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# AIKS ਭਾਸ਼ਾ naad

A Monthly Publication of *all india kashmiri samaj*



## AIKS JAMMU MEET

Creation of Legitimate Minority Space & Healing Touch Policy for KPs!

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## THIS MONTH'S COVER

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A few days ago, a very good friend had put up a post on the Facebook detailing the pathetic state the monumental Gandhi Memorial College has been reduced to, both in the valley as well as its post-KP-exile abode in Jammu. The post gives the cause of its state to be due to the indifference of the government of the UT. It may be noted that this was an institution of pride established by the Kashmiri Pandit intellectual fraternity in the city of Srinagar way back in 1942.

This set me thinking as to why would this happen to a pride of an institution of the community. We are a community that has a claim on intellect, education, scholarship and everything that relates to being intellectually enlightened. We have even proved that no catastrophe of any intensity can dislodge us from our pursuit of education. And this is evident from the community scenario today. After having seen the most horrendous conditions, today our youth is spread across the globe excelling in their professional careers. They have the wherewithal to create a full educational infrastructure, if they want. But, look where we are. Today for an institution that was one of the few symbols of our community educational temples is gasping for survival. And we are appealing for alms from the government to make it survive. Its name has become a more important issue for discussion than its survival. It doesn't need to survive because it is named after Gandhiji. It has to survive because it is a symbol of our identity. We have dwelt in everything except for consolidation. We

have never, in these 32 years, thought of initiatives that could make us self-reliant. We have resigned to the fate of being dependent. I say it with conviction that if the youth in the age group of 25 to 40 can be mobilised, it has the potential and financial capability to restore the lost pride and position to the whole community. We need to shun the habit of dependence. Instead, we must work towards self-reliance. Gandhi College and the likes of it can be revived and made even better than what they were, only if we mobilise this targeted youth force. Sindhis are an example for us. The partition devastated them. But they strived, with resilience, as a community. They stood up on their own. You may be surprised that in a very short time they relinquished the dependence on government relief and built businesses, enterprises and opportunities that made them flourish. They created institutions, hospitals, industries and what not that would show them the path towards self-dependence, and this "Self" is the community not the individual Sindhi. We have the potential, too, to create a self-reliant KP community, provided we dump our habit of living at the mercy of others (government etc.). It needs to become a movement of change. And, I know we have very capable people who can take this initiative to bring a metamorphosis in the community. Otherwise, like many such issues, this will also remain a social media academic exchange with each of us feeling sad to no avail and finally will disappear from our thoughts.

युक्तकामत *Manish Kamat*



## From the President's Desk



Jammu occupies a significant place in the KP calculus as about 40 percent of the displaced community made it a home of its adoption. It, therefore, has emerged as an important theatre of action for them. It is, in fact, a nerve centre of KP struggle post exodus. AIKS too has been at the forefront of community activities in Jammu and adjoining areas. Covid and post covid situation put life to a grinding halt and affected all the conceivable areas of life, KP activism also did not remain unaffected. Long due but timely, AIKS interface with the community at Jammu and adjoining areas received a lot of food for thought and ideas to influence the journey of KP activism henceforth.

Lot of water has flown down the Vitasta since we were forced to leave Kashmir 32 years ago; especially August 5, 2019 has been a game changer as the whole politics of Kashmir which earlier was hinged on Article 370 and 35A, suddenly and quite unexpectedly had to take a different trajectory hitherto unknown to the people of

Kashmir. The intervening night of 4th and 5th August proved to be the longest as it made a huge difference to the constitutional history of Kashmir and the politico-separatist distance travelled came a full circle.

KPs too didn't remain unaffected with this development as it was no less significant than Kashmir acceding to India in 1947. It was a time for the beleaguered community to go into an introspective mode and delve deep into the subject. The first and spontaneous response was to welcome the change because certain constitutional provisions like article 370 and 35A had not only been misused but used as an instrument against KPs, which resulted in encouraging brute majoritarianism to take the centre stage and consequent to its perception of Kashmir being a Muslim State, an exodus was thrust upon them. This change in the constitutional relations between India and Kashmir therefore had a great meaning for us as an aggrieved community but we chose to remain frozen in times instead.

The community meet and AIKS Jammu connect provided an opportunity to peep into the thinking minds of the people and out came a desire to partner all the Politico-Constitutional changes taking place at a rapid pace in Kashmir. The massive development push factor initiated by the Government is slowly but steadily helping to tide over the situation in its favour. The missing link is our youth and other expectants. Time to rethink on the priorities, therefore, is perhaps knocking our doors and next thing to do is to hear the knock itself. To hear the knock is the exact message and based on such a premise, the

deliberations echoed the community sentiment.

Enunciated loud and clear by AIKS that the time was ripe for the creation of a Legitimate Minority space for Kashmiri Pandits in Kashmir together with Healing Touch Policy. Under the present circumstances when both, the local administration and Govt. of India have succeeded in changing the face of Kashmir, it is significant to find our place in the changing Naya Kashmir which is defined in terms of empowerment of the marginalised sections of the society. Grant of ST status to Pahari community is an example in this direction. Minority Space, therefore, is a prerequisite for the structured rehabilitation of displaced community as and when it is unfolded. What constitutes minority space is grant of administrative control of our temples and shrines, spiritual centres and our religious places on the lines of Gurudwara Prabandhak committee act; constitution of the Minority Commission and grant of Minority status participation in all the conceivable institutional mainstream political life of the place for KPs. It is a doable thing and can be pursued with greater pace and aggression. Its larger message has started percolating down and AIKS is fairly confident at the creation of a much-needed

fresh narrative that gives life to our painful running exile signs of strain and exhaustion writ large on it.

Healing touch is a much-needed policy especially for the Kashmiri Pandits who chose to stay back in the Valley of Kashmir in the wake of terrorism unleashed on the hapless community and employees recruited under PM package. This assumes significance as in the recent past there has been a spurt in the KP and non-migrant Hindu Killings in Kashmir and this faceless terror has taken a heavy toll both in terms of inducing a deep sense of insecurity and threat perception in them. Though, the terrorism indeed is down but is not out, the residual terrorism draws its support and sustenance from anti-KP echo system which is yet to be demolished. Therefore, these people are sitting ducks for them. When terrorists could be rehabilitated under the healing touch policy initiated by the then Govt, to extend a hand of warmth to these KPs will incentivise them, boost their morale and encourage them to remain grounded in Kashmir is the least that is expected.

The meeting unfolded a road that lay ahead of the journey to be undertaken.

## AIKS NEW ADDRESS

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- Puran Patwari



## General Secretary's Column

The Apex organization has been very high on action mode during the month of September and October. After a very gratifying visit to Jammu, it was time to visit Vadodara in Gujarat and also plan visits to other major affiliates under the ambitious 'Affiliate Connect Programme'. Meanwhile, there were other sundry programmes on the side-lines, a visit by an affiliate member who is visiting the city of Delhi, or an attendance at the community get together. However, the major activities of the month have been the following:

### AIKS Gets New Address:

We are very happy to announce that AIKS office has been shifted to Faridabad. It was previously housed at 244, R K Puram, Sector-3, in a government allotted accommodation. The new swanky office, complete with all amenities like a conference room, President's Office space, Front Office, a library and a kitchenette is located on the Mathura Road highway and is easily approachable through all modes of public transport—Metro train or DTC bus. The new AIKS Office address is-- House No, 308 (LGF), Ashoka Enclave—III, Sector 35, Faridabad – 121003. Pertinent to note here, the office is Vastu friendly and South facing and has a new land line number. We have also appointed an office manager.

### Annual General Meeting (AGM):

**AIKS Policy Consultative Group**, in its meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> October at the new address, decided to hold the AGM in the month of December, 2022. The date and venue will be intimated in November issue of Naad.

**Audited Accounts statement and balance Sheet for the year 2021-22 have been submitted to the Income Tax department.**

### AIKS Jammu Connect Meet:

During the maiden visit of its new team last month, AIKS was able to strike an instant chord with the members of the community in Jammu when a delegation led by its President, Dr Ramesh Raina accompanied by senior VPs descended on the city, the de-facto capital of exiled community, to have an interface with the community. The three-day visit (16-18 September) actually came after a long-time gap caused partly due to pandemic restrictions.

AIKS team led by President Dr Ramesh Raina visited **Mata Saraswati Pustakalaya - Library Cum Book Bank**, a community project of Helpline Humanity. The team also had a meeting with **Rising Athletes of Jammu & Kashmir, Jagti**, a youth organisation helping the young boys and girls to get productively engaged in activities to

channel their minds and bodies into positive actions. The team also called on the protesting **PM Package Employees** on the 17<sup>th</sup> September, led by President Dr Ramesh Raina, at the office of Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, as a show of solidarity with them.

On the 17<sup>th</sup>, in his keynote address, AIKS President Dr Ramesh Raina, who was in the chair, focused mainly on Healing Touch policy and Legitimate Minority Space for the exiled community.

Concluding the visit on September 18, AIKS held a very largely attended **Press Conference on September 18, 2022** at Press Club Jammu to share with the media the discussions and deliberations arrived at the Community Meet held on the previous day. Representatives from the print and electronic media and social media channels had come to cover the event in large numbers and the event was carried with banner headlines in print media the following day, 19<sup>th</sup> September. The event even got a wide coverage on e-media and vernacular press, besides leading national news channels.

A detailed report on the team's Jammu visit is separately covered in this issue of NAAD elsewhere on the ensuing pages.

### **AIKS Team visits Vadodara:**

As part of President, Dr Ramesh Raina's ambitious Affiliate Connect Programme, AIKS delegation visited Vadodara at the invitation of its KSB (Kashmir Sabha Baroda) Executive team led by its dynamic President Shri Ravi Mawa, to be guests of honour at their Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) and cultural evening. The delegation comprised of President Dr Ramesh Raina, Senior VP

Shri M.L.Malla, VPs Shri S.K.Bhan and Ms Alka Lahori landed in the beautiful city of Vad Trees (Vadodara) early morning on 8<sup>th</sup> October. The two-day visit on 8-9 October was very engaging and fruitful with respect to the interaction with the community members who have chosen Vadodara as their home in the aftermath of our unfortunate exodus. The AIKS delegation was received well and accorded great honour at the event.

The President, Shri Mawa, in his welcome address, dwelt at great length on the privilege and significance of being part/affiliate of an umbrella organization called AIKS which has so many branches and roots in the country and abroad, which in effect makes KSB part of a huge family. Entire AIKS delegation was called on the dais and honoured with trophies and bouquets. A long introductory piece was read about AIKS President, Dr Ramesh Raina's qualifications and services to the community before his address to the august gathering of the community members.

In his address, Dr Raina spoke about the importance of cohesiveness of the community across the length and breadth of the country and abroad, especially in the face of vilification campaign against us by our enemies in the valley and detractors in the government system to deprive us of our due share in Kashmir. He also said that a genuine and legitimate minority space was prerequisite and should be precursor to our return to the valley – all our rights and properties should be safeguarded through constitutional guarantees, we should be treated as reverse minorities in the valley and at par with minorities of India, he said. (Full report in November issue of Naad)







-Dr Manorama Bakshi



# AIKS Jammu Visit

## —A REPORT

AIKS was able to strike an instant cord with the members of the community in Jammu during the maiden visit of its new team last month, when a delegation led by its **President Dr Ramesh Raina accompanied by senior VP, S/S M.L. Malla, S.K.Bhan, Rohit Dhar, Ms Alka Lahori, Dr Manorama Bakshi, Vinod Pandita, and members of its affiliates from Chandigarh, Ms Meenakshi and Mrs Nancy Ganjoo and President of Kolkata Sabha Pt Sunil Koul** descended on the city, the de-facto capital of exiled community, to have an interface with the community. The three-day visit (16-18 September) actually came after a long-time gap caused partly due to pandemic restrictions.

**It was an awe-inspiring moment when the team visiting from Delhi was joined by an energetic group of KP youth at Jammu railway station and escorted it straight to Jagti township, high on the priority list of the delegation.** AIKS team led by **President Dr Ramesh Raina** visited **Mata Saraswati Pustakalaya - Library Cum Book Bank, a community project of Helpline Humanity.** Its President, Pt M K Pandita showed the team around the library and the book bank complete with all varieties of reading material (text books and reference books) including daily newspapers and an impressive reading/studying facility in place for the benefit of student community of the Jagti township. Besides, the library also has a health

diagnostic facility complete with a TMT. In his interaction, Shri Pandita told the visiting team that AIKS has not only supported the library with books but also extended monetary support from time to time. He also informed the team that Helpline Humanity in conjunction with Equitas Development Initiatives Trust Chennai, Saraswati Educational, Cultural and Charitable Trust, Shri Vishwakarma Skill Development University was jointly organizing MEGA JOB FAIR for educated and unemployed youths at Higher Secondary School Migrant township Jagti Jammu, while adding that 28 companies had agreed to participate in the Job Fair, efforts were on to bring more on board, and that around 1500 KP youth had already registered for the event. Dr Raina, while appreciating the efforts and achievements of Helpline Humanity, said AIKS was committed by word, will, passion to our own brothers and sisters in Jagti. He said Helpline Humanity Foundation was an extended arm of AIKS, and the NGO could use AIKS logo any time they needed.

**Meeting with Rising Athletes of Jammu & Kashmir:** In keeping with the umbrella organization's agenda of engagement with the youth of Jagti in order to keep them out of bad influences of drugs and alcoholism and keep their morale high and spirits going, a meeting with the key initiators and entrepreneurs of Rising Athletes of Jagti was held. Youth KP

entrepreneur, Sahil Pandita and a few members of the community have created Rising Athletes, a platform to use sports as means for economically empowering youth of Jagti and transforming them into a disciplined and self-confident workforce, so that they become givers to the society, instead of seekers. Setting the self-example as giver of jobs, the very young Sahil Pandita has his own factory SOKI PRODUCTIONS (Sahil Notebooks) at Jammu, making notebooks at affordable prices. It was very heart-warming to see ladies too keenly participating in sports activities. From the platform of RA, nearly 650 kids from Jagti have recently participated in sports events, the AIKS team was told. He said they were scouting for support and sponsors for upcoming Mega Cricket Carnival "Saraswath Pandit Premier League" for which RA was planning to invite Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner as Chief guest. Besides this, the NGO also has plans afoot to approach Sports Authorities and Government for financial support and patronage, and to fulfil eligibility criteria the NGO has already taken fifteen (15) coaches for different games on board. The NGO has many plans up its sleeves – to organize a mega sport event and invite sports Minister Anurag Thakur as chief guest to send 3-4 athletes to major sports academies in India; having a Para-Olympic event. The team has a dream of growing from a district level sports organization to a national level organization. Towards this end many prestigious KP organizations like Sharika foundation, NGO, KMECT are supporting the initiatives of the Raising Athletes.

**For AIKS, however, the 'find' of the trip has been Shri Vikas Raina**, the main brain and motivational force behind the **RA story**. A corporate honcho (he is an ex-VP of Accenture), for **Vikas Raina** the moment of reckoning came — “When I met Sahil and his team, I realized that these kids are doing so much good for the community, keeping drug menace at bay; therefore, I should support them and I got involved”. He just chucked it up, a successful career in a high paying

multinational company to come back and serve the community. Bravo, really inspiring.

Dr Raina congratulated team Rising Athletes for converting the adversity into an opportunity. He said Sports helps an individual not only in the physical wellbeing, but also character building and analytical thinking. He advised them to get registered with Sports Authority of Jammu and also align with the vision of Fit India movement. He said that AIKS was always a call away for any progressive youth initiatives like RA, and the organization could use AIKS logo for their upcoming events.

**Meeting with PM package employees:** Early on the 17<sup>th</sup>, AIKS team, led by President Dr Ramesh Raina, called on the protesting Kashmiri Pandits PM package employees at the office of Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, as a show of solidarity with them. The aggrieved employees, appointed under the Prime Minister's package scheme have been agitating for nearly four months now demanding relocation outside the Kashmir valley in view of increasing incidents of target killings of mainly KPs. Dr Raina while addressing the employees said that he had all along been in touch with their team over phone and seeking the details of any progress in negotiations with the UT administration. Dr Raina referred to the press meet AIKS and Jammu and Kashmir Vichar Manch (JKVM) held together on August 22<sup>nd</sup> in New Delhi in order to share the pain and anguish of the community over recurrent target Killings of residual Kashmiri Pandits and PM package employees with Media and the Country and to demand a time bound exemplary punitive action against the perpetrators of heinous crime against the humanity. He said we have to look at workable solutions which ensure your safety and security and an honourable solution to the current crises. AIKS senior VP Shri M L Malla, Dr Manorama Bakshi, Ms Alka Lahori, Mrs Nancy Ganjoo and Shri S.K.Bhan also addressed them and tried to assuage their feelings.

**September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022-- AIKS ONE DAY MEET discusses following points :**

The Meeting organized by All India Kashmiri Samaj, the apex organization of the KPs, was presided over by its President Dr Ramesh Raina and attended by vast multitude of community leaders, organizational heads, thought leaders and thinkers; and prominent participants like Former DGP S P Vaid, S/S Ajay Bharti, BJP leader and former MLC, Padamshri Prof K.N. Pandita, B.L Saraf, Rtd Session Judge and journalist, Advocates P.N. Goja and Kashmiri Lal, journalists Bodji Bangroo and Anil Baht, Shri Sunil Koul, President Kashmiri Samaj Kolkata, Nancy Ganjoo, Sh M.L Malla etc

All the delegates extensively deliberated and debated on the crucial issues confronting the Community like uninterrupted continuity of selective and targeted killings of Kashmiri Pandits, service anomalies and official apathy towards the PM package employees, extension of healing touch policy to the beleaguered community and host of other issues relevant to the long-term survival of Kashmiri Pandits as a distinct ethnic minority community. AIKS and major KP organizations, both in India and overseas, have been discussing individually and collectively the core issues of concern to KP's. On 17th September 2022 elected representatives of these organizations and prominent KP's came together to jointly discuss and deliberate on the core concerns of the displaced community.

KP's are firmly unanimous in returning to their millennia old Valley habitat. They are inclined to contribute to the resurrection of benign and harmonious cultural ethos of Kashmir. The Pandits attach significance to the ideology of a secular democratic philosophy of the Indian Nation state as the only arrangement that ensures freedom of expression and opportunities of development materially as well as spiritually.

**In his keynote address, AIKS President Dr Ramesh Raina, who was in the chair, focused mainly on Healing Touch policy and Legitimate Minority Space for the exiled community.** He said that UT administration should accord legitimate minority status to

Kashmiri Pandits and extend its healing touch policy to PM Package employees and residual KPs living in the valley. The CBMs should come by way of the government taking cognizance of their day-to-day survival issues and providing them the succour they need which should work as an incentive for them to stay back in the valley with dignity. Their well-being with a sense of dignity is integral to the restitution of the community in its entirety in Kashmir.

