



Maximum : 26°C
Minimum : 09°C
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SUNRISE Tomorrow 06:35 AM

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News Digest

Engineer Booked In Assets Case

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday registered a disproportionate income case against a junior engineer, whose six bank accounts have so far yielded Rs 3.30 crore against a net salary of Rs 10.08 lakh, an official spokesperson said. The accused, Tariq Ahmad Ganie, worked in the Housing Board, Bemina, Srinagar, the official added. "Anti-Corruption Bureau, Srinagar, registered a case" ● P-02

Lt Gen Kumar Takes Command Of 16 Corps

Jammu: Lieutenant General M V Suchindra Kumar took over as the General Officer Commanding (GoC) of the Army's elite 16 Corps, known as White Knight Corps, here on Tuesday, a defence spokesperson said. He succeeds Lt Gen Harsha Gupta. Lt Gen Kumar said it was an honour to command such an elite formation with a rich history of Jammu and Kashmir. He exhorted all ranks to continue working with utmost ● P-02

Mortar Shell Defused Near LoC

Jammu: A mortar shell, which did not unexploded during cross-border shelling by Pakistan, was on Tuesday safely defused by army experts near the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. The shell was noticed lying in an open field at KhariKarmara by villagers, who informed the army, the officials said. They said the army's bomb disposal squad immediately rushed to the spot and the mortar shell was safely defused

Man Dies After Falling From Tree

Srinagar: A middle-aged man on Tuesday died after falling off a walnut tree in north Kashmir's Bandipora district. 50-year-old Doda Khan Awan was plucking walnuts from a tree in Zeban Chuntimulla area of the district when he lost balance and fell on the ground, police sources said Tuesday. Due to the impact of the fall, Awan received serious injuries. He was taken to the nearby hospital for treatment where doctors declared him brought dead, sources added.

4 Youth Held With Arms In Chadoora: Police

Srinagar: Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested four youth along with arms and ammunition in Chadoora area of central Kashmir's Budgam district. A police official said that it arrested four persons and recovered two Chinese grenades, a pistol magazine, eight pistol rounds, 30 AK-47 rounds and a flag of militant outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba from their possession. ● P-02

CASO Held In 5 South Kashmir Villages

Srinagar: The government forces on Tuesday launched a massive cordon and search operation (CASO) in five villages of three south Kashmir districts. Army, police and CRPF laid a siege in Kulgam, Shopian and Pulwama villages and conducted search operations after inputs about the movement of militants in these hamlets, sources said. ● P-02

China Repeats Again: 'We Don't Recognise UT Of Ladakh'

Says Border Infra, Military Deployment 'Root Cause Of Tension'

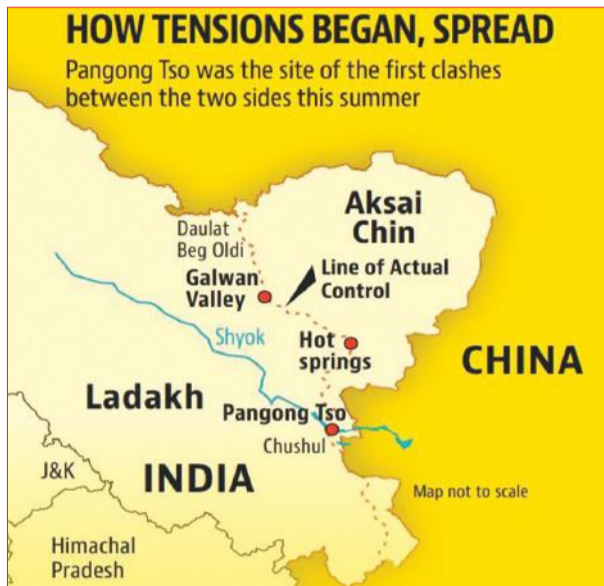
Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Terming the infrastructure building and military deployment along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) as a 'root cause of tensions', China on Tuesday reiterated that it does not recognise the 'illegally established' Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said that Beijing does not recognise the union territory of Ladakh or the state of Arunachal Pradesh. He also claimed that the stepping up of infrastructure building by India and military deployment along the border with China was the "root cause of tensions".

India has been strongly maintaining that both Arunachal Pradesh and Ladakh are integral part of the country and that China should refrain from commenting on its internal matters.

Spokesman Zhao was replying to a question at a media briefing in Beijing by a western media journalist on India's construction of a number of bridges in border areas of Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh. The spokesman said ● PAGE 02



Talks End In Deadlock

The seventh round of military talks between India and China was "positive and constructive", a joint statement by the two armies said on Tuesday, but there was no breakthrough in sight for speedy disengagement of troops at friction points in eastern Ladakh. As the two sides agreed to earnestly implement ● P-02

WE URGE THE INDIAN SIDE TO EARNESTLY IMPLEMENT the consensus reached by the two sides, refrain from taking actions that will complicate the situation, and take concrete measures to safeguard peace and tranquility along the border,"

J&K Sees 8 More Coronavirus Deaths, Toll 1343

SRINAGAR: At least eight more people succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, taking the number of Covid-19 fatalities across the Union Territory to 1343.

Kashmir valley reported five more deaths due to Covid-19 while three others were confirmed by officials from the Jammu division.

Among the five victims in Valley, officials said two were residents of Srinagar and included a 72-year-old man from Bemina, who died two days after being admitted to CD hospital, one of the exclusive facilities for the management of the covid-19 patients in the Valley. Also, a 77-year-old man from Natipora Srinagar ● P-02

40 Travelers Among 677 More Test Positive

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Tuesday 677 new cases of coronavirus, including forty travelers, taking the number of people infected by virus in the Union Territory to 84708.

Among the new cases, 313 were reported from Jammu division and 364 from Kashmir Valley, officials said.

Giving the district wise details, they said, Srinagar reported 145 cases, Budgam 35, Baramulla 53, Pulwama 43, Kupwara 18, Anantnag 14. ● P-02

Mehbooba Mufti Released After 14 Month Detention

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: PDP president and former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir Mehbooba Mufti was set free on Tuesday after being in preventive detention for more than 14 months following the abrogation of Article 370 last year.

