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ISSUE



Pakistan's Terror Factory Razed To The Ground in Operation Sindoor: PM Modi

PM Says Every Promise Fulfilled From Article 370 to Ram Temple

■ HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, NOV 7: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday claimed that "everyone has seen Pakistan's terror factory getting destroyed in Operation Sindoor," and reiterated that every promise made by his government, from the abrogation of Article 370 to the construction of the Ram Temple has been fulfilled.

Addressing a large public rally in Aurangabad, Bihar, the Prime Minister said his government has taken decisive steps to safeguard national security and integrity. "We have taken every step from ending Article 370 to avenging the Pahalgam terror attack to end terrorism in Kashmir and ensure India's safety," he said.

Modi listed key milestones to underline his record: "I said the Ram Temple would be built. I promised that Article 370 would go it's gone. From the land of Bihar, I declared that the Pahalgam terror attack would be avenged and all of us saw Pakistan's



terror factory getting destroyed in Operation Sindoor," he told the crowd.

In response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed civilians, India launched a military campaign codenamed Operation

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Decision to Drop Stanzas of 'Vande Mataram' in 1937 Sowed Seeds of Division: PM Modi

Says divisive mindset remains a challenge; launches 150-year commemoration of national song

■ HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, NOV 7: In a sharp attack on the Congress, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that the decision to drop key stanzas of the national song "Vande Mataram" in 1937 sowed the seeds of partition and reflected a "divisive mindset" that still challenges the nation today.

Speaking at the inauguration of the year-long commemoration marking 150 years of "Vande Mataram", the Prime Minister

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Uphold The Spirit of Maa Bharti, Work for Viksit Bharat: LG Sinha

Leads J&K in Celebrating 150 Years of Vande Mataram, Pays Homage to Bankim Chandra

■ HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOV 07: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha on Thursday led the Union Territory in celebrating the 150th



year of the timeless national song 'Vande Mataram', a stirring ode to the Motherland penned by Rishi Bankim Chandra

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Srinagar Court Convicts Retired Police Officer for Forging DOB to Extend Service

■ HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, NOV 7: A local court in Srinagar has convicted retired Sub-Inspector Jagdish (Jagdeesh) Singh, a resident of Arina, Budgam, for fraudulently manipulating his date of birth in official records to gain service-related benefits. The verdict was delivered by the City Judge/JMIC Srinagar in Case No. 125/2014, registered under FIR No. 32/2013 at Crime Branch Kashmir.

The accused was charged with offences under Sections 420, 468, 471 and 201 of the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC) relating to cheating, forgery, use of forged documents, and destruction of evidence.

According to case details, Crime Branch Kashmir launched an investigation in October 2013 after discrepancies were detected in Singh's official records. A departmental committee found that Singh had tampered with his date of birth in his character roll, changing it from 10-11-1957 to 10-11-1959. The alteration was allegedly done to gain two additional years of service.

The J&K Board of School Education (BOSE)

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Those Who Didn't Campaign Won't Share the Victory : Omar Abdullah Warns Party Cadre

Promises Free Power Up to 200 Units for Households in Budgam

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, NOV 7: National Conference Vice President and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday issued a stern message to party members, warning that those who stayed inactive during the election campaign would not share in the party's victory.

Addressing a massive public gathering in Budgam, Omar declared, "Those who didn't campaign for the party—who stayed away when we needed them most—should not expect to be part of our win. Victory belongs to those who stood firm and worked hard despite challenges."

His remarks, coming amid reports of



absenteeism among local leaders, were seen as both a warning and a call for renewed discipline within the National Conference.

In a major electoral promise aimed at easing the burden on ordinary citizens, Omar announced that the National Conference will provide free electricity

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Aadhaar Implementation: CS calls for saturation, digital integration

J&K achieves 93% Aadhaar saturation

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 07: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Friday chaired a meeting of the Unique Identification Authority of India Implementation Committee (UIDIC) to review the progress of Aadhaar-based initiatives and discuss measures to strengthen the authen-

tication ecosystem across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting focused on accelerating citizen-centric Aadhaar services, achieving universal coverage, and introducing new technological and policy reforms for efficient service delivery.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Agri-

culture Production Department; Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department; UIDAI Regional Officer, Chandigarh; Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services and Sports; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; Secretary, Information Technology, Secretary,

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Dr Jitendra leads 'Vande Mataram' Padyatra

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

HIRANAGAR, NOV 7: As part of the nationwide commemoration of 150 Years of the National Song "Vande Mataram", Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh led a foot march in the border village of Londi More near the Zero Line on International Border (IB) in Hiranagar sector here today.

On the occasion, Jitendra Singh announced a slew of measures being taken by the government for the residents of border areas. He said, the Government of India has taken a decision to provide compensation to border dwellers and local residents for the

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'J&K achieves 81% tap water coverage'

■ HT NWES NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 07: Jammu and Kashmir has covered 81 per cent of its rural households with tap water connections, with Srinagar and Ganderbal districts achieving 100 per cent, as per official data. The data reveals that out of 19.26 lakh rural households in the Union Territory, 15.63 lakh have

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Srinagar Records Season's Coldest Night So Far At 0.2 Degrees

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 7: With the minimum temperature dropping to 0.2 degrees Celsius on Friday, Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar city recorded the coldest night of the season so far, while the mercury fell below the freezing point in Gulmarg and Pahalgam hill stations.

The Meteorological (Met) Department officials said, "Gulmarg recorded minus



2.6 and Pahalgam minus 3 as the minimum temperature today. Due to the recent snowfall in the mountains surrounding the Valley and a clear night sky is expected for the next 10 days, the night temperatures are expected to drop further in Kashmir."

Due to the drop in temperatures, people have taken to woollens and the Kangri, a traditional Kashmiri earthen pot

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LG Gupta reaffirms vision of self-reliant Ladakh

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

LEH, NOV 7: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta today reaffirmed the Administration's commitment to building a self-reliant and economically empowered Ladakh, where every citizen has access to opportunities for growth, innovation, and entrepreneurship. He said that the vision of Atmanirbhar Ladakh can only be achieved through inclusive development, where women, youth, artisans, and marginalized sections are active partners in progress. "Economic empowerment is the key to self-reliance, and every step taken today will shape the future of Ladakh as a model of sustainable development," he said.

The Lt Governor was speaking at the Loan Distribution Ceremony organized by the Sindh Infrastructure Development Corporation (SIDCO) at the Rural Development Department Hall, Agling, Leh.

Addressing beneficiaries and entrepreneurs, Shri Kavinder Gupta said that the event marks a significant milestone in Ladakh's journey towards financial inclusion and economic self-sufficiency. He appreciated SIDCO for successfully implementing several schemes that are enabling people to move from dependency to entrepreneurship.

Highlighting the region's economic growth, the Lt Governor informed that over 13,600 MSME units have been established

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Saffron Growers Decry 'Worst Season' In Decades With Less Than 10% Harvest

Blame govt neglect, irrigation issues, say National Saffron Mission failed

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 07: Kashmir's world-famous saffron industry is staring at yet another disastrous season, with growers reporting that the crop bloomed for bare-

ly a few days this year. They said the overall harvest has remained below 10 per cent of the normal output.

Farmers told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that, unlike earlier years when saffron flowers continued to appear for weeks together, the bloom this time lasted just a few days, leaving fields almost barren soon after.

"This is the worst season we have ever seen," said Abdul Rashid, a grower from Lethpora. "Normally, we used to pick flowers for 15 to 25 days. This year, we were done in hardly three days."



"We have lost hope now. For 10 years, we have been begging authorities for timely action, but nobody took us seriously," Rashid lamented.

Farmers claim that despite repeatedly raising alarms about drying corms, unavailability of irrigation and continuous weather stress, nothing concrete was done on the ground.

"Had the government ensured irrigation infrastructure on time, the sector would not have collapsed like this," said another farmer, Javaid Ahmad, from Pampore.

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Farmers said irrigation availability, providing quality corms and stopping land conversion are urgently needed steps if the sector is to survive. They warned that if immediate measures are not taken, there will be no saffron left here in a few years—(KNO)

GCOE Srinagar commemorates 150 years of National Song ‘Vande Mataram’

ACS Higher Education graces event as Chief Guest
'Emphasis on civic responsibility, patriotism, role of education in Nation building'

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, NOV 07: Government College of Education (GCOE) here today organized a district level event to commemorate 150 years of the National Song “Vande Mataram”, celebrating its historical, cultural, and patriotic significance.

Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education, Shantmanu was Chief Guest on the occasion.

Director Colleges, Prof. Sheikh Aijaz Bashir; CEO Srinagar, SDM East, faculty members and large number of students were also present on the occasion.

The programme commenced with the mass singing of “Vande Mataram” led by the

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, live streamed from the national event. This was followed by flag hoisting ceremony led by Additional Chief Secretary and singing of National Anthem thereby giving a dignified and patriotic start to the event.

After the flag hoisting, the Department of Music, Government College for Women, M.A. Road, Srinagar in collaboration with the cultural committee IASE presented a melodious rendition of “Vande Mataram.” Their performance created a deeply emotional and patriotic atmosphere in the auditorium.

Addressing the gathering, ACS Shantmanu emphasized on the importance of civic responsibility, patriotism, and



the role of education in Nation building. He appreciated the efforts of institution in organizing such a meaningful event that connects education with cultural heritage.

Speaking on the occasion, HoD History, Dr. Abdul Rashid Sheikh gave an insightful talk on the history and significance of “Vande Mataram.” He traced its origin from Bankim Chandra Chatterjee’s novel Anandamath (published in 1882), its role in the Indian freedom struggle, and its enduring relevance as a symbol of unity and patriotism.

In her welcome address, Principal, Dr. Seema Naz highlighted the role of the institution for fostering unity, integrity, and spirit of patriotism among

the teachers.

The Cultural Committee organized a patriotic song performance by Puran Bakshi and Muneer Shah (B. Ed 2nd Semester), showcasing India’s rich musical and cultural traditions. The songs resonated with the spirit of patriotism and collective pride.

The gathering also witnessed the live broadcast of the Honourable Prime Minister’s national address, as part of the nationwide commemoration programme. The Prime Minister’s message focused on national unity, cultural pride, and the values embodied in “Vande Mataram.” The address rekindled a sense of national pride and unity among the audience.

BJP’s massive show of strength in Budgam, Ashok Koul, Ravinder Raina, Aga Syed Mohsin address enthusiastic rally

HT NEWS DESK

BUDGAM, NOV 07: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir organized a massive public rally at Budgam in support of its candidate for the Budgam Assembly Constituency bye-election, Aga Syed Mohsin.

The rally witnessed huge participation from all sections of society, reflecting the growing popularity and trust of the people in the BJP’s development-oriented policies and inclusive vision.

The event was addressed by J&K BJP General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, former J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina, party General Secre-



tary Anwar Khan, and BJP candidate Aga Syed Mohsin, besides other senior leaders and workers. J&K BJP Secretaries Mudasir Wani and Arif Raja, Dr. Ali Mohammad Mir, District President Hakeem Ruhalla Gazi, DDC Member Er. Aijaz Hussain, and several other prominent party functionaries were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, Ashok Koul said that Budgam is witnessing a new wave of political awakening as people are now determined to support a party that delivers on its promises. “BJP has always stood for peace, development, and empowerment of the common man. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu and Kashmir has entered a new era of progress. The people of Budgam are ready to join this transformation by electing Aga Syed Mohsin,” he stated.

Ravinder Raina, in his address, said that the unprecedented response at the rally reflects the people’s faith in the BJP’s policies of justice, equality, and transparent governance. “The politics of discrimination and dynastic rule has come to an end. Today, the youth, women, and marginalized communities see BJP as their own party, a party that listens and delivers,” he said and added that the BJP’s aim is to ensure peace and prosperity in every corner of Jammu and Kashmir.

Aga Syed Mohsin expressed gratitude to the people for their overwhelming support and assured them of honest, accountable, and people-centric leadership. “My commitment is to serve every household of Budgam, irrespective of religion or region. Together, we will make Budgam a model constituency of development and harmony,” he said.

BJP J&K Commemorates 150th Anniversary of ‘Vande Mataram’ with Programmes in Srinagar

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 7: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir commemorated the 150th anniversary of ‘Vande Mataram’ with an event held at Rajbagh, Srinagar. BJP General Secretary (Org) J&K & Ladakh, Ashok Koul and BJP Senior Leader Ravinder Raina were the chief guests on the occasion.

Among other prominent leaders present were State Vice President Dr Shehnaz Ganie, Secretary Arif Raja, Social Media Co-Incharge & Programme Incharge Sajjad Raina, and Media Incharge Kashmir, Adv. Sajid Yousuf Shah, State Spokespersons Altaf Thakur & Sahil Bashir Bhat, District President Srinagar Sheikh Salman along with other district presi-

dents and senior party leaders.

While addressing the gathering, Ashok Koul said, “Vande Mataram”, which served as a motto for the country’s independence, inspired millions of revolutionaries. Many freedom fighters went to the gallows while chanting ‘Vande Mataram’ and endured the oppression of foreign invaders. It emerged as a powerful mantra for India’s liberation from the British.”

Koul further highlighted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a commemorative stamp and coin on this historic occasion, and also launched a dedicated portal marking the 150th anniversary of the National Song ‘Vande Mataram’.

He added that the celebrations witnessed mass singing of the



full version of ‘Vande Mataram’ across public spaces with enthusiastic participation from citizens across all walks of life, in conjunction with the main programme. Prime Minister Modi himself participated in the mass singing event held at the IGI

Stadium, reflecting the emotional and patriotic fervour attached to the day.

Addressing the party workers and the media, Ravinder Raina passionately raised his voice in solidarity, proclaiming, “Vande Mataram! With unwavering pride

and conviction, he said, “Today, as we gather here, we are not just united by a political cause, but by the deep-rooted love and respect we have for our motherland. It is the spirit of our nation its cultural heritage and its glorious future that motivates us every day. Let us continue working with dedication and determination, ensuring that the ideals of our great country freedom, unity, and progress remain the guiding lights of our mission. Together, we will overcome every challenge and take our nation to greater heights.”

Later, BJP leaders and workers took a pledge to adopt Swadeshi and promote local products, reinforcing the spirit of self-reliance and national pride that ‘Vande Mataram’ symbolises.

District Administration Kulgam Celebrates 150 Years of ‘Vande Mataram’ with Patriotic Zeal

FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, NOV 7: The District Administration Kulgam on Friday joined the rest of the nation in celebrating the 150th anniversary of India’s historic national song, Vande Mataram, with great patriotic fervour and enthusiasm. A series of commemorative events were organised across the district, highlighting the timeless message of unity and national pride embodied in the song. The main event was held at the Mini-Secretariat Kulgam, where officials and members of the public gathered to pay rich tributes to the iconic composition that served as a powerful inspiration during India’s freedom struggle.

Similar events were also held at Altaf Memorial Government Degree College (AMGDC) Kilam, Townhall Devsar, and various other institutions across the district.

At Devsar, the programme held at Townhall was attended by Tehsildar Devsar Rakib Ahmad (JKAS), SHO Devsar Masood-ul-Hasan, and other officials, who emphasized the song’s enduring role in fostering patriotism and unity. At AMGDC Kilam, the event was presided over by In-charge Principal Dr. Shabir Ahmad Pader, along with faculty members and students, who participated in patriotic recitations and discussions on the historical significance of Vande Mataram. Meanwhile, at the national level,



Prime Minister Narendra Modi formally launched the year-long nationwide celebrations of Vande Mataram at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi, marking 150 years since its creation. Composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, Vande Mataram was first published in the literary journal Bangadarshan on November 7, 1875, and later included in his celebrated novel Anandamath (1882). The song was subsequently set to music by Rabindranath Tagore and became a

defining symbol of India’s struggle for independence.

A government statement described Vande Mataram as “an integral part of the nation’s civilisational, political, and cultural consciousness,” continuing to inspire deep national pride and unity even today.

The celebrations across Kulgam concluded with participants reaffirming their collective commitment to uphold the spirit of patriotism and preserve India’s rich cultural heritage.

Kulgam Police Conducts Inspection of SIM Card Vendors to Curb Misuse

FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, NOV 7: In a continued effort to curb the misuse of SIM cards and ensure strict adherence to the guidelines of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), the Kulgam Police on Friday carried out a special inspection drive of SIM card vendors across the district.

In Devsar, the drive was led by SHO Devsar Masood-ul-Hasan under the supervision of ASP NHW Mumtaz Ali Bhatti (JKPS) SDPO Qazigund Mansoor Ayaz, and on the directions of SSP Kulgam, Shri Anayat Ali Chowdhary (IPS).

During the inspection, police teams conducted a thorough verification of documentation procedures, customer records, and adherence to Know Your Customer (KYC) norms. Vendors were sensitized about the importance of strict compliance and the need for proper verification of applicants before issuing SIM cards, to prevent their potential misuse in unlawful activities.

A senior police official emphasized that strict action will be taken against any vendor found violating the prescribed norms or issuing SIM cards without complete documentation. Police also appealed to the general public to obtain mobile connections only from authorized dealers and to promptly report any suspicious activity related to SIM card issuance or use.

This special drive is part of Kulgam Police’s ongoing campaign to enhance digital security, prevent fraud, and combat cyber-related crimes across the district.

Satish Sharma reviews proposal for Single Window Digital System for Recruitment Rules in J&K Deptts.

New system will strengthen accountability through real-time monitoring, public accessibility: Satish Sharma

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 07: In a significant step towards promoting administrative efficiency and digital governance, Minister for Administrative Reforms, Inspections & Trainings (ARI & Trainings), Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, IT, Science and Technology, Satish Sharma, today chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the proposal for establishing a Single Window Digital System for framing and amending Recruitment Rules (RRs) across all government departments in Jammu and Kashmir.

Commissioner Secretary ARI and Trainings, Shabnum Khamil; other senior officers of ARI and Trainings department were present in the meeting.

During the meeting, the Minister emphasized the importance of streamlining administrative

procedures to ensure time-bound and transparent functioning of government departments. He said that the proposed digital platform would mark a major reform in recruitment, enabling faster decision-making and uniform policy implementation.

The Minister appreciated the efforts of the ARI & Trainings Department for conceptualizing the initiative and directed officers to expedite the design and rollout of the system in consultation with GAD, Finance, Law, and JKPSC, ensuring inter-departmental coordination and accountability at every stage.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Sharma said, "This digital reform will significantly reduce administrative delays, bring transparency, and ensure uniform implementation of recruitment policies across all departments. The Single Window System will not only enhance



efficiency but also strengthen accountability through real-time monitoring and public accessibility."

He further directed that the system be integrated with the

existing E-Office framework, besides capacity-building initiatives for departmental nodal

officers be organised to ensure smooth transition and effective implementation.

The Minister also stressed the importance of introducing a public reference view to allow citizens and stakeholders to access approved Recruitment Rules online, reinforcing the government's commitment to transparent and citizen-centric governance.

Pertinently, the new initiative will ensure uniform recruitment policy across all departments, substantial reduction in paperwork and file movement with enhanced transparency through online monitoring, quicker processing and filling of vacant posts, and improved coordination between departments and agencies.

The Single Window Digital System aims to replace the existing multi-tiered and paper-based process with a unified online mechanism. The system

will have Online Portal & Dashboard Secure departmental logins with standardized digital templates for proposals, simultaneous online routing to ARI & Trainings, Finance, Law, GAD, and JKPSC, centralized archive of all approved Recruitment Rules, amendments, and notifications, real-time updates through SMS/email and escalation mechanisms for delays, real-time monitoring of pendency and performance indicators, strong data protection and audit mechanisms and defined Timelines for faster approvals.

Under the proposed model intending departments will finalize and submit proposals within 30 days.

ARI & Trainings, Finance, Law, GAD, JKPSC, and the Standing Committee will process cases within 10 days each and final approval by the General Administration Department (GAD) will be ensured in a time-bound manner.

GDC Doda celebrates 150th anniversary of "Vande Mataram" with patriotic zeal

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

DODA, OCTOBER 07: Government Degree College Doda, in collaboration with its NSS Unit, celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the National Song "Vande Mataram" with enthusiasm and patriotic fervour. The celebration served as a tribute to India's cultural identity and the timeless legacy of Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, whose iconic composition became the rallying cry of the nation's freedom movement.