Dwelling at length for seeking a legitimate **Minority Space in Kashmir, Dr Raina said** that pluralist vision and diverse character of Indian constitution and state charter stands frozen and negated through sustained and uninterrupted marginalization of its minorities especially displaced Kashmiri Pandits. A significant obstacle to this imperative is the democracy in practice in Kashmir whose attributes are often at the exclusion of exiled Kashmiri Pandits and other minorities. Quoting from SC judgment in number of cases, he said the apex court has held that minority enumeration has to be done at the state level and if for their affirmative action a law is required, states must do it. Minority share in Legislating Bodies is the Basic feature of the Constitution; "These references are made to assert rights of the Kashmiri Pandits to have a say in the decision-making process of the state. It may be pertinent to recall that the National Commission for Minorities has expressed concern over the dwindling number of KPs in the state."

Taking a cue from him, former J&K top cop **Mr Shesh Paul Vaid** said that weapons should be provided to the members of the community and arms training should be given to them so that they can protect themselves from the "terror" attacks. "There is no harm in giving arms training and providing weapons to the minority Hindu community as well as to the vulnerable section of the Muslims in the Kashmir valley," said Mr Vaid.

**Dr Manorama Bakshi**, in her brief address while expressing concern over the decreasing population of KP community

made a fervent appeal to the community youth to go beyond the “one child or no child syndrome” on the lines of 'Jiyo Parsi' mission to arrest the decline in population. She said the initiative of Parsis to increase the population base of their depleting numbers is supported by the Ministry of Minorities by providing funds to couples with two or more children and any fertility treatment.

**Sh Ajay Bharati, senior BJP leader and Ex, MLC**, asked the youth to return to the corridors of democracy and academia to serve the country in diverse fields like legislature, executive, judiciary, media besides academics. He congratulated AIKS for holding the seminar and said AIKS was the only KP organization with pan India and pan global reach, therefore representative of a genuine and viable voice of exiled community.

**Padamshri Prof K.N. Pandita**, true to his forte, touched upon the international dimension of the K dispute and US-Pak-India triangle around the issue. He said recent economic bailout package of the US for Pakistan should remove all our misgivings that US is our friend and ally. Pakistan is its priority and preferred ally in its imperialist designs and ambitions. He said in such a scenario, a KP is helping India in redeeming its stakes in Kashmir. He said he personally has attended many international seminars and echoed India's point of view as a victim of the conflict and Islamic jihad.

Advocate **Sh Kashmiri Lal** mostly spoke about Civil Writ Petition which is pending in J&K High Court and he is part of the legal team pleading (pro-bono) for the community, and said that many recent PILs filed in SC and getting rejected by the apex court was going to harm the CWP pending in the J&K HC.

**Advocate Shri P.N Goja**, Ace Advocate, also part of AIKS legal team in Jammu looking after the CWP, raising toast to AIKS for pursuing proactively pro-community agenda said what else could we expect from an organization which is holding protest demonstrations, dashing missives and

presenting memoranda to government quarters and filing a Civil Writ Petition. He gave big thumbs up to the AIKS.

**B.L.Saraf** (Rtd Sessions Judge, legal brain and prolific writer and journalist), an important voice in KP affairs, said, AIKS has done it again, brought the community together around the table to get some wisdom on the crucial issues confronting the community. He was all praise for the AIKS.

**Bodji Bangroo**, eminent journalist said that after initial and deliberate downplaying the KP issue by media, it was again highlighted by media when Kashmiri Muslims started getting killed by the militants. He thanked AIKS for holding a seminar like this after a long time.

**Anil Bhat**, eminent journalist and PTI chief, as a grass root level observer of the community affairs and keen watcher of its activities with respect to the direction it was taking, said that many social malaises are afflicting the community caused mostly by economic and financial constraints and community especially organizations like AIKS should take note of it and take remedial measures. He said that seminar like these should be held at regular intervals and tempo and momentum should be kept going.

**Shri M.L.Malla**: Senior vice President AIKS mostly delineated the thrust and priority areas of the current executive team of AIKS. He said the Affiliate Connect Programme, undertaken by the President Dr Raina with right earnest was a step in that direction to consolidate the strength of apex organization for a forward push of community specific agenda. He said Chandigarh, Kolkata, Jammu and soon to be Vadodara conclaves have brought community together and made it cohesive.

**Prof Manoj Dhar**, former VC Jammu University and an eminent Academician lauded the role of AIKS and efforts of its President Dr Ramesh Raina for undertaking such a huge exercise by gathering all intellectuals at a table for marathon debate and getting their wisdom for the betterment of community so that the collective struggle is



taken to a logical conclusion.

Vote of Gratitude was presented by VP, **Shri Rohit Dhar** and proceedings conducted by **Shri Vinod K Pandita, Communications and Media in-charge.**

### September 18, 2022—AIKS Holds Press Conference at Press Club, Jammu

Concluding the visit on September 18, AIKS team held a very largely attended press conference on September 18, 2022 at Press Club Jammu to share with the media the discussions and deliberations arrived at the Community Meet held on the previous day. Representatives from the print and electronic media and social media channels had come to cover the event in a large number and the event was carried with banner headlines in print media the following day, 19<sup>th</sup> September. The event even got a wide coverage on e-media and vernacular press, besides leading national

news channels. The Press meet demanded following things:

- 1) **Creation of a legitimate minority space for the displaced Kashmiri Pandit community**
- 2) **Healing touch Policy for the valley based Kashmiri Pandits and PM package employees, who should also be taken into confidence for the redressal of their just and legitimate demands**
- 3) **An institutional, mechanism to coordinate with the Kashmiri Pandit representatives for the effective implementation of their just demands and to deal with any other exigency, should that happen.**
- 4) **Passage of Temples and Shrines Bill**
- 5) **Hike in monthly cash relief.**

## AIKS demands effective implementation of their just demands

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep. 18 : All India Kashmiri Samaj, an apex body of Indian and overseas Kashmiri Pandit organizations, today demanded An institutional mechanism to coordinate with Kashmiri Pandit representatives for effective implementation of their just and legitimate demands.

Addressing a press conference here, the president of AIKS Dr Ramesh Raina said that KPs have been time and again seeking the attention of the government to redress their genuine demands which pertain about return and rehabilitation to Kashmir, passage of temples and shrines bill and hike in monthly cash relief to displaced Pandits from their ancestral land.

"But the governments, both at centre and at J&K, have not been taking serious note of our demands and pleas", Dr Raina regretted.

We have been asking the government for creation of legitimate minority space for displaced Kashmiri Pandit com-



munity and healing touch policy for the valley base KPs and PM package employees. But unfortunately, no forward movement is taking place, he added.

The AIKS president, who along with team of his organization members from Delhi, Calcutta and Chandigarh, was in Jammu to discuss and deliberate with community members for the last three days, said that there is a need for taking

concrete and tangible measures to restore faith of KPs in the system.

Emphasizing that Kashmiri has made several deliberate lapses and departures with respect to minority rights And space, he said the pluralist vision and diverse character of Indian constitution and state charter stands frozen and negated through sustained and uninterrupted marginalization of

its minorities, especially Kashmiri Pandits.

Dr Raina said that he would take views of all affiliates across the country for consensus of the community and later hold a national level conference to deliberate and formulate action plan.

Among others who were present at the press briefing included, A K Raina, M L Malik, Dr Mahommed Bakshi, Mrs Aika Lahori, Sunil kaul and Mrs Nancy Ganjoo.

# Glimpses of AIKS Visit to Jammu







- Alka Lahori



# Why Jammu Is Important!

A visit to Jammu is always a pleasure, a much-awaited event and an occasion to look forward to. Post-displacement, the erstwhile winter capital has emerged Mecca of KP's community life and activities, be it political, social, cultural or commercial. As a matter of fact, Jammu is now, for all practical purposes, the social and cultural capital of the exiled community. A call on the town always refreshes and rejuvenates and reassures that as a collective being we are still alive and kicking. The visit is never less than a pilgrimage, and city is the barometer of this **Pilgrim's Progress**.

Jammu has come a long way – from a

sedentary and quaint city whose reverie would only be broken by a sundry chime of temple bells, to a bustling town, bursting at seams. Analysts aver that Kashmir's humongous economic loss during 30 years as a result of Islamic uprising, has been a big gain for Jammu. With all commercial activities shifting base from Srinagar, Jammu today has emerged as an important trading centre in north India.

But, for exiled community, Jammu has a different meaning; it has an emotional connect with the city. Jammu was the first destination point where the community crash landed on that fateful night of January (20-



21) in 1990 when they took an enmasse flight from their millennia old habitat in the wake of Islamic uprising after becoming the first soft targets of ubiquitous gun wielding mad skull Pak trained Islamic militia. The only escape route led them to Jammu. Suddenly, it became a vast city of tents teeming with 'refugees'.

Barring a few initial ugly episodes of rancour, by and large, Jammu has played a generous and gracious host to the hapless and beleaguered community. It has provided them with all the wherewithal to stand up on their own and get going. Today KPs feel at home in Jammu and have carved a place for themselves in its social milieu. As a matter of fact, the city today presents a curious mix of flavour of diverse cultures, a perfect picture of cross-cultural influences. Kashmiri is now a street language and Kashmiri kandur (baker) is present in every nook and corner of the city. Local Dogra population has

future struggle for survival and return.

With due course of time, many KPs started building their careers and also abodes in Jammu. Many colonies have only KPs neighbourhood, taking care of our language and also distinct food culture. With their spending culture especially during weddings and direct investments in real estate, Kashmiri Pandit's have contributed a lot to the changed profile of this city. From city of temples, it is now city of banquet halls, plazas and malls. It is a town which is abuzz with activities— literary, political, social, culinary, poetry, theatre and what not. Add to that the local FM channel – Radio Sharda with tagline 'Booziv, te Khosh Rooziv' has added a new aspect to its socio-cultural life. With a vast listener base around the world via internet, the advertisement jingles in chaste Kashmiri and in a very earthy dialect add such a colloquial tinge to the daily life.

Jammu is a town where a large section of

***Barring a few initial ugly episodes of rancour, by and large, Jammu has played a generous and gracious host to the hapless and beleaguered community.***

increasingly taken to relishing these oven fresh lavasa and tsochi for breakfast and katlam as snack for afternoon tea, and also grown palate for collard greens and knoll khol which is available in all the seasons in Jammu.

After the initial cultural shock, KPs too slowly assimilated local Dogra culture and never came in conflict with them. They also consciously tried to influence them with our age-old culture of erudition and scholastic pursuits, which they found very rewarding and appealing for their next generation. Also, since we are not, by nature, aggressive and violence prone, it helped us build bridges with them and gain acceptability among locals. By and by we became much sought after as tenants, doctors and teachers. Creating a Goodwill factor was important because in times to come Jammu was to become an important place/ stage for chalking out strategies with respect to our

'migrant' community lives, and in various segments they live in bungalows, housing colonies, in smaller budget neighbourhoods and in camp resettlement colonies like Muthi, Mishriwalla and Jagti township. It is a place where our myriad political resolutions have been adopted and where our vast cerebral power is located. With respect to socio-cultural organizations in Jammu, there is no denying the fact that many old organizations have played crucial role in initial years of displacement, though most have gone into oblivion. Replacing them are now myriad Trusts and individual institutions, a virtual conglomerate of political and legal brains who are acting as pressure groups. But somewhere there seems a vacuum when it comes to voicing political concerns of the beleaguered community, a grass root advocacy organization, in view of the fact that our survival as a distinct ethnic community and our return to our homes is now a political issue.



So, when All India Kashmiri Samaj (AIKS) team along with its affiliate members from Chandigarh, Panchkula, Kolkata descended on Jammu last month to have an interface with the community, it was seen as filling that gap. AIKS, with a pan India and global presence through its affiliates in India and abroad like KOA and IEAKF, has already taken major steps towards that advocacy role many summers back, by way of the Civil Writ Petition (CWP) it filed in 2006 in the Supreme Court of India making Government of India and state of J&K as respondents. The petition, besides seeking a white paper on the exodus of an entire ethnic KP community from the valley in January 1990 and an IDP status for them, also demands myriad relief measures till their eventual return to their original homes. In fact, the PM package employment scheme has been as a result of that CWP only. The petition is still pending in J&K High Court with community team of lawyers representing AIKS (the petitioner), religiously appearing (pro-bono) for hearings. AIKS is also on the forefront in advocacy role for beleaguered community by way of various memoranda it has submitted before the powers that be at various points of time since 1990.

On September 16, 2022 when AIKS team came to Jammu, it was a home coming for the apex body after a long hiatus caused by two year long pandemic and change of leadership in the organization. When its incumbent **President Dr Ramesh Raina** took over the

reins of the AIKS last September, he immediately set upon his ambitious 'Affiliate Connect Programme' and visited KSS in Chandigarh, Kolkata Sabha in Kolkata, KHS Karnataka in Bangalore, Jammu, with visit to Vadodra and Ambala in the pipeline and possibly a visit to the UK early next year. The affiliate coordination is important for re-establishing representative character of the organization as all the affiliates are democratically elected bodies. Alongside the community welfare and advocacy, Affiliate Connect remains an important feature of President Dr Ramesh Raina's focus and agenda.

**The role of AIKS as the only viable and effective vehicle of community opinion was echoed and reaffirmed by an assembly of community think-tank and legal luminaries at the seminar organized by the apex organization on 17<sup>th</sup> September at Hotel Savoy.** Community thought leaders and intellectuals almost unequivocally lauded the role of AIKS in raising community issues at all political forums since its inception with successive regimes only adding to its community welfare and opinion agenda. **They were there in strength—Padamshri Prof Kashi Nath Pandita, Prof Manoj Dhar ( former VC Jammu University), Justice B.L. Saraf, Advocate P.N. Goja, Advocate Kashmiri Lal, Shri Bodji Bangroo ( eminent journalist and former PTI chief) Shri Ajay Bharti ( former MLC), Shri Anil Bhat ( eminent journalist and PTI chief) Shri J.L.Koul ( President Vishwa Bharti), Prof Gopi Krishen Muju ( eminent Educationist and journalist and proprietor of Voice of Silence)** who put a seal of approval on the leadership role of the apex organization. In unison they said whether it is holding protest demonstrations, writing memoranda, holding meetings with political big wigs in connection with community issues or filing a Civil Writ Petition in Supreme Court, AIKS has done it all and that community in Jammu looks up to it for filling the leadership vacuum at a very crucial juncture of its existence.





- Ashok Bhan



# End **hate**, bigotry and Racism

(Build Peace, harmony and end Violence.  
Let us all contribute towards peace)

September month every year is crucial in global humanitarian ethos-sessions of both houses of United Nations - UNHRC and UNGA commence to discuss essentially how to achieve the noble cause of global peace. How to end hate, bigotry and racism. The UN deliberates the measures to build peace, harmony and end violence. Primarily the Moto is for us all to contribute towards peace.

21<sup>st</sup> September every year is celebrated throughout the globe as International Day of Peace, also known as World Peace Day. This day is celebrated to promote Peace, Harmony and Non-violence. International Peace Day also promotes solidarity among people and countries. The International Day of Peace was established by the UN resolution in 1981. It was the year 1982, when International Day of Peace was celebrated first. Until 2002, it was celebrated on the third Tuesday of September each year.

After 2022 the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) decided to celebrate the International Day of Peace permanently on 21 September. The main focus of declaring 21 September as the International Day of Peace is to encourage people to work in cooperation and to maintain worldwide peace.

Therefore, every year on 21<sup>st</sup> September, the International Day of Peace is celebrated. Peace is possible. If we look at history, most



societies have lived in peace most of the time. Today, we are much less likely to die in war than our parents or grandparents did. Especially after the second world war since the formation of the United Nations we have avoided any major serious conflict in the world. Although many small-scale wars, civil and proxy wars, have taken place in recent times too but still our world is experiencing the long peace since the second world war.

And it is also clear that human beings also

understood from a long time that peace is very important. As the first recorded peace movements were the Peace of God (989 AD) and Truce of God (1027 AD) brought about from the desire to curb violence by limiting the days and times nobility could practice violence.

In 1981, the United Nations General Assembly declared the third Tuesday of September as International Day of Peace after passing a resolution for it which was sponsored by the United Kingdom and Costa Rica. The date initially chosen was the regular opening day of the annual sessions of the General Assembly, the third Tuesday of September, with a purpose to strengthen the ideals of peace across the world.

There is a famous quote of Mahatma Gandhi that, “An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind.” So instead of fighting, we should try to resolve the conflicts and promote peace and harmony in the whole world.

International Day of Peace holds a great significance, The International Day of Peace reminds us that the world is our home. World is

officially known as World Peace Day, is a United Nations recognized holiday observed annually on 21st September worldwide.

This day is dedicated to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and people around the world. It gives a message to all that we all can achieve much more by working together instead of fighting with each other.

It also aims to end all of the ongoing conflicts in the world so that they can be resolved peacefully and thus can be prevented from spreading all over the world which can force all of our world into a major conflict which could cause serious consequences to humanity and our world.

This day thus encourages people to refrain themselves from participating in violence and advocating for war as it is seen that many times people emotionally advocate for war as without people's support it becomes extremely hard for the leaders to start a conflict or war even if they are dictators. So, as a people it is our responsibility to always speak against war and always advocate peace.

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**Barring a few initial ugly episodes of rancour, by and large, Jammu has played a generous and gracious host to the hapless and beleaguered community.**

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a better place when there is peace and non-violence should prevail all across the world.

International Day of Peace also celebrates people who work as peacemakers and peacekeepers. This day, the comrades pay respect and tributes to peacemakers for their contributions. We should learn what we can each do individually to make the world a more peaceful and better place.

War and violence are never a solution to resolve any conflicts but it only increases hatred for each other around the world. We should learn from the past that violence and war is no solution. For example, World War II created only loss of life and peace and it was not beneficial for anybody.

The International Day of Peace, also

Life is better in a world where peace exists and that is the motive of this day as well to advocate for peace and non-violence across the world. On this day we look to those who have been peacemakers and pay them respect and tributes for their contributions and also to learn what we can each do individually to make the world a more peaceful place.

The message of peace is a very simple message and we all must have heard about it and its importance since our childhood through parents and schools. But despite knowing it we must accept that reality is far different and everyone is, kind of, insecure of each other which leads to various conflicts between various states or people groups.