"In exercise of powers conferred under section 19(1) of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act, 1978, the Government hereby revokes the detention order bearing No. DMS / PSA / 147 / 2020 dated 05-02-2020 issued by District Magistrate. Srinagar which was last extended for a period of three months vide Government Order No. Home / PB-V / 1449 of 2020 dated 31-07-2020 of Ms. Mehbooba Mufti D/o Late Mufti Mohd Sayed R/o Bijbehara A/P



Nowgam, Srinagar, with immediate effect," reads an order issued by the government on Tuesday. Earlier, JK government spokesman Rohit Kansal tweeted about PDP President's release. Mehbooba Mufti, who ● PAGE 02

I'M PLEASSED TO HEAR THAT @ MehboobaMufti Sahiba has been released after more than a year in detention. Her continued detention was a travesty & was against the basic tenets of democracy. Welcome out Mehbooba," Omar tweeted.

Iltija Relieved

Iltija Mufti who was managing the twitter handle of her incarcerated mother heaved a sigh of relief and tweeted: "As Ms Mufti's illegal detention finally comes to an end, I'd like to thank everybody who supported me in these tough times. I owe a debt of gratitude to you all. This is Iltija signing off. May allah protect you."

Embarrassment For BJP Party Leader Moves NHRC Seeking Security To Sarpanches

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: In what could cause a major embarrassment to the BJP-led government at the Centre, a party leader from Jammu and Kashmir has approached the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to seek its intervention to ensure security of sarpanches facing militancy threat in Kashmir.

The NHRC has taken note of the matter and has forwarded it to the Union secretary for home affairs and Jammu and Kashmir chief secretary, calling for an action taken report within four weeks, J-K BJP

Sarpanch Found Hanging In Bandipora

A sarpanch was found hanging on Tuesday morning at his home in Zurimanz village of north Kashmir's Bandipora district. Official sources said ● P-02

spokesperson on Kashmir affairs Ashwani Kumar Chrun-go said in a statement here. The BJP leader, citing a communication from the human rights panel, said the ● PAGE 02

Pakistan Sets 5 Preconditions For Talks With India

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Pakistan on Tuesday set five pre-conditions for the resumption of "meaningful dialogue" with India to resolve all outstanding issues, including the longstanding dispute over Jammu and Kashmir.

In a first ever interview by a Pakistani official since India revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and divided the state into two Union Territories, Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on National Security Dr Moeed Yousaf told Karan Thapar in an exclusive interview that In-



However in the 75-minutes video broadcast on The Wire, Yousaf asserted that for any meaningful dialogue to take place between the two neighbours, India has to release all political prisoners in Kashmir, end human blockade and restrictions, rescind domicile law that allows non-Kashmiris to settle in the disputed territory, stop human rights abuses and end terrorism in Pakistan.

"Pakistan would be ready for dialogue with India if the Modi government accepts those preconditions," Yousaf said. Interestingly, Yousaf did ● PAGE 02

Thrashing Of Youth Sparks Protests In Rawalpora

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Anti-army protests broke out Tuesday in Rawalpora area of the city outskirts after the soldiers allegedly thrashed two youth to 'pulp without any reason or rhyme'.

Shahid Ahad Bhat and Aqib Ashraf Dar were allegedly beaten up by soldiers near Rawalpora Chowk on Tuesday morning when an army convoy was passing through the area, witnesses told Kashmir Observer. The soldiers, they said abused the two youth while beating them with sticks and guns.

Due to the severe beating, eyewitnesses said, the youth suffered serious injuries and were let off by the soldiers



only when their wounds bled. According to the eyewitnesses, Bhat had sustained cervical injury while Dar suffered injuries in his leg and foot due to the alleged thrashing by soldiers. Both of them were removed to the hospital by locals.

The incident set off massive anti-army demonstrations in the locality. Scores of people, including women took ● PAGE 02

In A First, Family Questions Eerie Silence On Er Rashid's Convicted Fate

In FOCUS
Auqib Javeed

MAWAR, Langate - Just like his woebegone mother, two long-faced siblings and old grandparents, 19-year-old Abrar Rashid is unable to make sense of his father's condemned fate for being a flag-bearer of unionist politics in Kashmir. Ever since his father became a captive, the junior Rashid is haunted by a question: "How will I face those who took an oath with my father that they will not pelt stones and seek peaceful means to address the issues?" The first year college student is the son



of former legislator from the north Kashmir's Langate area, Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid. Rashid was arrested by the National

The former Langate legislator was the first unionist politician to have been arrested by the NIA in the case. He's still under detention in New Delhi's Tihar jail.

Before his arrest, Rashid remained in news for his vocal advocacy of Kashmir issue. Despite being a legislator, he pitched the demand of the "right to self-determination" and faced music.

As an independent candidate, with back-to-back assembly election wins, Rashid floated his own political outfit, Awami Ittehad Party (AIP). He contested parliamentary elections from Baramulla after former Governor Satya Pal Malik dissolved the State's Legislature. Rashid ended up bagging 102168 votes in a closely-contested affair. He only fell short of small vote margin against National Conference's ● PAGE 02

CANCER SOCIETY OF KASHMIR

کینسر سوسائٹی آف کشمیر

Website: www.cancersocietykashmir.org E-mail: cancersocietyofkashmir@gmail.com

Ref. No. CSK/ELECTION-40/2020/5939
Dated: 13-10-2020

Notice

All the founder & life members of the Cancer Society of Kashmir are informed that the election for the following honorary Office-Bearers of the Cancer Society of Kashmir are scheduled to be held on 02-NOV-2020 at the office of the society 4-Bagh-i-Islam Colony Lal Nagar, Chanapora Srinagar:-

1. Chairman	One.
2. Vice-Chairmen	Two.
3. General Secretary	One.
4. Joint-Secretary	One.
5. Treasurer	One.

The Dates For Process Of Elections Have Been Fixed As Under:-

1. Filling of Nominations Papers	: - 14-10-2020 TO 20-10-2020
2. Scrutiny of Nominations Papers	: - 22-10-2020.
3. Last date for withdrawal of nominations	: - 27-10-2020.
4. Issue of Notification for final list of contestants	: - 28-10-2020.
5. Date of Voting (From 9.30 AM to 4.30 PM)	: - 02-11-2020.
6. Counting of votes and declaration of results	: - 02-11-2020.

--SD--
Justice (Retd.) M.Y. Kawoosa.
Election Authority

**4-Bagh-i-Islam Colony Lal Nagar, Chanapora
Srinagar 190 015 Tele Fax 0194-2441899/2430899**

LAWDA Approves 49 Cases

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 13: The Jammu and Kashmir Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (JK-LAWDA) today convened 110th meeting of the Building Permission Authority under the Chairmanship of Vice Chairman JK-LAWDA here.

