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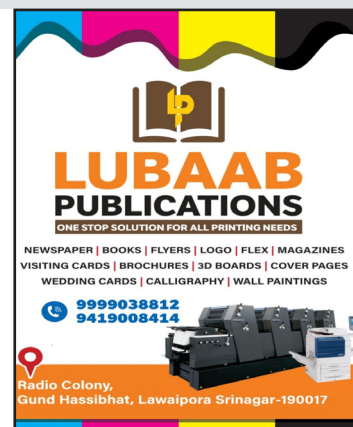
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15TH
YEAR OF
PUBLICATIONHEADLINES
TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless



We Must Get United for Aatm-Nirbhar J&K and Viksit Bharat : LG Manoj Sinha

Able Leadership of PM Modi Realised The Long-Cherished Dream of Dr Shyama Prasad Mukharji Through All-Round Development of J&K

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 31: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said that an "aspirational Jammu and Kashmir" was born on October 31, 2019, marking the dawn of peace, progress, and equal opportunity in the Union Territory.

Speaking at the Foundation Day celebrations of Jammu and Kashmir, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted that the UT has achieved remarkable milestones in infrastructure, governance, and social justice within a short span of time. "All forms of discrimination have been eliminated and social justice and equality established," he said.

Earlier, Sinha administered the Unity Pledge and flagged off the 'Run for Unity' event to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, India's first Home Minister and the architect of national integration.

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People Should Not Be Misled on Statehood: LG Manoj Sinha

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 31: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that the elected government in the Union Territory has full authority to function and should focus on governance rather than linking development to the restoration of statehood.

Speaking at a function marking the Foundation Day of the Union Territory of Jammu and

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Strong governance, unity crushed roots of terrorism in Kashmir: PM Modi

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 31: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that strong governance and national unity had crushed the roots of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that the region's complete integration after the abrogation of Article 370 reflected Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's vision of a united India.

He said Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had wanted to fully integrate Jammu and Kashmir with India, just as he did with other princely states, but that then Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru did not allow it.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), addressing the gathering after the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas parade at Ekta Nagar in Gujarat on the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Patel, Modi said Patel's goal was to bring every princely state under one flag and Constitution.

"Sardar Patel wanted to unite the entire Kashmir, just as he did with other princely states. But Nehru ji stopped his wish from being fulfilled. Kashmir was divided, given a separate Constitution and a separate flag, and the nation suffered for decades because of Congress's mistake," he said.

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Article 370 gone, J&K now integrated with India: Amit Shah

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 31: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi fulfilled Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's vision of a unified India by abrogating Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir, completing the mission that Patel had begun after Independence.



Speaking at the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations in Gujarat's Ekta Nagar, Shah, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said Sardar Patel had shown unparalleled determination in

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Let Our Work Speak After Five Years: CM

CM Omar Abdullah Inaugurates Noor Jahan Bridge at Qamarwari



■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 31: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today inaugurated the 3x43 metre PSC Girder Double Lane Noor Jahan Bridge at Qamarwari, constructed over the River Jhelum to significantly ease traffic congestion and improve connectivity between the two sides of

Srinagar city connecting Qamarwari with Noorbagh and serve as a vital link leading to Nallahmar road.

Built at a cost of Rs. 12.77 crore, the project marks a major step toward strengthening the city's road infrastructure and ensuring smooth vehicular movement, particularly in the densely populated Qamarwari and adjoining areas.

Addressing a large public gathering after inaugurating the bridge, the Chief Minister said, "This bridge's foundation was laid by me and after 11 years our government comes back to complete it and today dedicate it to the people."

He added, "Despite the hurdles we face in governance, my

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CM Lays Foundation of Central Veterinary Hospital at Athwajan

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 31: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today laid the foundation stone of the Central Veterinary Hospital at Athwajan, Srinagar, marking a major step towards strengthening

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CM Unveils Kashmir Marathon Expo at Polo View

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 31: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today inaugurated the exposition of

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50 percent teaching posts being de-frozen: Sakeena Itoo

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 31: Minister for Health and Education Departments, Sakeena Itoo today said that the government is de-freezing 50 percent of teaching posts in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Legislator Javaid Iqbal in the Legislative Assembly today.

She said that the recruitment of teachers would address staff shortage in schools and facilitate better education to the students, enrolled in government schools.

The Minister said that the government is taking massive infrastructure development of schools under SAMAGRA to provide adequate and all basic facilities to the students in all schools.

"Elected representatives are consulted for prioritizing infrastructure development in their areas," the Minister said.

Sharing details, the Minister said that there are total 917 positions of including Principals, Lecturers, ZEOs, Headmasters, Masters and Teachers

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College Upgrades Based on Public Need: Minister

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 31: Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo today said that the 52 newly sanctioned degree colleges are being made fully functional before any proposal will be taken for opening new degree colleges across Jammu and Kashmir.

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'Over 97,000 J&K employees await regularization, panel reviewing options'

■ HT NEWS DESK / KNO

SRINAGAR, OCT 31: More than 97,000 casual and other workers across Jammu and Kashmir are awaiting regularization as the government has constituted a committee to examine all related aspects before finalizing a policy decision.

The committee set up in March, 2025, has been tasked with reviewing humanitarian, legal and financial implications involved in the regularization process and suggesting a comprehensive framework for absorption of these workers into government service.

In response to a query by MLA Rajiv Jasrotia in the Legislative Assembly, the government, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the panel is undertaking an in-depth assessment covering constitutional, administrative and financial considerations.

The findings will form the basis of a uniform policy for all categories of temporary workers across the Union Territory.

According to official data, a total of 97,467 workers have been registered through Aadhar-based biometric identification and skill

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Govt elevates two Senior Engineers as In-Charge Chief Engineers

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 31: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has ordered the placement of two Superintending Engineers of the Jal Shakti Department as In-charge Chief Engineers.

As per the orders issued by Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti, Shaleen Kabra, upon their elevation, Er. Vijay Singh Manhas has been posted as Director Technical, Jammu and Kashmir Economic Reconstruction Agency (JKERA), while Er. Rajeev Gupta has been posted as

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CS Stresses Long-Term Roadmap for Higher Education in J&K

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 31: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today underscored the need for a comprehensive and futuristic roadmap to transform the higher education landscape in Jammu and Kashmir.

Chairing a high-level meeting to review the sector, he called upon the Higher Education Department to formulate a 5-10 year strategic plan aimed at elevating the stature of higher education and aligning it with contemporary academic, technological, and market needs.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Educa-



tion Department, Shantmanu; Director, Colleges; Managing Director, RUSA; and other senior officers of the department.

Emphasizing the importance of relevance and innovation, the Chief Secretary urged the Department to

revise the curriculum to make it more skill-oriented, industry-driven, and aspirational in outlook.

He stressed redesigning outdated courses and introducing new, market-driven programmes to ensure

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IGP among 20 J-K cops picked for MHA award for avenging Pahalgam attack

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 31: Twenty officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Police have received the "Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak" from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for their role in Operation Mahadev.

The officers were part of the counter-terror operation in which three Pakistani militants were killed, three months after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack. One of the slain militants, Suleiman alias Asif, was identified as the key

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Rs. 2.26 Cr WSS Gassu approved for supply of portable water in Hazratbal Constituency: Jal Shakti Minister

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR OCT 31 : Minister for Jal Shakti Department, Javed Ahmad Rana today said that the Rs. 2.26 Cr WSS Gassu has been approved for supply of portable water to residents of Hazratbal Constituency.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Legislator, Salman Sagar in the Legislative Assembly today.

He said that there habitations including Tailbal, Khimber, Chandpora, Gasoo, Faquir Gijree, Chatarhama and adjoining areas of Hazratbal Constituency are being supplied

drinking water supply facilities satisfactorily.

He said that these areas lie on the boundary of SMC and fall within the Ganderbal Division. However, during peak season, these areas are facing shortage of drinking water supply due to misuse of water by the inhabitants (online booster, watering gardens, washing vehicles and construction purposes etc). However, any shortage in supplies is addressed by deploying Water tankers.

Moreover, the area of Tailbal currently receives water from a 60,000-gallon Overhead Tank (OHT) sourced by a tube



well. To enhance the water supply to Tailbal and its adjoining areas and serve the growing demand in future, a new OHT is being constructed along with a dedicated bore well which is in the final stage of completion.

Further, he said that to augmentation the future demand, a new scheme under UT Capex titled WSS Gassu has been approved with an estimated cost of Rs. 226.32 lakhs and is under process of tendering.

Regarding the concerns of farmers confronting deficient irrigation facilities, the Minister said that the command

areas are adequately connected through the existing gravity canal system of the Mavas Canal, which is fed from the Dachigam Nallah. During peak season or in case of deficient rains/scarcity, additional irrigation requirements are being met through the Sind Extension Canal drawing water from the Nallah Sind (Ganderbal), and further tail end areas are supplemented by three Lift Irrigation Stations, namely LIS Batpora A & B and LIS Tailbal.

The Minister said that the adequate steps are being undertaken for strengthening

critical and vulnerable spots along irrigation canals to ensure smooth and uninterrupted irrigation facilities. In this regard, various works are already being taken up during CFY 2025-26 under M&R, CDF, and UT Capex.

Adding the Minister said that additionally, under the UT Capex, a provision of Rs. 100.00 lac has been earmarked for the strengthening of SE Canal for further upgradation and augmentation of drinking and irrigation facilities.

Supplementaries were raised by Legislator, Mubarak Gul and Tanvir Sadiq.

Legislators discuss peoples issues with Jal Shakti Minister

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 31: A delegation of several legislators today met Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, and apprised him of various issues of public importance pertaining to their respective constituencies.

The Legislators who called on the Minister included Sajjad Shafi Uri, Javaid Iqbal Choudhary, Zafar Ali Khatana, Salman Sagar and Shabir Ahmed Kullay.

During the meeting, the Legislators raised a number of issues concerning augmentation and strengthening of water supply infrastructure. They highlighted the need for improvement of potable drinking water facilities and other related matters aimed at ensuring reliable and equitable water availability to the public.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to the legislators and assured them that all genuine demands and developmental concerns would be addressed on priority.

He directed Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers (SEs), and Executive Engineers (XEs) of Jal Shakti Department to maintain close liaison and regular coordination with the legislators for effective and timely redressal of public grievances.

Rana emphasized that Jal Shakti Department is committed to ensuring sustainable and dependable water supply across all habitations of Jammu & Kashmir.

He urged the officers to work in a mission mode to expedite ongoing projects and to adopt a proactive approach in resolving field-level challenges.

The Minister also appreciated the legislators for their conscientious efforts and continuous engagement in addressing the developmental aspirations of the people in their constituencies.

He encouraged them to continue their dedicated endeavours for the welfare and betterment of the public, assuring full cooperation and support from the Ministry.

District Police Doda organises Mini Marathon to Mark 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

DODA, OCTOBER 31: To commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, popularly known as the Iron Man of India, the District Police Doda today organized a grand "Run for Unity" Mini Marathon under the Civic Action Programme (CAP) 2025-26.

The event aimed to spread the message of Unity in Diversity and promote the spirit of national integration among citizens, especially the youth.

The marathon was flagged off from Dak Bungalow Doda in the early morning hours and witnessed massive participation from enthusiastic students of various government and private schools, officers and officials of different government departments, including Education, Youth Services & Sports and Police departments.

Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh along with SSP

Doda Sandeep Kumar Mehta, ADC Doda Anil Kumar Thakur, district officers and police officials, led the marathon, which culminated at Sports Stadium Doda amidst patriotic enthusiasm and vibrant cultural performances.

At the culmination ceremony, Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh paid glowing tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, acknowledging his historic role in uniting more than 500 princely states into one sovereign nation. He urged the participants to uphold the values of unity, honesty and sincerity in public life and appreciated the Anti-Corruption Bureau's collaboration with District Police Doda in organizing the event.

A special Pledge Ceremony was also held, where the DC Doda, SSP Doda and participants reaffirmed their commitment to the unity and integrity of India.

SSP Doda Sandeep Kumar Mehta, in his address, described



Sardar Patel as the true architect of India's unity and integrity. He emphasized that the youth should draw inspiration from Patel's leadership, determination and nation-building vision.

The event concluded with pa-

triotic speeches, cultural performances, and an oath-taking ceremony, symbolizing the collective resolve of the people to preserve the spirit of unity and brotherhood that Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel devoted his life to strengthen.

During the event, a special Vigilance Awareness Programme was conducted by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) Doda to spread awareness about the importance of integrity, transparency and accountability in public life. Officers from the ACB highlighted the theme "Say No to Corruption; Commit to the Nation" and encouraged citizens to play an active role in eradicating corruption from all spheres of society.

Students, teachers and government officials also took a Vigilance Pledge, reaffirming their commitment to honesty, fairness and zero tolerance toward corruption. The ACB officers motivated the youth to act as ambassadors of integrity and to contribute towards building a corruption-free society.

The awareness campaign aimed to reinforce the values of good governance, civic responsibility and collective action against corrupt practices.

Speaker adjourns Assembly sine die

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 31: Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on Friday adjourned the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly sine die.

In his concluding remarks, the Speaker thanked the members of the House for their cooperation in making the session more productive and meaningful.

He described the session as unprecedented, noting that most of the time was devoted to raising people's issues.

"It is heartening to see that all legislators tried to raise constituency specific concerns," he said.

He further said that efforts were made to make the system more accommodative and participatory.

He appreciated the cooperation extended by the Chief Secretary,

various departments, including Information Department, Doordarshan, All India Radio and print and electronic media in conducting the session smoothly.

The Speaker said he tried to accommodate all members in the discussions in an objective manner.

He further urged the members to continue working to meet the expectations of the people.

District Admin Shopian organises Padyatra to mark National Unity Day

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 31: As part of the celebrations marking the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, iconic national leader, also celebrated as National Unity Day, the District Administration Shopian along with Mera Yuva Bharat today organised a Padyatra.

The Padyatra, which commenced from Old Fruit Mandi, Arhama Shopian, culminated at the Mini Secretariat Shopian was flagged off by Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, Shishir Gupta in presence of Senior Superintendent of Police, Mushtaq Ahmad Choudhary; ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz and other officers and citizens.

Thousands of participants, including students, officers, employees, and members of civil society, youth, volunteers of Mera Yuva Bharat, NRLM members and other locals participated enthusiastically in the event, holding the Tricolour and raising slogans promoting the message of unity, integrity, and national pride.

The participants carried placards with inspiring messages reflecting the spirit of togetherness envisioned by the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Govt elevates two Senior Engineers as In-Charge Chief Engineers

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 31: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has ordered the placement of two Superintending Engineers of the Jal Shakti Department as In-charge Chief Engineers.

As per the orders issued by Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti, Shaleen Kabra, upon their elevation, Er. Vijay Singh Manhas has been posted as

Director Technical, Jammu and Kashmir Economic Reconstruction Agency (JKERA), while Er. Rajeev Gupta has been posted as Chief Engineer, Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation (JKPDC).

The elevation of these officers forms part of a larger initiative undertaken by Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, soon after assuming charge of the Ministry.

The Minister has taken a proactive approach to address the long-pending issue of vacancies at higher levels within the Department.

Recognizing the critical need to strengthen the administrative and technical leadership of the Jal Shakti Department, the Minister undertook a comprehensive review and examination exercise within the Ministry.

Subsequently, a proposal

for relaxation of promotion rules was prepared and approved by the Council of Ministers, headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. Under this reform-oriented drive, all promotional posts in the Department have been filled within a span of ten months, marking a major step toward ensuring efficiency and accountability in the functioning of the Jal Shakti Department.

The promotion process has

now been fully streamlined, paving the way for timely and merit-based career progression of engineers and other officers in the future.

The Department has expressed confidence that the appointment of Er. Manhas and Er. Gupta as In-charge Chief Engineers will bring renewed dynamism, professional excellence and stronger project execution capabilities to their respective organizations.

Bandipora celebrates National Unity Day with Enthusiastic 'Run for Unity'

DC Urges youth to 'Dare to Dream, Strategize and Work Hard'

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 31: The District Administration Bandipora on Friday observed National Unity Day to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India, by organizing a 'Run for Unity' from Chitternagar to Sher-e-Kashmir Sports Stadium Bandipora.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, administered the Unity Pledge at Chitternagar Bandipora in presence of the Senior Superintendent of Police Bandipora, Ajaz Zargar, along with officers from civil administration

and police.

Following the pledge, the Deputy Commissioner and SSP Bandipora jointly flagged off the 'Run for Unity', in which a large number of students, officials and youth participated with patriotic fervor.

The event culminated at Sher-e-Kashmir Sports Stadium Bandipora, where the Deputy Commissioner and SSP Bandipora felicitated the winning participants and appreciated all runners for their enthusiastic involvement.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner congratulated all participants on National Unity Day and paid rich tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai

Patel. She said that Patel's contribution to national integration and civil services continues to serve as an inspiration for generations.

"Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is remembered for many accomplishments, but what inspires me the most is his remarkable contribution and dedicated service in shaping the Indian Civil Services; he remains a guiding figure and a true mentor for all of us in public service," she added. She urged everyone to adopt the motto "Ek Kaam, Desh Ke Naam", dedicating at least one sincere act in service of the nation, such as saving freshwater or following traffic rules in



letter and spirit.

