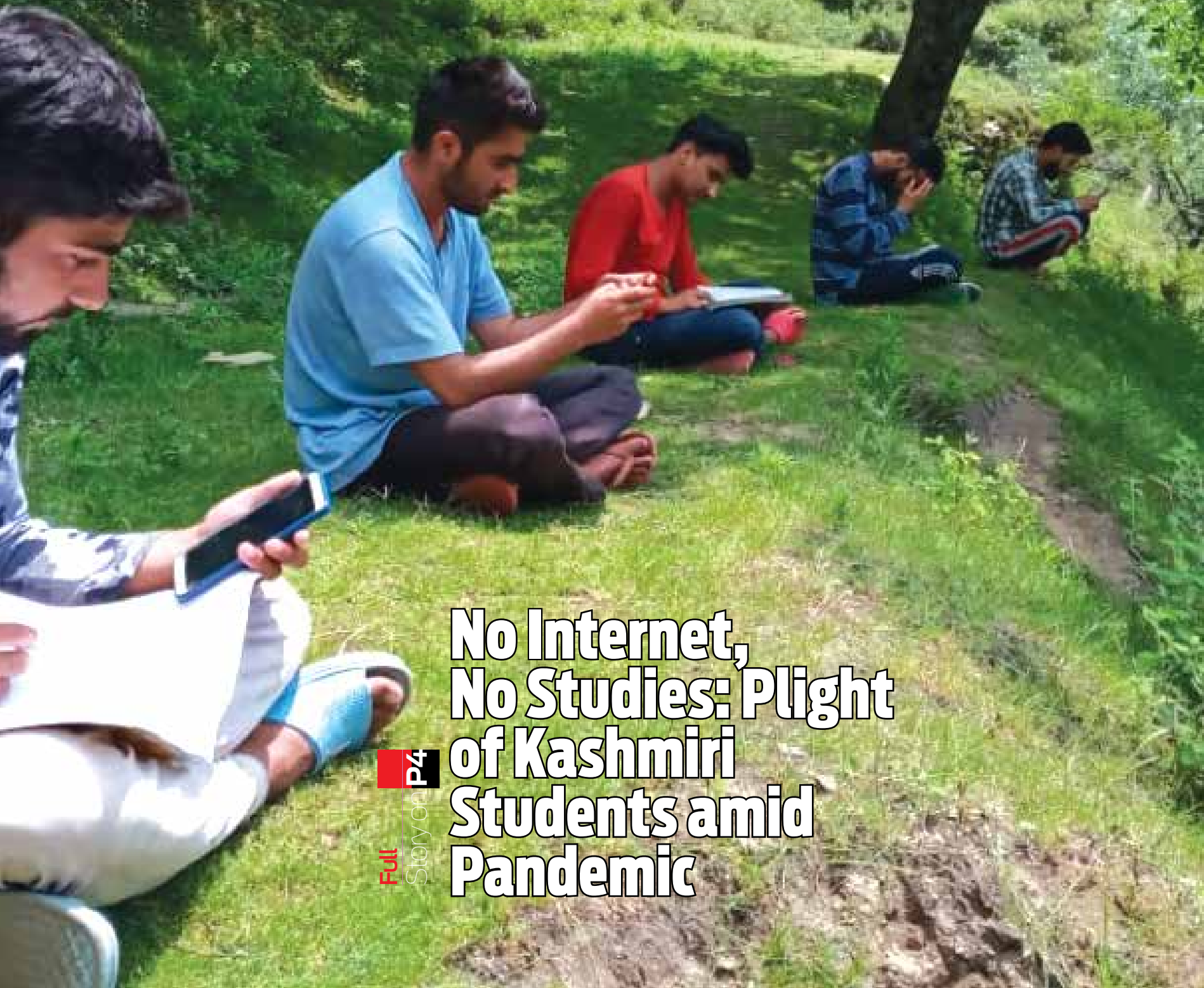


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**MEDIA EDUCATION RESEARCH CENTRE
UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR**



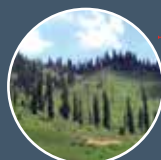
No Internet, No Studies: Plight of Kashmiri Students amid Pandemic

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COVID-19 lockdown affecting mental health of children

Badar Bashir

Srinagar

As Covid-19 continues to pose an existential threat to human lives compelling people to cage themselves inside their homes. The mental health of school-going children is raising concerns among the parents.

