

URBAN MISERIES

CITY'S TRAFFIC PROBLEM

PEOPLE SPEAK

The volume of vehicles on roads has increased manifold in the last few decades but roads remain the same. Stray animals on roads also adds to the traffic mess in the city. Government should step in and widen city roads so that city dwellers get rid of traffic mess in the city.

Tajamul Anwar
Businessman

Authorities have installed traffic lights at many places in Srinagar but traffic signals are yet to be made operational. Government should prioritize operationalizing traffic lights. I think it will play an important role in reducing traffic jams.

Syed Mehran
Student B.Ed.

The road infrastructure in Srinagar is not up to the mark. People use their personal vehicles for covering small distances. There is a problem with traffic management as well. Proper traffic management and upgrading road infrastructure are keys to manage the ever increasing vehicles on city roads.

Naveed Wani
Journalist

People should travel more by public transport than private vehicles. This will lessen the number of vehicles on roads and help in reducing traffic jams. The administration can try old even mechanism which helps in reducing traffic jams.

Nighat Afzal
Student



DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

- Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
- Mughal Road - (Open)
- Srinagar- Leh - (Closed)

PRAYERS

HIJRI CALENDAR
09 Shaban
1443

FAJR	5: 22
ZUHR	12:41
ASR	4:55
Magrib	6:39
ISHA	8: 00

Tulip Garden Likely To Be Thrown Open After March 20



Agencies

Srinagar: The Asia's largest tulip garden would likely be thrown open after March 20 while the authorities informed that no date has been decided so far with regard to reopening the picturesque garden as deliberations are on.

Officials revealed that Commissioner Secretary, Parks Gardens and Floriculture, Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad held a meeting today in which the Director Floriculture Farooq Ahmad Rather and other officers were present.

The officers visited the park today to take necessary steps, they said, adding that the officers have decided to announce the

dates for opening the Tulip garden in coming days. They said the tulips are not in bloom at present and it would take some more time to see tulips bloom in the garden.

However, the officials also said that the reopening of Tulip garden depends upon the weather conditions, but it is likely that the garden will be thrown open for the visitors after March 20.

The other arrangements like tulip festival and others will be made once the date for reopening of the garden is decided.

Meanwhile, Director Floriculture Farooq Ahmad Rather said that the exact date for opening the garden has not been decided yet. (KNO)

Div Com Inspects Restoration Of Water Bodies In City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Saturday undertook a tour of water bodies in Srinagar. He visited many sites including Gilsar, Khushalsar, NigeenLakes and inspected the restoration works being done. He also visited Vicharnag Temple to oversee the restoration and conservation measures being taken by different departments.

He was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad AijazAsad, Commissioner SMC, Athar Amir, VC LC&MA, Dr Bashir Ahmad and other officials.

Div Com inspected the ongoing restoration works and directed the I&FC and SMC to take measures for beautification of the surroundings along the Gilsar, Khushalsar Lakes to enhance the scenic beauty.

He said one of the purposes of the restoration measures of these water bodies is not only enhance the picturesque beauty and environment of the areas but also generate ample opportunities of employment for local youth.

Later, the Div Com also visited Vicharnag Temple and inspected the cleanliness and restoration measures.

The Div Com directed the officers of all the line departments to speed up the pace of restoration and rejuvenation works under-



taken to restore historical water bodies in Srinagar to achieve visible impact on ground.

During the visit, the Div Com interacted with the local people and said that Community participation is must for restoring the pristine glory of these water bodies.

He said local communities are actual guardians and have a

critical role in identification of encroachments and conservation of these historical water bodies.

Div Com also appealed to people living adjacent to water bodies not to pollute these water resources with liquid and solid waste. He advised them to safeguard water bodies is their responsibility.

District Admin Conducts Inspection Of Chemist Shops

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The officials of the Drug Control department headed by Assistant Drug Control Srinagar inspected over two dozen chemists/drug sale establishments in various areas of the district. They conducted inspections on the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad AijazAsad



The inspecting teams visited JVC Bemina, Batmaloo, Lal Chowk, Natipora, Karanagar and other areas and checked sale, purchase records of addictive drugs and other parameters preserved in drugs and cosmetics.

