

Article-370 Abrogation

No One Even Dared To Throw A Pebble: HM Shah

Says Stone Pelting, Processions In Kashmir Have Disappeared; Cinemas Holding Night Shows



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Hailing the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for reduction in violence in Jammu and Kashmir, the Union home minister Amit Shah said on Saturday that after abrogation of Article-370, stone pelting and processions have disappeared and cinema halls have started functioning in Kashmir.

"After the abrogation of Article 370, some people used to say in Parliament that rivers of blood will flow in Kashmir, but no one even dared to throw a pebble there," Shah said.

He was speaking at an event organised by the Lokmat Media group in Nagpur to celebrate the birth centenary of founder-editor and veteran freedom fighter Jawaharlal Darda, popularly known as 'Babuji', and the golden jubilee of its Marathi newspaper's edition from the city.

"Earlier there used to be stone pelting and processions in Kashmir, today all this has disappeared and cinema halls have started functioning and night shows are also being held. In one year, 18 million people have visited Kashmir, which is a big achievement," he said.

The Home Minister said that before Narendra Modi came to power, Kashmir, North-East and Left Wing Extremism affected

areas were three big hotspots in terms of internal security.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, violence has been reduced by 80 percent in these three areas," he said.

Shah said that J&K received investments worth Rs 12,000 crore in 70 years while under the Modi government; it has got Rs 12,000 crore in just three years.

"Electricity and water have reached every house in Kashmir," he added.

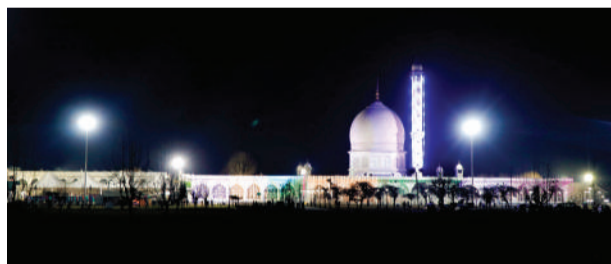
Speaking about the reduction in left wing extremism, Shah said earlier 160 districts were affected while today their number has reduced to only 46. He said that there has been an average reduction of 80 per cent in all forms of Left Wing Extremism related violence.

"Like Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand are also almost free from Left Wing Extremism. There is a small area left where the personnel of our Central Armed Police Forces are fighting the Left Wing Extremism," he said.

The Home Minister expressed confidence that the Government of India would soon win here too.

Shah said that there has been a 90 percent reduction in violence in the North East in the last three years and today peace has been established there. **More on P6**

Me'raj-e-Alam Being Celebrated Today



Srinagar: Thousands of devotees are expected to throng shrines and mosques across Kashmir for special prayers on Me'raj-e-Alam, believed to be the night in which the Prophet of Islam (Pbuh) embarked on the famous night journey and ascension.

The biggest congregation is expected at Dargah Hazratbal here where thousands of

devotees are likely to attend to have a glimpse of the holy relic of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) after five-time prayers. Hundreds of people also participated in night-long prayers.

Local administration has made special arrangements including for management of traffic to ensure smooth movement. **More on P6**

Anti-Encroachment Drive

Govt Starts Geo-Tagging, Geo-Referencing Of Retrieved Lands

Aujib Javed

Srinagar: The Union Territory administration has started geo-tagging and geo-referencing of around 4 lakh kanal state and Kahcharai land retrieved in the massive anti-encroachment drives across Jammu and Kashmir during the last two months.

The exercise is being conducted at a time when the administration has slowed down the eviction drive reportedly on the instructions of Home Minister, Amit Shah.

An official of the revenue department told Kashmir Observer that geo-tagging and geo-referencing will help the authorities to keep a close watch on the retrieved lands and to ensure no more encroachments take place.

The geo-tagging is a process of adding geographical identification marks like latitude and longitude. It helps users find a wide variety of location-specific information from a device.

"The idea is to look after the lands continuously and



WE HAVE CLEAR CUT INSTRUCTIONS not to spare the influential persons and not to touch the poor."

stop it from being occupied again," the official said.

He further said that the administration is searching for "big chunks of land" and the land belonging to poor people have been ordered to be skipped.

"We have clear cut instructions not to spare the influential persons and not to touch

the poor," said the official, wishing not to be named.

Earlier, Kashmir Observer had reported that the UT administration has retrieved around 3.90 lakh kanal of state and Kahcharai land from the "illegal occupants" across J&K.

Notably, the Jammu and Kashmir government had

directed removal of all encroachment on land owned by UT, including Roshni land and Kahcharai land by January 31. However the drive continued as the authorities failed to meet the deadline.

The government action has met massive protest from the people and the regional political parties. While the authorities say that the drive targets influential people only, the people say that not only the rich but many common people, small-time shopkeepers and business fraternity are also being targeted.

On Friday, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri said the government has made it clear that the poor and landless will not be touched in the anti-encroachment drive.

"There is no need to panic as the land being retrieved belongs to the local people and will be used for them only, for which the work is going on," he told reporters in Srinagar.

