led Support

To close the enormous gap in resources, a strategy of Stepped Care is essential. This model, which involves sharing tasks among personnel, must use every available resource. First, digital access is crucial. National resources like Tele-MANAS are an innovation. Since its launch, handling over 23 lakh calls, this 24/7 tele-mental health service has proven a huge, previously unmet demand for anonymous and immediate access. HEIs must stop seeing the national helpline as an outside option; they must create strong, assured linkages and protocols for moving a one-time crisis contact into continuous university-based support and intervention. Second, following the NEP’s emphasis on building capability, non-specialist staff, trained lay counselors, and peer support networks must be used as the first line of defense. This saves scarce specialist time for severe cases, making professional support available when it is most needed.

The National Cadet Corps (NCC) and National

Service Scheme (NSS) play a central role in this capacity-building effort and mental health awareness. As highly visible, organized groups on campus, they form powerful peer support networks, allowing senior volunteers to be the first to recognize signs of worry in their peers. Their regular campus and community campaigns contribute greatly to awareness and reducing shame, making discussions about mental health common. Moreover, their structured activities, whether NCC’s training or NSS’s community service, build discipline, resilience, and a sense of purpose, which are key psychological strengths. HEIs must use their structure to train leaders in basic psychological first aid and referral methods, creating a reliable path to professional counseling services.

HEIs have the opportunity to become leaders in mental well-being for the wider society through the NEP framework. By embedding mental health literacy and social-emotional learning into the curriculum, they graduate students who are not only academically strong but are also mentally resilient community members. The institution’s mandate for community engagement through NSS and other outreach programs allows students to directly apply their wellness training to local populations, spreading awareness, reducing stigma, and providing basic support in villages and schools. By establishing their own robust, effective counseling services, HEIs can also offer them to the local community on a phased basis, turning the university campus into a regional

hub for psychological health resources and expertise. This action demonstrates that the university’s contribution to the nation extends beyond degrees to encompass the holistic health of the populace.

Governance Through Accountability

Finally, policies only succeed when they are enforced, and resources are maintained only when they are tied to accountability. This leads to the most important step: Governance through Accreditation. HEIs must push for the inclusion of measurable wellness metrics—specifically, program efficacy and demonstrable compliance with the mandate for counseling services—into the NAAC and NIRF ranking frameworks. This vital action ensures that top leadership views mental health funding not as an optional expense but as a compulsory competitive and compliance measure. If a lack of adequate counseling services negatively affects a university’s national rank, the necessary resource allocation will follow. The full match between HEIs and the vision of NEP 2020 and the spirit of World Mental Health Day will bring measurable, positive results: a drop in students leaving, the growth of a strong culture of prevention helped by holistic practices, and the guarantee of scalable, available support for every member of the academic community.

The author is a Vice Chancellor, BRA Bihar University, Muzaffarpur, Bihar. Email : dcrai@bhu.ac.in

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SCAN ME

MEDICAL ASSESSMENT-CUM-MEASUREMENT CAMP FOR CWSN ORGANIZED BY CEO GANDERBAL

■ HT News Desk

GANDERBAL, OCT 10: In a noble endeavor towards fostering "inclusivity and empowerment", the Chief Education Officer, Ganderbal, organized a "Medical Assessment-cum-Measurement Camp" for Children With Special

Needs (CWSN) of "Zone Hariganwan at BHSS Hariganwan."

The camp brought together a compassionate confluence of expertise and service — with specialists from the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India "(ALIMCO)" and a dedicated medical team from the

Health Department providing professional assessment and support to the participating children.

The "inclusive team from the CEO Office, Ganderbal", worked with remarkable enthusiasm and commitment, ensuring every aspect of the event reflected empathy, coordination, and care.

The "Zonal Education Officer, Hariganwan", closely inspected and facilitated the smooth execution of services, while the "Principal of BHSS Hariganwan" meticulously monitored the day-long process, extending all possible support to the visiting teams and children.

This initiative symbolizes more than a medical exercise — it is a reflection of society's collective responsibility to recognize, uplift, and empower "every child, ensuring no potential remains unseen and no ability unacknowledged". In serving these children, we rediscover the

essence of education — not merely as instruction, but as "inclusion, compassion, and shared humanity. Two more such camps are scheduled in District Ganderbal:

On 11th October 2025, at BHSS Kangan for the children of Zone Kangan, and On 13th October 2025, at BHSS Ganderbal for

Zones Ganderbal and Tullamula.

The entire process is being conducted under the overall supervision of "Chief Education Officer Ganderbal, Mr. Oneel Kumar Bhat, whose guidance and vision continue to inspire a culture of inclusion and empathy in the educational landscape of the district.

Ehsaas Foundation Sets Up Free Tea Stall at Dastgeer Sahab Khanyar on the Auspicious Urs of Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jeelani (RA)

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCT 10: On the sacred and spiritually uplifting occasion of the Urs of Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jeelani (RA)—revered across the world as "Ghaus-ul-Azam Dastgeer Sahib (RA)"—the Ehsaas Foundation organised a Free Tea Stall at the Dastgeer Sahib Shrine, Khanyar, Srinagar

The initiative was aimed at serving thousands of devotees who thronged the shrine to pay their respects and seek blessings on this blessed occasion. Throughout the day and night, volunteers from Ehsaas Foundation distributed free tea, water, and other refreshments to the pilgrims visiting from different parts of Kashmir.

Chairman Zahoor Ahmad Malik, while speaking on the occasion, expressed deep spiritual joy and said, "The Urs of Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jeelani (RA) is a time of reflection, devotion, and service. It reminds us of the values of compassion, generosity, and unity taught by the great saint. Serving the devotees through such humble initiatives gives us immense satisfaction and spiritual fulfillment."

He further added that "Ehsaas Foundation" has always been at the forefront of community welfare and social upliftment through initiatives



like free medical camps, awareness drives, blood donation programmes, and relief work. "Our mission is to serve humanity with sincerity, without any expectation or discrimination. This small act of service at the shrine is a continuation of our efforts to spread kindness and compassion," he stated.

The stall witnessed a huge participation of local volunteers, members, and well-wishers of the Foundation who worked tirelessly to ensure every devotee was served with warmth and respect.

Devotees and local residents

appreciated the gesture, saying it reflected the true Kashmiri spirit of hospitality and brotherhood. The soothing aroma of tea, the smiles of volunteers, and the peaceful chants of prayers created a deeply spiritual atmosphere around the Khanyar shrine.

As night descended, the shrine of Hazrat Dastgeer Sahib (RA) glowed with faith and devotion, while the Ehsaas Foundation's stall continued its service late into the night—symbolizing love, service, and the timeless message of humanity taught by the saints.

UAPA: Raids conducted across Sgr

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCT 10: Srinagar Police on Friday carried out extensive raids at multiple locations across the city in connection with ongoing investigations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The searches were aimed at tracking terror associates and overground workers (OGWs) affiliated with proscribed militant organizations.

According to police officials, coordinated operations were conducted in several areas of the city, including Ellahibagh, Anchar, Hawal, Ikhrapora, Methan, Baghat, Lawaypora, and Hazratbal. The searches targeted individuals suspected of facilitating or aiding terror activities.

Residences of over 20 individuals were searched



during the operation, including those of Najeer Sakib Dar of Malabagh Ellahibagh, Owais Muneer Bhat of Dangarpore, Owais Ahmad Bhat of Anchar, Danish Ayoub Badoo of Hawal, Umar Fayaz and Hashim Farooq of Ikhrapora, Zahid Rashid Ganie of Methan, and several others from Dangarpore, Lawaypora, and Hazratbal areas.

Officials said the searches were conducted in accordance with due legal procedure, in the presence of Executive Magistrates and independent witnesses, and under the supervision of senior police officers.

The operation's objective was to seize incriminating materials such as digital devices, documents, and other evidence relevant to ongoing UAPA cases. Police sources said the raids also form part of a broader intelligence-driven effort to pre-empt and disrupt terror conspiracies and activities posing threats to public peace and security.

"Srinagar Police is committed to taking firm legal action against all individuals involved in promoting or supporting terrorism and anti-national activities. Anyone found abetting such acts will be dealt with strictly under law," a police spokesperson said.

Sad Demise



This is to inform about the sad demise of Raja Begum, wife of Abdul Khaliq Wani R/o Chattabal, Razdan Bagh Srinagar on Friday 10-10-25.

May the Almighty ALLAH take the departed Soul to his Heavenly Abode and give the entire family strength and courage to bear this irreparable loss.

The Fateh Khawani will be held Sunday (12.10.25) at 10am at ancestral graveyard Waniyar Noorbagh Srinagar.

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Government of UT of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla

Corrigendum No 02 for this office E NIT No: 22 of 2025-26 Dated: 09-09-2025
Tender ID No. 2025_IFC_287467

Sub: Extension of dates.

