

Why The Visit Of
Maj Gen Salaria Is
Hugely Significant
For Palhalan



THE KASHMIR CONNECT

VOLUME 1

EDITION 3

Chapter Of
Pak-Sponsored
Terror Closing,
Credit Goes
To The People

INDIA
Defines The New
KASHMIR

DILBAG SINGH



THE KASHMIR
CONNECT

A Noon Chai Fest! A Kehwa Fest! A Kulcha Fest...

The Tourism Department is coming up with more and more initiatives to boost tourist activity in the region. On December 7 and 8, the department celebrated the Houseboat Festival. It was given a charming tagline: A Perfect Blend Of Culture, Food And Music.

Kashmir is a tourist paradise, and yet there is so much about the Valley that is still unknown and unexplored. Tourists are generally limited to the top tourist destinations of Srinagar, Pahalgam and Gulmarg. They do a shikara ride, a pony ride, do some shopping, eat delicious Wazwan, and most think that the Kashmir holiday is done.

In the span of these few activities, the Kashmir holiday has not even begun. Globally, we see that nations have played up their community activities so big that these become a must-do on the travellers' to-do list. Kashmir offers a plethora of the most beautiful community activities which can be promoted as national and global fests.

Many years ago, over a meeting at the amazing JKTDC restaurant in Jammu, the then Director Tourism told me of diverse activities that had amazing tourism potential. For example, the community



activity centered around the nadroo. There were many such activities which could be developed as fests and draw huge crowds. Such intermingling at community level will boost the bonding of the Kashmiris with the tourists. More and more visitors will get to know of the earthy warmth and hospitality of their hosts.

The Fly Fishing competition held at Pahalgam in September is one such initiative. As the event at Pahalgam grows more popular, Kashmir can have its own fly fishing circuit over the most picturesque streams and rivers of the valley.

There can be a noon chai fest. A kehwa fest. A Kashmiri kulcha fest. One has to be in Kashmir and enjoy the noon chai with Kashmiri kulcha or with butter toast to feel that Wow! Life is beautiful!!

GAYATRI MOHAN

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FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPUTY EDITOR

ABIDA WAR

MAKING THE GOOD NUMBERS GROW

UT Admn Should Bestow Honour Titles On Employees Committed To Peace Initiatives

In the first week of December, I read a news report that the UT Administration has formed a committee to carry out revision of the J&K Civil Services Regulations (CSR) and other rules governing the employees. The committee has been asked to submit its report on the revised regulations within a month.

Over the past two years, UT Administration has taken proactive action against government

employees indulging in anti-national conduct. After conclusive evidence, these employees were dismissed from service under Article 311 (2)(c) of the Constitution.

The move of the Administration has been appreciated in many quarters. The reason is that people are conflict-weary. They want to live in harmony, where they and their children can flourish in a peaceful, progressive environment. The anti-national activities of a few people put the safety and security of the whole region and also the nation at stake.

Simultaneously, it shall be highly appreciated if the UT Administration gives recognition to those employees who go the extra mile to work for national interest and to strengthen all peace initiatives. Some of them even work on their holidays and beyond office hours – continuously in the service of the nation.

The Administration should devise some honourable titles. These employees can be honoured on some special national day. Recognition and appreciation shall act as a highly valuable incentive and make the numbers of these employees grow.

When these employees are bestowed with the titles, media will carry their news and act as a force multiplier.

One, these employees will be seen as role models for the society. Such conduct will inspire the children and the youth.

Second, it shall build goodwill throughout the nation. Such goodwill is of immense value for the society and the nation. We all Indians stand together, marching towards peace and progress. The goodwill towards each other will act as the glue for trust and hope as we move forward and build a happy and prosperous India.



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**Why The Visit Of
GOC Kilo Force
Maj Gen
Salaria
Is Hugely
Significant
For Palhalan**

by Gayatri Mohan



Maj Gen Sanjiv Singh Salaria
General Officer Commanding
Kilo Force

Those not familiar with Kashmir will not understand the significance of the GOC's visit. But the people of the village know why the GOC coming to Palhalan is hugely important for them



On December 10, Palhalan, a village in North Kashmir, had an unusual guest. It was Maj Gen Sanjiv Singh Salaria, GOC Kilo Force.

Those who are not familiar with Kashmir will not understand the significance of the GOC's visit. But the people of the village know why the GOC coming to Palhalan is hugely important for them.

The visit of the GOC is proof that Palhalan has come a long way from its tumultuous years. It is now ready to join hands with the rest of Kashmir for growth and development. Palhalan is ready to leave its dark past behind and move on.

Palhalan's Dark History

Palhalan, situated in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, is Kashmir's largest village. It also has the highest population for any single village in Kashmir.

Unfortunately, Palhalan had a dark reputation for long. It was once infamous as the 'City of Hurriyat G'. In fact, the youth of the village ran a very highly followed Facebook page by that name in 2010.

For decades, Palhalan was marked by volatile response of the people towards any welfare or development initiative of the government. With consistent radicalization and indoctrination, separatists and terror operators made the village a fertile ground for secessionism. Children were misguided from early childhood to be violent towards any and every functionary of the state.

As a result, nobody from the



police, the army, other security forces or from any government department could enter the village.

Despite steady government efforts, the situation in Palhalan went from bad to worse. Finally, the government ordered a ten-year ban on any recruitment from Palhalan for the state services.