The event commenced with a pledge ceremony, where all teaching and non-teaching staff members reaffirmed their commitment to uphold the ideals of national unity, integrity, and respect for the motherland. The collective recital of Vande Mataram filled the campus with a deep sense of pride, evoking emotions of gratitude and reverence for the sacrifices made during India's struggle for independence.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Dr. Javed Iqbal emphasized that Vande Mataram is not merely a song but a powerful expression of India's spirit, symbolizing devotion, courage and unity.

The programme concluded in an atmosphere of patriotism and collective harmony, as the participants pledged to carry forward the ideals of love, respect and service towards the nation.

Samba commemorates 150 glorious years of National Song 'Vande Mataram' with patriotic fervour

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SAMBA, NOVEMBER 07: The District Administration Samba today organised a momentous celebration at Government Higher Secondary School (Boys) Vijaypur, marking the inauguration of nationwide festivities commemorating 150 years of India's iconic National Song, 'Vande Mataram'.

The event began with the resonant strains of the National Anthem, immediately followed by a soul-stirring collective rendition of the National Song by



enthusiastic students, whose voices united to create an atmosphere charged with patriotic passion and national pride. The celebration showcased the rich cultural tapestry of the nation

through captivating group dances and stirring patriotic songs, each performance embodying the enduring spirit of unity, devotion and unwavering commitment to the motherland that

Vande Mataram has inspired across generations.

In a historic convergence of local and national pride, the event was live-streamed simultaneously with the national-level inauguration presided over by the Prime Minister of India, seamlessly connecting Samba's participants with millions across the country in a shared celebration of this timeless anthem of freedom and sacrifice.

The participants included Deputy Commissioner Ayushi Sudan; Additional District Development Commissioner Cham-

pa Devi Thakur; Additional Deputy Commissioner Jagdish Singh, besides district officers, functionaries from the police department and an impressive assembly of dedicated teachers and enthusiastic students, all united in their reverence for this sacred song.

The programme culminated with a fitting and powerful tribute to the glorious legacy of Vande Mataram and reaffirming the unshakable spirit of patriotism that continues to bind the nation together in its journey towards progress and prosperity.

Patriotic Fervour marks Vande Mataram @150 celebration in Kathua District

Live Streaming, Mass Recitation & Padyatras Held Nationwide

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KATHUA, NOVEMBER 7: District Kathua today joined the nationwide Vande Mataram @150 celebrations, commemorating 150 years of the National Song, with the district-level event held at the DC Office Complex.

The programme featured live streaming of the national inaugural ceremony addressed by the Prime Minister, followed by a collective rendition and recitation of Vande Mataram.

Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma; SSP Mohita Sharma; District officers, sectoral heads and employees were present on the occasion. The gathering resonated with patriotic fervor as officers and participants together paid tribute to the spirit of national unity and cultural heritage. In a show of widespread participa-



tion and public engagement, similar ceremonies were conducted simultaneously across government offices, schools, colleges and other institutions in the district. Padyatras, awareness programmes and cultural renditions formed part of the day's activities under the ongoing Vande Mataram @150 campaign.

Further, mass recitation of Vande Mataram was held across various offices, educational campuses and field institutions, where students, youth groups, staff and community members actively took part, echoing a unified expression of national pride.

The district administration has urged public cooperation and continued participation in upcoming events scheduled under the campaign, reinforcing the message of shared identity, harmony and collective national spirit.

GDC Vijaypur starts "Vande Mataram" celebrations; commemorates Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SAMBA, NOVEMBER 07: Government Degree College (GDC) Vijaypur observed two significant national events—the 150th year celebration of "Vande Mataram" and Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas — with great zeal and patriotic spirit.

Marking Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, the Department of Education, in collaboration with Yuva Mission, Unnat Bharat, and Shikshit Bharat Clubs, organised screening of a short documentary on the contribution of tribal communities to India's cultural and national heritage. The documentary highlighted the vital role of tribal groups in preserving ecology, cul-



ture, and community welfare. The session, coordinated by Prof. Ritu Bhagat (HOD Education) and Dr. Gunjeet Mahiwal (Lecturer, Education) concluded with an interactive discussion among students and faculty.

The celebration of "Vande Mataram", organised by the NSS Unit (KHIDMAT), began with lighting of the traditional lamp ceremony, symbolising knowledge and unity. This was followed by the live streaming of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's address, which inspired students and faculty with insights into the song's historical and cultural significance.

Prof. Mamta Gupta (HOD Commerce) spoke about the timeless relevance of "Vande Mataram" in strengthening national pride. The event, coordinated by Dr. Naseem Chowdhary (NSS PO) and Prof. Meetu Sharma (HOD Geography), concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

Vande Mataram celebration held at Doda

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

DODA, NOVEMBER 07:- The District Administration Doda today organized a grand celebration to commemorate 150 years of the iconic national song "Vande Mataram", symbolizing India's enduring spirit of freedom, pride and cultural heritage. The event was held in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex, and witnessed overwhelming participation from Officers, officials, students, Anganwadi workers and members of the civil society.

The commemoration was organized as part of a nationwide celebration and was live-streamed along with the address of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who reflected on the historical significance and emotional power of Vande Mataram as a unifying force in India's freedom struggle.

The programme commenced with the flag hoisting ceremony, followed by a soulful invocation of "Vande Mataram", which set a



deeply patriotic tone for the day. A series of cultural performances,

including songs, recitations and dance presentations inspired by

themes of national pride, added color and fervor to the occasion.

A short film on the legacy of "Vande Mataram" was also screened, highlighting its timeless relevance and its role in inspiring generations of Indians.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) and other government functionaries spoke about the historical roots of Vande Mataram, written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee in 1875 and how it became an anthem of courage and devotion during India's freedom movement. They also emphasized the importance of preserving such national symbols as a source of inspiration for the youth and a reminder of India's collective identity.

Meanwhile, Vande Mataram celebrations were held across all Sub-Divisions, Tehsil Headquarters and other institutions throughout the district, where Officers, officials, students and local communities came together to pay tribute to the timeless spirit of the national song.

Secy RDD&PR reviews performance under UT-CAPEX, SASCI

Pushes for urgent adoption of SNA-SPARSH platform to streamline fund flow

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 07: Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (RDD&PR), Mohammad Aijaz Asad, today chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress under UT-CAPEX, Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI), and implementation status of PM-SHRI and Samagra Shiksha schemes under RDD.

The meeting was attended by DG Rural Sanitation, Anu Malhotra; Mission Director NRLM, Shubhra Sharma; Directors RDD Kashmir and Jammu, Shabir Hussain Bhat and Shahnaz Akhtar; Director Panchayati Raj, Sham Lal; Chief Engineer PWD (R&B) for SASCI projects; Director Finance, Umar Khan; Joint Director Planning, Kamal Kumar Sharma; Additional Secretary, Waseem Raja; Superintending Engineers (REW), ACDs, ACPs, and Executive Engineers of all districts.

The Secretary also reviewed the on-boarding of schemes onto

the SNA-SPARSH platform to ensure transparent and efficient management of funds.

During the review, the Secretary emphasized the urgent adoption of SNA-SPARSH platform and obtaining of the 'Mother Sanction' for each scheme, terming it crucial for authorizing expenditures and ensuring seamless implementation on the ground. He directed all Scheme Heads to expedite on-boarding and streamline fund flow to avoid delays.

Reviewing UT-CAPEX works, the Secretary instructed that the pace of execution be accelerated with a district-wise review mechanism to bridge gaps between allocations and physical achievements. He laid special emphasis on infrastructure development for PRIs, BDCs, and DDCs, underscoring their vital role in strengthening grassroots governance and enhancing service delivery.

Under SASCI, it was informed that loan assistance of ₹21.10 crore has been sanctioned for RDD projects. The Secretary reiterated the



Finance Department's directions mandating utilization of 75% of funds by December 2025, surrender of non-viable projects for reallocation. He directed HoDs to personally monitor SASCI projects and ensure timely completion of all sanctioned works.

While reviewing PM-SHRI and Samagra Shiksha being executed by Rural Engineering Wing, the Secretary directed officials to expedite execution, strengthen monitoring, and ensure timely utilization of funds.

He also called for the establishment of monthly progress reporting mechanism to ensure that all schemes deliver tangible and timely results, benefiting communities, schools, and students across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Secretary reiterated Administration's commitment to efficient public spending, transparency in financial management, and time-bound completion of developmental works to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth across the Union Territory.

District Ganderbal participates in commemoration of 150 years of 'Vande Mataram'

GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 07: The District Administration Ganderbal today participated in the nationwide commemoration marking 150 years of India's National Song 'Vande Mataram', joining the live telecast of the national level event graced by Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi.

The event at Ganderbal marked the formal launch of a year-long celebration from 7th November 2025 to 7th November 2026, to honour the 150-year journey of this timeless composition. In this connection, a programme was organised at the Conference Hall of the Mini Secretariat, Ganderbal, where school children, teachers, district officers, and enthusiastic citizens participated in mass singing of the National Song. The event resonated with patriotic fervour as students presented vibrant performances of patriotic songs and skits on national themes, receiving wide applause

from the audience. Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, said that besides the district headquarters, the event was also celebrated simultaneously at block and panchayat levels. He informed that during the coming week, a series of programmes including patriotic song renditions, essay and painting competitions, and cultural events will be held across the district to further deepen the spirit of patriotism among the youth.

The Deputy Commissioner further stated that the celebrations shall continue throughout the year, in line with the phased calendar chalked out by the Government of India to commemorate this landmark event.

Meanwhile, commemorative events including mass singing of the national song were also held at schools and other educational institutions besides at block and Panchayat levels across the district.

IDPL UT Level Yoga Competition Reaches Under-14 Stage at Baramulla

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 7: The ongoing Inter-District Provincial Level (IDPL) UT Level Yoga Competition has now reached its Under-14 category events at the Indoor Stadium Khawaja Bagh, Baramulla.

The prestigious event is being organised and hosted by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, District Baramulla under the overall supervision of District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Baramulla.

In today's session, the Under-14 Boys competition witnessed energetic participation from 16 districts across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, with 91 young yoga athletes showcasing their flexibility, balance, and discipline in a highly spirited environment.



The event aims to promote holistic development, physical fitness, and mental well-being among the young athletes through the ancient art of yoga.

The participants demonstrated remarkable skill and composure, reflecting the growing popularity of yoga as a key component of school-level sports activities.

The event continues to serve as a platform for identifying promising talent that will represent Jammu & Kashmir at higher levels of competition.

DC Ganderbal flags-off 7 day exposure visit of farmers to Himachal Pradesh under ATMA Scheme

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 07: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore Friday flagged-off a group of 20 progressive farmers for seven days Horticulture training cum exposure visit under the ATMA Scheme (2025) to Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, Nauni, Solan, Himachal Pradesh.

The step is aimed at empowering local farmers and strengthening the horticulture sector in the



district.

Wishing the farmers a productive and enlightening journey, DC encouraged them to make the most of this learning opportunity.

Addressing the farmers, the DC said that this visit is a golden opportunity for our farmers to experience first-hand how science and innovation can transform horticulture. "The knowledge you gain will not only uplift your own orchards but also inspire others across Ganderbal to adopt modern, sustainable practices," he added.

The flag-off event was attended by Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Chief Horticulture Officer, Ganderbal, and the Horticulture Development Officer, Ganderbal, besides other officers.

During their stay at Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, Nauni, Solan, the farmers will take part in interactive training sessions, live demonstrations, and field visits to model orchards and research farms.

These hands-on experiences will expose them to advanced technologies, post-harvest management techniques, latest Pruning techniques and scientific methods that can significantly enhance fruit quality and yield back home in Kashmir.

DC Baramulla Chairs DLIC Meeting, Approves 197 Cases Under Mission Yuva

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 7: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) at the DC Office Baramulla to review and approve cases under Mission Yuva, a flagship initiative aimed at fostering entrepreneurship and self-employment among the youth.

During the meeting, a total of 197 cases were approved after detailed scrutiny and evaluation.

The approved cases will pave the way for young entrepreneurs to establish their ventures under the scheme, thereby enhancing livelihood opportunities across the district.

The DC emphasized the importance of timely processing of applications and directed the concerned departments to ensure effective handholding of beneficiaries so that the scheme achieves its intended objectives.

The meeting was attended by members of the DLIC, officers from the Employment and other line departments.

District Budgam joins Nation in Celebrating 150 Years of Vande Mataram

DC highlights historical and cultural significance of the national song

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 7: District Budgam today joined the rest of the nation in celebrating 150 years of the iconic national song Vande Mataram, which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, at New Delhi.

The celebration marks a historic milestone, paying tribute to the song that continues to inspire generations with its message of patriotism, unity, and devotion to the motherland.

The celebrations in Budgam were conducted under the directions of the District Administration Budgam, in line with the UT-wide initiative to commemorate 150 years of Vande Mataram across Jammu and Kashmir.

The programme was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohiud-Din Bhat, who spoke in detail about the origin, significance, and

timeless relevance of the national song Vande Mataram.

It was emphasised by the DC that the song, penned by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee in 1875, had served as a powerful source of inspiration during the Indian freedom struggle, uniting people across regions, languages, and faiths under the shared emotion of nationalism and love for the country.

The DC further underlined that the spirit of Vande Mataram continues to resonate even today, reminding every citizen of their responsibility towards the nation and its values of peace, harmony, and collective progress.

It was stated that national symbols such as the national song not only connect citizens with their glorious past but also instil a sense of duty and belonging in future generations.

The DC stressed that young students and youth of the district should draw lessons from the essence of Vande Mataram, which



embodies the ideals of unity in diversity. He expressed appreciation for the active participation of educational institutions, district officers, and citizens in the celebration, noting that such events play an important role in strengthening the emotional bond between people and the nation.

Guest speakers from Govern-

ment Degree College Budgam also delivered addresses highlighting the literary, historical, and cultural significance of the song. It was observed that Vande Mataram had served as both a hymn of devotion and a clarion call during India's freedom movement, symbolising sacrifice, courage, and patriotism.

During the programme, participants also paid tributes to the great freedom fighters and visionaries who popularised the song during India's struggle for independence. A short presentation on the journey of Vande Mataram through history was displayed, which was widely appreciated by the participants.

The programme concluded with a collective recitation of Vande Mataram by the attendees, reflecting deep patriotic fervour and national pride.

The event also witnessed the presence of SSP Budgam, Nikhil Borkar; ADC Budgam, CPO Budgam, CEO Budgam, CEO MC Budgam, DIO Information, DSWO Budgam, DIO Informatics, and other senior officers of the District Administration. Officials from various departments, staff members, and representatives from educational institutions and colleges across the district also participated with great enthusiasm.

DC, SSP Bandipora Join Nation in Celebrating 150 Years of National Song 'Vande Mataram'

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, NOV 7: The District Administration Bandipora today joined the rest of the nation in celebrating 150 years of the national song 'Vande Mataram', marking the beginning of a year-long commemoration programme.

As part of the celebrations, officers, officials, students, and citizens across the district participated in the live broadcast of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's address from New Delhi.

The main event in Bandipora district was held at the Mini Secretariat Bandipora, where the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib; Senior Superin-

tendent of Police Bandipora, Ajaz Ahmad Zargar; Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Bandipora, Shabir Ahmad Wani; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Bandipora, Assistant Commissioner Development Bandipora, Chief Agriculture Officer Bandipora, District Information Officer Bandipora, officers from other departments, ASHA and Anganwadi workers; and other officials were present.

The event was organized to honour the timeless legacy of Vande Mataram, a song that has inspired unity, patriotism, and a deep sense of national pride for generations.

The live broadcast was fol-



lowed by the mass singing of 'Vande Mataram' across schools, colleges, and public places in Bandipora, symbolizing the collective spirit of harmony and devotion to the nation.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that Vande Mataram is more than a song, it is a tribute to the nation's struggle for freedom and a reminder of the values that continue to unite India. She called upon all departments, institutions, and communities to actively participate in the year-long commemoration programme, which will include cultural, educational, and awareness activities celebrating national pride.

Similar events were also held across Government Degree Colleges, educational institutions,

and offices throughout the district, where officers, staff members, and students enthusiastically participated in the live broadcast and mass singing of Vande Mataram.

As part of the year-long commemoration, a series of programmes will be organized across Bandipora viz. mass singing events, cultural evenings, essay and quiz competitions, school and college assemblies, exhibitions, patriotic band performances, and awareness campaigns in synchronization with national activities.

These activities aim to rekindle patriotic fervour, celebrate India's cultural heritage, and promote public participation in honour of 150 Years of Vande Mataram.

HT EDITORIAL

Don't make hollow claims; ensure supply of text-books

Some days back a top notch officer of the education department claimed that the Board of School Education has supplied text-books for the different classes to the majority of the government schools. The officer also claimed that books have also been supplied to the booksellers of the valley and that by November 20 the process would be completed and this time around there would be no shortage of the text-books for the students.

The claim has turned out to be a hoax since most of the government schools have reported that the text-books are yet to reach them even though multiple requests have been made by them to the authorities of the Board of School Education. At the same time the booksellers across the length and breadth of the Kashmir valley have complained that they too have not received the text-books of the different classes for the next academic session.

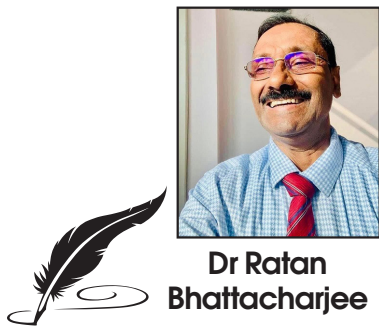
In this whole scenario the students and their parents are a harried lot and they are not able to understand what to do. Most of the private schools have completed the examination process and results have also been declared but the new academic session has not started as yet. The primary reason for the same is the non-availability of text-books for the different classes. Over the years since there has been a delay in the supply of text-books one cannot rule out the possibility of the same situation this time around too.

With winter vacations round the corner one hopes that the text-books are available to the students in the next few days. Once this happens then the students would be able to go through the books and the school authorities would be able to assign assignments to the children so that the academics don't suffer during the winter vacations. The issue needs to be given a top priority and there should not be holding back in this regard.

The officers of the school education department instead of making hollow claims should impress upon the people manning the publication department of Board of School Education to print the text-books within no time so that there is an end to the mental agony of the students and their parents. Once text-books are printed in adequate numbers in the next one week or so the same can be supplied to the government schools and the booksellers and there would be relief for all the stakeholders.

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Rabindranath Tagore's Love For Kashmir

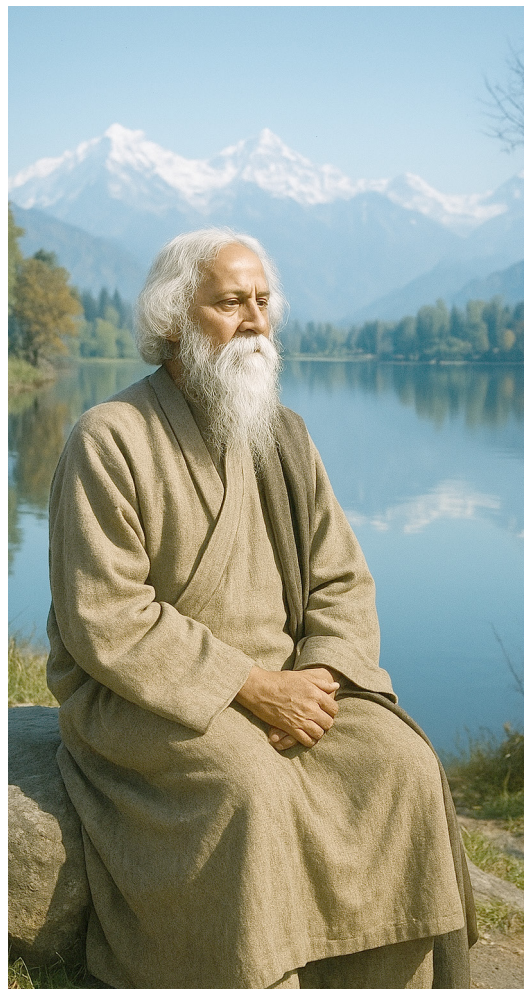


Dr Ratan Bhattacharjee

Tagore's admiration for Kashmir's natural and spiritual beauty also had a personal, emotional side. After the deaths of his wife, children, and close family members, Tagore often retreated into solitude. He found solace in nature, which became a healer and companion. The still waters of Dal Lake reflected his inner calm; the distant mountains mirrored his yearning for transcendence. His letters from Kashmir often reveal this mixture of melancholy and serenity—a poet trying to reconcile the impermanence of human life with the eternal beauty of nature. One can feel this mood in many of his poems from the later years. Though he did not write an entire book dedicated to Kashmir, its imagery surfaces in his lyrical works and letters. He wrote of the quiet mornings in Srinagar, where the mist rose like a prayer from the waters; of the evening lights reflected in the lake; and of the haunting silence that descended over the valleys at dusk. These were not mere descriptions—they were spiritual experiences transformed into words. For Tagore, Kashmir became a metaphor for the inner state of peace he aspired to attain, a place where the restless human spirit could dissolve into the infinite.