In view of inadequate response, the extension of dates in respect of this Office e-NIT No. 22 of 2025-26 work no. 01 (Fabrication, Providing, Installation and testing of MS gantry and various electrical and mechanical works to be carried out at Irrigation Scheme Harnipora of MISD Handwara.), 02 (Various electrical and mechanical works to be carried out at LIS Unisoo New of MISD Handwara.) and Work no. 03 (Various electrical and mechanical works to be carried out at LIS Gangbugh 2nd of MISD Handwara.) dated: 09-09-2025 having tender ID No. 2025_IFC_287467, the time extension is being given to ensure healthy competition competitive bidding as under:

1.	Tender Submission date Ends	=	16/10/2025 upto 06.55 pm.
2.	Date of Opening	=	17/10/2025 at 01:00 pm, in the Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla.

All other terms/conditions and stipulations as contained in the eNIT shall remain unaltered/unmodified.

No. MIDB/CC-02/2205-09 | Dated: 10/10/2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla

DIPK: 7056/25 | Dated: 10-10-2025

Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division, Pulwama

GIST | NOTICE INVITING TENDERS | E-NIT S. No. 17/PHEP of 2025-26

For & on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir (UT) Shorte-tenders in single cover system are invited on overall percentage rate basis from Registered PWD Contractors whose registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules & are active for the following works: -

S. No	Name of work	Estimated Cost (₹ in lacs)	EMD/ Performance Security @3% (in ₹)	Cost of TD (in ₹)	Time for completion	Class of Contract	Programme	Ref to AA
1	Completion of balance work of New Laboratory Block for (PHE) Sub Division Tahab.	2.14	6420	200	20 days	DEE	M&R	SE/HYD/SPN/DB/39 of 10/2025-26 Dated, 07-10-2025 endorsed vide No. SE/HYD/SPN/DB/4626-27 Dated. 07-10-2025

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ), terms and conditions of contract can be seen/downloaded from the departmental web site (jktenders.gov.in) as per the dates shown below: -

S. No.	Description	Date			Time
		DD	MM	YYYY	
1	Publishing date of NIT	09	10	2025	1600 Hrs
2	Download start date	09	10	2025	1600 Hrs
3	Bid submission start date	09	10	2025	1600 Hrs
4	Bid submission end date	15	10	2025	1400 Hrs
5	Bid opening date	16	10	2025	1100 Hrs

- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "download bid submission".
- To participate in bidding process bidders, must get digital signature certificate (DSC) as per information technology-2000 bidders can get digital certificate from approved option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website (jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint vendors.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature.
- Bids must be accompanied by bid security deposit & cost of tender document as specified in column (4&5) of the above table. Bid security will be in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Pulwama and the cost of tender document shall be deposited in the Treasury under MH 0215 PHE in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Pulwama. (Name of work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt)
- Bidders must ensure to upload their bids in SINGLE COVER containing documents as under:
 - i) Scanned copies of Treasury Challan/Receipt and Earnest Money Deposit CDR/FDR
 - ii) Scanned copy of Valid Registration Card.
 - iii) Scanned copy of self-attested bidder details as per the format annexed.
 - iv) Scanned copy of the latest Income Tax Return.
 - v) Scanned copy GST return in FORMGST-3B of the last quarter.
 - vi) Scanned copy of a duly notarized Legal Affidavit, executed by the authorized signatory of the tenderer, mentioning the Name of Work and Reference to NIT/Work, certifying the following:
 - The Tenderer is not blacklisted / debarred by any of the Central/ State/ UT Government /Board/Corporation / PSU, as procuring entity in India on the date of the submission of the tender.
 - The Tenderer has not been declared bankrupt by any institution or Government.
 - The tender has not been adjudged by any court of law of the land as insolvent.
 - vii) Rates submitted by the bidders in the BOQ.
- Note: Bidders must upload only the required documents as specified above. Submitting irrelevant or unnecessary documents will lead to the rejection of your tender. Please ensure that you follow the instructions carefully to avoid any issues.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents in terms of soft copies with the technical bid and no documents in terms of hard copies shall be entertained. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.
- The original instrument in respect of Treasury Receipt, EMD and relevant attested copies of Technical Bid Documents as specified above must be submitted by Lowest Bidder (L1) to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Pulwama by hand or by speed/registered post before processing of allotment. If the bidder fails to produce the same within the prescribed time period, he will be debarred from taking part in tendering process in this division for at least two years.
- No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- The bid shall be deposit in electronic format only on the web site of (jktenders.gov.in)
- The bid(s) shall be opened online on above mentioned date or any other subsequent date in presence of the tender opening committee to be constituted by the competent authority.
- No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders and are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid any technical snags in last hours.
- Videography record through the professional person before, during & after execution and progress reports in soft copies and hard copies for works register & office record. Taking levels by Auto Level / ETS before and after execution. Preparation of work abstract of executed work, preparation of Bills. The information and data stated and incorporated in tender document elsewhere is for the General guidance only and may vary as a result of more detailed construction drawings and as per site requirements.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason whatsoever claimed by the bidder

No: PHEP/2533-43 | Dated: 09-10-2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division, Pulwama

DIPK: 7035/25 | Dated: 10-10-2025

Comm Secy Industries & Commerce inaugurates three days Buyer-Seller Meet at Budgam

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 10: Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh today inaugurated three days Buyer-Seller Meet at Budgam to promote traditional handicrafts and facilitate market linkages for local artisans and producers.

The Buyer-Seller meet is being organised by Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) and is sponsored by Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, under National Handicraft Development Programme (NHDP) as part of

on-going efforts to support and revitalize Jammu and Kashmir's rich handicraft heritage.

Managing Director, JKTPO, Sudershan Kumar; Director NIFT, General Manager JKTPO, AD Handicrafts, DCH and other senior officers of the district were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner Secretary highlighted that the Buyer-Seller Meet will serve as key platform for local artisans to showcase their unique craftsmanship and build sustainable commercial relationships with buyers, thereby contributing to economic empowerment



of the region's artisan community. He added that the

event will facilitate interactions between artisans and

buyers, ensuring economic up-liftment for the artisan

community and promotion of Jammu and Kashmir's rich art and culture.

Around 50 artisans from both regions participated in the event, showcasing diverse range of Handmade GI-tagged products like Pashmina, Kani shawls, Sozni embroidery, Paper Mache, Chain Stitch, Basohli paintings, Crewelwork, and more. The event successfully attracted 40 national buying houses operating across various international markets. Participating visitors had a unique opportunity to interact directly with the artisans and explore high-quality, handcrafted products celebrated for their distinctiveness and cul-

tural heritage.

The event will witness an impressive business deals along with a high level of engagement among participants leading to meaningful interactions and productive business discussions. The overwhelming response to the event underscores the event's relevance and effectiveness in fostering connections among industry stakeholders.

In addition, the event is projected to generate an impressive number of business leads, further cementing its status as a high-impact platform for networking, lead generation, fostering business opportunities and strengthening the textile sector.

District Administration Kulgam Bids Heartfelt Farewell to SSP Sahil Sarangal

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KULGAM, OCTOBER 10: The District Administration Kulgam today bid a heartfelt farewell to Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sahil Sarangal, acknowledging his exemplary service, professionalism, and unwavering commitment during his tenure in the district.

A warm farewell ceremony was organized at the Mini Secretariat, Kulgam, attended by Deputy Commissioner Athar Aamir Khan, Additional Deputy Commissioner, ASP, SDM, and other senior officers from the civil and police administration.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner lauded the outgoing SSP for his dynamic leadership, community-oriented policing, and people-friendly initiatives, which greatly contributed to maintaining peace, security, and public trust in Kulgam. He highlighted Sarangal's efforts in tackling social issues, promoting youth engagement, and leading effective anti-drug campaigns with dedication and compassion.



Senior officers shared their reflections, appreciating the SSP's collaborative approach, integrity, and calm demeanor, which strengthened coordination between various departments and fostered a spirit of teamwork across the district administration.

In his farewell address, SSP Sahil Sarangal expressed heartfelt gratitude to the District Administration, police personnel, and the people of Kulgam for their constant cooperation and goodwill. He described his posting in Kulgam as one of the most fulfilling experiences of his career and extended best wishes to the team for continued progress and harmony in the district.

JKTPO organises 4th Export Awareness cum E-Commerce On-boarding Drive in District Udhampur

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 10: Continuing its 2025 series of Export Awareness Workshops, the Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), under the aegis of the Industries & Commerce Department, organized the 4th Export Awareness cum E-Commerce Onboarding Drive in District Udhampur on 10th October 2025.

The workshop was held with the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), District Administration Udhampur, Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), HDFC Bank and the Governmente-Marketplace (GeM).

The event aimed to sensitize and support MSMEs, artisans, entrepreneurs, and farmers about export potential, government incentives, and e-commerce integration. Experts conducted interactive sessions on export benefits, IEC registration, India Business and Trade Portals, credit and risk insurance, logistics, and digital market access for local products.

Prem Singh, Additional DC, Udhampur inaugurated the workshop and emphasized the district's export potential under the ODOP-DEH initiative, highlighting products like Pickle, Tourism and Garlic. She underlined the importance of capacity building, quality enhancement and market-oriented skill development to strengthen Udhampur's export ecosystem.



The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 130 participants, including local artisans, MSME representatives, entrepreneurs and farmers. With this, the series has so far seen strong participation -110 in Samba, 100 in Jammu and 90 in Kathua- reflecting the growing interest of local producers in ex-

ploring export opportunities and digital commerce integration.