And that's what is the problem with our world we know that war and violence is never an answer to resolve conflicts but it only increases the hatred for each other around the world. For now, we have avoided a major world conflict since World War II but looking at current scenarios we can't guarantee that we are not going have a World War III, still it is very unlikely to happen but why take a chance when we can stop fighting now only.

War causes endless sufferings. We have seen examples of it many times in the past, be it the second world war or the first one, about millions of people perished from our world during these wars. So, it is, for sure, that with the current technology and the powerful weapons that we have today have the potential to wipe out human race from the planet.

This day, thus, encourages people to refrain themselves from participating in violence and advocating for war as it is seen that many times people emotionally advocate for war as without people support it becomes extremely hard for the leaders to start a conflict or war even if they are dictators. So, as a people it is our responsibility to always speak against war and always advocate

On International Day of Peace, individuals and organizations around the world participate in activities and host many events centered on a set theme for the year. Activities vary from private events to public ceremonies, festivals, and concerts sending the message of peace to large audiences around the world. Educational institutes around the world also plays their role by arranging art exhibitions and lessons for students to discuss how different cultures celebrate peace and to learn about conflict and wars in history so that mistakes are not repeated. Sometimes they organise rallies of students to deliver the message of peace to the masses.

On an individual level, people also take part in activities like planting trees, setting caged animals free or putting aside their differences and embracing people which they have fought before as acts like these help in

spreading the message of peace and love.

The Peace Bell was donated by the United Nations Association of Japan in 1954. It has become tradition to ring the bell twice a year, first at the first day of spring, at the Vernal Equinox, and on 21st September to celebrate the International Day for Peace. Every year the UN designates a specific theme for this day as a way to encourage people to focus on it. The theme for this year's 2022 International Day of Peace is "End hate, bigotry and Racism. Build Peace."

Peace is the sine qua non for sustainable development and enjoyment of the human rights. There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development. The UN urges all nations and populations to respect a cessation of hostilities during this day and to mark it through information and public awareness activities on peace issues. The culture of peace is a culture of dialogue and prevention and, in this context, the role of the United Nations has never been so vital. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development affirms that "there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development." The same spirit underpins the Security Council and the General Assembly resolutions in 2016 on 'sustaining peace.'

We need a new comprehensive approach, to address root causes, strengthen the rule of law and promote sustainable development, on the basis of dialogue and respect. This guides all of UNESCO's action to build peace through education, freedom of expression, intercultural dialogue, respect for human rights and cultural diversity and scientific cooperation.

We all as people have a role to play in establishing peace. And tackling hate, bigotry and racism is a crucial way to contribute. We can work to dismantle the structures that fill hate and racism in our minds. We can support movements for equality and human rights everywhere. We can speak out against hate speech both offline and online. We can promote anti-hate and racism through education and reparatory justice.





- Surinder Koul



# DELHI PARATROOPER ON KASHMIR SOIL

Ghulam Nabi Azad had the audacity to acknowledge publicly in his first rally that he could not promise the restoration of Art 370 and 35A in the Jammu and Kashmir Union territory. For that, there should be 354 member majorities in the Parliament to revoke the abrogated article. Because of this, the state faced turmoil which resulted in the killing of lac of people and the dislocation of lacs of Kashmiri people and posed impediments to the progress of the state. He emphasises more on prosperity, job generation and restoration of statehood, holding of elections in the state. Soon after the resignation of Azad from the Congress party, he announced the formation of a new party which was joined by many political activists from the Jammu and Kashmir regions. Coining a new party name and party flag to suit the regional yearning has become a mind-boggling matter for Azad and his core group. He has emerged as a counterweight to the valley-based political persons who still harp on revoking Articles 370 and 35A as their

political mission. Though he is the son of the Jammu region yet had most of his political career with the central government, barring his stint as CM from 2005 to 2008 in alliance with Mufti Mohd Syed, PDP leader. It is a probing question whether he would be able to make a dent in the valley-centric politics or has to succumb to the valley-based politicking.

As a son of the soil, Azad started his political career as a block president of youth congress in 1973-74 in Doda District and got elevated to state congress youth president in 1975-76. During this period, he came close to Sanjay Gandhi, a youth congress leader who visited Kashmir in 1975-76. On his intimate contact with Sanjay Gandhi, Azad was shifted to Delhi as Gen secretary of the Indian Youth Congress under the leadership of Sanjay Gandhi and became a cosy member of the Gandhi family. Azad further stamped his loyalty test to the Gandhi family, when he participated in the protest rally against the arrest of Indira Gandhi under the Shah Commission in



1977. His political stature was enhanced soon after he was nominated president of IYC by Sanjay Gandhi in 1980. Azad was close to Sanjay Gandhi. But the untimely death of Sanjay Gandhi in 1980 made him jump over to the camp of Rajiv Gandhi who later treated Azad as the only political wise to handle Kashmir issues. While being with the Gandhi family, Azad did not look back. He contested elections on Congress mandate twice from Maharashtra state and was inducted into the Union Cabinet under Indira Gandhi's premiership. Azad was said to be the conduit in bringing Dr Farooq Abdullah close to Rajiv Gandhi. That culminated in the Rajiv-Farooq accord (Congress and National conference alliance) for the state election of 1987. In fifty years of his political career, Azad was two times Lok Sabha member, five times Rajya Sabha member and Union Minister in every congress regime from 1982. At the Congress party level, he was Gen secretary with every congress president from 1980 onwards and had a pivotal party position in most of the Parliamentary committees on decisive matters. Besides this, he was the chief trouble-shooter of the party in almost all states and election campaign coordinator for 35 years. The Gandhi family pushed up Azad in the zenith of his political career and conversely, he was said to have betrayed them when his nomination for Raja Sabha was declined by the party's high command.

Political observers acknowledge that Azad had been the politically privileged person whose political base in his original state was in the doldrums. They say that Azad has gone to the state as a political tourist in search of his sanctuary with a new regional DEMOCRATIC AZAD PARTY. One of the chimed hunches is that Azad has some tacit understanding with Modi on the prospective electioneering in the J&K UT. The moot topic is how much Azad has an electoral following in the valley. To convert whatever a little influence Azad enjoys across the tunnel into election-winning strength seems to be very minimal as the regional aspiration in the valley is paramount along with the

undercurrent of Islamic radicalised society. Azad might have some edge in the regions around Doda, Bhandarwah his native place which is wrongly pronounced as Chenab valley. In the forest land scam under Roshni Act, the role of Azad in removing the ban on S 432 to encourage the illegal transfer of the land to occupants born after 1958 and increasing the cut-off year to 2007 as a Chief Minister in 2005 was imperfect. Ikkjutt party, Jammu, allege that the Roshni Act was designed by the political elites of the valley to change the Hindu majority character of Jammu surreptitiously.

During his entire phenomenal rise in Congress-run government, at the Center, he had seldom shown interest in the State affairs, whether it was the communal eruption of Feb 1986 or the mass migration of the Hindu minority from Kashmir in 1989-90 or the Pakistan-sponsored terror fanning in the valley. In spite of Azad's apparent secular credentials, the Hindu minority of Kashmir doesn't spare him for his silence on their exodus from the valley. While hatching a plan to dislodge the Gul Sah government in the state, Congress was a party in making Kashmiri Hindu minority scapegoats in Anantnag and Sopore townships in Feb 1986. Moreover, as the CM of the state from 2005 to 2008, Azad rarely thought about the return and rehabilitation of the Kashmiri Hindu minority in Kashmir when he undertook many developmental works in the state. Therefore, his return to state politics does not go well with the dislocated Kashmiri Hindu minority camped in Jammu and in other regions of India as Azad is the chip of the same flock which hounded them out.

It would be very tough for Azad even in the Jammu region, particularly around his native township to get electoral gains. Dr Farooq Abdullah has initiated sensitizing the remotest areas of Doda, Ramban and Bhandarwah through his party cadre by raising impact-based issues of people. In the rest of the proper Jammu region and its adjoining pockets, Azad has difficult ground to tread with multiple parties which are better placed in the contesting fray.



# Kashmiri Pandits

**Old and New: And how a film created a broad tent of a pan-Hindu identity**



The exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the valley that Vivek Agnihotri's recent film *The Kashmir Files* depicts so graphically, did not start in the 1990s. It has been going on for over 300 years! I come from a Kashmiri Pandit family in which the migration happened so long ago that the exact year, even decade, has long been forgotten. I remember hearing my grandmother say, "Kashmiri Pandits have been coming down to the plains since Aurangzeb's time". What the compelling circumstances were, or whether it was economic migration in search of a better life has never been clear.

**Why did the influential Purana Kashmiris not think of the 1990s Kashmiri Pandit exodus as a personal issue and raise their voice? Why did they take part in the conspiracy of silence that seems to have cloaked the issue for 30 odd years?**

What is clear though, is that there is a large group of Kashmiri Pandits like my family who have lived in the northern Indian states of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Punjab

for hundreds of years. While the old or 'Purana Kashmiris' - as opposed to the new or 'Taaza Kashmiris' who came in the 90s - have adapted and immersed themselves in local life and traditions, they have maintained a very separate identity from the people of the 'plains'. Genetic purity has largely been maintained with little or no marriage with 'Gher-Quom' - the Urdu phrase that tingles with superior in-breeding.

Having grown up in a Kashmiri Pandit family and marrying into another, I can testify to the superiority that the Kashmiri Pandits felt with regard to the other 'backward' communities in the plains. I remember an old aunt telling the story of her early days of marriage into a Kashmiri family settled in Rajasthan. "We were so different from the local Rajasthani families," she said, "I used to sit and play chess with my father-in-law, while other Rajasthani women scurried about, hiding their faces under 'ghunghat' (veils).

The Purana Kashmiris were indeed distinctive for the status awarded to women in the family. The women controlled the finances and had a voice in important

decisions. Family legends are rife with men faithfully handing over their monthly earnings to their wives – while the dominating wives gave them an 'allowance' to spend on themselves.

Education was another important differentiator. I guess the economic advantage of education must have been very clear to a migrant community that did not own land or have an entrepreneurial tradition. The early immigrants amongst Purana Kashmiris learnt the language of the local maharajahs and took up jobs in the courts. Notable amongst them were Sir Sukhdeo Prasad Kak, who was the Prime Minister of Jodhpur, Raja Amarnath Atal, who was Prime Minister to the Maharajah of Jaipur, and Sir K N Haksar, who was a Minister in Gwalior state.

Their education, sage counsel and fluency in link languages such as Persian and English were highly valued and they quickly accrued the benefits: large tracts of land, titles, plush residences, and ornate jewellery. The privileges continued to accumulate, and in time, the next generation of these Purana Kashmiris went abroad to study. The Harrow and Cambridge-educated Jawaharlal Nehru





went on to become the first Prime Minister of independent India. He was part of a larger, well-educated Kashmiri Pandit elite. The judiciary and Indian Civil Service were full of Kashmiri surnames, far in excess of any proportionality, given their extremely small numbers.

### **Purana Kashmiri identity**

Nehru's daughter Indira Gandhi, though married to a Parsi, was still a Purana Kashmiri by birth in Allahabad and her son Rajiv Gandhi, who also went on to be Prime Minister, would also qualify as 50 per cent Kashmiri Pandit. Other notable names amongst Purana Kashmiris were Justice K N Wanchoo, Chief Justice of India, his brother N N Wanchoo (also ICS) who served as Governor of Kerala and West Bengal, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru who was a lawyer, freedom fighter and politician. Sir Tej's descendants went on to lead one of India's flagship companies, India Tobacco Company or ITC.

Without labouring the point (and offending all the relatives I might have missed out!), I hope it is clear that Purana Kashmiris did very well for themselves in the new India that was being created in the plains. They held every possible prestigious post and wielded a lot of influence. So my point is simple: why did they sit by and watch the exodus happen? Why was there no sense of affinity with their brothers and sisters who were clearly driven out of their homes in Kashmir?

We are not debating the historical accuracy of the film here or whether the narrative plays out to suit the political agenda of the current Indian government. I am not talking about the numbers controversy and whether it can be defined as genocide or not. My submission is much simpler and more narrow - why did the influential Purana Kashmiris not think of the 1990s Kashmir Pandit exodus as a personal issue and raise their voice? Why did they take part in the conspiracy of silence that seems to have cloaked the issue for 30 odd years? As a Purana Kashmiri myself, I raise my hand as guilty. The film has forced me to relook at my Kashmiri

Pandit identity and try and find the reasons behind the silence, the lack of action, the apathy even, that seemed to afflict my community.

I find the silence on an identity issue surprising, given that we Purana Kashmiris have zealously guarded our Kashmiri Pandit identity for over 300 years. We would never ever refer to ourselves as Punjabis or Rajasthanis or say that we hailed from Uttar Pradesh or Madhya Pradesh, despite having lived in these states for hundreds of years. It was always 'Kashmiri Pandit' in my family and I am sure in others too. In fact, growing up, my universe consisted of only two kinds of people in the world: Kashmiri and non-Kashmiri. The Kashmiris were Pundits like us whom we were related to and identified with. The non-Kashmiris were everyone else in the world, Indian and non-Indian – a large amorphous mass which was considered 'the other'. In sociological terms the difference was stark: the sacred vs the profane.

My parents' strictures were clear-contact with non-Kashmiris was on a need-to basis. They were friends, never relatives. We met them at work or in educational institutions. And we never (God forbid) married them. Right up to my generation, both my sister and I married Purana Kashmiris; people like us. People who had preserved their light skins through careful breeding, those who ate the same kind of food and spoke the same language. Never mind that the language was Hindustani and not Kashmiri!

### **No affinity with Valley's Pandits**

We prided ourselves on our unique customs and traditions, many of which were watered-down versions of the original ones practiced by Taaza Kashmiri Pandits living in Kashmir. I remember the importance of Shivaratri in my family – the only day in the year when we fasted and went vegetarian. This was a nod to Kashmiri Shaivism I suppose and lingered in our rule book even after Diwali and Holi filtered in from living in the plains. Then there was Nauroze and Sonth which were

'Kashmiri' festivals – not celebrated by people in the plains, though Nauroze or new year was celebrated on the same day as Gudi Padwa in Maharashtra and Ugadi in Andhra Pradesh.

But there was never any feeling of pan-Hinduism or unity with anybody else in India either. We were just Kashmiri Pandits and if interrogated further, we were the Kashmiri Pandits of the plains, and very proud of it. Ask any Purana Kashmiri and they will wax eloquent about how different they are from everyone else in India and how superior. The reasons range from the more rational better education to the completely irrational: more good-looking and better cuisine! The cuisine - largely non-vegetarian and cooked without onions or garlic- is a big differentiator. Our meat actually tastes of meat and not onions and garlic!

And yet, when it came to the crux, the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the valley in 1990, we behaved exactly like all the other communities. We were guilty of complete silence. And because this film has led me to examine my identity more closely, it is my contention that the very sense of superiority we Purana Kashmiris had with regard to other Indian communities, also infiltrated our thinking about the Taaza Kashmiris. They were backward, not as well off, certainly not elite in a pan-Indian sense, ate strange food like haak ka saag and gushtaba, and (hush!) they believed in dowry! Such is the lack of knowledge amongst Purana Kashmiris about their cousins who lived in the Valley that I do not even know whether this dowry story is a fact. In fact, I have been to Kashmir only once - as a two-year-old.

It is easy then to pin the apathy about the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits amongst plains Kashmiris to the distance created by time (hundreds of years) and the fact that ties were not strong because we even lost the language. Kashmiri did not have a script and hence did not travel well, they used to say in my family. But that would be the easy way out.

My contention is more serious: the very superiority that made us distinctive from the other communities in the plains, also made us

feel different from and superior to Taaza Kashmiris. Even the descriptor Taaza is pejorative I feel, like fresh off the boat. We were just too superior, too elite and too wrapped up in ourselves to bother about anyone else. And that is the sad truth.

## Pan-Hindu identity

We were in positions of power, from where we could have influenced thinking. As senior bureaucrats, as journalists, as ministers in the government – we could have taken issue with what happened in 1990. Or at the very least, helped rehabilitate the displaced Kashmiri Pandits. The help was sporadic and limited to those who felt they were part of a pan-Hindu identity, such as the Shiv Sena government in Maharashtra which gave medical college seats to the displaced Pandits. This was referred to in the film. What the Modi government has done with The Kashmir Files is to create a wider pan-Hindu identity. And that is the secret of the film's commercial success, not the entertainment tax relief.

The feeling of a broader Hindu identity and the affinity this creates with the Kashmiri Pandits. For too long Hindus have thought of themselves along narrow regional and caste lines and let politicians and fundamentalists divide them. I see the divide between the Purana and Taaza Kashmiris as a sad example of this. In the earlier paradigm, everyone just cared for their little micro subset; now with the pan-Hindu identity there is a broader tent, but still not the tent that the architects of India envisioned and which reflects the mosaic that is India.

And nothing can sum up that vision more aptly than Rabindranath Tagore's immortal lines: "Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls... into that heaven of freedom my father, let my country awake".

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*(The article is courtesy **South Asia Monitor**)*



- Hira Lal Kak



## TRIBUTE TO MAJOR SUSHIL AIMA BY ONE OF OFFICERS OF ONGC

Great salute to brave heart Sushil Aima. In the winter of the same year, I along with few ONGC colleagues went to Rajouri and Punch for survey of two proposed drilling locations one at each place. After completing the survey of Rajouri location, the next morning we were going to Punch. After crossing Surinkot, our convoy was stopped just before the Army Camp at the outskirts of the small place. Some of us got down from the vehicle to enquire about the road blockade. We saw many army vehicles lined up on the road and the Jawans are getting into the vehicles with their assault ammunitions.

We were told that some terrorists took shelter in a nearby village and army convoy is going to raid them. After few minutes a young Captain boarded his vehicle and left the place and the convoy following him. We were also then allowed to proceed ahead. We safely reached Punch in the afternoon. On way to Punch, We stopped at a roadside temple and offered prayers. We had spoken to the Purohits for some time and came to know that Pakistan terrorists often cross through that place taking advantage of high hills and darkness of the night.

The next day morning, we met DC of Punch District and explained him about ONGC's exploration program in J&K and



requested him to provide us security for survey of our proposed Punch location. Without any word he gave us a newspaper lying on his table and drew our attention to a News item title "Army Captain killed in terrorists' raid at Surinkot". Yes, it was the same captain we saw while traveling to Punch.

Few years later, TOI newspaper carried a small news "Three Purohits were killed in a temple" located between Surinkot and Punch. They were the same priests we talked to in 1999. They were living there for many years in spite of the constant threats of life and finally paid the price for not leaving the temple.

The manager of the hotel at Punch town, where we had lunch on the day of our arrival, was also ambushed some years later in broad daylight.