During the inspection, the sale operation of 10 drug sale establishments were suspended for not maintaining proper sale and

purchase records.

Meanwhile, the DC has asked all Chemists operating in Srinagar to adhere to the laid down norms strictly. He has also urged the general public to lodge complaints in case they face any grievances in purchase of Medicines or their Golden cards entitlement is not entertained.

Further all the license holders of Srinagar have been asked to maintain sale, purchase records of addictive drugs properly and dispense drugs only on valid prescription from registered practitioner otherwise strict action warranted under law shall be taken against the violators.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to make certain corrections in the passport of my Son issued under number T0876201 on 5-4-2019 from Passport Office Srinagar. In Place of Mohammad, the correct spelling is Muhammad as per School records while as parentage name is also to be corrected as Shoib in place of Shoab and mothers name as Fajar Firdous Malik in place of Fajar Firdous as per records. If any one has any objection in this regard may submit the same to the Passport office Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

Mohammad Shoib Malik
Father of Muhammad Abban Malik
R/o Kahwaja Pora
Newshehra, Srinagar

SS

Press Release



Nehru YUVA Kendra Anantnag under ministry youth affairs and sports Govt. of India in calibration with Friends Youth club organized District Level Neighborhood Youth Parliament w.e.f 11-03-2022 at HSS Devalgam. In which different youth clubs and Mahal Mendals present the programme among the peoples near about 401 youth leader and local villagers from nearby area attended the programme. The resource persons from different Govt. Departments deliver their speech about the programme. The peoples of this area appreciated the NYKS from organized such type of programmers

rna

City To Get Upgraded Infrastructure Under SCM

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The government of Jammu and Kashmir, in order to make cities of the UT hub of modern infrastructural edifice and to enhance quality of life, has initially took up Jammu and Srinagar cities for development into smart cities under Smart City Mission. For Srinagar city, Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), a Special Purpose Vehicle, has been created under Smart City Mission which

envisioning transforming Srinagar into an eco-friendly, resilient and socio-economically vibrant city that celebrates its natural and cultural heritage creating harmony and opportunities for all.

Under Srinagar Smart project, City aspires to leverage its natural and cultural heritage and tourism through innovative and inclusive solutions and enhance the quality of life for its citizens.

Many projects including EV charging stations, smart

street lighting, multi-level parking, sports infrastructure, water transport system in Jhelum River, installation of ornamental LED lighting around Dal-lake, pedestrian walkways and footpath, riverbank development have been started under smart city mission in Srinagar.

The Administration says the goal behind launching Smart City Mission is to create a city for its people which possess their chosen pursuits.

From KO Archives

Musharraf Accepts Cricket Invitation

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf has accepted an offer to travel to India to watch the cricket series between the two countries.

A Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokesman said Gen Musharraf had yet to decide which matches he would be attending.

It will be his first trip to India since a tense summit meeting between the two countries in Agra in 2001.

"We are looking at the schedule of the president," foreign office spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani told foreign news agency.

"It depends on the convenience of the president," he added.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told parliament he hoped the president and his family would enjoy their visit.

(Kashmir Observer, 13 March, 2005)

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Twitter Talks



"J&K is losing its irrigated fertile land. Even the rivers are being leased out, big contractors are excavating sand, stones and other material by mutilating the streams and rivers. We will face food crises after a decade"

@rtimuzaffar

"Russia bombing a hospital is a war crime, but when the US does it it's a 'mistake'. Iraq was a 'foreign policy gaffe'. Afghanistan was a 'blunder'. The US/UK/NATO are always innocent, and given the benefit of the doubt, and the Russians, Chinese, Syrians etc are always evil"

@richimedhurst

"Please be EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS of using false eye lashes, cosmetic contact lenses & eye lash extensions.. Saw a 24 yr old young girl recently married who has developed perforating corneal ulcer post improper usage of false eyelashes. She has lost her eyesight!"