Representatives from DGFT, APEDA, FIEO, HDFC Bank and GeM provided guidance on export opportunities and support. DGFT highlighted schemes like EPCG, MEIS, SEIS and Advance Authorization, along with IEC registration. APEDA spoke on export standards,

product registration and branding support, while FIEO promoted the India Business Portal for global visibility, credit support and trade updates. ECGC explained credit risk insurance protecting exporters from defaults and political risks and HDFC Bank outlined export finance, working capital solutions and digital banking tools. GeM demonstrated vendor onboarding, encouraging entrepreneurs to leverage the platform for nationwide exposure, transparent procurement and timely payments.

This workshop is part of JKTPO's ongoing efforts under the District as Export Hub (DEH) and One District One Product (ODOP) initiatives to boost district-level exports, strengthen market linkages and integrate local producers into global value chains.

Intensive Market checking drive conducted across Ramban District to ensure food safety, fair trade amid festive Season

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

RAMBAN, OCTOBER 10: In view of the ongoing festive season, intensive market checking drives were conducted by enforcement agencies across Ramban District to safeguard consumers' interests, ensure fair trade practices and maintain quality standards.

In Batote, the drive was carried out under the supervision of Naib Tehsildar with active participation of officials from the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, Legal Metrology Department, Police Department and the Municipal Committee.

The team inspected numerous establishments to check adherence to prescribed norms, quality standards and notified rates of commodities. A fine of 1,600 was recovered from erring traders for violating market regulations.

Meanwhile, the Legal Metrology Department (LMD) conducted intensive checking drives across different markets



of the district to ensure strict enforcement of the revised GST rates, effective from September 22, 2025. The inspection teams verified pricing and billing practices of distributors and retailers dealing in food and personal care products, ensuring that the benefits of the GST reduction announced in the 56th GST Council Meeting are duly passed

on to consumers. A penalty of 27,000 was imposed on violators under the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 and Packaged Commodities Rules, 2011.

Additionally, the Municipal Council Ramban seized 3 kg of banned polythene during its festive season cleanliness drive and imposed a fine of 2,500 on offenders.

DC Kupwara Inaugurates Robotic Lab at BHSS Kupwara

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 10: In a landmark move to promote innovation, creativity, and hands-on learning among students, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, today inaugurated a state-of-the-art Robotic Laboratory at Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS), Kupwara.

The initiative marks a major step in integrating modern technology with the traditional education system, with an aim to equip students with 21st-century skills including robotics, coding, artificial intelligence, automation, and design thinking.

The inauguration ceremony witnessed the participation of CPO Kupwara, Parvaiz Ahmad; Chief Education Officer, Mehraj-u-din Shah; In-charge Principal, Mushtaq Ahmad Mareed; and faculty members, besides a large number of enthusiastic students who demonstrated their projects.

Developed at a cost of Rs. 15 lakh, the Robotic Lab has been fully funded by the District Administration Kupwara under its education innovation plan. The facility is equipped with advanced robotic kits, coding modules, Arduino boards, 3D modeling tools, sensors, and interactive digital learning setups.

Speaking on the occasion, DC Kupwara Shrikant Suse said that the district administration is committed to creating opportunities that spark curiosity and foster scientific temper among students. "This laboratory will empower our young learners to become creators of technology rather than mere consumers. It will help them explore how machines think, work, and interact with the environment," he added.

The DC emphasized the importance of ensuring equal access to modern learning infrastructure for students in remote and hilly areas. He said that the administration will identify more schools to establish similar labs in a phased manner, creating a network of innovation centers across the district.

During the event, the DC inspected various models prepared by students, including line-following robots, obstacle detectors, smart irrigation systems, and automatic light sensors. He interacted with the young innovators, encouraging them to take part in national-level competitions, hackathons, and exhibitions.

Chief Education Officer, Mehraj-u-din Shah, praised the efforts of the teaching faculty and appreciated the district administration's vision of integrating science and innovation into classroom learning. He stated that the Robotic Lab would not only enhance conceptual understanding but also help students gain practical exposure to modern technology.

In his address, In-charge Principal Mushtaq Ahmad Mareed expressed gratitude to the DC and the Education Department, stating that the lab will open new horizons for students and inspire them to think creatively and scientifically.

Dr. Piyush Singla chairs Study Group's meet on Establishment of IT Park in J&K

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, OCTOBER 10: Secretary, Information Technology (IT) Department, Dr Piyush Singla chaired the meeting of Study Group constituted for establishment of IT Park in Jammu and Kashmir at Civil Secretariat here today.

The meeting was held to review and deliberate upon the preliminary report prepared for setting up a world-class IT Park in the UT.

During the meeting, members held detailed deliberations on the proposed framework and implementation strategy.

The group decided that the preliminary report shall be revisited in light of the observations and directions issued during the deliberations, and updated accordingly by the Study Group to incorporate all relevant suggestions and refinements.

The meeting further decided that the proposed IT Park shall be developed under the aegis of IIT Jammu, with the report to be structured in two phases; Phase



I: Development under the Higher Educational Institution (HEI) Model, and Phase II: Expansion through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) / Private Investment Model.

The group also decided that the incentive framework for the IT Park shall be aligned with the notified Industrial Policy of the Government of Jammu and Kash-

mir to ensure uniformity and ease of implementation.

It was also decided that the final report, incorporating all suggestions and recommendations, shall be submitted to the Government for consideration which will include an overview tracing the evolution of the IT/ITeS ecosystem in J&K, details of incubatee funds available with

various Administrative departments, and recommendations for creation of a Unified Portal to consolidate incubatee funding opportunities across States and Union Territories, drawing upon national models like the DoT's Telecom Incubation Fund.

During the meeting, Dr. Singla directed that the Planning department shall provide authen-

tic, validated, and up-to-date data from credible sources like YUVA Report, incorporating both quantitative and qualitative indicators to support evidence-based planning. He emphasized that data validation points must be clearly defined and cross-verified across all departments to maintain accuracy and consistency.

The Secretary also directed the IT department to initiate Skill Outreach Programmes aimed at enhancing employability and preparing the youth for opportunities in the IT/ITeS sector in collaboration with higher educational institutions and Skill Development department.

CEO, JaKeGA, Mahima Madan; Director General (E&S), Ather Hussain Qadri; Director General, Planning; Showkat Mahmood Malik, Special Secretary, Information Technology Department; Prof. M.T. Arvind and Prof. Anurag Misra from IIT Jammu; Professor from IIM Jammu and Senior Consultant, SeMT, besides other officers and members of the Study Group also attended the meeting.



Buddha's sacred relics to travel to Russia's Kalmykia for first-ever exposition

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, OCT 10: The Sacred Relics of Lord Buddha, currently enshrined at the National Museum here, are set to be taken to the Republic of Kalmykia in Russia for a historic eight-day exposition beginning tomorrow.

The Holy Relics will be accompanied by a high-level Indian delegation, including 11 senior monks, who will conduct religious ceremonies and bestow blessings upon the predominantly Buddhist population of the region.

According to a statement issued by the union Ministry of Culture, the Holy Relics will be ceremonially received by Geshe Tenzin Choidak, the Shajin Lama and Head of the Buddhists of Kalmykia; Batu Sergeyevich Khasikov, Head of the Republic of Kalmykia; and other senior

members of the Buddhist Sangha.

The exposition, to be held in Elista — the capital of Kalmykia — is being jointly organised by the union Ministry of Culture, the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), the National Museum, and the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA). This marks the first occasion that the Holy Relics will be displayed in this Russian republic.

The Relics will be enshrined at the Geden Sheddup Choikroling Monastery, also known as the "Golden Abode of Shakyamuni Buddha." Opened to the public in 1996 and located in the Kalmyk steppe, the monastery serves as a prominent centre of Tibetan Buddhism.

The Indian delegation is being led by Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya. As part of the



week-long events, His Holiness the 43rd Sakya Trizin Rinpoche, head of the Sakya Order, will

deliver teachings and religious discourses.

A notable highlight will be

the presentation of the Mongolian Kanjur — a set of 108 volumes of sacred texts translated

from Tibetan — by the IBC to nine Buddhist institutions and a university. The texts originate from the Manuscripts Division of the Ministry of Culture.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is expected to be signed between the Central Spiritual Administration of Buddhists and the International Buddhist Confederation, further cementing cultural and spiritual ties between India and Russia, said the statement.

In conjunction with the exposition, several exhibitions are planned. Among them is a philatelic display curated by Vinod Kumar from Dharwad, Karnataka, featuring Buddhist stamps from nearly 90 countries.

Another exhibition titled "Sacred Legacy of the Shakyas: Excavation and Exposition of Buddha's Relics", curated by the IBC, will trace the historical

journey of the relics—from their original enshrinement to their rediscovery in Piprahwa, identified with ancient Kapilavastu, the capital of the Shakya clan, as per the statement.

Additionally, an exhibition on 'Bodhicitta'— Treasures of Buddhist Art from the collections of the National Museum and the National Mission for Manuscripts will provide visitors with insights into India's two-millennia-old Buddhist artistic and cultural traditions.