In the broader context of Tagore's oeuvre, Balaka occupies a special place because it marks the culmination of his dialogue with nature. In Gitanjali, he prayed to the divine within nature; in Balaka, he became one with the divine rhythm of nature. The transformation from devotion to identification mirrors his own inner journey—from seeking to being. Kashmir, with its sublime beauty and spiritual aura, provided both the setting and the stimulus for this evolution. Thus, the connection between Balaka and Kashmir is both literal and symbolic. Literally, some of the imagery and mood in Balaka were inspired by his sojourn in the valley. Symbolically, Kashmir represents the very essence of what Balaka stands for—the merging of beauty and motion, of silence and song, of human consciousness with the vast rhythms of the universe. When we read Balaka today, it is possible to hear in its lines the whisper of Himalayan winds, to see the flight of swans over Kashmir's skies, and to feel the poet's awe before the majesty of creation. Tagore's Kashmir was not merely a place on earth—it was a state of mind, a realization of the universe in perpetual motion. In Balaka, that realization found its most eloquent expression. The poet who once stood on the banks of Dal Lake, watching the reflection of clouds and birds, turned that vision into song—a song that continues to remind us that life, like the flight of the swans, is both transient and eternal, restless yet serene, always moving toward the infinite. Kashmir gave him the sight; Balaka gave him the voice. And through that union of place and poetry, Rabindranath Tagore achieved one of the most luminous moments in world literature—a vision where the spirit of man soars forever, wing to wing with the eternal winds of the Himalayas. The poem 'Balaka' reminds us of W.B. Yeats's poem "Yeats Fifty Nine Swans" refers to the poem 'The Wild Swans at Coole' which is a reflection on aging and the passage of time, contrasting the constancy of nature (represented by the swans) with the changes and sorrows in the speaker's own life over the nineteen years since he first counted them. But Tagore's reaction is different. "Resounding in the void is the song of the wings of the universe: 'Not here, but somewhere else, somewhere further away'" These lines of 'Balaka' reveal the quest for the infinite in Tagore's mind. The story of Tagore's connection with Kashmir is thus not merely that of a poet visiting a beautiful place—it is the story of a thinker encountering the very essence of the beauty and mystery that shaped his worldview.

Tagore's visits to Kashmir were few but transformative. His first significant visit came in 1915, when he was already well-known across India and abroad. Having just received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913 for Gitanjali, he was celebrated as a global voice of spirituality and poetry. Yet, despite his fame, Tagore remained an intensely introspective person who constantly sought meaning beyond the material and the mundane. The Himalayas, with their grandeur and stillness, offered him that perfect canvas for meditation and creative introspection. When he visited Kashmir, he wrote to his friends and disciples that it was not just the beauty of the place that enthralled him but its soul—the quiet dignity of its people, the rhythm of its seasons, and the way the divine seemed to whisper through its natural landscapes. Kashmir had long been regarded as paradise on earth—a place of poets, saints, and mystics. The valley's serene lakes, especially Dal Lake and Nigeen Lake, with their floating gardens and houseboats, offered the tranquility Tagore sought. The poet was moved by the gentle flow of the Jhelum River, the chinars



that flamed red in autumn, and the snow-covered mountains that seemed to touch the heavens. For Tagore, such scenes were not merely picturesque—they were living metaphors for his philosophy of the unity of all existence. The mountains represented the eternal; the rivers symbolized the flow of life; and the valleys, with their flowers and fruits, embodied human aspiration and creativity. In Kashmir, Tagore often spoke of the relationship between nature and divinity. To him, nature was not separate from God—it was the manifestation of the divine spirit. The more he wandered through the Kashmiri landscape, the more he felt that human life could only achieve completeness when it learned to coexist with nature's beauty and order. This idea echoed through many of his later poems and essays, where he lamented how modern civilization was alienating man from nature. The serenity of Kashmir reaffirmed his conviction that true progress lay in harmony, not conquest.

During his stay, Tagore was also fascinated by the cultural and spiritual heritage of Kashmir. The land had been home to ancient Hindu and Buddhist traditions before becoming a cradle of Sufi mysticism. Tagore was deeply interested in this confluence of philosophies, where the quest for divine truth transcended all boundaries of religion. He saw in Kashmir a living example of India's syncretic soul—the blending of spiritual streams that upheld tolerance, love, and unity. In his conversations with scholars and monks, he found echoes of the Upanishadic wisdom he so revered: that truth is one, though sages call it by different names. Kashmir, in that sense, represented to Tagore what he called Visva-Bharati—the "world's abode"—a place where humanity, nature, and divinity met in harmonious dialogue. It is no coincidence that he later established Visva-Bharati University at Santiniketan on a similar ideal: an open space of learning where the mind is free, the world is one, and knowledge flows without barriers. The peaceful valley of Kashmir gave him a living glimpse of what such a universal home could be.

His letters and travel notes also show his deep concern for the people of Kashmir. He admired their artistry—the intricate designs of Kashmiri shawls, the craftsmanship of wood carving, and the poetry of their folk songs. Tagore was particularly drawn to the simplicity and hospitality of the Kashmiri villagers, who lived in harmony with their surroundings despite hardships. Their way of life reminded him of the rural Bengal he loved and championed throughout his life. In both Bengal and Kashmir, he saw the same rhythm of rural life, the same intimacy with the land, and the same spiritual strength born of simplicity. The painter in Tagore was also awakened in Kashmir. His sketches from the region reveal an eye enchanted by form, texture, and color—the mist on the mountain slopes, the play of light on the lakes, the silhouettes of chinar trees in twilight. It was as if Kashmir gave visual language to the abstract spirituality that his poetry so often evoked. The combination of poetry and painting in his later years owes something to the impression Kashmir left on his mind.

Interestingly, Tagore's engagement with Kashmir was not confined to aesthetics or philosophy. He was also aware of its political and historical significance. The early 20th century saw growing tensions in the region, and Tagore, though not overtly political in the conventional sense, understood the suffering caused by exploitation and oppression. His deep humanism made him sensitive to all forms of injustice. He saw Kashmir not just as paradise but also as a land of people who deserved dignity, education, and peace. His dream of a free and harmonious India included Kashmir as an

integral symbol of cultural and spiritual unity. Kashmir also held a special place in the intellectual exchanges between Tagore and other contemporary thinkers. Jawaharlal Nehru, who had Kashmiri roots, admired Tagore immensely and often spoke of how the poet's universal vision influenced his idea of India. In letters exchanged between them, both reflected on Kashmir as a land of synthesis—where nature, art, and spirit intertwined seamlessly. Even Mahatma Gandhi, though differing from Tagore on certain issues, shared his reverence for the valley's purity and its potential as a symbol of India's unity in diversity.

Tagore's experience in Kashmir also strengthened his critique of Western industrialism and materialism. As he gazed at the unspoiled landscapes and the quiet rhythms of rural life, he contrasted them with the mechanical, restless life of modern cities. He often wrote that the human soul could find peace only in communion with nature, not in domination over it. Kashmir, with its delicate balance between human habitation and natural grandeur, became for him an example of what civilization should aspire to preserve. His ecological sensibility, much ahead of its time, found resonance in the pristine environment of the valley. Tagore's connection with Kashmir did not fade after he left the valley. In his later years, whenever he wrote about beauty, spirituality, or the search for eternal truth, one can sense the whisper of those mountains and lakes. The serenity of Kashmir had become part of his consciousness. The place lived in him as an inner landscape—a reminder of the world's inherent beauty and the divine presence within it.

When we read Gitanjali, The Gardener, or Stray Birds, we often encounter moments where the poet's voice seems to echo across Himalayan valleys. The lines—"The same stream of life that runs through my veins night and day / runs through the world and dances in rhythmic measure"—resonate perfectly with the flow of the Jhelum through Kashmir's heart. Whether consciously or subconsciously, Tagore's encounters with such landscapes deepened his sense of universal kinship. Tagore's Kashmir connection can also be seen as part of his larger vision of India as a civilization of spirit. To him, India was not merely a political entity but a cultural and spiritual continuum stretching from the Himalayas to the seas. In that vast continuum, Kashmir represented the crown—the lofty ideal of beauty and harmony that India stood for. The poet's affection for Kashmir was thus an expression of his patriotism in its most elevated form: not narrow nationalism, but love for a country as a living embodiment of divine beauty. In modern times, as Kashmir continues to face political turmoil and divisions, Tagore's words acquire renewed relevance. He believed that beauty and peace were inseparable, that a society which destroys its natural harmony also destroys its moral and spiritual fabric. If he were alive today, he would perhaps remind us that no human ambition can justify the loss of what he called manusher praner shanti—the peace of the human soul. The valley that once inspired his poetry should inspire the world to restore harmony, not discord.

Tagore's life and art were guided by a quest for unity—between man and nature, between nations and cultures, between the visible and the invisible. Kashmir, in all its loveliness, embodied that unity for him. It was a place where beauty met wisdom, where silence spoke the language of eternity. When Tagore left the valley, he took with him not just memories of landscapes but an enduring vision of what the human spirit could become when attuned to nature's song. For today's generation, revisiting Tagore's Kashmir connection is more than an act of literary curiosity; it is a moral and ecological reflection. The poet who saw the divine in the ripples of a river and the whisper of trees would urge us to see Kashmir not as a territory but as a sacred trust of humanity. His vision invites us to protect it, cherish it, and learn from it. The poet's Kashmir was not merely geographical—it was a state of consciousness, a metaphor for peace, beauty, and the infinite.

Rabindranath Tagore once wrote, "The highest education is that which does not merely give information but makes our life in harmony with all existence." That ideal, which he lived and taught, was nowhere more visible than in his encounters with Kashmir. The valley gave him lessons in humility, in the sacredness of life, and in the music of the universe. Through his eyes, we still see the snow-clad peaks not as cold stones but as radiant symbols of eternity; we hear the lakes whispering the verses of Gitanjali; and we feel, even today, that the poet's spirit lingers there, gazing at the stars reflected in the still waters of Dal Lake. Tagore's Kashmir connection remains an enduring testament to how beauty and spirituality can fuse into art, and how art, in turn, can illuminate the human heart. For Tagore, Kashmir was not merely a destination but a revelation—a meeting point of earth and heaven, where the poet found what he had always sought: the infinite in the finite, the eternal in the moment, and the divine in the silence of nature.

International Tagore Awardee poet Dr. Ratan Bhattacharjee, President Kolkata Indian American Society is a former Affiliate Faculty of Virginia Commonwealth University and Columnist USA. Email prof.ratanbhattacharjee@gmail.com

GOC Ace of Spades Division Inspires Border Students with Message of Peace & Unity



M S Nazki

The lesson: The farmer explains that while a single stick can be broken easily, a bundle of sticks bound together is strong and cannot be broken. He concludes that if they remain united, no one can harm them, but if they continue to quarrel, they will be vulnerable

The GOC Ace of Spades Division, Inspires Border Students of Rajouri-Poonch with a Heart-Touching Message of Peace and Unity! Imagine there's no country, it isn't hard to do, nothing to kill or die for, And no religion too, imagine all the people, living life in peace! You may say that I'm a dreamer, But I'm not the only one, I hope someday you'll join us And the world will be as one.MD!

Major General Kaushik Mukherjee is the general officer commanding of the strategic 'Ace of Spades' division entrusted with guarding the LoC in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu and Kashmir and this is what he said, 'We Are Human Beings — Not Hindu, Muslim or Sikh; The Almighty Created Humanity, Not Borders!

What he basically wanted to say, we are each other's harvest; we are each other's business; we are each other's magnitude and bond. One love, one heart... Let's get together and feel all right!

We are all equal in the fact that we are all different. We are all the same in the fact that we will never be the same. We are united by the reality that all colours and all cultures are distinct & individual. We are harmonious in the reality that we are all held to this earth by the same gravity. We don't share blood, but we share the air that keeps us alive. I will not blind myself and say that my black brother is not different from me. I will not blind myself and say that my brown sister is not different from me. But my black brother is as much as I am me. But my brown sister is as much as I am me!

A bit of history here:

While there are no major wars fought with this specific three-way alliance, the closest examples include soldiers from Sikh, Hindu, and Muslim faiths fighting together in the British Indian Army during World War I and the Sikh Empire's army, which included both Hindus and Muslims, fighting against the British in the Anglo-Sikh wars. Additionally, in 1857, large sections of Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs united to challenge British rule, although this was a rebellion rather than a formal alliance between the groups.

Examples of cooperation

British Indian Army: Sikh, Hindu, and Muslim soldiers served together in the British Indian Army, fighting in various conflicts. For instance, soldiers from all three faiths fought in World War I in Egypt, as seen in a photograph of them preparing a meal together.

Sikh Empire: The Sikh Empire's army included both Hindu and Muslim soldiers. The army fought against the British in the Anglo-Sikh Wars, and historical records show that some of its leaders were originally Hindu but converted to Sikhism.

Indian Rebellion of 1857: Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs united against the British in the First War of Independence. This was a joint uprising rather than a formal military alliance, but it showed a significant, albeit temporary, unity among the three communities.

A classic tale of unity is about a farmer who, on his deathbed, teaches his quarreling sons about strength in numbers by showing them how easy it is to break a single stick but impossible to break a bundle of them bound together.

The farmer and his sons:

The problem: A farmer's four sons are always fighting. Worried they will not be able to work together and share the farm, he devises a plan to teach them a lesson about unity.



The demonstration: The farmer asks each son to break a single stick, which they do easily. Then, he ties several sticks into a bundle and asks them to break it, but none of them can.

The lesson: The farmer explains that while a single stick can be broken easily, a bundle of sticks bound together is strong and cannot be broken. He concludes that if they remain united, no one can harm them, but if they continue to quarrel, they will be vulnerable.

The outcome: The sons understand their father's lesson and begin to work together harmoniously.

The pigeons and the net

The problem: A flock of pigeons, while searching for food, gets trapped in a hunter's net. They try to escape individually by fluttering and pulling, but they cannot break free.

The solution: The king of the pigeons advises them to work together. He tells them to each grab a part of the net and fly up at the same time.

The outcome: The doves, united, manage to lift the entire net and fly away with it, astonishing the hunter. They take the net to a friend, a mouse who gnaws through it with his teeth and frees the pigeons, who then fly away together, safe because of their unity.

Brotherhood of Man" most commonly refers to the ideal of universal friendship and unity among all people. You are never alone. You are eternally connected with everyone!

The ideal of universal unity

A belief: It's the belief or hope that all humans should regard and treat one another as brothers and sisters, promoting friendship, loyalty, and cooperation.

A religious concept: In Christianity, this concept is tied to the idea that all people are interconnected as "children of God" and have a mutual responsibility to support one another.

A political concept: It is also a principle that supports the recognition of individual human worth, dignity, and rights.

There are a few short stories that I will relate:

I. In a village nestled between mountains, a rivalry had long festered between two brothers, Kael and Lin. While both were skilled hunters, Kael was impulsive and boastful, while Lin was methodical and quiet. One day, a great storm threatened to wash away their village.

In the chaos, Kael rushed to protect their home, but was overwhelmed by a flood. Lin, without a second thought, plunged into the raging water, not for glory, but for his brother. He reached Kael, and together they fought the current, eventually pulling each other to safety, exhausted but alive. Their village was saved, and in that moment of shared peril, the brothers finally understood the meaning of true brotherhood—that their strength lay not in individual skill, but in their willingness to be there for one another, no matter the cost.

II- In a remote Himalayan village, an old story tells of two brothers, a Hindu and a Muslim, whose bond of brotherhood was as strong as the mountain peaks. One year, a devastating blizzard struck, trapping the villagers and leaving them with dwindling supplies. The two brothers, despite their own family's needs, tirelessly worked together to clear a path to the nearest town, carrying the sick and elderly on their backs.

Their joint effort, which went beyond their own communities, became a symbol of unity for the entire region. When the villagers from the affected areas saw this, they were reminded of the shared humanity that transcended religious differences. The two brothers' act of courage and compassion showed that in times of crisis, the "brotherhood of mankind" is what ultimately unites and saves everyone.

Their story is not unique to the mountains. It is a reflection of the spirit of brotherhood that runs deep in India, seen in the actions of people from all walks of life—whether in a village, a city, or a conflict zone. It's a story about the shared values of compassion and selflessness that bind people together in times of need.

III- In the village of Chak Fateh Singh Wala, a community celebrated Ramadan together by preparing an Iftar feast for their Muslim neighbors, who were told not to cook. This was made possible through the combined efforts of the Sikh and Hindu residents, who pooled resources to ensure the Muslim families had a grand meal to break their fast. This act of solidarity is inspired by the village's history and the Sikh principle of 'sarbat da bhalai' (the well-being of all).

Now the final lines: They'll say you are bad or perhaps you are mad or at least you should stay undercover. Your mind must be bare if you would dare to think you can love more than one lover. Just think over it. MD!

The Blessed Snowfall of Kashmir



Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

Alhamdulillah! The lofty mountains of the Pir Panjal range have turned white once again. Every peak looks as if someone has painted it and left it gleaming like a luminous body. Snow plays an immense and vital role in the Kashmir Valley — for farmers, irrigation, dams, and the environment as a whole.

Kashmir Valley wears different faces throughout the year, but during winter, it turns into a paradise draped in white. The snow-clad mountains add unmatched charm and beauty to the land. This season is very special for the people of Kashmir, as tourists from across the globe come to witness the magical snowfall. Truly, snow is the soul of Kashmir in winter. Without it, the valley feels incomplete — almost deserted. Though Kashmir has no equal in the world, snow undoubtedly magnifies its splendor and provides great environmental benefits.

Nowadays, even the common people — literate or illiterate — understand the value

of snow. They recognize its link to climate balance and the risks of prolonged droughts. Hence, every Kashmiri prays earnestly for fresh snowfall.

Why Is Snow Important in Kashmir?

Snow is, in essence, the solid form of warmth — a divine blessing. The regions lying in the northern parts of the world, including Kashmir, receive this heavenly gift. In Kashmir, rivers such as the Lidder (in Pahalgam), Shaliganga (in Doodhpathri), and Doodhganga (in Yousmarg) draw their lifeblood from glaciers — the snow-covered mountains.

These glaciers feed the rivers, provide drinking water, and keep the environment cool and pleasant during summer. Snow also maintains soil moisture, replenishes underground water, and sustains agriculture, making it a cornerstone of Kashmir's ecology and economy.

Best Season for Snowfall in Kashmir

The best time for snowfall in Kashmir stretches from the arrival of winter to mid-Chillai Kalan — the coldest 40 days, from 21st December to 31st January. Ideally, if snowfall occurs at the beginning of January, it lasts longer and remains firm.

However, we must never lose hope. Allah Almighty has the best plans for His creation and knows what is good for us. While science helps us predict weather patterns, the true power lies with the Creator. Snow is not just important for winter — it benefits all four



seasons in Kashmir and attracts thousands of tourists every year.

Kashmir in Spring

When winter ends, the valley transforms

once more. From 21st March to 21st June, Kashmir enters its lush green spring — a season of rebirth. Gardens bloom with colorful flowers, and the air fills with fragrance and joy. The Tulip Garden becomes the center

of attraction for visitors from around the world, while the Mughal Gardens — Nishat, Shalimar, Harwan, Pari Mahal, Chashma Shahi, and the Botanical Gardens — look mesmerizing, lavish, and serene.

A Hopeful Prayer

We have not lost anything yet. Let us pray together that Almighty Allah blesses us with a favourable and beneficial snowfall soon — the one we have been waiting for over the past few months. Our prayers are powerful; hope should never fade. May we soon witness the valley wrapped once again in a pure white sheet, as if painted by the hand of nature itself.

Environmental Concerns

Over the last few decades, environmental changes have become visible in Kashmir — rising temperatures, increased rainfall during June and July, dry winters, and reduced precipitation in March and April. These are alarming signs. We must take steps to preserve our natural treasures, especially forests, which play a vital role in maintaining climatic balance. Healthy forests bring favourable weather, while their loss invites imbalance and disaster.