On the occasion, 53 cases were decided in the meeting out of which 49 cases were approved, 03 cases were deferred and 01 rejected.

VC JK-LAWDA has requested the people residing within the jurisdiction of LAWDA to apply for proper building permission through its Building Permission authority, before starting any sort of Construction.

Pertinently the meeting was conducted in view of the powers vested on it under Control of Building Operations Act, 1988 through Building Permission Authority, JK-LAWDA.

The minutes of the meeting of 110th will be uploaded on the official website of the Authority (www.jklawda.org) once approved.

Business Revival Package Progressing Well: Govt

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 13: In order to provide assistance to business entities, the LG administration had recently announced a number of measures to provide growth momentum in various sectors of the economy. A comprehensive package of Rs 1350 crore was announced by the J&K LG, Manoj Sinha in the previous month responding to the demands put forth by the UT business community.

In a review meeting taken by the J&K LG, Manoj Sinha, the Finance department informed about the progress on various financial components of the package.

The 5% interest subvention in favour of the business establishments was the main incentive extended by the LG administration. The Finance department informed that government order has already been issued on 1st October, 2020 and the necessary modalities are being worked out by J&K Bank.

The department has further informed that the list of borrowers has also been received and interest subvention is being released within a week's time in favour of eligible investors pending since 2014 and 2016.

A plethora of administrative measures were also announced simultaneously as part of this package. Regarding them it was elucidated that the first meeting with some two dozen borrowers was held on 9th of this month to restructure the functional NPAs and standard accounts in a time bound manner.

Different Statutory Orders (SO) are also shortly being issued by the department to extend to 31st December, 2020 the date of GST reimbursement claims up to the period of 31/03/2019. It further says that no demand has been received for the equity infusion by the financial institutions.

Regarding the streamlining the powers to sanction loans it was intimated that J&K Bank has duly streamlined the loan sanctioning process. Moreover it says that loan repayment schedule has been extended as per RBI guidelines and FITL guidelines for conversion of interest stands issued by the bank vide circular dated 25.08.2020 with moratorium process to be decided.

Revealing the achievement made by banks under GECL and Business Support Loan in UT of Jammu and Kashmir it was said that under GECL against 63621 accounts for Rs 1756.41 crore an amount of Rs 1622.21 crore has been disbursed against 58437 borrowers. Regarding Business Support Loan it was said that against 2128 loans of Rs 118.76 crore Rs 47.90 crore against 1317 borrowers already stands disbursed. This quantifies to 92% of the borrowers receiving 92% of the sanctioned amount under GECL and 62% approved under business loan, 40% amount stands disbursed.

As far as Loans for business support to fresh borrowers is concerned loans have been sanctioned to 6998 fresher borrowers as on 12th October, 2020 and an amount of Rs 53.21 crore disbursed to 3516 youth. Moreover an ambitious target has been set to cover 15000 fresh borrowers. Guidelines in respect of Business Support Loan (formerly covid-19 working capital demand loan scheme) and Business Support Loan scheme for Hotels & Guest Houses have also been issued, claims the ATR.

The facility of a Special desk for youth by JK Bank has already started and inaugurated on Oct, 01 2020. Bank has mobilized 1666 loan cases/applications involving an amount of Rs.46 crore approx.

Regarding other matters it was given that the guidelines, circulars and instructions already stand issued by the department and the implementation of these measures are apace as per the comprehensive business revival plan announced on the recommendations of the high level committee framed by the government.

Webinar on Int'l Day for Disaster Risk Reduction

SRINAGAR : A webinar on International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction was jointly organised by National Institute of Disaster Management, Ministry of Home Affairs and Institution of Engineers (India), J&K State Centre, Srinagar, in collaboration with Divisional Administration, Kashmir, J&K Forest Department and Indian Red Cross Society, J&K Branch, Srinagar.

The webinar started with the address by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Dr. Mohit Gera, who talked about the loss of precious forest cover and biodiversity, due to forest fires, due to human intervention. He said that the Forest department is taking all necessary measures to prevent forest fires and has constituted teams for response, who are being provided training and basic equipment.

He said that 190 fire control rooms have been established in Jammu Division and 100 in Kashmir. Measures like rejuvenating natural sources of water are being taken, besides resorting to legal arrangements and involvement of SDMA, SDRF and Fire & Emergency Services and Panchayats for fire prevention.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K. Pole said that there has been a paradigm shift from relief and response, to mitigation, early warning and risk reduction.

He urged upon all Additional Deputy Commissioners, in their capacity as CEOs of the District Disaster Management Authority to take the lead role and benefit from such webinars, which give opportunities to the administrators to know where we are and where we ought to be, by knowing the best practices being implemented in other parts of the country and world.

He appreciated IEI and NIDM for organizing such webinars and requested that such webinar be held more frequently, to further build capacities of the stakeholders. President, Institution of Engineers (India) Er. Narendra Singh, informed that IEI which is the largest multidisciplinary organisation of engineers in India is celebrating its Centenary year, towards its service towards nation building. He mentioned that IEI has also established a disaster mitigation centre and focus is on how to reduce exposure to disaster risk.

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.
Tele: 01933-247954/247955. Website: www.islamicuniversity.edu.in.

NOTICE
It is notified for information of all concerned that Provisional Merit list of the candidates who have applied for admission to B.Tech. Engineering programmes for Academic Session 2020-21 is available on the university website www.islamicuniversity.edu.in. The merit list is based on the JEE-2020 score as mentioned in the online application form submitted by candidates and supporting documents uploaded by them. Applicants who have not mentioned JEE-2020 score or have not uploaded the score card of JEE-2020 in the online application form were dropped from the merit list.
Discrepancies (if any) in the merit list may be communicated through mail on admissions@islamicuniversity.edu.in by or before 15-10-2020, beyond which no claim whatsoever shall be entertained. The selection lists shall be notified subsequently.
No: IUST/Acad/Admissions/20/595 Sd/
Dated: 13-10-2020 Deputy Registrar, Academics

Office Of The Executive Engineer Sewerage And Drainage Division No.II. (SMC) Srinagar.
CORRIGENDUM No. II TO TENDER NOTICE No:-05/e-NIT OF 2020-21 CHANGE IN UNITS
Kindly read Kg instead of No. in respect of S.No.19 of the BOQ for the works reflected in the NIT No.05 of 2020-21 dated:- 01.10.2020 issued vide endorsement No: SDII/20-21/1756-82 dated:- 01.10.2020.
All other terms and conditions laid down in the NIT shall remain same.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, S&D Division IInd, SMC, Srinagar
DIPK-NB-2944/20

SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
GIST TO NIT NO. 35 OF 2020-21 DATED:07/10/2020
For and on behalf of Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation tenders are invited from Dealers of Automobile Spare Parts / Distributors and Authorised Dealers for the following works.