The schools in Srinagar reopened on March 01, after a three-month long winter break. However, due to the threat of Covid-19, they were ordered a closure as soon as classwork had begun. As a result, the majority of children in Srinagar are experiencing a prolonged state of physical isolation from their friends, teachers, extended family, and other community networks.

The parents are worried and facing the challenge of finding a way for productive learning and sound mental well-being of their children.

“My son is not studying since the closure of his school was announced. Although, I try my best to keep him busy in his studies, but he

shows no interest and feels irritated at times”, said Sheikh Uzma, a mother of a ten-year-old boy studying in fifth standard.

Mehnaz Malik, a mother of two children said, “I had devised a schedule for my thirteen-year-old twins studying in seventh standard to keep them busy. But, they don’t follow it and behave differently.”

Parents are trying to spend more time with their children and keep them busy in their household chores and hobbies.

“As soon she finishes her school work, I make sure to take my daughter out for gardening. I planted several flowers with her and she started liking it. Sometimes, her mother teaches her baking to keep her involved, said Rashid Ahmad, a father of twelve-year-old girl studying in sixth standard.

He further said that parents should make their children a priority during these times and must take utmost care of their mental health.

This isolation is taking a heavy toll on children already experiencing some sort of mental health issues such as anxiety, trauma, obsessive compulsive disorder, depression.

“My daughter was diagnosed with anxiety after her grandmother’s death. Her cousins and school friends helped her to cope up. However, due to prolonged lockdown she is feeling alone and craving for face-to-face interaction”, said Maria Ali while feeling worried for her sixteen-year-old daughter.

Many psychologists have advised the parents to keep a close check on the behavior of their children and not let them feel isolated or left out. They have suggested to set up a robust routine for children to keep them equally involved in studies as well as other activities since physical activity is critical for their development.

“Parents should involve their children in stretching exercises, indoor games, craft, books, and ask them to help in simple household activities”, said Isha Malik, RCI registered clinical psychologist and owner of Mind Spa, a therapy page on social media.

“Encouraging positive thinking and incorporating new activities in between the routine such as solving a puzzle, or family game time would also prove fruitful for the children”, she added further.

Dara Residents Aghast Over Absence of Proper Sanitation

Umer Mukhtar

Srinagar

Inhabitants of Dara, Harwan of Srinagar have expressed strong resentment against visitors and administration for failing to protect it as heaps of scattered garbage is looting the charm of this place.

Fifteen kilometres away from the city centre lay the majestic Dara trekking site. Dara hills are one of the approachable routes to Mahadev Peak which is considered as one of the highest peaks in Kashmir. People from all walks of life especially trekkers are often seen enjoying and making their way up through the gigantic hills of Dara.

Children could be seen jumping into the water enthusiastically as mercury starts to rise. The hills are accompanied by huge and lush green trees which shelter this place from sun and keep it under shade mostly. That is why this place witnesses a huge rush during

summers as people young and old find Dara an ideal place to beat the heat.

But the negligence of the people visiting has left the Dara localities concerned as they allege that beauty of this place is harmed by irresponsible behaviour of the visitors.

“Ghulam Rasool, 48, a local resident who frequently visits the upper reaches of Dara while talking to MERC Times said,

“Before 2016 this place was not known to many people but now we are witnessing enormous rush of people who throw waste anywhere relentlessly and make it look as a garbage point,”

“I request people to act sensitively towards places like these as they list in blessings from our Allah”. Rasool added.