On the occasion, the DC emphasized that one should embrace imperfections and strive for continuous improvement, adding that "when you try to be perfect, your presence becomes ornamental and fake." The DC encouraged the youth to "dare to dream, strategize, and work hard," reminding them that nothing is impossible with determination and purpose.

Similar celebrations were also organized across the district at the sub-divisional and institutional levels, including Government Degree Colleges and Higher Secondary Schools, under the supervision of respective

Sub-Divisional Magistrates and heads of institutions.

These runs witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, NCC cadets, volunteers, and officials, all united in reaffirming their commitment to the ideals of national integration, strength, and unity envisioned by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Among others, the event witnessed enthusiastic participation of Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Bandipora, Shabir Ahmad Wani; ASP Bandipora, DIO Bandipora, DySPDAR, students, youth, and officials.

Rs. 37.77 Cr funds allocated under Cities & Towns in Rajouri for 2025-26 FY: Dy CM

Says Rs. 7.50 crore utilized on Mini Secretariat Rajouri

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 31: The Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary today said that an amount of Rs 37.77 crore funds have been allocated for 277 works under Cities and Towns in Rajouri District for the year 2025-26.

The Deputy Chief Minister was replying to a question raised by the Legislator Iftikhar Ahmad in the Legislative Assembly today.

He said that the Mini Secretariat, Rajouri stands approved

under the Special Task Force (STF) for the year 2011-12 for an amount of Rs. 10.00 crore, out of which Rs. 7.50 crore have been utilized.

He said that the sub structure work including the erection of columns has been completed at site. "However, matter shall be pursued with the district administration for settlement of the issue," he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that an amount of Rs. 4942.16 lac has been for undertaking 53 projects under NABARD and UT Capex in Rajouri District, the



areas covered are Kalakote-Sunderbani, Nowshehra, Rajouri, Budhal and Surankote. Similarly under District Capex an amount of Rs. 8791 lac has been earmarked for Rajouri during the year 2025-26.

He said that the projects including Roads and bridges are prioritized as per established norms, assessed field requirements, availability of resources, and recommendations received from MLAs and DDC Members to ensure equitable and need-based development across all areas.

Baramulla Observes Rashtriya Ekta Diwas with Great Fervour; DC administers unity Pledge, Flags off Padyatra

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 31: To commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the architect of national integration, the District Administration Baramulla today observed Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) with great enthusiasm and patriotic zeal.

The main event was held at the Government Degree College Ground, Baramulla, where Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, administered the Unity Pledge to a large gathering of participants including Students, Local Citizens, Officials and officers of Civil and police, reaffirming their commitment to uphold the unity, integrity, and security of the nation. Hundreds of students, officials, locals, and CRPF personnel participated in the ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted the remarkable contribution of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in uniting the nation and emphasized the need to carry forward his vision of a strong, united, and progressive India. He called upon the youth to emulate Patel's ideals of dedication, discipline, and national service.

Following the pledge ceremony, the DC, accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Baramulla, Gurinderpal Singh, flagged off a Padyatra from the College Ground to Dak Bungalow Baramulla. The rally, featuring enthusiastic participation from students and citizens carrying the National Flag and banners, reverberated with slogans promoting unity, peace, and brotherhood.

At Dak Bungalow, the DC along with SSP inspected stalls set up by various departments showcasing their initiatives and schemes aimed at public welfare, youth empowerment, and community development. The DC appreciated the efforts of the departments in spreading awareness about government programmes and urged officials to continue working with dedication towards inclusive development.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the aim of observing Rashtriya Ekta Diwas is to strengthen the bond of national integration and remind citizens of Sardar Patel's unmatched role in unifying India.

DLSA Srinagar on POCSO Act at GBHSS Nowpora

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 31: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, organized an awareness programme on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and Drug Abuse at Government Boys Higher Secondary School (GBHSS), Nowpora.

The event was held under the leadership of Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Shazia Tabassum, under the chairmanship of Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, Tasleem Arief, and under the supervision of Sub-Judge/Secretary,



DLSA Srinagar, Sajad Ur Rehman.

During the programme, Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel, DLSA Srinagar, Zeenat addressed the students on the alarming rise of drug abuse among youth. She highlighted how substance abuse not only endangers physical and mental health but also disrupts families and society at large. She urged the students to stay away from drugs, make informed choices, and act as ambassadors of awareness within their peer groups to build a drug-free community.

Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel, DLSA Srinagar, sensitized the students about the provisions and importance of the POCSO Act, emphasizing the legal safeguards available for the protection of children from sexual offences. She explained how the Act ensures a child-friendly approach in reporting, recording of evidence, and speedy trial of cases. She also encouraged students to speak up fearlessly against any form of abuse and to be aware of their legal rights and available support mechanisms.

The programme concluded with an interactive session where students actively

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas observed across Kulgam

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KULGAM, OCTOBER 31: The birth anniversary of the first Home Minister of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, was today celebrated with great enthusiasm across Kulgam as National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas).

To mark the occasion, a 'Run for Unity' was organised, which commenced from the Mini Secretariat and culminated at District Police Lines (DPL) Kulgam.

The run was flagged off by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam Athar Aamir Khan along with SSP Kulgam Anayat Ali Choudhary.

A pledge-taking ceremony was also held in the lawns of the Mini Secretariat, where the DC administered the oath to officers, officials and participants of their collective



commitment to preserve the unity, integrity, and security of the nation.

On the occasion the monumental

role of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in unifying the nation and promoting national integration was highlighted.

His tireless efforts in building a strong and united India, and his lifelong dedication to the service of the nation was recalled.

Pledge-taking ceremonies were also organised in various government offices, educational institutions, and schools, Police station and other places across the district, where officers, employees, students, and local citizens participated with great zeal.

The participants took the pledge in the spirit of unification and national solidarity inspired by the vision and actions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and resolved to contribute towards ensuring the internal security and unity of the country.

District Administration Budgam organises awareness rally

DC emphasizes integrity, Transparency, Ethical Conduct in Public Life

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 31: As part of the ongoing Vigilance Awareness Week 2025, the District Administration Budgam, in collaboration with the School Education Department Budgam and the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) Srinagar, today organized an awareness rally in Budgam to promote the message of integrity, transparency, and zero tolerance towards corruption.

The rally, which commenced from Boys Higher Secondary School Budgam and culminated at the Bus Stand Budgam, was flagged off by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat.

A large number of students, teachers, faculty members, officers, and civil society representatives participated in the rally with great enthusiasm, carrying placards and banners bearing slogans such as "Say No to Corruption" and "Vigilant Citizens, Prosperous Nation."

Speaking on the occasion, the DC lauded the collaborative effort between the District Administration,

School Education Department, and ACB Srinagar in organizing the rally, terming it an important step in building a culture of honesty, responsibility, and public accountability.

He said that the Vigilance Awareness Week serves as a strong reminder for all citizens, particularly the younger generation, to uphold the principles of honesty and ethical conduct in every sphere of life.

He said that, Corruption not only weakens governance but also erodes public trust and hampers progress.

The DC further stressed that transparency and integrity must become guiding principles in both personal and professional life.

He called upon government officials to maintain fairness in decision-making and ensure public services are delivered without bias or malpractice.

He urged students to act as torchbearers of change, spreading awareness among peers and communities about the importance of ethical behaviour. He said that our youth must take pride in honesty and accountability. A vigilant and informed citizenry is the strongest deterrent against corruption," the DC added.



He also appreciated the Anti-Corruption Bureau's continuous efforts in raising public awareness and promoting integrity in governance. He reiterated the administration's commitment to extending full support to initiatives aimed at building a transparent and corruption-free society.

At the culmination point, a brief post-rally function was held where the Chief Education Officer (CEO) Budgam addressed the gathering and emphasized the role of education in cultivating moral values and ethical awareness among students.

Faculty members from various schools and colleges also shared their insights on the importance of vigilance, honesty, and good governance.

Students from Boys Higher Secondary School Budgam, Girls Higher Secondary School Budgam, Degree College Budgam, NIFT Budgam, and several other institutions actively participated in the rally, showcasing their commitment to promoting ethical values and good governance.

The event concluded with a pledge among the participants to uphold the principles of integrity, transparency, and accountability in both governance and everyday life, reinforcing the message of this year's Vigilance Awareness Week theme.

Senior officers from the District Administration, officials from ACB Srinagar, education department functionaries, and members of the civil society were also present on the occasion.

DC Kupwara flags Off 'Run for Unity' to Mark Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 150th Birth Anniversary

Ekta Diwas Pledge administered

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 31: In a vibrant celebration of the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the District Administration Kupwara organized a "Run for Unity" from the DC Office Complex Kupwara to Government Degree College Kupwara as part of the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) celebrations.

The event aimed to promote national integration, unity, and harmony among the youth.

The run was flagged off by Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, in presence of Senior Superintendent of Police Kupwara, Al Tahir Gilani, Additional Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, ACR, ASP, CEO, and other officers from the district administration, My Bharat Mera Yuva Bharat, and the Department of Youth Services & Sports. A large number of students representing various educational institutions of the district enthusiastically participated in the



event, showcasing discipline, enthusiasm, and patriotic spirit. The run passed through Mughalpora and culminated at Government Degree College Kupwara. Various cultural programmes were also performed by students from different schools of the district, adding colour and vibrancy to the celebrations.

Addressing the participants, Shrikant Suse highlighted the significance of the 'Run for Unity' and said the event was organized across the country to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. He noted that the day, observed as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, serves as a reminder of Patel's invaluable contribution in uniting the nation.

On this occasion Ekta Diwas Pledge was also administered to all participants.

He highlighted Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's vital role in strengthening India's unity and integrity.

The DC also informed that from 7th to 14th November, a series of events will be organised to commemorate the 150th anniversary of "Vande Mataram".

Terming youth as the symbol of strength and unity, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need to channelize their energy and potential towards nation-building and appealed for performing our duties to ensure unity and integrity.

Second Randomisation of Polling Staff held at Budgam for Bye-Elections to 27-Assembly Constituency Budgam

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 31: The second randomisation of polling staff designated for deployment across 173 polling stations for the upcoming bye-elections to the 27-Assembly Constituency Budgam was today conducted at Budgam.

The randomisation process was carried out under the supervision of the District Election Officer (DEO) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, in the presence of General Observer, Bhore Singh Yadav.

As per the guidelines stipulated by the Election Commission of India (ECI), the randomisation was conducted through the Election Management System to ensure transparency and impartiality. During the process, a total of 1020 employees, including a 50% reserve, were randomly allocated to different polling stations for the bye-elections.

The step marks a crucial part of the preparations aimed at ensuring free, fair,



and smooth conduct of the electoral process in the constituency.

Besides Returning Officer for 27-AC Budgam, Afroza Bano; Dy. DEO, Hilal Ahmad; Nodal Officer ETBPS, Majid Hussain, and other officers were also present during the randomisation process.

It was informed that all prerequisites and arrangements are being fulfilled as per ECI guidelines to ensure a peaceful and transparent bye-election in 27-Assembly Constituency Budgam.

HT EDITORIAL

Social media channels continue to act in irresponsible manner

A drama of sorts was witnessed on the final day of the autumn session of the legislative assembly as the legislator from Karnah in Kupwara, Javed Mirchal said that he could not sleep since a video showing him using social media during the assembly session a day earlier had gone viral. The legislator demanded action against the portal that had captured the video and uploaded it on its network.

Cutting across party lines the MLA Karnah was joined by some other legislators and they too raised concern about the issue. Assembly speaker Abdul Rahim Rather while responding to the matter said that action will be taken against the defaulter. The issue needs to be viewed in a broad manner and above law it has once again highlighted the need to regulate the social media channels operating in the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Over the past few years there has been a mushroom growth of the face book channels and other social media platforms and the government seems to have no control over the same. It got reflected in the autumn session of the legislature since more than half of the media persons covering the proceedings belonged to face book channels. In the past the Department of Information would issue passes to cover assembly proceedings only to the accredited journalists, but the situation has changed of late.

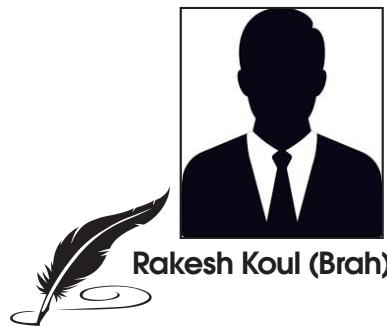
Since there is no regulation of social media in Jammu & Kashmir the social media platforms run anything which they wish to. At times totally nonsense stuff is being beamed by these social media channels and the same is criticized by the people in general especially by those who are sensitive. Following complaints some of the district heads of the administration issued directions to the social media channels to act in a responsible manner so that unverified, unethical and useless stuff is not beamed by such social media channels.

The directions issued by the administration were not taken seriously by the concerned people and it is due to this reason that the social media channels continue to work without any responsibility. Most of these social media handlers take the law into their hands and violate the laid down rules and regulations according to their own wish. It is high time that the law enforcing agencies take the issue seriously and take stern action against the people found violating the norms.

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Remembering Sarwanand Kaul “Premi Ji”

The Eternal Beacon of Kashmiryat, Literature, and Humanity



His translations of the Bhagavad Gita into Kashmiri and Urdu & Ramayana and Geetanjali into Kashmiri were revolutionary. Through these sacred translations, Premi Ji conveyed a timeless truth — that all religions speak the language of love, peace, and righteousness. He sought to build bridges between communities, not walls; to show that the divine message is universal, regardless of the faith one follows

As Jammu and Kashmir observes the birth anniversary of Sarwanand Koul “Premi Ji” on 2nd November 2025, the air once again fills with reverence for a man who embodied the truest essence of Kashmiryat — the spirit of love, coexistence, and universal brotherhood. Premi Ji was not just a writer or poet; he was a moral force, a teacher, and a visionary who enlightened generations with his words and deeds.

A Multilingual Genius and Messenger of Harmony

Sarwanand Koul Premi Ji's literary contributions remain unmatched in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. Fluent in Kashmiri, Urdu, Hindi, and English, he used his extraordinary command of language to unite people beyond the boundaries of religion and region.

His translations of the Bhagavad Gita into Kashmiri and Urdu & Ramayana and Geetanjali into Kashmiri were revolutionary. Through these sacred translations, Premi Ji conveyed a timeless truth — that all religions speak the language of love, peace, and righteousness. He sought to build bridges between communities, not walls; to show that the divine message is universal, regardless of the faith one follows.

Premi Ji's writings reflected his deep respect for both Hinduism and Islam, and his literary mission was to preserve the soul of Kashmir's composite culture, which he saw as a garden of diverse yet harmonious flowers.

A Teacher, Mentor, and Guide to the Youth

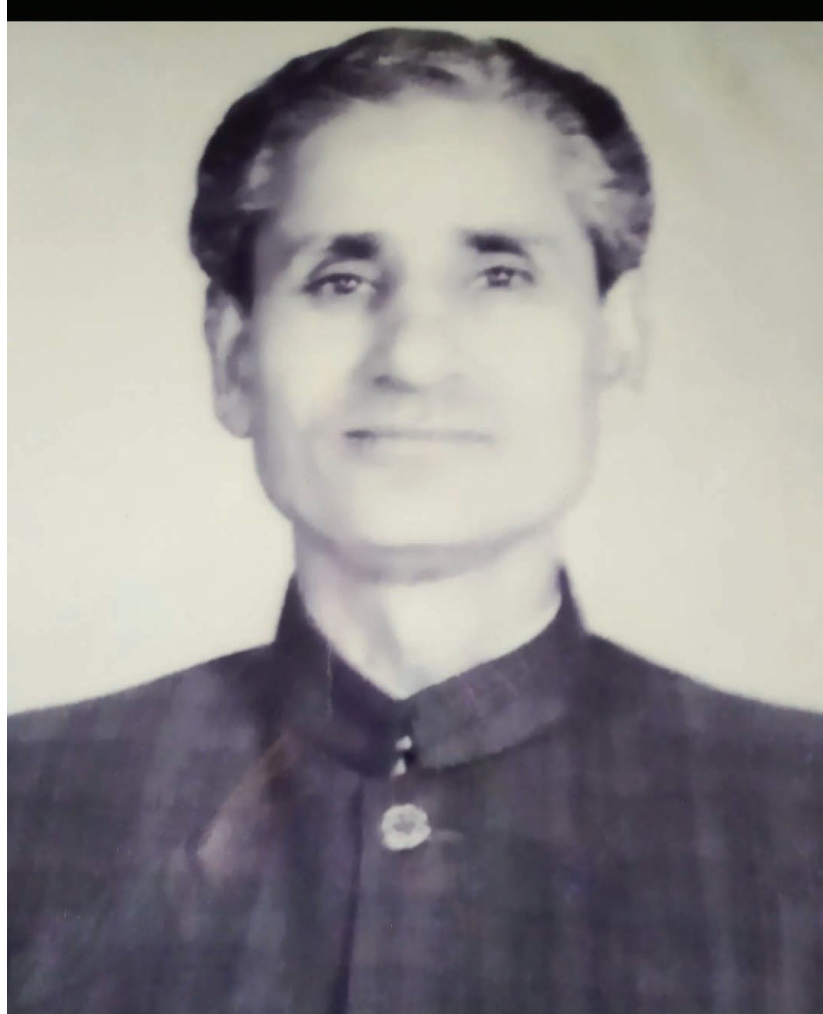
Beyond his identity as a poet and translator, Sarwanand Koul Premi Ji was an exceptional teacher who shaped countless young minds with knowledge and moral wisdom. He served in the field of education with sincerity and dedication, believing that teaching is the noblest service to society.