Let us protect what Allah has blessed us with — the forests, rivers, and snow — for they are the soul and strength of our beloved Kashmir.

sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com



Human Health And Interspatial Events



Surinderpal Singh

The idea that human health is connected to cosmic phenomena may appear philosophical, yet modern science has increasingly recognized that events occurring far beyond Earth's atmosphere can influence biological systems on our planet. Among the most studied of these interspatial events are solar flares, geomagnetic storms and fluctuations in Earth's magnetic field. With recent advances in space monitoring technologies and biomedical research, scientists are examining the subtle but meaningful links between space weather and human physiology—particularly cardiovascular and neurological health.

SPACE WEATHER AND EARTH'S MAGNETIC FIELD

The Sun continuously emits charged particles in the form of solar wind. During periods of heightened solar activity—such as solar flares and coronal mass ejections—vast quantities of high-energy particles interact with Earth's magnetic field. These interactions can cause geomagnetic storms, temporarily altering the geomagnetic environment that surrounds all living organisms.

Earth's magnetic field is not merely a planetary feature; it acts as a natural protective shield against harmful cosmic radiation and helps maintain biological

rhythms. Many species, from migratory birds to sea turtles, rely on geomagnetic cues for navigation. Humans, though less visibly affected, also appear to have physiological responses to magnetic fluctuations.

EFFECTS OF GEOMAGNETIC STORMS ON HUMAN HEALTH

Several peer-reviewed studies have suggested correlations between geomagnetic disturbances and changes in human cardiovascular, neurological and emotional states. For example:

HEART HEALTH:

Geomagnetic storms have been associated with increased incidence of heart attacks, cardiac arrhythmias, and fluctuations in blood pressure. The Autonomic Nervous System—which regulates heart rate—seems to be particularly sensitive to electromagnetic variations.

NEUROLOGICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS:

Some individuals report headaches, sleep disturbances, anxiety, or difficulty concentrating during periods of intense solar activity. Research in chronobiology suggests that magnetic field changes may influence melatonin regulation and circadian rhythms.

BLOOD RHEOLOGY (Blood Flow Properties): There is evidence that geomagnetic fluctuations can subtly alter blood viscosity (thickness) and clotting tendencies in susceptible individuals, which may explain increased cardiovascular risk during strong magnetic storms.

Although correlations do not prove direct causation, the consistency of global-scale data indicates that space weather may act as an environmental stressor, especially for those with pre-existing medical conditions.

THE HUMAN HEART AND ELECTROMAGNETIC SENSITIVITY



The human heart generates its own electromagnetic field—one of the strongest produced by any organ in the body. This field coordinates electrical signals that maintain heart rhythm. Since both the heart's rhythm and Earth's magnetosphere operate with electromagnetic principles, it is biologically plausible that external fluctuations may subtly interact with internal cardiovascular regulation. This does not imply danger for most people; rather, it highlights an environmental factor that may interact with human physiology.

MITIGATING THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF SPACE WEATHER

While humans cannot control solar activity, certain protective measures may help reduce potential health effects:

Strengthening Cardiovascular Health: Maintaining heart health through exercise,

balanced nutrition, hydration and stress reduction improves resistance to environmental stressors, including geomagnetic variability.

Monitoring Space Weather Alerts:

Space weather forecasts are increasingly accessible through agencies across the globe. During strong geomagnetic storms, vulnerable individuals (e.g., heart patients) can take added precautions such as avoiding strenuous physical load or ensuring medication adherence.

Maintaining Regular Sleep and Light Exposure:

Stabilizing circadian rhythms with consistent sleep patterns and daylight exposure helps counter any disruption caused by geomagnetic changes affecting melatonin levels.

Mindfulness and Stress-Reduction Prac-

tices:

Techniques such as meditation, controlled breathing and yoga help stabilize the autonomic nervous system.

Magnetic Shielding in Technology-heavy Environments:

Reducing unnecessary electronic field exposure (e.g., limiting non-essential screen time or avoiding sleeping next to high-powered devices) may help minimize cumulative electromagnetic load.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS IN RESEARCH

The intersection of space weather and human health is an emerging field. As the technology is advancing and instrumentation improves, researchers aim to understand not only short-term physiological responses but also whether prolonged exposure to geomagnetic fluctuations affects population-level health. This field sits at the crossroads of astrophysics, cardiology, neurology and environmental medicine, and its advancement may contribute to predictive public health strategies in the future.

Human beings are not isolated from the cosmos and they exist within a complex web of energetic and magnetic interactions. While geomagnetic storms and other space events do not pose direct harm to most individuals, they may influence biological processes, especially in those who are physiologically sensitive or medically vulnerable. Recognizing and studying these subtle relationships enhances our understanding of human health as part of a broader planetary and cosmic environment. As science progresses, the ancient intuition that life is intertwined with the heavens finds new grounding in empirical research—and new relevance for modern well-being.

The author is a Faculty In
Science Department Sri Amritsar
Sahib Punjab.

Two or more servings of yogurt per week could curb heart disease risk: Study



NEW DELHI: Fermented foods have always held a special place in Indian cuisine culture with curd, in its various forms like 'lassi' and 'chhaachh', being an intrinsic part of people's diets.

Yoghurt, a popular food import from the West, is also evolving as an alternative healthy snack food among Indian consumers.

Food experts suggest that yogurt, which is produced by bacterial fermentation of milk, can be a source of important nutrients, including protein.

Now, a study has claimed that consuming more than two servings of yogurt per week may lower the risk of developing heart disease or stroke.

High blood pressure or hypertension is a major cardiovascular disease risk factor. Clinical trials have previously demonstrated beneficial effects of dairy consumption on cardiovascular

health.

Yogurt may independently be related to cardiovascular disease risk, according to the study published in the American Journal of Hypertension.

"We hypothesized that long-term yogurt intake might reduce the risk of cardiovascular problems since some previous small studies had shown beneficial effects of fermented dairy products," said Justin Buendia from Boston University School of Medicine in the US.

"Our results provide important new evidence that yogurt may benefit heart health alone or as a consistent part of a diet rich in fiber-rich fruits, vegetables, and whole grains," said Buendia.

The research included over 55,000 women (aged 30-55) with high blood pressure from the Nurses' Health Study and 18,000 men (aged 40-75) who participated in the Health Professionals Follow-Up Study.

Higher intakes of yogurt were associated with a 30 percent reduction in risk of myocardial infarction or heart attack among the Nurses' Health Study women and a 19 percent reduction in the Health Professionals Follow-Up Study men.

There were 3,300 and 2,148 total cardiovascular disease cases (myocardial infarction, stroke, and revascularization) in the Nurses' Health Study and the Health Professionals Follow-Up Study, respectively.

Higher yogurt intake in women was associated with a 16 percent lower risk of undergoing revascularization, according to researchers.

The surgical procedure places new blood vessels around existing blockages to restore necessary blood flow to the heart muscle.

In both groups, participants consuming more than two servings a week of yogurt had an approximately 20 percent lower risk of major coronary heart disease or stroke during the follow-up period, researchers said.

When revascularization was added to the total cardiovascular disease outcome variable, the risk estimates were reduced for both men and women, but remained significant, they said.

Higher yogurt intake in combination with an overall heart-healthy diet was associated with greater reductions in cardiovascular disease risk among hypertensive men and women.

Courtesy Healthline

Costus (Kuth): Health Benefits, Uses And Side Effects

Many trees and plants exist in Ayurveda, but few understand their advantages. For example, a plant known as costus has several therapeutic benefits and aids in curing the body of numerous ailments. The linden plant is one of the most beneficial medications, even though you have probably seen it everywhere. It has been utilised regularly for multiple years to treat various ailments, including worms in the stomach, hiccups, and stomachaches. Therefore, it is crucial to understand Kooth. Today, we'll go into great detail regarding the advantages, applications, and negative consequences of kutha in this post.

Medicinal Properties Of Costus (Kuth)

The herb costus is considered to be therapeutic in Ayurveda. The flowers, leaves, and stems of the costus plant, which are used to make a variety of herbal remedies, provide a wide range of diverse health benefits. The scientific name for it is Saussurea costus. It is a unique plant with thorny blossoms primarily found in India's Himalayan areas.

Benefits Of Costus (Kuth)

- Costus contains many active substances which reduce internal swelling and redness.
- With the aid of the element found in the root, arthritis symptoms can be somewhat alleviated.
- By combining costus with

various medications, medications are created to lessen the severity of menstruation.

- It treats stomach-related issues like food indigestion, burning, gas production, bloating, etc.
- You can take the powdered



root of costus if you have asthma or respiratory issues.

- For oral ulcers, burning, etc., it is pretty helpful. For problems connecting to the thyroid, it is also beneficial.
- Costus has a wide range of anti-fever characteristics and is particularly successful at lowering fever.
- People with asthma or respiratory issues can manufacture powder from the root. Using honey, lick this powder. This will clear the mucus from the lungs and eliminate the asthma condition.

Uses of Costus (Kuth)

- The following ways of consuming Costus include:
- Decoction of wood
- It is powdered with hot water
- Its juice can be consumed with lukewarm water.
- It can be applied on the skin in the form of a paste.

Side Effects of Costus (Kuth)

- Along with the benefits of consuming litter, there are also side effects. Consuming costus is generally considered safe. However, the following side effects are present due to consuming it in more than average quantity:
- Consuming it in excess can cause acidity.
- Its effect is hot, so it is possible to have an allergic reaction.
- Abdominal pain or cramping
- Frequent gas formation or sour belching
- Heartburn
- Nausea and vomiting
- Its effect is hot, due to which there can also be a possibility of an allergic reaction to it.
- Side Effects of Costus (Kuth)**
- Consuming it in excess can cause acidity.
- Its effect is hot, so it is possible to have an allergic reaction.
- Abdominal pain or cramping
- Frequent gas formation or sour belching
- Heartburn
- Nausea and vomiting

Courtesy Healthline

Hyper-sensitive brain network cause chronic headaches

WASHINGTON D.C: A new study has found that brain networks of patients with fibromyalgia primes for rapid and global, responses to minor changes. Fibromyalgia is a disorder characterised by widespread musculoskeletal pain accompanied by memory issues, sleep, fatigue, and memory issues.

It is believed that fibromyalgia amplifies painful sensations by affecting the way your brain processes pain signals. The new research states that hyper-reactive brain networks could play a part in the hypersensitivity of fibromyalgia.

This abnormal hyper-sensitivity of brain networks, called Explosive Synchronization

(ES), can be observed in other network phenomena as well across nature. The research details only the second study about ES in the human brain.

Main researchers from the University of Michigan and Pohang University of Science and Technology in South Korea report evidence of ES in the brains of people with fibromyalgia, a condition characterized by widespread chronic pain.

Richard Harris, associate professor of anesthesiology at Michigan Medicine with the Chronic Pain and Fatigue Research Center was the senior co-author of the study.

He said, "For the first time, this research

shows that the hypersensitivity experienced by chronic pain patients may result from hypersensitive brain networks. The subjects had conditions similar to other networks that undergo explosive synchronisation".

It was found that in ES, a small stimulus can lead to a dramatic synchronised reaction in the network, as can happen with a power grid failure (that rapidly turns things off) or a seizure (that rapidly turns things on). Until recently, this phenomenon was studied in physics rather than coming in focus in medicine.

Researchers claimed it as a promising avenue to explore in the continued quest to determine how fibromyalgia is developed



in a person.

UnCheol Lee, a physicist and assistant

professor of anesthesiology at Michigan Medicine, the first author of research paper said, "As opposed to the normal process of gradually linking up different centers in the brain after a stimulus, chronic pain patients have conditions that predispose them to link up in an abrupt, explosive manner". He added that these conditions were similar to other networks that undergo ES, including power grids."

The research was conducted on ten female participants with fibromyalgia. They recorded electrical activities in the brains which showed baseline EEG results indicating hyper-active and unstable brain networks, Harris added.

Courtesy Healthline



R&B Department Conducts Extensive Anti-Encroachment Drive in Kulgam

■ FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, NOV 7: The Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department on Friday launched an extensive anti-encroachment drive across various parts of Kulgam district, aimed at removing roadside obstructions and ensuring smooth vehicular movement on key routes.

According to officials, the drive covered several major roads, including Qaimoh–Balso, Bachroo–Tarigam, Sonigam–Bugam, Bogund Super, and Wanpoh–Kulgam. During the operation, enforcement teams cleared illegally dumped materials such as cow dung, gravel (bajri), stones, timber, and other debris that were obstructing traffic flow and hindering ongoing road widening and maintenance works.

The operation was led by AEE R&B Sub-Division Qaimoh, Nisar Ahmad, under the supervision of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kulgam, Shabir Ahmad Tak, and was carried out as per the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir Shafi Khan (IAS).

Officials stated that the initiative is part of the department's ongoing efforts to enhance road safety, protect public infrastructure, and prevent illegal encroachments along vital road corridors. They further warned that strict action will be taken against individuals found re-encroaching on public land or impeding developmental works.

The R&B Department reiterated its commitment to maintaining encroachment-free roads and ensuring safe and uninterrupted passage for commuters across the district.

Natrang Presents Two Shows of “Bawa Jitto” at Jhiri Mela 2025

■ HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOV 7: The globally acclaimed and pre-eminent Dogri play “Bawa Jitto” once again kept thousands of spectators spellbound for the second consecutive day at the main stage of Jhiri Mela 2025. This most outstanding presentation by Natrang Jammu, written by Late Prof. Ram Nath Shastri and innovatively devised, designed, and directed by Padma Shri Balwant Thakur, transported audiences into a six-hundred fifty year old saga of sacrifice, justice, and resilience.

The spellbinding performance brought to life the story of Bawa Jitto, a legendary farmer who gave his life fighting against the tyranny and exploitation of landlords. The most striking aspect of the production was its presentation at the very site where these historic events took place centuries ago, offering the audience a truly immersive experience that blurred the boundaries between history and theatre.

Speaking on the occasion, Natrang Director Balwant Thakur expressed that if such cultural events are institutionalized as permanent features of the Mela with additional logistics and technical support, the region could evolve into a global cultural destination. “Nowhere else in the world,” he said, “can one witness a live theatrical experience that transports audiences to a real historical moment from the 15th century.” He also extended heartfelt gratitude to the District Administration, particularly Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Mr. Rakesh Minhas, IAS, and Ms. Pallavi Mishra, IAS, SDM Marh, for their support in making the presentation possible.

Over the last 40 years, Natrang has staged more than three hundred performances of Bawa Jitto across India. Today, it stands as the longest-running theatre production in the country, earning the Dogri language and the Jammu region a proud cultural identity. In Jhiri Mela Natrang completed 21 years of regular presentations of the play Bawa Jitto.

The play portrays the timeless story of exploitation of landless farmers by oppressive landlords. Driven from his village over a land dispute, Bawa Jitto, accompanied by his nine-year-old daughter Gauri, finds refuge with a friend, Rullo, in Shamachak village. Through sheer hard work, Jitto transforms barren land into a fertile field. However, the greedy landlord reneges on his promise, demanding a larger share of the harvest. Unable to bear the injustice, Jitto takes his own life—and in a tragic climax, his daughter Gauri immolates herself on her father's pyre.

The production's success was amplified by stellar performances from Natrang's talented ensemble. A truly star studded presentation featured top senior most stage, film and TV actors. Most celebrated actor Arvind Anand, in the title role of Bawa Jitto, delivered a power-packed and emotionally charged performance that held the audience spellbound. Meenakshi Bhagat as Jojan, Madan Rangeela as Mehta Beer Singh, Subash Jamwal as Raja, Vijay Bhat as Sarpanch & Ghaghi, and National Awardee actor Anil Tickoo as Malli left an indelible impression with their commanding stage presence. Senior film and stage actor Subash Jamwal played as Raja.

They were ably supported by Shivam Singh as Isso, Mohd. Yaseen as Rullo, and Kananpreet Kaur and Palshin Dutta as Jeuni, all of whom performed with remarkable conviction. Young Prial Gupta, portraying Bua Gauri, received heartfelt applause for her touching portrayal of innocence and sacrifice. Other performers who added vibrant energy to the production included Sachin Saini, Aadesh Dhar, Krishya Bhatia, Vansh Pandotra, Kushal Bhat, Suhani Sareen, Pawan Verma, Tanisha, Aryan Sharma, Mitali Sarmal, Sheetal, and Supria Gorka.

Public Notice

I, Shakeela Begum, W/O Naseer Ahmad Mir, residing at BAKIAKHER HANDWARA J&K, do hereby declare that my correct name is Shakeela Begum. My name has been incorrectly recorded as Shakeela Bano in some documents. Both names, Shakeela Begum and Shakeela Bano, refer to one and the same person. Henceforth, I shall be known as Shakeela Begum for all purposes. My name must be written as SHAKEELA BEGUM in the passports of my children, namely: Mir Adnan (Parentage: Nasser Ahmad Mir & Shakeela Begum), Mir Aasif (Parentage: Nasser Ahmad Mir & Shakeela Begum), Shifa Batool (Parentage: Nasser Ahmad Mir & Shakeela Begum). If anyone has any objection, they may contact the Passport Office, Srinagar, within seven days. After that no objection will be accepted by the concern office.

Public Notice

My Daughter Name and D.O.B has been wrongly written on my Date Of Brith Certificate as Anam Sayeed a D.O.B 06-07-2019 while My Actual Name is Anam Sayeed Shah D.O.B 01-01-2020. Now I want to correct it.

If any body having any objection in this regard he/she can approach His/Her Objection with Concerned authority within a period of 7 days after that no objection will be Entertained.

Name: Anam Sayeed Shah
D/o: Mohmad Syed Shah
Mothers Name: Razia Banoo, D.O.B: 01-01-2020

RASME CHAHARUM



With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Mst. Haneefa Begum, wife of Late Ghulam Mohiuddin, resident of Bemina Firdous Colony near Government Quarters, who left for her heavenly abode on 07 November 2025.**

The Chahrum (Rasme Chaharum) will be observed on **Sunday, 09 November 2025, and Ijtimai Fateh Khawani will be held at 10:00 AM at Anjum Masjid Graveyard, Qamarwari, Srinagar.**

Relatives, friends, and well-wishers are requested to participate and pray for the departed soul.

Contact: 7006876441

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of FATAH MOHAMMAD AALIE S/O MOHD RAMZAN AALEI R/O WARIPORA PAYEEN 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 Mst RAJA BEGUM W/O FATAH MOHAMMAD AALIE has passed away on 25/08/1997 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- 1... FATAH MOHAMMAD AALIE 80 years Husband old aged married
- 2....ABDUL RASHID 44 years Son Labour married
- 3...ABDUL MAJEED 47 years Son labour
4. ..JAMEELA BEGUM. 42 years Daughter H/W
- 5...FARHAN ZAHOOR 08 years Grandson studied unmarried
- 6...RAHEELA ZAHOOR 12 years Granddaughter student unmarried
- 7...FATIMA ZAHOOR 04 years Granddaughter // unmarried

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Dependent certificate in favour of Self.

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Public Notice

I am applying for fresh Pesticide and Fertilizer License under the name LONE PESTISIDE & Fertilizers situated at THINDIMA KREERI. 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.

RAASHID FAROOQ LONE
S/o FAROOQ AHMAD LONE
R/o THINDIMA KREERI
Cell No. +91 7051570283)

Public Notice

I, Abdul Rashid Wani, son of Ghulam Mohammad Wani, resident of Kalantra Payeen, intend to apply for the issuance of a DEE Class Contractor Card from Office of the Superintending Engineer, PWD R&B Circle, Baramulla/Kupwara.

If anyone has any objections, in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, PWD R&B Circle, Baramulla/Kupwara, within 7 days from the publication of this notification after thst no objections will be entertained.