Meanwhile not only the local population seems concerned but the trekkers visiting Dara are equally aghast on the current scenario. The present state of Fakeer Gujri trekking route (another name of Dara Hills) has left trekkers frustrated and disappointed.

“Adventure Tourism can make this place a global talk and help us to stimulate the economy of Kashmir but if people remain self-centred and keep on polluting their environment this is not going to happen,” said a group of youth from Northern Ibexes trekking club.

“Such amount of garbage on these hills is not only harmful to the local surroundings but can also damage the fauna of this place,” said Umar Nissar, 30, a professional trekker who has conquered highest peaks like Frozen Lake.

“Animals like bears sometime eat these polythene bags and wrappers which endangers their life,” Nissar added.

Locals alleged that the authorities too seem to be giving a dumb ear to this issue as they tried to reach them several times but met no response.

Dara Hills could turn into a story of neglect and melancholy if proper measures are not taken for its conservation.



No Internet, No Studies: Plight of Kashmiri Students

Sheikh Mustafa

Srinagar

Amid Pandemic students of Lachipora mount a dangerous hill to fetch some connectivity and attend online classes.

Following the Coronavirus Pandemic where the world is becoming a slammer and ghost - town, as global leaders urge people to stay indoors and work from home. Students from Lachipora have to tread two kilometers through dangerous mountainous routes in order to get some connectivity and attend the online classes.

Educational institutions started going online following Covid-19 lockdown but, it had also sparked a public debate on inequality. As many underprivileged students such as that from Lachipora village of north Kashmir's Baramulla district continue to suffer due to lack of connectivity. Situated at a distance of 100 Kilometres from Srinagar in the bosom of mountains and huge lush green trees, Lachipora is a village in Boniyar block in Baramulla district of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Mohd Manzoor Sheikh, a science student from Lachipora village said, "Most of the times I miss my classes due to the poor connectivity and also because of the distance I have to cover to catch some mobile signal,"

The local alleged that they been continuously seeking resolution to this issue but the authorities are unwilling to act. The area confirms Airtel subscriptions of about 1700-2000 but they have to walk out a minimum of two kilometers to get a call connected properly. The worst hit areas are Jala, Gawas, Dachawar, Rawatpora and watheeri.

"The students here miss their classes when it is raining outside while others belonging to different areas remain connected. It adds to the already existing frustration in students," Sheikh Gowhar, another local student said.

A Panchayat Member wishing not to be named said, "We approached and pleaded before higher authorities time again so that a tower is instilled but met a numb response every time,"

Farooq Ahmad Mir, a PHD scholar from Lachipora said, "It is very unfortunate that we have to suffer so much even in this post modern era where the entire world has turned into a global village and here are we wailing for the sake of connectivity,"

"we especially students request higher authorities to please take notice of the matter and resolve it immediately," He added. Meanwhile when we tried to contact the District Magistrate of Baramulla, Dr G N Itoo, the phone kept on ringing and there was no response from the other side.

Ban on high speed internet was imposed since August 5 last year and it has been more than a year now but still there seems no indication that the government is anywhere close to restore the service fully in Kashmir, even after Coronavirus pandemic. Government's defence, order after order of continuing the 4G ban, is that it is necessary to ensure peace in the region.



Most of the times I miss my classes due to the poor connectivity and also because of the distance I have to cover to catch some mobile signal





Online Education and its challenges amid Covid-19 pandemic

Shahid Habib

Global school closures since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic have presented unprecedented challenges to children's education and wellbeing. Educational institutes have been asked by most worldly governments to give up the traditional way of teaching and turn to a more modern system of imparting knowledge to aspirants. The UNESCO report estimates that the coronavirus pandemic will adversely impact over 290 million students across 22 countries. The UNESCO estimates that about 32 crores students are affected in India, including those in schools and colleges. This is the main reason why online Educational system came to rescue the student fraternity across the globe. Nevertheless, Covid-19 has prompted experts to rethink the conventional mode of education. Digital education appears to be the only solution right now to contain the chances of the spread of any infection to students until classes resume. It has also brought the hitherto peripheral issue of digital education at the centre of debate again. But can a territory like Kashmir afford to go online at a time when its internet speed is reeling at snail's pace.