The Sacred Relics will be transported to Kalmykia with full religious protocol and ceremonial dignity aboard a special Indian Air Force aircraft. Senior monks and government officials will accompany the Holy Relics, ensuring the sanctity of the occasion is maintained throughout the journey, said the statement. UNI

White House Slams Nobel Committee for Denying Trump Peace Prize, Says Politics Overshadowing Peace

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, OCT 10: Irked with US President Donald Trump being ignored for the Nobel Peace Prize for 2025, a White House spokesman today said the Nobel Committee proved "they place politics over peace."

Steven Cheung, Assistant to the President and White House Director of Communication, said President Trump has "heart of a humanitarian, and there will never be anyone like him...The Nobel Committee proved they place politics over peace."

Earlier the The Norwegian Nobel Committee said it had decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2025 to Maria Corina Machado, leader of the democracy movement in Venezuela.

"The Nobel Peace Prize for 2025 goes to a brave



and committed champion of peace — to a woman who keeps the flame of democracy burning amid growing darkness," the Nobel Committee said in a press release.

US President Donald Trump had been demanding Nobel Peace Prize for "stopping seven wars."

Cheung said "President Trump will continue making peace deals, ending wars, and saving lives."

President Trump has the "heart of a humanitarian, and there will never be anyone like him who can move mountains with the sheer force of his will," the official said. UNI

Kabul appeals for reopening of Wagah-Attari land route; says must work towards removing U.S.' obstacles to Chabahar port

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, OCT 10: Afghan Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi today urged India and Pakistan to reopen the Wagah-Attari land route that was closed post the Pahalgam terror attack. He also said that India and Afghanistan should speak to the US, to remove the obstacles to the path of full operationalisation of the Chabahar port in Iran.

Addressing a press briefing at the Afghan embassy in the capital, post holding talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, FM Muttaqi also claimed the Afghan Taliban government has "brought peace" to Afghanistan and that Pakistan-based terror groups acting against India, like the LeT and JeM, have moved out of Afghanistan.

To a question on this, he said, "We could have acted against them (Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed) if they were in Afghanistan, but now they are not there at all in Afghanistan, not an inch. In the four years that we have come they have moved out of Afghanistan."

He added that there has been peace in Afghanistan in the last nine months, minus any incidents



of terrorism.

On reopening of the land trade route, he said that the Wagah route is near to Afghanistan and all the trade with India would come through that. "We want that Pakistan and India do not shut that route. It is the right of the people (of Afghanistan), it should not be closed." He added that trade via the land route is cheaper. "We appeal to both to open the Wagah route so that trade can increase," he added.

On India resuming diplomatic activities in Kabul by giving the

technical mission the status of an Embassy, he said that ties between the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and India "have been increasing every day" over the past four years. "India has decided to increase the status of the mission in Kabul, and we are moving slowly and reaching the normal level," he added.

Muttaqi said he had a detailed discussion with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar earlier in the day on political, diplomatic, regional, security and people to people issues.

Following New Delhi's decision to upgrade the Kabul mission, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is to send its diplomats to New Delhi, he added.

"We have also agreed to strengthen the air corridors and strengthen air trade," Muttaqi added. He said EAM Jaishankar has pledged to broaden the health activities in Afghanistan, and also voiced appreciation for India's assistance during last month's quake in Kunar province.

"Both sides have agreed to create a trade committee to

remove any obstacles and challenges to trade," he said. Muttaqi said the Afghan Taliban regime has opened up the country to investments in the area of energy, minerals, infrastructure, and invited the Indian side to explore work in these areas. The two sides also talked about security concerns and had detailed discussion on it.

He said the Islamic Emirate has in the past four years of its rule "proved that the territory of Afghanistan will not be used against others, and we have remained true to it".

Both sides have agreed to increase efforts to tackle the danger of narcotics trade.

On Chabahar port, he said that the port in Iran is a "good path for connectivity". "India and Afghanistan should try to remove all the obstacles to it, as the US has placed obstacles. Let us both talk to the US, so both can use the connectivity path. It is an important route and can boost trade, he added.

In the field of sports, he said India has always helped and cooperated with Kabul and their sportspersons have benefitted a lot, and Afghan teams are bringing good news in every field. UNI

'Don't provoke', Afghan Taliban FM Muttaqi warns Islamabad amid Pak airstrikes on Afghanistan

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, OCT 10: Amid Pakistan conducting airstrikes in Afghanistan's Paktika province and reportedly in Kabul, the Afghan Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi today termed it a "very wrong move" by Islamabad.

Muttaqi, asked about the Pakistani airstrikes at a press conference in New Delhi post his meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, declined to confirm the airstrike in Kabul, but did say Islamabad has conducted airstrikes in some border areas.

"In the border areas, in far off places, some attacks have taken place and we are examining it. And I think it is a very wrong move of Pakistan. With force issues cannot be resolved; there should be dialogue for resolving problems," he said, speaking in Urdu.

"Afghanistan has got prosperity and peace after 40 years, and now when we have got it, why are they having problems?" he asked, referring to Pakistan.

He said that relations with Islamabad should have been elevated in the four years since the Taliban came to power in Afghanistan, and not degenerated.

Asked what he thought of Pakistan's allegation that the Afghan



Taliban are sheltering the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terror group in the border areas, Muttaqi quipped, "Ask them who are claiming that there are terrorists in Afghanistan. Ask them for proof, to show it?"

He said that terrorists cannot use Afghanistan's territory, as their governance is "very strong". "They cannot use our territory, that is ours and our governance is very strong."

"We want the same good relations with Pakistan, like we have with India," he asserted. He also warned that Pakistan "should not test the patience" of the Afghan people.

He asked Islamabad to learn from the previous examples of the Western powers who tried to rule in Afghan-

istan, and how they were uprooted.

"They should not provoke like this. Let them ask the British once, the Soviets, and ask America, and NATO, and find out that to toy with Afghanistan is not good. The government and people of Afghanistan want peace and diplomatic relations; and this is not the path to peace," he stated, referring to the airstrikes.

On the reports of the airstrikes in Kabul, he said that Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid has said that there was some explosion and that a probe is underway. There are no report of any losses, said Muttaqi, adding "We don't know what it is due to."

According to reports, an unidentified drone targeted a vehicle carrying a senior leader of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in Kabul on Thursday night.

Pakistani jets are reported to have bombed the Margha Bazaar area in Barmal district of Paktika province, destroying 29 shops.

The strikes were confirmed by Jan Achakzai, former information minister of Balochistan province in Pakistan, who described the airstrike on Kabul as "historic". He claimed the strikes were meant to warn the Afghan Taliban to remain neutral in what he called India's proxy conflicts. UNI

13 killed in paramilitary strike on mosque in Sudan's El Fasher: Volunteers, eyewitness

■ United News of India

KHARTOUM, OCT 10: At least 13 people were killed and more than 21 injured in shelling by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) that targeted a mosque in the city of El Fasher, western Sudan, volunteers and eyewitnesses said on Thursday.

"The Abu Shouk Mosque in El Fasher was shelled late Wednesday, killing at least 13 civilians and injuring more than 21," the Abu Shouk Camp Emergency Room, a volunteer group, said in a statement.

The group said the mosque had been sheltering dozens of families who had fled the Abu Shouk neighborhood after the RSF forces recently advanced into the area.

An eyewitness told Xinhua that, due to security concerns, rescuers could not reach the site until early Thursday, when volunteers cleared the rubble and recovered 13 bodies along with several wounded. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Sudan condemned the recent attacks in El Fasher.

"OCHA strongly condemns the recent repeated attacks in El Fasher, North Darfur. Artillery shelling reportedly carried out by the Rapid Support Forces on Thursday and Wednesday struck the Saudi Hospital and a mosque where displaced families were sheltering, killing at least 20 civilians," the UN agency said in a post on X.

"Civilians must never be attacked," OCHA said. The RSF has not yet commented on the shelling of the mosque.

Violent clashes have been ongoing in El Fasher since May 2024 between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and allied groups on one side and the RSF on the other, with fighting intensifying in recent days.





The Art of Jadeja: Subtle Genius Hiding In Plain Sight

■ Karthik Krishnaswamy

NEW DELHI: Sometimes, great bowlers bowl balls of high quality at such frequency that the viewer doesn't quite realise how good they are. Take the ball Ravindra Jadeja bowled to dismiss Brandon King on day three of the Ahmedabad Test between India and West Indies. The trajectory drew the batter forward, and the length didn't let him get near the pitch of the ball.

Having put King in that position, the ball could have had him in trouble no matter what it did next. On this occasion, it turned sharply to find the outside edge of the sticker on King's hesitantly prodding SS bat.

It may have looked, to the viewer, like this ball hung momentarily above King's eyeline - and it did - but it still left Jadeja's hand at 91kph. Generations of visiting left-arm orthodox spinners have watched Jadeja bowl ball after ball on Indian pitches with this combination of pace, trajectory and fizzing revolutions, and watched him do this with a run-up and deliv-

ery style that looks utterly natural, and utterly effortless. They've all tried to match him, and most have only discovered how difficult it is to do what he does.

Ask Jomel Warrican. He has a terrific record in every other Asian country. In nine Test matches in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, he has 52 wickets at an average of 19.92, with two five-wicket hauls. West Indies have won three of those nine Tests.

In India, however, Warrican has taken four wickets in three Tests - including one against Afghanistan - at 67.25. While those numbers might have looked better had he had the chance of bowling on the dusty bowls India have prepared in many of their series in recent years, all his Tests against India in India have come on true, traditional Indian pitches.