@shaziashafi5

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Roots Of Pay Crisis

State employees have raised the stakes in their attrition with the government to a perilous level in threatening an indefinite lock-out should their demands on the implementation of the 6th Pay Commission report and other issues not be conceded. Even as we go to press, government functioning in the state has been paralyzed by a two-day strike, with a secretariat gherao planned for Wednesday. Employee unions are in no mood to give the government more time, dismayed as they are by the recent cabinet meeting sidelining the issue totally.

Commentators have, perhaps with good reason, described the unfolding scenario as a grave crisis in the making, and indeed, the situation does show the signs of a showdown. The recently inducted National Conference-led coalition in Jammu and Kashmir would have been wishing for this particular hornet's nest not to be stirred, but couldn't have been unaware of the restive ranks of the employees who have been pursuing this issue aggressively for some time. The pay panel's recommendations have come as an additional boost to the agitation-prone employee unions who say that many of their genuine grievances have been left unaddressed for too long. What they decide on Wednesday during the secretariat gherao will determine what the Omar Abdullah government will have to face.

In any case, the state dispensation is confronted with its first major challenge where its avowedly good intentions clash with the reality of a serious resource crunch.

The state finance minister, Abdul Rahim Rathar, has already outlined the huge financial implications of implementing the 6th Pay Commission report, and tacitly admitted the state's limitations by stressing that the issue would have to be taken up with the center.

Remarkably, the demands about the Commission's recommendations took center stage when the agitation over the Shrine Board land transfer had taken on a much broader dimension. The governor, then ruling the state, himself gave audience to employees' delegations, notably to a hastily cobbled group of KAS officers who had actively begun to champion the cause.

These senior officers could not have been unaware of the shaky state of government finances and the protracted top-level wrangling it would take to make the center cough up the thousands of crores of rupees needed to meet the liability. The employees have been on the agitation path on a number of diverse issues, but the pay commission report has given their stir a cutting edge, turning the government-employee tussle into an affair of keen public interest. Bent on giving the government no further quarter by threatening an indefinite strike, attention is bound to be focused on developments concerning an estimated four-an-a-half lakh individuals. If carried out, the threat has wider ramifications, involve as it does the society in general which is heavily dependent on government functioning.

If the National Conference-led coalition government finds itself painted into a corner because of an indefinite pen-down strike by employees, the party has partly to answer to itself with respect to the weak state economy. The National Conference has been in power for long decades, and its sins of omission and commission have a direct bearing on the present state of affairs. It cannot absolve itself of responsibility of having given the state no direction in the economic and social spheres to meet the demands of coming years. The state cannot even generate finances to meet its own salary bills, and has been kept dependent on outside injections in more ways than one. Right from the everyday necessities of life, including the food front where Jammu and Kashmir should have been self-sufficient, the state has to rely on imports, and can be brought to its knees in a matter of days as evidenced in the economic blockade by communal fanatics in the Jammu region.

The connection between salary issues and the self-sufficiency of the state is not far-fetched, as Kashmir's vulnerability comes to the fore every time the Srinagar-Jammu highway gets blocked for a matter of days. It bears repeating that the National Conference, which has been in power at what could have been a defining stage in Kashmir's development, has failed abysmally in providing the leadership and vision required to put a people on the path of sustainable progress. What has been cultivated instead is a pervasive cult of consumerism and ostentation under which even the last remnants of producers, the peasantry and the farming community, are selling off their land to finance bribes for government jobs for their younger generation. The National Conference had lost no time in granting land to the tiller, but failed to give a sound agrarian philosophy that would have sustained the state as agriculture does states like the Punjab.

The credit for the state's perennial begging bowl image, even for employees' salaries, goes fair and square to the National Conference which has been content with flowing with the drift, and seldom lifted up a hand to address the state's decline.

The article is an editorial from KO Archives and was originally published on Jun 10, 2010

Peanuts Per Lecture

Ugly Tale Of Being A Private School Teacher In Kashmir



Gowher Ahmad Bhat

Too often, as the government fails to accommodate all into the government sector, educated youth through the private sector. In Jammu and Kashmir, one of the largest private sector employers are the private schools. Thousands of teachers are working in these schools. Every school tries to hire those among the best qualified youth to make the teaching learning process in their institutions a success. They look for teachers who will cater and mutate according to the modern trends in the education sector and address the challenges of the ever growing competition. They look for those teachers who will satiate the knowledge thirst of the modern day students.

However, their quest is too often unethical. Job advertisements in Private schools are a symbolic fest that often tell the story in a glance. The "Qualifications" and "Experience" column against each teaching opening is written in bold letters, whereas, the "Salary" column is left ambiguous with an apparently generous "Pay is Negotiable". Honestly, the Ad reads like a PR of the school, hiring only the best. However, for the wise, it is a manifesto of exploitation.

All of us know the untold story of this "negotiable pay". The teachers have to undergo rounds of interviews and have to take oaths to follow terms and conditions of the institution to the T. However, god forbid, if the aspirant wants to discuss the specifics of the salary arrangement! They are told that they shall be put on probation for a month or more for a meager salary, until they prove their worth. A "suitable" salary is promised afterwards.

What is the suitable pay for a teacher who is to join a private school? A skilled labour earns at least Rs 25000-30000 per month and a non skilled labour earns a monthly sum of Rs 15000-20000. Skilled labours who have their own machinery and equipment earn more than the already stated figures. It is a known fact that the salary in most of the private schools does not even touch Rs 15000. There are many private schools where the salary of teachers is below Rs

Hamid Dabashi

These days, the speed with which globalised calamities hit the news cycle is vertiginous. We were just learning how to cope with the calamities of Donald Trump's presidency when the COVID-19 pandemic hit the ground running. The pandemic was still causing havoc around the globe when environmental calamities peaked to frightful dimensions. We had just watched Adam McKay's apocalyptic black comedy Don't Look Up (2021) to have a full satirical grasp on our pending climate predicament, when suddenly the headlines became thicker and scarier, warning us that Vladimir Putin was about to invade Ukraine.

Believe it or not, just around that time, I was invited to Moscow for the launch of a new Russian translation of Edward Said's Orientalism. In the end, I opted to join the gathering via zoom because of the COVID-19 travel restrictions my university had introduced and other obligations that required me to remain in New York. Had I travelled to Moscow, I would likely still be stranded there due to President Joe Biden's decision to close US skies to Russian aircraft in response to the all-out invasion Putin launched on February 24.

Two weeks on, the Russian army is still in Ukraine, fighting its way towards Kyiv. But to what end? What is this war going to achieve amid a looming climate crisis, a still raging pandemic and massive waves of displacement, famine, death and destruction already devastating the world, from Afghanistan and Yemen to Ethiopia and Myanmar? This reigniting of the nineteenth-century Russian imperial anxieties two decades into the environmental calamities of the twenty-first century really does not make any sense.

'A plague on both your houses'
So how can we keep our heads above the smoke and breathe an air of sanity? Personally, I always reach for the same

JOB advertisements in Private schools are a symbolic fest that often tell the story in a glance. The "Qualifications" and "Experience" column against each teaching opening is written in bold letters, whereas, the "Salary" column is left ambiguous with an apparently generous "Pay is Negotiable". Honestly, the Ad reads like a PR of the school, hiring only the best. However, for the wise, it is a manifesto of exploitation

5000. Many reputed schools are paying a salary to their teachers that puts a question mark on their name and fame. Despite having huge earnings and emptying the pockets of parents they

pay only peanuts to the teachers. These helpless teachers neither have the provision of yearly increments nor are they provided any considerable hike on account of good performance. It is a sisyphian loop of hard work for empty appreciation. If anyone objects, they're deemed disposable and dismissed at the first instance of protest.

Behind every educated and qualified youth there is the blood, sweat and tears of their family. In lower middle class and middle class families, education is considered an investment. It is expected that a saviour is nurtured through quality education, who would grow on to shoulder the burden of the family at the time of need. This is especially true if the family is poor.