Shahid Habib from MERC Times took a vox pop from some students and teachers of Kashmir to know about their experience of online education amid Covid-19 with 2G internet. Here is what they have to say:

Ifra Hassan

Media Student Srinagar

The internet speed in Kashmir is quite slow which makes it impossible to connect with our classes properly as there are connection issues. We can't watch online lectures or submit our assignments on time as it consumes a lot of time. Life is unpredictable here and so is the internet scenario.

Rayees Ahmad Bhat

MLT Student Anantnag

Well I believe that low speed internet is causing major trouble for online education especially for medical students. There subjects are mainly lab based and it is not possible to understand complex scientific via online mode fully. The underprivileged section of the society will hardly with stand this new mode of education due to financial constraints.

Fayaz Ahmad Itoo

Teacher at Sheikh-ul-Alam Public School

Anantnag

Government must address grievances of teachers and the students community who are worst hit amid pandemic. If authorities were serious enough they would have restored high speed internet way back when schools, colleges and universities were shut. We can't upload video lessons on YouTube how is this acceptable and how do you expect good response from the students.

Shaheen Sajjad

Principal Holy Gates International School

Anantnag

Online classes would yield result only when there will be strong connectivity and no disruption of internet, teachers on their part are doing every possible way to reach students and help them in their study but as our school falls in South Kashmir where internet shutdown are more common, teachers fail to attend online classes on most occasions.

Sheikh Mustafa

Lacchipora, Boniyar, Baramulla

I have to go on top of a mountain to catch some mobile signal and before that I have to walk 2 kilometres through tough routes. This is a border area and mobile network is too weak due to unavailability of mobile phone towers. I have to sit under hot sun to join the classes and on rainy days I mostly miss them.

Series Review DARK

A complex, thrilling and a classic sci-fi series

Abdul Mukeet

Set in a hypothetical town of Winden, 'Dark' is a German Netflix original web series released in December, 2017. It has been directed by Baran Bo Odar and produced by Wiedemann and Berg television company. It is a sci-fi suspense thriller that keeps the viewer at the edge of the seat throughout the series. With a runtime of 44-73 minutes, it consists of 26 episodes spread over three seasons.

The series is based on a story of a teenager, Jonas Kahnwald, whose father has recently committed suicide. Jonas struggles with his death and wants answers to his sudden demise and the events that lead up to it. On his pursuit the answers unravel and he finds out that there is a huge web of events which are interdependent on each other. Most of the characters turn out to be related which gets complicated at start and makes it harder to keep a track of.

As the show progresses, time travel is made possible because of a wormhole that exists in the caves of Winden. Jonas then travels back and forth between the time lines which are separated from each other by 33 years. All these events happen because the last cycle has begun, and if the previous events aren't altered, it would be the end of the world. The story begins in 2019, but spreads to include storylines in 1986 and 1953 via time travel.

Dark is based on the concept of time travel and time is conceived as God here. The concepts of quantum entanglement, bootstrap paradox, wormhole, time travel, parallel universe are the central ideas around which the show revolves. Although, it is not necessary that one should know about all these to understand the plot.

The producers have done a top-notch job in selecting the characters which portray the different versions of the same person in different timelines. The cinematography is worth praising; how the town's look and feel changes between various timelines are shown perfectly. The theme song of the series - 'Goodbye' is unskippable as it sets the mood at the start of every episode. Also, the additional background scores produced by Ben Frost are powerful.

To be honest, I don't know much about my family as much as I know about the complex family trees of Dark. Several questions begins to rise at the start of the series, however, as the story unfolds everything seems connected, thereby answering all the queries. In order to prevent the series from getting dull, the producers have done a fantastic task by wrapping up everything in just three seasons.