Name ...Abdul Rashid Wani
S/o.. Ghulam Mohammad Wani
R/o .Kalantra Payeen,Kreeri, Baramulla

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 dependant 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 Tehsild Kreeri

Public Notice

My son's Date of Birth has been incorrectly mentioned as 31/07/2012 while his correct Date of Birth is 31/07/2014 as per school 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 GREEN LAND SCHOOL DAULATPORA KREERI 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
DOB...31/07 /2014
TEHSIL.....KREERI

Office Of The President

JAMIA MASJID PARAPORA KUCHWA MUQAM

I president JAMIA MASJID PARAPORA KACHWA MUQAM wants to write that our Masjid committee has decided that we had previous name in our J&K BANK KALANTRA PAYEEN on name MASJID shareef Para Mohalla After that we Applied for Pancard obtained with JAMIA MASJID PARAPORA KACHWA MUQAM we want to change name as per Pan card on our JAMIA MASJID Bank Account

PREVIOUS NAME .. MASJID SHAREEF PARAMOHALLA
NEW NAMEJAMIA MASJID PARAPORA KACHWA MUQAM
JAMIA MASJID PARAPORA KACHWA MUQAM

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

It is hereby notified that my son's Name DOB has been wrongly mentioned in adhar regards bearing aadhar no 854115548788 as Mubashir Ahmad Chachi DOB 06/12/2012 instead of Mubashir Hussain DOB 02/12/2011 as for School regards now I have applying for it's correction of the same if any person have any objection in this regards may file the same to the office of aadhar seva/ concerned authority within the period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice After that no objection shall be entertained.

MUBASHIR HUSSAIN DOB 02/12/2011
S/O SAIF UD DIN CHACHI
R/O SHILTHRA TEHSIL QALAMABAD
DISTRICT KUPWARA

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

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

No: T-1/EEA/6454-59 | Dated: 07/11/2025

Extension Notice

Subject: Restoration of wearing coat on Zoonipora Bridge at pampore.
Reference: This office e-NIT NO. FRESH-103/EEA/RNB of 2025-26/6086-96 Dated 31-10-2025
The critical dates for the above noted NIT is hereby extended as under:

1	Bid Submission End Date	10-11-2025 upto 04:00 PM
2	Date & Time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	11-11-2025 upto 12:00 PM

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

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Awantipora

DIPK: 7848/25 | Dated: 07-11-2025

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Kralpora

Short Term E tendering NIT No. 53/RnB/Kralpora of 2025-26 | Dated: 06-11-2025

The Upper Sealing for Inviting Stage Contract Shall Be Kept as Restricted to 0.50Lac Per/Km

For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor Jammu & Kashmir(UT), e-tenders are being invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K UT Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works

S.N o	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	E/ Money	Time of completion	Date and time of opening	Class of Contractor
1.	Stage Contract for Beautification, upkeep and Routine Repair /Maintenance, Road Markings with retroreflective road paint of Major/Arterial roads along with footpaths and road furniture, clearance of drains, Painting of Poles, washing of Kerbs etc. for (R&B Sub Division Ramhall and Kralpora)	15.00	600/-	30000	FY 2025-26	14-11-2025 (12:00 Noon)	Bee/Cee/Dec

Authority: PW (R&B) Department

Position of Funds: Available as per the budgetary ceiling under various heads

No: Div-KRLP/3296-3310

Date:06-11-2025

1. The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in on the dates tabulated below:

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	06.11.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	06.11.2025(4:00 PM) to 13.11.2025 (6:00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	06.11.2025 (4:00PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	13.11.2025 (6:00PM)
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	14.11.2025 (12:00Noon) In the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kralpora.

Upload/Disclose the bank account number which is linked with the GSTIN along with proof. No payments shall be released by the department to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder.

2. Bids must be accompanied with Cost of Tender Document in the shape of Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kralpora (tender inviting authority). Treasury Challan must be written boldly and clearly with Name of Work, Name of the Contractor along with Contact No, NIT No and Serial No of Work on NIT(if any).
3. 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 pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Kralpora. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% of the allotted Cost in the form of CDR/FDR 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 bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the allotted cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
R&B Division Kralpora

DIPK: 7841/25 | Dated: 07-11-2025



Meeting of Micro Observers Held at DC Office Budgam

■ HT NWS DESK / DIPR

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 7: A meeting of Micro Observers for the upcoming Bye-Elections to 27-Assembly Constituency Budgam was today held in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Budgam.

The meeting was chaired by the General Observer, Bhore Singh Yadav, and was attended by the Deputy District Election Officer (Dy. DEO) Budgam, Hilal Ahmad; ANO Trainings Zahoor Ahmad, and other officials associated with the election process.

During the meeting, ANO Trainings conducted an elaborate session on the roles, responsibilities, and duties of Micro Observers to be deployed during the forthcoming bye-election.

The participants were sensitized



about their critical role in ensuring transparency, fairness, and smooth conduct of the polling process.

It was emphasised that Micro

Observers act as the eyes and ears of the Election Commission of India (ECI) at the polling stations and are expected to perform their duties

with utmost integrity, neutrality, and vigilance.

The General Observer reiterated that all Micro Observers must strictly adhere to the guidelines and instructions issued by the Election Commission of India, ensuring that the polling process is conducted in a free, fair, and transparent manner.

Clear instructions were given to all Micro Observers to remain impartial, vigilant, and to report any irregularity or violation of the Model Code of Conduct immediately to the concerned authorities.

The meeting also held a detailed interaction session, during which queries from the participants were addressed and clarifications regarding polling procedures and reporting mechanisms were provided.

DC Bandipora reviews District CAPEX Budget

■ HT NWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 07: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Friday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the implementation of various schemes across different sectors in the district.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed the Financial and Physical Progress Report under the District CAPEX Budget 2025-26 (UT Component) of different departments. She also reviewed the financial progress department-wise, emphasizing timely completion of works, effective utilization of funds, and strict adherence to quality standards in all ongoing and upcoming developmental projects.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of the progress under key government schemes being executed by different departments. The officers presented updates on physical and financial achievements, highlighting the status of ongoing works and the steps taken to resolve bottlenecks.

During the meeting, the DC emphasized the need to ensure timely completion of all developmental works and directed officers to maintain transparency and ac-



countability at every level. She stressed the importance of close monitoring and field verification to ensure quality and adherence to project timelines. The DC directed departments to adopt a result-oriented approach and focus on schemes that have a direct impact on the public, particularly in the areas of infrastructure, education, health, and social welfare. She urged officers to strengthen inter-departmental coordination to accelerate progress and achieve set targets within the stipulated timeframe. Officers were directed to promptly address issues causing delays and submit regular progress reports. Among others, the meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Mohammad Maqbool Lone, ACD Bandipora, Executive Engineers, Block Development Officers, and heads of various line departments.

JKEDI starts two-day mentorship program under 'J&K Startup Idea Challenge'

■ HT NWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 7: A two-day mentorship program under the 'J&K Startup Idea Challenge' commenced today at the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) main campus in Pampore.

The programme is being conducted in collaboration with T-Hub, Hyderabad, one of India's leading innovation and startup incubators.

The initiative is part of a large-scale entrepreneurship development effort launched under the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27, which seeks to identify, nurture, and empower young innovators from across the Union Territory.

The J&K Startup Idea Challenge received an overwhelming response, with participation of more than 5,000 students and aspiring entrepreneurs from various educational institutions across J&K. These participants have submitted more than 1200 innovative ideas, out of which 225 promising ideas have been shortlisted for structured mentorship and capacity building, following a rigorous multi-stage evaluation.

The ongoing mentorship sessions, aim to equip participants with practical insights into entrepreneurship, innovation strategies, business model development, and market validation.

The sessions will also provide a framework for evaluating and selecting the best ideas from among the short-listed participants for further incubation and support.

The mentorship phase represents a crucial stage in transforming innovative concepts into viable and scalable business ventures. Similar mentorship sessions are scheduled to be held at JKEDI Bari Brahmana, Jammu, on 10th and 11th November 2025.

After completion of the mentorship and pitch training sessions at JKEDI's campuses in Pampore and Bari Brahmana, the shortlisted participants will compete in a Grand Finale, where they will be presented before a distinguished jury of industry experts, investors, and policymakers. Winners will receive prizes, incentives, and incubation support at the JKEDI and its partner incubators across the Union Territory.

District Admin Pulwama Organises Mega Event to Commemorate 150 Years of 'Vande Mataram'

Viksit Bharat Pledge, Vande Mataram Concert, Plantation Drive, sports activities mark the occasion

■ HT NWS DESK / DIPR

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 07: In alignment with the nationwide commemoration of 150 years of national song "Vande Mataram", the District Administration Pulwama today organised a mega event at Government Degree College (Boys) Pulwama, joining the nation in celebrating the spirit of patriotism and unity.

Earlier in the day, the District Administration joined virtually the National commemoration event held in New Delhi, where Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the year-long celebration of 150 years of Vande Mataram.

The district-level event wit-

nessed the presence of Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, and Senior Superintendent of Police Pulwama, Tanushree.

Besides, officers from administration, police and CRPF 182/183 BN; social activists, NGOs, civil society members, trade union representatives, students, youth and local citizens also participated in the event.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Pulwama administered the Viksit Bharat Pledge to the participants, reaffirming the commitment towards building a developed and progressive nation.

Furthermore, a vibrant Vande Mataram Concert, organised by the Department of Information



& Public Relations (DIPR), Pulwama, filled the atmosphere with energy and patriotic fervour through renditions of national and patriotic songs. To mark the celebration, a plantation

drive was also organised, symbolizing growth and sustainability.

Later, Dr. Qayoom led a commemorative rally from the college premises to the Sports Stadium

Pulwama, where a cricket match was organised to celebrate the occasion.

The DC felicitated the participating teams and lauded their enthusiasm and participation in the spirit of national celebration.

The event was the part of the district's comprehensive action plan to commemorate 150 Years of 'Vande Mataram', under which the District Administration has already rolled out an activity-wise schedule for the year-long celebrations encompassing a series of cultural programmes, essay and quiz competitions, plantation drives, awareness campaigns, and musical events to be organised across the district.

DC BARAMULLA CHAIRS DLIC MEETING, APPROVES 197 CASES UNDER MISSION YUVA

■ HT NWS DESK / DIPR

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 7: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) at the DC Office Baramulla to review and approve cases under Mission Yuva, a flagship initiative aimed at fostering entrepreneurship and self-employment among the youth.

During the meeting, a total of 197



cases were approved after detailed scrutiny and evaluation. The approved cases will pave the way for young entrepreneurs to establish their ventures under the scheme, thereby enhancing livelihood opportunities across the district.

The DC emphasized the importance of timely processing of applications and directed the concerned departments to ensure effective handholding of beneficiaries so that the scheme achieves its intended objectives.

DM Baramulla Chairs 22nd NCORD Meeting at Dak Bungalow

■ HT NWS DESK / DIPR

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 7: The District Magistrate (DM) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired the 22nd NCORD meeting at Dak Bungalow Baramulla to review the ongoing measures to curb drug abuse and trafficking in the district. The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Baramulla, Gurinder Pal Singh; Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, officers from Police, Health, Education, Excise, Social Welfare, and other departments who shared updates and discussed strategies for effective



coordination in tackling the issue. Speaking on the occasion, the DC emphasized the need for col-

lective and sustained efforts from all stakeholders to eradicate the drug menace from society. He

directed the concerned departments to install CCTV cameras at identified hotspots and asked the

Education Department to ensure regular monitoring of CCTV footage in educational institutions to prevent any illegal activities.

The DC further directed the ARTO to suspend driving licences of individuals found involved in drug peddling or consumption, as per the law.

He stressed that strict enforcement, awareness, and rehabilitation must go hand in hand to make Baramulla a drug-free district. The DC also called for intensified awareness campaigns in schools, colleges, and public spaces to sensitize youth about the harmful effects of substance abuse.

District Administration Kupwara commemorates 150 years of 'Vande Mataram'

■ HT NWS DESK / DIPR

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 7: The District Administration Kupwara today organized district level function at Town Hall Kupwara to mark the nationwide commemoration of 150 years of Vande Mataram – the iconic national song that continues to inspire patriotism and unity across the country.

The event was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, and witnessed the participation of SSP Kupwara, Syed Al-Tahir Gilani; ADC Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad Khan; ACR, ASP Kupwara, CEO, CPO, besides officers and officials from various line departments. A large number of students from Government Degree Colleges (GDCs) and local schools also enthusiastically participated in the celebration.

The function featured the live streaming of the speech by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi on the commemoration of the 150 years of Vande Mataram song.

The historical background and significance of 'Vande Mataram' was discussed on this occasion.

A Quiz Competition on 'Vande Mataram' and the National Freedom Struggle, mass singing program was held as a part of programme.

Similar events were also organised in sub-divisional, tehsil and block level.

DC Ganderbal Convenes Meeting of District Disaster Management Authority Reviews Preparedness for Disasters and Sectoral Plans of Various Departments

■ HT NWS DESK / DIPR

GANDERBAL, NOV 07: In order to strengthen disaster preparedness and ensure a co-ordinated response mechanism, a meeting of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) was today convened under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, who also serves as the Chairman of DDMA Ganderbal.

The meeting deliberated extensively on the district's readiness to deal with natural ca-

lamities such as floods, landslides, snowstorms, avalanches, earthquakes, and fire incidents, besides addressing other potential emergencies.

The DC conducted a detailed review of the District Disaster Management Plan (DDMP) and assessed the preparedness levels and resource availability of various line departments including Health, Jal Shakti, I&FC, PWD, KPDCL, Police, SDRF, Fire & Emergency Services, and Municipal Council Ganderbal.

While reviewing the arrangements, the DC stressed

upon the officers to maintain effective coordination among departments, ensure real-time communication channels, and conduct regular mock drills to test the efficacy of their response systems. He instructed the concerned departments to keep snow clearance machinery, rescue equipment, power restoration tools, and medical facilities in full readiness well before the onset of the winter season.

The DC also emphasized the need for community participation and public awareness, call-



ing for IEC campaigns to sensitize people, particularly those living in vulnerable and disaster-prone areas, about preventive and safety measures. He directed

officers to ensure stocking of essential commodities, medicines, and fuel in remote and higher reaches, which often remain cut off during heavy

snowfall.

He further asked the officials to identify and establish temporary shelters at safe locations, ensure availability of emergency contact numbers, and map critical institutions such as hospitals, schools, and bridges for priority response during exigencies.

The DC highlighted that timely and well-coordinated action among departments can significantly reduce the impact of disasters. He urged all stakeholders to update their departmental disaster man-

agement plans regularly and submit vulnerability assessments for their respective sectors.

Among others, the meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Additional SP Ganderbal, Superintending Engineer PW (R&B), Executive Engineers of I&FC, Jal Shakti, and KPDCL, Chief Medical Officer, Executive Officer Municipal Council Ganderbal, besides representatives from Fire & Emergency Services, SDRF, and other departments.



AI adoption in cybersecurity surges across India

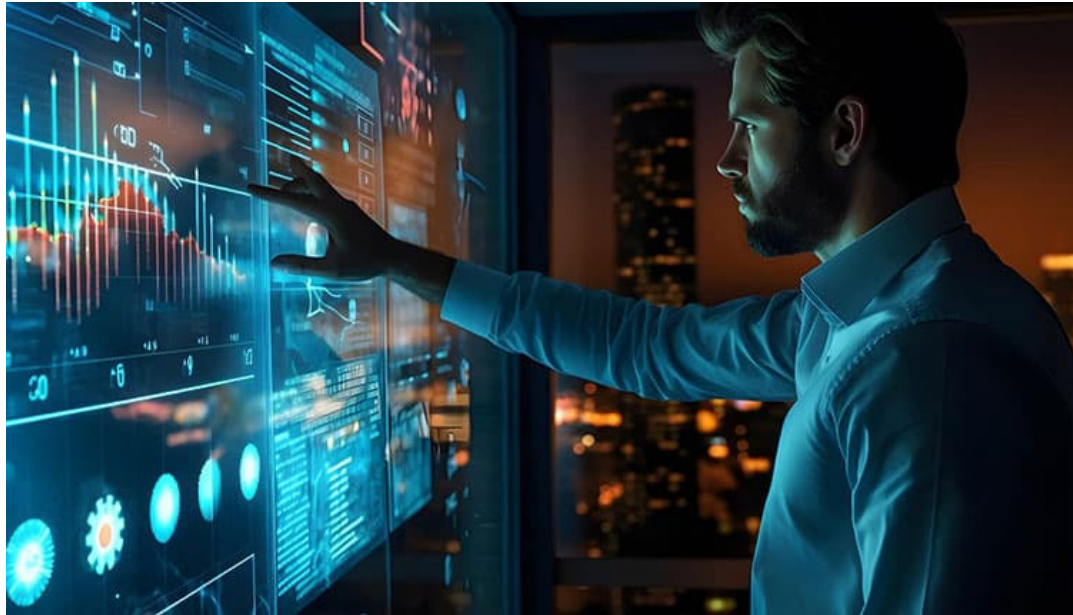
■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

BENGALURU, NOV 7: Artificial intelligence is rapidly becoming a core part of cybersecurity operations in India, with 94% of organizations already deploying AI to detect, respond to, and predict cyber threats, according to a 2025 survey by IDC commissioned by Fortinet.

The survey highlighted that AI is no longer limited to detection. Enterprises are using AI for predictive threat modelling, automated incident response, AI-driven threat intelligence, and behavioural analytics.

Generative AI is increasingly applied for updating policies, drafting detection rules, and guiding investigations, though fully autonomous remediation is not widely implemented.

The findings also revealed a growing challenge from AI-enabled cyberattacks. Seventy-two percent of organizations reported facing



AI-powered threats in the past year, with many observing a two- to three-fold increase in attack volumes.

The shift towards AI-first cy-

bersecurity is also reshaping workforce requirements. Security data scientists, AI engineers, threat intelligence analysts, and AI-focused incident response pro-

fessionals are in high demand.

However, cybersecurity teams remain under-resourced, with only 6% of workforce allocation dedicated to IT and a fraction focused

on security.

Consolidation and convergence are emerging as strategic priorities. Nearly 88% of organizations are merging security with networking, while 74% are considering vendor rationalisation to improve integration, efficiency, and security posture.

Simon Piff, Research Vice-President, IDC Asia-Pacific, said, "Organizations are embedding AI across detection, incident response, and team design, marking a new phase of security operations." Vivek Srivastava, Country Manager, India & SAARC, Fortinet, added, "Budgets, teams, and strategies now revolve around AI to ensure faster detection, smarter response, and resilient operations."

The survey covered 550 IT and security leaders across 11 Asia-Pacific markets, representing organizations with over 250 employees, conducted between February and April 2025.UNI

Continental tyres expands retail presence in AP

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

TIRUPATI, NOV 7: Leading premium tyre manufacturer Continental inaugurated its new Continental Premium Drive (CPD) dealership in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh today.

Operated by Super Tyres, this outlet marks the dealer's latest branch in the city, underscoring Continental's commitment to expanding its premium retail presence across key regional markets. The new CPD dealership, located at Krishna Reddy Nagar, Autonagar, Tirupati, is equipped with modern infrastructure to deliver a superior service experience.



Customers will have access to a comprehensive range of tyre-related solutions, including tyre sales and replacement, wheel alignment, balancing, and nitrogen filling. By integrating these essential services under one roof, the outlet ensures greater convenience, safety, and driving comfort for vehicle owners. The new CPD outlet positions the brand to better serve the evolving needs of customers while reinforcing its commitment to quality and reliability.

Speaking on the occasion, Samir Gupta, Managing Director, Continental Tyres India, said: "The new CPD store in Tirupati marks another important step in our commitment to ensuring safety, comfort, and performance for customers in Andhra Pradesh. With our 'In the Market, For the Market' approach, we continue to expand our presence across India, bringing premium products and services closer to our customers."

Pallavi Kapoor, Head of Marketing, Continental tyres India, said at the inauguration, "We are looking forward to partnering with Super Tyres to bring the Continental Premium Drive experience to Tirupati. This new CPD store demonstrates our dedication to delivering high-quality products and making premium tyre solutions more accessible in key regional markets."

With this launch, Continental continues to grow its CPD network in India, which now includes over 200 brand stores. This expansion reflects the company's "In the Market, For the Market" approach, bringing premium tyre solutions closer to customers while fostering deeper engagement and stronger brand connections.

Continental tyres recently announced a strategic investment of approximately Rs 100 crore in India to strengthen and expand its passenger and light trucks business in the country.UNI

Market fails to build on opening hours gains, nears day's low on final hour selling

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 7: The stock market on Thursday failed to build on the gains recorded in the opening hours, and remained rangebound throughout the session.

The final hour selling pressure dragged the Nifty below 25,500 before closing near day's low, amid selling across the sectors.

At close, the Sensex was down 148.14 points or 0.18% at 83,311.01. On the other hand, Nifty was down 87.95 points or 0.34% at 25,509.70. BSE Midcap index fell 1.2%, and smallcap index shed 1.5%.

The overall market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms dropped to below Rs 466 lakh crore from nearly Rs 470 lakh crore.

