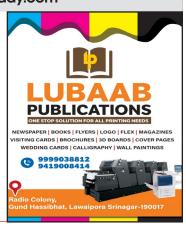
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Terrorism Fading, Peace Driving J&K's Progress: LG Sinha

LG Addresses Athletes at 10th All India Police Judo Cluster

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCT 10: "J&K Police is not only fighting terrorism, maintaining law & order and protecting citizens but it is also a crucial agent of socio-economic development," the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Friday. He said J&K Police has ensured peace and stable society for industrial growth and overall progress in the Union Territory. The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at the 10th All India Police Judo Cluster (Men & Women) - 2025.

"Terrorism is breathing its last in J&K. The peace has enabled unparalleled progress and brought greater prosperity in the lives of people. Security has significantly improved across the country. Roots of leftwing extremism were dismantled and India is witnessing a new era of progress driven by rapid economic growth," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Turn on Page 2



SC Gives Centre Four Weeks To Respond On Restoration Of J&K Statehood

HT News Network

NEW DELHI, OCT 10: The Supreme Court on Friday gave the Centre four weeks to file its response on a batch of pleas seeking restoration of statehood to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

A bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran was hearing multiple pleas, including those filed by academician Zahoor Ahmad Bhat and socio-political activist Ahmad Malik, pressing for the implementation of the Centre's assurance to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir "at the earliest".

They referred to the Centre's assurance on statehood for the union territory during the hearings on the abrogation of Article 370.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, told the bench that elections in the region were conducted peacefully last year but the government required more time to evaluate the issue of restoring statehood in view of ongoing security concerns and the recent Pahalgam terror attacks.

"Elections were held in a peaceful manner and an elected government is in place.



Over the last six years, substantial progress has been made in Jammu and Kashmir. However, certain recent incidents, such as the Pahalgam attack, need to be factored in before taking a final call," the country's top law officer said.

He said consultations were underway with the Jammu and Kashmir administration on the issue of restoration of statehood.

NC Announces Candidates For Rajya Sabha Polls

Choudhary Ramzan, Sajad Kichloo, Shammi Oberoi to contest polls

■ HT News Desk / KNO

SRINAGAR, OCT 10: National Conference on Friday announced its candidates for the upcoming Rajya Sabha polls scheduled on October 24.

Addressing a news conference here, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), National Conference, General Secretary, Ali Muhammad Sagar named Choudhary Muhammad Ramzan (former minister), Sajad Ahmad Kichloo (former minister of state for Home) and Shammi Oberoi (Treasurer) of its candidate for the polls.

"They will nomination papers in the next few days," he said, adding that the names of candidates were finalised by the party's core committee.

Ramzan, a senior National Conference leader from Handwara, has served as Turn on Page 2

BSF Using AI, Drones to Monitor Border Threats: IG Anand

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, OCT 10: Inspector General (IG) of Border Security Force (BSF) for Jammu, Shashank Anand on Friday said that the security forces are alert on the border and are maintaining a tight vigil.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), talking to reporters at BSF Headquarters here, IG BSF said, "Cross-border activities remain under constant

watch and we are prepared to counter any threat."

"We are closely monitoring all activities. Whenever we notice any suspicious movement we develop effective strategies with other agencies," the IG said.

He said the BSF remains vigilant and committed to preventing any attempt at infiltration or crossborder activity. "The enemy always tries to infiltrate, but we are vigilant and in close coordination with



our sister agencies," he added.

On evolving threats and warfare methods, IG Anand said the BSF is adapting new technologies, including drone warfare and artificial

"This 21st century has witnessed changes, and aerial routes such as drones are being used. AI is also being employed. BSF is not lagging behind; we are training our troops in drones for attack and defence purposes, and if there is

any opportunity, we will use it," he said.

The IG BSF said that the challenges on the border change with seasons, especially during winter, and the force is prepared accordingly. "During winter season, our challenges are different, and we have formulated strategies to foil any infiltration attempt by the enemy. We are patrolling our borders," he said.

Turn on Page 2

JK witnesses sharp rise in tax collections, land revenue up by 87 pc

Passenger tax jumps 536%, stamp duty climbs 57%

HT News Desk / KNO

SRINAGAR, OCT 10: Jammu and Kashmir's own tax revenue has shown a strong rise over recent years, hinting at a steady improvement in the Union Territory's financial position. The stamp duty and registration fees are witnessing one of the sharpest increases, growing by 57 per cent from Rs 325.54 crore

to Rs 512.02 crore. Land revenue has nearly doubled, rising by 87 per cent from Rs 60.57 crore to Rs 113.28 crore.

According to the official data, accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Jammu and Kashmir's total own tax revenue increased from Rs 8,876.99 crore in 2020–21 to Rs 11,707.28 crore in

Election Commission Eases Rules

Allows Aadhaar, PAN, Passport for voting identification

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, OCT 10: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has permitted voters whose names figure on the electoral rolls but who are unable to produce their Electors' Photo Identity Card (EPIC) to use any one of twelve alternative photo identity documents to cast their votes.

In a press statement issued from Nirvachan Sadan, the Commission said the move is aimed at ensuring that no eligible voter is deprived of the right to vote merely due to non-possession



of an EPIC card. The direction comes ahead of

CS Pushes For Seamless Fruit Transportation from Valley

Also Directs for Exploring Rail Freight Link to Major Metro Markets

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCT 10: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting to review the transportation and smooth movement of fruit consignments from the Valley to markets outside.

The meeting was attended by Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Secretary, Transport Department; IG Traffic; Transport

Turn on Page 2



Infiltrators In Voters' List Pollute **Spirit Of Constitution: Shah**

HT News Network

NEW DELHI, OCT 10: Backing the SIR exercise, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the inclusion of infiltrators in the voters' list pollutes the spirit of the Constitution and asserted that voting rights should only be available to the citizens of the country.

Delivering a lecture in the memory of former editor-in-chief of Dainik Jagran, Turn on Page 2



A Story of Courage and Recovery: From **Addiction to Hope**

■ HT News Desk

RAJOURI, OCT 10: XYZ (name withheld), a young woman from a humble rural background, faced severe hardships early in life. At just 18, she began working as a labourer to support her family. Life was difficult and moments of relief were rare. In a vulnerable phase, her older cousins introduced her to heroin, claiming it would ease her pain and make her

"At first, they gave it to me for free," XYZ recalls. "But soon, I couldn't live without it."

Within months, XYZ was trapped in the grip of addiction. Her health declined rapidly - she grew frail, withdrawn, and hopeless. Seeing her daughter's condition deteriorating, her mother sought help from the local hospital's Addiction Treatment Centre. Fortunately, XYZ agreed to undergo treatment — a decision that changed her life forever.

At the centre, doctors diagnosed her with opioid use disorder and immediately began treatment. Under medical supervision, she was administered Buprenorphine (4 mg per day) to manage withdrawal symptoms and control cravings without inducing a high. Alongside medication, she received regular

Turn on Page 2

Sakeena Itoo Reviews Progress of School & Higher Education Depts

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCT 10: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo chaired a high level meeting at Civil Secretariat here today to review the performance, functioning and progress of various ongoing projects of School Education and Higher Education Departments across Jammu and

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education department, Shant-

manu; Secretary School Education, Ram Niwas Sharma; Director General School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N Itoo; Project Director Samagra Shiksha, Director School Education Jammu, Mission Director, RUSA, Special Secretaries of Higher Education and School Education departments, Director Finance/Director Planning of Higher Education and School Education departments, Director Colleges, Chief Engineer PWD of Central Kashmir/South Kashmir/ North Kashmir/Jammu/Chenab/ Pir Panjal zones, Chief Education



Officers of all districts and other concerned officers of both depart-

During the meeting, Minister Sakeena took comprehensive evaluation of key developmental initiatives, infrastructure projects, and academic reforms being implemented across J&K in both Higher Education and School Education departments.

While reviewing the status of ongoing projects in Higher Education department under various schemes like Rashtriya

CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE......

Terrorism Fading.....

The Lieutenant Governor commended the police, army, and CAPFs for dismantling terror support systems, and preventing cross-border infiltration. He emphasized on intelligence-based kinetic operations and adopting a multifaceted approach to tackle internal security challenges.

The Lieutenant Governor also praised the J&K Police force in building a fear-free environment for citizens.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the power of sports to foster a sense of collective identity, camaraderie, courage, character building, peace, equality and friendship among people and the region.

He called upon the youth to develop qualities like compassion and courage, and dedicate their potential and talents in service to the nation.