For Premi Ji, education was not confined to books — it was a means to build character and awaken humanity. He inspired his students to think critically, act ethically, and respect all religions. In his classroom, he taught values of tolerance, empathy, and truth, nurturing a generation of enlightened and compassionate citizens.

Many of his former students later became teachers, scholars, and administrators, carrying forward his legacy of intellectual honesty and moral integrity. His influence on youth remains an invaluable chapter in the educational history of Kashmir.

A Freedom Fighter, Journalist, and Social Reformer

Premi Ji also played an active role in India's freedom movement and later continued his mission as a social reformer. He stood against injustice, superstition, and social evils, using both his pen and his presence to bring



Amar Shaheed Sarwanand kaul Premi.

awareness to rural communities. He was also a journalist who fearlessly wrote for truth and transparency, making his writings a mirror of society's conscience.

Martyrdom: A Blow to Humanity and Secularism

The year 1990 witnessed one of the darkest tragedies of modern Kashmir. In an environment of growing militancy and intolerance, the forces of hatred targeted the torchbearers of peace and harmony. Sarwanand Koul Premi Ji and his beloved son, Virendra, were brutally murdered by militants — a crime that shook the moral fabric of the Valley.

His assassination was not merely the killing of a poet but the silencing of an entire ideology — the ideology of love, unity, and Jamhooriyat (democracy). His martyrdom remains a symbol of the suffering and resilience of the Kashmiri Pandit community, and of all those who stood for truth.

National Recognition of His Martyrdom

We, the people of Jammu and Kashmir, express our heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir for recognizing Sarwanand Koul Premi Ji as a Martyr of the Nation. This recognition is not only a tribute to his sacrifice but also a reaffirmation of India's unwavering commitment to secular values, freedom of thought,

and human dignity.

Their acknowledgment restores faith in the principle that the nation never forgets those who die defending peace, knowledge, and unity.

An Everlasting Legacy of Light

Today, Premi Ji's writings continue to illuminate the path for new generations. His poems and essays are living reminders that truth can never be buried, and that a society built on education, compassion, and tolerance can overcome even the darkest of times.

As we celebrate his birth anniversary, let us remember him not with sorrow, but with pride — as a teacher of humanity, a poet of peace, and a martyr for secularism.

Tribute Event

The Birth Anniversary of Sarwanand Koul “Premi Ji” will be observed by the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, the Directorate of School Education, Kashmir, and the District Administration Anantnag.

The program will include literary tributes, cultural performances, student interactions, and exhibitions of his works — all aimed at rekindling his message of peace, unity, and enlightenment.

“Premi Ji was not only a poet of Kashmir — he was the poet of humanity. His ink still flows in the conscience of the nation.”

The Author is a Social Activist and Freelance Journalist

The Quiet Wisdom of Falling Leaves

MOOL RAJ

The season's poetry holds a practical wisdom often lost in its beauty. The air carries a faint chill now, and the hillsides wear a softer light. In Kashmir, autumn has arrived not with haste but with quiet dignity — a slow fading of green into russet, amber, and gold. Chinar trees stand like old philosophers, shedding their leaves not in despair but in serene acceptance. Each leaf drifts downward as if whispering an old truth that all beauty must one day fall, and yet in falling, it completes its purpose. The rustle beneath our feet is not just the sound of decay, but of renewal in disguise. Autumn reminds us, in its stillness, of the art of letting go and of the quiet wisdom that comes when we finally stop resisting change.

In a world that races restlessly, autumn stands still. It teaches patience to those who look closely. The trees do not cling to their leaves even when the winds grow sharp; they trust the rhythm of the seasons. Their surrender is graceful, not defeated. In our lives, too, there are moments when holding on brings pain and letting go brings peace. The falling

leaves become mirrors to our own transitions: jobs lost, relationships changed, ambitions reshaped. What if we, like the trees, learned to release without bitterness, to shed without fear? The season's poetry holds a practical wisdom often lost in its beauty. Farmers know it well after the harvest, the land rests. The silence of fields is not emptiness; it is preparation. In nature's design, even stillness is work, and decay is only the beginning of growth. Our lives, too, need such pauses, moments of reflection after achievement, spaces between endings and beginnings. Modern life, however, often denies us that pause. We rush from one pursuit to another, fearing that rest means failure. Yet autumn gently corrects us: rest is not retreat; it is renewal.

There is also humility in the fall of leaves. The grand chinar that shaded hundreds all summer now stands bare, unashamed. It reminds us that strength lies not in adornment but in endurance. The world often celebrates the spring of success, the bloom of achievement, but seldom honours the quiet courage it takes to endure winter. Autumn prepares us for that courage. It invites us to embrace

vulnerability, to accept impermanence as a condition of life, not a flaw in it. As the leaves fall, they do not vanish into insignificance. They become the earth's own memory, enriching the soil for another season's growth. The wisdom here is simple yet profound: what seems like an end is often a contribution. Our failures, our forgotten efforts, our quiet sacrifices all become part of a larger soil from which something new can grow. This is how progress, both personal and collective, truly happens: not through endless accumulation, but through cycles of giving, resting, and renewal.

In our times, where anxiety often arises from the illusion of permanence, permanent jobs, permanent relationships, permanent success, autumn brings relief by breaking that illusion. It tells us that nothing lasts, and that's precisely what makes it precious.

The lesson extends beyond the personal to the social. Communities, too, must sometimes shed, outdated practices, unjust hierarchies, stagnant ideas. A society that fears change becomes like a tree that refuses to drop its leaves, suffocated by its own weight. Renewal

demands release. The wisdom of falling leaves, then, is also a wisdom of reform, that progress often begins with graceful surrender.

And finally, autumn teaches us the quiet art of appreciation. It invites us to notice the sound of wind through branches, the gold scattered on footpaths, the way the sun slants earlier and softer. It asks us to slow down enough to witness beauty in decline. In doing so, it repairs something inside us that the noise of the year may have worn thin. So, as the leaves drift and the evenings deepen, perhaps we too can learn to rest in our own seasons of change. To trust that even when life seems to fade, something essential is taking shape beneath the surface. The quiet wisdom of falling leaves is that nothing truly ends, it simply transforms. What we lose becomes part of what we will one day grow into. In the hush of autumn, if one listens closely, the world seems to whisper, let go, and you will find peace; fall, and you will rise renewed.

The author is a regular columnist and freelance writer

Know Your Artisan: Celebrating the hands that shape Kashmir's heritage



Mohammad Hanief

Srinagar's iconic Clock Tower, the Ghan-ta Ghar at Lal Chowk, Srinagar transformed into a vibrant symbol of culture and creativity on October 25, 2025 as the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, organized the "Know Your Artisan" programme. The event infused fresh life into the city centre, attracting hundreds of visitors, artisans, and admirers of Kashmiri craftsmanship, and turned Lal Chowk into a living exhibition of art, tradition, and heritage.

The initiative reflected a larger cultural awakening — a collective recognition of the people behind the intricate crafts that have defined Kashmir's artistic identity for centuries. Against the graceful backdrop of the restored Clock Tower, Srinagar's heart beat to the rhythm of looms, chisels, and brushes as artisans demonstrated their timeless skills. The air resonated with the soft hum of activity, echoing the heritage of a land where artistry is a way of life.

The event offered an immersive experience of Kashmir's artistic diversity. Artisans representing traditional crafts such as pashmina weaving, kani shawl making, carpet weaving, papier-mâché, copper engraving, wood carving, crewel embroidery, and sozni work showcased their artistry in real time. Each stall became a small theatre of craftsmanship where creativity unfolded before visitors' eyes.

Crowds gathered around artisans as they worked meticulously — spinning fine pashmina threads, carving intricate motifs into walnut wood, or painting delicate floral designs on papier-mâché artefacts. Visitors observed the detailed processes, often marvelling at the patience and precision that go into each creation. For many, it was an awakening to the human skill and endurance that lie behind the celebrated Kashmiri label.

The "Know Your Artisan" event broke



the barriers that often separate craftspeople from consumers. It brought artisans out of their workshops and into the public space, giving them visibility and respect while allowing the public to engage directly with the creative process. The city's busiest commercial square thus became a space for cultural dialogue — one that connected the hands that create with the eyes that appreciate.

Lal Chowk, with its deep historical and emotional significance, was an apt venue for such a revival. Recently redeveloped into a pedestrian-friendly zone, the square has evolved into a space not only of commerce but also of culture and community gathering. By hosting "Know Your Artisan" at this symbolic site, the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom effectively transformed an urban landmark into a stage for heritage and pride.

Throughout the day, the Clock Tower was surrounded by colour, sound, and movement. Handwoven fabrics fluttered in the breeze, copperware gleamed under the autumn sun, and soft strains of Kashmiri folk music created a festive ambiance. The event became a visual narrative of Kashmir's artistic evolution — one that speaks through texture, colour, and form rather than words.

For the artisans, this was more than an exhibition; it was an affirmation of their identity and a celebration of endurance.

Many of them come from families that have practised their crafts for generations, passing skills through time despite economic pressures and social change. Their presence at Lal Chowk symbolized continuity — the unbroken link between tradition and modernity.

The programme was also part of a broader strategy to strengthen the artisan community through exposure, recognition, and market linkage. The Department of Handicrafts and Handloom has been working to promote traditional crafts through a combination of skill enhancement initiatives, design interventions, and marketing platforms.

Events like "Know Your Artisan" are vital in re-establishing the connection between artisans and consumers, especially in an era dominated by mass production. They bring authenticity back into public appreciation and remind the younger generation of the cultural wealth embedded in local crafts. The initiative also contributes to tourism by offering visitors a direct encounter with Kashmir's living heritage — an experience far more engaging than conventional shopping.

For many artisans, the event opened opportunities to showcase their work to new audiences, explore collaborations, and understand changing market preferences. Younger artisans, in particular, are experimenting with ways to blend traditional

methods with contemporary aesthetics, ensuring that Kashmiri crafts remain relevant in today's global marketplace.

The "Know Your Artisan" programme also highlighted the natural synergy between handicrafts and tourism. Kashmir's beauty has long drawn visitors from around the world, and its crafts have served as tangible memories of that experience. Hosting a craft-focused event in the heart of Srinagar allowed tourists to witness the craftsmanship that often remains hidden within workshops or remote villages.

Visitors interacted freely with artisans, purchased handmade products, and learned about the intricate processes involved in their making. This direct engagement added a new dimension to cultural tourism — one that not only supports local livelihoods but also deepens visitors' understanding of Kashmiri identity.

The timing of the event was significant. As the region seeks to revive its tourism industry, cultural initiatives such as this reinforce Kashmir's image as a place of beauty, creativity, and resilience. Lal Chowk, once a symbol of political expression, now resonated with the sounds of looms, tools, and laughter — an emblem of a city rediscovering its artistic soul.

Beyond its visual splendour, the "Know Your Artisan" programme carried a powerful message about cultural preservation. Kashmir's handicrafts are more than commodities; they are embodiments of collective memory, tradition, and identity. Each motif in a shawl, each carving on wood, each stroke of colour in papier-mâché represents a story — one that has been shaped over centuries.

Yet, these crafts face challenges from changing lifestyles, imitation products, and declining interest among youth. Events like the one at Lal Chowk rekindle awareness and respect for the craft sector, reminding society that preserving heritage is as much a civic responsibility as it is a cultural one. By engaging directly with artisans, citizens and visitors become stakeholders in the effort to sustain this legacy.

The Department's initiative thus reflects a conscious attempt to make heritage visible in everyday life — not confined to museums or markets but celebrated in public spaces where people gather, shop, and connect. It transforms cultural preservation from an abstract concept into a shared experience.

As daylight faded, the Clock Tower

glowed under soft illumination, surrounded by displays of art and clusters of people still exploring the stalls. The transformation of Lal Chowk into a cultural arena demonstrated how urban spaces can nurture community pride and artistic expression.

The success of "Know Your Artisan" has sparked discussions about making similar events a regular feature in Srinagar's cultural calendar. Many believe that public spaces should continue to serve as platforms for artistic interaction and heritage education, linking city life with rural craftsmanship.

Such initiatives can help sustain traditional livelihoods, encourage innovation, and restore dignity to artisanal professions. They also strengthen the emotional connection between citizens and their city — a bond rooted in shared history and creative identity.

In essence, the event transcended the boundaries of an exhibition or market fair. It was a reaffirmation of the idea that art and craftsmanship are integral to Kashmir's social fabric. It reminded the city that behind every shawl, carpet, or carved object lies a human story — one of skill, patience, and perseverance.

By choosing the Clock Tower — a structure that has witnessed decades of change — as the venue, the organisers symbolically placed the artisan at the centre of Kashmir's evolving narrative. The blending of past and present, tradition and innovation, made the event a celebration not only of craftsmanship but of continuity and renewal.

As the evening drew to a close, Lal Chowk stood as a reflection of Kashmir's enduring creativity. The hum of activity subsided, but the spirit of the artisans lingered — a reminder that culture thrives wherever there are hands willing to create and hearts willing to appreciate.

The "Know Your Artisan" programme thus marked more than a single day of festivity; it marked a movement toward rediscovering and respecting the living heritage that defines Kashmir. In every woven thread, carved motif, and painted surface, Srinagar found a renewed sense of belonging — a quiet yet profound tribute to its artisans who continue to shape the story of this land, one masterpiece at a time.

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Poetic Symposium at Kupwara



RAYEES AHMAD KUMAR

The whole of Kashmir is famous for its natural beauty and moderate climate. It is for this reason that litterateurs and poets have frequently mentioned it in their writings, and people from all over the world are drawn to its lush green meadows, gushing rivers, and pristine waters. The entire valley is divided into ten districts. Its North Kashmir region — comprising Baramulla, Kupwara, and Srinagar city — forms the frontier border area. Among these, Kupwara shares the maximum border length, about 170 kilometers, with the neighboring country, Pakistan. The Kupwara district, carved out from erstwhile District Baramulla in 1979, is located to extreme north of Jammu and Kashmir. It is almost 110 kms away from Srinagar city. Kupwara district is located between Pir Panjal and Shams Bari mountain ranges. These mountain ranges have beautiful meadows and pastures in their bosom which provide grazing ground for cattle and sheep. These mountain ranges are traversed by famous passes like Sadhna pass, Farkiyani Gali and Nagmarg Pass. These passes open into beautiful valleys of Karnah,

Keran and Drawa areas. I had never been to this naturally beautiful frontier district of the valley. However, it was only after Showkat Saqib Poshpouri, President of the Cultural Forum Kupwara, took the initiative to conduct a poetic symposium at Dream World Educational Institute, Allachizab Kupwara, and invited poets from across the valley to participate, that I, too, received an invitation a fortnight ago and decided to take part. I had made up my mind to participate in the literary event, marked the date on my calendar, and applied for casual leave. On the momentous day, I left my residence early in the morning and reached Qazigund railway station half an hour before the departure of the Baramulla-bound train. After disembarking at Sopore station, I quickly boarded a sumo, which departed for Kupwara within minutes. The distance from Sopore to Kupwara is about forty kilometres and takes roughly an hour to cover, thanks to the good condition of the road. On both sides of the Sopore-Kupwara road, I enjoyed the scenic beauty — apple orchards presenting a mesmerizing look, and plain paddy fields, bounded on all sides by lofty hills, adding to its charm and elegance. It was around 12 p.m. when I reached Kupwara town. After enquiring from a hotel owner while sipping some tea about where to get a vehicle for Allachizab, I walked towards the taxi stand at Rajpura and boarded an Awoora-bound sumo. By 12:30 p.m., I reached the venue



where the grand literary function was being held. I was deeply impressed by the hospitality and the rousing reception I received the moment I greeted the audience. Volunteers were busy making final arrangements, and soon the formal function was kickstarted. Like all traditional events held in Kashmir, it began with the recitation of verses from Surah at-Tin by a young student of the school in his melodious voice, followed by their translation into English, Urdu, and Kashmiri. Two confident and academically bright students then recited the naat "Ye Mera Nabi, Mera Nabi" in their soulful voices. This was followed by the announcement of the presidium members. The noted poet and academician

Abdul Aziz Mastana was chosen to preside over the function, while the school principal, Naseer Ahmad Bhat, was designated as the chief guest. I too had the honour of being the guest of honour. Proceedings of the symposium began with a warm welcome to all participants, amidst a thundering reception and a vibrant display of literary tradition. Coming from the remote village of Teetwal, Ab. Hameed Kataria won the hearts of the audience with his cheerful and melodious recitation. His tone was both alluring and inspiring. Aliyas Arman from the picturesque Lolab valley — about which the poet of the East, Dr. Allama Iqbal, says: "Panit ere chashmon ka tadapta hua seemaab,

Murgani-e-sehar teri fazaon mein hai betab, Ae wadi-e-Lolab, ae wadi-e-Lolab" —

presented a mesmerizing and heart-touching poem, rich in meaning and thought-provoking in spirit. Nazir Parwana, another accomplished poet, recited a meticulously composed romantic Kashmiri ghazal, which earned resounding applause from every participant in the hall. Showkat Saqib Poshpouri, President of the Cultural Forum Kupwara, too presented a reflective Kashmiri poem reminiscent of the works of the legendary poet Abdul Ahad Azad. Aadil Tariq Lolabi, yet another poet from the Lolab valley, recited an eloquent ghazal on Zindagi (Life),

which was highly appreciated by the audience. Renowned Urdu and Kashmiri poet Masoom Maqbool presented a beautifully written odic poem dedicated to Allachizab village of Kupwara. Poets Moomin Bashir and Syed Wasil also captivated the listeners with their soulful verses, receiving heartfelt applause. Aadil Tariq Lolabi's Kashmiri poem on the importance and significance of time, reminiscent of the works of Rajab Hamid, too garnered admiration from the audience. I too recited an odic poem on Chinara, highlighting its charm and cultural significance during the event. Other poets who participated in the symposium included Rahat Falahi, Gh. Hassan Banhama, and Gh. Rasool Malik Trehgami. Ab Aziz Mastana and Naseer Ahmad, while deliberating on the importance of organizing literary events in educational institutions, reiterated that more such programs would be held in the future. They also assured that the Dream World School administration would extend every possible support and cooperation in conducting these events to nurture literary taste and temperament among students. In conclusion, Showkat Saqib Poshpouri expressed gratitude to all poets and guests for making the program a grand success. He truly deserves applause and commendation for organizing such inspiring events aimed at promoting language and literature.