S.No.	Name of the Work	Quantity	Total value of the Work (Rs. in lacs.)	Bid Security (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document	Date & time of opening of technical bid
01.	Supply of Spare Parts/ Conducting of Jobs to the Corporation (Road Rollers ---02 No's) Tiger Make 03 Ton capacity detail mentioned in Annexure "A"	02 No's	5.14 lacs	Rs.10000/-	Rs.500/-	28/10/2020

Detailed e-NIT with terms and conditions can be downloaded from the Departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in with effect from 08/10/2020 to 27/10/2020.
Sd/- Executive Engineer Mechanical Srinagar Municipal Corporation
No. SMC/EEM/578-82 Dated:-07/10/2020
DIPK-NB-2939/20

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Mechanical Hospital & Central Heating Division Srinagar
(Phone No: 0194-2496089, E-mail id: xnmhchdk@yahoo.in) Website: www.medkmr.org
(Short Term)
NIT No: MHCHD/TS/2020-21/163
Dated: 12.10.2020
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Date of sale of tender documents.	From 13.10.2020 to 19.10.2020 (2.00 P.M)
Last date of receipt of Tenders.	20.10.2020 upto 2PM.

For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, sealed tenders affixed with Rs.5/- revenue stamps are invited from the registered firms/Govt. Contractors for the below mentioned work:

S. No	Description of work.	Estimated cost in Rupees	Amount of E/M, in Rs.	Cost of TD in Rs.	Time	Position of Funds
1	Servicing of 250 KVA Kirloskar make(engine n0: 6SL1500TA) DG Set at Govt. Chest Disease Hospital, Srinagar.	49650/-	10000/-	200/-	07 Days	Demanded

The tender must be accompanied with the requisite earnest money deposit in the shape of CDR/FDR drawn from any scheduled/national bank and pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, MH&CH Division, Srinagar. The tenders found without earnest money shall be rejected out rightly at the time of opening of tender.
The tender document can be had from the office of the undersigned during working hours against cost mentioned above, in the form of IPO/Demand Draft or Cash Payment. Tender documents shall be issued subject to production of certificates to the following effect:
1. Latest Sales tax clearance certificate/or as applicable as per new GST rules.
2. J&K State Sales Tax Registration Certificate/ GST registration certificate.
3. Documentary proof of having successfully executed similar nature of job in Government or Semi-Government Department.
The tenders should reach the office of undersigned on 20.10.2020 upto 2 P.M and shall be opened on the same day or any subsequent date convenient to the undersigned in presence of the tenderers who may be present on the spot.
The envelope containing tender should properly be superscripted with Tender Notice no, Name of work and Name of tenderer.
Sd/- Executive Engineer Mechanical Hospital & Central Heating Division, Srinagar.
Dated: 12-10-2020
NO: - MHCHD/TS/4610-16
DIPK-7318/20

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir
NOTICE
Whereas an application has been received from one. Shri : Sajad Nadeem S/o: Ghulam Mohammad Malik R/o: Sehpora Magam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04E-9369 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Magam.
Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.
No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.1614 Dated 13-10-2020
Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir
MCB

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir
NOTICE
Where a application for transfer of ownership has been received from one. Shri : Ab Gani Najar S/o: Abdul Fateh Najar R/o: Checkpora Kalan Check No2 (Transferor) of LMV M 800. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04B - 0725. Chasis number 776879 Engine no. 143478 Model 2009. in favour of Shri.. Mohammad Rafiq Bhat S/o. Ghulam Ahmad Bhat R/o Zangi Bagh B.K Pora Chadoora Budgam (Transferee) Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer.
Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir
No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.1611 Dated 13-10-2020
MCB

DIAL-EMMA
TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
PDD: 0194-2450213
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
CAPD: 18001807011
SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

AIRPORTS
SHEIK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS
SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
BUBHERA: 01932-228243
PAMPORE: 01933-294132
PATTAN: 01954-293507
QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS
Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
Mughal Road - (Open)
Srinagar- Leh- (Open)

PRAYERS
FAJR 5:12
ZUHR 12:16
ASR 4:21
Magrib 6:03
ISHA 7:22

HIJRI CALENDAR
26 Safar 1442

This Day In History

- 1322 - Robert the Bruce of Scotland defeats King Edward II of England at Byland, forcing Edward to accept Scotland's independence
- 1758 - Battle at Hochkirk, Saksen: Austrian army beats Prussia
- 1773 - American Revolutionary War: The United Kingdom's East India Company tea ships' cargo are burned at Annapolis, Maryland.
- 1774 1st Continental Congress makes Declaration of Colonial Rights in Philadelphia
- 1805 - Battle of Elchingen, France defeats Austria
- 1806 - Battle of Auerstadt-French beat Prussians
- 1931 - Spanish Cortes agrees to separation of Church & State
- 1933 - Nazi Germany announces its withdrawal from the League of Nations.
- 1939 - German U-47 sinks British battleship HMS Royal Oak, 833 killed
- 1943 - Japan declares the Philippines independent under President José P. Laurel
- 1944 - Allied troops land in Corfu
- 1944 - British troops march into Athens
- 1948 - Large scale fighting between Israel & Egypt
- 1952 - UN General Assembly first meets at its new headquarters in New York.
- 1954 - Israeli act of revenge in Qibiya Jordan, kills 53
- 1957 - Queen Elizabeth II becomes the first Canadian monarch to open the Parliament of Canada with the Speech from the Throne.
- 1958 - Malagasy Republic becomes autonomous republic in French Community.
- 1963 - Algeria & Morocco border conflict
- 1964 - Premier Nikita Khrushchev replaced by Leonid Brezhnev as General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party
- 1966 - 175 US airplanes bomb North Vietnam
- 1973 - Egyptian tanks move further into Israel
- 1976 - Nobel Prize in Economics awarded to American economist Milton Friedman
- 1976 - Soyuz 23 carries 2 to Salyut 6, but returns without docking
- 1979 - 100,000 demonstrate in Bonn against nuclear energy
- 1986 - Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Auschwitz survivor Elie Wiesel, for his efforts to ensure the Holocaust was remembered
- 1988 - Naguib Mahfouz is the 1st Arabic writer to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.
- 1991 - Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi wins Nobel Peace Prize.
- 1994 - Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Yasser Arafat, Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres
- 1994 - NASA Space probe Magellan burns up in atmosphere of Venus
- 2013 - Eugene Fama, Lars Peter Hansen, and Robert Shiller win the 2013 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences for their work on asset prices.
- 2014 - World Health Organization announce Ebola virus death toll at 4,447, and the fatality rate has reached 70%.