However, with all the education, when some end up working in private schools as teachers, they cannot even afford medicines for their ailing parents. Contributing for groceries or spending on personal expenses is a luxury they can't afford. Imagine the plight of turning up all brushed up with knowledge, in well creased clothes. Can they even afford these in the first place? Can they even afford the technology that they're required to be familiar with and teach? These are all dusted under the carpet as "asking-for-too-much" demands. A private school teacher can't even take the liberties to buy resources for the teaching-learning process. Apparently, their "passion" and "dedication" should pay the school supplies shop.

As though things weren't already worse, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the condition of Private school teachers got worse. Many private school teachers were not paid their salaries for months without any consideration. They were pushed to starvation. The hardships faced by a private school teacher were evident from a video that went viral on social media. The teacher in the video was walking by foot when a cab driver offered him a lift. It is then that he narrated his ordeal to the cab driver and stated that he had visited the school where he works for the very purpose of getting salary but to no avail. His condition was such that he had hoped to pay for a ride back to his home through the salary that never came. This is not the ordeal of only one helpless and poor private school teacher but a tale of almost all private school teachers.

The paying of low salary to the teachers puts a question mark on the very functioning of private schools. It rips apart the minimum wages guarantee act (MWGA). It is an exploitation of the asset of educated youth who are the life of successful nations. It is an insult to our education system. It is a joke on the literacy mission and its advocates. It falsifies the very purpose of imparting a sincere education.

The School Education Department and the Labour Department should come to the rescue of private school teachers and frame rules and regulations that will govern the basis of hiring of teachers by the private school owners. A salary fixation committee for private school teachers should be constituted and a respectable salary to be paid to private school teachers should be fixed. There should be a provision for a suitable and respectable yearly increment for the PST. A grievance redressal cell should also be put into place to look into the complaints logged by the private school teachers.

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

The author is a Teacher and a Core Member of JKGLTF

Whom To Believe On Ukraine Biden, Putin, Or Nikolai Gogol?

security blanket – enduring works of art, masterpieces of world literature and music restore white supremacy in the US. The key to remaining sane today is being

OVER THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF the Ukraine-Russia war, the propaganda warfare between the United States and Russia has reached a feverish pitch. The habitual liberal Russophobia in the US has been exacerbated by the Trumpian right's growing admiration for Putin

– whenever I feel as if the world is spiralling uncontrollably towards Armageddon.

Indeed, if I have to go under, I would rather do so while listening to Shostakovich and Bach, reading Gogol and Hafez, and looking at El Greco and Behzad, with my worn-out copies of YV Mudimbe's Invention of Africa and Gadamer's Truth and Method by my bedside.

Today, turning to art is perhaps the only way to sustain inner sanity in an insane world. Over the first two weeks of the Ukraine-Russia war, the propaganda warfare between the United States and Russia has reached a feverish pitch. The habitual liberal Russophobia in the US has been exacerbated by the Trumpian right's growing admiration for Putin. As Tucker Carlson of Fox News reached new lows in his efforts to defend Putin and his invasion, and the usual suspects at The New York Times started banging the drums of war, we had to seek cover from both liberal Russophobia and conservative declarations of love for a strongman they think can help them

able to condemn Russia's bold and vulgar act of military aggression against Ukraine without being sucked into the Anglo-American world's pathological love-hate relationship with Putin.

It is, of course, not easy to ignore "the West's" obsession with Putin and exaggeration of his villainy.

When people ranging from seasoned American idiot Thomas Friedman to Israeli best-selling author Yuval Noah Harari come together to argue Putin's adventurism in Ukraine is unlike anything we have seen before and is a turning point in human history, it is hard not to bury your head in your pillow and wonder where have these people been over the last two decades of US military thuggery around the globe.

Putin after all is not doing in Ukraine anything the US has not already done in Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia and so many other places around the globe – he is simply doing what he is doing not in Asia, Africa or Latin America, but in Europe. Same military thuggery, different bucket.

"Plague on both your houses," as the Bard famously put it. Why should innocent people in Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, or Yemen pay for imperial arrogance under any flag?