'Comprehensive Policy Required For Exempting Poor'

Majid Nabi

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri Saturday said the formal order 'exempting' poor from the ongoing demolition drive will be issued, when there is

a 'comprehensive' policy in place. Talking to the reporters during his visit to city center Lal Chowk here to review ongoing projects being undertaken under the Smart City mission, Bidhuri said everything is taken into consideration by the government before taking a final call. **More on P6**

WAR AGAINST DRUGS

Shopian Admin Freezes 'Ill-Gotten' Assets Worth Crores



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The administration in South Kashmir's Shopian district on Friday ordered freezing of ill-gotten properties worth crores of five drug peddlers, who were given a reasonable time period to prove their assets as legal.

The order was issued by the District Magistrate, Shopian under the provisions of Chapter VA of the Narcotic Drugs & Psychotic Substances Act, 1985, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the competent authority under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, Shopian, accorded a seal of approval to freezing of ill-gotten properties worth crores of five drug peddlers who were given reasonable time period to prove credentials and produce the requisite documents that substantiate the property as legal.

As per the orders issued today, the spokesperson said, the properties shall not be transferred for any other use undertaken on it without the permission of the District Magistrate.

"It included illegally acquired buildings and land from the proceeds **More on P6**

SHORT TAKES

Former Minister Calls On LG

Sukhnandan Choudhary, former Minister called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, at the Raj Bhavan here on Saturday. The former Minister apprised the Lt Governor about various issues pertaining to the revival of defunct cooperative societies, and welfare of farmers and Anganwadi workers, an official spokesperson said. The Lt Governor, he said, assured the former Minister of due consideration of all the genuine issues put forth during the interaction.

3 Hizb OGWs Held In Kulgam: Police

Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested three over-ground workers (OGWs) of Hizbul Mujahideen from South Kashmir's Kulgam district. Based on specific input about the movement of anti-national elements carrying illegal arms and ammunition in a vehicle, police parties of PC Hatipora and Police Station Behibagh established a specific checkpoint at Daderkoot, Alamanj crossing around 5:19pm on Friday and intercepted three persons riding a **More on P6**

Youth Found Dead In Ganderbal

Ayouth was found dead on Saturday in Waskura area of Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. 30-year-old Tashooq Ahmad Rather of Najwan village in Kangan was found dead under mysterious circumstances at Waskura area of the district on Saturday morning, reports said. Rather's body, reports said, was spotted by some passersby in the area who then informed the authorities. "The body was taken to district hospital in Ganderbal for Postmortem, where **More on P6**

Rain, Snow Predicted From Today

Agencies

Srinagar: The meteorological department on Saturday forecast scattered to fairly widespread light to moderate rain and snow in Jammu and Kashmir for a few days from Sunday.

Also, most places recorded an increase in mercury and Pahalgam remained the only place to record sub-zero level temperature.

"Generally cloudy weather with light rain/snow is expected at isolated to scattered higher reaches of Kashmir Division on February 19," a meteorological department official said.

He said light rain is expected in plains and light to moderate rain and snow in middle and higher reaches during February 20th late afternoon to early morning of February 21.

From February

After Rahul, Priyanka Arrives In Gulmarg

Agencies

Srinagar: After Rahul Gandhi, his sister Priyanka Gandhi along with her husband Robert Vadra arrived in Kashmir on a personal visit, reports said Saturday.

Priyanka Gandhi, National General Secretary AICC along with her husband Robert Vadra arrived from Delhi by flight UK-643at 09:00 hours on Saturday, a local news agency KDC reported. Both Husband and **More on P6**

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19 February, 2023 11:00 AM

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Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir.



Scholarship Name 1: ZScholars Program

Description: ZS Associates India Pvt. Ltd. invites applications from first-year students pursuing general or professional undergraduate courses in institutes located in Delhi, Pune, or Bengaluru. The scholarship aims to support meritorious students from low-income families to continue their higher education.

Eligibility: The scholarship is open for first-year students pursuing general or professional undergraduate courses in any school from institutes located in Delhi, Pune, or Bengaluru. Applicants must have scored at least 60% marks in Class 12 examination. The annual family income of the applicants from all sources must not be more than INR 8 lakh.

- **Prizes & Rewards:** Up to INR 50,000 for 1 year
- **Last Date to Apply:** 09-03-2023
- **Application mode:** Online applications only
- **Short Url:** www.b4s.in/observer/ZSPU1

Scholarship Name 2: CF Sparkle Inclusive Scholarship Programme for Higher Education

Description: CF Sparkle Inclusive Scholarship Programme for Higher Education aims to provide financial assistance to meritorious girls, students with disability and transgender students who belong to a low-income family group in continuing their education which further leads to employability.

Eligibility: Open for girls, students with disability and transgender students.

Applicants must be pursuing first-year of their undergraduate degree in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) courses or undergraduate degree or diploma in Vocational Technical Education (VTE), Paramedical Sciences, and Allied Health Sciences.

Applicants must have scored a minimum of least 60% marks in their Class 12 examination.

The annual family income of the applicants from all sources should not exceed INR 5 Lakh.