Writer is a columnist based in Qazigund Kashmir

Drug Menace: How Deep the Roots Are?



JAG MOHAN THAKEN

As per Media reports, on October 24, 2025 a video reportedly floated on social media, the footage of which went viral on Thursday, shows several girls covering their faces with scarves, entering the shop, purchasing liquor, and leaving briskly with bottles tucked discreetly into their school bags in Nainpur town under Mandla district of Madhya Pradesh.

For a country like India, what a disturbing and astonishing incident it is, wherein even the school girls are noticed purchasing the liquor!

Another incident which shows the most dreadful and shameful face of drug menace has been reported by Leader of opposition in Punjab Vidhan Sabha, Pratap Singh Bajwa on 25th October. Bajwa highlighted that in a gut-wrenching incident that exposes the horrifying depths of Punjab's drug crisis, a drug-addict couple from Mansa district sold their five-month-old son to a family in Budhlada for Rs 1.8 lakh — just to fund their addiction.

"In 2022, the central government submitted a report to the Supreme Court that an alarming 15.8 million youths between the ages of 10 and 17 battle substance addiction nationwide. Based on findings from a court-mandated research study, alcoholic beverages rank as the primary mind-altering substance consumed by the population, with marijuana and opioid-based drugs following behind", The New Indian Express in an Article on March 30, 2025 reported.

It is despite the National Centre for Drug Abuse Prevention underscores on its website that Drug abuse is a serious problem having dangerous consequences and recognizing the seriousness of

the multi-faceted implications of the incidence of substance abuse in the country, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been implementing various steps.

Also, in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 18, 2025, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs Nityanand Rai told that to address the problem of Drug Abuse, Government has formulated and implemented the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) under which the Government is taking a sustained and coordinated action for arresting the problem of substance abuse. This includes: Launched Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) in all districts of the country through more than 10000 master volunteers. It has reached out to more-than 14.79 crore people including 4.96 crore youth and 2.97 crore women.

Despite the central government's launching 'Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan' (NMBA) in all districts of the country, why has India not succeeded in curbing this evil? Why was the evil not nipped in the bud? Why as per ground reports, the situation is still so alarming? Here we will discuss the situation in agrarian states—Punjab and Haryana, just as samples.

However, the Aam Adami Party ruled Punjab government has been running its 'YUDH NASHIAN VIRUDH' (Battle against drugs) campaign since long and on October 26, the date of writing these lines, this drive has completed its 239th day.

A government press release claims that continuing the war against drugs "Yudh Nashian Virudh" waged by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann to eradicate drug menace from state consecutively for the 239th day, Punjab Police conducted raids at 261 locations on Sunday leading to the arrest of 66 drug smugglers after registration of 57 first information reports (FIRs) across the state. With this, the number of total drug smugglers arrested has reached 34,175 in 239 days.

However, its appreciable action and step of the Punjab government, but also exposes the ground situation of the state



that how deep the roots of drug menace are. The figure of total drug smugglers arrested has reached 34,175 in 239 days shows the seriousness and gravity of the problem.

Despite strenuous efforts of the state government to hammer the problem, the opposition party, Congress, alleges that Punjab continues to face the worst-ever drug crisis, and the Chief Minister Mann keeps boasting about ending it.

The drug menace is not "under control" — it's out of control, spreading like a plague through our villages, consuming generation after generation, alleged the Leader of the Opposition Bajwa.

Bajwa came down heavily on Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann accusing him of wilfully ignoring the drug menace. Bajwa highlighted that in a gut-wrenching incident that exposes the horrifying depths of Punjab's drug crisis, a drug-addict couple from Mansa district sold their five-month-old son to a family in Budhlada for Rs 1.8 lakh — just to fund their addiction.

Bajwa stated that the mother was once a state-level wrestler. She and her husband, both enslaved by drugs, sold their baby to keep their next high going. This is not fiction. This is the reality of Punjab in 2025.

"While Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and his government shamelessly parade hollow promises about "eliminating drugs," Punjab's families are being destroyed, children are sold like cattle, and villages decay in the shadow of addiction. Every such incident is a damning indictment of this administration: a system that has utterly failed to prevent addiction, failed to protect children, and failed—repeatedly—to uphold the most basic tenets of humanity," Bajwa thundered.

The Congress party in Haryana also alleges that drug menace is growing rapidly in the state.

The General Secretary of All India Congress Committee, former Union Minister, and Sirsa MP Kumari Selja, in a press statement on October 13, said that the BJP government is not serious about the growing drug menace in Haryana. Kumari Selja said that the government has blindly trusted the official figures presented by officers while the reality is that cases of drug overdose and drug-related deaths are being reported daily in various districts. Out of the 22 districts in the state, 16 have been severely affected by drug addiction, with Sirsa being the worst hit, where drug-related deaths continue to rise.

Drugs have now reached the villages from synthetic drugs to 'Chitta', every form of addiction is spreading rapidly. The Haryana government has completely failed to control the drug menace.

Kumari Selja said that the fast-spreading drug network in Dabwali and nearby areas has engulfed the entire region, and in the last 40 days, 15 young lives have been lost, which reflects the frightening ground reality. She said it is "deeply unfortunate that drugs are being sold openly at medical stores while both the BJP government and the district administration remain silent spectators."

Kumari Selja said that there are about 1,700 medical stores in Sirsa district alone, but the number of officers and inspectors is extremely low. Kumari Selja said that without regular inspections, the sale of medical drugs as narcotics cannot be stopped. The government claims that 162 de-addiction centres are functioning in Haryana, and 3,350 villages and about 900 urban wards have been declared drug-free, including around 180 villages in Sirsa, but the ground reality tells a different story.

"Conduct high-level inspections of all medical stores. Take strict action against those selling or protecting drug peddlers. Transform the anti-drug campaign into a people's movement", advised Selja. She said the rising number of drug-related deaths is not just a statistic, it reflects the government's insensitivity and the failure of our entire system.

Concludingly, it seems that the present efforts are not efficient and sufficient. It needs a heavy hammer blow. To protect children and youth from addiction, awareness programs must be launched at schools, colleges, universities, other educational institutions and village level social platforms. Concrete steps are urgently needed to curb drug trafficking and illegal sales across the country. Will the governments and the society adopt a joint effective and forceful strategy to get rid of this blot?

The author is a Senior Journalist, Columnist & Political Analyst from Chandigarh

India's Dual Thrust: Boosting Medical and Maritime Strengths



VIJAY GARG

India is strategically pursuing a dual-pronged approach to enhance its global standing by significantly strengthening both its medical (healthcare) and maritime sectors. These twin focus areas are viewed as crucial pillars for achieving the national vision of a developed India by 2047 (Viksit Bharat 2047), promoting economic growth, and projecting regional influence.

The Maritime Renaissance: From Coastline to Corridor

The maritime sector, which handles about 95% of the country's trade volume, is undergoing a massive transformation, moving from mere port management to a holistic, port-led development model.

Key Initiatives and Vision:

Maritime India Vision (MIV) 2030 and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047: These ambitious blueprints aim to propel India into the top tier of global maritime nations. Targets include quadrupling port cargo handling capacity, becoming a top 10 shipbuilding nation, and creating a world-class, sustainable maritime ecosystem.

Infrastructure and Efficiency: Major focus areas include:

Capacity Expansion: Port capacity has been significantly augmented, with ambitious goals to reach 3,500 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) by 2030.

Sagarmala Programme: This national initiative drives port-led industrialization, enhancing port connectivity, and promoting coastal shipping. Projects worth lakhs of crores are reshaping

coastal logistics.

Digitalization: Initiatives like the "One Nation One Port Process" aim to streamline operations, reduce paperwork, and enhance efficiency through technology integration (AI, IoT).

Green Shipping: The Harit Sagar Green Port Guidelines and the Green Tug Transition Program (GTTP) are promoting sustainability, aiming for eco-friendly operations and a reduced carbon footprint, aligning with global climate goals.

Strategic Investment and Shipbuilding: The government has approved a massive package (including the extension of the Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme and the establishment of a Maritime Development Fund (MDF)) to revitalize domestic shipbuilding, attract private investment, and expand the national fleet.

Naval Power Projection: Concurrently, the Indian Navy is modernizing and expanding its fleet—aiming for over 200 ships and submarines by 2035—to protect vital trade routes, safeguard its expansive maritime interests, and enhance its role as a net security provider in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Indigenous warship construction, driven by the Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India) initiative, forms the core of this strategy.

The Healthcare Surge: Global Medical Destination

India is rapidly positioning itself as a "Global Medical Destination," leveraging its vast pool of skilled professionals, advanced technology, and unique blend of modern and traditional medicine.

Key Initiatives and Strengths:

Medical Value Travel (MVT): India is one of the fastest-growing MVT destinations globally. The market size is projected to grow significantly, driven by high-quality care at competitive costs. The launch of Medical Visas & e-medical visas facilitates treatment for foreign patients.

Ayushman Bharat: This flagship

national initiative forms the foundation of a robust healthcare ecosystem, focusing on four main pillars, including the establishment of Health and Wellness Centres for last-mile delivery and the world's largest government-funded health insurance scheme.

Holistic Healthcare: India promotes a comprehensive approach, integrating modern medicine with traditional systems like Ayurveda, Yoga, and Unani (AYUSH), which adds a unique dimension to its healthcare offerings.

Talent and Capacity: The government is focused on strengthening and upgrading existing medical institutions to increase the number of doctors and specialists. Since 2014, there has been a remarkable increase in both MBBS and PG seats, addressing the demand for medical talent both domestically and globally.

Synergy and Strategic Outcome

The push in the medical and maritime sectors is not isolated. A robust maritime infrastructure supports the import of medical equipment and pharmaceuticals, while a strong economy, partly fueled by the maritime trade, provides the resources for healthcare investment. Furthermore, the Indian Navy often plays a 'soft power' role by providing humanitarian and medical assistance (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief - HADR) across the IOR, using its ships to deliver medical supplies and conduct rescue operations, thereby directly linking both strengths.

By investing heavily in its ports, shipping, and naval capability, and simultaneously expanding its high-quality healthcare system, India is enhancing its economic resilience, securing its strategic space, and improving the well-being of its citizens—a comprehensive strategy that underscores its aspiration to become a leading global power.

Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational columnist Eminent Educationist street kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab

Animal Health Camp Organized by KVK Kulgam Benefits Livestock Farmers in Hallan, Manzgam



FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, OCT 31: Under the direction of Director Extension, Prof. Riahana H. Kanth, SKUAST-Kashmir, and the supervision of Professor & Head, Dr. Manzoor A. Ganai, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Kulgam successfully organized an Animal Health Camp in the remote village of Hallan, Manzgam. The camp aimed to provide preventive and curative healthcare services to livestock farmers of the region.

A team of experts comprising Dr. Shahid Ahmad, Dr. Ab. Shakoor, Dr. Tariq Iqbal, and Dr. Mustafa from the Sheep Husbandry Department, Manzgam, rendered professional services during the camp. The experts conducted on-spot animal treatment, provided clinical consultations, and educated farmers on scientific livestock management, balanced feeding, and disease prevention strategies.

A total of 67 livestock owners actively participated in the programme. During the camp, 166 dairy animals, 135 ovine, and 10 other livestock species were examined and provided with deworming, mineral mixture supplementation,

and other necessary treatments. Free medicines and mineral mixtures were also distributed among the farmers as part of the animal welfare initiative.

Experts emphasized the importance of balanced nutrition, routine deworming, vaccination, and mineral supplementation to enhance milk yield, reproductive performance, and overall herd health. Farmers were sensitized about early disease detection, hygiene, and biosecurity measures to reduce production losses and improve profitability.

The event received an overwhelming response from the local farming community, who expressed gratitude to KVK Kulgam and SKUAST-Kashmir for their continued efforts toward improving livestock health and productivity in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Manzoor A. Ganai appreciated the dedication of the expert team and reiterated that such outreach programmes are a vital part of KVK's mandate to transfer scientific knowledge from lab to land, particularly in the field of livestock and dairy development for the welfare of rural and tribal farmers.

Kulgam Police Organizes “Run for Unity” to Mark Rashtriya Ekta Diwas

■ FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, OCT 31: As part of the nationwide celebration of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas commemorating the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Kulgam Police organized a grand “Run for Unity” event in the Qazigund jurisdiction area on Thursday.

The event was jointly flagged off on the National Highway (NHW) from Chaimulla to Navayug Tunnel by Shri Javid Iqbal Mattoo (IPS), DIG South Kashmir Range; Brigadier Sudhir Kumar Singh, VSM, Commander 2 Sector Rashtriya Rifles; Shri Anayat Ali Chowdhary (IPS), SSP Kulgam; and Shri Parvez Rasool Dar, former Indian cricketer.

A large number of participants, including youth, women, school children, and members of civil society, took part in the run with immense enthusiasm and patriotic fervor. The event also featured colourful cultural performances showcasing themes of unity, peace, and national integration.

Speaking on the occasion, DIG South Kashmir Range, Shri Javid Iqbal Mattoo (IPS), lauded Kulgam Police for organizing the event and said, “The Run for Unity reflected the collective resolve of the people of Kulgam to uphold the ideals of peace, harmony, and brotherhood as envisioned by the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.”

In addition to the main event at Qazigund, Run for Unity programmes were also organized across all police jurisdictions of district Kulgam, drawing widespread participation from people across the district, particularly the youth. The event concluded with a pledge ceremony, wherein participants vowed to uphold and strengthen the unity, integrity, and sovereignty of the nation, honoring the enduring legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel — the architect of a united India.

Commemoration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

HT News Desk

Ganderbal, Oct 01: The 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India and architect of national integration, was celebrated with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervor *across all schools of District Ganderbal.*

The celebration was marked by a series of meaningful and spirited activities — *Pledge Ceremony, Unity Run, Symposiums, Painting Competitions, Seminars, and Debates —* reflecting the ideals of unity, strength, and integrity that Sardar Patel envisioned for our nation. Students, teachers, and community members participated with zeal, showcasing their deep reverence and admiration for one of the greatest nation-builders in Indian history.

In the symposiums and seminars, participants highlighted Sardar Patel's unparalleled contribution in uniting more than 560 princely states into one sovereign India — a feat that stands as a testament to his vision, courage, and unwavering sense of duty. The painting competitions and Unity Runs embodied the spirit of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat, symbolizing harmony, collective strength, and the beauty of diversity.

The event was not merely a remembrance but a reaffirmation of Patel's timeless message — that unity is the soul of our nation, and discipline its backbone. His life continues to inspire generations to rise above divisions and dedicate themselves to the service of humanity and the nation.

The Chief Education Officer, Ganderbal, while appreciating the efforts of all schools and institutions, emphasized that such programs nurture the moral, emotional, and patriotic character of students and remind us that the strength of India lies in its unity, inclusiveness, and shared destiny.

The commemoration concluded with the resolve that the torch of unity lit by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel shall continue to guide our educational institutions, our youth, and our nation toward harmony, progress, and peace.