There are emotional, thrilling and confused moments in it like the one where the characters cross timelines and their two or more versions exist. But the absurdity of the concept of time travel provides a thrilling ride, therefore, making Dark the best and different series from the rest.

Being an adult show, anyone above 18 could watch it as long as they are interested in science fiction and have the patience to watch it till the end.



Movie Review

THE FLU

Arbeena

Harrowingly convincing, steadily emotional cliff-hanger imagines the effects of a deadly H5N1 outbreak

Directed by Kim Sung-su and written by Lee Yeong-jong, *The Flu* is a sci-fi South Korean movie that imagines what would happen if a mutated version of the avian flu virus-H5N1, were to hit a populous place Bundang, South Korea. Starring Soo Ae, Jang Hyuk, and Park Min-hai; this 120-minutes long disaster movie was released in August 2013 in Korean language.

Kim Sung-su is a South Korean director and screenwriter, known mainly for the teen film 'Beat' (1997) and the comedy 'Please Teach Me English' (2003).

The movie is based on a story about an unknown disease identified as mutated avian flu virus- H5N1 that affects the largest city in Seoul, South Korea known as Bundang. The carrier of the virus, Monssai, is trafficked into Bundang, he escapes and infects other people. The infected people die within 36 hours, with cough, skin rashes and blood vomiting being the prominent symptoms. This results in mass panic and the ruthless imprisonment of Bundang's citizens for containment, who all are condemned to annihilation by political elites. The movie is also, to some extent, relatable to the ongoing corona virus pandemic.

At the centre of the movie is Kim In-hae (Soo Ae), a female doctor and a single mother involved in the effort to find a remedy for the disease; Kang Ji-goo (Jang Hyuk), a rescue worker who meets Kim after saving her from a car accident; and MI Reu (Park Min-Hai), Kim's six-year old daughter.



The movie highlights the inhumanness and duplicity of the government; the political elites who only care about themselves without realising the extremity of the outbreak and the consequences of their brutal orders on the common people. There are several gut-wrenching scenes in the movie like the one where a giant claw machine lifts masses of bodies and dump into a pit to be burnt regardless of some infected people still being alive inside the plastic bags. It depicts the merciless treatment given to the ordinary people and that their lives don't matter.

All the characters are brilliant in

their role and acting especially, the little and cute Mi Reu. Her acting in one of the terrifying scenes in the end where she pleads the military troops not to kill her mother, bring tears down the eyes and etches in the mind even after the movie ends. However, Dr. Kim In-hae grabs the attention through her acting in the second half of the movie. Also, she lets her motherly instincts override the professional ethics and as such she appears somewhat dubious. Kang Ji-goo on however, as a rescue worker is honest and fully dedicated towards his work and hence is able to capture the heart through his acting.

Shortcomings of the movie lie in the fact that it doesn't reveal anything about the human trafficking gang. It also doesn't tell anything about Monssai, the illegal immigrant, who is the carrier of the new virus. Also, only Mi Reu calls him by name, others refer to him as the "antibody carrier" and are only interested in his blood sample. He is never mentioned again after his death. In addition to it, frequently reading the English subtitles, the movie being in Korean language, is one of the main disadvantages to the viewer unfamiliar with this specific language.

The background music, location and cinematography are all commendable. The bird's-eye shots in the later part of the movie are breath-taking and praise worthy. The current pandemic is quite relatable to the movie's story and hence makes it a must watch.