From KO Archives
Passengers forced to walk 3km with luggage
Observer News Service
SOPORE: Security forces have unleashed terror at Watlab on Sopore-Bandipore road for the past four days in the wake of a recent landmine explosion in which a securityman, Suresh Kumar, was killed. People in general and the commuters and employees in particular are scared travelling on the route for fear of being belaboured by the personnel of 15 RR deployed at Watlab.
Eyewitnesses told Observer News Service the passengers are brought down from the buses and forced to walk over a distance of three kilometres on either side of Watlab. The Ban-dipore-bound passengers are forced to disembark at Warpora and made to foot the distance upto Sangri top. Likewise, the Sopore-bound passengers have to come down at Watlab and walk three kilometres upto to Warpora.
Lending a sadistic touch to the torment, eyewitnesses alleged, the security forces force the passengers, both men and women, to carry their luggage over their head all through the 3-km ordeal.
They said many a transporter were reluctant to ply their vehicles of the route compounding the people's problems further. Reports said the hospital authorities here referred a villager of Botengoo to Srinagar after his condition deteriorated following several dog bites. He had been beaten by the security forces at the Watlab camp after which dogs were set at him. He was brought to the sub district hospital where doctors referred him to Srinagar with multiple dog bites.
(Kashmir Observer, October 14, 2000)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Economy needs help

In a bid to stimulate demand in a pandemic-wrecked economy, the finance minister Nirma-la Sitharaman has announced a Rs 12,000 crore interest-free 50-year loan to states for spending on capital projects in a bid to boost the economy. She further announced a one-time Rs 10,000 interest-free festival advance to all its officers and employees as part of plans to increase consumer spending. Similarly the LTC Cash Voucher comes as a big incentive for central government employees. According to finance minister, the private sector spending through LTC tax benefit would be at least Rs 28,000 crore, so the total demand boost due to the new schemes is estimated to be more than Rs 1 lakh crore.

The economy needs a leg up at a time when the GDP has been in a freefall due to the ongoing Corona-virus pandemic. So, the economy needs government to come out with measures to trigger demand. Putting more cash in the hands of the employees is one smart way of doing it. But for the economy to recover faster, the government needs to spend more and also accelerate the work on the infrastructure projects.

Earlier in the initial phase of the pandemic, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a stimulus package of Rs 20 lakh crore to ease the devastating fallout on the economy of the Covid-19 crisis. The package comprised a facility of Rs 3 lakh crores collateral-free automatic loans for business, including micro, small and medium enterprise (MSMEs). This made borrowers with up to Rs 25 crore outstanding and Rs 100 crore turnover eligible. Loans have 4-year tenure with a moratorium of 12 months on principal repayment. Besides, there was 100 per cent credit guarantee cover to banks and NBFCs on principal and interest. This enabled 45 lakh MSME units to resume business activity and safeguard jobs. A large part of the package, around Rs 8.04 lakh crore, was the additional liquidity injected into the system by the Reserve Bank of India through various measures.

The package went a long way to cushion the impact of Covid-19. But it is also true millions have already lost jobs and a prolonged shutdown of the economy has only piled on the misery. While the fresh stimulus package will offer a further relief, for economy to get back on feet, the government has to open it more and more. Time has come to get around the pandemic and ensure that the fight against it and business activities go together.

OTHER OPINION

Vaccine Allocation

Last month, Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Harsh Vardhan told the Rajya Sabha that he expects a vaccine against COVID-19 to be available by early 2021. But he added a note of caution about the time it could take to reach everyone. On Sunday, he spoke again on the issue: "Prioritisation of groups for the COVID-19 vaccine shall be based on two considerations — occupational hazards and the risk of developing severe disease and increased mortality." The minister has done well to indicate the government's priorities at an early stage — a vaccine for mass use is, by most estimates, at least three months away. But in the coming weeks and months, as the government gives shape to its plans, narrowing down the priority list, it will need to answer more questions.

Choosing from among different sets of vulnerabilities is never easy. It is important, therefore, that the government opens the conversation to a variety of specialists — epidemiologists, ethicists, economists, patient groups, social scientists.

The WHO's preliminary guidelines for vaccine allocation underline the significance of a deliberative procedure: "Employ best available scientific evidence, expertise, and significant engagement with relevant stakeholders for vaccine prioritisation... using transparent, accountable and unbiased processes to engender... trust in prioritisation decisions". A consensus also seems to be emerging globally that allocation strategies should be informed by wide-ranging discussions. In the US, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention asked the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) to develop a plan "to fairly allocate" a vaccine. NASEM reportedly conducted a public hearing in the first week of September before releasing its first draft.

The Drugs Controller General of India said, last month, that it would approve a vaccine "of at least 50 per cent efficacy". Given the magnitude of the crisis, this low bar is understandable. But a less than 100 per cent sure inoculation could mean that plans to track the initial recipients will have to be developed in tandem with the allocation strategy. It's important that a range of specialists are called in to join the dots, think through the difficult issues.

The Indian Express



Not Gunning For Jobs

The militancy is one aspect of the life in Kashmir that has remained unaffected by the revocation of Article 370. But it can't be resolved by offering employment to militants

RIYAZ WANI

Centre has every reason to reach out to militants. The militancy is one aspect of the life in Kashmir that has remained unaffected by the revocation of Article 370. Over the course of the past fourteen months, the militancy has held steady despite an exponential increase in the killings of the militants.