Children of employees of Cognizant, Cognizant Foundation and Buddy4Study are not eligible to apply. Students from Pan India are eligible.

- **Prizes & Rewards:** Up to INR 75,000 per year
- **Last Date to Apply:** 05-03-2023
- **Application mode:** Online applications only
- **Short Url:** www.b4s.in/observer/CFS11

Scholarship Name 3: JN Tata Endowment Loan Scholarship 2023-24

Description: The JN Tata Endowment invites loan scholarship applications from Indian students who wish to pursue overseas higher studies. Students who are selected for the loan scholarship may be recommended for a partial 'Travel Grant' and a 'Gift Award' which is linked to their academic performance in their overseas studies.

Eligibility: Open for Indian nationals who have completed at least one undergraduate degree OR students who are in the final year of any undergraduate programme at a recognised university/college/institution in India.

Candidates must be willing to pursue Postgraduate/Doctoral/Postdoctoral studies abroad.

Candidates who are at the end of the 1st year and entering into the second year of their overseas studies (Fall 2023 – Spring 2024) are also eligible to apply. This is applicable only if the minimum duration of the course is 2 years and there is at least one full academic year remaining to complete at the time of award of the loan scholarship, normally by July of any calendar year.

Students must have scored at least 60% marks on average in their undergraduate or postgraduate studies.

Candidates must not be older than 45 years as on June 30, 2023.

Prizes & Rewards: Loan scholarship of up to INR 10 lakh

- **Last Date to Apply:** 07-03-2023
- **Application mode:** Online applications only
- **Short Url:** www.b4s.in/observer/JNT6

SPY BALLOONS

Modern Technology Has Given These Old-Fashioned Eyes In The Sky A New Lease Of Life

The Conversation

The US military has now shot down four high-altitude objects that had entered American and Canadian airspace, raising questions about their purpose and origin.

The first of these objects, a Chinese balloon, was downed by a fighter jet on 4 February. While China says it was for weather monitoring, US officials say it was being used for surveillance. A knowledge of technology in this area throws up some clues about what may have been going on.

The balloon is believed to have supported a signals intelligence collection payload, although this has yet to be confirmed. Debris has now been retrieved from US territorial waters off the coast of South Carolina and will be transported ashore for analysis.

A further three objects were downed between February 10 and 12 over Deadhorse in Alaska, near Yukon in Canada and over Lake Huron close to the US-Canada border.

Signals intelligence, or "sigint", refers to electronic data, which could consist of conversations, written messages or data from weapons or radar systems. Sigint is normally collected by satellites, but can also be gathered from aircraft flying in international airspace.

Normally, satellites that collect sigint are positioned in low-Earth orbit (LEO) say at 500 to 1,000km altitude or at geostationary orbit, at the much higher altitude of 36,000km. Although the collection of this type of intelligence by satellites is efficient and reasonably effective, there are some limitations.

A satellite in LEO will complete an orbit around the Earth in 70 to 100 minutes but it will not pass the same point on the Earth again for 14 to 20 hours depending on its altitude. This is because our planet is also moving. Even then, it will only be visible to a point on Earth for a maximum of 20 minutes; which is called its "dwell time". Increasing the number of satellites



Signals intelligence, or "sigint", refers to electronic data, which could consist of conversations, written messages or data from weapons or radar systems. Sigint is normally collected by satellites, but can also be gathered from aircraft flying in international airspace.

helps, but there will still be large time gaps in coverage.

In theory, a geostationary satellite could have a permanent dwell time. But, because it is positioned at around 36,000km from the Earth's surface, it could miss the collection of important but weak signals.

The US military has been developing signals electronic data transmissions with a low probability of intercept. This is making sigint collection by both Chinese and Russian spy satellites difficult. There will be large gaps in a 24-hour period when collection is not possible a silent time.

China has attempted to close the gaps. In 2020, the country launched, to a 600km orbit, three new reconnaissance (spy) satellites from the Yaogan-30 series, as part of a wider network, or

"constellation", called Chuangxin-5 (CX-5), bringing the number of satellites in the network to 21.

Steering ability

Enter the high-altitude "objects" that have been shot down over the US. Let's take the balloon that was shot down on February 4. By tracing this object's path over the US, it can be seen to have passed several highly sensitive defence installations, including sites for nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) in Montana, US.

The balloon travelled across the US at an altitude of 20 to 30km and had the ability to steer in the upper atmosphere jet streams. Clearly, the advantage for sigint collection was that its dwell time was likely to be several hours, and its closeness to the surface of the

Earth ensured that it could, if it were spying, collect very weak signals.

Thus, a balloon that can remain undetected would be an ideal platform to augment the collection of sigint by both satellites and aircraft. Many countries have been employing balloons for intelligence gathering for at least 200 years, so the idea is not new and the advantages are well known.

Today's technologies have given this method of intelligence collection a new lease of life, as we've also seen from the use of small aerial vehicles or "micro drones". Remaining undetected for a significant period is a key requirement to success. As to how this was possible in the US is an interesting question, given that the country has one of the

best air defence systems anywhere.