'Sports is the universal language of unity and it promotes inclusivity and mutual respect. The sports events like All India Police Judo Cluster serves as a vibrant platform to celebrate Unity in Diversity and showcase India's rich cultural and social heritage," he

More than 2,000 athletes are participating in the championship comprising of Judo, Wushu, Pencak Silat, Taekwondo and Karate, hosted by Jammu Kashmir Police.

DGP, Shri Nalin Prabhat; Shri S.J.M. Gillani, Special DG Coordination PHQ; ADGP Armed, Shri Anand Jain; senior officials of Police and Civil Administration; representatives of various sports associations; prominent sports personalities, and youth in large number were present.

SC Gives Centre.....

"This is a sui generis (unique) problem and there are wider concerns involved. Of course, there was a solemn undertaking but several factors need to be considered," Mehta submitted.

He alleged that some people are spreading a specific narrative and giving a grim picture of the union territory.

During the hearing, CJI Gavai said the region continued to face security challenges and cited the Pahalgam terror attack.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for Zahoor Bhat, said, "Pahalgam happened under their watch..." Mehta vehemently objected to the remark, saying, "What is 'their watch'? It is under our government. I object to this." Sankaranarayanan argued that the Centre had assured the court about restoring statehood in 2023 and said, "Much water has flowed since then." To this, Mehta retorted, "And blood too. This is a citizen before the Supreme Court who treats the government of India as your government and not my government." Sankaranarayanan also said that the matter be placed before a five-judge Constitution bench, given that the original Article 370 judgment had been delivered by a bench of similar strength.

He clarified that the applicants were not seeking to reopen the abrogation issue but merely enforcement of the Union's commitment "within a reasonable timeframe".

The solicitor general opposed the submissions, saying this cannot be done that too at the behest of interveners.

Senior advocate Maneka Guruswamy, appearing for MLA Irfan Hafiz Lone, argued that the continuing denial of statehood undermines the federal structure of the Constitution.

"If a state can be converted into a Union Territory like this, what does it mean for federalism? The J-K Assembly passed a resolution a year ago calling for statehood. Allowing Jammu and Kashmir to remain a UT sets a dangerous precedent," she said.

Citing Articles 1, 2, and 3 of the Constitution, she added, "These provisions do not envisage converting a state into a union territory. The Union gave an assurance. What is the consequence of not honouring that assurance for federalism?" "If this is permitted, any state can be downgraded to a UT if the government is inconvenient... tomorrow, it could be Uttar Pradesh or Tamil Nadu. This has never happened in our constitutional history," another lawyer said.

The solicitor general interjected, accusing the counsel of attempting to "create a grim picture" of the union territory before the world.

"Why are you getting agitated? Let him complete the submissions," the CJI told Mehta, drawing mild laughter in the courtroom.

Counsel representing a group of Jammubased lawyers submitted that citizens in the region were facing acute unemployment and stagnation in development projects.

'There is hardly any developmental work in the Jammu region. Legislators say they have no funds for local works. Despite incidents like Pahalgam, peace has largely prevailed and tourist inflows are high, and the Vaishno Devi yatra continues smoothly. Security concerns cannot be a perpetual excuse," the counsel said.

To this, SG Mehta responded by saying that the region had witnessed significant improvement.

"Jammu and Kashmir has progressed; everyone is happy... 99.9 per cent of the people consider the government of India as their own. These arguments are for some

other forum, not this court," he said.

"Delay in the restoration of statehood would cause serious reduction of democratically elected government in Jammu and Kashmir, causing a grave violation of the idea of federalism which forms part of the basic structure of the Constitution of India," Bhat's plea said.

The assembly elections and the Lok Sabha polls were conducted peacefully in Jammu and Kashmir without any incident of violence, disturbance or any security concerns being reported, it said.

"Therefore, there is no impediment of security concerns, violence or any other disturbances which would hinder or prevent the grant/restoration of the status of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir as had been assured by the Union of India in the present proceedings," the plea added. (Agencies)

NC Announces.....

minister in NC-led governments. Sajad Kichloo, who hails from Kishtwar, was also a minister in Omar Abdullah-led government.

Shammi, a Sikh face of the party, is a trusted loyalist of Abdullah family.

Sagar said that they are currently in discussion with the National Conference for the fourth seat. "We have kept one seat open and the talks are on with Congress over it,"

The NC leader did not clarify whether they intend to leave one of the three 'safe' seats for the Congress or offer them a 'risky' seat where the BJP holds an advantage.

Advisor to CM Nasir Aslam Wani said they will soon finalise candidates for Budgam and Nagrota by-polls.

'Since the date of filing of nomination papers for RS polls is on Monday, we finalised candidates today. The Parliamentary board will sit again and announce candidates for two candidates," he said.

In the Rajya Sabha polls, the National Conference-led alliance is poised to win three seats, while the BJP holds an advantageous position for the fourth.

The competition would be between BJP and the alliance candidate on the fourth seat. While the alliance has 24 second preference votes, the BJP has 28 votes—(KNO)

BSF Using.....

"After Operation Sindoor, we have accelerated the introduction of modern technology across defence and paramilitary forces," he said.

"A dedicated School of Drone Warfare has been set up at the BSF Academy in Gwalior, where troops are being trained to operate drone squadrons and drone commandos. We will be able to inflict damage on an adversary in ways they may not have even imagined," he said.

He also said the BSF has had drone capability for some time, but now it is moving toward next-level warfare. "BSF personnel and officers are being trained on how to integrate modern technology into

21st-century warfare," he said. As part of BSF's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, IG Anand announced a full marathon in Jammu on November 9, 2025. "For the first time in Jammu, we are organising a full marathon," he said.

The event aims to promote health, fitness, and identify sporting talent in the Union Territory. "It will nurture talent and inspire healthier lifestyles," he said—(KNO)

JK witnesses.....

2021-22. This has shown a growth of 31.88 per cent in a single year, hinting at higher collections across all tax segments.

A senior finance department official told KNO that the increase is due to better compliance and stronger revenue administration. "Post-pandemic recovery has clearly revived trade, transport, and real estate activity. Further, the GST framework has matured in Jammu and Kashmir. With tighter enforcement and improved digital tracking, leakages have reduced significantly," he added.

The State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) was the biggest contributor, rising from Rs 4,839.35 crore in 2020–21 to Rs 6,394.31 crore in 2021–22, an increase of over 32 per cent. State Excise collections went up from Rs 1,347.42 crore to Rs 1,782.79 crore, also a 32 per cent jump. Taxes on sales and trade climbed from Rs 1,495.61 crore to Rs 1,906.31

Stamp duty and registration fees saw one of the sharpest increases, growing by 57 per cent from Rs 325.54 crore to Rs 512.02 crore. Land revenue nearly doubled, rising by 87 per cent from Rs 60.57 crore to Rs 113.28 crore. Taxes on goods and passengers recorded the steepest jump, from Rs 0.90 crore in 2020–21 to Rs 5.73 crore in 2021–22, a 536 per cent increase.

A senior official at the department of finance here attributed this rise to better tax administration, post-COVID economic recovery, and stronger enforcement under the Goods and Services Tax regime.

'The government's focus on plugging gaps and digitising payments is showing results," he said, adding that more citizens are entering the formal tax net

The data further reveals that the government has also received Rs 892.56 crore as

GST compensation for revenue loss and Rs 3,845.49 crore as back-to-back loans from the Centre in lieu of GST compensation-

Election.....

the by-elections in Bihar and eight other Assembly Constituencies where the ECI has already instructed officials to distribute EPICs to new voters within fifteen days of the final publication of electoral rolls.

The Commission said that documents such as the Aadhaar card, MNREGA job card, bank or post office passbooks with photographs, driving license, PAN card, health insurance smart card, Indian passport, and several other official identity cards will now serve as valid proof of identification for voters at polling stations.

It further reiterated that the presence of a voter's name on the electoral roll remains a prerequisite for exercising the right to vote. The ECI also directed polling staff to make special arrangements for purdanasheen (veiled) women to ensure dignified and private verification at polling stations under the supervision of female officials.

CS Pushes.....

Commissioner; Secretary in Agriculture Production Department; MD, HPMC; Regional Officer, NHAI; and other concerned officers

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary took stock of the current status of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) and its restoration to full operational capacity. He specifically enquired about the movement of fruit-laden trucks from the Valley and the unhindered passage of other essential commodities coming from outside towards Srinagar.

He further directed that no fruit truck should remain stranded on the highway and instructed the concerned departments to ensure safe and priority passage of these vehicles. He also reviewed the situation regarding vehicles stranded on both sides of the NH-44 and directed for their timely

While reviewing long-distance transportation options, the Chief Secretary advised the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, to explore the introduction of rail freight services for transporting horticultural produce to major markets such as Mumbai, Kolkata and Bengaluru. He emphasized the need to engage with fruit growers in this regard and to coordinate with the Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Jammu, to examine the feasibility of such a service.

The Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, apprised the Chief Secretary of the availability and adequacy of transport services for fruit growers, informing that sufficient trucks are presently available at reasonable rates and that growers are not facing any major logistical difficulties.

Secretary, Transport Department, Avny Lavasa, further informed the meeting that in case of any shortage of transport vehicles, the fleet of J&K SRTC trucks would be deployed to facilitate smooth evacuation of fruit from the Valley to outside markets, ensuring full assistance to the fruit growers.

The Chief Secretary reiterated that the administration is fully committed to ensuring seamless transportation of horticultural produce, which forms a key pillar of the Valley's economy, and directed all concerned officers to maintain coordination and take proactive measures to ensure smooth transportation of this crop throughout the ongoing fruit season.

Infiltrators In.....

Narendra Mohan, on the topic of 'infiltration (ghuspaith), demographic change and democracy', the home minister said the Centre will follow the policy of "detect, delete

and deport" while dealing with infiltrators. Shah said infiltration, as well as the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls by the Election Commission, should not be viewed from a political angle, emphasising that it is a national issue.

The Congress has gone into a "denial mode" on the issue of the SIR, Shah said, adding that the exercise took place during the party's government as well.

"The opposition is opposabilities exercise because their vote banks are getting cut...It is EC's constitutional responsibility to clean the voters' list. You can go to court if you have any issues," he said.

He said that a time will come when the opposition will also not be spared.

Free and fair elections cannot take place unless the voter list is according to the voters' definition, which is being an Indian citizen and attaining the eligible age, he said.

Underlining the difference between an infiltrator and a refugee, Shah said the latter comes to India to save his/her religion, while an infiltrator crosses over the border illegally, not because of religious persecution but because of economic and other reasons.

"Who are infiltrators? Those who have not faced religious persecution and want to come to India illegally for economic or other reasons are infiltrators. If anyone in the world who wants to come here is allowed to do so, our country will become a dharamshala," he said.

He also presented the 'Jagran Sahitya Srijan Samman' in memory of the former editor-in-chief of Dainik Jagran. This award was given to an original work in one of the various genres of Hindi literature. (Agencies)

A Story of.....

HT - NEWS

counseling sessions and psychological support, helping her regain confidence and emotional stability.

In a compassionate gesture, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma personally visited the residence of the recovering victim and assured all possible assistance for her complete rehabilitation. The DC directed that she shall be provided Proper Counseling and Continuous Psychological Support, Comprehensive Rehabilitation Plan & Skill Development and Training Oppor-

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by the District Child Protection Officer (DCPO), Tehsildar, SHO and CWC Member Shazad Lone.

Expressing satisfaction over the victim's recovery progress, the DC said that the administration is committed to supporting every individual struggling with substance abuse. He emphasized that "no one should fight addiction alone" and highlighted the district's focus on counseling, community awareness and skill-based rehabilitation under the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan.

Today, XYZ is on the path to recovery rebuilding her life, reconnecting with her family and preparing for skill training to earn a dignified livelihood. Her journey stands as a powerful example of hope, courage and the transformative power of timely intervention.

Sakeena Itoo.....

Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA), and CAPEX budget initiatives, the Minister emphasized on the timely execution of all ongoing works, particularly those related to infrastructure development, digital learning facilities, teacher training programs, and curriculum enhance-

She directed the officers of executing agencies that college construction projects need to be completed within stipulated deadlines without compromising on quality. She called for stringent monitoring and field-level inspections to address delays and remove bottlenecks in project implementation.

"Our government is committed to strengthen educational ecosystem in J&K. Every project, whether in remote village or an urban hub, must translate into tangible outcome for students and teachers. Timeliness and accountability are non-negotiable", Minister Sakeena asserted.

The Minister further asked the Director Colleges to maintain close coordination with Chief Engineers so that the projects which require minor works are completed by the end of this month.

Taking stock of faculty positions in colleges, the Minister called upon the officers of Higher Education department to look out for the feasibility of increasing remuneration in favour of Academic arrangement teachers so that more persons are attracted to it till vacancies are filled on regular basis. She also directed the officers to create posts for all newly established degree colleges for better educational outcomes.

The Minister also underlined the need for research-oriented learning, industry linkages, and innovation-driven curriculum reforms. She urged college heads to encourage student-led projects, entrepreneurship cells, and collaborations with reputed institutions to enhance employability and practical learning outcomes.

Similarly, while reviewing the school education department, Minister Sakeena spoke on the importance of digital transformation in school education, directing the concerned officers to expedite the installation of smart classrooms, ICT labs and e-content access facilities to bridge the learning gap, particularly in rural and far-flung areas.

Reiterating the government's commitment to inclusive and equitable education, Minister Sakeena said that special attention is being given to educational infrastructure in remote, border and tribal areas, to ensure every child in J&K has access to quality learning opportunities.

The Minister further called upon all the CEOs to utilise funds under Samagra Shiksha efficiently so that required infrastructure can be created. She further directed the CEOs to monitor projects in their respective districts on regular basis and maintain coordination with project executing agencies for their early completion.

Taking stock of Human Resource issues, the Minister asked the officers of School Education department to appoint Nodal Officer in each district for maintaining coordination with ACB for timely obtaining of Vigilance Clearance certificates in favour of employees. She also directed the CEOs to submit report card on monthly basis to respective HoDs highlighting progress of ongoing projects and other achievements in every aspect of this vital sector. She also gave directions for early finalisation of proposal for de-freezing of teacher posts for timely recruitment process.

Highlighting that students in Government schools are equally talented as that of Private schools, the Minister called upon the officers to create awareness among students, especially in far flung areas, regarding JKSOS and NIOS admissions so that they can qualify the 12th level exams in other modes also.

The Minister also called for enhanced coordination between School and Higher Education departments to ensure seamless academic progression and policy alignment from the foundational to advanced levels of learning.



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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

floriculture, and education sectors apprised the Advisor of their respective concerns related to public infrastructure,

power, handicrafts, handloom, employee welfare, and service hearing to all delegations and matters. Issues of general public importance were also raised during the interactions.

assured that the genuine issues projected will be examined and addressed in coordination with The Advisor gave a patient 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 grass-

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 Shahnawaz 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 bypoll 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

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 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)

■ Faroog 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 Viqar 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

SRINAGAROCT 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

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

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 CIRIKU, 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.

HT-NEWS



Div Com Jammu reviews hospital readiness,

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

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

Kupwara.

Kupwara.

cerned officials.

Capacity Building Programme on

Community-Based Disaster

Management held at Kupwara

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

tration Kupwara, in coordination with the Department

of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation &

Reconstruction (DDMRRR), today organized a one-

day Capacity Building Programme under Commu-

nity-Based Disaster Management at the ACD Complex,

al Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad,

who also serves as the Chief Executive Officer of

District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA)

range of stakeholders, including Deputy Secretary,

DDMRRR, Snober Jameel; Assistant Commissioner

Development Kupwara, Muzaffar Ahmad, BDOs,

Panchayat Secretaries; ICDS workers; and other con-

strengthen the capacities of grassroots functionaries

and local communities in effective disaster prepared-

ness, response, and mitigation. Emphasis was laid

on the importance of community engagement, co-

ordination among departments, and proactive plan-

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

active discussions, and the dissemination of resource

material designed to equip participants with es-

sential skills and best practices in disaster manage-

The programme featured expert sessions, inter-

knowledge gained at the community level.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADC highlighted

ning to minimize disaster-related risks.

The primary objective of the programme was to

The event witnessed active participation from a

The programme was presided over by Addition-

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 10: The District Adminis-



Threadbare discussion was held on preparedness of District Ad-

ministrations and the preventive measures to be implemented for

prevention of Dengue. Readiness of hospitals, availability of medi-

cal 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

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 Sulla 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 Cark 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 aesthet-

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 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

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 Yuktdhara 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, $and \, comprehensive \, guidelines \, on \, permissible \, works \,$

 $The \, session \, modules \, aimed \, at \, bridging \, knowledge$ 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.

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



serving 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

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 BSNL4G mobile towers in the

The meeting focused on measures to expedite the installation of BSNL4G 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 coordination 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 Dangiwacha, as well as the Divisional Engineer of BSNL Baramulla and other concerned



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 thoughtprovoking 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

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. Murtaza 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 sessions with enthusiasm and curios-

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.