These things are not going to end anytime soon unless J&K made to be a truly cosmopolitan place. It requires some more bold decisions by GoI. More than army action, message should be loud and clear. Those harbouring and supporting terrorism need to be eliminated. The border has to be completely sealed. It is a difficult but not impossible task. Instead of fighting an unending battle with terrorists, we must move on to other aspects to combat infiltration.



KOA



## Kashmiri Overseas Association Commemorates **BALIDAN DIVAS: GLIMPSES**

KOA commemorated the 33rd Balidan Divas (Kashmiri Hindu Martyr's Day) on **Sept. 16th in Hicksville, New York**, as well as on **Sept. 18th in Washington D.C.** Across the events, we had the honor of being in the company of **Sh. Sushil Pandit** (keynote speaker, renowned scholar and activist), **Mr. Roshan Trakroo** (brother-in-law of Sh. Tika Lal Taploo), **Mr. Vibhuti Jha** (Republican candidate for NY Assembly), **Mr. Rakesh Kaul** (renowned author and senior community supporter), **Mr. Mohan Wanchoo** (accomplished entrepreneur and philanthropist) and numerous other community supporters and **KOA Board members** paying homage at the event.









## The Last Smile – A Father's Love Story

Author : Mr. Jeevan Zutshi

Review by : Ms. Suzanne Ortt; Amazon Prime

Available on amazon.com



A scene from the movie "The Last Smile" Produced by Jeevan Zutshi.

The 87-minute award winning feature film is based on his book, with same name.

*'The Last Smile' is the result of extensive probing, with detailed information about big pharmaceuticals (drug companies with revenues of billions of U.S. dollars). **Mr. Jeevan Zutshi's** goal is to educate lawmakers, the public, especially other parents, of the potential hazards of these alternative medical practices. This article by **Ms. Suzanne Ortt** appeared in the Tri City Voice, November 25, 2009, and gives some insight into the author's life and purpose of writing this book.*

"Each person has a story to tell. Jeevan Zutshi tells his in *The Last Smile*, a complex work of history, politics and tragedy. The work "shares a real-life story of a consumer in the loosely regulated U.S. health supplements market and sheds light

on the dire consequences from being uninformed." Two lines from the poem, *In Memory of a Great Soul* by Professor R. L. Kaul, reflect the essence of this memoir, "The fragrant flower of rare beauty, left the mortal frame to join eternity."

Emigrating from Kashmir in 1972, Jeevan and his wife Usha settled in the San Francisco Bay Area. Except for a four-year work assignment in Saudi Arabia, the family has lived in Fremont since 1977. Zutshi is an engineering graduate, a business consultant, and a real estate broker.

The Zutshis left Kashmir originally because, as Jeevan says, "There was simply no employment for engineers in Kashmir at the time. There was too much political turmoil in my country, particularly because of ongoing feuds with neighboring Pakistan, which prompted me to seek immigration to the United States." This couple, after an arduous beginning in the U.S., began a good and happy life. The family grew to four with the birth of their two sons, Amit and Rahul.

Zutshi became a proud U.S. citizen and active in community affairs, one of the first Indo-Americans to do so. He is involved in mainstream America, serving on several commissions and non-profit boards. Zutshi founded the Indo-American Community Federation, an Indo-American non-profit award-winning organization promoting diversity. It also takes up serious issues affecting the diverse community at large. By doing so, Zutshi set an example to all citizens, particularly his fellow Indo-Americans. "

### **One of the 152 reviews/ Recommendations, of 'The Last Smile' movie on Amazon Prime:**

The Last Smile shows us a grieving father's motivation to find answers after linking his son's sudden death to faulty weight loss supplements. Based on a true story, this film highlights the truth behind the multibillion-dollar industry of dietary supplements not regulated by the FDA and brings awareness towards supplement labels and the integrity of the disclosed ingredients.

Looking into his son's untimely death Zutshi hires a private investigator that informs him that there are 65,000 plus supplements on the market containing proprietary blends meaning that they did not have to disclose the ingredients. After the private investigator post, an ad in a health magazine, seeking anyone else who may have suffered side-effects from the supplement, a series of violent events began to unfold. Zutshi gives us a look into the violence, bribery, and intimidation associated with greedy corporations and their product. Zutshi character captivated the audiences with his portrayal of transparency, suffering, dedication and resilience. The 'Last Smile' has a message that promotes awareness that all of society should know. I highly recommend.





- Urmila Pandita



# THE SECRET SAINT

## PANDIT DAYAL JI MAHARAJ

PART  
II

### Jyoti Jyot Milan

**Swami ji** left for his heavenly abode on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1999. In the last stage of his life, he had been to Jammu and there he did such a leela as if giving every opportunity to his disciples and his loved ones to serve him unto their satisfaction. He was bathed in milk, showered with rose petals during last phase of life. He was benign enough and gave 'naam daan' to even little kids. Later on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1999, he went back to his home at Bombay and on 14<sup>th</sup> April, Monday, he left his mortal frame, in the Brahma muhurat, in Mumbai. He was not an ordinary soul but was an Avatar like Kabir. Prior to his death he had intimated his very close devotees that Sant Kabir has ordered him to leave this mortal body.

**Swami ji** always would say, "Silence in the beginning Silence in the End."

### Teachings:

Swami Ji reiterated that 'Sahaj Bakti' is not complex, instead it is very simple. Due to ignorance, one is unable to understand the intricacy of mesh, which envelopes a person. But the association of 'Living Perfect Master' changes a human just like lathe sharpens a knife. The constant spiritual practices, as directed by guides can make the 'Sadhak' to flourish in spiritual field. He would say 'This world is constituted by 'Naam Roop', which

traversed to generation after generation as Subtle 'Word' or 'Kun' or 'Naam'. The goosebumps also emit 'Holy name' and every exon or neuron percolates with this 'vital energy' of 'Naam'. No words to speak from tip to toe it circulates as ale- 'the spiritual ale full of 'eternal happiness'. All the 'gyanindnyas and 'karmindriyas' are now friends. Mere a word from spiritual Guru's mouth sends thrill through spine of disciple and the life seems to be in unison with that of spiritual guide and 'nothing' prevails. Swami Ji would reiterate that word 'Manav' is derived from 'Manu Tatva' which means 'centre' or 'focal point'. It is not mind. In reality words fail to define it. It is an experience. This 'tatva' is supreme of all elements, which is beyond body, mind, subtle and casual bodies. Despite being felt in above tat-vas, it is beyond comprehension. It is essence of 'completion' or 'pooranta'. It is above destruction, origin, constant, beyond perception, unimaginable, blessed, 'Nij Swaroop'. Vedas called it 'Satyasya Satyam' and 'Kendrasya Kendram', which implies 'seat of energy' that ramifies at material, mental, psychological, spiritual and soul level. The popular term for it is "Pramaadhaar Paramtava". It is 'subtlest subtle' experience wherein saints of high caliber remain static.

He consummates this spiritual knowledge in one couplet.



***"Ek janam Guru Bhakti kar,  
Janam doosray naam,  
Janam Teesray muktipad,  
Chauthay main nijdhaam.***

The gist of above couplet is that a human being should be in association of a perfect master so that 'He' guides the seeker towards the realm of spirituality. At second step the seeker should practice according to the instructions of spiritual guide so that he experiences the 'vital energy' percolating in his Guru everywhere and for him everything becomes 'Gurumayi' He experiences almighty as omnipresent, omniscient and omnipotent.

With a smile such disciple blabbers,

***'Jidhar dekhta hoon, udhar too hi too hai, ki har shai main jalwagar tu hi tu hai'.  
He does not stop here only. There is furtherance in his experience where the seeker finds 'Lalee dekhney main gayee, main bhi ho gayee laal.'***

This is the extreme stage of, carelessness with no idea of joy or happiness, profit / loss, or win / lose. The seeker's body functions, but his intimate self is always in a blessed mood where all the functions of corporeal frame are shun and one becomes 'Living Dead'. His body becomes a temple wherein 'elevated hermit' is seated without any conscience of subject, object or seer. Here all saints are mum and Pandit Dayal Ji Maharaj was considered as 'Silent' saint of India, not of Kashmir as his ardent disciples lived outside Kashmir also.

***'Jyon Til main tel hai, Jyoon Chakmak main aag Tera pritam tujmay hai, Jaag Sakay to Jaag'.  
"Jyoon Nainan main putli, tyon Khalik Ghat manhi, Moorakh log Jaanay naheen Baahar Doondan Jahi"***

The above couplet portrays the true reality of people nowadays. Everyone is showing off that they are seekers of Godhood, which they seek in temples. At the initial stage one may go for 'Saakaar' worship which starts from temples. With the deepening of spiritual thirst, this stage passes into a matured journey from outside world towards inner self. God lies within human being just as the pupil is

embedded in one's eyes and the ignorant does not know this and keeps on searching for God here and there. Life is oasis and man run after deceit without knowing that God is within him just like a mustard seed which is very small in size but a repository of oil is embedded in it. Similarly, the flint produces fire when rubbed. Apparently one can no longer realize the latent energy embedded in the stone.

In this travel of spirituality, first step of 'Association with perfect spiritual master' is a tree whose roots are vicarious joy and welfare. Due to ardent faith, the disciple becomes 'Sidha'. The processes of Karmayog, Gyanyog, Bhakti yog, Rajyog, Kundaliniyog etc are practised by him with ease and through 'Shabdayoga' and 'Nishabda' he attains elevated levels of spirituality.

Second stage is firm belief on 'Perfect Master', from whom the disciple can satiate his curiosity about the mystery of soul science, without if and buts. He has to act upto the instructins of 'Sadguru,' considering him as "Paramtatva Ka Aadhaar" and "Maalike-Kul-Haq".

After subtle clarifications, all doubts are cleared and the seeker can experience the 'subtlest of subtle' beyond comprehension. Here complete surrender to Godhood is the key to attain 'perfection in spirituality'. It is the stage where worship, worshipper and worshipped are 'one complete' and 'whole'. No argument, no bookish knowledge. Display of worship etc. vanishes.

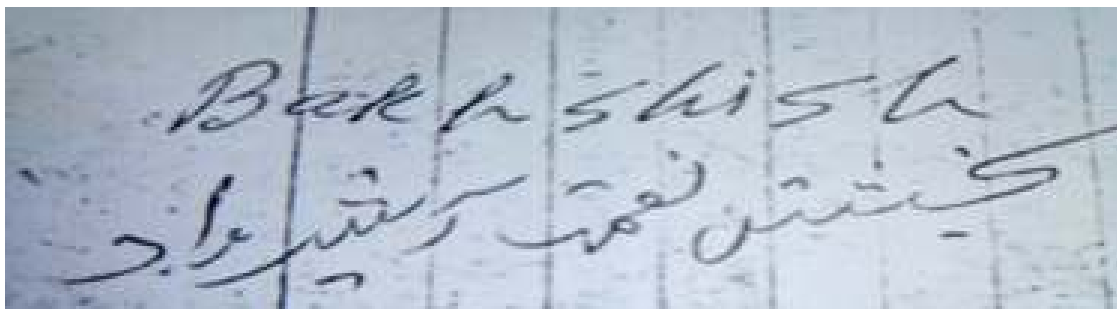
All this seems easy and can be achieved with ease only when a learner has firm belief, determination, constant perseverance and surrender. Without a murmur learner shall always brood over, what is being taught and received through radiation of perfect master. Faith has wings and radiation works wonders. The communion is more silent than verbal, which transfers from master to taught, in subtlest form.

Pandit Dayal Ji Maharaj was bestowed with "Meher Bakshish", the photo script of which is available with the writer. The

language is unique and 'Naimat Bakshish' is beyond comprehension. Facsimile of handwritten title of these blessings is produced hereunder:

Bakshish Naimat Aashirvad

- d) You are beyond the limits of time and space
- e) Capability incarnated
- f) 'Seat of Supreme' i.e., 'Paramtatva Ka Aadhaar'



### Mehar Bakshish

Translation of first half page of these blessings can be inferred as under:

"You have been bestowed with;

- a) His 'Supreme Grace' by "Aadi Karta"
- b) The seat of 'subtlety of subtle'
- c) Victory over Mahakala

.....So on and so forth"

The excerpts are in Urdu script and due to limited knowledge of Urdu, the writer was not in capacity to translate the 'Mehar Bakshish Aashirwad' of fifteen pages. However, a sample facsimile has been indicated above as documentary evidence.

## Calendar of Month

Sankat Nivaran Chaturthi (Karwa Chauth)	13 <sup>th</sup> October 2022
Ashtami	18 <sup>th</sup> October 2022
Ekadashi (Krishna Paksha)	21 <sup>st</sup> October 2022
Dipawali	24 <sup>th</sup> October 2022
(Amavasya)	25 <sup>th</sup> October 2022
Bhai Dooj	27 <sup>th</sup> October 2022
Gopal Ashtami (Shukla Paksha)	01 <sup>st</sup> November 2022
Ekadashi (Shukla Paksha)	04 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
Poornima	08 <sup>th</sup> November 2022

### Note

Panchak starts on 06th October ends on 10th October 2022

Kartik (Krishna Paksha) from 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022 to 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Kartik (Shukla Paksha) from 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to 08<sup>th</sup> November 2022



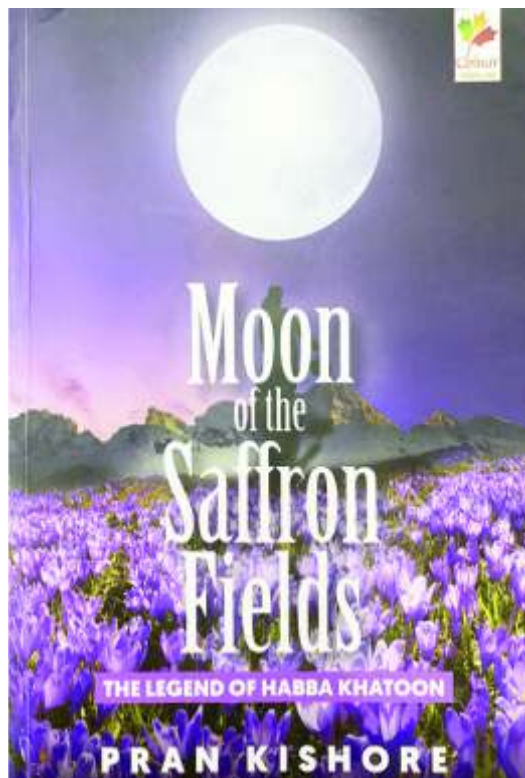
Avtar Mota

## MOON OF THE SAFFRON FIELDS

by Padmashree Pran Kishore Kaul; released at India International Center, New Delhi on 03.09.2022

I feel privileged having seen and heard Swami Ramganatahanda in person. He was a philosopher and the head monk of Belur Math, the H Q of Ramakrishna Mission, Howrah. This is what he once said about great writers. According to him every great writer has five traits worth noticing.

- (1) He is nobody's close friend nor anybody's foe. He is what Kabir says, 'Kabira khada bazaar mein sab ki maange khair na kahoo se dosti na kaahoo se bair'. Then alone can he observe. Then alone can he accept people as they are.
- (2) He is his own teacher. He practices the Upanishadic doctrine of Neti Neti for 'self-evaluation', correction and education to attain perfection.
- (3) He is into the ordinariness of the world but always above it. This also implies a little detachment.
- (4) His thoughts, actions and deeds are meant to integrate, unite and connect.
- (5) He possesses extraordinary memory.



All this is true for Padmashree Pran Kishore Kaul. He is truly in the category of great writers. He remains an encyclopedia and storehouse of knowledge about Kashmir's history, culture, folklore, art, theatre, traditions and anything and everything connected with its past. And if you have to write history of broadcasting in J&K, you have to give him frontal position as the pioneer. This equally applies if you deal with drama and theatre in Kashmir. And he is the originator of radio drama in Kashmir. The awards, honours that he earned, his other books, plays and paintings I may not discuss upon this moment. The greatest and the priceless award that he carries is the love of his people. May it always be with him.

That was about Padmashree Pran Kishore Kaul the author of the book. Coming to the book, let me thank Prof. Shafi Shauq for his beautiful introduction to the book. The Preface to the book is equally wonderful so is the editor's note at the last that makes me to believe that a good book is good in all its aspects. I shall try to do justice to my review by touching the broader aspects of the work without going into specifics of the plot.

The novel has been structured in a commendable manner that conveys author's command over the art of novel writing. As the novel begins, one can feel a sense of urgency

# Book Review

created by the author. The unresolved conflict between characters and the logical flow of the novel keeps you engrossed and engaged. The author approaches each chapter with a specific goal. The novel's narrative presents both, scenes and dramatics which are well balanced. I can feel that the manuscript of the novel has gone through the mill of author's Neti Neti. The theme, characters, setting, plot, conflict, point of view, and the style of the novel catches and holds the reader's attention. The author neither imposes anything nor is judgmental in any chapter. He does his job by carrying the reader attentively along with his script. Here is an author who uses the lyricism and pathos of Zoon's poetry as an aid to story presentation. For this, the selection of the verses is apt and appropriate. Some of the most popular verses appear in the novel and keep the reader gripped apart from helping in the smooth flow of the story.

.I quote :-

*"Tulie naar chhum lalavun moore, Kainsi maa raavin shoore paan."*

*('What blazing fires I nurse within! May no one's childhood vanish thus.')*

*"Vaaerivyen sayaet vara chhas no, Chara kar myon maalino ho."*

*(I feel devastated in my husband's house, Redeem me, o ye my parents.)*

*"Mey kaer tsey kity' poshi dasvanai, Chhaav maeny daanai posh."*

*('I've made posies and posies for you, my love, Enjoy my pomegranate blossoms!')*

*"Tsu Kamyiu Swoni Myaani bram dith nyoonakho. Tse kyoho gayee myaany duy."*

*('Which rival of mine has lured and held you? Why this hate for me?')*

The author has amazingly intertwined history, culture, scenic beauty, folklore, poetry, geographical features, social life, feudal structure of rural society and above all skillfully combined facts and fiction to present something that is readable, enjoyable and comprehensible. For me, fiction remains the real test of a writer. It demonstrates his skill, style, power of imagination and ability to put forth details. I feel happy to say that the author excels in this arena as well. At many places, I observed cinematic brilliance in his style of depiction of events and scenes. This brilliance is bound to attract wider audience. Possibly this could be the result of his scripting some of the most popular and successful television serials. Should Muzaffar Ali ever decide to start his Zooni project ab-initio, I hold a strong belief that he cannot get a better script than this book under review.