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Room No 12, Huda Ash Central Market, Abi Guzar Lalchowk, Srinagar

email: srpixels2021@gmail.com

Public Notice

This is for the information of general public that i have correction in my bank passbook now i want to change this correction as per adhaar card . If any body has any objection regarding this please contact jammu and Kashmir bank branch singpora pattan within 7 days no objection will be accepted after the stipulated time period

Name :Ulfaat Jan, D/o: Ali mohd dar
R/o: pathan mohalla hanjiwera

Public Notice

I Farooq Ahmad Sofi, son of the late Ghulam Rasool Sofi, resident of Kreeri, District Baramulla, hereby inform the general public that I have lost my driving license, bearing No. JK1520230001068, while travelling from Bandipora to Srinagar. I have been unable to find it anywhere. I am applying for a duplicate license in this regard. If anyone has any objections, they may file them with the ARTO Bandipora within seven days. After this period, no objections will be entertained.

Public Notice

I lost my college prospectus file, which contained my original educational documents, including my 10th and 12th-grade mark sheets, certificates, and my date of birth certificate from JKBOSE, on October 16th. I may have accidentally left it on a bus travelling from Kreeri to Baramulla or on a local bus in Baramulla. If anyone has found it, please contact me at the number given below. I would be truly grateful for your help.

Syed Aasiya Ishaq daughter of Syed Mohammad Ishaq resident of Kreeri District Baramulla
9070000957

ازنسیات ماگام

مضمون درخواست شیر احمد ڈار ولد غلام رسول ڈار ساکن بند پورہ تحصیل ہندواڑہ نمبت حصول نیگیل تیر سیرگیٹ

اشتہار بغرض آگاہی ہر شخص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سال / سالہ کی درخواست دفتر حذا میں زیر سماعت ہے نمبت ڈینڈ تیر سیرگیٹ دفتر حذا میں زیر کارروائی ہے سال / سالہ کا مکین بتاریخ **09 / 11 / 2001** کو فت ہو چکی ہے متوئی کی نیگیل تیر بڑیل ہیں

1 غلام رسول ڈار ولد غلام محمد ڈار عمر **65** پیشہ مزدوری

2 ظریف نیگیل زوہہ عمر **63** پیشہ گھریلو کام

3 محمد یاسین پسر عمر **41** پیشہ مزدوری

4 اشفاق احمد پسر عمر **39** پیشہ مزدوری

5 شیر احمد ڈار پسر عمر **30** پیشہ مزدوری

6 سلیم احمد ڈار پسر عمر **26** پیشہ مزدوری

لہذا کر کے اگر کسی بھی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی مذکر یا اعتراض ہو اس سیرگیٹ کو اجراء کرنے میں تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر دفتر حذا میں پیش کریں میعاد ختم ہونے کے بعد کوئی بھی مذکر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

محسیر الصد رنائب تحصیلدار ماگام

ازنسیات ماگام

مضمون درخواست شیر احمد ڈار ولد غلام رسول ڈار ساکن بند پورہ تحصیل ہندواڑہ نمبت حصول ڈینڈ تیر سیرگیٹ

اشتہار بغرض آگاہی ہر شخص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سال / سالہ کی درخواست دفتر حذا میں زیر سماعت ہے نمبت ڈینڈ تیر سیرگیٹ دفتر حذا میں زیر کارروائی ہے سال / سالہ کا مکین بتاریخ **09 / 11 / 2001** کو فت ہو چکی ہے متوئی کی ڈینڈ تیر بڑیل ہیں

1 غلام رسول ڈار ولد غلام محمد ڈار عمر **65** پیشہ مزدوری

2 ظریف نیگیل زوہہ عمر **63** پیشہ گھریلو کام

3 محمد یاسین پسر عمر **41** پیشہ مزدوری

4 اشفاق احمد پسر عمر **39** پیشہ مزدوری

5 شیر احمد ڈار پسر عمر **30** پیشہ مزدوری

6 سلیم احمد ڈار پسر عمر **26** پیشہ مزدوری

لہذا کر کے اگر کسی بھی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی مذکر یا اعتراض ہو اس سیرگیٹ کو اجراء کرنے میں تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر دفتر حذا میں پیش کریں میعاد ختم ہونے کے بعد کوئی بھی مذکر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

محسیر الصد رنائب تحصیلدار ماگام

ازنسیات ماگام

مضمون رو پیہ نیگیل زوہہ طالب حسین گوہر بیکلو ساکن ماگام تحصیل ہندواڑہ نمبت حصول ایس کی سیرگیٹ

اشتہار بغرض آگاہی ہر شخص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سال / سالہ کی درخواست نمبت حصول ایس کی سیرگیٹ دفتر حذا میں زیر کارروائی ہے

1 محمد یونس ولد شامو گوہر بیکلو عمر **60** پیشہ مزدوری

2 رو پیہ نیگیل زوہہ طالب حسین عمر **40** پیشہ گھریلو کام

3 لطیف احمد ولد طالب حسین پیشہ زرعہ عمر **17** پیشہ زرعہ

4 جمیل احمد ولد طالب حسین عمر **15** پیشہ زرعہ

اس کے علاوہ سال / سالہ کی ماباد آمدنی ہے لہذا کر کے اگر کسی بھی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی مذکر یا اعتراض ہو اس سیرگیٹ کو اجراء کرنے میں تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر دفتر حذا میں پیش کریں میعاد ختم ہونے کے بعد کوئی بھی مذکر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

محسیر الصد رنائب تحصیلدار ماگام

از دست رانڈر بیکو مجسٹریٹ درج اول ماگام

مضمون درخواست عیدہ بشیر تہی ولد بشیر احمد تہی ساکن ماگام کی بابت تصدیق تاریخ پیدائش

اشتہار بغرض آگاہی ہر شخص و عام

سال عام کو بڑیر اس اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ مندرجہ بالا عنوان کے تحت سال عیدہ بشیر تہی ولد بشیر احمد تہی ساکن ماگام کی درخواست بابت تصدیق تاریخ پیدائش دفتر ایڈوکیٹو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول ماگام میں زیر سماعت ہے ریکارڈ کے مطابق سال کی تاریخ پیدائش **02- 28 - 2007** درج ہے لہذا اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو اس بابت کوئی اعتراض یا مذکر ہو تو وہ اس اشتہار کی اشاعت سے سات (**7**) دن کے اندر اندر دفتر ایڈوکیٹو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول ماگام میں تحریری طور پر اپنا اعتراض پیش کریں۔ میعاد ختم ہونے کے بعد موصول ہونے والا کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

محسیر الصد ر

ایڈوکیٹو مجسٹریٹ درج اول ماگام

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of SHABIR AHMAD RATHER S/O ABDUL RASHID RATHER R/O TAKIYA YOUSUF SHAH for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that FAROOQ AHMAD RATHER S/O ABDUL RASHID RATHER has passed away on 04/11/1993 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- 1.... , FATIMA BEGUM Mother 80 years old aged married
- 2.... , JAVID AHMAD Brother 52 years labour married
- 3...MEHMOODA BEGUM sister 45 years H/W married
- 4....MOHD ABBAS Brother 40 years labour married
- 5....SHABIR AHMAD Brother 39 years labour married
- 6....MUSHTAQ AHMAD Brother 33 years labour married

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI KREERI

Public Notice

My son's name has been incorrectly mentioned as MOHAMMAD AATIF MALIK S/O ABDUL HAMID MALIK R/O DOULTHPORA while his correct name is MOHAMMAD ATIF MALIK S/O ABDUL HAMEED MAILK R/O DOULTHPORA as per adhar record which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his /her objection in the office of concerned authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name....ABDUL HAMEED MALIK
F/O MOHAMMAD ATIF MALIK
R/O DOULTHPORA
TEHSIL....KREERI

Public Notice

I am applying for fresh Pesticide and Fertilizer License under the name Pandith Pesticides & Fertilizers situated at Aglar Pattan. In this regard if anybody is having any objection may file the same to Chief Agriculture Officer Baramulla and PPO Lal Mandi Srinagar within the time period of 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. (Aamir Nazir Pandith S/o Nazir Ahmad Pandith R/o Aglar pattan) Cell No. +91 84929 25963)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION SRINAGAR

(Tele-fax No: 019-2496089, e-mail id: exen-mechospssgr@jk.gov.in)

Subject: 1. Servicing, repairs upgradation of oxygen manifold system in NICU at Govt LD Hospital Srinagar
Ref: 1. This office NIT No: MHDS/TS /2025-26/83/e-tendering Dt 14.10.2025

EXTENSION

In view of no response, the Critical dates of above subject work(s) tendered vide above referred e-NIT are extended as follows:-

S. No	Description	Date and Time
1.	Last Date of Bid Submission	06.11.2025 (13:00 hrs)
2.	Date of Bid Opening	06.11.2025 (15:00 hrs)

All other Terms and Conditions of the NIT shall remain the same.

No: *M&HDS/TS/5217-20* | Dated: 31.10.2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division, Srinagar

DIPK: 7666/25 | Dated: 31-10-2025

Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SOPORE

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Fresh NITNo- 120 of RnB-Sopore of 2025-2026e-tendering DATED 30.10.2025(2nd call)

For and on behalf of the **Lt. Governor, J&K**, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on **Percentage** **rate basis** from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/ Central Governments for the following works:

S.N o.	Name of Work	Adv. cost	Cost of Tender Documents In Rupees	E/ Money	Time for completion of work	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contract or	M.H of Account	Position of TS
1	Upgradation of link road balance portion by way of providing and laying of road near Warapora Petrol Pump.	1.00	200/-	2000/-	30 days	07.11. 2025	DEE	3054 M&R	101 /TS of 2025 dated: 29.08 . 2025

Project Authority: Chief Engineer PWD (R&B) North Kashmir

Position of funds: Available

Position of TS.

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

1	Date of issue of tender Notice	30.10.2025	
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	30.10.2025	06.11.2025/(upto 4.PM)
3	Bid Submission start date	30.10.2025	
4	Bid submission End date	06.11.2025 (4.00 PM)	
5	Date and time of opening of bides (online)	07.11.2025 (12 PM) in the office of Ex. Engineer R&B Division. Sopore	

- Bids must be accompanied by a **Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) with NIT No. Name of work and S.No. deposited in M.H. 0059** in the name of **Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore**, (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.
- At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore . Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 3% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period
- (b) Geotech Photographs Minimum 03 sets (01 set Comprising of Photograph before, during and after execution of work) of size 26 cm x21 cm to be provided.

- Allother terms, condition shall remain same as per e-NIT No. 01 of 2025-26 & NIT 87 of 2025-26 and NIT 108 of 2025-26
- If the contractor/HMPO quotes rate for any item of work in his tender as free of cost at the time of tendering process, his tender shall be rejected outrightly.

No: 7186/95 | Dated: 30-10-2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer, R&B Division Sopore

DIPK: 7651/25

Public Notice

My daughter , Aabru Feroze D/o Feroze Ahmad Dar, Resident of Dogripora, Tehsil Awantipora, District Pulwama, hereby inform the general public that her name has been wrongly recorded as Abirah Feroz D/o Feroz Ahmad Dar in Aadhar record. And the same is required to be corrected as follows:

Name: Aabru Feroze
D/o: Feroze Ahmad Dar
R/o: Dogripora, Tehsil Awantipora, District Pulwama

If anyone has any objection to this correction, he/she may contact the concerned authorities within 7 days of the publication of this notice. After that, no objections will be entertained, and the correction shall be deemed final.

Sd/- Mubeena Yousuf
R/o Dogripora, Tehsil Awantipora, District Pulwama

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of ZUBIDHA AKHTER D/O BASHIR AHMAD MIR R/O PUSNAG Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 02/03/1986 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection.

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Public Notice

My Son's name has been wrongly written as JEHANGIR HAFEEZ S/O HAFEEZULLAH TELI in his school record while his correct name is JEHANGIR HAFIZ S/O HAFIZULLA TELI which needs to be corrected .If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his /her objection in the office of TEHSILDAR Wagoora/BDO Wagoora Within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name... HAFIZULLAH TELI
F/O JEHANGIR HAFIZ
ZONE ...WAGOORA

Govt. for strengthening existing infrastructure, filling vacancies: Education Minister

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR OCT 31: Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo today said that the Government is focusing on strengthening existing infrastructure in schools and filling vacancies to cater the growing educational needs of students rather than opening new schools.

The Minister said this while replying to a clubbed question of Legislators, Mir Saifullah and Farooq Ahmad Shah on upgradation of schools in Legislative Assembly today.

The Minister informed the house that there is no such proposal with the Government for up-gradation of schools to their next higher



level (Primary to Middle, Middle to High and High to Higher Secondary)

as the School Education Department is presently focusing on strengthen-

ing of existing schools by way of creation of required infrastructure and providing staff to all the existing schools across the Union Territory especially the upgraded ones.

She further said that the up-gradation of schools from High school to Higher secondary level involves establishing infrastructure, creation of posts of lecturers and non-teaching staff, involving huge financial implications and requires concurrence from the Finance Department.

The Minister also informed the house that as and when the department proposes up-gradation of schools the demand for upgradation of schools of Trehgam constituency shall be examined for consideration.

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas observed in Anantnag

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

ANANTNAG OCTOBER 31: Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day), commemorated as the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, was observed today across district Anantnag with multiple functions and activities held to honour his legacy and contribution for the country.

This year marked his 150th birth anniversary and many events are being organised as a symbol of respect for the "Iron Man of India".

The main function was held at Town Hall Anantnag which was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner (DC), S.F Hamid and attended by CEO PDA, ADC, GM DIC, ACR, DySP, Exens of various engineering wings, district and sectoral officers, officials, civil society members and local public.

On the occasion, the DC administered Unity Pledge to the participants and paid rich tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel for his glorious vision and contribution in

unification of the nation. He emphasized that Rashtriya Ekta Diwas reminds us that strength lies in unity and the government functionaries and citizens can equally contribute in nation building.

Urging officers to work with commitment and sincerity, Hamid said that proper implementation of developmental initiatives and public welfare schemes has a meaningful impact in development of society and country at large.

During the program, documentaries showcasing the life and vision of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel were screened, reflecting his role in building a united India.

The celebration concluded with a renewed resolve among all participants to uphold the ideals of peace, unity, and collective progress.

Earlier, a Run for Unity was organized at District Headquarters which witnessed enthusiastic participation from officers of civil and police administration, students, officials, and citizens, spreading the message of unity and harmony.

Pulwama Observes Rashtriya Ekta Diwas with Enthusiasm

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

PULWAMA, OCTOBER 31: District Administration Pulwama, in collaboration with Police, CRPF & Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) Pulwama (Department of Youth Affairs, Government of India), today organised a mega "Run for Unity" on the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

The event was held to honour Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's monumental contribution to the unification of India and to promote the spirit of unity, integrity, and national harmony.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Pulwama Dr. Basharat Qayoom flagged off a vibrant bike rally, where participants proudly carried the National Flag, spreading the message of "Unity in Diversity."

Following this, the Deputy Commissioner along with Senior Superintendent of Police, Pulwama, Tanushree, led a Unity March that commenced from the Deputy Commissioner's Office Pulwama and culminated at the District Police Lines (DPL) Pulwama.

The march witnessed overwhelming participation from all sections of society including elected representa-



tives, social activists, NGOs, civil society members, trade union representatives, students, youth and local citizens.

At DPL Pulwama, a Unity Concert was also organised by Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR), Pulwama, filling the atmosphere with energy and patriotic fervour through renditions of national songs while march-past featured contingents from Jammu Kashmir Police (JKP), Jammu and Kashmir Armed Police (JKAP), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) 182/183 BN, and NCC Cadets among others.

Earlier in the day, Deputy Commissioner Pulwama administered the Ekta Pledge, reaffirming the commitment to preserve the unity, integrity, and security of the nation.

Meanwhile, similar Unity Runs and Pledge Ceremonies were held across the district at the sub-divisional & block levels.

Furthermore, a series of cultural programmes, seminars, essay competitions, and quiz contests on the life and legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel were organised across educational institutions in Pulwama district, engaging youth and students in understanding Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's vision of a united India.

Run for Unity held at Budgam to Commemorate 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 31: As part of the nationwide celebrations marking the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the District Administration Budgam today organised a grand Run for Unity (Padyatra) from Multi-Level Car Parking to the DC Office Complex Budgam, followed by an Ekta Diwas Pledge Ceremony at Sheikh-ul-Alam Hall, Budgam.

The event, aimed at fostering the spirit of national integration and paying tribute to the Iron Man of India, was organised under the overall supervision of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat.

The DC flagged off the Padyatra and personally led the march, symbolising unity and collective resolve among the citizens. Hundreds of students, government employees, officials, and local residents participated in the march, carrying National flags, banners promoting the message of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat."

The Padyatra culminated at Sheikh-ul-Alam Hall, where DC Budgam administered the Ekta Diwas Pledge to all participants,

reaffirming the collective commitment of the district's citizens to preserve and strengthen the unity, integrity, and security of the nation.

Addressing the gathering, the DC paid glowing tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, calling him one of the greatest nation-builders of India.

He said that "Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's firm resolve, statesmanship, and foresight were instrumental in integrating our Country. His vision and leadership laid the foundation for a strong, united, and democratic India."

The DC said, today's Ekta divas served as a tribute to Sardar Patel's vision of a united India. He emphasised the essence of love transcending barriers of caste, color, creed, and religion, urging everyone to embrace unity.