Among the sectors, only Nifty IT (0.18%) and Auto (0.06%) managed to end in the green.

On the other hand, Nifty Media down by 2.54%, Metal down by 2.07%, Consumer Durables down by 1.98%, and Realty down by 1.51% ended with deep losses while Nifty Bank also fell 0.47%.

On Nifty50, those ending as top gainers were, the shares of Asian Paints was up 4.64%, Reliance Industries was up by 1.47%, and UltraTech Cement was up 1.04%.

Further, the shares of Grasim Industries were down 6.42%, Hindalco Industries down by 5.39%, and Adani Enterprises was down by 4.50% ending as the top losers.

Out of 4,353 stocks traded on the BSE, 1,202 advanced, while 3,012 declined. Some 139 stocks remained unchanged.

More than 120 stocks touched their 52-week high on the BSE while 173 stocks fell to their 52-week lows.

Those hitting highs were CCL Products, Paytm, Navin Fluorine, RBL Bank, SBI, Laurus Labs, AU Small Finance Bank, 3M India, Titan Company, Chennai Petro, BPCL, City union Bank, among others.

Deepak Nitrite, Clean Science and Technology, Cohan Life Sciences, Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals, Godrej Agrovet, Jindal Saw, KNR Constructions, Maharashtra Seamless, Tejas Networks, and Vedant Fashions were among the stocks that fell to their 52-week lows.

The market is discounting earnings recovery from Q3 onwards. However, the uncertainties over US tariffs and their economic fallout keep investors cautious.UNI

FM says India needs lot of big, world-class banks, urges them to expand credit availability

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 7: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today said that India needs a lot of big and world-class banks, and the work has commenced in this regard. She urged the banking sector to support growth by expanding credit availability.

While speaking at an event organised by the State Bank of India (SBI), the Finance Minister said the government has taken countless path-breaking reform measures to improve ease of doing business since 2014. She stressed that policy consistency and transparency have encouraged investment.

"Banks must deepen and widen credit flow to productive sectors to promote growth," she said, adding that the Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate cuts will spur demand and investment.

"GST rate cut-driven demand to unleash virtuous investment cycle, speed up growth," she stated.

The Finance Minister also mentioned that the government has saved over Rs 4 trillion through direct benefit transfers (DBT). "250 million people have been pulled out of multi-dimensional poverty in the last decade," she said.



Further, Sitharaman also said the government is "not here to shut the door on futures and options trading".

"The government is here to remove the roadblocks and work on them. It is investors' responsibility to understand the associated risks," she added.

The minister said discussions are underway between the Finance Ministry and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on ways to build world-class.

The Finance Minister also said efforts to finalise trade agreements with the US and the EU are in "full force."

She also stressed that India's economic philosophy of atmanirbharta (self-reliance) does not mean shutting doors. Instead, it means being strong enough to meet domestic needs while staying deeply connected with global trade and supply chains. UNI

NALCO's QC team 'Tejas' brings global glory, wins gold at ICQCC 2025 in Taipei

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

BHUWANESHWAR, NOV 7: National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), the Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the union Ministry of Mines, has brought laurels to the nation on the global stage.

Quality Circle (QC) Team 'Tejas' from NALCO's Captive Power Plant, Angul, has won the prestigious Gold Award at the 50th International Convention

on Quality Control Circles (ICQCC) 2025, being held in Taipei, Taiwan, from 3rd to 6th November 2025.

The QC team presented their exemplary project titled "Improvement in the Boiler Sealing System," which has led to significant annual cost savings for the company, demonstrating NALCO's focus on innovation-driven efficiency and sustainable operations.

Congratulating Team 'Tejas', Brijendra Pratap Singh, Chair-



man-cum-Managing Director, NALCO, said that this achieve-

ment is a proud moment for the entire NALCO family, reflecting the employees' commitment to excellence, creativity, and continuous improvement. "Such global recognition reinforces the belief that people-driven innovation and teamwork are at the heart of NALCO's success story," he said.

Worth mentioning that ICQCC is globally recognized as a leading platform for promoting qual-

ity and innovation, brings together organizations from around the world to exchange best practices and showcase pioneering projects. More than 1500 teams from across the Globe are participating in this premier forum. This global recognition further strengthens NALCO's thrust on fostering a culture of quality, teamwork, and innovation across all its operations, driving sustainable growth and global competitiveness. UNI

Demand for manufacturing warehouses spike by 16pc to 17.1 mn sq ft: Knight Frank

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 7: Q3 of 2025 saw the industrial and warehousing market recording a 16 per cent year-on-year (YoY) increase in warehousing demand to 17.1 mn sq ft.

Knight Frank India, a leading international property consultancy, in its latest edition of India Industrial and Warehousing Market Report Q3 2025, highlighted that with sustained occupier appetite, year-to-date (YTD) leasing activity reached 49.2 mn sq ft, up 32pc YoY, placing the sector on track for another record year.

The report highlights con-

tinued momentum from manufacturing, third-party logistics (3PL) and e-commerce occupiers, supported by resilient domestic demand, supply chain diversification, and policy-led industrial expansion.

Grade A facilities remained the preferred choice among occupiers, accounting for 61pc of leased space so far in 2025, compared to 58 per cent during the same period last year, the report highlighted.

Chennai, Mumbai, NCR, Pune and Ahmedabad have all recorded their highest YTD Q3 transaction volumes in three years.

Notably, Chennai has al-



ready surpassed its previous full-year peak and is on track for an exceptional 2025 performance.

"The manufacturing sector was the primary driver behind the 62pc YoY growth seen in Chennai's transaction volumes in YTD Q3 2025 and incidentally, this sector's occupiers also accounted for a massive 62pc of the area transacted in this market during the period," the report said.

Mumbai and NCR emerged as standout performers in YTD as well as quarterly terms. Mumbai registered a 123 per cent YoY increase in Q3 2025 and 10 mn sq ft YTD, accounting for 20pc of national volumes

so far in 2025.

Delhi NCR surged 93 per cent YoY in Q3 2025 and 50 per cent YoY to 8.8 mn sq ft in the January-September 2025 period, supported largely by manufacturing and 3PL demand. Chennai, Pune, and Bengaluru also posted strong YTD gains, aided by manufacturing-led occupier traction.

Five markets, including Chennai, Mumbai, NCR, Pune and Ahmedabad are at three-year record highs in YTD terms, while YTD volumes this year in Chennai have surpassed annual highs seen previously in that market. UNI



Chapman stars as New Zealand survive West Indies scare to level series

■ **TRISTAN LAVALETTE**

AUCKLAND: Mark Chapman bludgeoned 78 off 28 balls before New Zealand survived a late onslaught to record their first T20I victory of the home season in a bounce back against West Indies at Eden Park.

West Indies were down and out in the 208-run chase at 93 for 6 in the 13th over. They needed 18 an over from there but the required rate suddenly nosedived as Rovman Powell launched stunning hitting at the death.

Needing 16 runs off the final over, West Indies were suddenly in the box seat after a couple of Matthew Forde boundaries meant they required eight off four balls. But Powell holed out to quick Kyle Jamieson on the fourth ball in a game-changer before Forde could only score a single off the final delivery

as West Indies fell three runs short.

Jamieson held his nerve with a superb slower ball in a major relief for New Zealand, who were under pressure after a seven-run defeat in the series-opener at the same ground just 24 hours earlier. After New Zealand were sent in to bat, Chapman ignited his side in favourable batting conditions and completely dominated the middle-latter overs with a slew of belligerent blows.

While chasing, West Indies succumbed to spinners Ish Sodhi, the only change from either team from game one, and Mitchell Santner combining for six wickets. There was a late twist but the result snapped the West Indies' five-game T20I winning streak.

DRS was used in this match after technical issues meant the technology could not be in place for the opener.

There was pressure on New Zealand's

batting order after a meek effort in the series-opener, where only incredible late hitting from Santner got them close.

Devon Conway struggled to get going but did help lay a platform with a 55-run opening partnership with Tim Robinson, whose premeditated ramps knocked the seamers off their lengths.

But New Zealand were only modestly placed at 59 for 2 in the ninth over after Robinson's dismissal. Chapman had a sighter before launching in the 13rd over, whacking Romario Shepherd for a trio of sixes.

He was on a roll, finding gaps with a mixture of timing and power to record a 19-a-ball half-century - the fastest in his T20I career. It was a welcome return to form for Chapman, who had only made 39 runs from four previous T20I innings during this home season.

Chapman finally miscued straight

in the air in the 17th over before Santner again showed off his big-hitting at the death as he finished off the innings in style with a six.

There was intrigue over how Forde would pull up from game one having made a successful comeback from a shoulder injury.

He once again performed exceptionally well with the new ball to prove he's well and truly fit and firing having not played competitive cricket before this tour since July.

Forde bowled three overs on the trot in the first game before being hammered in his final over by Santner at the death. Captain Shai Hope decided to bowl Forde out and the gamble worked when he once again knocked over Conway with an almost identical delivery from the first game that seamed in wickedly.

Forde finished with 1 for 17 from four overs, but West Indies' attack struggled mightily after that. On a ground with small dimensions, Hope didn't seem to trust left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein who bowled just one over in the first T20I.

He came on in the 16th over - the latest he had ever bowled in the format. Hosein was on a hiding to nothing and greeted with a six by Daryl Mitchell before Chapman whacked consecutive blows into the crowd in an over that ultimately cost 23 runs. Other than Forde, every other bowler's economy was over eight runs an over.

New Zealand was expected to stick with their line-up from the opener, but allrounder Jimmy Neesham was a late scratch after he was hit on the shoulder while batting in the warm-up.

ESPNCricinfo



I had a feeling Shafali would do something special in World Cup final: Pratika Rawal

■ **UNTIED NEWS OF INDIA**

NEW DELHI: Being a student of psychology has given Pratika Rawal some insight into how a human mind works and her gut feel told her that Shafali Verma, who came in as her replacement in the World Cup knock-outs, would do something special in the final.

Her intuition was right about Shafali even though it was all down to a cruel twist of fate that prevented Rawal from playing the two biggest

games of her career because of an injured ankle and knee.

"Shafali doesn't need motivation. She plays with instinct and belief. Before the final, she came up to me and said, 'I'm really sorry you can't play,' and I told her it's fine, these things happen. I had a feeling she would do something special that day," Rawal said.

Rawal, who had scored 308 runs was third in list of run-scorers after Smriti Mandhana (434) and Ashleigh Gardner (328), got injured against Ban-

gladesh in the last group league game. The setback due to injury at most crucial juncture could have been mentally crushing but for someone who has completed her Bachelors' degree in psychology, it did become easier to process what was going through her mind.

"I should not say I am a psychologist yet because I haven't completed my Masters' degree," she smiled.

"But as someone who has studied psychology, it really helped me to understand hu-

man emotions better - including my own. The first thing is to accept what's happened. You can't undo it. Once I accepted the injury, I focused only on what I could control - recovery, sleep, nutrition, and supporting the team."

That pragmatic approach, she said, prevented her of suffering from self-pity.

"There was disappointment, yes, but no breakdown. My dad was there, my coach (Shravan Kumar) kept checking on me, my mom and

brother called every day. I have such a good support system. They didn't let me spiral or feel alone," she said.

Her father, she recalled fondly, took the injury harder than she did.

"I don't show emotions easily, but my dad cried a lot - I had to calm him down," she laughed.

Things have been a bit surreal she admits since last Sunday when a wheel-chair bound Rawal was escorted by her teammates for on-field celebrations.

District Budgam Handball Championship will start from 12th Nov

■ **HT SPORT DESK**

SRINAGAR, NOV 07: District Budgam Handball association are going to organize District handball championship at play field Magam from 11 November to 12 November 2025 all Handball clubs/institutions are informed to register themselves.

MAJLIS-E-ESAAL-E-SAWAB



It is Informed that Majlis-e-Esaal-E-Sawab in memory of Marhoom Syed Ghulam Nabi Bukhari Uncle of Molana syed khurshid Ahmad Bukhari and Syed Altaf Hussain Bukhari will be held at Waterhail Budgam on Saturday.

You are respectfully requested to attend the Majlis-e-Isal-e-Sawab

Your presence will be a source of blessings.

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HT Saturday

LitStream

WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT OF DAILY HEADLINES TODAY

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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.

Dr Basharat Khan, chogalwriter76@gmail.com
Editor LitStream
Headlines Today Newspaper

Habba Khatoon: A Ghost or An Enigmatic Poet of Kashmir-III



Professor Muhammad Aslam

[In continuation of the previous]

Modern histories of Kashmiri literature, like Avtar Krishen Rehbar and Naji Munawar & Shafi Shauq also do not provide any convincing information about Habba Khatoon. Although Rehbar's history was published much before Munawar & Shauq, he too depends on hearsay while talking about Habba Khatoon. Naaji Munwar and Shafi Shauq (Kaeshri Zaban ta Adbuk Tawareekh, 'History of Kashmiri Language and Literature', 2014) admit that Habba Khatoon's life history is woven around different tales, and it becomes difficult to differentiate between fact and fiction (99). Isn't this strange that these people were writing the history of Kashmiri literature, but didn't bother to solve the riddle that surrounds Habba Khatoon? What kind of 'History' is it? They say that Habba Khatoon's name comes up for the first time in the Afghan period (1760 AD) in Abdul Wahab Shaiyiq's book Riyadh Al-Islam—earlier, we saw that Shaiyiq's chronicle was entitled Gulistan-e-Kashmir. Here, we have a different title! Which one is correct?—who says that "[t]here [in Yousuf Shah Chak's court] was a lady named Habiba, a mystic woman of high spiritual rank". Was Habiba the Habba Khatoon of Kashmir? The question needs to be answered.

Munawar and Shauq also say that Habba Khatoon was born as Zoon and was married to Yousuf Shah Chak. When Yousuf was exiled, she lived a wanderer's life and died a lonely death. According to the authors, she was buried at Pantachowk. However, they refer to the latest research (without referring to any research book or any researcher), which shows that Habba Khatoon was allowed to meet with her husband in Biswak as he was feeling very miserable in her absence. Yousuf Shah would bewail (Munwar & Najj 100):

dar arzu-ye an but-e kashmir-na-

در آرزوئے آں بت کشمیر نژادے

شد تارسر و مار سر از گریه دو چشم

jade,
shod tar sar o mar sar az giryah
do chashm

In longing for that idol born in
Kashmir.

My two eyes have become tangled
and serpentine with tears.

The authors also relate the story contained in a Mathnavi 'Habba Kha-



Sheikh Abdullah & Mahjoor at Habba Khtoon
grave, Pantchok
Courtesy: Mr Abdal Mahjoor



Graves of Yousuf Shah Chak & Habeeba aka
Habba Khatoon at Biswak, Bihar.
Courtesy: Professor Shad Ramzan

toon' by Ghulam Muhammad Hanafi of Sopore. According to Hanafi, Habba Khatoon was the daughter of Malik Darab of China—another version says that she was the daughter of Bota Raj; the other two characters remain the same. Malik Darab couldn't pay his debt to Hayaband of Lalahome and instead of that, he gave Habba Khatoon as a money bride to his son, Aziz Lone—so Aziz Lone wasn't from Zoon's village but from Gurez. How did Abdi Rather come into the picture? Habba wasn't treated well by her in-laws. One day, she was spotted by Yousuf Shah Chak who fell in love with her at first sight and took her to his harem. When Akbar exiled Yousuf, Habba Khatoon lived in the home of Abdi Rather at Pampore. After her death, she was buried at Pantachowk (Munawar and Shauq 100). Habba Khatoon had achieved immense fame because of Yousuf Shah Chak, and in his court, she manifested her talent in music and invented 'raast kashmiri' (Kashmiri musical tune), which she used in her poetry (op cit).

That Habba Khatoon was buried in Biswak after she was allowed to meet with her husband has become a burning topic on social media these days. One of the Kashmiri scholars, Professor Shad Ramzan, had recently visited Biswak and

seen the grave of Habeeba or Habba Khatoon: “I recently visited Biswak myself to understand the local perspective. The residents there identify a site known as “Habba Bibi ki Qabar,” which they believe to be the grave of Habba Khatoon. Interestingly, descendants of Yousuf Shah Chak still live in the area, further strengthening the historical link between Kashmir’s last queen and this distant region of Bihar” (Kashmir Pen, 14 October 2025)—The present writer had a chance telephonic conversation with one of the caretakers of the Chak grave in Biswak, Dr Khalid S Chak, a few days back who told me that they have been holding the grave of Habeeba in Biswak as the grave of Habba Khatoon for centuries. However, he couldn’t give me any authentic source except the name of Muhammad Din Fauq. At the end of his essay, Professor Shad Ramzan asks historians and scholars to “undertake a serious and evidence-based inquiry into the life and legacy of Habba Khatoon — a woman who transcended her time to become an enduring symbol of Kashmir’s cultural and spiritual identity. Based on existing historical and literary evidence, and supported by oral traditions and local testimonies, it appears most plausible that the final resting place of Habba

Khatoon lies in Biswak, Bihar — beside her beloved, Yousuf Shah Chak”. Even Professor Shad has doubts about the authenticity of the Biswak grave. The question arises what “evidence” would researchers gather and from where? We have seen that neither the old chronicles nor the new history books have documented the life account of Habba accurately. Mr Abdal Mahjoor contests the whole idea that Habba Khatoon was any queen and/or had ever travelled beyond Kashmir. In his write-up, ‘Debunking the Myth: The Truth About Habba Khatoon’s Life and Final Resting Place’ (Kashmir Pen 9 October 2025), he says: “Contemporary historical sources, including Persian and local Kashmiri chronicles, make no mention of any woman named Habba Khatoon being married to Yousuf Shah Chak. This absence is not a trivial detail. Chroniclers of that era meticulously documented the lives of kings, their consorts, and royal events. If Habba Khatoon had indeed been his wife, such an important detail would not have escaped the attention of these historians. The silence of the sources is itself a strong historical rebuttal to the popular myth” about Habba Khatoon and Yousuf Shah

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A surreal illustration of an elderly woman with white hair, wearing a colorful patterned sari, sitting cross-legged on a sandy beach. She is looking up at a vibrant, multi-colored hummingbird that is playing a musical note, with a trail of musical notes following its path. The background features a dramatic sunset over the ocean, with waves crashing. In the distance, two small figures of people are standing on the beach. Several open books are scattered on the sand around the woman, and many more books are floating in the air, some appearing to be blown away by a wind machine. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds, and the overall atmosphere is one of magic and wonder.

