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## Department of English

Government Degree College, Shopian Kashmir.  
گورنمنٹ ڈگری کالج شوپیان، کشمیر۔



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### **Report on Inter-college Speech Competition on the theme "*Book Reading: Dead or Alive?*"**

The Department of English at Government Degree College organized an Inter-college speech competition on the theme "*Book Reading: Dead or Alive?*" in the college auditorium today on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2024. The programme commenced at 11:30 AM under the esteemed presidium of Prof. Dr. Mohd Shafiq, the worthy Principal of the college, with Prof. M.A. Tak, the Coordinator of the IQAC, gracing the event as the guest of honor.

The programme began with a welcome address by Dr. Anees ul Islam, Professor in the Department of English, who outlined the significance of the theme and stressed that book reading would never become obsolete. He emphasized the importance of sustaining this tradition, even in the digital age. Following this, Prof. Muneer Hussain, Head of the Department of English, delivered a keynote address in which he discussed the complexities of book reading and its current relevance. Quoting the famous poem *KITABEN (The books)* by Gulzar, he concluded by reflecting on the dilemma faced by modern readers in an era dominated by screens and digital devices.

The auditorium was later filled with speeches from students of Government Degree College Shopian, Government Degree College Zainapora, and Government Degree College (Boys) Pulwama, who passionately discussed the topic. In total, nine participants were recognized for their excellent speeches. Bazila Younis of GDC Shopian (Semester 1<sup>st</sup>) bagged the 1<sup>st</sup> position. The 2<sup>nd</sup> position was shared between Sahil Ahmad Wagay and Aurooja Amin Magray both of GDC Shopian (Semester 1<sup>st</sup>). The 3<sup>rd</sup> position was obtained by Mehvish Aiyaz of GDC Pulwama (Semester 3<sup>rd</sup>). The event was judged by Dr. Mohd. Aneesul Mehmood, Head, Environmental Studies, Dr. Khursheed Ahmad, Head, Department of Urdu, and Dr. Muzzaffar Masood of the Department of English by their keen sight and deep insight.

Prof. M.A. Tak, the guest of honor, spoke on the occasion, reiterating that books

and reading would never fade away, and neither would the practice of book reading itself.

In his concluding remarks, Prof. Dr. Mohd Shafiq, the Principal, encapsulated the essence of the programme with some beautiful Urdu verses, which added a poetic touch to the session. The program was brought to a close by Prof. Ajaz A. Padroo, who formally proposed a vote of thanks, acknowledging everyone who contributed to the success of the event. The entire session was skillfully moderated by Prof. Shahid Yousuf Gilkar, whose eloquent presentation added charm to the proceedings.

Prof. Muneer Hussain,  
Head, Department of English

Prof. (Dr.) Mohd Shafiq,  
Principal

Some glimpses of the programme:

