



P3 CITY

DOCTORS FROM B&J HOSPITAL TREATING 'SHIFTED PATIENTS': DC SRINAGAR

The patients who were shifted to other hospitals due to the fire incident at Bone and Joint hospital Barzulla are being treated by their own doctors at other hospitals in the city,

P5 BRINGING BATMAN BACK

Who needs one Batman when you can have three? Possibly no one, but that's what Hollywood is giving us in 2022. On March 4, Robert Pattinson – the Twilight guy – takes his first trip to Gotham City in Matt Reeves' The Batman. Then on November 4, it's the return of veteran caped crusaders Ben Affleck



P8 SPORTS

AUSTRALIA MOURNS SHANE WARNE

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison on Saturday announced that late spin legend Shane Warne would receive a state funeral, while the cricket board decided to rename a stand at the MCG in his honour



Quote!

Do not wait for the last judgment. It comes every day

-Albert Camus

NEWS DIGEST

CRPF Man Dies Of Cardiac Arrest

SRINAGAR: A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) man died on Saturday after suffering a cardiac arrest at his camp in Maisuma area of this capital city. A 41-year-old CRPF man identified as Dinesh Kumar of 132 battalion fell unconscious inside Dashnami Akhara Maisuma. **More on P6**

IAF Airlifts 102 Stranded Passengers

JAMMU: As many as 102 stranded passengers were airlifted by the Indian Air Force (IAF) between the twin Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on Saturday, an official said. Two AN-32 aircraft of the IAF, also known as the **More on P6**

Two Absconders Held After 25 Years

JAMMU: Two people, wanted in separate cases of rash driving, were arrested on Saturday after a manhunt of 25 years in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district, police said. Rajit Singh and Amarjeet Singh, both residents of Jammu, were arrested. **More on P6**

Driver Dies As Tipper Rolls Into Stream

KUPWARA: A driver of a tipper truck died after the vehicle turned turtle and fell into a rivulet while leaving from Bramri Nallah in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Saturday. Official sources said that soon after receiving the information, police and locals **More on P6**

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'We're Lucky To Be Alive': The Night When B&J Hospital Went Up In Flames

Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: At around 9:30 on the night of March 4, 2022, Ghulam Mohammad Ganaie of Pulwama was attending to his brother, Khizr Ganaie, at Ward No. 15 of Bone and Joint (B&J) Hospital, Bar when he saw an adjacent building in flames.

The fire was spreading so fast that Ganaie, 56, thought that there was no way out, and that the patients along with their attendants and medical staff would be roasted alive.

"We couldn't understand how flames erupted so fast," Ganaie told Kashmir Observer at JVC Bemina, where he is undergoing treatment.



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

"But somehow I decided to evacuate my brother from the hospital."

Following Ganaie's timely

exit from the ward, the watch and ward of the hospital along with the local volunteers began the evacuation process.

Services Likely To Resume In 10 Days: Govt

Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Vivek Bharadwaj said on Saturday that efforts are in full swing to ensure that all services are restored within next ten days at the Bone and Joint Hospital, Barzulla here. Bharadwaj, who rushed in from Jammu immediately **More on P6**

The nocturnal blaze was caught on cameras and was streamed live in the living rooms across Kashmir.

By the next dawn, the fire had damaged a major portion of the building infrastructure. However, there was no casualty reported as all the patients were evacuated and shifted to some other city hospitals, including SKIMS Bemina.

Recalling the night of horror, Ganaie said there was chaos and panic all over the hospital as the fire was spreading amid the blasts of oxygen cylinders. "While everybody was rushing out with their patients, the lifts stopped working," he recalled.

"People were wailing and crying. We thought we would be charred alive." Ganaie's brother **More on P6**

BSF Fires Upon Suspected Pak Drone Along IB

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Border Security Force (BSF) opened fire at a suspected Pakistani drone along the International Border (IB) here on Saturday, officials said as a massive search operation was launched to ensure no weapons or narcotics were dropped by it.

A BSF spokesperson said alert troops of the force fired at the suspected flying object when it entered the general area of Arnia around 4:10 am.

"The humming sound of a suspected drone was heard in the morning at 4:10 am by alert troops of the BSF in the general area of Arnia. The troops fired towards the **More on P6**

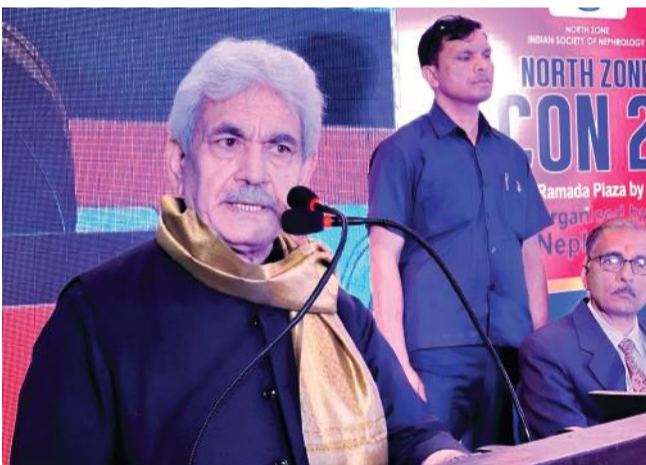
Govt Transformed Healthcare Landscape Of J&K: LG

Calls For Reversing Trend Of Migration Of Youth To Other Countries For Medical Education

Observer News Service

VARANASI: Claiming that the healthcare landscape of Jammu & Kashmir has been transformed, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said Saturday that his administration is strengthening rural public health infrastructure and introducing innovative medical practices to provide quality health care to the doorsteps of the common man.

"Jammu & Kashmir has now moved forward to the category of front runners in NITI Aayog's SDG index; neonatal mortality rate in the UT reached single digit, Universal Health Coverage has been extended across the UT. We have not only checked the alarming decline in health infrastructure and funding in up-gradation, but also steadily increased it in the last couple of years," Sinha said, as per an official spokesperson



6 WITH A LARGE RESERVOIR OF MEDICAL potential that is second to none in competence, India is recuperating and every segment of healthcare has shown remarkable resilience. We are proud of our scientists, experts and doctors who are transforming India into a healthcare giant."

on Saturday. He made these remarks while addressing 27th Annual Conference of Indian

Society of Nephrology. The LG, he said, commended the Indian Society

of Nephrology for offering a common platform to the experts to enable more people-centric, safe and effective treatment, and strengthening the future exploration on recent advances.

According to the spokesperson, the LG said that under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, India is matching the global standards of excellence in frontier areas of healthcare, scripting new milestones in health, science, technology & innovations.

"AatmaNirbhar Bharat is making impressive strides in harnessing intellectual property, reforms in Pharma industry to compete with the best in the world and expanding cooperation with other developing countries. The whole world is looking at India as a self-reliant nation on the move, as a nation poised to become the superpower," he added. **More on P6**

Four Of Anantnag Family Killed In Highway Crash



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Four members of a family were among five people killed on Saturday when their vehicle skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The SUV was on its way to Srinagar from Punjab and the accident took place at Jamoda near Mansar on the Samba-Udhampur road, the officials said.

The driver lost control of the SUV carrying six people,

following which it rolled down into the gorge, the officials said, adding five of the occupants died on the spot while the driver was hospitalised with critical injuries.

Terming the accident as "unfortunate", Deputy Commissioner (Samba) Anuradha Gupta said four of the deceased were family members of sarpanch Mushtaq Ahmad of south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

"Police received information about the accident around **More on P6**

More Rain, Snowfall In Kashmir From Today

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A fresh western disturbance will hit Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday bringing more snow at the upper reaches of the Valley while rains will lash plains, a senior meteorological officer said Saturday.

"A fresh Western Disturbance is likely to affect J&K from tomorrow till March

13. Under this Western disturbance, Kashmir is expected to witness another wet spell between March 6 and 7. A moderate snowfall is expected over higher reaches of North Kashmir including Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora on March 6 and scattered rainfall in most of South Kashmir including Srinagar city," Deputy Director, MeT Department, **More on P6**

How Cakemaker's Digital Diligence Is Driving New-Age Kashmir Enterprise

Auqib Javeed

She had only one window available to market her childhood passion when she came back as a trained baker from Delhi in 2017. And that window was a digital one—now scripting several success stories in Kashmir. Being a tech-savvy helped Arwa Siraj, 27, to grow as the new-age digital self-starter who would constantly update her work and sync it with the trends. "Online promotion of the business like baking is important to get your product out off the shelves," says Arwa. "If cakes aren't sold on time, they end up in dustbin. This is where the social media has proven to be an effective tool." Before becoming the virtual

world's new tastemaker, Arwa would try her hands on different things on and off, and failed many times. It helped her learn and perfect the art. Many moons later, the engineer-turned-baker is now successfully running her own cookery brand called "Auburn by Arwa". Arwa's rise coincides with the custom of customised cakes in the urban landscape of Kashmir—where social media influencers are driving the new pulse and preferences. But while many young bakers are coming out with trendy cakes, Arwa is the first baker to introduce pull-me up cakes, piñata cakes and mini cakes in Kashmir. She has started the concept of "surprise and explosive boxes" besides "acrylic boxes". "It's really doing well," Arwa says.

"What else do you need when your passion becomes your profession?" She has employed people to take online orders for the baked delicacies from her cake house at Nowgam, Srinagar. Arwa's inclination towards



bakery always set her apart in her class. She was barely 8 when she started making cakes and stayed loyal to it despite dejections and disappointments. "I remember designing a cake



on my sister's birthday which she couldn't cut due to the hard crust," Arwa recalls. "I was disappointed but I decided to make it better next time." She would watch recipes of baking cakes from YouTube and blogs and learned the art. "Sometimes it went well and sometimes I failed, but I never gave up," she says. "It was only after I was done with my studies that I thought of taking my passion seriously." By the time she was out of the campus with M.tech degree, she had already found her professional call. But making cake wasn't a cakewalk for Arwa as she had to face countless challenges. "Given the unstable and uncertain nature of our place, it becomes quite a **More on P6**

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Twitter Talks



"Locals from adjoining areas came and literally put their life on line to save the people in Barzulla hospital. Hats off to them"

@rjnaskashmir

"Airbnb's cofounder and CEO Brian Chesky says his company was suspending all operations in Russia and Belarus. Airbnb still allows Israeli settlers to rent out rooms and homes to foreigners in the occupied Palestinian territories"

@azadessa

"Never again let anyone tell you the foreign occupation and bombing of a people is "too complicated" or "too political" to take a stance. #Ukraine"

@hodakatebi

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Jobs In Tradition

In promising the moon on the issue of unemployment, political parties making a serious bid for power conveniently forget to spell out specific measures to be undertaken to generate jobs. This reluctance to commit themselves to anything concrete is understandable as the curse of unemployment has been riding the state's shoulders for decades and successive governments have failed to make any dent except swell the ranks of government servants often by processes shot through with irregularities and questionable means. So, vague, but oft repeated, platitudes about unemployment being "at the top of the agenda" have become the staple for the public to consume.

Even as the numbers of the unemployed multiply, educational institutions continue to churn out more aspirants, most of them armed with qualifications of the highest order, on paper at least. And the bright sparks living a princely life on the taxpayers money precisely to devise ways out of the rut can do nothing except bank on the obscenely bloated public services to take on yet more additions. There appears to have been very little serious thinking on the part of the successive governments

to address an issue dating back decades and bound to take crisis proportions with the passage of time. Policymakers have totally failed to wean people away from the societal mindset of regarding a government job as the only worthwhile means of gainful employment. The result is that even rural communities traditionally involved in agriculture give up the occupation and hanker after sarkari naukris no matter how petty. In a state where agriculture is the basis of the economy, youth are giving it up in droves as they think it below their educated selves to be engaged in peasantry. The other field which a warped notion of being educated has tainted with stigma is the erstwhile lucrative calling of Kashmiri handicrafts. An engineered decline, or rather a willful decimation, of a widely practiced mode of earning a livelihood has not only robbed the state economy of what could have been a strong pillar, but also

robbed people of a source of employment. The entire system of education appears to be geared to glorify becoming doctors and engineers - or become pen-pushing babus if the worst comes to the worst - but commits a patent injustice by undermining the role and importance of agriculture and handicrafts. Education in Kashmir, where societies have sustained themselves on agriculture and crafts, should have been modeled to motivate youth towards these fields as well besides the more "accepted" pursuits. And in turn, agriculture and handicrafts should have been restored to a status of pre-eminence through education, awareness and financial promotion of these sectors.

True, advanced economies have graduated from being basically agricultural to service-oriented entities through the route of industrialization, but agriculture has lost none of its importance, though it is being powered by mechanized farming and highly technological processes, making the sector much less labour intensive.

But such a model cannot be imitated in toto in economies where labour is in surplus. The West is gifted with a low population, but unemployment stalks the western economies as well. Nations and states with burgeoning populations have to evolve development models of their own. The approach, again, has to be holistic rather than segmental - for example, any long-term policy on employment should include population control targets as an essential factor.

This article is an editorial from
KO's Archives and was originally published 10 June, 2010

Inside The Delimitation Pandora's Box

The General Next Elections Will Be Even More Important For The Country And The Issue Of Delimitation May Become A Sensitive Electoral Issue In South Indian States



Haris Rashid

The new parliament building that is currently being built by the Narendra Modi led government has raised eyebrows since it can accommodate a larger number of members (more than 700) than the current parliament building. Considering the timing and the speed at which the construction was taken up, it is a significant development. It comes closer to the year 2026 when the moratorium on the delimitation will end. Delimitation is the exercise of redrawing boundaries of Lok Sabha and State Assembly constituencies to represent changes in the population. Article 81 of the Indian Constitution mandates that the population-to-seat ratio shall be the same for all the states. The last delimitation was carried out by the Third Delimitation Commission in 1972 on the basis of the 1971 census after which there was a temporary freeze. In 1976, the Indira government through the 42nd Amendment, 1976 had put a moratorium on the delimitation of constituencies for elections to Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies till the 2001 census. Later, the Constitution 84th Amendment Act, 2001 extended the freeze on the delimitation till the publication of the first census figures after 2026. This means the next delimitation, if not postponed, will be based on the 2031 census.

The freeze on the delimitation was necessitated by the fact that there was uneven population

growth among states. From 1976 to 1990, there were states that successfully controlled their population growth and would lose political power if the delimitation was carried out. Similarly, states that did not control their population growth would be given more representation and hence more political power in the parliament. If the delimitation

SINCE THERE HAS BEEN A freeze on delimitation since 1976, there is no gainsaying the fact there is a need for delimitation. However, since different states have different populations growth rates, using population for increasing or decreasing the number of seats of a particular state will be discriminatory

is carried out in 2031, it will open a Pandora's box for Indian federalism. Given the pattern of the population growth rate of different states in the country, it is not just about different states getting

more political voice in the parliament, it is about northern and Hindi speaking states of India dominating the parliament. The decadal growth rate (2001-2011) for northern states was - Bihar (25.4), Uttar Pradesh (20.2), Uttarakhand (18.8), Rajasthan (21.3) and NCT of Delhi (21.2). Now consider the decadal growth rate (2001-2011) for South Indian states - Kerala (4.9), Karnataka (15.6), Tamil Nadu (15.6) and the undivided Andhra Pradesh (11.0).

If the delimitation is carried out under these circumstances, South Indian states will be at a disadvantage as they will lose some seats in the parliament relative to northern states while for the northern states, there will be a significant increase. The current distribution of seats in the parliament is already skewed in the favour of northern states - UP has 80 seats and Bihar has 40 seats while Tamil Nadu has 39, Kerala has 20, Andhra Pradesh has 25 and Telangana 17. This also assumes significance as most of the states with significant population growth are BJP ruled or those states where BJP has a greater vote share. These states are set to gain a large number of seats in the delimitation exercise which will thus electorally favour the BJP. The way BJP rushed with the construction of the new parliament building in the midst of a pandemic and based on the recent history of BJP using its brute majority in the parliament to pass contentious legislations, there are speculations that BJP might bring a constitutional amendment to enforce the delimitation as early as 2026. Hence, the general next elections will be even more important for the country and the issue of delimitation may become a sensitive electoral issue in South Indian states.

If the delimitation is held, it will politically punish all those states that adhered to and implemented the family planning programs while rewarding those that failed to do so. It is also set to drive a wedge between the southern and the northern states and therefore will raise questions on Indian federalism. Since there has been a freeze on delimitation since 1976, there is no gainsaying the fact there is a need for delimitation. However, since different states have different populations growth rates, using population for increasing or decreasing the number of seats of a particular state will be discriminatory. Till a uniform rate of population growth is attained, the government, as has been done previously, should only alter the boundaries of parliamentary and state assembly constituencies to equate the number of voters in each constituency without altering the number of seats in each state.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

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Transformational Budget For Transitional Energy Economy In India

Subrahmanyam Pulipaka

India, today is the world's 4th largest Renewable Energy (RE) country and is 5th largest in terms of installed solar capacity. In early February 2022 India's solar installations crossed the 50GW milestone making India only the 5th country to achieve this in the world. The year 2021 has been a landmark year for the Indian renewable energy industry. In August 2021, on the eve of Independence Day, India achieved 100GW of installed RE capacity. Consequently, in December 2021, India became only the fourth country in the world to have 150GW of RE (including large Hydro). 2021 is also the year where India's solar installations crossed 10GW capacity with a 210% jump from 2020 making it the best year in India's solar history, despite COVID related challenges.

Today, India is home to one of the World's largest energy transition programs with targets that are both ambitious as well as pragmatic. Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at COP26 announced that India is expanding its RE target to 500GW by 2030. With only 9 years to go for this ambitious target, the budget 2022 has given the much-needed impetus to place the Indian Renewable Energy (RE) sector at an advantage to achieve these targets.

Budget 2022 is truly transformational in giving boost to India's Energy Transition Goals and the allied socio-economic benefits, especially when it's transitioning to a Market Driven economy. The provisions for Renewable Energy in this budget are based on four key foundational pillars of Indian energy economy which are "Swavalamban (Self-reliance)", "Samruddhi (Prosperity)", "Sashaktikaran (Empowerment)" and "Shakti (Power)".

2021 IS ALSO THE YEAR WHERE India's Solar installations crossed 10GW capacity with a 210% jump from 2020 making it the best year in India's solar history, despite COVID related challenges. Today, India is home to one of the World's largest energy transition programs with targets that are both ambitious as well as pragmatic.

Swavalamban: Honourable Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi, gave the clarion call for self-reliant India (Atmanirbhar Bharat) in 2020. In line with this the Government announced a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for high efficiency solar manufacturing in India. The outlay of this scheme in this budget is increased by Rs.19500 crores, making the scheme's total outlay to around \$3 billion USD. This increment will definitely help accelerate India's manufacturing capabilities to meet the growing demand for Solar Modules and Cells and potentially add at least 45GW of domestic manufacturing in the next 3 years making India a Global Solar Manufacturing hub. Additionally, a Basic Customs Duty (BCD) of 25% and 40% on imported solar cells and modules was also announced while extending the concessional tax regime of 15% until March'24. All these aforementioned provisions will give the much-needed momentum for domestic manufacturing and take India closer to become self-reliant in the solar energy sector, thereby shifting from a decade-long reliance on imports.

Samruddhi: India's solar capacity grew 17 times in 7 years and this has only been possible due to Cohesive and Consistent policy measures of the Indian government. This year's budget has aggressively pushed the development curve of the renewable

energy sector by leaps and bounds. The announcement of issuing Sovereign green bonds for mobilising investments will cement India's already existing reputation as the world's attractive destination for RE investments. The move to allow a fiscal deficit of 4 per cent of GDP of which 0.5 per cent will be tied to power sector reforms, will go a long way into bringing more accountability in India's RE sector, thereby contributing to its accelerated growth. Including energy storage systems with dense charging infrastructure and grid-scale battery systems in the harmonised list of infrastructure will lay the foundation for making energy storage affordable in India.

Sashaktikaran: The provision of decentralized renewable energy and support for livelihood generation for Border villages with sparse population, limited connectivity and infrastructure is a right step in empowering rural population. It is also interesting to note that MNRE has recently released a framework for promotion of Decentralized Renewable Energy Livelihood Applications With an aim to create an enabling ecosystem for spread of Renewable Energy Generation technologies. The inclusion of Hydro and Solar power projects in the budget for the Ken-Betwa Link Project is a strong testament of the Government's resolve on integrating Ag-

riculture and Renewable Energy sectors while contributing significantly to doubling the farmers' income.

Shakti: While Shakti means power, this budget's focus on GatiShakti and NariShakti gave more power to the Renewable Energy sector. While PM GatiShakti is a transformative approach for economic growth and sustainable development in India, the Honourable Finance minister's announcement that this approach will be powered by Clean Energy and Sabka Prayas is encouraging news for the RE sector. RE sector can leverage GatiShakti platform to make India a global RE super power, while creating huge job and entrepreneurial opportunities for all, especially the youth. This year's budget also recognized the importance of Nari Shakti (women power) that heralds optimistic future for women-led development in the RE sector. The revamped government schemes Mission Shakti, Mission Vatsalya, Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 have improved infrastructure and are powered by clean energy providing an enriched environment for child development.

Overall, this year's budget is the right step forward to achieve "Panchamrit" vision that was outlined by Hon'ble Prime Minister during COP 26 which encompasses achieving target of 500 GW RE that will power half of India's Energy requirements by 2030 while reducing carbon emissions by one billion tonnes and reduce carbon intensity by 45% by 2030. Finally, all measures will have to converge to ensure India becomes Net Zero by 2070.

Views expressed are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

Author is the CEO, National Solar Energy Federation of India (NSEFI)

Bringing Batman Back

John Quinn

Who needs one Batman when you can have three? Possibly no one, but that's what Hollywood is giving us in 2022. On March 4, Robert Pattinson – the Twilight guy – takes his first trip to Gotham City in Matt Reeves' *The Batman*. Then on November 4, it's the return of veteran caped crusaders Ben Affleck and Michael Keaton, as they appear set to share the Batman role in the big screen adaptation of fellow justice League member *The Flash*.

That's a lot of Batmans – and that's just the big screen. There are some more hanging around in the comic, animation and video game belfries too. Factor in some of the live-action Batmans of old, like the late Adam West, Val Kilmer and Christian Bale (to name but a few), and maybe even the fun-poking Lego movies while we're at it, and we've got quite the colony on our hands.