Nostalgia is another aspect that visits the reader who has lived the situations and happenings dealt in the novel. I may make specific mention of the terms like Sufiana music, Rishi order, Bhaand Pather, Dambaali, Maktab, Tumbaknaari, Maenzraat, Bhandaar, Navreh, Navroz, Chill-e-Kalaan, Vathal, Dwodh Maej, Lal Vaakh, Shrukh, Gulistaan Bostaan, etc.. In recent past these things were a part of our living.

Another interesting aspect observed in the book by me are the names and actions of the characters like Abdi Rather, Mala Ded, Rahti, Qadir Dar, Gani Magray, Ustad Kabir Joo, Subhan Sahib, Nabira Pista, Khwaja Sharif ud-din, Zoon, Zaildaar, Kamaal, Gul Mehar etc. These characters look familiar and easily identifiable the way they are presented. We have lived with these names and situations that they are put into. These characters open floodgates of sweet nostalgia. The simplicity of Abdi Rather, Mala ded, Rahti is appealing. The truthfulness and professional competence of Ustad Kabir Joo is impressive. Gul Mehr is positive and sacrificing. The character of the talkative and dwarfed barber Nabir Pista is



funny and enjoyable. Pista wants to poke his nose in every affair of the village. Rebuke him or ward him off, he is still there. We have many such characters in real life. Towering is the characterization of Zoon. As the novel progresses, her character keeps growing, developing, changing and getting stronger. In the novel we see Zoon, the simple and poor girl gradually maturing to a beautiful damsel who sings her lyrical poems and loves to remain in the lap of the nature until she encounters Sultan Yusuf Shah Chak. As she grows, her songs turn popular and are sung by women from nearby villages.

Zoon's love journey begins with Kamaal, a handsome boy from a well-off family. This union is unacceptable to the orthodox society where economic equality is the touchstone for alliances. It is practically impossible for a poor peasant girl to dream her alliance with a Zaildaar's son. Dejected, she agrees to marry Aziz lone a spoiled brat and good for nothing fellow. This marriage brings only misery for her. She is ill-treated. After being thrown out by Aziz's family, she leads a life of suffering till her encounter with Yusuf Shah Chak. She now becomes Habba Khatoon, the queen. But the dark clouds of political uncertainty are hovering over Kashmir's sky. Mughals are hell bent to annex Kashmir. Yusuf Shah Chak is trapped and banished to Bihar and he dies in Odisha. The author makes simple characters like Khatji, Rahti, Sonderi Qadir Dar, Abdi Rather and Maala Deyd stand up with powerful men Yusuf Shah Chak, Yaqoob Shah Chak, Raja Bhagwan Dass, Todarmal, Raja Maan Singh, Jodha Bai and Mahabali Akbar. And, finally Habba Khatoon succumbs to the pain and suffering that befell her and her beloved Yusuf Shah Chak.

The novel gives glimpses of history of Kashmir. Beginning with the rule of Habib Shah, the reader arrives to the story of Jalal-uddin Akbar's intervention in Kashmir; then to the banishment of Yusuf Shah Chak to Bihar and finally to the establishment of Mughal rule in the Kashmir valley. The incidents in between have been so well written and grippingly conveyed that the reader does not want to leave the book for a moment.

French writer and Nobel laureate Albert Camus once said, "The purpose of a writer is to keep civilization from destroying itself." Writers like Pran Kishore Kaul are rare. They are like the stars of hope appearing on today's clouded horizon. They are harbingers of peace and goodwill. They are the bridges created for the continuity of civilizational ethos and heritage of humanity. Whatever they write becomes memorable. I conclude with a couplet of Faiz Ahmed Faiz

*"Jo rukay to koh-e-garaan thay hum, jo chalay to jaan se guzar gaye  
Rah-e-yaar hum ne qadam qadam, tujhayyaadgaar banaa diya..."*

*(Faiz Ahmed Faiz) (For when we stayed, we rose like massifs,  
and when we strayed, we left life far behind;  
fellow-traveler, every step that we ever took  
became a memorial to your life.)*

“

Be dependent upon yourself  
and know that courage has to  
be born within you. It takes time  
but you have to work for it.

— Sudha Murty —





- Dr. M K Mam



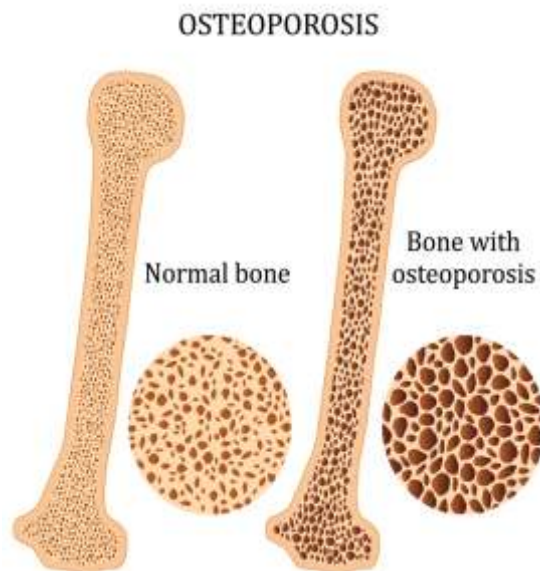
# WORLD OSTEOPOROSIS DAY

## OSTEOPOROSIS – RISK FACTORS

World Osteoporosis Day is celebrated every year on October 20. The day marks a year-long campaign dedicated to raising global awareness of the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis. The day involves public awareness campaigns by national osteoporosis, medical, orthopedic and other societies from around the world to sensitize the society about the importance of bone health and the need for prevention of osteoporosis, fractures occurring following minor trauma and the devastating complications thereof. Aim is to make osteoporosis and fracture prevention a global health priority by reaching out to health-care professionals, the media, policy makers, patients, and the public at large.

Osteoporosis is one of the major public health problems worldwide and its prevalence is increasing. India being second most populous country in the world is the home of a very large population of osteoporosis patients and the number is increasing every year. Unfortunately, majority of people are unaware of this major health problem, not only that it is greatly underdiagnosed and undertreated.

Osteoporosis literally means porous bones. It is a systemic disorder of bones characterized by an abnormally low bone mass. Bones become unusually weak and fragile. Their mechanical strength is



markedly reduced and they break easily – even as a result of a minor fall, bump, sneeze, bending or a sudden movement. Osteoporosis has rightly been labelled as the “silent thief” which slowly nibbles away at the bones. It goes unnoticed for years until it is complicated by fractures that occur following a minimal trauma. Common sites of the fractures are the spine- compression fractures, hips, wrist and proximal humerus. These fractures especially of the hip are associated with lot of complications, morbidity and mortality. Management of such fractures involves lot of cost and puts enormous financial burden on the

affected person, family and the society as a whole. These fractures also cause a lot of psychological and social problems thus affecting the quality of the life of the person and the family. In fact, these fractures not only reduce quality of life but also reduce quantity of life.

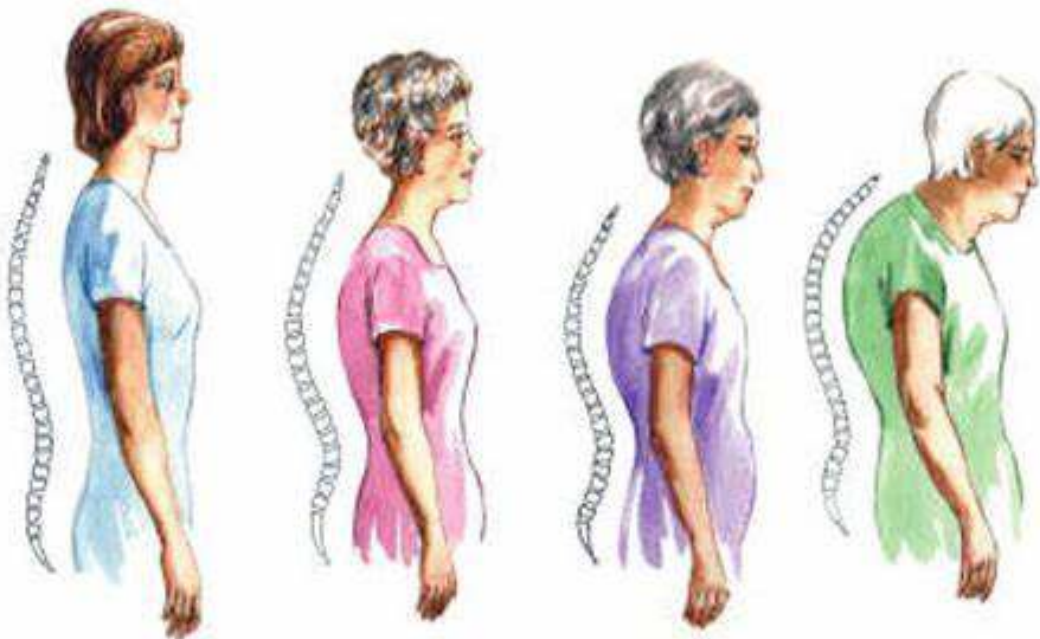
Bone is a living tissue that constantly remodels i.e. old bone breaks down – resorbs and new bone is formed. Osteoporosis results when there is imbalance in remodeling of bone i.e. rate of breakdown of bone is more or bone formation is less or there is combination of the two. In short, formation of new bone does not keep up with bone breakdown. When we are young new bone formation is more and faster than the breakdown of the old bone with the result bone mass increases. Usually people attain a peak bone mass by the age of 30 years. After age of 40 or so, resorption- breakdown is greater as compared to formation. The common belief in people is that osteoporosis is simply a component or the consequence of normal aging and this could be one of the reasons that this problem has somehow or other remained neglected. However, this is not the whole truth and it has now been realized that there is more to it than just the aging. It

occurs most commonly in elderly postmenopausal women, but men are also affected.

Who is at risk: We know there are some people who are more at risk than others of getting osteoporosis and sustaining a low trauma fracture. It can be due to many factors that cause or contribute to osteoporosis. It is pertinent to know the risk factors so that we can identify the people who are most likely to sustain a fracture in future. We also have fracture risk assessment tools (FRAX) that takes into account risk factors and can predict people who are potentially at risk and require treatment. Of the various factors that have been associated with an increased risk of osteoporosis, some can be modified whereas some cannot be modified.

#### **i) Modifiable risk factors - the ones that can be changed:**

a) Inadequate physical activity: Inadequate physical activity is certainly one of the most important risk factors for osteoporosis. The physical activity especially weight bearing exercises stimulates the bone cell to form new bone and thus increases bone mass. People who spend a lot of time sitting have a higher



risk of osteoporosis as compared those who are more active. It has been reported that trabecular- spongy or porous bone is lost at the rate of 1% per week when a person is put to bed rest and its restoration is much slower at about 1% per month. Present day sedentary life style with very little physical activity increases the risk of osteoporosis.

b) Tobacco use: Cigarette smoking (active or passive) and use of tobacco products are detrimental to bones. Smoking has a negative influence on bone mineral density (BMD) and has been rightly labeled as “bone terrorist number one”. It speeds bone loss - doubles the risk of osteoporosis. Smoking damages bone cells, reduces blood flow to bone, decreases the production hormones good for bones like estrogen in women and testosterone in men, although exact mechanism is not known. It has been reported that smokers have almost double the risk of hip fractures as compared to nonsmokers.

c) Excessive alcohol intake: Risk of osteoporosis and fractures increases with excessive alcohol intake. There is evidence of correlation between chronic alcohol abuse and low bone mass. Alcohol certainly has negative effects on bones. It damages bone cells directly, inhibits calcium absorption and damages the liver –the organ where activation of vitamin D occurs. Other accompanying factors like poor nutrition further add up to the problem. Studies indicate that the effects of heavy alcohol use on bone may not be reversed, even if alcohol consumption is terminated.

d) Nutritional deficiency: Adequate nutrition is essential for the maintenance of the bone health. Any deficiency of proteins, minerals such as calcium, phosphorus and the vitamins especially vitamin D increases the risk of osteoporosis.

e) Sex hormones: Early menopause in women whether surgical or natural is an important risk factor. Again deficiency of testosterone-hypogonadism in men leads to osteoporosis.

f) Low body weight: “Slim women, thin

bones” is a well-known old saying. Studies have shown a close connection between osteoporosis and low body weight. A low body weight and low muscle mass result in less stimulation of the bones and hence lower bone mass. Underweight frail people especially the ladies with body mass index (BMI) less than 19 kilogram/meter square are at increased risk of osteoporosis and fracture.

g) Medication use: Some medications like cortisone- commonly known as steroid, antiepileptic drugs, anticancer drugs, anticoagulants, immunosuppressants, antidepressants etc. are known to weaken the bones- loss of bone density and fractures. Steroids stimulate bone resorption and decreases bone building. However, that does not mean that these medications are bad—they may be essential to treat a particular problem. We should not stop any treatment or alter the dosage without first consulting the doctor.

h) Medical problems: Several medical conditions like rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes mellitus, inflammatory bowel disease, chronic kidney disease, cancers of breast, prostate etc., thyroid and parathyroid disorders etc. are associated with increased risk of osteoporosis.

i) Excessive consumption of soda and colas: Soda and colas are not good for bones. They contain lot of phosphoric acid in addition to caffeine which drain calcium from bones and thus decrease BMD.

ii) Non- modifiable risk factors - Ones that are usually biological and cannot be changed:

a) Race: Osteoporosis affects all races and ethnicities, however certain races like Caucasians tend to have the lowest bone mass and are at a higher risk. Again hip fracture is more common in whites than non-whites.

b) Gender: Osteoporosis is more common in women than in men. Women have a greater risk of fracture than men and its incidence is two to three times more than that in men. BMD is higher in men than in women. Further body size, bone size and width are more in men than in women.



c) Age: As we age our bones naturally lose some density and become weaker, and the risk of osteoporosis increases. Breakdown is not only greater but also faster whereas formation is minimal, with the result bone mass decreases and bones become weaker. There occurs approximately 0.5-1% bone loss per year after the age of 30 years in women and with the onset of menopause this certainly increases.

d) Family history of osteoporosis: Studies show that if either of the parents has osteoporosis, then one is more likely to get it. Children of individuals with an osteoporotic fracture are at risk as they are more likely to have low BMD.

e) Height –body frame: Persons with a small body frame are at a higher risk of having osteoporosis because they have less bone mass.

f) Genetics plays an important role in the

development of osteoporosis and it has been reported that about 75% of an individual's peak bone mass is influenced by genetics. Well known old saying “as mother so daughter” very well applies to osteoporosis. Lot of research is going on and there has been lot of progress in identifying the genes responsible for osteoporosis.

g) Previous fractures after a minor trauma: People who have already sustained a fracture after a trivial fall in the past are certainly at a major risk for sustaining a further fracture. It is well reported that the risk of sustaining another fracture is doubled when one has already occurred

\*(to be continued with prevention of osteoporosis)

*Former Vice Principal, Prof and Head  
Orthopaedics, Christian Medical College,  
Ludhiana, Punjab.*

*Dear Sh. Kachru Sahab,  
Namaskar*



Though belated, I am to acknowledge your mail of 8th instant which signifies your concern and considerations for the welfare of the beleaguered KP community whose multiple fractured voices from multiple forums go unheard, by the authorities in power.

According to my opinion, mere intelligence, as you put it, doesn't matter here, unless we ponder, realize and introspect, how much and how hard, we have suffered and been hit, time and again, and ultimately driven out of our beautiful Homeland, in most devastating and disgusting circumstances and situations.

What an irony of fate, that despite all these sufferings, atrocities, and humiliations perpetuated by the culprits in the majority community, we haven't realized this catastrophe in the true sense of the word, and haven't, thus collectively risen to establish a unified KP Political platform (command of all KP forums) to represent the community as a whole (with unified representation) and with one united forceful voice before the corridors of power, during decades of our Exile as migrants. In TV's, local or national newspapers, we hear and read these multiple scattered voices regarding community's multiple problems and proposals demanding rectification from authorities in power, who understandably, give deaf ear to such voices.

So, may our learned community feel determined to arise to the situation, pursue vigorously and make collective efforts to shape an inspiring, imposing and reliable combine political forum(platform) of representatives, to ensure implementation of all our issues and problems relating to our socio-eco political system.

In fact, Pan un Kashmir "Marg Darshan" Resolution is laudable, for overall settlement and betterment of KP community but it is also subjected to critical analysis by various forums/sections of our society.

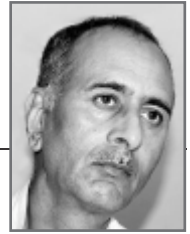
Hence, not being projected as the mass voice of our community people.

I would like this mail to be treated as a letter to the editor for publication if you deem proper.

*With regards,  
Yours sincerely  
C.L Kaloo*



- Rajan Wattal (Artist)



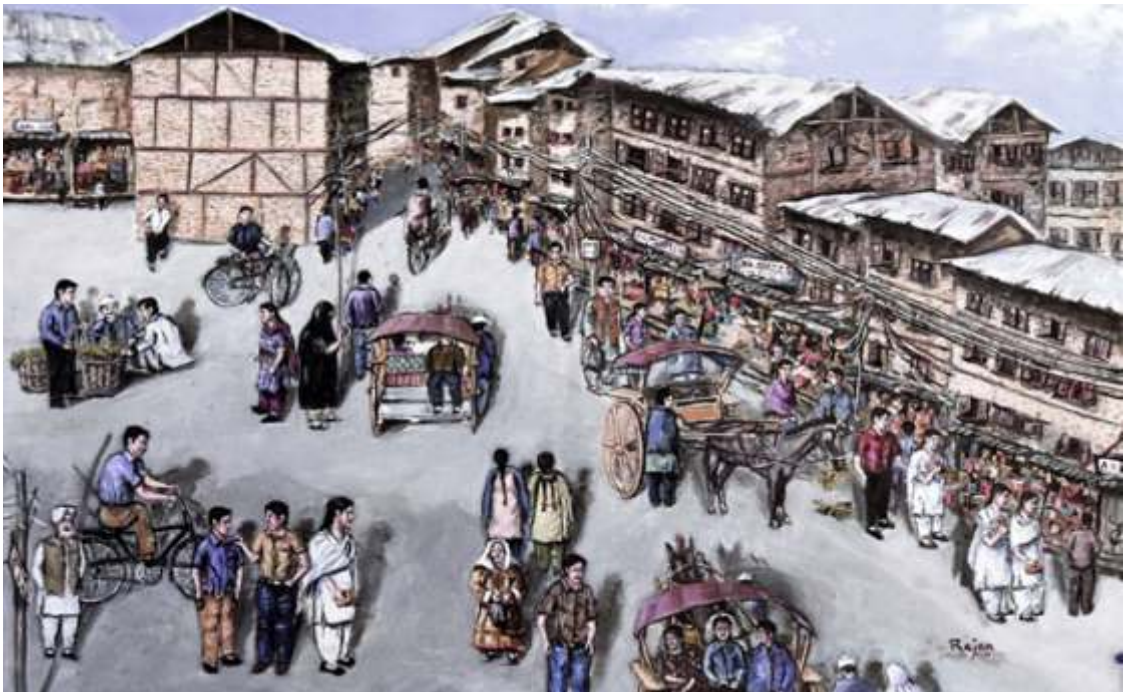
# THE ROAD TO MY LOST HOME

Winter of 1989-90 was cruel for the Hindu community of Kashmir. A campaign of terror was let loose on this peace-loving community that traces its roots to Mahabharat period. Selective targeted killing of community leaders started in September 1989 and progressed with each month, culminating in ethnic cleansing of the valley in January – March 1990. Almost half a million people were forced to flee for their lives to safety of Udhampur, Jammu and other parts of India. The composite culture of

Kashmir stood betrayed by zealots who could not tolerate a faith that has evolved and thrived in Kashmir since time immemorial.