'We all come out from Gogol's Overcoat'
Back to my survival toolkit. In my teenage years, I feasted on Russian and American literature – and never had any taste for European literature bar a few exceptions. Among the towering luminaries of my youthful fascination with Russian literature was and remains the glorious novelist Nikolai Gogol (1809-52). My fascination with him started when I read the Persian translation of his Dead Souls. I became so fascinated with him that I even translated into Persian one of his masterpieces, The Diary of a Madman (which I never dared to publish because I don't know Russian and felt inadequate doing the translation only from its English translation – in a country where we were blessed with Iranian translators of Russian sources with native fluency over both languages).

For the longest time I had no clue that Gogol was in fact Ukrainian by birth, but Russian by literary culture. And I only remembered this factoid when I found myself listening to Biden and Putin both trying to convince their respective audiences into accepting as fact their own brand of gibberish about the war in Ukraine.

As I watched the two presidents battle for the world's attention, I couldn't help but think an entirely different map of the region would emerge if we were to pay attention not to warmongering politicians but to literary history that reveals the inanity of invasion of one country by another.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Al Jazeera.

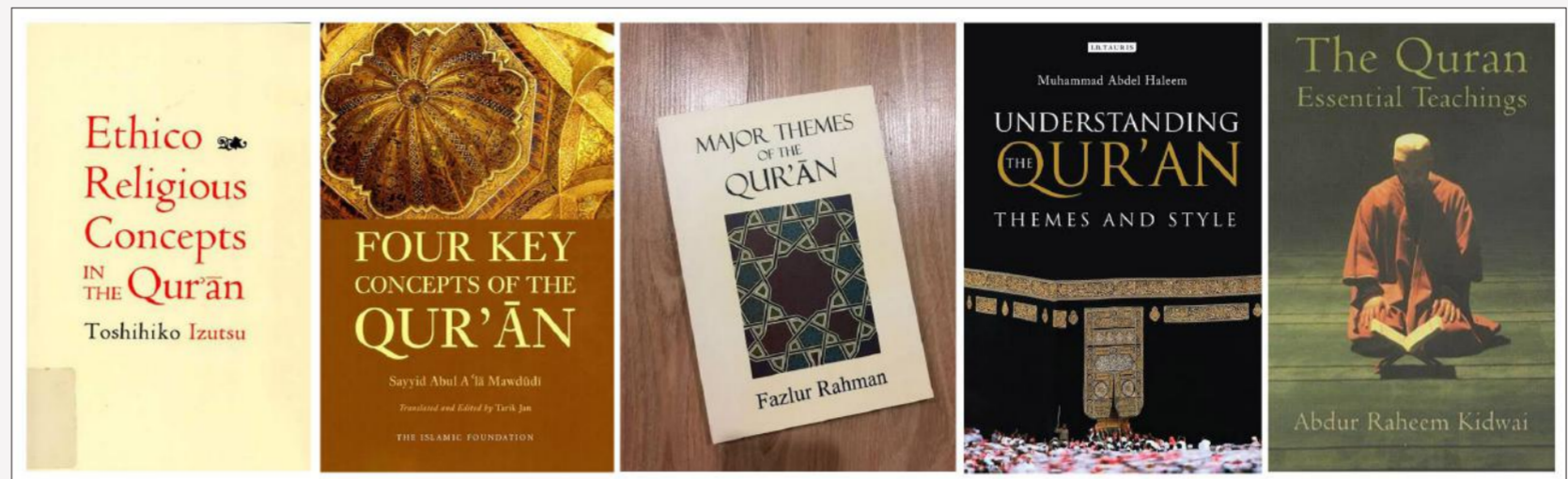
Hamid Dabashi is the Hagop Kevoorkian Professor of Iranian Studies and Comparative Literature at Columbia University

Thematic Studies On The Qur'an: 10 Significant Books



Dr Tauseef Ahmad Parray

Thematic Study of Qur'an' is a significant and recurring theme in the literature on Qur'an and things Qur'anic



THE WRITINGS ON THE QUR'AN—and more significantly in the area of Qur'anic Studies—is an interesting and exciting academic discipline, spread over a number of branches, to which Muslims (from classical to contemporary era) and non-Muslims (or Western scholars) have contributed extensively. Besides the tafsir literature, 'Ulum al-Qur'an and translations of the Qur'an in various European and Oriental languages (especially Arabic, Urdu, English, etc.), and other inter-related aspects, there have emerged, from the last few decades, many new trends in this field. These new trends range from Qur'anic hermeneutics, contextualist approach to Qur'an/ Qur'anic Text, thematic interpretations of Qur'an, Qur'an for daily recitation, to simple introductions to the Qur'an, and personal wrestling(s) with the Sacred Text. Among these genres, a significant category—more persuasive and dominant than others—is the 'thematic' study and interpretation of the Qur'an.