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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 Mukt 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 $the \, National \, TB \, Elimination \, Programme$

 $The \,DC \,took \,comprehensive \,review$ of TB-related activities across the dis-

The Chair was apprised about the progress achieved under the TB Mukt 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 treat-

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 suc-

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

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

The DC maintained that the District

administration is committed towards eradicating tuberculosis from Budgam by strengthening multi-sectoral coordination, 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 Mukt 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, Baram-

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, $wild life\ products, and\ unauthorized$

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

awareness, and ensuring Team Coordination through effective communication during operations was also covered during the training program. The training culminated in in-

strategies for handling resistance and managing confrontational

situations professionally. Safety and

Communication, covering the use

of protective gear, enhancing Per-

sonal Safety through situational

tensive 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 Ulooms 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 Ulooms 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

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



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.

Mission YUVA Boosts Youth

Entrepreneurship in Baramulla with

350 Cases Approved

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

towards empowering the youth and fostering eco-

nomic self-reliance, the District Level Implementation

Committee (DLIC), Baramulla, has approved 350

BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 10: In a progressive step

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)

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

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 Faroog.

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.

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 innovationdriven 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.

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 selfawareness 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 relationshipsboth essential for mental well-

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 cultureof 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

HT EDITORIAL

CODA

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. Mashoog Chmed A Brilliant Star of Urdu Literature of Kulgam, Kashmir



S. Mashoog 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.

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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 analysesof 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 Jaoon 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

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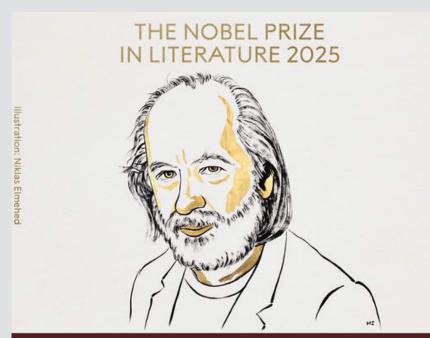
Herscht 07769 (2025), his most recent novel, set in Thüringen, Germany, portrays social unrest against the backdrop of Bach's legacy. Written "in a single breath," it was lauded for its fusion of beauty and chaos. The Boss is enraged by a graffiti artist who is defacing the various monuments to Johann 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 Swedigh 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 world 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-andwhite 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



László Krasznahorkai

"for his compelling and visionary oeuvre that, in the midst of apocalyptic terror, reaffirms the power of art"

THE SWEDISH ACADEMY

flees 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 and 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 provincial 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, Ottilie 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& President Kolkata Indian American Society & Associate Editor Ayomoy & multilingual Columnist Email: profratanbhattacharjee@gmail.com

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

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 $person\, sharing\, them\, has\, a\, close\, connection\, with\, the$

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

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.

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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

15TH PUBLICATION HEADLINES

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 substanceuse disorders," Dr Yasir Rather, Professor, Department of Psychiatry, IMHANS, said. "This number itself reflects the growing demand for accessible, affordable, and stigmafree 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

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 burnout," 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 healthcare 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

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

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 longterm mental health impacts on communities," they said.

Experts agreed that a multidimensional 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, and using physical health as a necessary tool for 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

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. Seconhd, 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 rec $ognize\,signs\,of worry\,in\,their\,peers. Their\,regular$ 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

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 scal $able, available\, support\, for\, every\, member\, of\, the$ academic community.

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







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*forChildrenWithSpecial

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 daylong 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

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

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

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, Ikhrajpora, 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 Najeeb Sakib Dar of Malabagh Ellahibagh, Owais Muneer Bhat of Dangarpora, Owais Ahmad Bhat of Anchar, Danish Ayoub Badoo of Hawal, Umar Fayaz and Hashim Farooq of Ikhrajpora, Zahid Rashid Ganie of Methan, and several others from Dangerpora, 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

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.

Contact Number: 7006888342

Laptop Care House

Wholesale Dealer Of New And Pre Used Laptops DEALS IN ALL KINDS OF LAPTOPS AND ACCESSORIES



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: -

- 1		U			_	,			
	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.	Degenintien		Dat	e	Time
S. No.	Description	DD	MM	YYYY	1 ime
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 (<u>iktenders.gov.in</u>)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:

Scanned copies of Treasury Challan/Receipt and Earnest Money Deposit CDR/FDR Scanned copy of Valid Registration Card.

Scanned copy of self-attested bidder details as per the format annexed.

Scanned copy of the latest Income Tax Return.

Scanned copy GST return in FORMGST-3B of the last quarter.

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

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.

Rates submitted by the bidders in the BOO.

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 Pulwamaby 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 (<u>iktenders.gov.in</u>)

Dated: 09-10-2025

- 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

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

No: PHEP/2533-43

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



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

@HEADLINESTODA17

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 occa-

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 com- event will facilitate interac- buyers, ensuring economic munity. He added that the tions between artisans and

up-liftment for the artisan

Jammu and Kashmir's rich art

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-

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 highimpact 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

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 peoplefriendly 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 administra-

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

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 DistrictOneProduct(ODOP)initiatives to boost district-level exports, strengthen market linkages and integrate local producers into global value chains.

DC Kupwara Inaugurates Robotic

Lab at BHSS Kupwara

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

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 Second-

modern technology with the traditional education

system, with an aim to equip students with 21st-

century skills including robotics, coding, artificial

ticipation of CPO Kupwara, Parvaiz Ahmad; Chief

Education Officer, Mehraj-u-din Shah; In-charge

Principal, Mushtaq Ahmad Mareed; and faculty mem-

bers, besides a large number of enthusiastic students

intelligence, automation, and design thinking.

The initiative marks a major step in integrating

The inauguration ceremony witnessed the par-

ary School (BHSS), Kupwara.

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 10: In a landmark move

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



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 checking drives across different markets 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.

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

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 exhibi-

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

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



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 evidencebased planning. He emphasized that data validation points must be clearly defined and crossverified 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 Sang-

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 Choikorling 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 Under-

standing (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 state-

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

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," Presdent 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

Magnitude 7.5 earthquake hits southern Philippines

United News of India

MANILA, OCT 10: An offshore earthquake with a magnitude of 7.5 struck Davao Oriental province in the southern Philippines on Friday morning, prompting the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology to issue a tsunami warning for coastal areas in Mindanao.

In a report, the institute said that the quake, which occurred at 9:43 a.m. local time (0143 GMT), struck at a depth of 20 kilometers, approximately 44 kilometers northeast of the municipality of Manay.

The institute initially reported the earthquake's magnitude as 7.6.

The institute also strongly advised residents in coastal communities to immediately move to higher ground and stay away from the shore, warning that hazardous tsunami waves of more than 1 meter may impact areas near the epicenter within minutes to hours.

"These waves may continue for hours," said the tsunami warning, adding that they may be "more than 1 meter above the normal tides and may be higher on enclosed bays and straits." 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-Attariland 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 Jaishe-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 Afghanistan, 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

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

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.

CMYK

HT-SPORTS

WPL teams allowed

five player retentions

ahead of November

mega auction

■ Nagraj Gollapudi

(WPL). ESPNcricinfo has learned that the dead-

line for announcing retentions is November 5,

which has been communicated to the teams,

and the auction window will be between No-

WPL said a maximum of three capped Indian players, a maximum of two overseas players,

and a maximum of two uncapped Indian play-

ers can be retained by each team. And if a fran-

chise opts to retain five players, then at least

In an email to franchises on Thursday, the

vember 25 and 29.

MUMBAI: Franchises can retain a maximum of five players ahead of the mega auction for the 2026 season of the Women's Premier League

The Art of Jadeja: Subtle Genius Hiding In Plain Sight

Karthik Krishnaswamy

15th CHEADLINES

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 delivery 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 dustbowls 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 ladeja'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, un-

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-ofthe-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 threeman 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

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; four 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

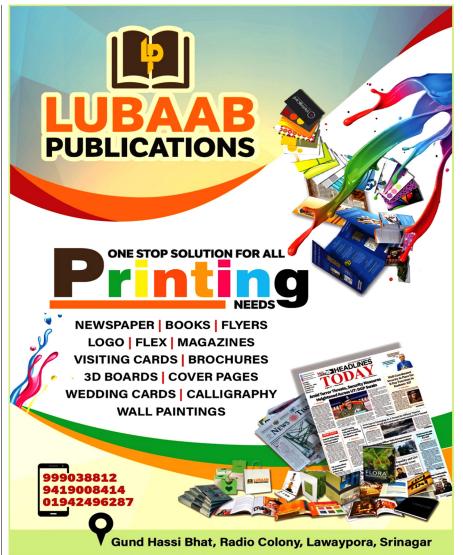


Gill wants 'to look forward and win everything' he can, in every format

■ 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







Alienation and Existential Dismay: Hosh's Poetic Landscape





The Lost Library Card







The **Firmament** Glitters in Kashmir



Literary Review of The Isle of Fantasy by Ayaz Rasool Nazki







Zahid Mukhtar: The Conscience in Verse...