On pitches like that, you need Jadeja's combination of pace, revolutions, trajectory and accuracy to make an impact on batters.

Throughout India's innings in Ahmedabad, Warrican struggled to achieve the full combination. He

naturally bowls at a slower pace than Jadeja, typically in the 77-81kph range, and like so many visiting spinners before him, he tried to bowl quicker: this was how he began his first spell. But his lengths suffered, and his fields, even at the start of his spell, suggested he was aware this might happen, with deep point back on the boundary for damage control on the occasions when he dropped short.

When he came back for his later spells, Warrican mostly bowled at his natural pace, and his lengths immediately improved. But the slower pace gave India's batters time either to go deep in their crease or step out to get to the pitch of the ball, so the better lengths did not trouble them unduly.

And to one of India's batters, the lengths simply didn't seem to matter. That batter, of course, was Jadeja, who stepped out gleefully to Warrican and launched him for five big sixes, hitting cleanly and with the turn, on his way to a breezy, unbeaten 104.

Given how dominant India were, Warrican didn't do all that badly: 29

overs at an economy rate of 3.51, and the wicket of KL Rahul achieved via a clever change of pace and line. India's other batters scored 55 off 105 balls off Warrican. Jadeja knocked him around for 47 off 69.

Put yourself in Warrican's shoes. You're a left-arm spinner who's trying extremely hard to do what Jadeja does with the ball. You do an honest job, within your limitations. Then Jadeja himself comes along, bat in hand, and makes you look utterly ineffectual.

Quite naturally, Jadeja ended the Ahmedabad Test with the Player-of-the-Match award. It was his 11th in Test cricket; since his debut, only Joe Root, Steven Smith (both 13) and Ben Stokes (12) have won more. If that's elite company, how about this three-man club he's 10 runs away from joining? Or this one-man club that's also, quite possibly, within his reach? Jadeja and Kapil Dev. We are going to hear a lot of conversations involving both those names.

ESPNCricinfo

WPL teams allowed five player retentions ahead of November mega auction

■ Nagraj Gollapudi

MUMBAI: Franchises can retain a maximum of five players ahead of the mega auction for the 2026 season of the Women's Premier League (WPL). ESPNCricinfo has learned that the deadline for announcing retentions is November 5, which has been communicated to the teams, and the auction window will be between November 25 and 29.

In an email to franchises on Thursday, the WPL said a maximum of three capped Indian players, a maximum of two overseas players, and a maximum of two uncapped Indian players can be retained by each team. And if a franchise opts to retain five players, then at least



one should be an uncapped Indian player. The WPL has also for the first time decided to allow franchises to activate the right-to-match (RTM) option at the auction to buy back a player that was part of their squad in 2025.

The WPL has decided to have an auction purse of INR 15 crore for the auction and has listed the guideline prices for the retention slabs (check graphic below). The slabs listed are: INR 3.5 crore (Player 1), INR 2.5 crore (Player 2), INR 1.75 crore (Player 3), INR 1 crore (Player 4) and INR 50 lakh (Player 5).

If a franchise opts to retain five players, INR 9.25 crore would be deducted from its purse, while for four, the deduction would be INR 8.75 crore; for three it would be INR 7.75 crore; for two INR 6 crore; and for one INR 3.5 crore. A franchise can use a maximum of five RTMs, but in case it retains five players, then the RTM option would be lost. In case a franchise retains four players, it will be left with one RTM; for three, there will be two RTMs; for two, three RTMs; and for one, four RTMs.

The WPL has said franchises can negotiate a different amount to the guideline price listed in the retention slabs, but if the actual amount paid is higher than the slab, then that amount would be deducted from the auction purse. A minimum of INR 50 lakh has been set for an uncapped India player, but that could be higher based on the agreed amount between the franchise and player.

The WPL has also announced the timelines for various steps in the lead-up to the auction. The player retention list must be submitted by November 5. The franchises must then share their lists for the players at the auction by November 7. The last date for player registration is November 18. And November 20 is when the BCCI will share the list of players at the mega auction.



Gill wants 'to look forward and win everything' he can, in every format

■ ESPNCricinfo

NEW DELHI: Test captain, T20I vice-captain, and now ODI captain as well. Shubman Gill isn't just one of a vanishing breed of all-format international players but also one holding leadership roles in each of them. He is aware of the toll this can take on him, especially mentally, but he is prepared to take on that challenge in order to achieve his own goals in all three formats. "Physically, most of the time, I feel fine, but sometimes, yes, there is mental fatigue, because when you are constantly playing, there is obviously a certain expectation that I have from myself, and to be able to keep up with my own expectations sometimes becomes the challenge," Gill said on the eve of the second Test against West Indies in Delhi, in his first press conference since being appointed India's ODI captain. "But I think that's the challenge, to be able to play all the formats for India, and I want to play all the formats and succeed in all the formats for the country, and win ICC titles. So, if I want to do that, then this is the challenge I have to go through." Gill replaced Rohit Sharma as ODI captain, and will captain two former full-time captains in Rohit and Virat Kohli when India play three ODIs in Australia later this month. With both Rohit and Kohli in their mid-30s and retired from both the other formats, a certain amount of doubt surrounds their future as ODI players with the next World Cup in that format two years away. "Absolutely," Gill said, when asked if he saw Rohit and Kohli playing an important role in ODIs leading into that World Cup. "The experience the two of them have [is immense], and there are very few players who can match the number of matches they have won for India.

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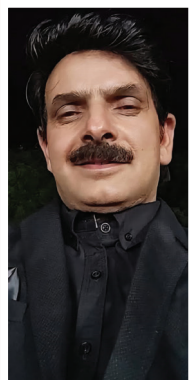


Zahid Mukhtar: A Tribute to a Literary and Cultural Luminary of Kashmir

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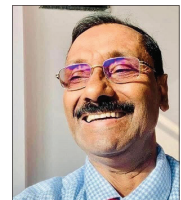


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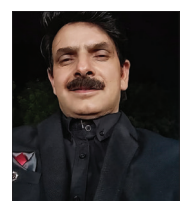


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HT Saturday - LitStream

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.

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Zahid Mukhtar: A Tribute to a Literary and Cultural Luminary of Kashmir



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Zahid Mukhtar, a distinguished poet, writer, critic, actor, broadcaster, and visionary from Anantnag, Kashmir, passed away on the morning of October 9, 2025, at his residence in Nayee Basti, Anantnag. His death marks the end of a remarkable era in Kashmiri and Urdu literature, leaving behind a legacy that profoundly shaped the cultural, literary, and artistic landscape of the valley. Zahid Mukhtar's life was not only a story of literary brilliance but also one of perseverance, humility, and multidimensional talent, reflecting a journey defined by struggle, dedication, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. He was revered for his ability to touch hearts, inspire minds, and evoke profound reflection through his words, actions, and creative endeavors.

Born in 1956 in Chini Chowk, Anantnag, Zahid Mukhtar's literary sensibilities were nurtured in the intimate and scholarly environment provided by his father. His father, well-versed in religious education and known for his profound knowl-

edge of Islamic scholarship, had a library filled with deeni kitabein and other classic works. Zahid Mukhtar grew up surrounded by these sacred and intellectual texts, which sparked his curiosity and love for reading from a young age. He often recalled that his father encouraged him to write, saying, “Ek tum likhoge kuch, to agar sirf ek aadmi bhi padhega, to samajhna tum zindagi mein safal ho gaye.” These words became a guiding light in Mukhtar’s life, instilling in him the belief that even one meaningful connection with a reader is worth the labor of writing. The literary environment of his childhood laid the foundation for his journey toward becoming a poet, writer, critic, and cultural icon.

From the earliest days, Zahid Mukhtar displayed an insatiable curiosity and ambition. He was drawn not only to literature but also to the world of performance, media, and visual arts. Mukhtar himself often described his creative evolution as unpredictable and guided by a higher grace.

Reflecting on his journey, he said, “Pata nahi kab main shayir bana, kab broadcaster bana, kab afsana navesan bana — ye jo ban jaata hai, ye toh sirf ek grace hoti hai; ye woh naghma hai jo har saaz mein gaya nahi jaata.” This sense of divine orchestration characterized his approach to life and art. Rather than following a linear career path, he allowed his passion, intuition, and opportunities to guide him, embracing

ing every role with sincerity and dedication.

Yet, Zahid Mukhtar's path to greatness was not devoid of hardship. He faced significant struggles in his early years, walking barefoot on thorny paths, enduring discomfort, and confronting the harsh realities of life in Kashmir. One story he shared revealed the depths of his determination: he refused to eat unless meat was available, a small personal insistence, until one day his mother informed him that his father had sold his own chadar to pay for Zahid's first-year college fees. That revelation left a deep impression on him. With tears in his eyes, he vowed never to sit idle again. From that moment onward, he committed himself entirely to hard work, perseverance, and the pursuit of excellence, shaping a character that would later inspire countless young writers, artists, and broadcasters across Kashmir.