What this shows us is that Batman is a versatile fellow, constantly being reimagined. For almost 80 years, the film and television portrayals of DC Comics' Dark Knight have shifted with the times, but that's not always been a good thing.

A history of Batman

In 1943 Lewis Wilson gave us an often forgotten second world war era Batman. Crusading against the "villainous" Japanese on behalf of Uncle Sam, this version of Batman is an openly racist work of propaganda fuelled by the forced internment of Japanese Americans after the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbour.

By the 1960s it was Adam West's turn to don the cowl in Leslie H. Martinson's *Batman: The Movie* and the related ABC television series *Batman*. Once more battling traditional enemies like *The Joker*, *The Riddler*, *The Penguin* and *Catwoman*, the overt racism was mostly toned down in the television version. Instead, the show was packed full of bright colours, slapstick violence, sexualisation of its female characters and a not-so-subtle homoerotic subtext, openly poking fun at itself in a camp parody of the *Dark Knight*.

Around 20 years

AT A TIME WHEN MANY HOLLYWOOD franchises are abandoning the controversial tropes of their past, it seems that *The Batman* is not. From what we can glean from the trailers, Pattinson's *Batman* appears set to remain a spectacle of hypermasculinity, with his body buffed and augmented by heavy armour

later, when Michael Keaton arrived in Tim Burton's *Batman* and *Batman Returns*, it was time to exorcise the camp from the *Batman*. Now loaded with a heavy gothic look and feel, Keaton and Burton's *Batman* returned the franchise to a dark and gloomy tone that paved the way for the much bleaker *Batman* narratives to come. Still with us was the overt sexualisation of female characters, especially in the guise of Michelle Pfeiffer's *Catwoman*.

Particularly noticeable was physical disfigurement as a marker of villainy in Jack Nicholson's *The Joker* and Danny DeVito's *The Penguin*.

But gone was *Batman's* spandex suit and cape, replaced with militaristic body armour and violence to match – although this was nearly derailed by Joel Schumacher's more flamboyant tongue-in-cheek family-friendly interpretations *Batman Forever*, starring Val Kilmer, and its commercial and critical disaster follow-up, *Batman Returns*, with

George Clooney.

At the turn of the 21st century, it was over to Christopher Nolan and his *Dark Knight* Trilogy (*Batman Begins*, *The Dark Knight* and *The Dark Knight Rises*) to reset the franchise once more. Christian Bale's *Batman* was perhaps the first to go "fully" hypermasculine, where Bruce Wayne was almost as tough and chiselled as the batsuit he wore.

The violence too was more realistic and gritty, as were the motives of the villains. While still facially disfigured, they now preferred to engage in domestic acts of terrorism, with Heath Ledger's iconic performance transforming the *Joker* into a mass-murdering psychopath.

This brooding hypermasculinity spilled over into Ben Affleck's contemporary portrayal of *Batman* in Zach Snyder's 2016 box office hit *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* and box office bomb from 2017, *Justice League*. So it was no surprise that the announcement of equally brooding *Twilight* star Robert Pattinson as the next *Batman* set the DC fandom a flutter.

More of the same?

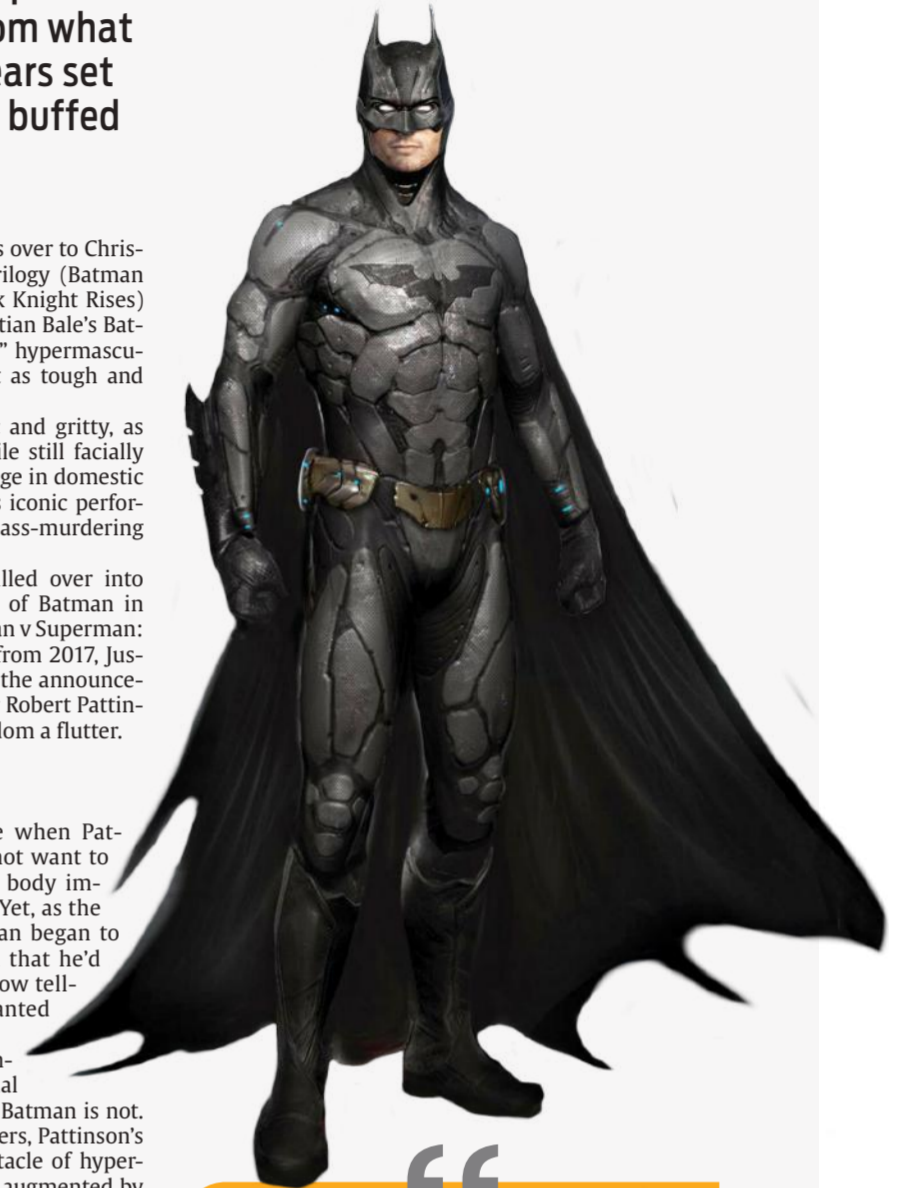
Further fuel was added to the fire when Pattinson revealed in 2020 that he did not want to contribute to problematic masculine body images by working out for his new role. Yet, as the promotional campaign for *The Batman* began to ramp up in 2022, Pattinson declared that he'd been joking about not working out, now telling us that it was crucial if an actor wanted to play *Batman*.