The Court







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HT Saturday - LitStream

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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HT Saturday

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POETRY CORNER



Lily Swarn

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Akram Sidiqui

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Mandira Ghosh

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Rukhsana Jabeen



Ghani Ghayoor

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





ShahNawaz Nazir nawazrather786@gmail.com

ahid 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 Navee 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-

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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 navees 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, embrac-

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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 eves, 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

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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.

Bevond 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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CONT. ON PAGE 09





Alienation and Existential Dismay: Hosh's Poetic Landscape



Professor Muhammad Aslam

The Poe

Noor-ud-din, alias 'Hosh', is a contemporary Kashmiri poet from North Kashmir's Pattan town, 20 kilometres from the main city, Srinagar. I have met him on many occasions, in seminars and public events, but got introduced to his poetic genius through his poetic collection, Nesaf Shab (Midnight, 2017). Nesaef Shab contains 191 quatrains (a few quatrains are encomiums), and seven hymns and encomiums (pp. 13-28) written in the ghazal form. Each quatrain consists of, on average, 24-28 words.

Quatrains, also called 'Rubaiyat', are four-line stanzas. Rubaiyat is originally a Persian-Arabic term. It gained popularity in English with the publication of Edward FitzGerald's English translation of The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam in 1858. Rubaiyat follows a specific rhyme scheme, AABA, that is, the first, second, and fourth lines have the same rhyme.

The Kashmiri equivalent of rubai is 'vatsun' or 'vakh', an ancient poetic form used by Lal Ded, Sheikhul-Aalam and Habba Khatoon, in particular. It is said that Mir Ghulam Rasool Nazki has used this form in his poetic collection, Noornamah. However, unlike Rubaiyat, Kashmiri 'vatsun' (or 'vakh') follows rhyme scheme ABAB as in:

aayas kami dishi ta kami vate A gatsha kami dishi kava zaana vathB

anti day lagimay tate A
chaenis phokas kanh ti no sath B
What direction did I come from,
and what road should I take?

What direction shall I go? How would I know the path?

I'd finally find the right direction Empty breath has no value

On the other hand, Rubaiyat follows a rhyme scheme of AABA, as in The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam:
AWAKE! For Morning in the Bowl of Night A

Has flung the Stone that puts the Stars to Flight: A

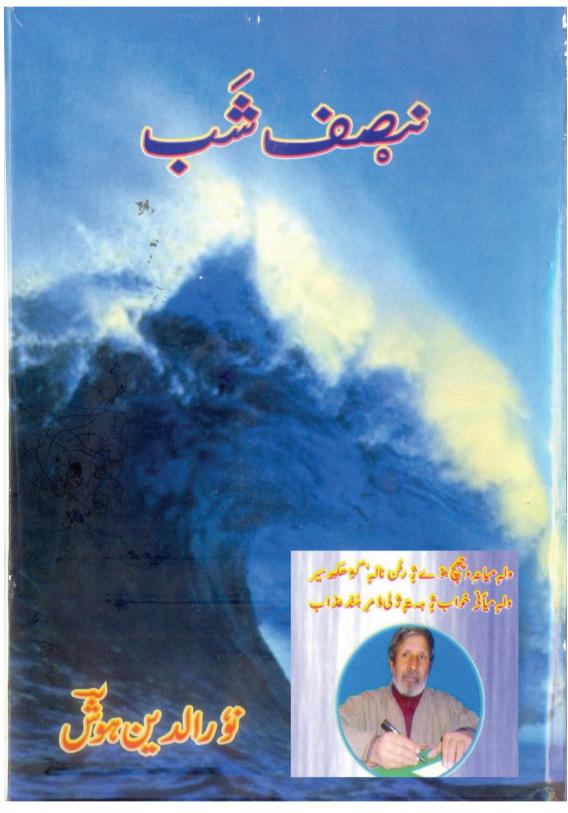
And lo! the Hunter of the East has caught B

The Sultan's Turret in a Noose of Light. A

Hosh too follows the rhyme scheme of Rubaiyat in his quatrains (you may call them vakhs). I have chosen three quatrains from his poetic collection, Nesaf Shab, in both original and transliterated forms, before providing their

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English translation. A small warning about translation would be very apt at this point. Translations can never be equal to the original, especially when the original and the target languages are culturally distinct. The problem is compounded when one is translating poetry. "Translating poetry is challenging because it requires conveying not just literal meaning but also intri-

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cate elements like rhyme, rhythm, meter, metaphors, sound devices (alliteration, assonance), and cultural nuances, which are often language-specific and difficult to replicate in another language without sacrificing some of the original poem's artistic essence. A successful translation attempts to find a balance between maintaining the original intent, preserving the aes-

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thetic qualities, and creating a new, equally impactful poetic experience for the target audience". Although I have tried to be as faithful as possible to the original, I realise that there could be many misses that are very difficult to fill. Since the original Kashmiri versions are also there, Kashmiri-knowing people will feel more comfortable than non-Kashmiri readers. For them,

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♦CMYK♦

Literature



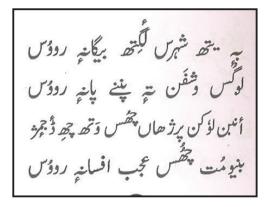
the transliterated versions might help them to understand the linguistic and cultural nuances of our mother tongue.

Let's read the poems first. Their critical assessment is given at the end, which I hope will help us understand the poetic landscape of the poet.

Quatrain 1

Transliteration

ba yeth shahras lagith begaana rovus logus vashfan ta panane pana rovus anen lukan pritshan chus vath chi daejmaets banyomut chus ajab afsana rovus



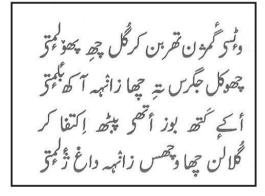
Translation

Coming to this city, I got lost as a stranger. Came here by mistake and lost the Self, I'm asking the blind; I've lost my way, I've become a strange myth and am lost.

Quatrain 2

Transliteration

laren shyuniyah kanil gaamas karakh kyah be patsh obras be sokh shaamas karakh kyah yiman jandan andar aedrith tsa tshaendrakh vasi vuth daari ath baamas karakh kyah



Translation

Abandoned are houses; what will you do with the barren village? What will you do with the untrustworthy cloud and the depressed evening? Getting wet, you will freeze in these torn clothes.

What will you do with the roof when the rain pours through the window?

Quatrain 3

Transliteration

vatis gaemtsan tharen kar gul chi pholmaet chokal jigras ti chya zaanh aakh baelmaet

رین شُنیاه کنیکو گامس کرکھ کیاه بیخ پژهاه برس بیخ سو کھ شامس کرکھ کیاه بیمن جندن اندر أورتھ بر شندر کھ دارہ آتھ بامس کرکھ کیاه

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akaey kath boz aethy peth iktifa kar gulalan cha vachas zaanh daagh tsaelmaet

Translation

Have flowers ever bloomed on lifeless plants? Have the wounds of an injured heart ever healed? Just listen to one thing, and be content with it—Have the scars on Poppy's chest ever vanished?

Critical Assessment of Three Poems

The three poems given above share a common theme of loss, alienation, and existential dismay. However, each of them employs distinct imagery, symbolism, and tone to convey these sentiments.

Quatrain 1

This is about a speaker who arrives in an unfamiliar city and gets lost or marooned, both physically and metaphorically. The repetition of 'lost' denotes a state of existential dislocation—the speaker loses his way and the self. The speaker has lost his identity and has become a myth. Not only that, but he also asks the blind for direction, which is a heartrending metaphor for seeking guidance from those who can't see themselves. The speaker appears to be completely alienated. The poem's diction is very lucid, and its length is too short for such a theme. We fail to get an insight into the speaker's predicament. We don't find sufficient details about the "city" and/or what "strange myth" the speaker has become, though the theme revolves around his getting lost.

The desolation recalls T. S. Eliot's The Waste Land (ruined landscapes, broken homes, despairing tone) as in:

Unreal city.

Under the brown fog of a winter dawn,

A crowd flowed over London Bridge, so many, I had not thought death had undone so many.