Last week, the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha offered to provide jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities to militants if they choose to surrender. Though there have been such offers to militants by the earlier governments as well, Sinha's was unusual in that it came from a BJP-led union government appointee. BJP has invariably had an in-your-face hardline policy on security issues. Its solution to militancy is the elimination of all militants. Its politics has no space for rehabilitation of "terrorists", let alone for an engagement with them. So, when the LG sought to accommodate the militants, it took many people in the Valley by surprise. Moreover, this was a first of such offer by the J&K Government since the imposition of the central rule in June 2018 and the subsequent withdrawal of Article 370 and bifurcation of J&K into two union territories in August 2019.

As was but to be expected, the BJP has reacted sharply to Sinha, saying the militants didn't deserve rehabilitation but "bullet". The party's loudmouth regional chief Ravinder Raina said, "Who so ever picks up a gun against the nation will be eliminated".

But at the same time, the LG's statement is the position of the J&K Government, which in a union territory is an extension of the central government. So, it can be safely assumed that the LG's utterances speak the mind of the centre on Kashmir. Sinha may not have made it clear so far as the outreach to militants is concerned but he did tell the families of the three Rajouri youth killed recently in a staged encounter at Shopian that he was promising justice to them on behalf of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Centre has every reason to reach out to militants. The militancy is one aspect of the life in Kashmir that has remained unaffected by the revocation of Article

370. Over the course of the past fourteen months, the militancy has held steady despite an exponential increase in the killings of the militants. So far, 190 militants and around 50 security personnel have been killed this year. Considering there were around 200 militants in Kashmir in the beginning of this year, there should have been no militancy left by now. But that is not the case. The depleted ranks of the militant groups continue to be filled by the twin local recruitment and the influx from across the border.

True, the number has often sharply declined over the past year but this has hardly lessened the challenge of militancy. In the past too, when the Valley had no more than a hundred militants (2012-13) and South Kashmir which now boasts of around 110 militants had just 15 of them, the Valley was not peaceful. Also, the militancy has often returned from the dead. In 2011, security forces had almost wiped out the Valley-based top HizbulMujahideen leadership with the killing of its senior-most commanders Mushtaq Janghi and Dawood, but this didn't finish off the outfit.

Every year, over the past five years, security forces have killed an average of over 200 militants a year. But the militancy has still continued; earlier replenished mostly by the foreigners, now largely by locals. The pattern of the replenishment has only strengthened since the killing of the popular HizbulMujahideen militant commander Burhan Wani. Most of the local recruitment as the figures testify have taken place in South Kashmir and the trend hasn't abated despite the increase in militants killings - albeit, it may have reduced in past several months.

One reason for this is the overwhelming public support that the militancy enjoys in the region. Ever since Wani rose on the scene

around 2014-15, thousands have continued to attend funerals of militants — that is, until the administration stopped giving bodies of fallen militants to their families citing Covid-19 pandemic.

True, erasure of J&K autonomy has ushered in new factors. It has in one fell swoop integrated J&K into India, passed the administration of the state turned union territory directly into the hands of New Delhi enabling it to control political dissent by disproportionately raising the cost for it. This has drastically narrowed the space for a viable mainstream political or civil society opposition to abrogation of autonomy and wiped it out for the separatist politics. The situation is such that whatever is visible to the state, it either tries to shape it in its own image and if it can't, it suppresses it with all the might at its command.

But the militancy being underground escapes government's controlling power. More so, the willingness of the militants to die in pursuit of their cause. True, the government can try and kill its way through the problem, but simultaneous replenishment of the militants' ranks through fresh recruitment and the influx of foreigners has frustrated the government efforts. And as the past three decades testify, it is unlikely that the factors animating the militancy, both sentimental and structural, will change. Only way the militancy can be effectively managed is if government can end the recruitment to its ranks. But this it is unlikely be able to do in the foreseeable future. Hence the offer of jobs. One thing that this government would not do is to embark on a meaningful political engagement to address the issues underlying the long-running conflict in the Valley. A permanent solution only lies therein.

The author is the Political Editor of Kashmir Observer



OBSERVER
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A Two-Faceted Technological Development

5G technology is a new global wireless standard after 1G, 2G, 3G, and 4G networks. 5G enables a new kind of network that is designed to connect virtually everyone and everything together including machines, objects, and devices. This wireless technology is meant to deliver higher multi-gbps data speeds, ultra-low latency, more reliability, massive network capacity, increased availability, and a more uniform user experience to more users. Higher performance and improved efficiency empowers new user experiences and connects new industries.

5G is the new and upgraded wireless communication invention that the global industry has chosen to continue ahead as the future of data trans-

fer and connectivity.

For India, the constantly evolving need for higher speed, along with plans for smart cities, industrial automation, connected devices, etc., make 5G unavoidable. So, it becomes critical for both operators and the Government of India to develop and adopt it in a speedy and efficient manner. To take this forward, India and Japan have finalised a pact which requires cooperation in 5G technology, critical information infrastructure and artificial intelligence, among other things. After a meeting between Foreign Minister S Jaishankar and Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi in Tokyo, it has been announced that Japan agreed to be a key partner in the Indo-Pacific Initiative.

While the country is looking for-

ward to and making plans of adapting to a technology never seen before, an essential state of India lurks in the dark with restricted internet access barely making 2G accessible.

August 5, 2020 marked a year of restricted and mostly, zero internet connectivity for Kashmir. On 5th August, 2019, the Indian Government shut down all communication in the Union Territory, in order to maintain security as a preventive measure against any mobilisation of anti-state elements.

A year later, the ban on high-speed 4G remains in place and compels one to question: have the "preventive measures", had any impact, at all?

As of 16th of August, 2020, 4G internet services were restored only on a trial basis in 2 districts of Jammu

and Kashmir. The Central Government has also defended the communication and internet blockades and has claimed 'the slow 2G network service was enough to aid digital education and provide crucial public services during the coronavirus pandemic', according to PTI. The government also asserted that there have been no restrictions on accessing any websites.

With all this in mind, a central question remains, when different parts of the country are making plans to embrace the new technology of 5G services, is Jammu and Kashmir not virtuous enough to develop its resources with the rest of the country?

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Gandhianism: A melioristic idea of a 'universal gadfly'

"Non-violence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind. It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction devised by the ingenuity of man."

SALIKA RASHID

The above lines were articulated by one of the towering figures of the world whose instrument of transforming the society was based on the notion of love, courage, self-analysis, patience, tolerance, humility, ahims and Satyagraha.