Tosa Maidan - The King of Meadows

Photo Feature by :
Zaid Bashir

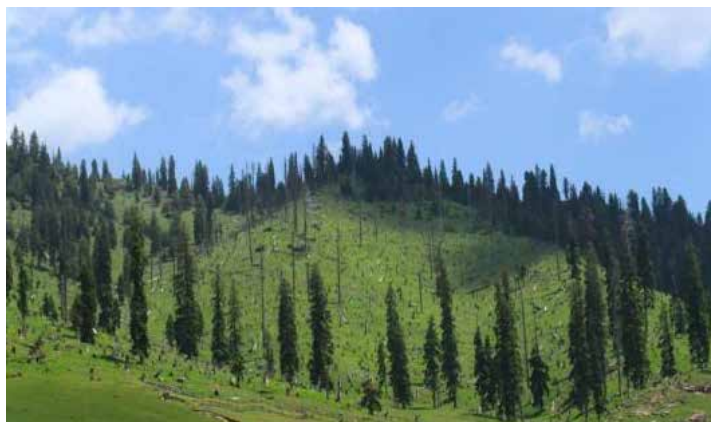
Tosa Maidan is a high-altitude landscape of meadows which is situated 25 km from Khag Tehsil of Budgam district in Kashmir. It lies in the Pir Panjal range of the Himalayan mountains consisting of high altitude grassland and mountain ecosystem. It is also known as 'king of meadows'.

Tosa Maidan is covered by dense forests, which consists of deodar, fir and pine trees. It is the largest pasture and is around 3 miles in length, and 1.5 miles in width which makes it suitable for rearing livestock of villages.

Tosa Maidan is covered by dense forests, which consists of deodar, fir and pine trees. It is the largest pasture and is around 3 miles in length, and 1.5 miles in width which makes it suitable for rearing livestock of villages.



Horses run in the lush green meadows of Tosa Maidan



Meadows of Tosa Maidan present a view of green carpet in summers.

The meadows are also rich in flora and fauna, consisting of various wild animals like Leopard, Himalayan Black Bear, Brown Bear, and various bird species. Tosa Maidan is home to various high-altitude peaks and lakes like Gaadsar, Boadsar, and Pamsar.

Many communities like Gujjars, Bakerwals, Pohls, and Paharis practice pastoral and farming activities. As the snow accumulated during winters begin to melt in April, Pohls and Bakerwal community begin their journey with their livestock to the Alpine pastures during the summer and return back in the month of November as the weather worsens.

They prefer orests pastures in summers and in autumn they use community pastures which are mostly wetlands and acts as reservoir of water in summer and pasture land in autumn.



Bakerwal women carry essentials during evening hours while returning back to home.



Ghulam Mohideen Chopan (Pohl), 60, lead his flock of sheep in meadows. Pohl forms a specific class of people residing in various areas of Kashmir valley. Pohl's by profession serve and breed the sheep and goats of farmers and live in almost every village of the valley and contribute to the cultural history of Kashmir by serving shepherds in the villages.



Parents Concerned Over Cell phone Addiction of children Amid COVID-19 Lockdown

Yasir Rather

Online classes came as a helping hand for educational institutions to drive forward with their academic calendars during Covid-19 lockdown. But this shift has generated serious concerns among parents and experts as students indulge in distracting content other than their online classes, thereby, making them addicted to cell phones.

Kashmiri parents are caught in a constant state of worry and restlessness as they have become watchdogs of their children nowadays. Though they don't seem convinced with the online educational infrastructure that has been put in place, but they are left with no option other than seeing their children being glued to the digital screens. As alleged by parents, children are becoming more smart phone friendly and turn to

other apps/games abruptly after their classes are over.

Maqbool Ahmad while narrating his ordeal said, "The prolonged classes are hazardous for my child as he already is facing issues with respect to his eye sight."

"My son is extremely reluctant to hand over the phone once his classes are over," Maqbool added. His son Mujeeb Ahmad is a class first student.

A medical student Dr. Shafqat-Un-Nisa, vindicating parents concerns said, "Excess use of any electronic gadget including mobile phone increases the chances of headaches and affects the eye sight of the children."

Many parents have allegedly noticed some changes in their children's behaviour like reacting late to things, mood swings etc.

"My son is busy with his laptop throughout the day and I feel helpless for not being able to peep into what he is doing just because I am not well versed

with technology," said Abdul Majeed, another parent from

Dr. Afroz, a professor in GMC's Ophthalmology department said, "When a person spends long hours looking at smart phones, the normal blink rate of an eye decreases which can create problems for the children."