Sighs, short and infrequent, were exhaled,

And each man fixed his eyes before his feet. Faiz Ahmad Faiz also has used imagery of wartorn cities and dislocated villages in his poems ('subh-e-azaadi' is a good example). The use of ordinary, rustic imagery to convey universal despair also echoes modernist Urdu poetry, where the domestic scene becomes symbolic of civilizational ruin

Quatrain 2

In this poem, an abandoned and decaying world is portrayed, which conveys the physical and emotional desolation that the speaker finds himself in. The images of "abandoned houses" "barren village" and "untrustworthy clouds" bring before us a bleak scenario in which there is no way to come out. "What will you do?" is a powerful question, symbolising insecurity and the failure of traditional protection. The futility of action in the world is conveyed through the image of rain pouring through the window, though the roof seems intact. The picture of some ambiguous 'you" whose clothes are torn and would freeze depicts a dismal picture of the environment in which this "you" is living. Struct urally, the poem benefits from its two-part division—external decay (village, cloud) and personal vulnerability (wet clothes, leaking roof)—but could be strengthened by a clearer connection between these elements to deepen the thematic unity.

Quatrain 3

The third Quatrain is very personal and contains some universal truths. The imagery of "lifeless plants" and "scars on Poppy's chest" is so vivid that the reader is compelled to take them as natural and personal metaphors for pain. "Numerous poppy species have prominent black markings at the base of their petals, often referred to as black spots (or "chests")". The speaker likens these black spots to "scars" that will never go away. "Just listen to one thing, and be content with it," urges the listener not to hope for any recovery from pain but to accept that like the poppy's black spots, pain and suffering are going to stay there for life. Time seems to have no effect, and the physical and emotional wounds would persist. Hence, the emotionally charged piece of advice, be contented with it".

Comparative Analysis

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Collectively, the three poems form a triptych of

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loss, each exploring a different facet of alienation. In (Q)uatrain 1, the self is lost in an unfamiliar world. In Q2, the world itself is abandoned and decaying, and in Q3, the narrator is facing a personal trauma where the heart is unable to heal. The three poems share a common theme: existential despair and the futility of seeking resolution. The poet has employed vivid imagery and used rhetorical questions to enhance the elegiac tone of the poems. The brevity of the poems increases their emotional impact, but at the same time limits their depth as each quatrain looks like a fragment of a larger, untold story. The use of rhetorical questions is a unifying stylistic choice, but it becomes repetitive across the three poems, thereby reducing their overall impact.

The tone of the poems is one of disorientation, melancholy and resignation, conveying the narrator's external alienation and internal dismay. However, their lack of specific context or speakers makes them feel somewhat detached, as readers are left to infer the circumstances behind the emotions. This ambiguity can be a strength, allowing universal interpretation, but also a weakness, as it risks leaving the poems feeling incomplete or overly abstract.

Conclusion

The three poems are powerful in their evocation of loss and alienation, using concise language and vivid imagery to create a haunting emotional landscape. Eliot mourns the desolation in The Wasteland ('The Fire Sermon') this way:

The river's tent is broken: the last fingers of leaf Clutch and sink into the wet bank. The wind

Crosses the brown land, unheard. The nymphs are departed.

Sweet Thames, run softly, till I end my song. The river bears no empty bottles, sandwich

papers,
Silk handkerchiefs, cardboard boxes, cigarette

Or other testimony of summer nights. The nymphs are departed.

And their friends, the loitering heirs of City directors:

Departed, have left no addresses.

By the waters of Leman I sat down and wept . . . Sweet Thames, run softly till I end my song,

Sweet Thames, run softly, for I speak not loud or long.

But at my back in a cold blast I hear

The rattle of the bones, and chuckle spread from ear to ear.

The common themes and the use of rhetorical questions, natural and human metaphors give the quatrains the strength of reaching to a universal audience. While appreciating the poetic genius of Hosh, I feel that the quatrain form, due to its limited structure, has restricted the depth of the theme in the poems. Also, the repetitive use of questions feels somewhat monotonous. Although the poems are poignant portrayals of loss and pain, I found it rather difficult to explore their deeper meanings due to their thematic ambiguity. For example: (1) What "city" has the narrator gotten lost in? (2) What "strange myth" has he become? There are other ambiguous statements, which made it difficult for me to understand the real import of the poems. Or, should we read them as having philosophical underpinnings and read each poem as an exploration into SELF that has lost its way (the "city" in question)? In other words, has the poet delved into his SELF and found no way of salvation, and, therefore, turned into a "barren village"? Is this an identity crisis? Who is the narrator talking to? God, or self in the form of "vou"? The Nesaf Shab collection isn't allegorical in nature like Omar Khayyam's The Rubaiyat. I didn't find Hosh like a sage or mystic whose soul romances with God as does Khayyam in his quatrains. People have been having difficulties in understanding the real meaning of Khayyam's verses. So have I in comprehending the real meaning behind Hosh's vatsun. Having said this, I find Hosh's poetic landscape vast and varied, which needs to be explored further to place him appropriately in the literary history of Kashmiri literature.



The Firmament Glitters in Kashmir

Short Story



Dr Ratan Bhattachariee

he 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 heartbeat, 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.

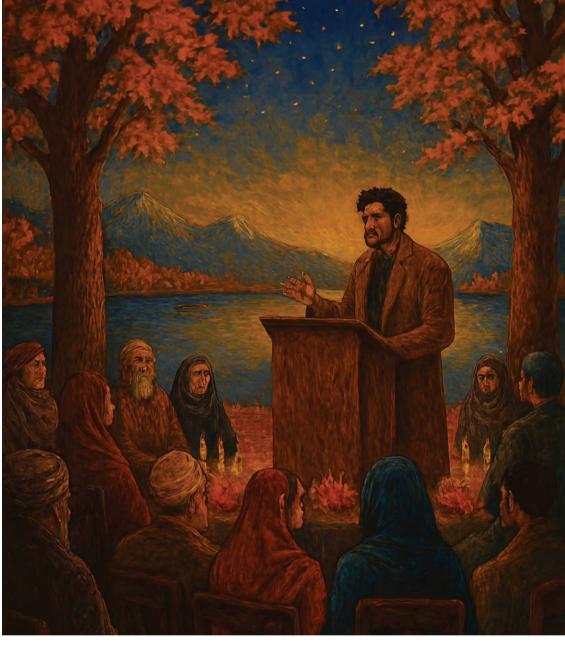
Now, after years, they were to meet again.

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

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"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 vou remember our first autumn here?" Akash asked.

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

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"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." Avesha 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

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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

"Maybe we start again," he said. The wind rustled through the leaves, carrying their laughter across the lake. And in that moment, the firmament glittered not just in Kashmir, but in their

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The Lost Library Card



Dr Sarita Chauhan

nava had grown up in a world where books no longer smelled of paper or ink. Stories were streamed through headsets, textbooks floated as holograms in classrooms, and novels were whispered by AI narrators who never paused to breathe. She loved them, of course-her friends laughed at audiobooks together, and exams were impossible without the school's VR archives. Yet one day, when she found the stiff rectangle paper kept very neatly in the drawer, something inside her shifted. She had never seen such postcard kind of thing in her life.

It was pale blue, edges curled. with faded letters that read: Municipal Library, Cardholder: Savitri Mehta. Below was a tiny photograph of a smiling young womanher grandmother—who had died before Anaya was born.

Why would someone treasure this when every word in the world now lives on a chip? Is there any use? Umpteen questions ravaged her mind.

That evening, while her parents argued about traffic and bills. Anaya slipped the card into her pocket and decided to find out.

The municipal library sat at the corner of Old Bazaar Street, squashed between a crumbling movie hall and a juice stall. She had walked past it many times, never noticing the peeling paint or the crooked board. Now, standing at its rusted gate, she felt like she was entering another century.

Inside, rows of shelves leaned like tired soldiers. Dust lay thick on the wooden floor, and a single tube light flickered above the entrance desk. Behind it sat an old man, white hair falling over his glasses. absorbed in a crossword puzzle.

Anaya slid the card forward timidly.
"Does this still... work?"

The man adjusted his glasses, squinting. Then his eyes widened.

"Ah. Savitri." His voice was a mixture of surprise and tenderness. "She was my favorite reader. Always borrowing poetry. Never returned this last book."

He pulled out a register, its pages brittle with age, and ran a finger down the list. "Yes, here. Tagore's The Crescent Moon. Borrowed, never brought back."

Anaya's chest tightened. "Can I

borrow a book... with this card?" He chuckled. "Child, no one borrows books anymore. They're shutting this place down next week. A mall is coming."

But something in her stubborn

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gaze made him hesitate. Slowly, he opened a drawer and slid the card under an ancient scanner. A beepweak, but real—filled the silence.

"Well," he said softly. "It seems the library remembers her.