Our loss was not just a loss of property or belongings. We lost our habitat, our cultural moorings, our way of life. I lost the house I was born in, the 'aangan' in which I played and grew up. Like thousands of other Kashmiri Hindus, I lost the link to my ancestors! Lament of a generation! I can still visit Kashmir but only as a visitor or tourist! The road no longer leads to my home. I lost my home in 1990!

October 2022



*Painting Courtesy: Rajan Wattal*



-Avijit Ghosh



# THE OTHER SIDE OF PARADISE

**Srinagar has got its first multiplex.**

**But history shows, cinema in Kashmir was always more complex**

*Courtesy: Times of India*



For decades, Srinagar's cinemas were dead, remembered only in the laments of a lost yesterday. Now, a silver jubilee of years since the first multiplex arrived in Delhi in 1997, Kashmir's city of beauty and anguish too is home to one. The development - two cinemas also opened in south Kashmir's Shopian and Pulwama districts recently - is a constructive move even though it comes with its share of security challenges.

Kashmiris were forced out of cinema theatres in 1990. Extremists enforcing a conservative version of Islam ordered them shut. In 1999, three cinemas - Broadway, Neelam and Regal - dared to reopen. But on the first day of Regal's reopening, grenades were tossed at viewers coming out of the hall. One person died. The message had been delivered. The theatres morphed into paramilitary barracks, malls, hospitals and ruins.

In Kashmir, cinema has always been intertwined with politics. In July 1948, when India and Pakistan were locked in a war of ownership over the north Indian state, a group of Bombay film stars and musicians travelled to Jammu and Kashmir to entertain the fighting jawans. The idea, described in *The Times of India* as "a fine example of patriotic responsibility," was initiated by Motilal, a major star of the time.

### Cinema and conflict

The war was over by 1949. But cinema became an avenue to continue the conflict by other means, even in other lands. Both sides seemed convinced that propaganda was vital in establishing the rightness of their cause. In 1951, a Pakistani documentary, "Kashmir Conflict," became the object of heated controversy in England. The film representing the Pakistani view on Kashmir was initially banned from public screening there. The ban was later lifted.

Around the same time, Naval Gandhi's 1948 documentary, *Kashmir Ki Kahani* (The story of Kashmir), putting out the Indian point of view, was granted permission to maintain diplomatic balance. In its February 1949 issue, *filmindia* magazine wrote about another Indian documentary on Kashmir made by noted filmmaker MD Bhavnani, and then working for the newly formed Films Division. It is unlikely that these documentaries would have created any mass impact. But they do indicate that even after the first war between the two toddler nations was over, an edginess over Kashmir endured.

The 1951 feature film, producer-director Rajinder Nath Jolly's *Kashmir* (1951), also reflected similar sentiments. "Purporting to tell the story of Kashmir and its pitiful rape by invading hordes," is how *The Times of India* described the film, indirectly referring to the 1948 savagery by tribesmen from the other side of the border.

### Mesmerising audiences

*Pamposh* (1954) sought to change the celluloid narrative on Kashmir. In writer-

director Ezra Mir's film, Kashmir was the subject, not the object, of attention.

His was the first feature film to arrest the province's beauty in colour. The cast consisted mostly of rookies picked "on the spot". The film, dubbed in several languages, was about an old man and a child who cannot speak; the Dal Lake being a central character. "*Pamposh* came to be presented at the famous Cannes Film Festival in 1954 where it won considerable acclaim," writes NJ Kamath in "*The World of Ezra Mir*." Sadly, few recall the movie. Mir was a Kolkataborn Jew who later became a prominent documentary filmmaker.

But it takes a blockbuster to kickstart a trend. Director Subodh Mukherji's *Jungle* (1961) did that. The movie, shot in Eastman Color, shaped the nation's popular imagination of Kashmir. As Shammi Kapoor frolicked with Saira Banu and let out that primeval yell, Yahoo, snow became seductive and Kashmir became the film industry's outdoor hotspot for filming songs and romance for the next two decades. They were fundamental in making the average Indian fall in love with Kashmir and internalise the place as a non-negotiable part of his patriotic consciousness.

### But not their story?

In their gaze, however, Kashmir was a beguiling physical beauty but bereft of politics, society and agency. Films such as *Shayare Kashmir Mahjoor* (1972), which told the life story of the great Kashmiri poet, were rare. Conversely, the shooting units injected money into the local economy. Films became the finest free tourism promoter for the north Indian state.

The rise of violent separatism in the 1990s changed the picture. Since then, Kashmir has morphed from a state to a point of view, so fragile and polarising that feature filmmakers, barring a few, have treaded on it with utmost caution. The new multiplex leaves us with the complex question: Will the common people return to the movie theatre, a habit lost to passage of time and fear of violence?





# THE ART OF DELEGATION

The Art of Delegation, Leadership Skills for Business Owners and Professional Leaders

One of the important skills any leader should have is, the “art of delegation” to get things done effectively from their second line of command. They should focus on their strengths and delegate their weaknesses in an effective way of delegation but they should also make teams responsible for their achievements and engage them through this process of effective delegation.

To develop this skill set, leaders in any capacity engaged/ working in corporate, small and medium business spaces and business owners should understand the roles, responsibilities, authorities and accountabilities of their team members.

Typically, this skill is not taught anywhere but developed by leaders through experience and working with their teams. Every leader

must learn the nuances of defining roles and responsibilities of team members to make delegation effective. It is vital to define Key Result Areas (KRAs) of team members and design a strategic framework to engage them in a manner that person delivers to the best of his/ her ability in this process of knowing KRAs and proves to be a productive resource.

One of the most talked about concern of any business is “human resource productivity and performance”, which is also called as Labour Productivity but I would call it Capital Productivity in its spirit of understanding human resource as Human Capital.

In my experience, I have seen many leaders complaining that their team members are not performing to their requirements and that is the root cause of less productivity that team leader starts complaining. Team leaders



**! DELEGATE !**





need to understand that every person in the team is competent and capable of performing unless he/ she is told very specifically “what to do and how to do” and this can only be done by defining KRAs, which are nothing but top 3-5 responsibilities, which that person is made accountable for achieving those KRAs.

Leaders should define weighted average KRAs in percentage based on the time he/ she is going to allocate to those individual KRAs. This can be done very easily by prioritizing each KRA based on time spent on. That KRA can be assigned by a target of achievement for that person and then each KRAs should be monitored every day and every month by developing monitoring tools for that person to report to his/ her reporting leader. This reporting can be easily done by devising a reporting format for defined KRAs if done on that day or not by assigning binary 0/1 number. In this manner each KRA for that day and for that month can be monitored by that individual by him/ herself and the team leader is left with zero chance of any subjective rating of that team member.

Leaders should understand that every human has a potential to perform only when his/ her KRAs are well defined in professional environment and simple monitoring systems are developed. This will never give that leader a chance to complain.

Leaders should also extend compassion to their team members and trust them with their best performance and everyone will perform to achieve desired results for that function/ project/ department/ process.

In my experience, leaders who run their own business and professionals who work in corporates, public institutions, government setups and SMEs face this challenge more often because they tend to do everything themselves because of insecurity of losing their position and mistrust built by wrong practices. In fact, insecurity of losing position and mistrust for their teams is generally due to absence of structured approach to define HR framework, understanding individual strengths of team members, appropriate allocation of tasks based on strengths and lack of focus to achieve ultimate business results overpowered by personal style of working and dealing with people in the teams.

Finally, my recommendation for Leaders to develop skill of “Art of Delegation” can be build through a systematic approach, defining job description, defining KRAs, defining performance indicators, develop monitoring system and ultimately making teams accountable for everything they are engaged for in that assignment, which will certainly make them highly productive, effective, efficient and SMART.

*(Vinod is a seasoned entrepreneur, management professional, award winning business consultant and master trainer. He has a rich experience of three decades in industry driving leadership, quality and productivity of human resource. He can be reached at [vinod.pandita@pmcact.com](mailto:vinod.pandita@pmcact.com) for any leadership sessions, motivational talks and key note speaker engagements.)*



# A Beginner's Guide to Goal Setting for TEENS & YOUNG

Are you trying to get into your dream college? Start a new club at school? Develop a community project that will make a difference? Hoping to make the varsity team next year? Start your start-up journey? Or maybe get an A Grade in mathematics?

Regardless of what your goal is or how big it is, if you're a young person who wants to accomplish something and is looking for the most efficient way to make it happen, you've come to the right place. And if you're asking yourself, "What is a SMART goal? What in the world is WOOP?", this guide to goal setting for teens is definitely for you!

**Goal Setting : Why does it matter?**

You've got a goal in your mind. You know what you want to achieve. Congratulations, you've completed the first step! Unfortunately, that might be the easiest step of them all when it comes to goal setting. Don't worry, I am here to help you along the way!

Goal setting is more than just coming up with an idea for what you want to happen, then trying to achieve it. Goal setting has been studied since 1935, and there is a mountain of research and books that you could turn to try to understand how to set and achieve goals. But that's for another day!

Let's dive in to some of the top theories and approaches we think are important when it comes to goal setting for teens and young:

*The Grandpa* : Locke & Latham's goal setting theory Locke (and later, together with his collaborator Latham) first published his ground breaking goal setting theory in 1968. This research completely changed the idea that setting

relatively easy-to-achieve and general goals boosts motivation and morale. For example, "get good grades." Instead, Locke & Latham stressed the importance of specific and measurable goals, as well as challenging goals.

Essentially, shoot for the stars, but not just for any star, that one star over there specifically. The five principles of effective goal setting that Locke & Latham proposed are as follows:

1. **Clarity:** The goal needs to be straightforward, clear, and obvious to even outsiders.
2. **Challenge:** Easy goals don't provide enough motivation to work hard. Design a challenging goal, but one that is still attainable. It's a fine balance!
3. **Commitment:** Are you (and anyone else involved in achieving the goal) convinced that achieving this goal is important?
4. **Feedback:** An effective goal is a goal in which you can assess your progress along the way, give feedback, and change course if need be.
5. **Task complexity:** Highly complex goals can be overwhelming, often goals within goals. Your goal should be manageable, without too many things going on within it.

If all that seems a bit complicated and hard to actually apply, you're not alone. Goal setting for teens should be something you can implement as a regular part of your life (you're so busy already!) with an easy-to-follow formula for success.

*The Big Leagues* : SMART Goals

When it comes to goal setting, SMART

goals are the top of the chart. This well-established tool for goal setting is used by almost every major company out there. If there's one tool for goal setting for teens to understand, it's this one. You'll probably encounter it later on in university or your career as well too!

SMART is an acronym that can be used to easily build and assess your goals to see if they are effective.

A high school student wants to start an environmental club at school. "Start an environmental club at school" is NOT a SMART goal. But, "start an environmental club with 20+ members and implement 3+ environmental initiatives implemented in the school by end of the school year to share my passion for the environment" – now THAT is a SMART goal!

Let's break it down...

It's **specific**: Even as an outsider, I know exactly what this person wants to accomplish. If I want to support them, it will also be easier for me to help them achieve this goal because I understand it!

It's **measurable**: "20+ members" and "3+ environmental initiatives implemented in the school" makes it easy to track progress. If they have been working hard and have 15 members and 2 initiatives implemented, they know exactly what they still need to do to accomplish their goal.

It's **attainable**: This person goes to a school that allows student-run clubs, and they have enough time in their busy schedule to start a club and take on environmental initiatives. It might be hard work, but it's possible!

It's **relevant**: Why is this person choosing this goal? Because they want to share their passion for the environment, and they attend a school without an environment club or environmental initiatives. It is relevant to them!

It's **timely**: This person set a reasonable deadline for their goal – the end of the school year. It makes sense for the goal, because there is no school during the summer, and gives enough time to be possible and yet not SO much time to be unmotivating and forgotten about.

*The Upstart*: the WOOP tool

New on the big stage of goal setting, but backed by 20+ years of research, is the WOOP goal setting tool. It combines positive thinking

with envisioning and planning for obstacles along the way. This tool help you develop small goals (<30 day timeline) you can take action on and achieve. It's a great alternative to SMART goal setting for teens who want to integrate the power of goal setting into their daily lives in a quick and easy way.

**W (Wish)** "What is your wish, a wish that is challenging, but feasible?" – I want to start an environmental club at my school and recruit 20 students to join.

**O (Outcome)** "What would be the best outcome of fulfilling your wish?" – That others discover a passion for the environment too.

**O (Obstacle)** "What is your main INNER obstacle that stands in the way of you fulfilling your wish?" – My concern that no one will care about the cause enough to join.

**P (Plan)** "What can you do to overcome your obstacle?" – I can make posters illustrating the environmental impact of the school (overflowing garbage bins, cars idling during pick-up time, ...) to convince students to want to make a difference.

*The Heart of It*: Passion

Beyond the approaches to goal setting for teens that we've talked about above, there is something else that we believe are important to mention before you embark on this journey.

Discovering your passions can be a lifelong journey for many, but an easy question you can ask yourself to start considering your passions is just this...

**"What am I willing to work hard at for no reason beyond personal enjoyment and my own sense of accomplishment?"**

Passion is also highly infectious. If your goals are fueled by your passions, it will be much easier to convince others to join or support you. You can hear passion in the voices and see passion in the actions of successful leaders of all types from around the world!

"Our goals can only be reached through a vehicle of a plan, in which we must fervently believe, and upon which we must vigorously act. There is no other route to success." – Pablo Picasso

*Garima Pandita is a cyber security professional with two years of experience in an American multinational. She is a firebrand youth leader with passion for theatre, public speaking and social work. She is a content writer and an sports enthusiast.*



# AFFILIATES' NEWS

## Koshur Milchar Welfare Association. Indirapuram, Ghaziabad held its election recently.

Following office bearers were elected:



Sqn Ldr Makhn Lal Talashi (Retd)  
President



Mr. Kuldeep Kumar Pandita  
General Secretary

**Mr. Rakesh Dullu - Joint Secretary**  
**Mr. Avtar Krishen Raina - Treasurer**

**Executive Members:-**

01. Mrs. Urvashi Kher
02. Mrs. Monika Karnail
03. Mr. Ritesh Pandita
04. Mr. Shashwat Revoo
05. Mr. Sunil Bhat
06. Mr. Avdesh Razdan
07. Mr. Rajesh Nagari
08. Mr. Sanjay Koul
09. Mr. Ravindar Kumar Mattoo
10. Mr. Rakesh Dalal
11. Mr. Sanjay Kaul
12. Mr. Sanjeev Bhat
13. Mr. Sumit Krishan Peshin
14. Mr. Sanjay Koul
15. Mr. Ajay Munshi
16. Mr. Arun Kakru

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Shri MK Machama who headed an elected team of executives as President of KMWA Indirapuram over years. On election of new body on 10th October 2022 he demitted his office gracefully.

Grateful Community pays you profound respects for your contribution as President of KMWA Indirapuram. Community has been watching over years your selfless and untiring dedication to the cause of community issues. Your sense of accommodation, sense of humour and above all reciprocity of affection deserves a special mention.

Despite of difficulties you ensured conduct of community festivals be it Hora Ashtami, Zang trai, Krishen Janamashtami and Hawan. Your personal involvement in helping community members and the families who needed your guidance and help at the time they needed it most, is highly appreciable. Irrespective of pressures and personal engagements you never failed to attach priority to community issues and attended to it with sincerity and dedication. The new elected team headed by Sqn Ldr ML Talashi (Retd) shall look for your guidance from time to time. Grateful community joins to wish you a treasurer of peace, good health and happy family life. Jai Hind

*Sqn Ldr M.L. Talashi (Retd)  
President KMWA Indirapuram*

**AIKS congratulates Sqdn Ldr Talashi for taking charge of KMWA and wishes him all the success and looks forward to a continued engagement with him and his team.**

## Saptahik Bhagwat Katha in Shiv Shakti Temple, Roopnagar

(18 to 24th September, 2022)

Today on the concluding day of the 7th day Bhagwat Katha programme, grand display of Gita pravachan-cum-Krishna-bhajans delivered by none other than Shri Bushan Lal Bhat 'Sharnagat' in his 9th Katha in the series baring last two years due to Covid-19 outbreak. Large number of participants including Men & woman enjoyed the Katha. It was a joint venture between Shiv Shakti Temple, Roopnagar and Narian Parivar including Shri Hari Kirtan Adyatmik Jagrati Mission as guest invitee. All the days were very absorbing for devotees/ participants. Shri Bhat, in his pravachan, stressed to follow the message of Lord Krishna in letter and spirit and inculcate the sanaskars in your children. Bhagwat Gita is the only source to take one in the right direction and righteousness. To save our Dharma, Bhagwat Gita plays a pivot role.

Nice arrangements, no laxity whatsoever in service, and taking care of every devotee was seemingly worth. Thanks to Management for conducting the programme nicely with elaborate arrangements in place. The devotees enjoyed the pravachan-cum-Krishna-bhajans with full bloom with Lord Krishna dancing around. The deliberations concluded till 10th Bagwat Katha next year 2023. The stage was manned by Shri Virender Kaw and Rakesh Pandit jointly. Namaskar

- Report By : Nana Ji Sathu

## Very few KPs are returning to Valley.

### Dr Karan Singh

The constant fear and apprehension among Kashmiri Pandits are why very few of them are willing to return to the valley. A few Kashmiri Pandits are eager to return to their

homeland in the Valley, says Dr Karan Singh. Dr Karan Singh was speaking at the release of a book, "When the Heart Speaks", written by a well-known cardiologist Dr Upendra Kaul. The book is the memoir of Dr Upendar Koul.

However, Kashmir will always remain "incomplete" without- Kashmiri Pandits, Dr Karan Singh said. He further said the tragedy of Kashmir has taken over the valley since 1947. He commended Dr Kaul and other Kashmiri Pandits like him who have returned and built their homes in the Valley.