At a time when many Hollywood franchises are abandoning the controversial tropes of their past, it seems that *The Batman* is not. From what we can glean from the trailers, Pattinson's *Batman* appears set to remain a spectacle of hypermasculinity, with his body buffed and augmented by heavy armour.

The adrenaline rush of fast cars and physical violence is front and centre too. As is the sexualised presentation of *Catwoman*, portrayed by Zoe Kravitz, whose body is not armoured like *Batman*, but augmented by her sexuality.

The use of facial disfigurements seems to have been expanded, with scars as markers of trauma etched across the face of Andy Serkis's *Alfred* (*Batman's* butler) and the body of Pattinson's *Batman*, and more substantial deformity marking the villainy of Colin Farrell's *Penguin*. In the end, it seems it's easy to change *Batman*, but a lot harder to leave behind his baggage.

The author is Lecturer in Screen & Performance, School of Business and Creative Industries, University of the West of Scotland. The article is being reproduced by arrangements with *The Conversation*



Matt Reeve's directed "*The Batman*" starring Robert Pattinson was released in India this week. Just as the rest of the world, this wildly popular superhero has fans in Kashmir as well. Here's a review to know which paths has the movie abandoned or traversed again

What Caught The Web

March's Moment With Hangul



Photo credits: Omar Bazaz/Twitter

KO Web Desk

Over the years, some of the most picturesque and visually stunning pictures have been taken in Kashmir especially during winters. However, Photographer Omar Bazaz's "Hangul" picture posted on his socials recently, was a picture that spoke a magical prose of winter hues.

The picture was taken in the upper reaches of Dachigam, shot from 500 meters. Although the picture was shot in January this year, it reached our phone screens only this week.

The grid of three shots has a special mating shot of the Hangul as well. The photographer took to Twitter to explain the pains behind the picture. He captioned the pictures: "Took me a week

of patience and freezing cold to get this shot of the most beautiful creature I ever saw. Have the unusual mating shot of the same which I have been told hasn't been covered before"

Incidentally, a video was posted by Regional Wildlife Warden Naqash on Twitter which showed a 53-strong Hangul herd on the snow-covered slopes of Dachigam park in the Zabarwan mountain range.

On the World Wildlife Day, this week, Altaf Hussain Dentoo, Wildlife Warden Central division told Kashmir Observer that the population of Hangul has marginally increased to 261, as per latest census by the department as compared to 237 recorded in 2019.

Perhaps, Omar's picture was also a celebratory ode to the news of a positive news about Kashmiri Royal Stag, Hangul.

KODAK MOMENT



IN THE INTERIORS OF DAL LAKE, A KASHMIRI woman spins yarn on a traditional wheel. Picture Credits: Urvat II Vuksa

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Man Who Attempted Self-Immolation Against Demolition Drive Dies

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A 27-year-old man, who had suffered severe burn injuries last month as he set himself on fire to stop an anti-encroachment drive by the irrigation and flood control department in Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir, succumbed to injuries at a hospital here on Saturday, officials said. Amir Hamid Shah breathed his last at SKIMS hospital where he was undergoing treatment since February 22. He had set himself on fire as the irrigation and flood control department launched a demolition drive against illegal constructions along the banks of water bodies following many complaints. They said during the demolition

drive along the banks of Sindh stream, Shah suddenly appeared from behind an illegal structure and self-immolated on its roof in protest against the demolition. Though Shah was rescued by locals and police personnel on the spot, he received burn injuries before the flames were doused, the officials said. The owners of the illegal structure had also dug a deep trench to prevent any ingress into the premises which prevented a prompt rescue, they added. The incident went viral on social media, prompting police to appeal to people not to share it. The administration has already ordered an inquiry into the incident.

Pole Reviews Implementation Of Plastic Waste Management Measures



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Saturday reviewed the implementation of Plastic Waste Management measures in Kashmir Division by concerned departments including ULB, SMC, RDD and other departments. The meeting was attended by DCs, Directors of ULB, officers of RDD, Rural Sanitation, SMC, Municipal Committees, P, I&C, police, irrigation and other concerned departments besides representatives of Cement manufacturing industries, Packed Milk Unit holders, and other industrial associations.

