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Mouth-watering Peaches - A Taste of Kashmir

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glory to our future generation and those that follow them.

There are many communities in our own country that have suffered the trauma of displacement but they ensure that their kids learn the mother tongue at home. Can we emulate their example? Instances are many, but I bring forward just two: Bengalis who had to run away from what is now Bangladesh and Sindhis who fled Sindh in Pakistan. Bengalis are scattered in various states, so are Sindhis yet they speak their respective mother tongues at home. There are many other communities that deserve to be emulated in this respect. Instances are : Malayalis, Tamils, Punjabis, Gujaratis to name a few.

I was amazed to find that just four Gujarati families in Asmara, North East Africa had successfully preserved their mother tongue after nearly a hundred years of migration there! And their kids spoke chaste Hindi too just because, as they put it, they were amply exposed to Hindi Films right through their childhood and youth. The families sought brides for their sons and grooms for their daughters from Gujarat. There was not a single case of inter-community marriage reported.

May our renewed quest for preservation of our culture, identity and heritage make it happen across the country and abroad so that our progeny does not suffer the pangs of a lack of identity, as do many communities in several countries across Europe and the Americas.

**Love Kashmiri, Learn Kashmiri!
Be a rightful heir to your legacy and history and culture!**

Matrimonial

❖ Wanted suitable KP alliance for a slightly Manglik, good looking, smart girl, 5'-5", 10 August 1976 born, M.A. (Economics), B.Ed. (Jammu University), working as Lecturer in Degree College, Mumbai. Correspond with Tekni/Kolawali to Mr. Raina, Mumbai. Tel: (Res.) 022-65716118. Mob: 09223230640. E-mail: amitraina007@gmail.com

❖ Suitable alliance is invited for my son, born November 1977, height 5'-3", B.E. Electronics, working as Senior Engineer in MNC and posted at Mumbai. Please contact Mrs. Susheela Kachroo, C/o Shri S.K.Garyali, Flat No. 701, Bldg. No. 38, NRI Complex, Seawood Estates, Nerul, Navi Mumbai 400706. Tel: 39220056.

26 January 1997

... Dr. K.L.Chowdhury ...

You amaze me, my country
that not only you grant immunity
to a dreaded *Ghazi*
who spawned the insurgency,
conspired and took up arms against you,
looted, burned and raped
and gunned down innocent denizens,
with impunity -
but also accord him the privilege
and the highest honour
to take the salute today,
in the Republic Day parade
right in this borough here,
so near to where
his victims shiver
in the refugee tents.



Terror Scenario - Dr. Shibhen Krishen Raina

TERRORISM IN KASHMIR: ORIGIN & GROWTH

Broadly speaking, when justice and right are denied to a person over a longer period of time, the person is left with two options: bear the situation patiently, or the reaction is anguish, and that reaction, in the process culminates into terrorism. Besides other things, spreading of communal hatred, religious frenzy, separatist tendency etc. are the tools which terrorists generally use. Guns too are used to achieve the so-called specified mission. Fanaticism, extremism, radicalism, separatism, militancy, activism etc. are its other names or manifestations. This is one side of the picture of terrorism (terrorists fighting

people. Needless to mention here that acts of terror are carried out by people who are indoctrinated to the extent of following a strategy of dying to kill. They are the ones who have become pawns in the hands of their masters who direct their paths, sitting in the comforts of far off places with all the facilities available to them. Masters have their vested political interests while as pawns seemingly have nothing to gain except suffer for a cause about which they themselves don't know or know very little.



Terrorism in Kashmir is almost 18

Modern terrorism has resorted to other option of intimidation, i.e. influence the mass media, in an effort to amplify and broadcast feelings of intense fear and anger among the people.

for a genuine cause i.e. liberating themselves, their society/country from the oppressor/ perpetrator). Another side of the picture is disgusting and questionable. Over the years terrorism has emerged as a systematic use or threatened use of violence to intimidate a population, community or government and thereby effect political, religious or ideological change just to achieve personal gains. Modern terrorism has resorted to other option of intimidation, i.e. influence the mass media, in an effort to amplify and broadcast feelings of intense fear and anger among the

years old now and has likeness to the second side of the picture. It has a history long enough to be traced from the date when partition was forced resulting in the emergence of two nations, India and Pakistan, after the sub-continent freed itself from the colonial rule of the British Empire. It may not be out of context here to probe into the consequences in detail that gave rise to terrorism in Kashmir. But again, before that, giving a brief introduction of this widely known beautiful valley would be too apt.

Kashmir - Paradise on Earth (Switzerland of Asia), Nature's grand

Remembering our Roots - Arjan Dev Majboor

Some Famous Tirthas of Kupwara & Handwara

Kashmir has remained a cradle of Teerthas. Being surrounded by small and big mountain ranges, lush green forests and meadows full of flowers, attraction towards spiritualism has remained throughout its history. According to Abul Fazal there were seven hundred Teerthas at that time in Kashmir. Neelmata gives the details of hundreds of Vaishnava Teerthas situated in

place in the olden times. It was still a place of KP devotees. This Teertha has been mentioned in some histories on Kashmir.

Zurhom : 'hom' is the word derived from Ashram. Ashrams were constructed for saints and learned scholars so that they could carry on the meditation and



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Kashmir.

The Kashmir Mahaatmeyas—written by renowned scholar Sh. Anant Ram Shastri has collected Sanskrit Mahatmeys written in praise of various famous Teerthas. It is a great service to the scholar of Kashmir. Mahatmeys not only praise the Deities, but also give a full detail of the place and its importance.

In this article I am going to give brief details of some Teerthas surrounding Kupwara and Handwara of North Kashmir. I have not been able to see these places personally, but have collected information from some migrant K.P's of this area.

Zolur : This place is about nine kilometers from Sopore. It seems that it might have remained a Buddhist

creative work at ease, away from the hustle and bustle of towns and cities. Zurhom (Kupwara) is a famous Teertha which was the last station to reach the world famous teertha of 'Sharda' which is under the control of Pakistan now. From Zurhama about six hours journey on foot comes Sharda (Sharda—Desa of Kashmir).

During recent excavations made at Zurhama by the state Archaeology Department, important statues have been found. These are: 1) Bhagwan Vishnu riding on 'Garuda'. 2) Meditative Budha in 'Mudra' and 3) Yakhsha Mukh Shiva (a very interesting find). There was a Devi Mandir also, where devotees used to come. Finds of sculptures of Vishnu, Shiva and Budha show the tolerances