The book he handed her was heavy, cloth-bound, smelling faintly of rain. When she opened it at home, a yellowed slip of paper fluttered out. On it, in graceful handwriting, were the words:

To my future reader,

If you find this, know that stories do not end when systems collapse. They outlive shelves, screens, and even the people who hold them. Carry forward the rhythm of words. That will be my gift to you.

It was signed: Savitri.

Anaya's fingers trembled. She had never met her grandmother, yet here was a voice speaking across time. She read the poems deep into the night, whispering the lines aloud, letting them linger in the room like incense.

The next day at school, she showed the note to her best friend,

Kabir.
"You're going to save the

"Mavbe I am."

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He rolled his eyes. "Anaya, you can't fight bulldozers with poems. "Then help me try," she shot

That Friday, Anaya dragged a few classmates to the library. Some laughed at the musty smell, others

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coughed in the dust, but when the old librarian placed books in their hands, something happened. They began to read aloud—hesitantly at first, then with growing excitement.

One girl recited a Hindi couplet about monsoon clouds, her voice echoing in the empty hall. Kabir read a Sherlock Holmes story, complete with dramatic pauses. Anaya herself opened her grandmother's book and let Tagore's verses spill into the air.

For hours, the library was alive again. The old man leaned back. tears glistening in his eyes. "It's been years since I heard children read in here," he whispered.

They promised to return the next day, and the next. Word spread. By Sunday, a dozen children crowded the aisles, bringing friends, cousins, and even parents. The juicestall vendor joined in, reading an Urdu ghazal that made everyone

It was as if the library, long asleep, had awakened to greet them.

On Monday morning, the demolition trucks arrived.

Engines rumbled outside the gate, and men in helmets carried blueprints. But they found the entrance blocked—not by chains, but by children, each holding a book or a faded library card. Anaya stood in front, her grandmother's card pressed against her chest.

"This is our library,"

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declared, her voice quivering but steady. "You can't erase it."

The workers muttered, confused. The old librarian shuffled forward, standing beside her. "We'll read here until you leave," he said. And they did. Voices rose—

Tagore, Premchand, Conan Doyle, anonymous poets—threads of language weaving a barricade stronger than stone. Passersby stopped to watch out of curiosity, some called it madness, but still everyone was stopping to see what's happening. Some joined in. For a moment, the noise of engines was drowned by the music of words.

No one knew what would happen next. Perhaps the bulldozers would push through. Perhaps the authorities would dismiss them as children's mischief. But Anaya knew, with a certainty that felt like her grandmother's hand on her shoulder: even if the walls fell, the rhythm of words would not.

She raised her voice and read aloud the last line of the poem, clear and bright against the morning air:

"The night is dark, but the dawn has not forgotten us.

(Dr Sarita Chauhan Chairperson of JSM Group is a writer and author of three books, with a PhD in English Literature She is a TEDx speaker & Founder of Write Up Your Soul also a world record holder author earning distinctions with Gems world book of Records and India Book of Records.)

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Zahid Mukhtar: The Conscience in Verse...

Literature



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ne 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, youe 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:

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"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 pairoñ 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

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

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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 chinar 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.

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In that silence, one feels his

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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, sin-

cerity without spectacle.
What gives Zahid Mukhtar's work its timeless relevance is its moral poise. In a literary culture where poetry often flirts with selfpity 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 inside vourself.

"Main 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

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Literary Review of The Isle of Fantasy by Ayaz Rasool Nazki



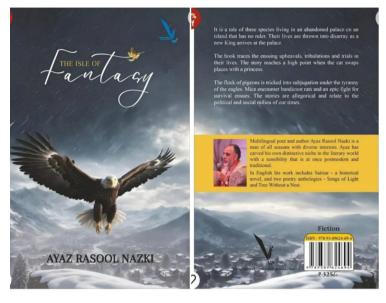
Mushtaque B Barq

yaz Rasool Nazki's The Isle of Fantasy stands as a precisely constructed fantasy novel that integrate 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 portraved 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

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

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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, exhibit-ing 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

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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). Flashbacks 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 spelt 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 kev-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, 207). 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

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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 predominant 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 criticality analysis authoritarianism and Lord of the Flies brings at surface democratic fragility, Avaz 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.

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A Dog Got Scared Of a...

Literature

Muitaba Faroog

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n 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 young er than me, but already too old. A weak body, skin spared, fur hardly – 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

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 corruption. 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 unwayering. 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

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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

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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

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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

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Poetry Corner



The Old Tin Trunk



Lily Swarn sukhish83@gmail.com

The old tin trunk had peeling paint

A dismal black with silver showing through

It was the last remnant of our army fossils

I had kept it in the basement garage

Just as a reminder of the vaga-

bond life
It had looked a tad sheepish in

the house

Trying to fit in amongst the modern luggage

Most of its peers had been given off

Once we dropped anchor in Chandigarh

This rattling box could tell a million stories

It's rusty hinges had seen so much

Beginning its journey on the special train

To the National Defence Academy

And later to the Indian Military Academy

Then it started its adventurous travels across remote cantonments
My first meeting with the black beauty

Was when I came as a coy bride Learning to make extra seating Out of joined trunks with similar sizes

This one was different I peeped inside inquisitively Out came well worn lungis And Bukhari smoked curtains The only worldly possessions Of my brand new Captain!

He was possessive of his first trunk

Devotedly showering it with fresh coats of black paint

And his name in white stencil letters

I learnt to love it as time passed It carried in its large heart Memories of a lifetime Hurts and rejections Love and wars Borders and pathways Desert storms and snow blizzards Floods and cloudbursts Promotion letters and calls to war Exercises and war games I let it go one day Just as I did some humans

(Lily Swarn, International Beat Poet Laureate (India) 2023–2024 and Caesar Vallejo Award winner, is an acclaimed multilingual poet and author. Her tenth book, A Drop of Cosmos (Authors Press), is available on Amazon. Recipient of over 70 literary awards, including the Chandigarh Sahitya Akademi Award, her poetry appears in 21 languages.)

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Twice I lived



Akram Sidiqui sidiquirayan@gmail.com

Rebirth I took ,not once, but twice.

First , when maturity came to me like a cloak stitched from borrowed wisdom,

I began to let my mind reign as a restless monarch, crafting illusions like glass lanterns,

brainwashing the gullible with flickers of false light,

and draping myself in a halo I had hammered from hollow gold.

I circled the mirror of my own importance, self-centric, self-absorbed.

self-centric, self-absorbed. Again ,I took birth when I stepped beyond

when I stepped beyond that brittle crown of reason and placed my voyage in the hands of my heart.

I hastened toward the labours that outlive their doer,

let meekness become my native tongue,

and clothed my toils in the quiet silk of a smile.

Each effort became a seed entrusted

to the patient earth of selflessness.

Blood Moon



Mandira Ghosh

Not in the sky But one can see Blood moon from Cape Comorin Moon dips in sea. Leaving its aura In the sky and sea Leaving the earth Spellbound and on spree. With water crystal clear and reflections in sky Blood moon Scattered its red rays in water Forgetting it s place is the sky.

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وتھ آس رآومڑے تس تہ پوز میے ما ہآوس یوتاں بہ سیتی پچییس تمس بہ تے رآوس چھ از تہ سے میے اوچھ شراکہ ہیتھ پتے دوراں

ہے آر اوس زندے یمی بہ میژ اندر سآوس سہ پننہ عملہ پتو دراؤ یتہ تہ گلی موراں میے سیزر پزر برد آسی تھے پھلے چھآوس یہ آنہ چھم میے وچھاں عائہ زنتہ میں بیو کانہہ

یےوایہ پآٹھی توے از دلچ کتھا بآوس وجود چھم تہ کھڑا چھس ، خدا تہ سیتی میے حھم

بہ چھس نہ ژھای ، دپو کآنسہ کیا پتھر پآوس اگر نہ پیالہ سہ بر با ، بہ آسہ با مومژ پتو حیآتی تمی دژ میے یمی زبر چآوس



(Translation in English By Professor Sayyed Ahmad)

To him, the pathway had been lost

And in fact, I didn't guide him through

Even now with daggers unseen he in hot pursuit stalks me Ruthless was he , who burried me alive .

As the denouement of his deeds , he at last departed hence wringing his hands.

Quite simply despite the autumn l did relish the flowerage.
This mirror is staring at me, as if someone a look alike of myself.
That is why l madly confided in him the bill and coo.

l have my own self which l stand upon , and God also stands by me .

l am not a shadow , which , so to say , someone has trumpled upon. Had he not filled the goblet ${\bf l}$ would have seized to be .

After all awakened $\bar{m}e$ to life he , who the hemlock portioned to me .