Also, According to a statement issued earlier by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), working in humanitarian aid for children around the world, "millions of children are at increased risk of harm as their lives move increasingly online during lockdown in the Covid-19 pandemic." UNICEF had warned that the internet exposure will put children at more risk of online sexual exploitation as predators look to exploit the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the midst of all these challenges parents would have an important role to play if this lockdown continues.

Book
Review

Love in the Time of Cholera

An intriguing saga of two individuals and their pursuit to find eternal love.

Saqib Jameel

First published in Spanish in 1985, 'Love in the Time of Cholera' is a romantic novel written by a famous Colombian author Gabriel Garcia Marquez. It was translated into English in 1988 by Alfred A. Knopf. The book was also adapted into a movie in 2007.

Gabriel Garcia Marquez was a novelist, short story writer, journalist, and screenwriter known by the nickname Gabo or Gabito. He was awarded Neustadt International Prize for Literature and the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1972 and 1982 respectively. His notable works include One Hundred Years of Solitude, The Autumn of the Patriarch, and Chronicle of a Death Foretold.

The 348 pages novel, Love in the Time of Cholera is a love saga of two beautiful characters namely, Florentino Ariza and Fermina Daza, set in Northern Colombia around 1874-1924. Florentino first sets eyes

on Fermina when she is still a schoolgirl. An aspiring poet, he woos her in the courtliest fashion: with letters, love songs, verses inscribed on the petals of flowers. Fermina responds, more coolly and guardedly, but when her coarse, ambitious father tries to end the romance, she and Florentino evade his plans. Love seems just about to triumph when all of a sudden, Fermina has a kind of negative self-discovery in which she realizes that this great love was just an illusion. She eventually chooses to marry a wealthy, well-born doctor, Juvenal Urbina, leaving Florentino devastated.

Published by Editorial Oveja Negra (Colombia), the book is stripped of multiple layers of philosophic and poetic implication, the metaphorically loaded story of a man's lifelong passion for a beautiful woman who marries another man emerges as a weightless, picturesque gloss.

It is a timeless and unforgettably memorable book. The reader would be tickled by Gabriel's sense of humor and the

magic of his woven words. Love in the Time of Cholera is a boldly romantic, profoundly imaginative, and remarkably imagined work of fiction that expands our sense of life's infinite possibilities and be consoled that we are not alone, and that life is in the living. It not only narrates different traits of human nature but also depicts a careful sketch of the Latin American culture of the early 20th century.

However, the reader, mostly a beginner, may find it a bit difficult to read. Every page is packed with dense, intricate language and it requires a significant level of concentration which one may lose at times.

I liked it much more for the prose than for the characters and the story, however, and while I can certainly appreciate Márquez's gifts as a writer, he isn't likely to become one of my favorites. As an entry on the 1001 Books You Must Read Before You Die list, it probably deserves its place, though I have not read any of Márquez's other books and cannot say if this is the worthiest.

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TIMES

COVID-19 rekindles religious fervour

Asif Khan

In times when the clouds of boredom and despair have engulfed the entire globe and the world is turning into a quod and ghost town where people are left to fend their own fate. Faith is seen rescuing people amid these strident and testing times as the homes witness religious resurgence.

The post modern life is brisk and mandates same for the people breathing under its canopy. It demands a reason for everything that people do. This setup of life had kept people busy running after their hectic schedules. People carry enormous load of work and responsibilities to their beds for the next day.

But with the kind of sharp rise Covid-19 cases are seeing and this outbreak of virus being related to God's decree by Islamic clergy, people started mending their relationship with the creator. The fear and panic among people is witnessing stagflation. Families are getting close as they remain inside their houses and thus the parent section is getting a chance to peep into the lives of their children. With the holy month of Ramadan coming

during this lockdown and people being asked to pray inside their homes, it has given parents a chance to bring their family close. They are also getting a chance to preach their values to the children.