Zahid Mukhtar's literary contributions are celebrated for their lyrical beauty, emotional depth, and social consciousness. He authored several remarkable works that enriched both Kashmiri and Urdu literature, including *Sulagte Chinar* (2003), *Tehreerein* (2009), *Ajnabi Shehar Kay Ajnabi Raastay* (2005), *Tishnagi* (2014), and *Laf Lafz Ghazal*. His poetry collection *Sulagte Chinar* poignantly captures the burning heart of Kashmir, reflecting both its turmoil and its enchanting beauty. His essays and articles compiled in

Tehreerein reveal his sharp critical insight and deep understanding of literature, culture, and society. Ajnabi Shehar Kay Ajnabi Raastay presents diverse narratives of urban life, displacement, and human connections, while Tishnagi explores themes of longing, existential inquiry, and the human spirit. In *Laf Lafz Ghazal*, Mukhtar's mastery over language and rhythm shines through, demonstrating his command over the ghazal form and his ability to evoke intense emotion through concise, musical expression. In one of his interviews, he recited a verse that reflects his philosophy of life and art:

“Aawo do pal zindagi se pyar ki
baatein karay,
phir kisi aangan kisi deewar ki
baatein karay,
hum ne titli ke paron pe likh diya
hai ishtihar,
kyun kisi bejaan se akhbaar ki
baat karay.”

These lines embody his gentle rebellion against lifeless existence, urging humanity to embrace love, life, beauty, and meaningful conversation. Through his words, Mukhtar encouraged readers to prioritize what is alive, meaningful, and true over the mundane noise of the world.

Beyond literature, Zahid Mukhtar possessed an unquenchable desire to explore multiple dimensions of art and expression. He aspired to be not only a broadcaster and writer but

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The Firmament Glitters in Kashmir



Dr Ratan Bhattacharjee

The chinars had begun to blush again. It was October in Kashmir, and the valley wore its autumn like a poem—golden leaves pirouetting in the breeze, saffron fields whispering secrets to the wind, and the Dal Lake shimmering like a mirror to the heavens. The tragedy of Pahalgam, which had cast a long shadow over the valley, was now a distant echo. Life, resilient as ever, was returning to its rhythm. Markets bustled, children laughed, and the firmament glittered once more.

Akash stepped out of the airport, his breath catching at the familiar scent of pine and nostalgia. He had returned—not just to attend the Writers' Conference in Srinagar, but to confront the ghosts of his past. Kashmir was not merely a place for him; it was a memory, a heartbeater, a love story suspended in time.

He remembered the first time he met Ayesha. It was in the mellow autumn of Kashmir University. She had just joined as a lecturer in English Literature, her eyes brimming with quiet fire, her voice like the hush before snowfall. Akash, then a visiting scholar from London, had been invited to speak on postcolonial narratives. Their first conversation had been about Faiz Ahmed Faiz. Their second, about love. By the third, they were inseparable. They married a year later under a canopy of stars in Gulmarg, with snowflakes blessing their vows. But love, like seasons, changes. Ayesha's brilliance earned her a research fellowship at Harvard. Akash, ever the wanderer, stayed back in London. The distance grew—not just in miles, but in silences. Rumors of Akash's affair with a fellow writer had reached Ayesha. She had dismissed them, but the wound lingered.

Now, after years, they were to meet again.

The Writers' Conference was held at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre, overlooking the Dal. The theme was "Resilience and Revival." Akash was to speak on the role of memory in literature. Ayesha, invited as a keynote speaker, would address the intersection of exile and identity. Akash arrived early, his heart thudding like a tabla. He scanned the crowd, searching for the familiar silhouette. And then he saw her.

Ayesha stood near the window, her hair longer now, streaked with silver, her eyes still carrying the same quiet fire. She turned, and their eyes met. Time collapsed.

"Akash," she said, her voice



steady.

"Ayesha," he replied, unsure whether to smile or apologize.

They walked together to the garden outside, where the chinars whispered overhead.

"You look well," she said. "So do you," he replied. "Harvard suits you." She smiled faintly. "And London? Still writing?"

"Still trying," he said. "Mostly about things I can't forget."

There was a pause. The kind that holds a thousand unsaid things.

"I heard about Pahalgam," Ayesha said. "I was in Boston when the news came. It felt like the valley cried."

Akash nodded. "It did. But it's healing. Slowly."

They walked along the lake, the shikaras gliding past like memories. The sky above was a canvas of twilight, stars beginning to blink.

“Do you remember our first autumn here?” Akash asked.

"How could I forget?" she said. "You quoted Neruda under the chinar tree."

“And you corrected my Spanish,” he laughed.

They sat on a bench, the silence between them no longer heavy, but tender.

"I never stopped loving you," Akash said, his voice barely above a whisper.

Ayesha looked at him, her eyes moist. "Then why did you drift?"

"I was afraid," he said. "Afraid of losing you to your brilliance. Afraid of being left behind."

"You were never behind," she said. "You were beside me."

Always." The stars above glittered like blessings.

"I heard about the affair," she said. "Was it true?"

Akash looked away. "It was a mistake. A moment of weakness. I thought I had lost you." Ayesha sighed. "We both lost each other. But maybe... not completely."

The next day, the conference continued. Akash spoke of memory as a bridge between pain and poetry. Ayesha spoke of exile as a metaphor

for longing. Their words danced in the air, weaving a tapestry of shared sorrow and hope. On the final evening, there was a celebration—Kashmiri folk songs, saffron-infused kahwa, and laughter. The firmament glittered above, as if the heavens themselves were rejoicing.

Akash and Ayesha stood together under the chinar tree where they had first met.

"Will you come back to London?" he asked.

"Will you come to Boston?" she replied. They laughed.

"Maybe we meet halfway," she said.

"Maybe we start again," he said.
The wind rustled through

the leaves, carrying them laugh-
ter across the lake. And in that
moment, the firmament glittered
not just in Kashmir, but in their
hearts.

**(APJ Abdul Kalam Awardee writer
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Zahid Mukhtar: The Conscience in Verse...



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One fine morning while entering gates of Tigore Hall to attend a mushyera , a staid faced person with scintillating smiles and love laden looks intercepted me and said are you Akram Sidiqui , my facebook friend. I nodded my head in approval . He then paused and hinted towards a couplet of mine, I had published on Facebook. While rectifying that kashmiri couplet, he consoled me to the hilt even said that your couplet is perfect, but in my opinion, it must be like this. While leaving he patted my back and said, you are going excellent, keep it up.

Ahh, today's sun rose with the grim tiding that this gregarious person with multifaced persona has left for heavenly abode. May his kind soul rest in peace.

He belonged to that rare tribe of poets who did not raise their voices to be heard, their words themselves carried the resonance of conviction. Zahid Mukhtar, the quiet son of Kashmir's fertile melancholy, was one such voice. His poetry did not seek applause; it sought awakening. His pen did not quarrel with the world, it conversed with it, gently, firmly, like a sage negotiating with shadows.

In the tepid corridors of our time, where noise is mistaken for expression and eloquence for excess, Zahid Mukhtar wrote as though truth itself sat beside him, whispering its secret syllables. He was the kind of poet who could turn silence into syntax, and thought into trembling music.

Every poet writes from a wound, but few can bleed with grace. Zahid Mukhtar did. His poems are small wounds of light , they neither gush nor glare. They throb quietly under the skin of thought. Take for instance his timeless nazm Aao — a poem that, on the surface, speaks of truth and deceit, but in essence, reflects the poet's own anguish at a world that has traded honesty for half-truths.

“Aao, tumhare saare jhut do pal
ke liye sach man leñ,
aur tumhara nam sachchi tari h
ka ek hissa bana deñ...”

How gently he offers this irony, how civilized his rebellion! The poet seems to plead for reconciliation, but the plea is poisoned with awareness. He knows that to accept the lie is to desecrate truth. His conclusion is both a verdict and a lament:



“Maiñ tumhare jhut se baghavat
kar sakta huñ,
lekin sach meñ lipTe jhut ka
samna nahiñ kar sakta.”

It is not merely a declaration; it is a creed, the creed of a conscience too refined to live comfortably amidst compromises.

There is an austerity in his defiance, a spiritual pride that refuses to kneel, even before the gentle coercion of false companionship.

His poem *Tum Mere Saath Chal Nahiñ Sakte* distills this dignity in bare, cutting lines:

“Tumhare pairon ko kañdhoñ pe
cha hne ki aadat hai,
aur maiñ kañdhe jhuka nahiñ
sakta...”

It is the voice of a man who has known both humility and humiliation, and learned the difference. His refusal to bend is not arrogance; it is resistance born of principle. In an age of prosthetic loyalties, Zahid's poetry stands straight, shoulders unbent, words unbowed.

He speaks like one addressing his own soul:

"Do not kneel, even if the world calls your spine stubborn."

Zahid's poetry is also haunted by the faint perfume of mortality, the scent that lingers when the soul realizes its own impermanence. In his nazm "Voo", he writes:

"Vo kahiñ mile to p chh ñ, bhage to kis se duur bhage?"

Mujh se — achchha kiya, sabhi
mujh se duur bhagte haiñ,
lekin maut se bhage ho, to hud hi
socho.”

Here the poet's tone is neither accusatory nor mournful, it is compassionate, as if he is watching humanity sprint away from the inevitable. There is irony, yes, but also tenderness. Death, to him, is not an end but a mirror; and running from it, an act of foolish innocence.