Some of the important works on the 'thematic' study of Qur'an with a focus ranging from key terms or concepts, major themes, to some of the essential/ basic teachings, and major issues and contemporary topics, include: Toshihiko Izutsu, God and Man in the Koran (1964) and Ethico-Religious Concepts in the Qur'an (1966/ 2004); B. A. Dar, Qur'anic Ethics (1960); Qamaruddin Khan, Political Concepts in the Qur'an (1973); Abu al-'Ala Mawdudi, Four Basic Qur'anic Terms: Ilah, Rabb, 'Ibadah, Deen (1977); Fazlur Rahman, Major Themes of the Qur'an (1980); T. B. (Taleem 'Ali) Irving et. al., The Qur'an: Basic Teachings (1992); Muhammad Abdel Haleem, Understanding the Qur'an: Themes and Style (1999/ 2001); Abdur Raheem Kidwai, The Qur'an: Essential Teachings (2005); Farid Esack, The Qur'an: A User's Guide (2005 & 2007); Massimo Campanini, The Qur'an: The Basics (2007/ 2016); Ziauddin Sardar, Reading the Qur'an (2011/ 2015); Abdel Haleem, Exploring the Qur'an: Con-

text and Impact (2016); Tauseef Ahmad Parray, Towards Understanding the Qur'anic Terms, Concepts, and Themes (2017)/ Exploring the Qur'an: Concepts and Themes (2019), etc.

A passing look at the titles of these works on the 'thematic' study of the Qur'an, gives an impression that they (collectively) highlight major themes or basic terms, some essential teachings or main/ key concepts, ethico-religious concepts, or themes,

and things Qur'anic. Thus, in this context, below is presented an assessment of some important works in this genre of last and present century.

1. **Toshihiko Izutsu**, a Japanese scholar, dealt primarily with religious ethics and attitude and on the general Qur'anic worldview, in his two books, God and Man in the Koran (1964), and Ethico-Religious Concepts in the Qur'an (1966/

3. **Fazlur Rahman's Major Themes of the Qur'an** (1980) explores the theological, moral and social teachings and principles of Islam, by engaging in a systematic study of the Sacred Text according to specific themes, instead of individual verses. Following a 'synthetic exposition' and thematic approach, Rahman provides 'an introduction to major themes of the Qur'an' which gives the reader 'a genuine taste of the Qur'an'.

4. **Abdel Haleem's Understanding the Qur'an: Themes and Styles** (2001) discusses—in an easy-to-understand manner and providing the reader with useful insights—some major themes of the Qur'an that are pertinent to modern debates on Qur'anic interpretation, including, the concept of life, marriage, war and peace, tolerance, paradise, etc. It is 'intended to help the general reader, and also the scholar, to understand the Qur'an by combining a number of approaches: thematic, stylistic and comparative'.

5. **The Qur'an: Essential Teachings by Abdur Raheem Kidwai** (2005) deals, in a lucid and coherent manner, with the articles of faith, basic Islamic Pillars, and with social ethics. Addressed to 'the English-speaking reading public interested in grasping the meaning and message of the Qur'an', Kidwai's work is 'intended to help readers get an idea of the Qur'anic worldview': and thus contains and covers topics on the articles of Islamic faith, God-man relationship, religious duties, and the Islamic value system [a detailed review on this book was published in KO on 5th March 2022, p. 5]. (Contd.)