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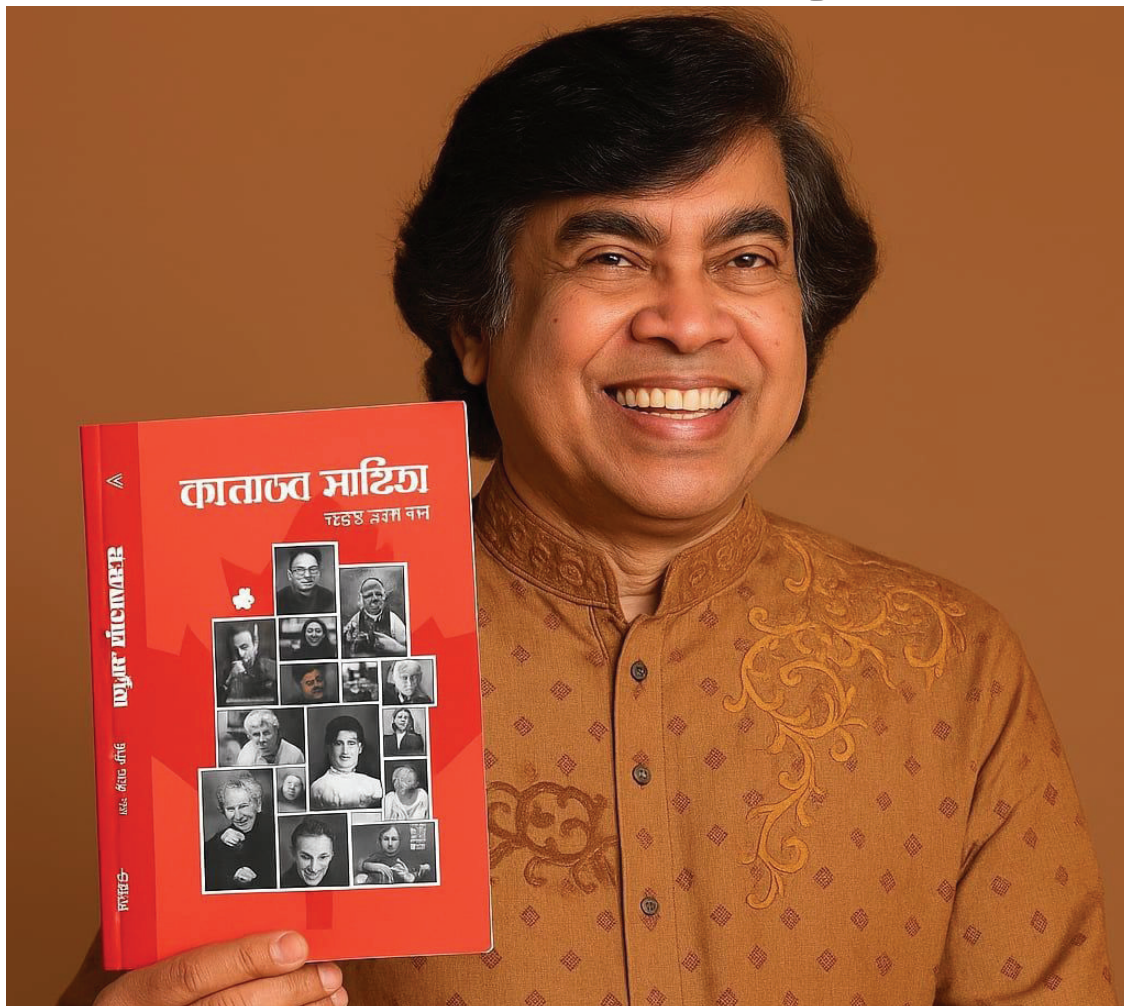
Subrata Kumar Das Bridging Worlds in Canadar Sahitya



Dr Ratan Bhattacharjee

In his Bengali book *Canadar Sahitya* (Canadian Literature) published from Virasat Publications in 2025 from Kolkata, noted Toronto based Bengali critic and scholar Subrata Kumar Das takes his readers across continents and climates to explore the varied literary landscape of Canadian literature. This remarkable volume opens a new cultural corridor between Bengal and Canada, two geographies united by their plural voices, diasporic sensibilities, and love for language. Das, an author and literary archivist with more than thirty published works to his credit, undertakes here a challenging but rewarding task: to make the stories, poetics, and philosophies of Canadian literature accessible to the Bengali-speaking audience of India and Bangladesh and in a broader sense the book is a contribution to Bengali diasporic literature of the world. The book is not an academic manual or chronological survey, but a reflective collection of essays and portraits, written with passion and clarity, combining scholarship with personal insight. At the outset, Das seeks to answer a foundational question — what makes Canadian literature Canadian? The search for a distinct identity of Canadian Literature and the analysis of its past runs like an undercurrent throughout the book. From the early settler narratives and missionary diaries to the mature works of contemporary authors, he finds in Canadian writing a constant oscillation between belonging and estrangement. The Canadian imagination, Das observes, is shaped by geography — by the endless forests, frozen rivers, and vast skies that have bred both humility and wonder in its writers. Nature, in this context, is not mere backdrop but a living protagonist. Das's description of landscape as "a silent interlocutor of the Canadian psyche" captures this insight beautifully.

The 268 page book has more than 35 chapters dealing with almost an equal number of writers from Canada. The early chapters trace the evolution of Canada's literary selfhood from the colonial to the postcolonial. English and French influences, the friction of bilingualism, and the rise of a multi-cultural ethos form the skeleton of his analysis. Das does not treat literature in isolation but situates it within Canada's political and cultural history. The voices of immigrants, exiles, and the First Nations, he argues, now constitute the heart of Canadian writing. Subrata Das who is now providing literary leadership to Bengali Diaspora in Toronto is a critic, essayist,



translator and organiser. Born in 1964 in Bangladesh, he graduated with honours and completed Masters in English from Rajshahi University. Since 1990 he taught at tertiary and college levels for more than twenty years. He has to his credit twenty six books along with a good number of articles . Since August 2013, he has been living in Toronto as a permanent citizen. He is the member of the Writer's Union of Canada and now trying his best to work for Bengali Literary Resource Centre (BLRC), a non-profit literary organisation. He wrote his first book on Canadian Literature in 2019 which was published in Dhaka Ekushe Book Fair. : The subtitle of the earlier book was 'Rambling Thoughts' though Toronto Poet Laureate Ann Michaels found the ideas well organized in the book. In the recently published book *Canadar Sahitya* (Canadian Literature) Mr. Das is careful to omit the subtitle and the Bengali version is more focused and organized. . He jettisoned the imperfections of the earlier book. In 2013 Alice Munro got Nobel Prize but he was unable to include her in his book on Canadian literature because he could not delve deeper into her writings . Mr. Das is not a google based writer , rather he loves to read the real pages of the book before he writes on it. The Value Village on the Victoria Avenue in Toronto drew him to the Canadian

authors like Margaret Atwood, Michael Ondaatje Rohinton Mistry or Yann Martel whose books fascinated him. He read their books and then finally started writing *Canadar Sahitya* and for all his efforts he gave credit to his wife Nilima for supporting him in the composition of his book.

In Canadar Sahitya focused on Margaret Atwood's book *The Journals of Susanna Moodie* published in 1970 . Susanna is a 19th century Canadian writer and Atwood in her Poetic volume divided into three sections highlighted Susanna's literary activities and her publications: "I am in a word / in a foreign language' Atwood imagines Susanna saying, "It was our own /ignorance we entered ' and at that moment Susanna is imagined to hear, " Go back where you came from which is a slap on immigrant life. .From Atwood's writing we know that Susanna had been a representative writer in pre-Canadian Confederation Age . Besides her autobiographical book *Roughing It In the Bush* (1852) she wrote two poetic volumes and also five novels : Mark Hurtlestone, Flora Lyndsay, Matrimonial Speculations Geoffrey Moncton and *The World Before Them*. A huge book containing all her letters *Letters of a Lifetime* is published. .

The chapter on Stephen Leacock , the comic writer is quite enlightening.

He delved into his writings in details and discussed nicely on Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town and Arcadian Adventures with the Idle Rich besides his other books including Moonbeams from the Larger Lunacy, Further Foolishness Frenzied Fiction , The Unsolved Riddle of Social Justice , My Discovery of England The Garden of Folly , Winnowd Wisdom Short Circuits Humour : Its Theory and Technique , Too Much College , My Remarkable Uncle and How To Write. Mr Das's analytical ability is commendable. The short chapter on the rebel artist Emily Carr and her books Klee Wyck (winner of Governor General Literary Award) , The Book of Small (translated in 20 languages and on her posthumously published books Growing Pains, The Heart of a Peacock or Hundreds and Thousands move the readers especially the lines that Kate Braid wrote on her " She is poor/ I see now why/ She paints with house paints and brown paper" (P.83). Subrata Kumar Das is a wonderful narrator and he gives excellent picture of the Remembrance Day and chartered out its history that began in 1918 through the eye of Monica Mitchell. He referred to the brilliant poetic composition which John McCrae wrote in 20 minutes on one such Remembrance Day celebra-

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Echoes of Healing: SKIMS and Its Outreach of Light



By Akram Siddiqui

*“Ilm ki roshni se zinda hain dil,
Jo andheron mein the, wo ujale ban
gaye.”*

—Allama Iqbal

The other day, while carrying forward his selfless mission of public service and dissemination of knowledge among people, the Director SKIMS and Ex-officio Secretary to the Government, Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Ashraf Ganie, was once again at the helm, exemplifying how leadership in modern medicine must transcend institutional boundaries. Tirelessly on his toes since day one, he has turned SKIMS into a living laboratory of ideas where clinical service, academic vision, and civic engagement coexist in intellectual harmony.

It was in this continuum of purpose that SKIMS hosted the Safe Food Conclave, an event that elegantly bridged the realms of health-care, policy, and public participation. Convened in the wake of growing public concern over food safety, it was not a ceremonial exercise but an academic declaration: that the science of medicine begins at the table, long before it reaches the ward or the theatre.

Under Prof. Ganie's discerning stewardship, the conclave evolved into a forum of thoughtful debate, where physicians, public health experts, and policymakers reflected on the ethical dimensions of nourishment. The event underscored a vital truth, that public health is not confined to hospitals but resides in the everyday choices of citizens, in the integrity of the food chain, and in the vigilance of institutions that safeguard it. In this light, SKIMS reaffirmed its identity not just as a tertiary care hospital but as a guardian of collective well-being, uniting intellect and responsibility in the service of society.

The conclave's resonance extended beyond academic corridors; it symbolized a new phase of SKIMS, one where scholarship and service converge, where prevention is embraced as profoundly as cure.

Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura Srinagar, has been abuzz with educational activities from its very beginning, but over the past two years something remarkable has unfolded within its walls. The institute has witnessed an unprecedented bloom of academic and research excellence, a transformation that has quietly, yet profoundly, altered its intellec-



tual landscape.

Lecture halls are livelier, laboratories busier, publications more frequent, and the collective spirit more luminous. The air carries a sense of purpose, as though SKIMS, after years of devoted clinical service, has rediscovered its true rhythm: the rhythm of scholarship.

Behind this quiet revolution stands a visionary figure, Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Ashraf Ganie, Director and Ex-officio Secretary to the Government of Jammu & Kashmir. A physician of exceptional intellect and an academic with an unflinching moral compass, Prof. Ganie has been instrumental in shaping SKIMS's current academic renaissance.

From the moment he took charge, he brought with him both resolve and reflection, insisting that a medical institute must not only treat disease but also create knowledge. He redefined leadership through quiet discipline, empathy, and a relentless commitment to quality.

Under his stewardship, SKIMS has grown not just in infrastructure but in intellectual architecture, the kind that nurtures inquiry, integrity, and innovation.

"Institutions," he often says, "breathe only when thought circulates through them."

Under his gaze, thought began to circulate again, steady and strong.

December 2024 became a landmark in SKIMS history when the institute launched its Intramural Research Grant (IRG), a pioneering step that empowered young faculty and residents to pursue independent research. This initiative, envisioned

and encouraged by Prof. Ganie, unlocked doors for those who had ideas but lacked institutional backing. Suddenly, the hesitant voices of curiosity found a microphone, and the corridors once filled with clinical bustle now buzzed with research proposals, discussions, and data design.

The IRG program democratized research. It allowed young doctors to experiment, explore, and express, transforming curiosity into contribution. It was not merely funding; it was faith.

May 2025 brought another milestone, the Grant Writing and Funding Opportunities Workshop, conducted by the Research Cell and the Multidisciplinary Research Unit (MRU). This event, more than a workshop, became a movement of minds. Doctors, scholars, and residents gathered not to listen passively but to learn actively: how to design studies, frame objectives, handle ethics, and pursue grants with global competitiveness.

Prof. Ganie's message to participants was simple yet stirring:

"Let us not be content with treating patients; let us also contribute to the science that treats humanity."

The result was a ripple effect of intellectual confidence. SKIMS began producing doctors who not only healed with precision but also wrote with purpose.

Between 2024 and 2025, SKIMS embarked on a determined faculty and resident recruitment drive, filling long-standing vacancies and bringing in fresh energy. The arrival of talented academicians from premier national institutes such as

AIIMS, PGIMER, and JIPMER injected new vitality into departments. Teaching deepened, mentorship broadened, and interdepartmental research collaborations flourished.

This expansion was not just numerical; it was intellectual. It restored balance between service and study, ensuring that every department could simultaneously heal, teach, and inquire.

The fruits of this quiet academic revolution are now visible to all. SKIMS's departments have begun appearing prominently in indexed international journals and even in the Nature Index (2024–2025 window), a clear sign of elevated research output and quality.

Departments like Medical Oncology, Pathology, Pharmacology, and Community Medicine have published collaborative, data-driven research with national and international partners. Each publication stands as a testament to diligence and direction—proof that the new SKIMS is not only treating patients but advancing the science of healing.

“Tere ilm se zameen ka har zarra
nazara ban gava,

Jo tujh se roshan hai andhera bhi
sitara ban gaya." Ghalib"

Beyond papers and projects, something more profound has changed, the atmosphere itself. The faculty feels inspired; the residents feel guided; the administrative staff feels part of a purpose.

This cultural renewal, subtle yet strong, is perhaps the most enduring achievement of Prof. Ganie's leadership. He has restored a sense

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Loving the Quiet Light: The Cobbler's Exchange



DR Sarita Chauhan

My name is Gopal. I turned sixty-five in the month of Shравan, when the sky weeps a silver sheet over the city. For forty years, I've sat at this exact spot—a low, three-sided tin khohka anchored under the immense, spreading roots of an old peepal tree, where the market spills into the bypass. The air here is a mix of exhaust, jasmine, and the comforting, sharp scent of leather adhesive. I sit on my low stool, my box of tools beside me, each awl and curved needle a familiar, precious weight. My work, the art of the mochi, is an old-world precision that is rapidly vanishing. Modern shoes are made to be discarded, and my skills—the deep knowledge of soles and the perfect lock-stitch—are simply not valued by the young generation. My sons, doing well in their city jobs, see my stubbornness, not my solace. They only see the low payment and the diminishing material world. It pains me that this skill will retire when my hands do, but that is the way of things. My deeper passion is not for the leather; it is for the relationships the work facilitates. I get by with my meager earnings and a small fixed income; it is enough.

One scorching Tuesday, a young corporate courier, Deepak, staggered into my shade. Drenched in sweat, his sharp loafer had catastrophically split. He apologized frantically, trembling with the fear of professional failure, and offered a large currency note I couldn't break. I gently pushed the money away. As he gulped down the cool water from my clay pot, my mind traveled back forty years to this very corner. I remembered when I was young, desperate, and my wife, Asha, was gravely ill in the village, waiting for money for medicine. My whole future hinged on one critical repair, but my most expensive needle snapped, and I had no money for a replacement tool. The market vendor simply shrugged, and because I failed to finish the job, I lost the commission. The delay in sending money home... that wound has never truly closed. Seeing Deepak's terror—the fear of failing at his one chance—was like looking into my own past. I realized my own failure wasn't just about a broken needle; it was about no one seeing me. So, I worked the nylon thread, giving him a perfect, invisible fix. When I handed back the shoe, I chuckled. "The payment is in the



lesson: Sometimes, a quick stop to fix the small things saves the big things. Now go, walk with dignity." I did it to finally mend that old, cold part of my own history.

Deepak wrote about the incident on a local forum, and the kindness returned to me, not in wealth, but in human warmth. When the first heavy rain hit, people didn't rush past; they sought refuge.

But my khokha became a tiny, vibrant salon as college girls huddled under the tin roof, genuinely interested in the complexity of my stitch. Then came others, like Professor Rao, the retired history scholar. He stops every afternoon, sharing his thermos of cardamom tea and his massive national newspaper. He never asks for a repair. Instead, he treats my practical knowledge with the same respect as a peer's academic paper. "Gopal," he'll declare, "you are a microcosm of the supply chain! Tell me what this new tax really means when you buy thread." My workshop becomes his

informal seminar room; his intellectual exchange meets my street-level reality. The flower vendor leaves a perfect rose on my tool chest every morning, a silent thank you.

This is the true exchange. My sons worry about my low earnings and my dignity being compromised by sitting on the road, wanting me in a big, cold, air-conditioned office. But here, on my corner, people pause their frantic lives, share their worries, and offer a genuine greeting. They see me, Gopal, not just as a service provider, but as a landmark, a listener, a piece of living history. This is what keeps my hands steady and my spirit warm. I know the day will come when my fingers stiffen and the complex stitch retires. But when that happens, I won't go home. I will still come to this corner and sit on my stool under the peepal tree. Because you don't need money to give hope, and you don't need a function to have a purpose. You just need a simple seat and the willingness to look at someone caught in the rain—

and say, without words: "I've been there. Take shelter. You are welcome here." That's how this world gets better. Not in big, clean, modern spaces, but in quiet, messy corners—between people who choose to build moments together. Therefore I am, a quiet hum in the heart of a city, a low thrum that pulses with a strength no one sees.

My body is a garden, a wild and tangled place.

Sometimes it feels like a soft field
after rain,

other times a tough patch of weeds that just won't quit.

My strength isn't loud like a
hammer;

it's the quiet push of a root
through stone.

Therefore I am,
the girl who learned to smile

when her mind was miles away,
the one who found her footing on
a floor that constantly shifted.

I am the small, secret joys of a
shared glance

and the soft strength found in a
room full of other women,

each a whole universe on her own.

I am the legacy of grandmothers
who stitched stories into quilts

and mothers who held their families together

with a quiet grace I am only
beginning to understand.

a collection of mistakes and beautiful imperfections.

My scars are not a sign of failure
but a map of where I've been.

They tell the story of every time
I got back up.

every wrong turn that led me to
a new truth.

The moments I've stumbled or
said the wrong thing

are just as much a part of me as
the moments of brilliance.

They remind me that I am always learning, always growing.

Therefore I am,
not a half-finished story or a sup-

not a half-finished story of a supporting character,
but the whole book.

My worth isn't found in a mirror
or in the eyes of others.

but in the feeling of my own two feet on the ground.

It's in the quiet hum I carry, a melody that's all my own.

It is the simple, honest beauty of being.

I am, in all my complicated,
messy, brilliant glory,

messy, brilliant glory,
a complete and beautiful creation.
I am, simply, enough.

(Dr Sarita Chauhan Chairperson of JSM Group is a writer and author

of three books, with a PhD in English Literature She is a TEDx speaker &

**Founder of Write Up Your Soul also
a world record holder author earn-**

ing distinctions with Gems world
book of Records and India Book of

Records.)

FROM PAGE 7...

A Winter's Body: Andrew...

who, when they were small, would get on all fours, pull the rug over his back and growl like a bear . . .” Where the snow-white prose becomes translucent, the veins of love begin to show. Each tear is a unit of memory; each drop, a reckoning. Few contemporary writers could render feeling with this kind of exacting delicacy.

“Suicide is notoriously difficult to predict,” said the Administrator. “Those you think might, don’t. Those who seem to be improving suddenly throw themselves under a bus.” Here Miller’s philosophical humour appears for a moment in this passage — the echo of the absurdist determinism that underlies twentieth-century European fiction. His citizens are not tainted heroes: they are misguided health practitioners, always willing to substitute wellness for sin by accident.

But the novel’s restraint leads sometimes to dark flashes of humour. “He sometimes thought she was the kind of person who might choose to bring the house down simply to find out what kind of noise it made”—a line that recalls a tradition running from Iris Murdoch’s comic anarchy to Doris Lessing’s psychological rebellion. Planted beneath that humour are a dread—that between inquisitiveness and demolition, a question unknown during much of the century’s literature but brought up in the current decade at that time: How far by rights can one press against, considering how much can one have to demolish the very support structures that make life meaningful?

If there is a “philosophical” pivot in, *The Land in Winter*, it is when a character muses: “And though he was not much given to thinking about love, did not much care for the word, thought it had been worn to a kind of uselessness, gutted by the advertising men and the crooners, and even by politicians, some of whom seemed, recently, to have discovered it, it struck him that in the end it might just mean a willingness to imagine another’s life.” That sentence, sceptical and poignant, epitomizes what Miller’s entire novel dramatizes. Pluck, to Miller, is not passion, not even “possessing” somebody but envisioning sympathy. The human endeavour, the human prayer, devoid of its ads, is striving to see and feel as another.

The novel is by fathers haunted. “Through all this, the dull litany of self-reproach, his father moved with his heavy head, his blue-green gaze, the bulk of him so impressive to a young boy watching him in the bath, the water’s green surface flecked with cigar ash.” Miller’s language vibrates with sensory memory: the bath water’s colour, the ash on its surface, the gaze’s reverence. D. H. Lawrence could have written the scene if he had learned reticence. The father’s body — powerful, flawed, worshiped — is both an inheritance and a wound. Later, the gesture becomes benediction. “His father shrugged. He touched his chest, somewhere around the heart. Then he leaned forward, touched Bill, his right arm, and smiled. ‘You are stronger,’ he said.” This simple line, spoken without irony, is the thawing heart of the novel.

Miller’s intellectual range is shown in a fragment of dialogue that could emerge from a metaphysical café in Nausea: “‘Descartes,’ said Seven, ‘believed the soul might be found in the pineal gland. He must have seen dissections, at Leiden, perhaps. Does it seem strange that an intelligent man should think such a thing?’” In this reflection, Miller marries body and soul, science and superstition. Each age has its anatomical theory of the spirit; the soul is not an abstraction but an organ. It remains sought by science’s cold laboratory of the self.