This poem, short, calm, devastating, bears the weight of centuries of human fear and folly. Zahid's genius lies in his restraint. He could compress the entire philosophy of life

into four lines, leaving the rest to
echo in silence.

His poetry often hovers between the lie and the prayer, between what is and what ought to be. There is no sermon in his verse, no theatrics of piety. Yet one feels that his pen was dipped in something sacred. He writes like a man who has seen too much deceit to believe easily, and too much truth to despair entirely.

In him, rebellion and surrender coexist, rebellion against hypocrisy, surrender to meaning. His poems breathe with the rhythm of spiritual realism, the understanding that truth is rarely radiant; it is often bruised, hidden, whispering beneath the rubble of language.

Zahid Mukhtar wrote in Urdu, but the fragrance of Kashmir wafts through every syllable. His verse smells of moist earth, autumnal wind, and the weary stillness of Dal Lake at dusk. There is a Kashmiri rhythm in his pauses, slow, reflective, like chinara leaves turning crimson in silence.

When he writes of truth, one hears the rustle of centuries, the pain of a land too often forced to choose between survival and sincerity. Yet, his poetry does not wail; it watches. He is not a chronicler of grief but of conscience. His Kashmir is not merely a geography but a moral metaphor—a valley of endurance where the soul learns to stand upright amid ruins.

Zahid's diction is deceptively simple. He does not decorate; he distills. His metaphors are everyday things , shoulders, lies, histories ,yet they gleam with moral radiance. There is no intoxication of vocabulary, no orchestration of rhythm. His poetry is like still water, transparent, reflective, unfathomable.

He once wrote that "truth has no rhythm, yet it sings." That is precisely what his own poetry achieves, a music so subtle that it is almost silent, yet so persistent that it lingers long after the page is turned.

In that silence, one feels his

presence, the voice of a man who believed that language, when purified of pretence, becomes prayer.

Beyond the poet, Zahid Mukhtar was also an editor, a broadcaster, and a nurturer of young voices. His programmes on Doordarshan and his stewardship of Urdu literary magazines in Kashmir gave platform to those who had fire in their words but no window to release it. He was a quiet cultivator of culture, tilling the soil of minds rather than the applause of crowds.

Those who worked with him recall a gentle man with exacting taste, the kind who preferred polishing another's line to proclaiming his own. His criticism was soft but surgical, his appreciation generous but never lazy. He lived by the same principle his poetry preached, sincerity without spectacle.

What gives Zahid Mukhtar's work its timeless relevance is its moral poise. In a literary culture where poetry often flirts with self-pity or exhibitionism, Zahid's verse restores decency to emotion. He reminds us that feeling, to be powerful, must also be pure, and that truth, even when whispered, carries the sound of thunder.

His poetry does not moralize; it moralizes simply by existing. It teaches by example that integrity is not an attitude but an atmosphere, that the poet's first duty is not to charm but to cleanse — his language, his vision, and his conscience.

When Zahid sahib left this world, a silence fell, not the silence of absence, but that strange stillness that follows the setting of a sun one didn't realize had been shining. In the corridors of Urdu literature, his name may not echo with the loudness of fame, but it glows, softly, steadily, like a lamp whose flame refuses to flicker.

To read him now is to rediscover the sanctity of restraint, the elegance of conviction, the power of quietness. His lines do not call for revolution; they prepare you for it. I, inside yourself.

“Maiñ tumhare jhut se baghavat
kar sakta huñ...”

The rebellion begins there , not against the world, but against the falsehoods we shelter within.

Zahid Mukhtar will remain, therefore, not merely as a poet of words but as a poet of measure , one who taught us that language, when washed in honesty, becomes a mirror; and that truth, even when soft-spoken, never dies , it just changes its tone.

He did not write to be remembered. Yet, how can one forget a man who taught us that to live truthfully is itself the highest form of poetry.

May Allah blestow him with
the highest echleons of paradise
...ameen!

Literary Review of The Isle of Fantasy by Ayaz Rasool Nazki

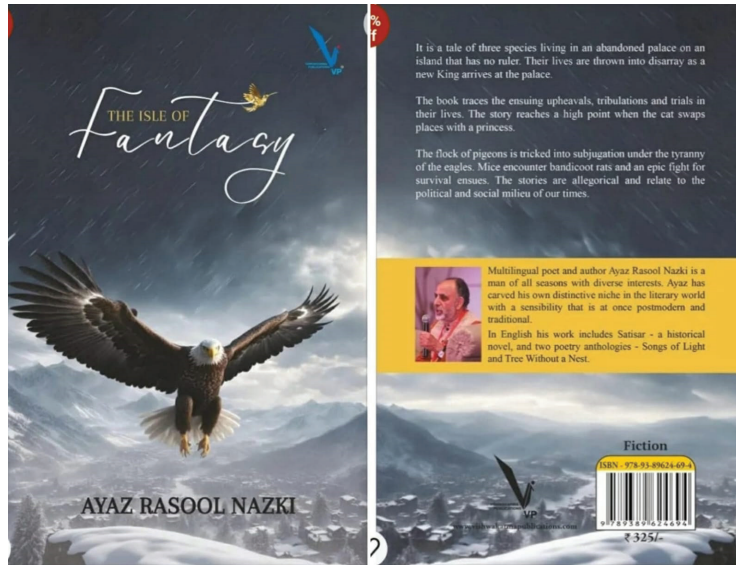


Mushtaque B Barq

Ayaz Rasool Nazki's *The Isle of Fantasy* stands as a precisely constructed fantasy novel that integrates adventure, moral allegory, and magical realism into an organic and complex, narrative. The novel represents contemporary fantasy conventions by creating a secondary world, incorporating anthropomorphized characters, multiple perspectives, episodic structure, and a cautiously portrayed magical framework. Nazki glues these components to enrich the themes like recognition, establishment, strategy, ethical motive, and freedom by creating a superimposed narrative that engages both the intellect and imagination.

From the beginning, the novel establishes a multilayered world with several twisted arcs, a trademark of quality fantasy. One striking arc revolves around Mice Land, led by the plan of actions and morally awake Jaq, as it faces a deadly threat from invading bandicoot rats. The narrative straightaway places the reader in a morally charged conflict: "Not a single bandicoot rat survived this catastrophe. Dead bodies lay everywhere and it would take a huge effort to clear the place" (Nazki, 196). Nazki unites descriptive imagery with strategic exposition, expands not only the consequences of warfare but also the foresightedness and ethical severity of the Mice Land leadership. The episodic structure of intelligence, incursion, and backwash highlights strategy over beastly force, a narrative choice that heighten the novel's thematic quality.

Second arc, the political and military narrative of Mice Land is the magical and identity-focused arc of the King and Princess Rosa, who have been transformed into a tomcat and a cat Princess, respectively. This undertaking for compensation and the falsification by imposters holding human roles allow the author to explore identity, shift, and moral obligation is one of the salient feature of this arc. The text signifies recognition and trust through humanized interactions. “I can recognize you. You are not a cat. I am also not a cat” (Nazki, 201). The narrative employs suspense and episodic build-up as the protagonists observe their kittens, plan their rescue, and coordinate with



the hermit to reverse the magical transformation through the chamber of light (Nazki, 207). This arc highlights the magical realism, and fantastical elements are brought together into the narrative with internally agreeable rules, allowing characters to maneuver situation logically despite the supernatural setting.

A third narrative arc analyses the pigeons' revolt against the eagles, running as a political allegory of governance, freedom, and collaborative action. The eagles' oppression and the consequent leadership vacuum allow the author to extract the kinetics of resistance, civil disobedience, and strategical establishment. When upheaval in Eagle Land forces the eagles to retreat, the flock experiences liberation: "Shackles were fast disappearing. Pigeons could be seen moving around freely...The entire flock came out to celebrate freedom and herald liberty" (Nazki, 204). This allegorical arc enriches the novel by mingling political philosophy with fantasy, exhibiting how personified societies can reflect human ethical perplexity.

Narrative Technique and Style

An omniscient third-person narrator has been employed to allow synchronous insight into multiple orientations. For example, the reader witnesses Jaq's measured plan of action, the bandicoots' certitude, and Rosa's watchfulness all at once: "The chief and the other Mice Landers listened to the harrowing narrative of death and destruction... Their presence had been picked up by the hawks patrolling the skies" (Nazki, 196–199). This multi-perspective technique further adds severity to dramatic irony. The narrative often relies on flashbacks and narrative recollections, especially in stating past transformations or experiences. Pixie recounts her ordeal to

clarify her and the King's current predicament: "Pixie also narrated her story...Everything was very clear now. They had acknowledged each other because in reality they remained cats" (Nazki, 190). Flash-backs technique encourages character development and provide essential exposition thus breaks a linear graph of the narrative.