The DC said, the National Unity Day celebration in Budgam reflects a collective commitment to the principles of integrity, inclusivity, and harmonious co-existence.

The DC emphasised that Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's life continues to serve as an inspiration for every citizen to uphold the values of patriotism, integrity, and service.



He added that the occasion of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) reminds everyone of their duty to protect and strengthen the fabric of the nation.

The DC highlighted that India's greatest strength lies in its diversity and that unity amidst diversity forms the very essence of the country's civilizational ethos.

He remarked that our pluralistic culture, mutual respect, and harmony are what make India unique. He said that we must en-

sure that this unity remains unshaken despite differences in language, region, or belief.

He further encouraged the youth to take inspiration from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's unwavering commitment to public service and to play an active role in nation-building. "The young generation must emulate this discipline, determination, and dedication. They must work to strengthen the idea of India, an India that stands for peace, progress, and

inclusiveness," he said.

The DC also spoke about the importance of community participation, social harmony, and civic sense in maintaining peace and order at the grassroots level. He said that unity should not merely be symbolic but reflected in everyday acts of co-operation, compassion, and mutual support.

The DC appreciated the overwhelming participation from across different sections of society, noting that such events reinforce the spirit of collective responsibility and brotherhood.

He also commended the efforts of all departments and institutions involved in successfully organising the Padyatra and the pledge ceremony.

Earlier, the participants comprising of officials from various departments, students, and local citizens enthusiastically took part in the run, raising slogans celebrating India's unity and diversity.

Besides, ADDC Budgam, ADC budgam, PO ICDS budgam, CPO budgam, CEO budgam, Senior officers of civil administration, employees of different departments and civil society members were also present on the occasion.

Div Com Jammu reviews arrangements for subsidised Heli Service to Hilly Districts, commencing from Nov 2

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, OCTOBER 31: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar today chaired a meeting to review arrangements for the subsidised Helicopter Services for the hilly and snowbound districts of Jammu Division, commencing from November 2nd, 2025. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch and Rajouri, Director Tourism, representatives from Civil Aviation, J&K and Airport Authority of India (AAI), Jammu.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the Deputy Commissioners for designating Nodal officers for booking tickets from their districts and putting in place all requisite arrangements, including ticket counters, cleanliness



and proper security at Helipads.

The to and fro heli services shall be available for Jammu to Poonch, Jammu to Mendhar, Jammu to Rajouri, Jammu to Doda, Jammu to Kishwar and intra Kishwar routes.

He directed the Tourism department for publishing district wise and route wise rates for the heli services,

while Deputy Commissioners were also asked for wide publicity of the heli services available for people for traveling to hilly and snowbound districts, especially during winters.

Representative of AAI, Jammu was also asked to make proper arrangements for the helicopters and ticket counters at Jammu Airport.

District Admin Udhampur celebrates Rashtriya Ekta Diwas with 'Run for Unity'

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 31: To commemorate Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, marking the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the District Administration Udhampur today organized a Run for Unity rally at the District Headquarters.

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai in the presence of Senior Superintendent of Police, Amod Ashok Nagpure, flagged off the rally from the Mini Stadium, Udhampur.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, Additional SP Sandeep Bhat, Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh, senior officers from various line departments, prominent citizens, members of civil society and students and staff from various educational institutions.



While speaking on the occasion, the DC emphasized the importance of national unity and integrity and urged the participants to emulate the ideals of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. She exhorted everyone to promote peace, harmony and a spirit of togetherness in society. The DC highlighted that the main objective of organizing such events is to strengthen communal harmony, social integration and a sense of belongingness among all sections of the community. She also sensitized the participants about the ongoing Vigilance Awareness Week and its significance in building a transparent and accountable administration.

The rally, comprising officers and officials, civil society members and students, carried banners and placards conveying messages of unity, integrity and national security. The rally passed through Matador Stand, MH Chowk, Devika and Dak Bungalow and culminated at Government Boys' Degree College, Udhampur.

Earlier, a pledge ceremony was held, wherein all officers and officials pledged to preserve the unity, integrity and security of the nation and to strive earnestly to spread this noble message among their fellow citizens.

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrated with zeal in Shopian

DC urges youth to uphold the ideals of unity, integrity, and harmony for a stronger nation

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 31: To celebrate the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, commemorating the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the District Administration Shopian in collaboration with "Mera Yuva Bharat" today organized a grand function here at Mini-Secretariat, Shopian.

The event was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta to celebrate the spirit of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner paid glowing tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel for his historic role in the integration of princely states and



the unification of the nation after Independence. He emphasized that Patel's vision, courage and leadership remain a guiding light for every Indian, reminding citizens

of the strength that comes from unity and collective effort.

He further added that we all should commit on this happy occasion to fight collectively against

corruption, drugs and environmental pollution to take forward the developmental journey of the district.

The DC also highlighted the importance of preserving mutual respect and working collectively towards developmental goals, especially inculcating the same among the youth.

On the occasion, Unity Pledge was also administered to officers, officials and participants, reaffirming commitment to uphold the unity, integrity and security of the nation.

Local artists and school students of various educational institutions presented a series of cultural, patriotic, and dramatic performances and speeches reflecting the

theme of national integration and unity in diversity.

The programme concluded with expressions of gratitude from the district administration to all participants and stakeholders for their active involvement in making the event successful.

The celebration at Shopian reflected the true spirit of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, spreading the message of oneness, harmony and national pride across the district.

SSP, Shopian, Mushtaq Ahmad Choudhary; ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; district administration officers and officials, civil society members, youth, volunteers, and a large number of students and local public participated in the event.

Piyush Goyal chairs meeting with EPCs and industry bodies

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, OCT 31: Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal today chaired a meeting with Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) and industry associations here.

The discussions focused on issues and challenges faced by the industry, achievements in export diversification and the views and expectations of stakeholders for further promotion of exports from the country. During the meeting, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) and Department of Commerce made detailed presentations on major reforms undertaken during the first half of FY2025-26, upcoming reform measures aimed at facilitating exports and export performance during the period. The meeting witnessed participation from the representatives of the De-



partment of Commerce, Department of Revenue, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Export Promotion Councils and various Industry Associations.

Representatives from various sectors, including FIEO, Textile, Apparel, Engineering, Gems and Jewellery, Medical Devices, Pharmaceuticals, Services, EPCH, Telecom, Leather, CII, FICCI, PHDCCI, SIAM, ASSOCHAM, and NASSCOM commended the efforts commerce ministry in fostering a conducive trade environment and expanding market opportunities for Indian exporters, the commerce ministry a statement said.

Goyal reaffirmed the government's continued commitment to strengthen a facilitative trade ecosystem through ongoing initiatives for ease of doing business and creation of enhanced global market access for Indian exporters.UNI

NMDC witnesses peak production and revenue boost in Q2FY26

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, OCT 31: The National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) delivered its best-ever second quarter in FY26 amid strong domestic steel demand and resilient mining operations, a steel Ministry statement said today.

NMDC recorded all-time high production and sales volumes along with steady growth across key financial parameters. In Q2 FY26, production stood at 10.21 million tonnes, which is 23 percent higher than the same period last year.



Moreover, sales reached 10.72 million tonnes, which is a surge of 10 percent over Q2FY25.

Overall, NMDC's operational momentum translated into robust final results for the quarter as turnover surged 30percent to Rs 6,261 crore, PBT rose 35 percent to Rs 2,271 crore, and PAT grew 33 percent to Rs 1,694 crore.

EBITDA also climbed 32percent to Rs 2,385 crore.

Amitava Mukherjee, chairman and MD of NMDC, said, "Record production, record sales, and strong financial growth this quarter are all indicators of our historic reliability. High-quality ore supply, ambitious expansion plans, and responsiveness to national policy goals continue to make NMDC a key enabler of India's industrial aspirations. Going forward, our strategic efforts are guided by the responsibility to achieve self-sufficiency in steelmaking raw materials while also reaching net zero emissions."UNI

Growth will moderate 5-6pc for large appliances makers this fiscal: CRISIL

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, OCT 31: Manufacturers of large appliance makers will see revenue growth moderate to 5-6 percent this fiscal on a high base of 16 percent run-up logged up fiscal, a CRISIL report said today.

The Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited (CRISIL) report said a sharp cut in demand for cooling products during the first half due to the early onset of monsoon would only see a partial lift-up led by goods and services tax (GST) cut on AC and large TV coming in just before the festive season.

The rating agency noted moderating revenue growth, along with intensifying competition and dearer raw materials that will also shave off 20-40 basis points (bps) from operating margins.

Shounak Chakravarty, Director of CRISIL Ratings, said, "The 1000 bps cut in GST to 18pc for ACs and large-screen TVs (58pc of sectoral revenue) will translate into savings of Rs 3,000 to 6,000 per unit. For buyers with fixed budgets, this can spur premiumisation. Furthermore, with the price dip coming into effect just before the festive season, increased consumer spending is expected to drive 11-13pc growth in the second half, with 100-150 basis points being attributed towards GST benefits. This shall compensate for low-single-digit growth in the first half."

"Improving consumer sentiment will also boost consumption in other categories. Refrigerators (31 percent of sectoral revenue), which witnessed flattish sales in the first half, are likely to see low double-digit growth in the second half, driven by higher demand for larger capacity models due to weekend shopping and increasing consumption of frozen goods," it said.

CRISIL noted that the washing machine segment (11pc of sectoral revenue) was a rare beneficiary of the early monsoon, which is driven by the need of dryers.

Moreover, a rising proportion of the working population and changing washing patterns, such as weekend washing, will drive demand for fully automatic and larger capacity models will help maintain growth momentum of 7-8pc this fiscal.

On the other hand, moderating revenue growth and continuing intense competition will limit meaningful price hikes amid higher input costs such as steel and aluminium, and copper. Resultantly, the operating margins are also reducing slightly to 7.1-7.2pc this fiscal from 7.5 last fiscal.

Prateek Kasera, Team Leader of CRISIL Ratings, said, "The AC segment will see substantially higher capex this fiscal as manufacturers set up compressor capacities to mitigate challenges related to imports (60-65pc of requirement) with the stringent BIS norm kicking in next fiscal. Consequently, overall capex for the sector will rise 60pc to Rs 2400 crore this fiscal with the AC segment accounting for nearly half of this."

CRISIL said healthy cash flows will ensure low reliance on external debt, and the interest coverage and net cash accrual-to-adjusted debt ratios are likely to remain at over 20 times and 2.5-2.6 times this fiscal and akin to last fiscal.UNI

SAIL results for H1FY2026 shows robust operational and financial performance

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, OCT 31: State-owned Maharatna Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) today announced its financial results for the half year ended September 30 (H1 FY 2026), showcasing resilient operational performance and improved profitability, an official statement said.

The results showed steady production, which is maintained at 9.5 million tonnes of crude steel, and sales volume grew by 16.7pc as the steel major increased its outreach to retail and other consumers.

Moreover, revenue from opera-

tions crossed Rs 52,600 crore, which is driven by higher sales volumes despite the challenges faced at the pricing front. Profit After Tax (PAT) also increased by 32pc, highlighting operational efficiency and cost optimization.

Debt also fell to Rs 26,427 crore as a thrust move towards the March 23 level in full harness.

Speaking on the occasion, CMD of SAIL said, "It demonstrates SAIL's consistency across both operational and financial metrics. The company has maintained high-capacity utilisation for steady production."

With steady resolve and collective

team efforts, he said the company has achieved a significant increase in sales volume despite the volatility in global steel markets.

Coupled with a drive towards efficiency improvement and cost rationalisation, this translated into robust financial performance, the CMD said.

"As India moves towards becoming a low-carbon economy, SAIL remains committed to contributing to this transition while ensuring sustainable profitability through product diversification, customer-centric strategies, digitalisation and envisaged expansion," the CMD added.UNI

Engineering goods exports rise in Sep-25 despite a sharp 9.4 percent drop in shipments to US

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

KOLKATA, OCT 31: India's engineering goods exports continued their growth run for the fourth straight month in September 2025, but shipments to the US declined during the month, reflecting the impact of punitive tariffs imposed by the Trump administration.

The total engineering goods exports to the US, the largest market, declined 9.4 percent year-on-year to USD 1.40 billion in September 2025 as compared to USD 1.55 billion in September 2024. Engineering exports to the UAE, the second biggest market for Indian engineering goods, also registered a decline in September this year.

The value of total engineering goods exports to the UAE in the month of September this year stood at USD 636.86 million as against USD 672.39 million in the same month last year.

Notably, engineering goods exports to China recorded a 14.4 pc year-on-year rise to US\$302.21 million in September 2025 as compared to USD 264.15 million in September 2024.

Overall, engineering goods exports grew 2.93 pc year-on-year in September 2025 to US\$10.11 billion as compared to USD 9.83 billion in the corresponding month



last year. The growth in September, however, showed moderation compared to the previous month when it had increased by nearly 5 pc in August, according to EEPC India today.

Engineering exports recorded an increase on a month-on-month basis, also as it crossed USD 10 billion for the second month in this fiscal after July 2025 but the higher base of September 2024 resulted in a slower growth rate on a year-on-year basis.

The growth in September 2025 was basically attributed to growth in shipments of lead and products of lead, motor vehicles/cars, two and three wheelers, iron and steel,

and electric machinery, among others.

Region-wise, decent growth in exports to ASEAN, North-East Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and South Asia helped engineering exports grow during the month of September 2025.

"It is definitely a good sign that despite a 9.4 pc decline in engineering exports to the USA due to the tariff escalation from the end of August 2025, engineering exports from India are still growing," said EEPC India chairman Pankaj Chadha.

He stated that in the coming years, South-South trade will be a major driver of global trade, and

India is in the right direction as it negotiates key FTAs with Latin American countries such as Chile, Peru, and MERCOSUR and GCC countries.

"Going forward, several challenges are still plaguing the domestic engineering sectors, including high raw material prices, lack of access to export funding, export controls by other countries on critical raw material, such as the Rare-Earth export controls by China, etc. We are, though hopeful that with proper guidance from the Government, we will be able to face these challenges and continue the growth streak." Chadha said.

In September 2025, 23 out of 34 engineering panels witnessed positive year-on-year growth, while 11 engineering panels, including mainly industrial boilers, pumps and valves, air-conditioning and refrigeration machinery, and aircraft and spacecrafts, witnessed a decline in exports.

On a cumulative basis, engineering exports recorded 5.35 pc year-on-year growth during the first half of fiscal 2025-26 as it went up to USD 59.36 billion in April-September period of 2025-26 from USD 56.34 billion during the same period last fiscal.

The share of engineering in total merchandise exports was recorded at 27.8 pc in September 2025, while it was recorded at around 27 pc on a cumulative basis during April-September 2025-26.

The latest version of UNCTAD's Global Trade Update, published this month, paints a significantly positive picture of global trade when compared to its previous updates.

It mentions that global trade expanded by almost USD 500 billion in the first six months of 2025 despite significant threats regarding the USA's tariff imposition, protectionist policies in the EU, and ongoing geographical conflicts. UNI

Indian wind energy industry to raise local content to manage geopolitical challenges

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHENNAI, OCT 31: Component makers for Indian wind energy industry, including the original equipment manufacturers (OEM), should increase the local content to 85 per cent from the current 64 per cent, said Pralhad Joshi, union Minister for New and Renewable Energy, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

Speaking at the 7th edition of Windergy India 2025, Joshi said increasing domestic value addition is essential to strengthen India's clean energy supply

chain amid evolving global dynamics and rising geopolitical challenges.

"Wind energy contributes nearly one-fifth of the 257 GW of installed capacity. Wind is playing a crucial role in driving Aatmanirbharta and indigenization, given its high local content. India can capture 10 per cent of the global wind supply chain by 2030, and up to 20 per cent by 2040," Joshi said.

He said India is among the five countries that manufacture most wind components domestically.

Joshi said with progressive



policies, 46GW capacity will be largely driven by domestic manufacturing. Currently the installed capacity is 54GW.

"This financial year alone, annual installations are projected to exceed 6 GW, setting a strong pace toward our long-term goals," he added.

Girish Tanti, chairman, Indian Wind Turbine Manufacturers Association (IWTMA), said, India has built one of the most resilient and competitive wind manufacturing ecosystems in the world.

"Our domestic capabilities today span across key com-

ponents for wind such as nacelles, blades, and towers, commanding an excess of 10 per cent of global market share," Tanti said.

"With continued focus on technology, scale, and innovation, India is uniquely positioned not only to achieve 85 per cent localization in the coming years, but also to serve 10 per cent of the global wind supply chain by 2030," Tanti said.

Windergy India 2025 is jointly organised by the Indian Wind Turbine Manufacturers Association (IWTMA) and PDA Ventures Pvt. Ltd.UNI



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Intent Meets Precision As Abhishek Sparkles In The Melbourne Gloom

■ **SIDHARTH MONGA**

NEW DELHI: Before the start of the second T20I at the MCG, cameras caught the Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) openers Abhishek Sharma and Travis Head talking to each other. You would pay anything to be a fly on the wall when these two mad geniuses of T20 talk, but all you will get is a laugh, and not insights into their games.