This eminent figure practised the already present principles and philosophies of non-violence and truth by experimenting with them in every facet of life. The man whose moral dictums became the symbol of "resolute will and determination" and the courage of conquering "evil with good" against apartheid in South Africa made people to confer upon him the cognomen, Mahatma. American historian, Will Durant, best known for writing *The Story of Civilization*, rightly remarked that "Not since Buddha has India so revered any man. Not since St. Francis of Assisi has any life known to history been so marked by gentleness, disinterestedness, simplicity of soul and forgiveness of enemies. We have the astonishing phenomenon of a revolution led by a Saint".

Mohan das Karamchand Gandhi, a lawyer by profession, eliminated the darkness of colonialism by becoming the torchbearer of freedom moment and ultimately making people drink the pearl of liberation. Although he was influenced by Russian author Leo Tolstoy, English art critic John Ruskin and American writer Henry David Thoreau but his philosophy had the "freshness and originality". He was deeply inspired by the sacred religious texts which include the Quran, the Bible, Gita and Upanishads. Buddhism and Jainism also left profound impressions on his mind. Tolstoy enunciating on social service, power and Thoreau's self-experiments and civil disobedience gave Gandhi the technique of utilising non-violence for solving major and minor social and political issues. Thus these influencers implanted in him the seed of "simple and service-oriented personality" and he polished them in a remarkable way. Gandhi not only propounded or emphasised the notion of Non-violence and Truth but he walked through these principles; he engrained and absorbed these tenets to the depth of its core.

Non-violence and Truth: The kernel of Gandhi's philosophy

According to Gandhi, Non-violence and Truth are inextricably bound together and it's hard to untangle them; he allots a superior position to the latter one because he contends, it is the end which can be achieved by the means of ahims. He highlighted 'means' and 'end' in order to assert the significance of journey and destiny; both are unalienable to each other. Furthermore, underlining the notion of ahims, Gandhi defined negative and positive element of it where the latter aids in discerning the essence of the former. The word ahimsa is inferred as a non-injury to any living being but Gandhi goes beyond this by defining ahims, a method of avoiding violence in any form whether thought, action or deeds. Gandhi took the notion of non-violence from Jainism but he didn't heed to its rigid perspective rather he opined non-violence in certain circumstances is inevitable. He states "injury to any life can be an act of violence under certain conditions which include anger, pride, hatred and bad intention". Thus, the negative connotation of ahims is non-injury. Gandhi posits,

"In non-violence, one restrains all impulses. There is non-violence in violence as in the case of using violent methods to restrict the activities of a drunkard. As long as we live a mundane life, we cannot escape violence, but it is possible for us to restrict ourselves. Ahimsa is thus the highest type of renunciation".

Gandhi explained non-violence as the soul-force, a weapon of the strong while violence as the sign of weakness. He elucidates that the one who is violent conceals his/her anger under the cloak of violence accordingly exhibiting his inward fear through outward anger/violence. One can contend that Gandhi finds non-violence like a "radium, which works silently and ceaselessly, and transforms the whole mass of the diseased tissue into a healthy one"; similarly an infinitesimal quantity of true ahims can bring out an egalitarian society. Drawing inspiration



from the Gandhi film director and producer Lord Richard Attenborough said, "When asked what attribute he most admired in human nature, Mahatma Gandhi replied, simply and immediately, 'Courage'. 'Nonviolence', he said, 'is not to be used ever as the shield of the coward. It is the weapon of the brave.'" Thus, one can speculate that Gandhian Ahims is based on the foundation of courage, love, self-restraint, and faith in God.

Love which is the strongest force in the world becomes the substratum for Gandhian philosophy of Ahims. Gandhi believes it is the love which cleans the inner self and elicits the feelings like "compassion, tolerance, generosity and sympathy for others". The absence of ill-will that Gandhi defends is not only confined for near ones/relatives but also for the opponents; according to Gandhi "Ahims is the largest love and the greatest charity".

Gandhi associates the concept of God with Ahims. He contends that true faith in God will assist an individual in achieving the tenet of ahims. It is prerequisite to generate the inner strength for attaining the faith, which eventually will act as a catalyst for developing the love for humanity. Gandhi says,

"Non-violence succeeds only when we have a living faith in God. Buddha, Jesus, Mohammed, they were all warriors of peace in their own style. We have to enrich the heritage left by these world teachers. God has His own wonderful way of executing His plans and choosing His instruments. The prophet and Abu Bakr trapped in a cave were saved from their persecutors by a spider which had woven its web across the mouth of that cave. All the world teachers, you should know, began with a zero".

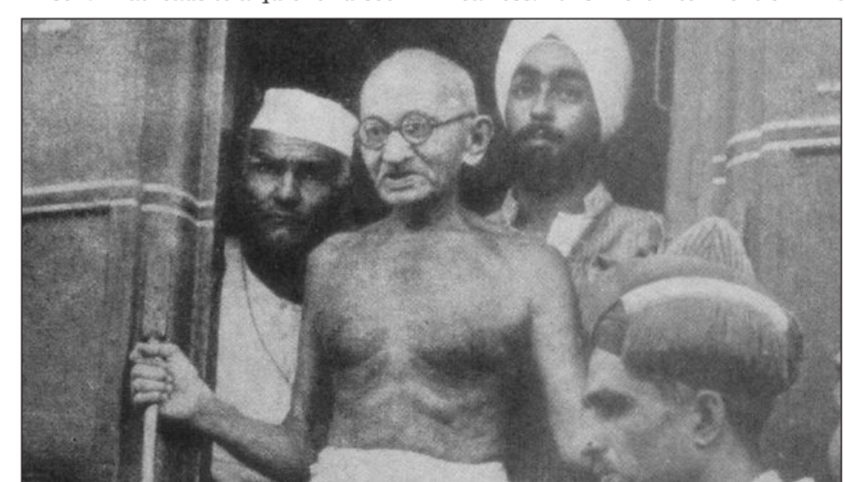
It is essential to comprehend the paradigm of ahims that Gandhi has put forth. The ending of desires and the elimination of evil from the hearts, acquired the highest seat in the Gandhian philosophy of non-violence. The simplicity and profundity of his message of love pellucidly make one realize that being selfless in love without any motive of gaining in return, elevates an individual to the highest state of ahims. As Gandhi rightly asserted, "Love never claims, it ever gives. Love ever suffers, never resents never revenges itself."