*Source : Agencies*

## PM Package Employees' protest for relocation to Jammu

Kashmiri Pandits employees, under PM's special package in Kashmir, continue their protest in the premises of the Relief Commissioner Jammu. The rally has been staged for over six months for relocation to Jammu. Last month they staged a demonstration outside the press club Jammu.

A protestor said, "We want our relocation to Jammu so that we can at least remain alive for our children," he added.

## KPs Observe Balidan Divas on 14 Spt.

Kashmiri Pandits organised various programmes to observe the 33rd Balidan Divas on 14th September all over India. The main programme was organised in Jammu and Delhi. Glorious tributes were paid to martyrs who attained martyrdom in the valley in 1990.

## HC hears Nadimarg massacre case of Pandits afresh

On September 15 2022, the J&K High Court heard the case of the Nadimarg massacre of 24 persons of a minority community that took place in 2003.

Justice V C Koul heard the matter of prosecution for supporting further evidence

before the trial court and kept the issue for further proceedings on September 26. The case was reopened following the directions of the Supreme Court.

On 26th September, the High Court (HC) of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh reserved its verdict on the 2003 Nadimarg massacre case.

The Court had recalled its order passed in December 2011 wherein it had upheld the trial court order dismissing a plea by the prosecution (government) seeking examination of witnesses on commission.

The Court recalled the order after taking note of the Supreme Court order passed on July 16, 2015, in a Special Leave Appeal filed by the J&K government asking the prosecution to file a recall application before the High Court to recall the order of December 2011.

The Court was hearing a revision plea filed by the J&K government under Section 561-A seeking the examination of 17 material witnesses related to the case.

The plea also challenged the order passed by Principal Sessions Judge, Shopian, on February 09, 2011, wherein the prayer seeking appointment of a commission to examine the 17 material eye witnesses was rejected.

The prosecution submitted that the witnesses had migrated from Kashmir to Jammu and were reluctant to depose before the trial court at Shopian, given the threat perception.

In 2003, twenty-four persons, including women and children from the minority community, were killed in cold blood by a group of gunmen wearing army fatigues in the village of Nadimarg, Pulwama.

The challan of the case was filed against seven accused persons, including the then LeT commander, Zia Mustafa, who was killed in an encounter, and six police personnel, who were charged with the commission of offences under Sections 302, 450, 395, 307, 120-B, 326, 427 RPC, 7/27 Arms Act and Section 30 Police Act at Police

Station, Zainapora.

The trial court had discharged the accused police personnel who were charged under section 302 (murder). However, the Court set them under Section 30 of the Police Act, accusing the police officers of being guilty of cowardice.

As per the plea, the evidence under section 302/120 B is made out against all accused persons, but the trial court has, at the threshold, discharged the accused police personnel persons under section 302/120 B and has charged them under section 30 of the Police Act.

It was contended that all the accused persons were liable to be charged under section 302. Still, at the time of framing of the charge, the trial court tried to "sift evidence" and find contradictions in the statements recorded by the prosecution evidence in support of the charge-sheet under section 173 Cr. P.C, which, in terms of settled principles of law, is not the power of the Court at the time of framing of charge.

The prosecution urged that either the challan deserves to be transferred to some competent court at Jammu so that evidence in the challan is recorded without any fear and terror and witnesses can appear before Court and give statements before the Court so that Court comes to a just conclusion and fear trial is conducted, or it is bounded duty to issue commission and get the views of the witnesses who have migrated to Jammu recorded through commission.

The plea stated that the trial court even failed to call the witnesses themselves under section 540 and, on that ground, rejected the application under section 503, "which order is absolutely illegal and against the spirit of section 540 and 503 Cr. P.C."

"Therefore entire proceedings are liable to be set-aside," it contended.

The prosecution further contended that under section 540 Cr. P.C, the Court is empowered to summon the witnesses and to recall or examine the witnesses already examined. Section 540 enables the Court to

call any witnesses in the circumstances of a particular case.

It stated that instead of summoning witnesses, the trial court again fixed a time-bound programme to prosecution for the production of witnesses when it had to be done by the Court itself under section 540 Cr.P.C.

"Therefore, the order passed by the trial court in February 2009 on the application filed under section 540 Cr.P.C is also liable to be set aside," it submitted. The prosecution argued the matter while the counsel for the other side submitted for discussing it on the next hearing date. The Court kept the topic as 'Heard in Part'.

On August 25, while hearing the application filed by the prosecution seeking to recall the order dated 21.12.2011, the criminal revision petition of the trial was dismissed for non-prosecution.

The Court recalled the order of dismissal of criminal revision filed by the prosecution and treated the order as a nullity against the settled law.

The prosecution submitted that there are several eyewitnesses of the massacre. Still, unfortunately, they being Kashmiri Hindus, had to migrate to Jammu after the incident and are afraid of coming to the Valley to appear before Court. It has been further pleaded that only 13 witnesses were produced before the Trial Court. The witnesses who had migrated to Jammu did not appear before the Court when the prosecution served notices to them as they refused to respond, and the appointment of a commission to examine all the eyewitnesses was sought. Still, that application was rejected by the trial court in 2011.

"The trial court has failed to take any such action in murder trial cases and question of fixation of time bound programme does not arise at all and instead of that trial court is bound to take all efforts for seeking production of witnesses before Court", prosecution pleaded.

The prosecution also prayed that either

the challan deserves to be transferred to some Competent Court in Jammu so that evidence in the challan is recorded without any fear and terror and witnesses can appear before Court and record their statements so that Court comes to a just conclusion and fair Trial is conducted, or it is bounded duty to issue commission and get the views of the witnesses who have migrated to Jammu recorded through commission.

***Source: Rising Kashmir***

### **Gandhi Memorial College pays tribute to its founders Excelsior Correspondent**

Hindu Education Society Kashmir, managing Gandhi Memorial College, paid a rich tribute to its founders, namely Pandit Sona Koul Madan and his legendary son Prof DN Madan at the College premises at Raipur in Jammu.

The tribute was paid in the presence of Prof Aparna Sopori, wife of legendary music maestro Bhajan Sopori and daughter of Prof DN Madan.

Speaking on occasion, Professor BL Zutshi, President of Hindu Education Society Kashmir (HESK), said the Government usurped the heritage institution at Srinagar but failed to protect the Jammu-based institution. He made it clear that with the support of donors and well-wishers, Society will do everything in its power to protect and preserve the institution.

Professor Zutshi, the President, announced that the Society would hold its first memorial lecture on Pandit Shiv Narayan Fotedar, founder of the Society and an excellent Parliamentarian and a bold voice for the voiceless, in the third week of November.

Professor Verinder Rawal, general secretary, Prof GK Muju, Prof GL Koul, Prof Savita Raina, members of the executive body, Principal Satish Talashi and other staff and students of the Institution attended the function.

The vote of thanks was pre-scented by Professor Verinder Rawal.

***Source: Agencies  
Report by : Vijay Kashkari***





- Aditya Raj Koul

## 10 Change-Makers Who Are Transforming Kashmir for A Better Tomorrow

Source: News 18

*Jammu and Kashmir has seen three decades of bloody conflict sponsored by Pakistan, but two and a half years after the scrapping of special status under Article 370 of the Constitution, the situation on the ground is changing for the better. Lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha has been pushing for development and dialogue as a way forward towards a political process eventually. With the Delimitation Commission completing its report within the next few weeks, Jammu and Kashmir could very well see elections in the near future. In the past many months, however, there have been several silent change-makers who have been cleaning the system from within for better governance as it should be in a democratic system. News 18 profiles 10 such top change-makers in the system, some selected while others elected, who have played a crucial role in transforming Kashmir with their positive zeal and commitment:*

### Lt Gen DP Pandey, Goc Chinar Corps



The Chinar Corps Commander who understands the pulse of terrorism in the Valley and the beneficiaries of the terror conflict industry around it, Lt Gen DP Pandey, is the General Officer Commanding of 15th Corps with its

headquarters in Badami Bagh Cantonment in Srinagar.

Lt Gen Pandey is credited with coining the term 'white collar terrorists' for those who encourage recruitment of youth into terror ranks and seek financial and political benefits out of it and yet have remained untouched until today by the system.

He is also known for giving a free hand

to his boys during an encounter with terrorists and yet monitoring every move closely until the last terrorist is neutralised. The tenure of Lt Gen Pandey has also seen a record surrender of terrorists as well as national symbols getting their rightful respect and dignity in Kashmir after decades. With past experience of ADGPI at Army HQs in New Delhi, Lt Gen Pandey understands the importance of information warfare and hence has put a system in place to motivate the aawam (public), especially youth, who drive the narrative of progress, prosperity, and peace.

Under his leadership, Lal Chowk has become the epicentre of activities led by common Kashmiris and tourists feeling more relaxed while travelling through the length and breadth of the Valley. Lt Gen Pandey is also known to have motivated and encouraged young Kashmiri sportspersons, artists, and creative minds.

### **Rashmi Ranjan Swain, Special Dgp**

Known for his scientific policing, Special DGP (CID) Rashmi Ranjan Swain, an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the 1991 batch, may be the intelligence chief of Jammu and Kashmir Police but could very well be the next Director General of Police of the Union Territory. Swain is an experienced Pakistan analyst who has had a noteworthy stint with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Credited with the creation of the State Investigation Agency (SIA) in J&K on the lines of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), Swain is bringing much-needed finesse to policing and investigation to clean the radicalisation within and outside the system. His no-nonsense approach and incorruptible image has the separatists and their propagandists worried in Kashmir.

Swain, however, is a silent observer who keeps mostly away from the media glare. His tenure has seen action against Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Youth President Waheed Para as well as sons of Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist and Chief of United Jihad Council Syed Salahuddin. The biggest achievement, however, remains maintaining peace in the Valley even after the death of radical separatist Syed Ali Shah Geelani. This officer, who hails from Odisha, may strictly go by the book but knows how Kashmir needs tweaking and twisting to put an efficient system in place.

Spoken of highly by both the people of Kashmir as well as in the J&K Police, Swain is responsible for internal cleansing and uprooting the seeds of anti-national elements within the system. Swain is a rare top officer who enjoys respect from all sections of the police force.

### **Rohit Kansal**



A senior bureaucrat known for his simplicity, understanding, and for remaining accessible to the public, Rohit Kansal is an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the 1995 batch who is currently

Principal Secretary of the Higher Education Department and Information in J&K.

Kansal was the face of the Jammu & Kashmir government after the abrogation of Article 370 clauses on August 5, 2019, and handled the sensitive cooperation and understanding between security forces and the civil administration as well.

Kansal's tenure in recent months has seen important and significant stints with the Power Development Department as well as the Planning, Development and Monitoring Department. Lt Governors and Chief Secretaries may come and go but Kansal remains a trusted bureaucrat with experience of working closely with all political families of J&K.

### **Charu Sinha, IG Crpf, Srinagar**



Charu Sinha is an IPS officer of the 1996-batch Telangana cadre, who was Inspector General of CRPF, Jammu sector before being transferred to Srinagar. Charu Sinha has earlier also worked as IG, the Bihar sector in CRPF and has dealt with Naxals during her posting.

Charu, right after being posted as IG Srinagar sector, has impeccably divided her focus between lending an impetus to mental well-being, welfare, living standards, modernisation, operational efficiency of ranks and file under her command.

An absolute no-nonsense officer with a flair for fighting against terror and its milieu concomitantly, Charu has certainly managed to shatter the glass ceiling and push the bar further up. As an experienced police leader, having served in and academically surfed through conflicts across the country, Charu firmly believes in the 'connect' with the public and has thus curated a very ambitious and promising programme for the improvement in the standards of urban governance and primary education between the UT government and Praja Foundation and Azim Premji University, respectively. The programme, experts believe, would empower the citizenry in terms of

community participation in local governance and result in a spike in the standard of education at government-owned primary schools across Srinagar City.

### **Vijay Kumar, IGP, J&K Police, Kashmir**



Vijay Kumar is a 1997-batch IPS officer of the Jammu and Kashmir cadre who has been the Inspector General of Police overseeing the Kashmir valley for more than two years.

Kumar was given the most crucial role of policing in India immediately after the scrapping of Article 370 sections in 2019, which was a challenging phase for law and order in Jammu and Kashmir. Even though Pakistani propaganda was at its peak, Kumar held a tight grip on the situation and didn't let any stone-pelting or mob violence happen in Kashmir.

Under his leadership, over 170 terrorists were eliminated in Kashmir in 2021, including the entire top leadership of Jaish-e-Mohammed. Over 400 terrorists have been killed in his tenure of 26 months so far.

Kumar is known for his simplicity but is a tough cop when it comes to dealing with terrorists and their overground support network. Earlier, he led the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) as Inspector General in the most-critical Maoist heartlands of Bastar, central India. No wonder he has been awarded three gallantry medals for anti-terror operations in Jammu and Kashmir.

### **Shahid Iqbal Choudhary**



Shahid Iqbal Choudhary is an IAS officer of the 2009 batch from the Jammu and Kashmir cadre and is presently Secretary to the Tribal Affairs Department and CEO of J&K Mission Youth, as well as the

Mission Director of Skill Development Mission, J&K.

Shahid, who hails from remote Rehan village in the Rajouri district of J&K, is one of the most decorated bureaucrats of Jammu and

Kashmir in the last two decades. He was the first Muslim from Jammu and the first from his community of Gujjars to become a civil servant. Early in life, Shahid had to trek 16 kilometres every day to school.

Under his leadership, tribal communities have been given their due under the Forest and Land Rights Act. He received the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration for outstanding contribution in 2014-15. Shahid has led several crucial districts as District Magistrate including Srinagar, Bandipora, Rajouri, Udhampur, Kathua, Reasi and Leh.

Shahid is known for touching the lives of people and making a difference. Having strived hard early in life, he understands the problems of the common man in J&K. He is famous for making bridges in remote areas and constructing bunkers for people in border villages so they wouldn't fall victim to Pakistan Army shelling.

### **Rakesh Balwal**



Rakesh Balwal, a 2012-batch IPS officer, was moved from the Manipur cadre to the AGMUT cadre recently. Balwal as the Chief of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in Jammu and

Kashmir led the investigation in several high-profile terror-related cases and cracked the brutal Pulwama suicide bombing in 2019 in which 40 CRPF personnel sacrificed their lives. He personally worked night and a day on the 13,800-page chargesheet in the Pulwama terror attack case. The Union Home Minister's medal for excellence in the investigation for 2021 was awarded to Balwal for his hard work in the Pulwama case. Balwal's role has been well-documented in the book *The Loverboy of Bahawalpur* by Rahul Pandita.

Balwal, who is known to have an honest image, has been instrumental in shattering the backbone of terrorists in South Kashmir and exposing their hawala links across the border in Pakistan. Hailing from Udhampur and a

son of the soil from a well-respected family, Balwal is known to have entered the police force with a sense of unparalleled passion and a deep sense of commitment to bring a change.

At present Balwal has been posted as the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) of Srinagar in Kashmir, which is one of the most important and critical roles in the J&K Police. Immediately after taking over, Balwal has worked silently on midnight counter-terror operations based on human and tech intelligence to eradicate terrorists from Srinagar.

### Dr. Piyush Singla



Dr Piyush Singla is an IAS officer of the 2012 batch of Jammu & Kashmir cadre who is presently posted as Deputy Commissioner of Anantnag in South Kashmir. Singla, who has degrees of MBBS and medical law, is known for being accessible to the common people and having a spirited personality to develop an instant rapport with common Kashmiris.

Under his command, Anantnag won the best district award in the country for the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan implementation in Jammu and Kashmir by the Ministry of Social Justice in 2021. Earlier, Singla also won the National E-Governance Award for Project Sakoon in 2020 for his work in Udhampur. In Udhampur he also won the National Water Award for Project Jeevika. During the parliamentary elections in 2019, Singla won the State Award for Best District Election officer.

Singla has also represented the Shrine Board and presented a paper on District Risk Reduction in the UN Conference at UNDRR, Mexico Cancun in 2016. In 2018, he won the National Award on World Toilet Day in District Ganderbal of Central Kashmir among the top 10 collectors in the country. Having led three crucial districts across Jammu & Kashmir, Singla is seen as a bureaucrat with hands-on experience on the ground and is

slated to make it to important roles in the near future.

### Junaid Azim Mattu



One of the youngest Mayors in India and arguably the suavest, Junaid Azim Mattu has traversed an exceptional personal and political journey from being a young financial analyst in the United States, an American Permanent Resident, in 2009 to a serious challenger to the political monopoly of the traditional mainstream that persisted in Srinagar for more than seven decades.

A hands-on administrator with a distinguished academic background and the heir of an illustrious Srinagar family, Junaid Mattu is as comfortable drafting an urban governance policy in the company of technical experts as he is in the midst of his political workers — a growing tribe in areas which were traditional bastions of the National Conference in Srinagar. His recent public rally in Srinagar, in Hazratbal (an assembly segment he is expected to contest from), is widely believed to be the largest Srinagar has seen in the recent past.

In his second successive tenure as the Mayor of Srinagar, Mattu has helmed various landmark policies that have transformed the Srinagar Municipal Corporation from a government department to an urban local government. He has worked intensively to liberalise the city's laws and regulations, upgrade the infrastructural and institutional capacities of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation and decentralise the delivery of public services. Under Mattu's leadership, SMC has now entered into knowledge and capacity-building collaborations with prestigious institutions across the country. More recently, the central government invited Mattu along with a select group of Mayors from across the country to suggest recommendations to reform the 'Urban Governance Architecture' in India. Among his more prominent achievements, Srinagar is now ranked exceptionally well in various urban governance rankings in the country.



## Athar Aamir Khan



Athar Aamir Khan is an IAS officer of the 2016 batch who is presently the Commissioner of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation and CEO of Srinagar Smart City Ltd. Khan was the topper in the 2016 civil services examination and is known for his soft yet efficient work life.

Lt governor Manoj Sinha had specially selected him to work in Jammu and Kashmir and requested for the transfer of his cadre temporarily to J&K. After Shah Faesal, young Khan has inspired a generation of youth not just in Kashmir but across India.

Khan, known to have a huge social media

following among the youth and civil services aspirants, keeps focused on his work diligently. Khan, who was earlier posted in Rajasthan, is of the belief that education can transform lives significantly and is implementing it on the ground. He has transformed Srinagar through beautification in the last year of his tenure and is working each day to restore the glory of this heritage city.

Under his leadership, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated Srinagar as a part of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN). Srinagar City was also amongst the top 50 cleanest cities in India under the Swachh Survekshan 2021 Awards.