One possible answer lies in the design of ground-based and airborne early warning system (AEW) radars. To reduce clutter on the radar, objects that are static such as mountains and towers are removed from the radar returns by making use of a natural effect known as "Doppler shift". When a train travels past you, the pitch of its whistle seems to change as it moves away from you. This is an everyday demonstration of the Doppler shift in sound waves.

The Doppler capability is common to all defence radars as they are focused on an aircraft and missile threat. A balloon or inflatable object, could be travelling at a velocity slower than the Doppler threshold and thus remain undetected.

Radar clutter

This shortfall in detection capability was recognised by NORAD (North American Air Defence Command) and radars have been reset to see very low velocity objects. However, the clutter will increase - perhaps fulfilling one of China's aims to reduce the effectiveness of air defence radars.

A further difficulty with detection is the material used for balloons or objects. Plastics and synthetic inflation fabrics have no or very low radar reflectivity, thus adding another notch to their covert credentials. The balloon that started the current controversy in the US was first discovered visually and reported, rather than detected by air defence systems.

But the more recent discoveries over Canada and Alaska resulted from high-intensity surveillance. It has not yet been revealed what they are. Once that has been ascertained, the key question will be whether the objects were designed to penetrate the US defence system to gather better signals intelligence, or whether they were a test of US air defence systems.

It could, alternatively, be just a nuisance ploy. We shall know when the results of the balloon debris analysis are made known.

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I have lost the Number plate of my vehicle bearing Regd No; JK01AJ 5848. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the Police Station Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Imtiyaz Ahmad Mir
S/o Farooq Ahmad Mir R/o Magam bmg

**From the office of
Advocate Syed Munazer.**

Chamber No 112 District Court Moominabad Srinagar

In the case of
Caveator=Bilal Ahmad Hajam S/o Nazir Ahmad Hajam R/o Dar Mohalla Soura Srinagar

Versus
Public at large

(NON-CAVEATOS)

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A The Caveator has reason to believe that Non-Caveators may file any Application, Petition, Appeal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seek in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irreparable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveator be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

nj Sd/ Advocate



All Smart City Projects To Be Completed Before April 15: Div Com

MAJID NABI

Srinagar: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Biduri today said that all projects being executed under the Srinagar Smart City Mission will be completed before April 15.

Talking to the media during his visit to city center Lal to review ongoing projects being undertaken under the Srinagar Smart City mission, the Div Com said the upper deadline set for the projects is April 15 and that all the projects will be completed before this date.

"The upper deadline set for the projects being undertaken under the Smart City mission is April 15 and we are hopeful that all projects will be completed before this date," Biduri said.

date," Biduri said.

Regarding G20 tourism track meeting scheduled to be hosted in Srinagar in May this year, he said G20 will be organized in a good manner once all projects under Srinagar Smart City are completed.

He also congratulated the people of Srinagar a day after the summer capital secured the number one rank under Swachh Survekshan Gramin.

"Works on Smart City projects are on at full pace; people have to be little patient as they might face some inconveniences during this period. The G20 summit will be organized in a very good manner once all projects are completed," he said, adding "I congratulate people of Srinagar for securing first position under Swachata Abhiyan as credit goes to them only.

Meraj-un-Nabi (SAW) Not Observed In Jamia Masjid Since 2019

Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Urges Govt To Release Mirwaiz

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid Srinagar today expressed regret over the continuous house detention of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq due to which Meraj-un-Nabi (SAW) could not be observed at the historic Jamia Masjid or Aali Masjid Eidgah in old city for the last four years.

The managing body of the central Jamia Masjid in a statement said such important functions are impossible to be organized by the Auqaf in absence of Mirwaiz.

"Every year on Meraj-un-Nabi (SAW) Majlis-e-Wazo Tablegh led by Mirwaiz was held in the mosque in accordance with centuries old tradition, however, it is not possible for the Auqaf to organize such important religious event in absence of chief cleric of the valley," statement reads.

Social and reformative works under the guidance of Mirwaiz also take a hit due to the continuous and arbitrary

detention of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, it adds.

"Despite repeated appeals to the administration to release Mirwaiz, his detention is prolonged. Muslims of the valley are deeply dismayed as they are being deprived of the invaluable sermons of Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir and his other religious and socio reformative guidance," statement said.

While greeting the people on the occasion of Meraj-un-Nabi (SAW), Anjuman Auqaf said that Prophet Muhammad (SAW)'s ascension to the heavens is a practical miracle of the Messenger of Allah (SAW), which is celebrated as a memorial and inspires new areas of thought till the Day of Resurrection.

The Anjuman once again urged the authorities to ensure the release of Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir before the upcoming month of Shabaan so that he is able to resume his religious responsibilities, like his predecessors - the Mirwaizeen-e-Kashmir.

2Nd Edition Of Short-Term Course On Semiconductors Begins At NIT Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The 2nd edition of 5-day Short-Term Course (STC) on Semiconductors began at PG Department of Physics, National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar in a virtual mode.

The theme of the course is "Journey of Semiconductor Physics to Smart Devices to Intelligent Automation, which coincides with the syllabi module of both UG and PG programs, the motivation behind conducting the course.

The opening session of STC was presided over by Chief Guest Director NIT Srinagar Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal, while HoD Physics Prof M A Shah is the chairperson of the five-day-long scientific event.

The inaugural lecture "Two-Dimensional Semiconductor Materials: Graphene and Beyond" was delivered by Prof Farhan Rana from Cornell University, USA. The talk was informative and inspiring and was appreciated by the participants including the faculty. Prof. Gousia introduced Prof Farhan Rana, an eminent faculty from Cornell University.

He highlighted the importance of two-dimensional materials like Graphene which have multiple applications in our day-to-day life.

"There is a race among scientists to develop new products using two-dimensional materials," Prof. Farhan said.

On the occasion, Director NIT Srinagar Prof. Sehgal appreciated the efforts of the Physics Department for organizing 5 days STC on an emerging and relevant area.

He welcomed the participants and acknowledged the sincere efforts of the HoD Physics for taking such new and innovative initiatives.

In his speech, Prof. Sehgal laid emphasis on the role of semiconductors in our day-to-day lives. He mentioned that India has a huge youth population that needs to be self-independent in semiconductor technology.

He said technological institutions have a big responsibility to make the life of people around them easy, cost-effective, and more beneficial.

Prof. Sehgal said only a few IITs are working in this area and the need of the hour is to establish state of art labs across India. He also lauded the role of Dr. MA Shah is organizing many scientific events on campus.

"The 5-day STC will be beneficial for the participants and definitely, they will learn from each other's experience," he said.



PI: Abid Bhat/KO

Herath Celebrated In Srinagar, Other Places With Piety

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Joined by Kashmiri Pandit's, hundreds of Hindu devotees thronged temples in Srinagar and elsewhere to celebrate Maha Shivratri or Herath, marking the wedding of Lord Shiva with Parvati on Saturday.

Herath is a three-day festival in which the families come together for elaborate prayers and celebrations. The festival symbolizes the unity of divinity and the complementing nature of consciousness and feminine energy that together lead to creation.

Reports said that hundreds Kashmiri Pandits celebrated

Maha Shivratri with religious fervor with devotees thronging the Shankaracharya Temple here to participate in the special prayers.

The special prayers were also held at Ganpatyar and Hanuman Temple at Amira Kadal in Srinagar throughout the day.

A festive look wore in and around the temples in Srinagar and elsewhere in the valley, as the religious places were decorated for the special prayers, joined by the Kashmiri Pandit community as well as the people from outside, who are presently on tour to Kashmir.

"A great enthusiasm was

witnessed today. Celebrating the pious day in Kashmir was the happiest moment for all of us," Rajni, a lady devotee from Jammu, said at Shankaracharya Temple.

The biggest gathering was held at Shankaracharya Temple while hundreds of devotees thronged Khir Bhawani temple at Tullamulla in Ganderbal.

Chanting hymns 'Har Har Mahadev' and 'Bam Bam Bhole', the devotees attended the special prayers at different temples across Kashmir.

Elaborate arrangements were put in place by the authorities for the devotees on the occasion.

Nowshera Residents Urge Authorities To Repair Dilapidated Roads

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The residents of Chanpora in Nowshera area of Srinagar are up in arms against the R&B and UEED department for failing to repair the dilapidated road in the area.

The residents of the area said the road has been in a dilapidated condition for months together and despite bringing the issue into the notice of authorities, no measures were taken as yet, they said.

The road, as per locals,

suffered damage when Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED) were constructing drainage in the area.

"Residents living around face difficulties on a daily basis but the authorities take no concrete steps to mitigate their woes," they said.

Road is lying in a very dilapidated condition due to which people of the area suffer a lot especially in inclement weather, said Zahoor Ahmad a local resident.

He said the condition of roads has turned from bad to worse but the authorities concerned pay no attention to the problems people face on a daily basis.

Locals said that they have brought this issue into the notice of concerned authorities several times but nothing has been done so far.

They requested concerned authorities to look into the matter at an earliest and repair the road so that they won't suffer anymore.