"It was for the first time that my dad had actually made all of the family pray strictly," Mohammad Arsalaan, a Kashmiri commerce student, recently returning from Delhi said.

Usually the loudspeakers would reverberate during the holy month of Ramadan but it was for the first time that people were restricted to their homes in this holy month. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, prayers and charity. During this month Muslims won't eat or drink during dawn and sunset.

"My mother didn't have any free time for us. But during this lockdown she has taught me full Quran Shareef and we all remain busy in religious affairs," Madeeha Wani, a class 11th student of Delhi Public School, said.

"This change in the atmosphere is really inspiring and spiritual. I have never felt so close to Allah as I am right now," she

added.

Children are allegedly witnessing more interference in their lives from their parents these days and are teaching fallen values to them.

"I have guided my family through all the prayers and it gives me immense satisfaction in doing so. I consider this opportunity as a blessing from Allah (SWT)," Mohammad Lateef, a resident of Hyderpora, said.

The scholars somehow are also happy to see this change among the people. As per them they have been receiving a more calls from the people than usual pertaining to different religious matters. And they seem to be delighted guiding them in religious matters.

"I thought that people won't take this Ramadhan enthusiastically but they have proved me wrong. I was not expecting so many calls this Ramadhan but I got more calls than I usually get during this month."

"I congratulate all the people and pray that may Allah (SWT) take us out of this plague soon," Mufti Tanveer ul Islam, a prominent Islamic scholar presently furnishing his duties in a religious institution at Nawakadal said.

Witness: Kashmir 1986-2016: Nine Photographers

Sumaiya Mir

Witness: Kashmir 1986-2016: Nine Photographers is a 2017 photobook featuring nine Kashmiri photographers, describing their work from three decades. Compiled by Sanjay Kak, a known filmmaker and writer, the book showcases the conflict in Kashmir.

Comprising of 200 pictures, it exhibits the work of well-known native photographers namely Mehraj ud din, Javeed Shah, Dar Yasin, Javed Dar, Altaf Qadri, Sumit Dayal, Showkat Nanda, Syed Shahriyar and Azaan Shah. Only one among them, Sumit Dayal, is a non-resident. It is also a volume of experiences by insiders who chose the visual medium over text. And not only captured the photographs but also witnessed and observed every single moment which makes the title of this book, undoubtedly, relevant as described in the opening of the book.

Published by Yaarbal, the book contains the index in the beginning and the photo-reference along with the detailed captions in the end. The photographs have been arranged in a chronological and rhythmical manner, from 1986- 2016.

The book begins from the work of Mehraj's oldest and historical featured photographs that throws light on how the emergence of the militants began. The body of Justice Neelkanth Ganjoo who sentenced Maqbool Bhat for the murder of CID officer Amar Chand in 1966 lying on the streets as bystanders watch reminds how things started in Kashmir. Then the images of Mast Gul and Ikhwani leader, Kuka Parray follows. One of the most striking images by Mehraj is the one from Bijbhera, site of an infamous massacre of civilians by the security forces. The book also mentions how this iconic picture was saved by photographer whose photo film was exposed by security personal.

The book then presents the pictures of other eight notable photographers mentioned above. It is a concise biography of the photographers and their lives in Kashmir. It opens up endless possibilities of engaging with the truth and contains some heart-breaking as well as heart-lightening pictures, showcasing both sides of Kashmir-heaven and hell, peace and violence. The thing I liked the most about this book is its unique and fascinating design and the post cards attached inside along with printed photographs.

Beautifully designed by Sukanya Baskar, this catchy photo-book is a must have for the students aspiring to pursue photojournalism and for those curious to know about history of Kashmir visually. However, the only backdrop would be its price, Rs 3,400. But, one could easily purchase it online from the sites providing discounts.

A gripping presentation of historical timeline of **Kashmir's conflict**