(Kashmiri ghazal of Rukhsana Jabeen translated into English by Prof Sayyed Ahmad



خموشی ہی ہماری اب زباں ہے جہانِ بے زباں کے ترجماں ہیں

کوئی تو اپنے کاندھوں پر اٹھائے ہماری لاش کے وارث کہاں ہیں

کوئی تو چہرے مُہرے انکے دیکھے! جو آئے داستاں در داستاں ہیں

ادھوری خواہشیں، جنت کے دعوے پریشاں لوگ کتنے خوش گماں ہیں

نہیں محتاج دستِ خوبرو کے ہم اپنی آنکھ سے خود ہی رواں ہیں

(غنی غیور)

(Translations)

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I speak in the language of silence, Representing the world of silence, Methinks.

There is no pallbearer, Alas! Isn't there no devisee? Ah! We never saw them, the lot. The Undefiled and The Holy, From the other world. Parched desires And a promise of paradise In the yonder World, Oh! The poor yearning souls. Now, I won't fall for the Design of a damsel, Ain't I gifted enough to Move myself to tears.

Translated By Dr Basharat Khan)

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The Court

Literature



Author: Tario Shabnam tariqs709@gmail.com



Translator: Imran Rather rmohmadimran@gmail.com

"Doctor, for some days now, I have been feeling pains and aches all over my body. Despite taking medications and undergoing various treatments. I am not experiencing any relief," the patient expressed his helplessness while placing an envelope filled with medicines in front of the doctor.

"There's no need to panic at all. Just take these medications, and you will be absolutely fine in a few days," the doctor said, handing him a prescription after examining him, and then turned his attention to the next patient.

At that moment, a new, fashionably attractive car pulled up in front of the clinic, blinding the doctor with its shine. His surprise reached its peak when he saw Saleem getting out of the car, twirling the keys on his finger like a movie hero as he entered the clinic. The doctor welcomed him with enthusiasm and, after tending to other patients, focused on Saleem.

"Hello, Mr. Saleem, what brings you here today? You've bought an impressive car," he said.

'Doctor, this car isn't even worth the dust on your shoes. Here, take it; it's yours," Saleem said, dramatical-

ly presenting the keys.
"Thank you, Saleem..." The doctor, feeling a sense of envy toward him, smiled, thinking it was a joke. However, Saleem spoke again, this time seriously.

"Yes, Doctor, you can become the owner of this car in a snap.

"Saleem, what kind of joke is this? How could such an expensive car possibly belong to me?" the doctor

'It can belong to you, sir, absolutely," Saleem continued, moving closer to the doctor and engaging in a conspiratorial manner. "Doctor, isn't it clever? Mangoes for mangoes, pits for price."

After some time of conversation, feeling satisfied, Saleem stood to leave, and the doctor nodded in agreement, acknowledging his approval.

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"Anyway, for now, take this car. I'll think about this deal, and we'll definitely finalize it tomorrow," said the doctor.

Saleem, who was an expert in flattery and persuasion, attempted to charm the doctor with a delightful smile. The doctor was momentarily caught up in a whirlwind of thoughts, and greed began to ignite within him like a flame. Saleem quickly sensed from the doctor's countenance that he had fallen into his trap.

"Mr. Saleem, take the car for now; I will think about this deal, and we'll finalize it tomorrow," the doctor said, handing the keys back.

That's fine, Doctor. A horse can be taken to the river, but it shouldn't be forced to drink. Go through these papers carefully; I will come again tomorrow. Goodbye," Saleem said, taking out some papers from his pocket and handing them to the doctor before leaving.

Saleem had worked for many years as a salesman in Dr. Riyaz's pharmacy. Later, he opened his own shop and, shortly afterward, started wholesale trading of medicines. Now, he was among the prominent businessmen in the city, owning a lavish bungalow, an office, servants, and all the comforts of life.

The doctor observed his old, worn-out car parked in front of the clinic while lost in thought.

"This is just a play... an illusion... only Allah's name remains... Allahu..

Suddenly, a madman known as Sullah, a beggar, entered the clinic chanting these words, pulling the doctor out of his thoughts.

Spending the day treating patients left the doctor's heart and mind in tremors. He reached home in the evening and found himself weaving beautiful dreams on his bed, but sleep seemed to have sworn not to come. He spent the entire night riding on the flying carpet of sweet dreams, touring the heavens.

The next morning, he woke up donning a new suit and tie-swaving with joy and delight as he hurried to the clinic. His eyes sparkled

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with a strange glimmer because he had decided to let go of all his compassion in his quest to become the owner of an eight-lakh car.

Once seated behind his desk. he began looking over the papers Saleem had given him. Moments later, a woman entered, holding her innocent daughter, who looked strikingly like the doctor's own daughter.

"How is the little girl doing now?" he asked.

"Thanks to Allah, she has improved a lot."

'Alright then, we need to run some tests, and I'll write down some new medications. Please continue giving her the same medicine as before," he said hastily, picking up his pen to begin writing.

'Stop, Doctor!'

A voice clashed with his hearing. He glanced around, seeing no one but the girl and her mother. Assuming it to be his imagination, he smiled slightly and resumed writing.

What are you doing, Doctor? Have you sold yourself in the auction house of death?'

'Who are you?" the doctor thundered in a stern tone, beads of sweat forming on his forehead.

"Doctor, you seem a bit disturbed... are you feeling alright?" the woman asked, noticing his unease.

"I... I am fine. Please wait outside; I will call you in a bit," the doctor stammered, regaining his composure. He leaned back in his chair. holding his head in his hands and closing his eyes.

'Order... Order... Order! Keeping all witnesses and evidence in mind, this court convicts Dr. Riyaz and sentences him to death."

This is a lie, Your Honour! I didn't do anything. I am innocent!"

When the judge announced the verdict in the packed courtroom, the doctor-standing in the dock, his guilt shadowed by the lifeless bodies wrapped in coffins—began to cry like a widow.

"You are not even alive, Doctor, to grieve your death. Your death has long passed.'

A shadow appeared before the doctor, mocking him cruelly.

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"Who are you?" he gasped.

"Ha... ha... Don't you recognise me?"

"What... what wrong have I done?" the doctor fumbled in confusion.

"Doctor, you wear the attire of a healer while you are a grave digger... a grave digger! Poor, helpless patients sell their oxen, mortgage their wives' jewels, and auction their dreams, arriving with great hopes to you. You play with their lives to build your own palace of dreams."

'Stop... stop... stop!"

Standing in the dock, hearing these harsh words struck the doctor like a fish out of water. In that instant, his eyes popped open, drenched in sweat from head to toe. His head began to spin, and his body trembled. He grabbed a glass of water and gulped it down, wiping his forehead with a handkerchief.

Suddenly, a gentle breeze brushed against him.

"In spite of undergoing treatment and taking numerous medications, there was no relief," echoed the patient's words in his mind like a lightning bolt.

'This is just a play... an illusion... only Allah's name remains...

Suddenly, Sullah—the personification of death—entered the clinic.
"I am sorry, Your Honour..."

After Sullah's departure, the doctor found himself in a fierce internal struggle, grabbing his ears in self-dialogue. He tossed aside the papers given by Saleem and felt a heavy burden lift off him, sensing a lightness as he immersed himself back into treating his patients.

A little later, Saleem parked the car in front of the clinic and entered with an air of triumph, humming nonchalantly as he walked inside and plopped onto the sofa.

'Here you go, Saleem. I do not accept this deal," the doctor said, returning the papers without wasting a moment, rejecting Saleem's offer with disdain.

"What are you saying, Doctor?" Saleem exclaimed, his mouth agape in disbelief.

"I mean it. I don't need this car or any gift at all.'

"Doctor, think this through calmly. Fate is knocking at your door, and the stars of your fortune are shining bright."

"I have decided after careful consideration."

"Doctor... these medicines..."

"These medicines are fake—it's poison disguised as medicine... poison!'

The doctor, whose face turned pale as all the blood drained away, interrupted Saleem's words sharply. Saleem left the clinic with a look of defeat, resembling a gambler who

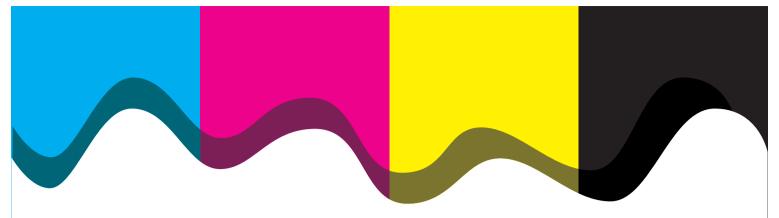
had lost everything.

(Translated from the Urdu short Story " Adalat authored by Tarique Shabnum)

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