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
27 Rajab
1444

PRAYERS	
FAJR	5:54
ZUHR	12:45
ASR	4:38
Magrib	6:20
ISHA	7:42

This Day In History

- 197 - Lucius Septimius Severus' army beats Clodius Albinus at Lyon
- 356 - Emperor Constantius II shuts all heathen temples
- 607 - Boniface III begins his reign as Catholic Pope
- 842 - Medieval Iconoclastic Controversy ends as a council in Constantinople formally reinstates the veneration of icons in churches
- 1512 - French troops under Gaston de Foix occupy Brescia
- 1574 - Spanish troops plunder Krommenie, Wormerveer & Jisp, Netherlands
- 1634 - Battle of Smolensk: King Wladyslaw IV of Poland beats Russians [NS=Mar]
- 1674 - Netherlands & England sign Peace of Westminster (NYC becomes English).
- 1797 - One third of papal domain ceded to France
- 1819 - British explorer William Smith discovers the South Shetland Islands, and claims them in the name of King George III
- 1856 - Tin-type camera patented by Hamilton Smith, Gambier, Ohio
- 1878 - Thomas Edison is granted a patent for his gramophone (phonograph)
- 1920 - Netherlands joins League of Nations
- 1936 - Manuel Azaña becomes Prime Minister of Spain for the second time
- 1942 - Japanese troops land on Timor
- 1943 - German tanks under Generalmajor Karl Buelowius attack Kasserine Pass, Tunisia
- 1944 - 823 British bombers attack Berlin
- 1944 - U-264 sinks off Ireland
- 1945 - 980 Japanese soldiers reportedly killed by crocodiles in 2 days on Ramree Island, Burma
- 1945 - Brotherhood Day-1st celebrated
- 1949 - Mass arrests of communists in India
- 1952 - French offensive at Hanoi
- 1959 - Britain, Turkey & Greece sign agreement granting Cyprus independence
- 1959 - Gabon adopts its constitution
- 1963 - USSR informs JFK it is withdrawing several thousand troops from Cuba
- 1970 - USSR launches Sputnik 52 & Molniya 1-13 communications satellite
- 1977 - Space shuttle Enterprise makes 1st Test flight atop a 747 jetliner
- 1984 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalinsk USSR
- 1985 - 150 killed when a Spanish jetliner crashes approaching Bilbao, Spain
- 1986 - King Hussein of Jordan severs ties with PLO
- 1987 - US President Reagan lifts trade boycott against Poland
- 1990 - Soyuz TM-9 lands
- 1992 - Peter Collins discovers nova Cygni 1992
- 1998 - Soyuz TM-26 lands
- 1998 US hockey team destroys their rooms at Olympic village in Japan

From KO Archives Farooq Advocates 'Pro-Active' JK Policy

Observer News Service

JAMMU - Chief minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah today said he was never opposed to prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's peace initiative in the state which would be carried forward to its logical end.

Winding up discussions on the motion of thanks on the governor's address in the legislative assembly, Abdullah urged the comity of nations to pressurise Pakistan to stop militant violence in Jammu and Kashmir.

The chief minister launched a frontal attack on the Hurriyat Conference who, he said, accused him of scuttling the peace process saying I am for peace, am never opposed to peace. He said killing of innocent people, were continuing unabated in the state despite the cease-fire and suggested a pro-active strategy to deal with militants. According to a NAFA report, Dr. Abdullah advocated a more aggressive 'pro-active' policy for Jammu and Kashmir adding this was the only way Pakistan could be brought under pressure.

Stating he was never opposed to talks with Hurriyat leaders, Abdullah said let the Centre treats the Hurriyat the way it wants and let them go to any country.

If those nearer and dearer to Pakistan come close to New Delhi, what objection I have, he said, adding the Centre was doing experiments.

(Kashmir Observer, 19 February, 2001)

Over to Professor 'KASHMIRI IS A LIVING LANGUAGE'

Umar Hayat Hussain

Amid the ongoing debate in South Asia on the significance of native languages, the focus on Kashmiri as a language is getting a lot of traction.

Being one of the oldest languages of the South East Asia with a unique syntax, phonology, and morphology, the future of Kashmiri language, says Prof. Shafi Shauq, is safe.

"Kashmiri language has been and shall continue to be the language of peasants, artisans, and various professionals," Prof. Shauq, a noted author, editor, translator of over forty-five books, says. "It is the most effective means of communication at the speech level."

In a brief chat with Kashmir Observer, the professor who has received several National and State awards is deconstructing the debate.

IS KASHMIRI REALLY A LANGUAGE?

I say it with conviction that the Kashmiri language is a living language.

It has an area of occurrence, speakers, dialectical variations, oral and written literature, and capacity to change through borrowing and code-switching in consonance with changing economic and social conditions.

BUT THEN MANY SAY IT'S ON THE VERGE OF EXTINCTION?

It is a big fallacy propagated



by ill-informed journalists, profiting linguistic activists and by all those who do not know Kashmiri.

The Kashmiri language has been and shall continue to be the language of peasants, artisans, and various professionals. It is the most effective means of communication at the speech level.

WHAT CHALLENGES DID YOU FACE AS A LANGUAGE LECTURER?

I taught the literature and linguistics at the postgraduate level and research. Books, right from Aristotle to present day critics, and writers have been translated and published that are taught. I wish that more and more teaching material is made available through translation.

BUT IS YOUNGER GENERATION READY TO ACCEPT KASHMIRI AS A LANGUAGE?

Younger generation does not mean broiler-like kids of Convent, Mallinson and Biscoe and other exploiting private schools. Younger generation means teeming millions of boys and girls in rural and urban areas who speak Kashmiri, and never use any other language in natural communication, customs, rituals and various social activities. They sing, dream, converse, narrate,

and remember through their native language.

SINCE YOU'VE TRANSLATED MANY KASHMIRI BOOKS IN OTHER LANGUAGES, DID YOU GET ANY GOOD RESPONSE?