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The article is for informational purposes only and is not meant to endorse or dismiss any ideology or group or people. Views expressed are author's own and do not represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

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concepts and contemporary topics/ issues altogether. It also gives the impression that it depends on the author's choice and the expertise, as well as on the circumstances and requirements (or more specifically on the need of the hour) which topics (terms, concepts, and themes) he selects, prefers, and highlights, and which he drops.

As indicated above, the writings in the area of the Qur'anic Studies are spread over a number of branches and one such significant category, in the modern period, is the 'thematic' study of the Qur'an, with the aim to highlight some key concepts and important terms, vital and vibrant themes, occurring in the Divine Book. The 'Thematic Study of Qur'an' is a significant and recurring theme in the literature on Qur'an

2002). Following a 'semantic approach', each of these works tries to define broadly a semantic range of vocabulary central to religious discussion, and the two works in combination provide 'a significant view of the religious and cognitive structures of the Qur'an' through the 'semantic method' that 'has had a lasting effect on the discipline' of the Qur'anic Studies.

2. **Syed Abu 'Ala Mawdudi** (d. 1979) specifically focused on the Four Basic Qur'anic Terms: Ilah, Rabb, 'Ibadah, Deen (God, the Lord, Religious Observance, and Faith; 1977), because they are, in his opinion, 'basic to the whole teaching of the Qur'an' and that the 'entire contents' of the whole Qur'an, 'revolve around these four terms only'.

Obituary

The Hardest Goodbye

"We Surely Belong To Allah And To Him We Shall Return"

Nusrat Badyari

13th March was the day when our beloved father bid a goodbye to this world. I still remember the day as if it happened just moments ago. Today, yet again, I am remembering him and sharing a bit of our pain with you all. They say, "Let's take a walk. You can show me some of your memories and I'll show you some of mine."

We call our father "Daediya" or "Daddy". Daediya was the most wonderful person. I don't say it because he was my father but he was truly an exemplary human being.

He was never the one with unnecessary lectures on good behaviour. However, he showed us how to be a good person in this world and ensured how that was necessary for the hereafter.

Daddy would never argue for the heck of it. He would listen patiently and arrive at a fair conclusion. He had a great vision. He could actually see the future of a person just by talking to them.

He was extremely friendly and was loved by all his acquaintances. He braved a kind hearted and a humble soul. A humility that was unmatched. Always grateful — sporting a smile through pain. He was a great host and would treat all equally. I remember him ensuring food to the drivers who accompanied his friends on Dawats. He was so humble & kind with every person in his life be it the helpers at home or in his office. Daddy was kind to animals also. He would make sure he fed the birds everyday and would always have some bread for the street dogs too. Watching him treat all equally has inspired

me to this day. It has taught me to value all.

In his behaviour, he was unparalleled. He would never complain that the food wasn't good. He would make us trust the process of living and teach us, "whatever happens, happens for the best". I remember during his last days in this world he said to me, "Let's see what Allah will do, you don't worry". His trust in Allah was so strong I never saw Him doubting any situation of his. He was always thankful to Almighty.

He was a trustworthy companion to his friends, perhaps that's why he managed to make friends around the globe. Daddy's friends were from many parts of the world, his friends were Entrepreneurs from MNCs, Business men from local and international levels, Judges, lawyers, Policemen (DIGs, SSPs), Doctors, Engineers, Islamic Scholars, Teachers, professors etc. Many of daddy's friends are still in touch with us and miss him equally as we do. I'm grateful for their support and will always be.

Daddy was an intelligent person and was interested in world politics. He also loved sports; Cricket and Football were his favorites.

Daddy, I don't know if by writing the above article, if I could do justice to my feelings. But I know for sure, in simple words, We all miss you — every single second of our existence and we always pray for your Magfirath.

We all are proud of you, for giving us the best life, giving us the freedom to live and always believing in us.

Praying for your Magfirath and thanks for being in our lives.

I'm proud to be Nusrat Badyari, the daughter of the great Haji Ali Mohammad Badyari

KODAK MOMENT



A MESMERIZING VIEW OF KASHMIR'S LARGEST MOSQUE Jamia masjid situated in the old city at Nowhatta. Picture Credits: Shaizan Nadaf