"Yeah, I was trying because I knew that he's not going to give me anything [by way of tips on how to bat in these conditions]," Abhishek said about the interaction, "because he's the kind of batter that doesn't think too much. And still I was asking him a bit regarding the pitches and how they are gonna play."

"He was like, just go and enjoy. And that's the thing he's been doing in SRH as well. So I knew that he's gonna answer me this, but still I wanted to hear from him."

It wasn't quite an enjoyable night for batters generally, as Josh Hazlewood put on a clinic in his analysis of 4-0-13-3 and India still managed to take six wickets in their defence of a measly 125.

Abhishek and Head were the only batters who struck at over 180 for an innings of a reasonable length, while Mitchell Marsh went at 176.92. It is fair to say that apart from the trio, all other batters struggled on the early-season MCG pitch.

Abhishek's batting, though, stood out further for it was a solo effort that kept India in the game even though he was isolated for long periods. In the first 17 overs of India's innings, Abhishek managed to face only 28 balls, but scored 53 of their 110 runs. In the first 10 overs, four of which were bowled by Hazlewood, Abhishek hit all eight of India's boundaries. In all, he hit 10 of their 15 boundaries.

The lack of strike was one of those things India couldn't have avoided easily. No one other than Abhishek was able to work the ball around with ease, and India lost five wickets early. The only partnership India put together was between Abhishek and Harshit Rana, of whom the latter can be forgiven for not being able to put Abhishek back on strike against high-quality bowling in testing conditions; during their 47-ball stand of 56, Abhishek only got to face 14 balls.

However, this innings of Abhishek will remain a positive for India on a night when they lost yet another toss, but might have misread the conditions in wanting to bat first anyway, playing more spin than pace. Varun Chakravarthy might have further cemented himself as India's No. 2 T20I spinner with figures of 4-0-23-1 even in these conditions. Nothing will please them as much as Abhishek, though.

Conditions in the IPL are geared towards

maximise scoring, and before this tour Abhishek's international cricket had mostly been played in batting-friendly conditions. Here, though, he outshone everyone else, who were made to hop around by the generous seam and bounce on offer.

Abhishek didn't dial back his intent even for one second. This was high-precision attacking batting, which comes from a lot of training just to do that. Abhishek spoke about the hard work that had gone into building this T20 game, once he saw that his conventional game was not getting him into the best combination at the highest level.

"It is not usual [this seemingly high-risk game]," Abhishek said. "but with ups and downs in my batting for a fair amount of time, even I was confused. I saw even in the IPL, openers were so consistent. Obviously if you have to take that competition on, you have to do something exceptional."

"I felt I could work on my ability to play my shots. I try to execute my shots using my awareness of the field. In the nets, or when I am at home, my focus is to bat with a field in mind. Also I try to play different bowlers all the time, and not similar bowlers. And then the only motive is: play my shots without getting out. That training has helped me a lot."

ESPNCricinfo



JKAP-8th Battalion Organizes Volleyball Tournament Under Civic Action Programme to Foster Police-Public Bonding

■ **HT SPORT DESK**

JAMMU: A volleyball tournament under the Civic Action Programme 2025-26 is being organized by JKAP 8th Battalion, commencing from October 24, 2025. On Friday, a match was played between Bagga Zina Club R.S. Pura and JK Police Public School, Miran Sahib Jammu.

The Chief Organizer of the tournament, Commandant JKAP-8th Battalion Sh. Suram Singh, JKPS (SSP), addressed the participants and highlighted the pivotal role of the



Jammu and Kashmir Police in promoting cardio bonding and bridging the gap between the police and the public. He emphasized the importance of sports in character building and in steering youth away from social evils.

Commandant Suram Singh encouraged participants to take part in such constructive activities and assured that the Police Department will continue organizing similar initiatives in the future under the Civic Action Programme.

The match witnessed a large gathering, including staff members of the participating teams and other dignitaries, who lauded the efforts of JKAP 8th Battalion for providing a vibrant platform to engage youth through sports. The event was conducted in a cordial and disciplined manner, reflecting the spirit of unity and cooperation between the police and the public.

At the conclusion, players were felicitated with individual certificates by Sh. Bhupinder Singh, DySP JKAP-8th Battalion. The tournament will continue with regular matches and is scheduled to culminate in the first week of November 2025. The event features competitions for both boys and girls, with active participation and support from all officers of the Battalion to ensure its success.

ISPL Season-3 Cricket Trials at Doon School Srinagar Unlock New Opportunities

■ **ZEEZHAN**

SRINAGAR: The ISPL Season-3 cricket trials at Doon School Srinagar provided a platform for aspiring cricketers to showcase their skills and take a step closer to stardom. Talented players from across the country participated in the trials, with top performers being short-listed for the Zonal Selection.

The event has injected renewed enthusiasm among local cricket enthusiasts, highlighting the ISPL's commitment to nurturing grassroots talent and



promoting Indian cricket. By providing opportunities

for aspiring players, the ISPL is paving the way for a

brighter future for the sport in the country.

District Baramulla Handball championship concludes

Hill Crest School Kreeri wins title

■ **AASHIQ HUSSAIN**

BARAMULLA: District Handball Championship Organised by District handball association baramulla in collaboration J&K Handball Association under the aegis of J&K sports council. Played at indoor stadium Baramulla the three championship concludes in which 10 teams of various areas of district baramulla participated in final match played between Hill Crest School Kreeri and KIC Sopore in which Hill Crest defeated KIC Sopore by 5 goals. Manager sports council baramulla unit Showket Ahmad was chief guest while as J&K Sports council cricket coach peer irshad Ahmad was guest of honour among others officials of Handball Association Baramulla. Sports lovers and students were present on the occasion. At last guests distributed prizes and certificates among all participated teams.

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HT Saturday
LitStream

WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT OF DAILY HEADLINES TODAY

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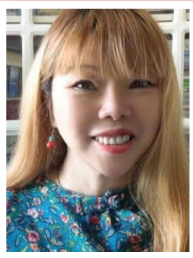
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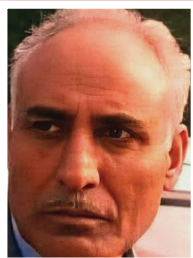
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Ali Shaida



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HT Saturday – LitStream

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

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 Editor LitStream
 Headlines Today Newspaper

Noor-i-Nooran : A Testament Of Prophetic Love

Marvellous Book Of Naat, Munajaat , Munakibaat By Saidu Din Saidi



Akram Siddiqui

As Noor-i-Nooran signifies, this work is a luminous addition to the treasury of love for the most Beloved Prophet SAW. To write in the tradition of Jami, Sa'di, Hafiz, 'Iraqi, and Ameer-e-Kabir Mir Syed Ali Hamadani AS is itself an act of courage and devotion, an endeavour only granted to hearts chosen for service to the fragrance of Mustafa SAW.

Sayyid-u Din -Saidi begins Noor-i-Nooran with hymns of such refinement that they feel less like written praise and more like ascension.

*"Rehm kartam khudaya, rehm kartam khudaya
Gunahgaaras affu kartam khudaya
Be ghaflat rawaroum mai jawani
Youtamat lowsans watch zindagani
Sarn ousm ye kench te sourum na
Karan ousm ye kench te karum na"*

(Have mercy, O Lord, have mercy, O Lord,
Have mercy upon this erring soul.

I squandered the wealth of life in defiance,
And now, as death leans near, I tremble.
What I ought to have done, I never did.

What path I was called to walk, I never took)

His invocations are not ornamental; they are thresholds of Nur, echoing the cadence of classical masters who knew that before speaking of the Beloved's Beloved SAW, one must first stand before the Majesty of Allah in inward prostration. His Hamd does not describe Allah's greatness; it breathes it. It is not a praise about Light, it is Light descending.

*"Arbas ajmas chani yari yaa rba
Gardabas manz henne aye sari yaa rba
Chhapnas jaya chhune t fans gatte karas
Nethnen pan chhe kh r nene wari yaa rba"*

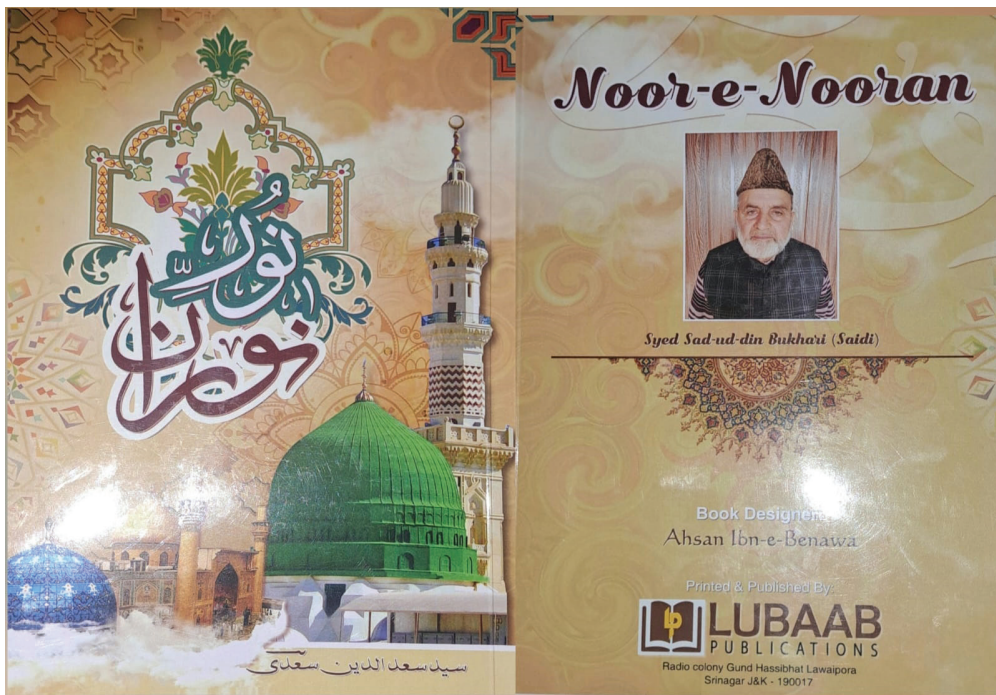
(Thy favours flow upon the world entire,
While we, engulfed in sin, seek no repair.
No refuge gleams within this troubled tide,
Barefoot we roam, with nothing left to hide.)

What unfolds in the following pages is not description but transmission. Going head over ears in love of beloved prophet, Saidi sahib does not discuss love; he delivers it. The reader feels not as if reading, but as if being ushered into a lineage of longing, among hearts that recognised Madinah long before their feet could reach it.

From this threshold, he leads us into the garden of the Beloved Prophet SAW, where love is not narrated but witnessed; where the fragrance of Rahmatan-lil-'Alamin SAW becomes nearness itself. His verses moves the reader from admiration to absorption, from remembrance to unveiling.

*"Dil hund amara Muhammad
Sokhunah qarara Muhammad
Achan hund noora dil hund surura
Chhu bagh-o-bahara Muhammad"*

(Muhammad SAW the sovereign of hearts,
The balm of souls, where all longing departs.
He is the stillness where restless hearts cease,
The fragrance of mercy, the garden of peace.)
Through his pen, Ishq-e-Nabi SAW becomes the



moment when the heart discovers there is someone more beloved to it than itself, more necessary than breath, and more vital than life. This is not love that is learned, it is breathed into the soul, as dawn presses light into the horizon until the darkness quietly yields.

This love, in Saidi Sahib, is a fire that refuses to consume yet will not let him rest, a thirst that deepens with every sip. There are moments when he feels so near that even distance forgets itself; and others when the same love breaks him with yearning until his ribs tremble with ache.

For him, Madinah is not a destination but a longing beneath the ribs, a horizon of the soul pulling it toward its origin. He writes of it the way a moth remembers the lamp it has not yet touched: burning not by separation but by recognition, for the soul yearns only for what it already belongs to.

This yearning is quiet, gathered like a secret flame. It does not scatter into lamentation but gathers into reverence. Madinah, in his treatment, is not a city approached but a presence that summons when the heart has ripened for nearness. His longing kneels rather than cries, a hush so refined that absence becomes worship.

From that hush rises tenderness, a nearness that feels like a door opening from within. His words lean toward Madinah like a heart leaning into familiarity; as though the soul were not travelling to a city but returning to its first home. True love does not rush; it ripens. The heart turns toward Nur-e-Mujassam SAW as gardens turn toward spring, not by effort, but by readiness to bloom.

*"Dil myon gowmut taar az dil daar Madinah
Dasbast haazir rozha darbaar Madinah
Mahroom dilan aash aach gash kuthin hosh
Ruh taz gatchan yeli wothan goftaari Madinah"*

He writes:

There are nights when I feel that if I could tear open my chest and show my heart to the world,

they would see his name written there more clearly than my own. This love has become the pulse behind the pulse, an unseen sustenance."

(His name is the balm for every ache,
The breath that heals what sorrow breaks.

Before his door I long to stand,
Where dust turns gold beneath my hand.
Had Madinah not graced the earth,
Life itself would have lost its worth.)

Such longing does not weaken; it purifies. It empties the self until nothing remains but trembling hope. "I have never seen him," he writes, "but I have never lived without him."

He feels near enough to stand in the fragrance of the Prophet, while veiled by time. Yet nearness deepens rather than quenches. He carries Madinah like a hidden dawn beneath his ribs, rising without sunlight, yet illuminating everything. If granted to stand in the Blessed City, he imagines no speech, only tears, because silence itself becomes praise.

Even from afar, he walks softly because the Beloved Prophet SAW walked gently, forgives quickly because he forgave before anger, and lowers his voice because he spoke softly. Ishq-e-Nabi SAW is not merely felt; it is lived, until the soul becomes a quiet reflection of the one it longs for.

This longing is not sorrow; it is worship in the language of ache. It does not break, it polishes. It teaches that distance is not absence, and that tears are a form of presence. One waits not for the body to reach Madinah, but for the heart's yearning to be accepted as a knock upon its gate.

Sometimes silence arrives before tears, then both flow as one prayer. He asks nothing of the Prophet SAW except one glance on the Day when eyes seek mercy, a single look that would make existence worthwhile.

*"Fikr chhane zawan duhun duhun kadan
Zikr chhane raati raati ya Rasool SAW
Saadilis didaar tahandich aash chhum
Taardi zam pal salwatish ya Rasool SAW"*

The Weird Mountains



Dr Ratan Bhattacharjee

Megh and Akash arrived in Manali just as the first snow began to fall. The hills were a veil of white, and the pine trees stood like silent sentinels. It was their honeymoon—an escape from the clamor of Kolkata, from wedding rituals and relatives, into the hush of Himalayan solitude.

They had booked a heritage cottage on the outskirts of Old Manali, a place recommended by a friend who swore by its charm. The cottage, built in 1892, had once belonged to a British botanist. It had wooden floors that creaked with memory, a fireplace that coughed into life, and a room—Room 7—that overlooked the valley. It was Room No 7 they were given. The caretaker, an old man named Bhairav, handed them the keys with a strange hesitation. “Room 7 is beautiful,” he said, “but... it has history.” Akash laughed. “We love history.” Bhairav nodded, eyes unreadable. “Then sleep lightly.” That night, Megh awoke to a whisper. It wasn’t a sound, exactly. More like a breath against her cheek. She turned, expecting Akash, but he was fast asleep, his back to her.

The fireplace had died down. The room was cold. She sat up. The curtains fluttered though the windows were shut. And on the mirror above the dresser, something was written in fog: "She never left." Megh blinked. The words vanished. She didn't wake Akash. She told herself it was a dream. The next morning, over tea, Megh asked Bhairav about the cottage's history. He stirred his tea slowly. "The botanist, Mr. Alistair Grange, came here with his young bride, Evelyn. She was delicate, poetic. Loved oleanders and snow. But she was lonely. Alistair spent days in the forest. One winter, she fell ill. They say she died in Room 7." Akash frowned. "Died of what?"

Bhairav looked away. "Grief, perhaps. Or something else. Some say she still waits."

Megh felt a chill. "Waits for what?" "For someone to listen." That night, Megh heard humming.

It came from the bathroom. A soft, lilting tune. She opened the door. No one. But the mirror was fogged again. "He never heard me." She woke Akash. He dismissed it. "You're just tired. It's the altitude."

But Megh knew what she felt. The air in Room 7 was thick with something unsaid.

On the third day, Megh found a diary tucked behind the dresser. Its leather cover was cracked, the pages yellowed. It was Evelyn's. The entries were poetic, melancholic. She wrote of snow, of silence, of waiting. One entry stood out: "Alistair sees plants.



I see ghosts. The oleanders whisper to me. I think they know I'm fading." Megh read it aloud to Akash. He grew uneasy. "We should change rooms." But Megh felt drawn to Evelyn. "No. She wants to be heard." That night, the humming returned. This time, Akash heard it too. They followed the sound to the fireplace. Beneath the grate, they found a locket—inside, a miniature painting of Evelyn. Her eyes were haunting. Sad. Alive. On the fourth night, Megh lit candles. She placed the locket on the dresser, opened the diary, and whispered: "Evelyn, we're listening." The room grew cold. The flames flickered. Akash held her hand. The mirror fogged again. "He buried me beneath the oleanders." Megh gasped. "She wasn't buried properly." Akash stood. "We need to leave." But the door wouldn't open. The windows rattled.