Unfortunately, there aren't many buyers of books in all languages. Nevertheless, books are sold and bought always. Some of my books like Kashmiri Grammar, History of Kashmiri Language Literature, and Kashmiri Dictionary are reprinted every year and publishers have made considerable money. Some of my books are the most circulated books in Kashmir for the last fifty years.

WHERE DO YOU PLACE THE KASHMIRI LANGUAGE AMONG ALL THE SPOKEN ONES?

Kashmiri is one of the oldest languages of the South East Asia with a unique syntax, phonology, and morphology. It is the only language of Asia that has a non-Indo-Aryan structure. It is interestingly closer to the Indo-European Languages having the finite verb at the second slot in all sentences.

WHAT MEASURES NEED TO BE TAKEN TO SAFEGUARD THIS LANGUAGE?

All measures taken by any government are politically motivated. But the future of Kashmiri language is safe so long its speakers continue to survive.

Book Review

Inside Elif Shafak's Strange World

Hirra Sultan

The title of the book hints at someone being born and then leaving back for heavens in 10 minutes and 38 seconds. Yet, instead of birth, the book starts at death and contrary to the idea of someone dying within 10 minutes; the dead person is 40 years old!

This book is one of those which give a vivid idea of the society and yet, is extremely personal in nature. It does not comment on anything, nevertheless it speaks volumes about everything going on in the society. Like a background track in a café. One is essentially there for coffee but one can hear things too.

The story revolves around Leila, Tequila Leila, who happens to be a prostitute and is dead when the book opens. Dead and dumped in a trash can, because she was a prostitute. The first part of the book is in flashbacks, as Leila sees them before her brain activity ceases. The second part revolves around the events that happen afterwards, with her and with the characters related to her.

The book talks high about friendship and relations that we build over time, referred by Elif as 'Water Family'. Even though we look after our blood relations, the ones tied by fate, as the ones who would always stay loyal, Elif beautifully says that sometimes water runs thicker than blood.

This cannot be truer than in current times and situations. In times when family belittles and disappoints us while one is looking for support, it is mostly the water family, the friends accumulated over a period of time who understand more than the blood. Sometimes the concern of blood is washed away by the support and enthusiasm of these friends.

The story has multiple facets to it and each feels like a cut in diamond, making it sparkle in a splendid brilliance.

The first flashback of Leila takes her to her birth. Her mother was her father's second wife and she (Leila) was conceived after a lot of difficulty and miscarriages. Somehow the first wife convinces Leila's father to let her raise the child, instead of its biological mother.

Her father agrees and convinces the mother that she will have another child, but does not realize how deep the wound was. Or how this moment, this decision became the cause of her unwinding, making her mentally unstable.

Somehow we find this so common in our own society too. Forced decisions of parents, husbands and in-laws without any consideration for the concerned. Maybe that explains the huge number of depressed people in our society.



It also talks about sexual abuse of Leila by her own paternal uncle, and her conceiving because of it. Instead of punishing the culprit or taking some action against him, her family asked her to marry that very uncle's son.

She was first molested by him when she was 6. They silenced her by making her feel that she had done something wrong, instead of him.

This particular memory speaks volumes about patriarchal societies and the fault in putting the respect of a family onto a lady's virginity. Even though Leila was not at fault, she was blamed, asked to compromise and made feel dirty. She wanted her family to understand, take her side, do something, but instead they were the ones to humiliate her.

Leila runs away to Istanbul and finds herself trapped into prostitution. A society that wears religion on her sleeve, duped a young lady into selling her body.

On top of that, the very society would look at these prostitutes and brothels, and condemn the act, without acknowledging the fact that it was their personal greed that turned an innocent young girl into all of this. They could have guided her better but chose not to, standing at the banks and pointing fingers.

The book talks about her five friends, who stayed by her when her family had abandoned her and severed all ties. The group was composed of a transgender, Nalan; a helper, Zainab; another prostitute who was trafficked into the city, Jameela; a bar singer, Humera and her childhood friend, Sinan. The book identifies their stories and struggles and how this strange group of people fell together.

The book also emphasizes how someone's words can change everything for a person, like Leila did the night she was murdered.

The client she was hired for was gay but could not stand his ground against his father. It was Leila, and the news of her death next day, that gave the client strength to leave everything behind and pursue a life with his lover.

It was also in her death that she gave Sinan the strength to do what he felt was right, without trying to rationalize anything or wonder what the society would think. This act of defiance cost him his job and his marriage.

The book further talks about leftist revolution in Istanbul and how a procession was fired upon, in which Leila lost her husband and hence was forced to take up prostitu-

tion again. The protest was a peaceful one, where people held placards and shouted a few slogans. Yet, they were ambushed and fired upon by snipers hiding on top of a hotel building. Some were killed by the bullets and others in the stampede that occurred.

The book is filled with loss and grief. The fact that we are most often misunderstood by our own and supported by strangers; that we deny being wrong yet push people where they have no option but to live dishonestly; the inhumane and inconsiderate behavior of authorities on someone's death and how friends, if one is blessed to have them, can turn mountains upside down for a friend.