## NAVRATRI CELEBRATIONS IN SHARIKA BHAWAN



Kashmiri Sewak Samaj, Faridabad celebrated Navratri with great zeal and fervor from 26th September To 4th October, 2022. The celebrations started with fresh clothing of deities and daily morning Pooja on all nine days in which biradari members took active part. On 3rd October (Durgaashtmi) Sharika Vahini (Women volunteers of the Samaj) organized Bhajan Sandhya from 5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. This was followed by Kalash Poojan for Hawan. Hawan started at 9.30 p.m. with Agni Kund Pooja and continued till 12.30 p.m. on the Mahanavmi day (4th October) in 2 tranches Poornahuti was performed at the end, followed by samoohik Naveed. The Hawan attracted a large number of devotees, inspite of it being a working day.

### ► Symbiosis National Aptitude (SNAP) Computer-Based Test (C.B.T.)

SNAP is a computer-based test to join an M.B.A. programme offered by any Institute of Symbiosis International (Deemed University). The candidates aspire to fill out the SNAP 2022 online application form; the end date is November 24 2022. The SNAP 2022 entrance exam will be held on December 10, 18 and 23, 2022.

Symbiosis International University (SIU), situated in Pune, is a leader in providing world-class education, with many of its Institutes ranked amongst the best in the country. The University offers various Graduate, Post Graduate, and Diploma level programs. Apart from regular courses, Symbiosis also offers Distance Learning Education. Students from more than 85 countries study on the various campus of the University.

Symbiosis International University, Pune, is one of Maharashtra's top universities. Various important agencies have ranked it at the national and international levels, such as NIRF, Outlook, Q.S., etc. According to the NIRF Rankings 2022, Symbiosis International University has secured the 61st position in the overall Category.

The registration process (including the registration fee payment) for SNAP and Institutes is integrated. A candidate can complete the SNAP, programme registration, and price on the same portal ([snaptest.org](https://snaptest.org)).

The Institutes offering the M.B.A. programmes are:

- ✓ Symbiosis Institute of Business Management (SIBM, Pune) M.B.A. (Innovation & Entrepreneurship)
- ✓ Symbiosis Institute of Computer Studies & Research (SICSR) M.B.A. (Information Technology), M.B.A. (Digital Transformation)

- ✓ Symbiosis Centre for Management & Human Resource Development (SCMHRD) M.B.A. (Infrastructure Development & Management), M.B.A. (Business Analytics)
- ✓ Symbiosis Institute of International Business (SIIB) M.B.A. (International Business), M.B.A. (Agri-Business), M.B.A. (Energy & Environment)
- ✓ Symbiosis Institute of Digital & Telecom Management (SIDTM), formerly Symbiosis Institute of Telecom Management M.B.A. (Digital & Telecom Management)
- ✓ Symbiosis Institute of Management Studies (SIMS) M.B.A.
- ✓ Symbiosis Institute of Media & Communication, Pune (SIMC) M.B.A. (Communication Management) Symbiosis Institute of Operations Management, Nashik (SIOM) M.B.A. (Operations Management), M.B.A. (Agri Operations Management)
- ✓ Symbiosis Centre for Information Technology (SCIT) M.B.A. (Information Technology Business Management) M.B.A. (Data Science & Data Analytics)
- ✓ Symbiosis Institute of Health Sciences (SIHS) M.B.A. (Hospital & Healthcare Management)
- ✓ Symbiosis Institute of Business Management, Bengaluru (SIBM, Bengaluru) M.B.A., M.B.A. (Quantitative Finance), M.B.A. (Business Analytics)
- ✓ Symbiosis School of Banking & Finance (SSBF), formerly Symbiosis School of Banking Management M.B.A. (Banking & Finance)
- ✓ Symbiosis Institute of Business Management, Hyderabad (SIBM, Hyderabad) M.B.A.
- ✓ Symbiosis School of Sports Sciences (SSSS) M.B.A. (Sports Management)
- ✓ Symbiosis Institute of Business

Management, Nagpur (SIBM, Nagpur)  
M.B.A., M.B.A. (Food & Agri-Business  
Management)

A candidate will be shortlisted for further admission (GE-PIWAT) based on their overall SNAP Percentile. The other admission process is conducted separately for each programme by each Institute. The cut-off for shortlisting is also calculated individually for each programme. Based on their overall SNAP percentile, a particular candidate may get shortlisted for more than one programme. The Candidate is expected to participate in the GE-PIWAT for each programme in such a scenario.

SNAP Test 2022 will be conducted in 86 cities all over India. The test centres include New Delhi, Gurgaon and Jammu.

The candidates will be tested for General English (Reading Comprehension, Verbal Reasoning, and Verbal Ability), Analytical & Logical Reasoning, and, Quantitative, Data Interpretation & Data Sufficiency.

Candidate should be a Graduate from any recognised University/ Institution of National Importance and must have obtained a minimum of 50% marks or equivalent grade at graduation. Candidates appearing for final year examinations can also apply.

A candidate who has completed qualifying qualifications from any Foreign University must obtain an equivalence certificate from the Association of Indian Universities (A.I.U.)

The University admits Kashmiri Migrants and Kashmiri Pandits/ Kashmiri Hindu Families (Non-Migrants) living in Kashmir valley under a supernumerary quota. Two seats per programme are reserved under the quota.

20% of the approved sanctioned intake is meant for foreign candidates. Foreign candidates include Foreign National (F.N.), Persons of Indian Origin (P.I.O.), Overseas Citizen of India (O.C.I.) & Non-Resident Indian (N.R.I.)

A candidate applying under the reserved Category must submit a relevant document issued by the competent authority. Any participation at any stage of the admission

process by such a Candidate is purely provisional and will always be subject to verification and authentication of this document.

### ► All India Law Entrance Test (AILET 2023)

The National Law University (NLU) has started the All-India Law Entrance Test (AILET 2023) registration process for admission to B.A.LL.B.(Hons) [Five-Year Programme], LL.M. [One Year Programme] and PhD programme.

Candidates can apply for the exam online through NLU's official website: [nludelhi.ac.in](http://nludelhi.ac.in). There are 83 seats available for the B.A.LL.B (Hons) course, whereas, for LL.M and PhD programmes, there are 10 and 50 seats available, respectively.

The AILET exam will be conducted in offline mode.

AILET-2023 will be conducted in the following cities: Bengaluru, Bilsapur, Bhopal, Chandigarh, Chennai, Cochin, Cuttack, Dehradun, Delhi, Gandhinagar, Ghaziabad, Greater Noida, Gurugram, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Imphal, Jabalpur, Jaipur, Jammu, Jodhpur, Kanpur, Kolkata, Kota, Lucknow, Mangalore, Mumbai, Nagpur, Patna, Pune, Raipur, Rajkot, Ranchi, Thiruvananthapuram, Tirupati, Shimla, Siliguri, Silchar, Varanasi and Visakhapatnam. If the number of candidates in any city is less than 100, then a test centre shall not be created in that city and candidates will be allotted a centre as per their 2nd/3rd city preference indicated in the application form.

According to the notice posted on the official website – [nludelhi.ac.in](http://nludelhi.ac.in) – the All-India Law Entrance Test (AILET) exam will be conducted on 11 December 2022 from 11 AM to 12:30 PM. The candidates who qualify for the AILET exam will be eligible to apply for admission to National Law University, Delhi.

Apply online on payment of the application fee of Rs.3500/- (Rupees Three Thousand Five hundred Only).

► The Last date for submission of applications is 15 November 2022.



- ☛ The admit card will be issued to candidates on 22 November 2022.
- ☛ The Admit cards will be issued on 22 November 2022.
- ☛ Examination will be held on 11 December 2022.

Counselling will be the final stage of the admissions process. The candidates will be able to participate in the offline counselling process starting in the first week of August 2023.

The application fee for the General category and Kashmiri migrant students is INR 3050. The AILET counselling fee is Rs 50,000.

## ➤GATE 2023

The Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering - GATE 2023, will be organized by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur. It will be jointly conducted by IIT Bombay, Delhi, Guwahati, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Madras, Roorkee and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore. The exam will be organized on behalf of the National Coordination Board-GATE (NCB) and the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India.

GATE 2023 will be a computer-based test (CBT) and conducted in twenty-nine subject areas with the choice of selecting two papers in some subjects. It will be held on 4, 5, 11 and 12 February 2023.

## UG, PG admissions to

### DU's School of Open Learning

The University of Delhi's Department of Distance & Continuing Education all the UG/PG admissions will be made in the Department of Distance & Continuing Education, University of Delhi

The admissions will be conducted online, and the last date will be October 31 for UG courses. For M.B.A., the end date to apply is 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

Unlike in DU's regular programmes, admissions to the undergraduate open learning programmes will only be conducted through class XII marks. Common University

Entrance Test (CUET) will not be applicable.

This year the institute has spread out its branches by launching six contemporary/professional courses, namely, Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Library and Information Science, Bachelor of Library and Information Science, B.A.(Hons.) Economics, Bachelor of Management Studies, Bachelor of Business Administration (Financial Investment Analysis), in the Department of Distance & Continuing Education.

## Academy of Fashion and Art B-Des Programme

Academy of Fashion and Art was incorporated in 2007 with the primary objective of imparting a world-class training programme to meet the demands of students who are aspiring for NIFT, NID, PEARL, TDV, JSAA, UPES, UCEED, CEED, IIAD, UID and other Art and Design Entrance Exams across India and abroad.

Academy of Fashion and Art invites online/offline applications for admission to its B-Des Programme. Admission will be based on Undergraduate Common Entrance Examination (UCEED) scores. Students who have completed or are in Class 12 are eligible to apply. The deadline to apply is October 31. Visit <https://www.afaindia.com/index.php> for the details.

## BITS School of

### Management Residential MBA programme

BITS School of Management has opened applications for its two-year full-time residential MBA programme to commence in July 2023.

**Application process:** Online

**Eligibility:** Candidates must have a recognised undergraduate or postgraduate degree in any discipline from a recognised Indian or international university or be in the final year.

**Deadlines:** Round 1 is November 20, round 2 is January 22, and round 3 is March 5.

For details, visit, [www.bitsom.edu.in](http://www.bitsom.edu.in)

## International Scholarships at Strathclyde

The University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, offers



several scholarships for its Faculty of Humanities and Social applicants to join postgraduate programmes in the academic year 2022/23. The Subjects are Education, English, History, Law, Languages, Politics, Psychology, Speech and language therapy, Journalism, Social policy, international relations, and social work. The deadline to apply is November 30, 2022 <https://bit.ly/3E0Z9JU>

### **Neuros powered by Prep Ladder launched**

Neuros powered by PrepLadder was recently launched and will introduce offline Rapid Revision Bootcamps for NEET PG aspirants. Aspirants will be provided expert guidance by accomplished faculty, 185 hours of live offline classes, concise notes based on rapid revision lectures, extra focus on high-yielding topics, and real-time doubt clearance. The programme will be held in batches starting with Kolkata from October 10 to November 6 and from October 10 to November 8 in Lucknow. Registrations are open at <https://www.neurosacademy.com/>

### **Fintech Certification Programme**

Manipal Global Skills Academy recently launched a Fintech Certification Programme. Those who successfully complete the course will be awarded a Blockchain-Enabled 'Certificate of Completion. Visit <https://bit.ly/3xTKXPj>

### **SILICA Junior launched**

SILICA Institute recently launched SILICA

Junior to develop art skills in students from Classes 7 to 10 and introduce them to learning core subjects such as Maths, Science, History, Geography, Languages, through art-integrated activities.

### **UniSearch launched**

UniSearch recently announced its launch in India. The AI-powered platform will be a one-stop solution for Indian students planning to study abroad. For details, visit, <https://myunisearch.com/>

### **OUP launches Oxford Inspire**

Oxford University Press recently launched Oxford Inspire, a new suite of blended learning solutions that cater to students from Classes 1 to 8 and offers print and digital courseware for English, Maths, EVS and Science, blending the two learning mediums through a learning journey.

Timeline of Admission in UG Programmes on the basis of CUET- 2022 in Central Universities

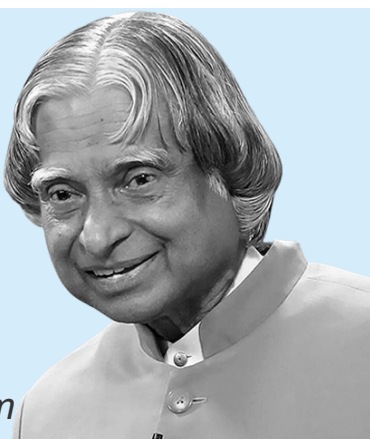
Based on CUET 2022, the admission to the Central Universities, the tentative timeline to the UG programmes is announced.

To seek the admission, browse the University portal in which the aspirant desires to seek the admission. To find the details like courses of study, eligibility, dates of commencement of classes, fee, hostel accommodation, etc. go through the information booklet on the website.

Feedback: [vijaykashkari@gmail.com](mailto:vijaykashkari@gmail.com)

**Creativity is seeing the same thing but thinking differently**

*- Dr. Abdul Kalam*





**AIKS**  
**Matrimonial Service**



Looking for a well-educated boy for our daughter (DOB- 14/01/1992; TOB- 1:00 pm; Height- 5'5"). She has done B.Tech (ICT, Mumbai) and MBA (ISB, Hyderabad). Working for a top MNC in Hyderabad. Interested may contact- [ravimunshi711@gmail.com](mailto:ravimunshi711@gmail.com) or whatsapp- 9137417928



Looking for a suitable match for our son, born on January 02, 1991 at 06:30 PM at Jammu. Height: 5'11", B.E (C.S.E) Computer Science from VTU University. Presently working as Team Leader inside Sales in (M.N.C) USA Company at Bangalore with handsome package (seven figures). Interested persons may contact on: WhatApp No. 7006171324, 9055272134, 8717090262, 8717090264, Email-Id: [hldhar1958@gmail.com](mailto:hldhar1958@gmail.com)



Looking for a well-educated boy for our daughter (DOB- 14/01/1992; TOB- 1:00 pm; Height- 5'5"). She has done B.Tech (ICT, Mumbai) and MBA (ISB, Hyderabad). Working for a top MNC in Hyderabad. Interested may contact- [ravimunshi711@gmail.com](mailto:ravimunshi711@gmail.com) or whatsapp- 9137417928  
Wanted Suitable match for Kashmiri Pandit Boy born on 16th of Feb, 1991 ( In New Delhi) at 03.10 hrs Height: 5' 9" MBA (International Business Studies) from Mumbai. Presently working in Pune with UK Based MNC, Family originally from Naidyar Rainawari (J&K) settled in Pune. Interested may contact Mr. Sanjay Raina 9619630232/8600400232 or mail at: [sanjayraina007@yahoo.com](mailto:sanjayraina007@yahoo.com)



Seeking alliance for my only son. DOB: 19.08.1987 at Srinagar, Time: 7.45 PM, Ht. 176 cms. Education: Btech Computer Science & MBA from Tata Institute of Social Sciences. Working at Bangalore as Director in Razorpay. Highly placed and handsomely paid. Interested may contact at WhatsApp no. 8803004092.



Looking for a suitable match for our son born at 12.59 AM on 4th October, 1997 at New Delhi, height 5.11ft. He is MBA from a Govt. University, working in Gurgaon in a multinational company. Family residing at Noida (Ext.). Father working in the Ministry of Finance and mother superannuated from the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India. Interested may contact on 9540818777 / 9540819777 for Tekni, Kalawali etc. (both numbers are also available on whatsapp).



Looking for a suitable educated Kashmiri Pandit Karkoon girl of age group 32 to 34 Yrs for a handsome Kashmiri Pandit Karkoon boy of 34 Yrs age• BMS (Mumbai University) serving as Manager eastern region, in a reputed learning solution company Mumbai with an annual salary above 8 lakhs Per Annum Contact nos WhatsApp /phone 7006144793, 9419195317, 9419878796



Looking for a suitable girl for my son. Please find below the details: Date of Birth: 02/09/1991, Place of Birth: Jammu, Time of Birth: 10: 16 am, Qualification: B.Tech(Mechanical), Employment Details: Presently Working in Luminous India(Himachal Pradesh), (Previously working in Uno Minda). Valley address : Handwara and Present address is Durga Nagar, Bantalab Jammu, Height : 5ft 9inch, Contact/WhatsApp number : 9469554886



A Non-Karkun family but no bar within Hindu Kashmiri Community cherishes traditional values but has Modern Outlook, seeking academic & professionally qualified match, for our daughter. Jaipur (Rajasthan)/ 04:28 pm /25-01-1993/ B.Tech (ECE) throughout Distt. / 164cms-5'5")/ Job-MNC Bangalore. kbrazdan53@gmail.com, 9982129955



Looking for a suitable match for our Son born on July 29, 1988, at 4:57 PM. Place of Birth: Srinagar, Height: 5feet 10 inches. He is MBA from Kurukshetra University, working in Delhi and earning 7 figures annual salary. He is a Low amngalik. The family originally belongs to Budgam and presently resides at Butta Nagar, Jammu. Interested may contact at Email: rahulbhatn88@gmail.com & Mobile no: 9650836408, 8803769763.



Suitable alliance sought for our daughter, born 1993, Ht. 155 Cm; BE Electronics & Communications and PGD in liberal arts from the Ashoka University. Presently working for a NOT-FOR-PROFIT organization, specializing in Public Policy Implementation & Behavioral Sciences. Currently based in Rishikesh. Interested may contact with Tekni/Kulawali through Email: maharajk1951@gmail.com / WhatsApp no. 70061 03276.



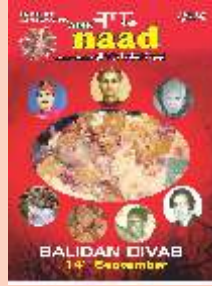
Seeking alliance for our only daughter Born 5/5/1993 at Faridabad Time: 9.27 pm Ht. 5' 2" MBBS 2018. Working with one year Internship presently at Multispeciality Metro Hospital, Faridabad. Interested may contact on Mobile +91 81918 95075 or at Email: neenac2@gmail.com alongwith Tekni and kulawali.



Seeking alliance for my daughter DOB: 10.08.1990 at Vadodara, Time: 12:21PM, Ht. 165 Cms. Education: Masters in HR Management (MHRM). Working as Sr. HR Officer in a Major PSU in Mumbai. Interested may contact on Mb: 9586878362 or at Email: jyotsna201610@gmail.com

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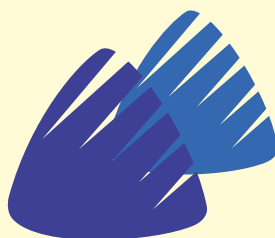
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