At the outset, concerned officers of ULB gave a presentation on the action taken report on identification of eco-guards, conduct of IEC activities, installation of boards with the messages to discourage people of using plastic, land transfer for solid waste in municipalities etc. Div Com impressed on the launching of Safai Abhiyan in every Municipal Towns to free it from Solid Waste dumps besides directed DCs to conduct cleanliness drives on Block Diwas on every Wednes-

day and involved PRIs, officers and locals to collect plastic waste. He also directed SMC, Municipal committees and Municipal councilors to distribute gloves, boots and glasses to eco-guards to protect them from infection and hazardous chemicals. Meanwhile, Div Com directed for identification and transfer of land to ULB for the collection of Solid Waste. He further directed DCs to constitute market checking teams to enforce ban on single use plastic. He emphasised on the promotion of industrial units which create alternatives to plastic products and manufacture biodegradable products. He also enjoined on the Irrigation and Flood control department to start cleaning water bodies and Kuls as the water level at this juncture remains low. He also directed representatives of school education department and colleges to adopt wetlands and involve students to clean these natural assets. He reiterated that Kashmir being a beautiful place and a tourist destination, everyone has to play a crucial role to keep it clean. He said all the concerned departments to hold meeting with representatives of eco-guards and honor eco-guards for their work.

DC Anantnag Orders Fire Audit Of All Healthcare Facilities

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: In the aftermath of fire incident that took place at Bone & Joint Hospital, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr Piyush Singla on Saturday ordered that fire audits be conducted in all healthcare facilities across district Anantnag. Necessary directions have been issued to concerned officials in this regard, an official spokesperson said. He said Singla impressed

upon the officers to ensure that any gaps previously identified during fire audits must be immediately rectified through retro fitting. "Singla reiterated that use of LPG cylinders within premises of healthcare facilities is banned. He said all healthcare facilities have been equipped with central heating systems and the officials should ensure that LPG heating devices are not utilized for heating," the spokesperson added.

Thousands Protest In Kargil Against Barbaric Attack On Pak Mosque



Press Trust Of India

KARGIL: Thousands of people protested here on Saturday against the bombing of a Shia mosque in Pakistan that left 62 worshippers dead and nearly 200 others injured the previous day. A suicide bomber, belonging to the ISIS-Khorasan, blew himself up inside a mosque in Qissa Khwani bazaar in Peshawar, capital of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province on Friday, in one of the deadliest attacks in the restive region, bordering Afghanistan.

Chanting slogans against Pakistan for its failure to protect the minorities in the country, the protesters marched through the Shia dominated main town and later staged a sit-in. Meanwhile, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Kargil also denounced the attack on the unarmed devotees and requested the Indian government and world community to exert pressure on the Pakistani government to bring the culprits to the book. Such barbaric acts are against

the very basic tenets of humanity. LAHDC Kargil joins the world community in denouncing the dastardly attack upon unarmed worshippers, the chairman and chief executive council, Kargil, Feroz Ahmad Khan, said. He said Pakistan has repeatedly failed in safeguarding the lives of its minorities. We request the government of India and the world community to exert pressure on the government of Pakistan to bring to book the culprits behind yesterday's reprehensible attack, Khan said.

Situation In Kashmir Peaceful Compared To Last Years: Lt Gen Pandey

Says Local Militant Recruitment, Stone Pelting, Strike Calls All Time Low

Agencies

GULMARG: General officer Commanding (GoC) of army's Srinagar-based 15 Corps Lieutenant General D P Pandey on Saturday said that Kashmir was more peaceful compared to past few years as important security parameters—local militant recruitment, stone pelting, strike calls are all time low. He, however, said while youth between the age-group of 20 to 25 have understood that "violence leads to nowhere", white collar militants are now trying hard to lure teenagers between the age group of 16 to 19.



Western Army Commander Reviews Operational Preparedness

JAMMU: Western Command General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Lt Gen Nav K Khanduri Saturday reviewed the operational preparedness of the Tiger Division here, a defence spokesman said. General Officer Commanding of Tiger Division Maj General Neeraj Gosain briefed the Army commander about the operational preparedness of the division, the spokesman said. He said the army commander visited the Tiger Division and was received by Chief of Staff, Rising Star Corps, Maj Gen Manoj Tiwari.

bandh calls nowadays," he said. The army officer, however, said that while youth who are in their 20's have understood that violence and militancy leads to destruction only and picking up gun is no solution, white collar

militants are now trying their best to lure teenagers between the age of 16 and 19 years. "It is easy to brainwash very young minds. Controlling local militant recruitment was and is very important for us and we are following a collective approach for which we need societies' support as government and the army are already on job," the GoC said. Replying to another query, GoC Pandey said that the army's calendar of events for this summer is full to ensure that message of peace which Kashmir is witnessing will go all across world. "The summer season is approaching, the army is ready with its calendar having sufficient events in pipeline to ensure the tourism which is backbone of Kashmir economy remains intact. We expect record number of tourist arrivals this year as already one lakh tourists have already visited Gulmarg so far," the GoC said. He said that the events and festivals being organised by army, administration and other sections of society sends a message to people across world that the situation is peaceful in Kashmir. "Considering peaceful atmosphere, people across world should visit valley which will boost economy of Kashmir valley and will generate employment for locals," he said—(KNO)

Highway Reopens After 12-Hour Closure



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Traffic movement on the 270-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway was restored on Saturday after remaining suspended for 12 hours as rolling stones from a hillock in Ramban district damaged a steel tunnel, officials said. The traffic from both sides of the strategic highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, was restored around 2 pm, the officials said. Over 1,000 stranded trucks and some passenger vehicles are being cleared, they said.

The officials said shooting stones from the hillock overlooking the highway extensively damaged the steel tunnel near Panthiyal in the early hours of Saturday, forcing suspension of the traffic. The restoration work was hampered by the falling rocks at regular intervals, they said, adding the agencies concerned removed the damaged girders and finally the traffic was allowed from both sides. The engineers are assessing the damage to the tunnel and the repair work will be started shortly, according to the officials.