Gandhi was a strong votary of truth, he placed truth before non-violence. He claimed, "As a Jain muni once rightly said, I was not so much a votary of ahimsa as I was of truth, and I put the latter in the first place and the former in the second. For, as he put it, I was capable of sacrificing non-violence for the sake of Truth. In fact, it was in the course of my pursuit of Truth that I discovered non-violence".

He calls truth as the "moral virtue" which can be acquired through "fearlessness and nonpossession" because of these two one can stand against the injustice. And this will aid in realizing the truth in "metaphysical sense in which it is identical with God". He states the truth is "a cornerstone of the edifice" that leads to the path of God. He

asserted "Ahimsa is my God, and Truth is my God. When I look for Ahimsa, Truth says 'Find it through me'. When I look for Truth, Ahimsa says, 'Find it out through me'. But he made a distinction between the relative and absolute truth; according to him the glimpses of the former one can be achieved but the absolute truth is hard to achieve.

On this Gandhi opines, "The relative truth must, meanwhile, be my beacon, my shield and buckler. Even the Himalayan blunders have seemed trifling to me because I have kept strictly to this path. I have gone forward according to my light. Often in my progress, I have had my faint glimpse of the Absolute Truth, God and daily the conviction is growing on me that he alone is real and all else is unreal...he who would go in for novel experiments must begin with himself. That leads to a quicker discov-



It is important to question the pertinence of Gandhi in the contemporary time period. Many claim that Gandhian philosophy at present is limited to the classroom and books; they are sceptical if at all it can ameliorate the social, economic and political havoc generated not only in the Indian subcontinent but also in the world.

ery of Truth, and God always protects the honest experimenter".

What is theoretical can be brought to practice when the true emphasis is laid upon values that Gandhi put forth. Therefore, it is imperative to understand the technique of ahimsa in order to achieve the moral virtue of life. He expressed that the truth should be of the speech, action, thought and it could be achieved through constant effort and discipline. It is in the truth, all knowledge is encapsulated and what is outside it is not the truth and hence is not knowledge. He calls Satyagraha as the truth-force against "violence, evil and injustice". It is this force which can create an equilibrium, that is, evil can't be demolished with evil rather what Gandhi propounded, eye for an eye leaves the whole world blind stands true in this context.

In Satyagraha, the method of "conversion" is used instead of "coercion". Gandhi believed that there is no enemy or opponent but just wrongdoers who would come to the right path only by the force of love and "change of the heart" should be the objective for achieving an end. Gandhi while differing to relate passive resistance with Satyagraha, propounded Satyagraha does not involve any element of force not is there any element of injury. Moreover, it has the highest respect for the law- Law of Truth and God. It is based on the notion of appeal rather than force.

In a nutshell, it postulates the annihilation of the disease, not the one who is affected by it. The base of Satyagraha is love, suffering, divine love - God. And the Satyagrahi has to be disciplined, honest, open-minded, determined and fearless. It is worth to mention what

the globe. If this is the current status quo then it is important to not only give prominence to Gandhi's theories and philosophies but to utilize them in order to dust off the menaces prevailing all across the globe.

Gandhi came as a herald to bring the political transformation in a country which was scuffling with so many other challenges. Gandhi believed that attainment of political emancipation from the colonist won't suffice the cause until the social disparity and antagonism are not eradicated from its core. It is the essence of diverse India one finds mélange of culture, religion and ethnicity in camaraderie with each other. But when it is in threat then it is indispensable for us to assimilate Gandhian teaching into practice.

The social disparities in the form of atrocities against the women, minorities- Dalits and Muslims are proliferating day by day. The mushrooming of lynching cases has become the new normal for India. Hyderabad gang rape, Asifa or the recent Hathras gang rape - all such horrendous atrocities - call for Gandhian doctrines. Gandhi rightly said, "The day a woman can walk freely on the roads at night, that day we can say that India has achieved independence." Gandhi emphasised on education - the only way of eradicating perils from society.

Furthermore, one concedes that resentment breeds vengeance and when this takes the shape of political colour then tolerance, sympathy and love which is the sine qua non for unity becomes elusive. In one of the article of Moulana Wahiduddin Khan, Fulfilling Gandhiji's unfulfilled mission states, "In this world, unity is achievable only by learning to unite in spite of differences, rather than insisting on unity without differences. For their total eradication is an impossibility. The secret of attaining peace in life is the tolerance of the disturbance of the peace".

Therefore, Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence is the elixir which can stabilize the society plunged into a disastrous dungeon. Gandhi the progenitor of non-violence enunciated on every issue that threatened India's stability. From being secular to the promotion of peace or importance of ethics Gandhi voiced on every subject. His idealism or utopianism was "completed by realism".

Can Gandhian philosophy rejuvenate Kashmir?

The question that besieges the mind of the people is how would have Gandhi and his philosophy tackled the question of Kashmir. Do we need to give primacy to Gandhian doctrines in order to placate the suffering and pains of the natives? Gandhi- exalted as the "prophet of peace" gave prominence to the will of the Kashmiri people. Ramchander Guha, a historian, states in his article titled as "Gandhi in Kashmir, Gandhians on Kashmir" that Gandhi's visit to Kashmir in 1947, had two aims: to get Sheikh Abdullah released from the prison and to comprehend what Kashmiri people were thinking.

It is crucial for us to understand how Gandhi prioritised on people's opinion, something lacking in the current political context. He never favoured the State's coercive measures or Maharaja's oppression because he was an ardent disciple of non-violence and peace. Gandhi would have surprised and at the same time outraged with the unilateral decision of the central government on Kashmir which excluded the consent of the people altogether. The decision 'for them' didn't include 'them' thus eventually generating the political vacuum in the valley, sabotaging the other sectors with its domino effect. Gandhi accentuated debate, discourse and negotiations as the ways of figuring out the problems. The strife-torn region can't survive until proper deliberations and talks are not held with the consensus of the people of the valley. While emphasising on the peaceful measure and upholding the rights Gandhi remarked, "I shall dance with joy even if everybody in Kashmir has to die in defending his land."

It is the need of an hour in these dark times to get back to the teachings of Gandhi, a pacifist whose ideals and principles gave prominence to the truth in action, speech, and deed.

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The author is a student of Delhi University

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