The main stylistic feature of the novel is object personification, where animals such as mice, pigeons, and bandicoot rats display human-like intelligence, governance, and moral reasoning: "The leader was alive to the danger from the sky...It had been clearly spelled out that no mice would leave the protective shade of the bushes" (Nazki, 196). This device allows the author to expand human subjects like justice, leadership, ethical conduct, and civic responsibility within a symbolic framework. Anthropomorphized association assist to analyse complex political and moral curiosities besides hold back narrative engagement through imaginative characterization. Another key-take away of the novel is magical realism. The transformation arcs and captivated objects, particularly the chamber of light and magical lamp have been used to restore the King and Princess: "You will wait for the king and Princess to enter the first chamber and light the lamp. All four of you will transcend through the magical light and return to their original identities" (Nazki, 2007). This blend of grotesque and ethical storytelling underscores the novel's commitment to a self-consistent magical universe, a requirement of contemporary fantasy literature. Another Prominent feature of the novel is its dialogue driven technique, speeches, strategic thinking, philosophy and didactic guidelines. "We have more important things on our hands. I call upon

you to start the work...Before dusk, we must be through with all this and from tomorrow our work will begin" (Nazki, 194). These dialogues convey complex ideas, but at times slow the pacing, which exposes structural limitations of the narrative.

Temporal Flow and Suspense

Time in the novel is fluid, with interleaving timelines and arcs enhancing narrative suspense. The linearity of arc often shift across arcs, creating tension and a wide view of the fictional world. Rosa and the King's anticipation of the kittens' rescue exemplifies this orchestration: "She had to be very careful in staying at a distance from the kittens... This time around she had to maintain her distance and decide things as they evolved" (Nazki, 199). The interleaving of arcs encourages readers to synthesize information and anticipate natural events, a hallmark of sophisticated fantasy storytelling.

Limitations

The novel has a few weaknesses like episodic complexity and pre-dominant switching between arcs which sweep over readers and dilute suspense (Nazki, 196–211). Abundant expository passages slow pacing, particularly in the recounting of transformations (Nazki, 190). The over stress on moral allegory at times gives us a clear clue that we are reading a didactic narrative (Nazki, 194). In addition, while anthropomorphism enriches allegory, it sometimes limits emotional depth, making it difficult for readers to fully empathize with characters whose inner lives are filtered through symbolic or ethical lenses (Nazki, 196–201). Finally, reliance on magical solutions, such as the lamp and chamber of light, reduces tension because the resolution appears guaranteed (Nazki, 207–209).

It is an uphill task to maintain the narrative and character handling through out the novel, the author is well versed with narrative writing and has mastery over the intricacies of imagery and imaginations. The entire novel engages a reader and while reading this novel a reader a times feels George Orwell's echoes of Animal Form at his study or at times William Golding's Lord of the Flies because both novels use symbolic societies and political allegory aided with moral undertone. If Animal Farm critically analysis authoritarianism and Lord of the Flies brings at surface democratic fragility, Ayaz Nazki's The Isle of Fantasy critiques tyranny, vulnerability of order and democracy in a give space and scope. For fantasy lovers this novel is an awe-inspiring piece of literature to cherish its literary merit.

A Dog Got Scared Of a...

Mujtaba Farooq

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An afternoon hot sun, sweaty air and aching knees while I was walking without a destiny in my plans... I entered a park. There was a step before the entry, the kind you jump to get in. I did too. Only it was a slip — my steps went farther than required, off route, almost into the wall rounded by thorns and wire. Somehow I gripped myself and saved from crashing.

There was a dog. Perhaps younger than me, but already too old. A weak body, skin spared, fur hardly present — as if disease had worn it down. It was sitting calm until my slip. That sound, that suddenness, made it jerk up in fear, as if I were a hunter about to strike.

I saw it — the fear was not surface, it lived in its roots. In the depth of its eyes, in every arch of bones that outlined its weakness, in the shiver that had memory older than me. It stopped after a few paces and turned to stare. And there I stood, filled with guilt that I had no language to wash away.

To step toward it felt cruel. To turn away meant nowhere. So I sat on the step, chewing nails in the landscape of uncertainty, watching it, as it watched me. And in the middle of that gaze, I lost the math of who seemed more dog.



I had scared a creature. By accident, but intention never mattered to the scar of memory. Perhaps in its silence it was abusing me with whisper barks, perhaps marking me into its catalogue of enemies. And I wanted to tell it — I was not. But what words would it take? What apology could cross species? If I barked, it would make worse the

worse. What if my attempt at innocence killed it? What if love, spoken wrong, became another wound?

Its groans entered my chest. I wanted to sharpen my ribs and stab my throat open to release this guilt.

Hours passed. The sun dimmed, its eyes dimmed too. Slowly, I rose and left, but the regret stayed with me. To ease it, I bought biscuits and

returned. The place was empty. The dog had left. Who grieved more for that leaving — me, or it — I couldn't tell.

Still, I left the packets open at the gate, in hope it would return and know they were mine. But then came the human greed for acknowledgement, to be seen as good. I hid behind a parked car, waiting. It did come back. My heart broke into joy. I stood, foolishly. That joy scared it again — another shiver, another run, another nail of fear driven deeper. What was spoiled became more spoiled.

I gave up. Left with guilt heavier than when I came. Later, other dogs appeared, younger, hungrier. They ate the biscuits, circled me with joy. I split the last packet on the road, and they followed me to the stop. Since then, they meet me there.

But the old one never returned. I only hope the others shared the kindness with it, the kindness I failed to deliver.

Perhaps the truer question never left me: who was the dog that day, me or it?

or maybe I never met a dog.
or simply we all fail at a dog.
Perhaps all people are dogs.
And all memories are hopes.
And all biscuits are corruptions.
Mujtaba Journo
Student of life.
Student for life.

FROM PAGE 2...

Zahid Mukhtar: A Tribute...

also a painter, actor, and director. He once expressed that his constant effort was to “taste” every aspect of creative life, gain vast experience, and master each field to the fullest. His curiosity and dedication allowed him to achieve immense recognition in each role he undertook. Whether he was delivering a thought-provoking broadcast on Doordarshan, performing on stage, or creating literary masterpieces, Mukhtar’s commitment to excellence and authenticity remained unwavering. His life reflects a rare synthesis of artistic versatility, discipline, and intellectual rigor.

In one memorable reflection, when asked whether every success requires some unseen help, he humbly attributed his achievements to divine and parental blessings. He said, “Mere waldeen ki dua ka asar tha jo ye maqam hasil kiya.” This acknowledgment reveals his humility and gratitude, as he always recognized the influence of his upbringing and parental guidance in shaping his destiny. Despite his fame and achievements, Mukhtar viewed himself as a simple servant of art and knowledge, carried forward by grace and love. In another interview, he said, “Main ek mushti khaakh hoon, pata nahi kaunsi hawa lai ke udayi

mujhe, lekin badi khushi ki baat hai ki mujhe logon ka pyar mila is zindagi mein —ye badi baat hai mere liye.” These words capture the humility, gratitude, and spiritual depth that defined both his character and his work.

Mukhtar's contributions to broadcasting and acting were equally significant. His tenure on Doordarshan made him a familiar and cherished voice, captivating audiences with insightful commentary, thoughtful storytelling, and an understanding of human emotion. On stage, he brought stories to life with authenticity, portraying characters with depth, empathy, and sincerity. Even in these public roles, he remained grounded, viewing his work as a means of enriching culture and society rather than personal fame. His presence inspired colleagues and audiences alike, reinforcing the idea that true artistry is inseparable from humility, awareness, and dedication.

Zahid Mukhtar's journey also embodies the resilience and struggle that often accompany true greatness. From walking barefoot on uneven paths to facing financial constraints, every challenge shaped his character and reinforced his determination. The anecdote of his

father selling his chadar to pay for his college fees is symbolic of both sacrifice and the transformative power of dedication. It reflects the profound interplay of parental guidance, personal determination, and social circumstances in shaping an artist who would go on to become a beacon for Kashmiri literature, broadcasting, and culture.

His literary, artistic, and professional versatility is a source of inspiration for many. Zahid Mukhtar's life demonstrates that one can inhabit multiple creative spaces without compromising the integrity of any single endeavor. His insistence on exploring writing, broadcasting, painting, acting, and directing illustrates a philosophy of life that celebrates curiosity, continuous learning, and the pursuit of excellence. Through this multidimensional engagement, he gained a breadth of experience that enriched each of his contributions, making his work resonate with audiences across generations and mediums.

Today, as Kashmir mourns the passing of Zahid Mukhtar, his name shines as a symbol of perseverance, humility, and creative brilliance. His life was a testament to the transformative power of art; how a boy inspired by his father's books

rose from struggle and hardship to become one of Kashmir's most respected literary and cultural figures. Zahid Mukhtar reminds us that true greatness is not measured by fame or accolades but by sincerity, dedication, and the courage to embrace life's challenges with grace. His works—from poetry to prose, from broadcasts to performances—continue to live in the hearts of those who admire, respect, and love him, ensuring that his artistic light remains undimmed in the valley he so deeply cherished.

In remembering Zahid Mukhtar, we celebrate not only his words but also his spirit, his struggles, and his dedication to exploring the full expanse of human creativity. His story is a living testament to the power of perseverance, parental guidance, and divine grace. From a child inspired by his father's library to a master of multiple art forms, he embodied the belief that one must constantly strive, explore, and express. Through his humility, determination, and unwavering passion for life and art, Zahid Mukhtar left behind a legacy that will continue to inspire generations of writers, artists, broadcasters, and dreamers not just in Kashmir but across the world.



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