The fireplace roared. And then, silence. In the mirror, Evelyn

appeared. Not terrifying—just...translucent. Her lips moved. Megh understood. "She wants peace." The next morning, Megh asked Bhairav about the oleanders. He hesitated. "There's a patch behind the cottage. No one goes there." They did. The oleanders bloomed unnaturally, even in snow. Megh knelt, touched the soil. It was soft. Too soft. They dug. They found bones. Bhairav called the authorities. The remains were confirmed to be Evelyn's. She had never been buried in the cemetery. Alistair had hidden her death. That night, Room 7 was quiet. No humming. No fog. Just warmth. Megh and Akash returned to Kolkata changed. They spoke little of Manali. But sometimes, over tea, Megh would hum Evelyn's tune. And Akash would listen. Because some ghosts don't seek revenge.

They seek remembrance..The flight from Kullu to Kolkata was uneventful. Megh and Akash sat in

silence, hands clasped, eyes distant. The snow of Manali had melted behind them, but something colder had followed in their Salt Lake apartment, the city's familiar chaos returned—horns, hawkers, the scent of mustard oil and rain. Yet, Room 7 lingered. Three days after their return, Megh noticed something strange. The bathroom mirror fogged unnaturally after every shower. Not from steam—but from something else. And always, faintly, a phrase appeared. “She never left.” Akash dismissed it. “Residual trauma. You’re imagining it.” But he too had begun to change. He spoke less. Slept fitfully. Once, Megh found him standing at the window at 3 a.m., whispering Evelyn’s name. One evening, Megh brewed tea. Jasmine, as she had in Manali. She placed two cups on the table. Akash took his. Megh turned to get biscuits. When she returned, the second cup was empty. “Did you drink mine?” she asked. Akash shook his head. “I thought you did.”

They stared at the cup. Steam still rose. But no one had touched it. That night, Megh dreamt of Evelyn sitting across from her, sipping tea, her translucent fingers wrapped around the clay cup.

The hallucinations began subtly. Megh saw oleanders blooming on their balcony—impossible in Kolkata's October. Akash heard humming in the lift, the same tune Evelyn sang. Their bedroom mirror fogged even without humidity. Always with words: "He buried me in silence."

They consulted a therapist. She suggested trauma bonding, shared delusion. But Megh knew better. "This isn't madness," she whispered. "It's memory." One morning, Akash found the locket. It had vanished in Manali after the authorities took Evelyn's remains. Yet here it was—on their dresser, beside Megh's bangles. Inside, Evelyn's miniature portrait had changed. She was smiling.

Akash dropped it. "She's here." Megh picked it up gently. "She's grateful." On the night of Diwali, Megh lit candles—not for Lakshmi, but for Evelyn. She placed the locket on a brass plate, surrounded by jasmine petals. Akash sat beside her. They whispered: "Evelyn, we remember." The flames flickered. The mirror fogged. "Thank you." And then, silence.

Not emptiness—but peace. Months later, Megh published a novella: *The Haunted Room of Manali*. It was part fiction, part memoir. The final line read: Some ghosts don't haunt. They heal. But only if you listen. The book was well received. But Megh never gave interviews.

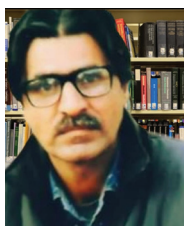
She and Akash still live in Salt Lake. They drink jasmine tea every Sunday. And sometimes, when the mirror fogs, they smile. Because Evelyn is no longer a ghost. She is a memory.

Dr Ratan Bhattacharjee is International Tagore Awardee poet and a Former Affiliate Faculty Virginia Commonwealth University & multilingual Columnist

Chaand Aur Baadal

The Moon and the Clouds

(English Translation)



Tariq Shabnam
Author



Imran Rather
Translator

"Hey... why did you pick that flower?"

Muskán scolded Ihtisham. Ihtisham, undeterred by Muskán's admonishment, boldly plucked another flower, provoking Muskán's anger further, and she slapped him sharply across the face. Furious from the slap, Ihtisham grabbed Muskán's hair with one hand and started hitting her wildly with the other. Muskán struggled to free herself, crying out loudly. In that moment of struggle, Muskán woke up with a start, her breath coming in rapid bursts. She calmed herself and took a few sips from a glass of water at her bedside, during which a faint smile appeared on her lips, and a wave of happiness coursed through her entire being.

"Oh God... not again!"

These words involuntarily escaped her lips a moment later, and restlessness began to take hold of her. The four walls of the room seemed to coil around her like a snake, wrapping around her tightly. She opened the window and looked up at the sky, clothed in a cover of clouds, diving deep into her thoughts. For the past few months, Muskán had dreamt this dream multiple times, which was not just a dream but a true incident from her life.

Intisham, who was her relative, had come with his parents to attend her aunt's wedding when they were both about six or seven years old. While playing in the courtyard, Intisham had plucked a flower, and this very incident had unfolded.

"You weren't so ungrateful... How did you suddenly change like this?"

Muskán murmured silently, expressing her grievances towards Ihtisham while gazing at the moon hidden behind the clouds, her troubled and scattered mind slowly began flipping through the pages of her

memories. Muskán was deeply afflicted, for a few months prior, a dreadful turn of events had shattered all her dreams. Her entire life felt colorless, but now a storm had arisen in her life that rendered existence meaningless. Yet, she bore everything silently like an embodiment of patience. She was an elegant, polite, and intelligent girl, but as soon as she came of age, she found herself tangled in a strange dilemma. In school, at home, and among relatives, she faced bizarre circumstances. It was challenging to endure the peculiar behaviors of those around her, but she had been blessed with the gift of patience and gratitude from the Almighty. Thus, she successfully navigated through life's journey, enduring neglect from her loved ones, ridicule from strangers, and the society's shortcomings, until she reached the milestone of education, all the way to university. Even in the enthusiastic environment of the university, she remained immersed in her studies, like a flower wilted in autumn, completely apart and detached. No one showed interest in her, nor did she grow close to anyone. The only friend she had was Mehak, who lived nearby, and even she didn't prefer to spend much time with her. A year passed in this manner.

In her second year at university, a pleasant twist occurred in her life when Ihtisham also enrolled there, and he began to take an interest in her, attempting to get closer to her. Although she had never expected such behavior from Ihtisham or any other boy, and had never included colorful dreams in her previously colorless life. Ihtisham would talk to her pleasantly and repeatedly bring up the nostalgic incident of the flower plucking from their childhood to tease her playfully. Since it had not only made a mark on his memory but also birthed soft feelings and affection in his heart for Muskán, whenever they met at family gatherings or other events, Ihtisham would hover around her like a bumblebee. However, Muskán, burdened internally with a painful sense of inferiority, could never comprehend her own emotions. Time passed, and Ihtisham first tried to inform her of his feelings indirectly through gestures and various tricks, but deliberately, Muskán remained indifferent.

Finally, the day arrived that would become the most beautiful day of Muskán's life. They were sitting in the beautiful lawn of the university, chatting, when Ihtisham suddenly said,

"Muskán... I want to tell yo

“Go ahead, why would I be upset?”
She kept her inner feelings hidden and responded with a smart tone.

"Muskán... I... I love you."

Hearing these words for the first time from Ihtisham, Muskán couldn't believe her ears. Tears welled up in her eyes, her heart raced, and a wave of joy enveloped her entire being. She

felt as if the entire atmosphere was filled with red rose buds and the rays of the morning star, showered in light from every direction.

"Love... and me? Ihtisham, such jokes don't sound good coming from you."

“Muskán... I’m not joking, I truly love you.”

Itisham reassured her. She didn't verbally respond, but countless fireflies of agreement began to flicker in the deep valley of her eyes. She preserved this moment in her mind as one of the most precious treasures of her life. Itisham was the first boy to awaken colorful dreams in Muskán's heart. Until now, no boy had shown even the slightest interest in her, something that saddened her deeply, yet whenever she looked at her own face, she felt her fate was to blame. Because despite being endowed by the Almighty with numerous talents, skills, and capabilities, she was completely devoid of beauty and charm. With an ordinary appearance... a dusky complexion... a short stature... and a large white scar on her right cheek had rendered her unappealing in the eyes of boys since childhood.

Through such conditions, she faced many challenges, endured people's taunts, and barely made friendships with any girls. In such circumstances, Ihtisham arrived in her life like a new spring, and happiness began to bloom in her heart, leading her to soar in the skies, dreaming of beautiful strands of love. She took great pride in Ihtisham's love and shared her romantic secrets with Mehak, treating her as her confidant. However, Mehak was left shocked by Ihtisham's deep affection for someone like Muskán, whose outward appearance seemed so unremarkable. One day, she couldn't hold back her curiosity and asked Ihtisham,

"Ittisham... what's so special about Muskán that you're ready to sacrifice everything for her?"

"I can't find another girl in the entire university like Muskán, for I'm enamored not just by her face but her character," he responded decisively.

Eventually, after completing her education, at her parents' insistence, Muskan stayed home, but even during this time, she and Ihtisham continued to meet regularly. After graduating from university, Ihtisham got a job at a company and went abroad. They kept in contact via phone for a year until he suddenly stopped calling. Despite her countless attempts, Muskan couldn't reach him on his number, yet she refused to lose hope.

One day, her world crumbled beneath her when Mehak suddenly broke the news that Ihtisham had married while still abroad and had settled down, advising her as a compassionate friend to forget about Ihtisham and stop dreaming of him. After receiving this heartbreaking news, her entire being drowned in pain. For days, she cried, lamenting,

and struggling with her grief, but eventually, she gathered herself. One day, out of the blue, she received a call from an unknown number.

“Muskán... Intisham here... you...”
She answered the phone only to find Intisham on the line, but without uttering a word, she hung up.

Ihtisham tried calling again, but she refused to pick up. For several days he called persistently, but remembering Mehak's warning, she didn't respond to any of his calls. However, she saved the number in her mobile. Eventually, Ihtisham gave up calling too, and Muskan, heartbroken over his perceived betrayal, attempted to forget him. She nearly succeeded in moving on, but suddenly, after dreaming of him, all memories of Ihtisham surfaced, reigniting remnants of love and dreams in her heart. Restlessness in her chest returned, and her mind raced like a high-speed motor. It was the dead of night; the moon's rays peeked through the clouds, shining the dark night with light. Driven by an impulse, she picked up her mobile with a sense of unease and retrieved Ihtisham's number. Her heart raced. After a few moments of hesitation, she dialed the number.

“Hello, Muskán... are you okay? ...
Hello? ... Muskán, say something...”

Ihtisham shouted in the phone, but Muskán remained silent.

"You've changed... unfaithful."

After a few minutes, she melted and spoke,

“What did I do that made me unfaithful?”

"Nothing... just got married."

“Married? What are you talking about?”

Ihtisham replied in a startled tone as they discussed many continuous grievances. Eventually, Ihtisham managed to convince her that he hadn't married anyone and wasn't unfaithful.

“Thtisham... when are you coming home?”

Muskán asked, her tone now resonating with a hint of longing.

"Muskán... I want to give you a surprise... Anyway, I'm coming next week."

When Muskán asked about his prolonged silence over many months, he explained.

"Muskán... my phone got lost, along with your number that I had saved in it. Fortunately, your friend Mehak got my new number and obtained yours from somewhere, which is how I've been trying to contact you for countless days, but you had seemingly sworn not to speak to me."
"Mehak...?"

She mumbled under her breath, her forehead wrinkling with surprise for a moment, but soon an unusual wave of exhilaration consumed her, and she joyfully bade farewell to Iltisham over the phone, smiling as she looked at the moon, which was now shining brightly.

A cartoon illustration of a sad, white cloud character with a brown sack slung over its shoulders. The sack is overflowing with various items: a red car, a small house, a crown, a large diamond, a fishing rod, and other treasures. The cloud character has a sad expression and is standing on a cracked, brown ground. In the background, there are green bushes and a blue sky with white clouds. A small blue fish is visible in a puddle on the ground.

A whimsical illustration of a white, cloud-like character with a smiling face, holding a basket of fruit. The character is surrounded by a lush garden of anthropomorphic fruits like apples, oranges, and carrots, all with happy faces. A small sun is shining on the character's head, and a stream flows in the foreground.

When we accept people as they are, situations as they come and life as it unfolds, we discover a quiet strength within us . Acceptance transforms disappointments into lessons, differences into understanding and hardships into persistence . It teaches us to let go, for the real magic lies not in controlling every situation but embracing it. The Sufi poet Rumi rightly states, " Try not to resist life's changes . The more you resist, the more pain you create. Flow with what is and you will find peace. "

Origins of Dream Interpretation: From Myth to Meaning



Joseph's command over interpretation of the dreams particularly "the seven fat and seven meagre cows and the ears of wheat" (dreams in literature). The 2nd century writer Artemidorus Daldianus is regarded as one of the earliest writers whose book *Oneirocritica* (Interpretation of Dreams). Another ancient writer Macrobius is famous for the interpretation and divisions of dreams. His book *Commentary on the Dream Scipio* divides dreams into five types- the somium, the dream which is stands as symbol for something. In common terms we can call it a symbolical dream. Second is visio which reveals or is the sign of coming event as exactly what one has dreamt of. Third is Oraculum in which a person a stranger comes

device in one of his tales in the Canterbury Tales where a hen namely Paetelot warns her husband Chauntecleer about the coming misfortune when he had a dream. It proves right when Chauntecleer is caught by fox. Besides, one can also find the dreams in the books such as House of Fame and Troilus and Cressida. One can come across one of the important dreams which

In the 20th century Sigmund Freud's seminal work *Interpretation of Dreams* (1900) have brought a radical change when he emphasized on the Unconscious. Throughout the ages literature has greatly influences by the dreams and dreams serve as one of the strongest devices in exposing the idea.

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Masud, he predicted: "Zoon, you will marry someone soon. I change your name and call you Habba Khatun (The Lady of Love), by which name you will become immortal" (Wakhlu, p. 105). This is against the popular belief that Zoon got the title of Habba Khatun at the Royal Court. Bitterness between Zoon and Aziz continued for some more time. Aziz had decided to divorce her and said before the Qazi, when he asked him if he wanted to divorce her: "...O absolutely. Talaq, talaq, talaq, I say three times as enjoined by law" (Wakhlu, p. 127). Interestingly, Wakhlu is contesting that Yousuf Shah Chak got her divorced after paying handsomely to her husband. One day, Yousuf Shah Chak's mother visited her and asked her to marry her son. Zoon said that she had heard about kings and princes having courtesans and concubines, but she won't live with her son like that. The queen was astonished at her boldness and promised that the marriage would be performed as per law (Wakhlu, p. 143). The news soon broke throughout Chandahar. The royal wedding took place with great pomp and show as the prince had become so restive that his mother couldn't wait for long. Wakhlu writes (p. 145): "Habba Khatun was a charmer. With her graceful manner and soft attractive voice she could disarm anybody. Yusuf had in the real sense fallen deeply in love with her. Previously, of course, his behaviour had been motivated by whims and they were difficult to be explained in logical terms. Now for several days Yusuf had been brooding and thinking and refusing to attend to any work. What was the reason

for his restlessness? A house was bought for Abdi Rather's family in a posh colony but Habba Khatoon refused to leave the picturesque village with its streams and springs and warbling bulbuls. "Was she not essentially a poet?" she wrote to Yusuf." The royal proclamation about the wedding was made in 1570 AD. Wakhlu (p. 149) says that a "splendid river procession" was taken in which hundred of people participated and chanted, "Bashah Salamat Zindabad, Shehzada Sahib Zindabad"—The slogan indicates that the marriage took place before Yusuf became the king. Wakhlu says that Yusuf declared himself king in 1579 AD and "[m]any nobles and their ladies and other came to congratulate Habba" (p. 181). Yusuf and Habba Khatoon (She was one of the queens) enjoyed their married life, wandering from place to place, but, at the same time, devoting time to their duties. However, some natural calamities and wars did not allow them to rest for long. Ultimately, their married life ended when Akbar duped Yusuf, imprisoned and exiled him. Habba had to leave the palace and live a wanton life: "For Habba Khatoon the sun had set. She continued to live in her cottage at Panda Chok and was, year by year, worn out by dejection and poverty. Dread malady had seized her and she was weary of life. But she never spoke of her suffering to anyone. She was all the time murmuring the name of Allah and His prophet (peace be upon Him!). There was in her last years only gratitude for the gifts of life bestowed on her by God and it welled from the heart of Habba now even in her agony".

People standing around her were weeping. Habba had called a Moulvi of the nearby mosque and instructed him that she should be buried near her cottage, and all her belongings should be distributed among the poor. She had also asked him not to inform the Mughal Governor. "The whole of Kashmir wept when they heard of Habba Khatoon's death; no smoke came out of the houses on that tragic day. All bewailed the death of the talented daughter of their race. Habba Khatoon had risen as a luminous moon in the firmament of Kashmir's history" (Waklu 244).

(to continue)



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