The entire landscape in *The Land in Winter* seems externally digest expression. “He picked up the sheet of figures again. He read in silence. Around them the life of the town went on, the slow wrapping-up of a winter’s afternoon. The portrait of the former manager was clogged with shadow.” Even this office portraiture is a portrait of Britain: shadowed, papered, and adapting. Miller captures the cruel melancholy greatness of the middle of the modern century: post-empire and not yet modern.

If this book has a centre of the plot, then there will be slow decomposition and filled-up reduction. “Then she was gone, and suddenly it was time to change back into ordinary things and hurry down to the station to meet Tessa and the playwright off the London train.” That sentence carries the faint rhythm of the farewell that posts the entire novel like a note. Her characters get out of the way, even when they got stuck.

The household detail has a sympathetic association. “Was everything ready? The food, the drink, the decorations? What she liked best was the large vase in the dining room, in which she had placed three red and three white amaryllis.” The symmetry of the vase, the fifty bulbs split into six blooms of red and white, is no accident. It is the novel’s filled-in symbol: beauty raised against rot.

But below its fastidious surfaces there is a moral flow: “He understood that much. Reeve across the line into the bigger life and the world would find some way to throw you back, or not the world, but society, of which he, as the local doctor, was supposed to be some sort of pillar.” Miller’s irony is barbarous here. The supports of society are broken columns indeed. To cross “the line into the bigger life” is almost a kind of heresy; the Earth rates its tenants small, ineluctable and cold.

The domestic order, as if apologetically, pervaded the novel’s slow ruination. Around the point at which “one glass, which had found its way into the back garden, set down like an offering next to the crab-apple tree, she found in mid-March, a week after Eric had left, and shortly before she did too”, the disassembly achieves its faithful height. This glass that stands up beside the crab-apple tree chimes fatalistically, as the residual of human presence. It is a picture of offer and abandonment that reverberates T. S. Eliot’s symbolic accuracy in “The Waste Land”: the vessel left behind.

“They shut their eyes. They tasted it. Stone-flavoured, the tips of the sky. It filled them with a great excitement of change. They laughed, standing there in the centre of the field.” Truly, in this instant of rapture Miller helps a nonfiction of release. The slang suddenly precipitates, the fingers open, the bodies breathe. The novel, after pages of concoction, seems to undergo a brief unflexing. And yet this joyfulness is nothing more than a fragment of terror: “They were quiet for a moment. Fear like a touch, a caress. And how strange, thought Irene, that she, who was going to have the child, should know so much less about it, the reality of it, than Eric, who was not.” Once again, as she does more than once in the science, Miller touches on one of the unusual insights — that perception and embodiment are not simultaneous, that to carry life is not to appreciate it.

In one of the most arresting tropes, the telephone also becomes a barometer of aloneness: “The pause between one ring and the next seemed unusually long, as if the ice on the line, on the wires that crossed the white landscape, the weight of the ice dragging the line down, stretching the copper, had somehow made the whole apparatus run more sluggishly.” The

physical strain of ice on copper becoming the conference of human interaction under stress. Kafka, Beckett, McCarthy—the century’s great writers of disillusionment could have acknowledged the crooked craft of this torpedo: the earth animates itself to prevent joining.

The novel grows yet darker: “The day haunted him but the day was over. A woman was apparently arranging her own murder. She paid a man to shoot her.” Miller’s tone is chillingly factual here, a flat recitation that recalls Camus’s *The Stranger*: violence as routine, death as administrative. The indifference of syntax expresses the moral numbness of the frozen world. Every gesture, no matter how simple, carries a faint scent of ritual: “In the bedroom he changed out of his overalls and peeled off most of the layers beneath, things he had reached for in the dark of five-thirty.” Miller’s diction — “peeled off,” “in the dark of five-thirty” — makes of morning a variety of birth, or shedding. Each day restarts in darkness. “In her memory of the day before a woman was changed — but changed to what? She had wanted to fall and been surprised that she hadn’t.”

Miller’s sentences — considering frequently preoccupied with questions without replies — are frequently among his wickedest. Transmutation in this place is not redeeming but, to a certain extent, awful: what does it signify to transmute, if transmutation is unidentifiable? It maximalizes the twofold worldview: the horror of believing ourselves to be separate from what is fixed with us for life..

Miller’s ironical vision of belief is summed up in one spectacular question: “How could you make sense of people who believed in weeping statues and at the same time had practically invented organised crime?” It is a line that joins the theological satire of Greene with the social irony of Orwell. Faith and impiety exist together; superstition and pragmatism are essential to the identical human storm.

The shattering beauty does not ask you; it does not need you to believe anew again: “Home, it turned out, had been the perfect preparation for not being at home,” could summarize not merely the novel but the modernist condition itself. Miller’s characters are rehearsing like Prufrock and Dubliners. The ground is family, house and work. The very structure robs them of theirs.

And then the most chilling scene: “In the bedroom she slid out her lingerie drawer and checked on her supply of pills. She knew what was there, more or less — Nembutal, Seconal, three or four Dexamy; some chloral hydrate (to be mixed with the Nembutal for several hours of something like non-existence).” The precise pharmaceutical list is sick yawning in its save: Plath’s *The Bell Jar* but without village. It is vicious, heart-breaking.

At the opponent pole is the surreal: “God was speaking to her, but God with his mouth full, God with a stocking mask on, like a bank robber.” This is Blake’s visionary grotesque but with Beckett’s birdcage tragicomedy.

The business of Miller’s winter is no hand; he is the hush-up criminal in the human mind. The circle wins in water and funeral: “You break the surface but all night the river has carried you and you recognise nothing. She had, she understood, lost the child. There was only a stone inside her now, a white stone.” The stone of the body to mineral, of life to object, the still earth of the epithet. This final article, like the dead, cradles the novel in an open barrier, like the last lines of “The Dead” of James Joyce. Yet even at its coldest, Miller’s world isn’t lifeless.

A Reader's Reflections: Appreciating LitStream's Literary Excellence



Dr. Rafeeq Masoodi,
IBS (R)

As a regular reader of *Lit-Stream*, I eagerly anticipate each new edition, and the latest issue did not disappoint. The wealth of literary gems it presented was truly captivating, showcasing the richness and diversity of our literary heritage. In this article, I'd like to share my reflections on the various aspects of this publication that resonated with me.

A Captivating Article: Queen Habba Khatun

Prof. Aslam's exclusive write-up on Queen Habba Khatun, a historical figure recently making headlines, was particularly engaging. As someone with limited knowledge of literature and literary trends, I found the article informative and insightful, offering a delightful glimpse into



her life and legacy. The author's meticulous research and thoughtful analysis brought this fascinating figure to life, and I appreciated the way the article contextualized her significance in our cultural heritage.

Poetry that Resonates

The poetry section was equally impressive, featuring the works of Dr. Tripathi and Ali Shaida. Their

poems masterfully captured life's essence, resonating deeply with me. It's a testament to poetry's power to evoke emotions and connect with readers on a profound level. The poets' ability to convey complex emotions and ideas through simple yet powerful language is truly remarkable.

Translation: A Delicate Art

I appreciated the translation of Shabnum Sahab's Kashmiri *afsana*, although I felt it could have captured the original's essence more effectively. As someone who values the art of translation, I believe that a good translation should be a form of trans-creation or trans-cription, conveying the original's spirit rather than just literal meaning. Translation is a delicate art that requires a deep understanding of both languages and cultures.

Prof. Aslam's Notable Translation

In contrast, Prof. Aslam's translation of my own Kashmiri verses was outstanding. As Prof. Shouq aptly puts it, "English version of Rafeeq Masoodi's Kashmiri verses by Prof. Aslam are very very near to original & if Prof. Aslam had not mentioned

the para above all poems of Masoodi, they would look absolutely Original.” This speaks volumes about Prof. Aslam’s skill as a translator, and I’m grateful for his efforts in bringing my work to a wider audience.

Appreciation and Encouragement

I'd like to extend my appreciation to the Editor, Chief, and all contributors of LitStream for their hard work and dedication to promoting literary excellence. It's heartening to see a platform that showcases our literary talent and provides a space for readers to engage with meaningful content. To the LitStream team, I say keep up the fantastic work! Your efforts are truly appreciated, and I look forward to reading future editions.

In conclusion, LitStream is a valuable resource for anyone interested in literature and poetry. I appreciate its commitment to showcasing the best of our literary heritage and look forward to seeing more issues in the future.

Greetings of the day, and best wishes for continued literary success!

From tiger hills to lazy thrills



Dr. Supriya Shukla

Tiger Hill, Tiger's Nest — the very names roar adventure! Those dazzling sunrise and sunset views, the valley stretching endlessly below, snow-clad peaks glistening like silver crowns, and that fresh mountain air - a perfect picture postcard comes alive.

But here's the catch: getting there isn't exactly a joyride. Steep inclines, thinning air, and a trail that tests both your knees and your patience—reaching such vantage points demands grit, stamina, and a strong desire to prove to yourself (and your fitness tracker) that you're still young at heart.

Yet, that's exactly what some travellers crave — the challenge, the thrill, the sweat-soaked triumph at the top. For them, travel is not leisure; it's a passion project. They are the restless globe-trotters who treat vacations as marathons of exploration. If there's a ruin, a forgotten fort, or a crumbling old heritage site on the map - they must

see it, photograph it, and preferably post it before the Wi-Fi drops. Rest? That's for the faint-hearted. These travellers don't just visit places; they conquer them, armed with cameras, sunscreen, and endless zeal.

Then there's the second breed — the "change seekers." For them, travel is an escape hatch from the everyday grind. The family piles into the car (or plane) in search of that magical word: change. And who can blame them? For kids trapped in a cycle of homework, coaching classes, and the terrifying shadow of board exams that looms like a modern-day Damocles' sword, travel is pure therapy. They learn more from one museum visit or hill-station hike than from a dozen textbooks. Francis Bacon justifies this when he states: "Travel, in the younger sort, is part of education , in the elder, a part of experience."

Even a short trip does wonders — refreshing the mind, resetting the mood, and easing Monday morning blues.

And then... there's the third category, the "lazy voyagers." These are the people who travel with one goal: to do absolutely nothing. Their idea of adventure is ordering room service in a bathrobe while admiring the same sea view for five consecutive hours. The sunrise? Too early. Trekking?

Too sweaty. Museums? Too much walking. For them, sightseeing is an optional sport best left to the overenthusiastic.

Their hero is none other than J.B. Priestley, the philosopher of leisure, who in his essay *On Doing Nothing*, beautifully defended idleness as a noble art. He believed in the power of loafing around, claiming,

"All the evil in this world is brought by persons who are always up and doing, but do not know when they ought to be up nor what they ought to be doing."

In a world obsessed with frenzied pursuits, the "do-nothing" traveller is a quiet rebel. They argue, quite reasonably, that vacations are meant to unhook the mind — not exhaust it with endless schedules. Why chase a sunrise when you can sleep through it? Why climb a hill when you can float in a pool with a mocktail in hand? Cruises, luxury resorts and the laid-back, tranquil beaches were practically invented for them. These are their favourite destinations. And honestly, they may be onto something. As Priestley humorously remarked, "The devil, I take it, is still the busiest creature in the universe."

Perhaps a little boredom isn't such a bad thing after all. Let your mind wander, your body rest, and your

spirit stretch its legs for once.

So, the next time your child sighs, "I'm bored," don't panic. Let them be! Boredom can be the birthplace of creativity - or at least the excuse for another nap.

Whether you're scaling peaks, sightseeing ruins, or simply snoozing by the pool - travel has something for everyone. So go ahead, let the travel bug bite! But if you prefer your adventures slow, sunny, and sprinkled with room service — let it nibble gently instead. This planet is a treasure trove of wonders — a magnificent blend of divine, untouched natural beauty and awe-inspiring human creations. From the serene, pristine wilderness that soothes the soul to marvels like Jungfrau, where the cogwheel train ascends snow-draped peaks in a breathtaking journey — every corner of the Earth whispers magic.

Truly fortunate are those with the curiosity to explore, the courage to step beyond their comfort zones, and the means to wander across diverse and exotic destinations. For in every journey — through nature's grandeur or human ingenuity — one comes a little closer to Divinity itself, feeling the silent presence of The Creator in every vista , every moment ,every breath of wonder!

FROM PAGE 4...

Subrata Kumar Das...

tion “ In Flanders fields the poppies blow / Between the Crosses row on row.../We are the Dead, Short days ago/ We lived . felt dawn , saw sunset glow”. Monica Mitchell’s poem is also heart touching “ Oh you who sleep in Flanders fields / Sleep sweet –to rise anew!”. There is a chapter on Poet Robert Service whose poems are analysed in this volume. ‘The shooting of Dan MacGrew’ and ‘The Cremation of Sam Maggi’ from Songs of Sordo reveal the exquisite qualities of his poetic vision reflected in his 16 poetic volumes besides his seven fiction books. In one such poem Robert Service wrote “ There are strange things done in the midnight sun/ By the men who moil for gold” Lucy Mod Montgomery the author of 25 books and posthumously published 13 more books including Emily of New Moon, The Road to Yesterday, Alone the Shore At the Altar, After Many Days or Across the Miles. Mr. Das discussed in this book the contributions of Mazo dela Roche and his novels like Explorers of the Dawn, Possession and Delight. Hugh MacLennan from Canadian Nova Scotia won the highest Canadian honour by bagging Governor General Literary Award for five times and Mr Das offers a brilliant analysis of his masterpiece Barometer

Rising. Gabrielle Roy is the French speaking Canadian writer whose Children of My Heart also won Governor General Award and even Margaret Atwood wrote on him in a Literary Journal ‘Gabrielle Roy, In nine parts.’ Dorothy Livesay is the poet of the period between two World Wars and

quite naturally Mr. Das focuses on her 25 poetic volumes including the poetic debut Green Pitcher and the swansong , The Woman I am. In one of her poem she wrote ,” Now who among us will lift a finger /to declare I am of God, Good? / Who among us / dares to be righteous?” (Ice Age).

The London born Canadian poet P.K. Page composed 25 poetic volumes. After 1960 she returned to Canada from Australia and Mexico She began with writing a novel The Sun and The Moon and later she emerged as a poet with As Ten As Twenty and the Metal Flower which won Governor General Award. Mr. Das referred to an interesting Canadian poet Alfred Wellington Purdy known as Al Purdy who died . at the age of 82 and a book was posthumously published, a huge book Beyond Remembering : The Collected Poems of Al Purdy edited by his friend Sam Solecki. One poem from the volume reads : “ I was altered in the placenta / by the dead brother before me/who build a place in the womb/ knowing I was coming”(The Dead Poet). There were poets like Milton Acorn , Gwendolyn MacEwen , George Bowering Irving Leyton and Eli Mandel . Mr. Das gives a graphic picture of their daily life activities as poets and friends how they stood by each other and referred to a few anti-institutional poems of Milton:” Fool poets call the spring green, but I /a poet know I can’t give you to yourself –only what I know of myself ;that nothing I ‘ve done, no poem stand”. A veteran poet Phyllis Webb and his poetic volume ‘Naked Poems’ got atten-

tion of Mr. Das in this book. Hanging Fire was his masterpiece. We come to know in details about Leonard Cohen on whose death the Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau wrote “ No other artist’s music felt or sounded like Leonard Cohen’s . Yet his work resonated across generations . Canada and the world will miss him.” In one poem Cohen wrote : I heard of a man /who says words so beautifully / that if he only speaks their name /women give themselves to him.” Carol Shields’s pathbreaking novel The Stone Diaries created a storm in Canada. Margaret Atwood wrote about Swan “ One of the best novels I have read... deft , funny , poignant , surprising and beautifully shaped – in total command of itself and its language.” The Canadian poet Pat Lowther died a premature death but he composed four poetry books which were later highly praised : “ I shall surprise you asleep/ and hold you/through all your changes / till you make me /pregnant with the world.”

Mr Das brought in his literary purview the versatility of George Bowering who won Governor General Literary Award for his two books Rocky Mountain Foot and The Gangs of Kosmos. A few lines from one of his poems “ When the seas are / high enough to /turn us over/ we must hold / not one another/ but our position.” It is difficult to discuss in one review article what Mr. Das focused on Canadian literature. He even focused on the translator Sheila Fischman whose first novel was published in French but she translated nearly 200 novels into English for the Canadian

literature. Bill Bisset , Davis Johnston, Gwendolyn MacEwen Matt Cohen , Charlotte Gray, Ven Begamudre Yann Martel , Cathy Ostlere and many other Canadian writer are there in Canadar Sahitya.. Mr. Das himself says, he has not included many prominent writers Michael Ondaatjee, or Nobel Laureate Alice Munro Mordecai Richler , Margaret Laurence , Anne Carson or W.O Mitchel. But he is hopeful of writing on them in his forthcoming volumes .

The Virasat Publications has done a wonderful job by marketing the error free book at a low cost of Rs. 550(INR) in a brilliant cover and good quality printing paper easily available in Amazon India.. Mr. Das’s gift lies in his ability to make the complex developments approachable for the general reader which will make the book a milestone of Canadian literature in India and Bangladesh. His prose, though written in Bengali, avoids the heaviness of academic jargon. He combines the perspective of a critic with the tone of a storyteller, and that combination makes Canadar Sahitya a rare pleasure to read. The style is lucid, almost conversational, as if the author were inviting the reader to a long evening of literary discovery over tea in Toronto’s winter light..

The reviewer of the book is International Tagore Awardee writer and columnist Dr. Ratan Bhattacharjee, a former Affiliate Faculty of Virginia Commonwealth University . Email prof-ratanbhattacharjee@gmail.com

FROM PAGE 5...

Echoes of Healing: SKIMS...

of belonging, reminding every contributor that SKIMS is not a workplace but a work of faith. When intellect is honoured, innovation follows. When effort is appreciated, excellence becomes inevitable.

The impact of this academic resurgence reaches beyond classrooms and conference halls. Research emerging from SKIMS now finds direct application in patient care, from improved diagnostic algorithms in pathology to new therapeutic insights in oncology and pharmacology. Clinical audits, outcome studies, and community health research are refining protocols, customizing care, and shaping regional health policy. The distance between the bedside and the bench is narrowing precisely, the harmony modern medicine seeks.

To institutionalize this spirit of inquiry and compassion, SKIMS under the dynamic leadership of Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Ashraf Ganie, has constituted a network of dedicated committees and cells designed to facilitate smooth patient care, ethical research, and meaningful public outreach. The Institutional Research Committee, Ethics Committee, and Patient Care Facilitation Committee ensure that every scientific

endeavour remains compassionate, compliant, and patient-centred. Parallely, the Public Relations and Outreach Committee, Health Education and Awareness Cell, and Community Health & Preventive Medicine Committee carry SKIMS’s healing mission beyond its walls, borganizing health camps, awareness drives, and community lectures that link the science of medicine with the soul of society. Through these coordinated efforts, SKIMS has emerged not merely as a tertiary care centre but as a living ecosystem of service, scholarship, and social responsibility, where research refines care, and care inspires research.

The journey, though glorious, is far from complete. The real test for SKIMS now lies in sustaining this momentum. Challenges remain, securing continuous research funding, establishing a dedicated Research & Grants Office, maintaining methodological rigor, and institutionalizing mentorship programs. Yet these are signs not of weakness but of growth.

The years ahead, 2025 to 2028, promise consolidation and expansion. Plans are underway for a Three-Year Institutional Research Vision, flagship interdisciplinary projects, and collab-

orations with national and international universities. Annual research awards, transparent progress reports, and the integration of medical humanities into curricula are also envisioned, bringing empathy, ethics, and eloquence back into medicine. For SKIMS, the horizon gleams bright, a horizon where intellect and compassion walk side by side.

In just two years, SKIMS has journeyed from silence to synergy, from service to scholarship. Its transformation stands as a living testament to what visionary leadership, collective spirit, and disciplined dedication can achieve.

At the heart of this renaissance stands Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Ashraf Ganie, a leader who turned administration into aspiration, and governance into grace. Under his stewardship, SKIMS has rekindled the ancient lamp of learning—a lamp that illuminates not only Kashmir’s medical landscape but its intellectual destiny.

*“Utho wo subah kareeb aayi,
Jis ke intezaar mein the hum.
Ilm ka diya jalao phir se,
Ki andhera door ho jaaye har dum.”*

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