DC Ganderbal Inspects Snow Clearance Ops At Zojila Pass

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: To take stock of the snow clearance operations on Srinagar-Leh National Highway, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Kritika Jyotsna on Saturday visited the Sonamarg Zojila road to review the road clearance operation at Zojila pass.

During the visit, BRO officials briefed the DC about the current condition of the road and snow clearance operation at Zojila Pass upto Zero Point on Sonamarg side. Regarding opening of Zojila pass, the Beacon authorities said that snow clearance is almost

cleared up to zero point but due to recent avalanches, it is not feasible to throw the road open and a decision regarding opening of Zojila pass would be taken in last week of this month after reviewing the road condition. While inspecting the snow clearance operation, DC praised Beacon authorities involved in the road clearance operations for their tireless efforts for clearing snow up to Zero Point despite the recent heavy snowfall and hostile weather conditions. The DC asked the Beacon authorities to expedite the clearance of avalanches on the Zojila stretch so that the road is made motorable at an earliest.

DC Budgam For Enforcement Of Ban On Single Use Plastic Products

BUDGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza on Saturday chaired a meeting on Solid Waste Management at his office chamber, here. At the outset, the DC called for rigorous enforcement of a ban on single use plastic across the district. He instructed concerned authorities to take stringent action including registering FIRs against the repeated offenders. He impressed upon maintaining proper sanitation across all Municipal areas and ensuring daily lifting of garbage, segregation of waste material and its proper disposal. Stressing on cleanliness of all water bodies, streams and channels, the DC emphasized on carrying inten-

sive awareness through panchayats, sanitation and cleanliness and overall solid waste management to be maintained in all surroundings. He instructed E.Os to ensure effective functioning of eco-guards with proper protective gear, boats and other required material be provided to them in all municipalities. The DC instructed concerned to install eco-friendly sign boards, use of dustbins in all towns. He also asked the CEO to carry out IEC activities on sanitation in all schools for the cleanliness of all surroundings among the children. The meeting among others was attended by GM, DIC; CEOs of DDA, YDA, TDA; ACR, CEO, DP-CBO, ACL, AD Planning, all E.Os of Municipal Committees, AEE Irrigation and other concerned.

3 Yrs After 'Abduction', Poonch Woman Rescued

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Three years after she allegedly went missing from Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch, a young woman was "rescued" and her alleged abductor arrested from Dehradun in Uttarakhand, police said on Saturday. In 2019, a complaint had been

lodged at the Mandi police station alleging that a 15-year-old girl was abducted by a local youth. The woman, now 18, and her alleged abductor, who is now aged 23, were brought back to Poonch and further investigation is underway, the police said without revealing their identity.

J&K Takes Giant Leap In Ease Of Doing Business

Integrates Single Clearance Window Portal With NSWS

Observer News Service

JAMMU: After a dismal performance for over seven decades in the industrialization sector, Jammu and Kashmir has entered into a new age of developmental trajectory with the integration of 'Single Clearance Window Portal' with the National Single Window System (NSWS), an official spokesperson said Saturday. He said that the step has been dubbed 'as a giant leap in Ease of Doing Business (EoDB)' where the UT has been integrated to fa-

cilitate investment in the region. "The launch of single clearance window portal shows the commitment of the government led by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha to strengthening the industrial ecosystem in a manner that percolates the benefits to all sections of the society in Jammu-Kashmir," he added. As per the spokesperson, J&K was the first among the Union Territory to be integrated with NSWS, a 2020 budgetary announcement of the Government of India, is a digital platform for the investors to get approvals for their projects in online mode. "While 130 industrial services have been made online on a single-window system, over 160

more services would be integrated this year," he said. He said that the platform was soft-launched in September 2021 by the Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Textiles and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Piyush Goyal. Through this window portal, the spokesperson said that J&K is being linked into a big network of partnerships that include both domestic and foreign companies thus making room for the region to be more competitive. "With the launch of the new Industrial Development Scheme, government policies have evolved to make Jammu and Kashmir more competitive and more lucrative for industries and

service enterprises," he said. "The reforms being introduced in the UT are bringing in more investments and in the year 2021 alone, J&K has received Rs 70,000 crore of investments as the key driving factors for these investments is the industrial development schemes," he added. The spokesperson further said that to attract robust investments, the Department of Industries and Commerce is the nodal agency in implementing the industrial reforms in the Union Territory. The department, he said, will supervise the compliance of Business Reforms Action Plan, 2022 and Regulatory Compliance Burden, 2022. "Back in January 2021, the Jam-

mu and Kashmir administration announced a new industrial developmental scheme (IDS) with a total outlay of Rs 28,400 crore to encourage new investment and to take industrial development to the block level," he added. According to the spokesperson, the NSWS is linked with India Industrial Land Bank (IILB), which hosts 45 industrial parks of J&K, and this will help investors discover available land parcels in J&K. "In simple terms, the NSWS will eliminate the need for investors to visit multiple platforms/offices to gather information and obtain clearances from different stakeholders," he said. He further said that as many

as 20 ministries/departments have been integrated on NSWS, including Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, amongst others. Currently, 142 central approvals can be applied through the NSWS portal. As per the official spokesperson, the 'Know Your Approval' (KYA) module on NSWS guides investors to identify approvals required for their business based on a dynamic intuitive questionnaire. "Currently, the module hosts more than 3,000 approvals across Centre & States. As on

date, the portal has 16,800 visitors, of which 7,500 KYA queries have been serviced. More than 1,250 investors are registered on the portal," he said. "It is important to note that J&K is the first UT to be integrated with the National Single Window System. It is ensuring 'Ease of Doing Business' & 'Ease of Living' through minimum regulatory compliance burden," he added. The spokesperson said that the UT administration is linking Jammu and Kashmir into a web of partnerships with domestic and foreign companies and ensuring global best practices in our regulatory institutions and system.