The book is highly relatable and in a society like ours, where we deny even knowing what prostitution is or never tell our kids what sexual harassment is, with sex word being a taboo, it is a must read.

Not only does it make one realize how many vices we are simply neglecting for the fear of rocking the boat but also emphasizes on the impact of our small actions. It is a book that forces a person to introspect into his own behaviors, if he has a conscience that is, and the results thereof.

Axar, Ashwin Lead India Fightback After Lyon's Five-For On Exciting Day 2

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Axar Patel and Ravichandran Ashwin added another significant chapter to India's lower-order fightbacks as their priceless 114-run eighth-wicket partnership put the hosts on an even keel against Australia on an engrossing second day of the second Test here on Saturday.

Thanks to Axar's invaluable 74 off 115 balls and Ashwin's 37 off 71 balls, India, who were in complete mess at 139/7, recovered well to end their first innings at 262 in 83.3 overs, just one run behind Australia's 263.

At stumps, Australia were 61/1 in their second innings, taking a handy 62-run lead.

Had the two all-rounders not bailed the hosts out, Australia would have been far more happy than they actually were at stumps on Saturday. Travis Head (39 batting), opening for a concussed



David Warner, and Marnus Labuschagne (16 batting) attacked the Indian spinners, knowing that the defending wasn't an option. They picked up a handful of boundaries in the process.

As has been the script over

the past few years, batter No.6 (Jadeja), No.8 (Ashwin) and No.9 (Axar) were at the forefront of the recovery act after specialist batters were caught in two minds on whether to attack or defend against the Australian spinners

led by Nathan Lyon (5/67 in 29 overs), who grabbed his 22nd five-wicket haul.

There were no demons in the track but a few cracks on the good- and short-of-good-length spots on both sides of the strip led the ball to keep low.

Most top-order India batters were adjudged leg-before on the front-foot, barring skipper Rohit Sharma, who was bowled playing across the line. The worrying trend was India batters playing the Australian spinners with their pads as the first line of defence.

However, Axar and Ashwin applied the strategy to consistently counter-attack the bowlers despite the fall of seven wickets. Instead of plonking the front-foot forward, they used the pace of the deliveries from Todd Murphy (2/53 in 18 overs) and debutant left-arm spinner Matt Kuhnemann (2/72 in 21.3 overs), to score runs.

Footballer Christian Atsu Found Dead In Turkey Earthquake

Agencies

Christian Atsu, the Ghana international forward who played for Premier League clubs Chelsea and Newcastle, has died in the earthquake in Turkey. He was 31.

Search teams recovered Atsu's body in the ruins of a luxury 12-story building where he had been living in the city of Antakya, Hatay province, his manager said Saturday.

"Atsu's lifeless body was found under the rubble.



At the moment, his belongings are still being removed," manager Murat Uzunmehmet told private news agency DHA.

Atsu joined Turkish club

Hatayspor in September and scored the winning goal for his new team in a league game at home against Kasimpasa S.K. on Feb. 5, just hours before the earthquake struck in the pre-dawn hours of Feb. 6.

Antakya, the city where Hatayspor is based, is in the southern region of Turkey hardest hit by the earthquake.

The death toll from the 7.8-magnitude quake in southeastern Turkey and northern Syria passed 43,000 on Friday.

Real Kashmir Beats Mohammedan Sporting In A 3-2 Thriller At Home

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Real Kashmir FC left it late as the team recorded a comeback 3-2 win against Mohammedan Sporting Club in I-League on Saturday at Synthetic Turf TRC here.

The visitors led the tie twice, but the Snow Leopards proved they are no push overs.

Mirlan Murzaev gave Mohammedan SC the lead in the 14th minute, before Real Kashmir's Samuel Kynshi equalised in the 24th with an exquisite finish. Christy Davis then restored the Black Panthers' lead in the 33rd minute, which the 131-year-old Kolkata-based club maintained till half time.

However, Real Kashmir



midfielder Kynshi had other plans as barely three minutes into the second half, the 22-year-old brought his side on equal terms by scoring his second goal of the match.

With four minutes of normal time remaining, Kynshi turned provider and sent a delightful ball towards Ernest Boateng. Real Kashmir's

Ghanian striker Boateng had just been substituted onto the field when he scored the winning header with his first touch of the match.

The win sees Real Kashmir go up the I-League table and currently sits at 7th with 23 points. The Srinagar-based football club will next host Aizawl FC on February 21.

PSL Will Not Be Affected By Terrorist Attack: PCB

Agencies

KARACHI: The remaining matches of the Pakistan Super League here will not be affected by the terrorist attack on the Karachi police chief's office on Friday evening, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Najam Sethi said.

Sethi said the matches would continue as presidential security has been in place for the players and officials since the start of the league.

"The PSL matches will continue as per schedule. All the players are being well looked after," he said. Another board official said the security agencies and government had also given clearance for the PSL matches to continue in Karachi.

"The incident which happened yesterday is unrelated to the PSL," he said.

Two matches of the PSL are scheduled at the National Stadium on Saturday and Sunday and security has been beefed up at the team hotel and match venue. (PTI)



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