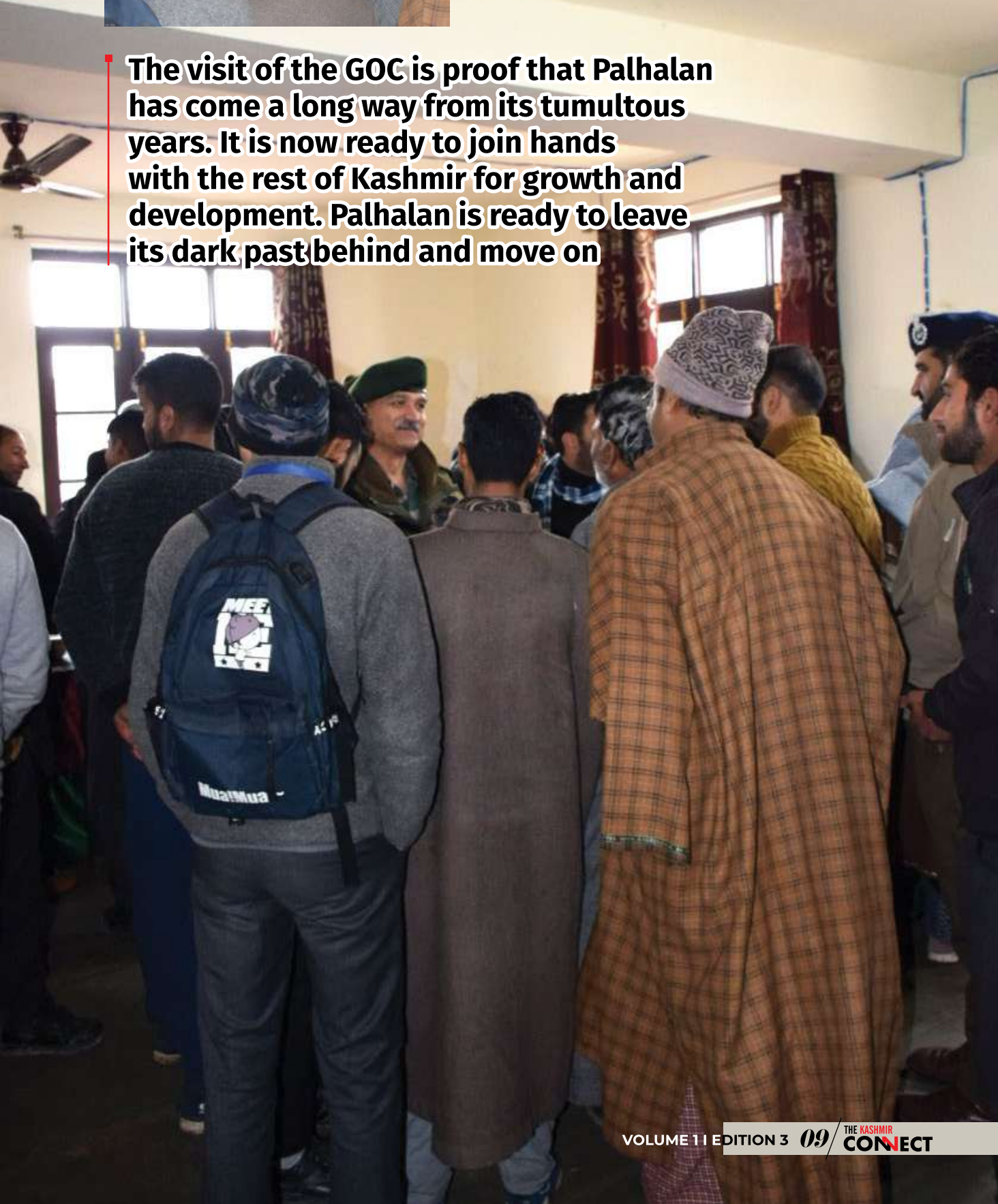
The Changing Dynamics Of Palhalan

Over the last couple of years, the residents of Palhalan have become aware that they had to pay a price for the rampant violence exhibited by them. They realized that because of the village's turbulent past, they





The visit of the GOC is proof that Palhalan has come a long way from its tumultuous years. It is now ready to join hands with the rest of Kashmir for growth and development. Palhalan is ready to leave its dark past behind and move on



are being left out of the rapid development and progress happening in the rest of Kashmir.

Due to early indoctrination, a large number of youngsters and even boys in Palhalan face multiple FIRs. The FIRs were registered because the youth were violent towards the security forces or the state functionaries. The state ban on recruitment had led to a feeling of hopelessness among the youth.

The youth have realized that their violent action was the consequence of a highly radicalized and vitiated environment. Many of them realize the gravity of their errors and want to move on now.

‘We Had Never Expected That The GOC Would Visit Our Village’

Speaking to Kashmir Connect, Mr Javed Iqbal, a youth leader and Apni Party leader from the village said that the people had never expected that the GOC would visit them and address their problems. “People are feeling that while the entire Kashmir is surging ahead with new energy, their past is proving to be the impediment for their growth. They want to get rid of the stigma associated with the village. This is why the visit of the GOC is a major validation of their efforts to move on and leave the past behind. The visit of the GOC is proof that the good intentions of the people and their willingness to be part of the developmental process is being recognized and acknowledged,” said Mr Iqbal.



To promote such rare talent, various platforms are being provided to this group of girls. Soon we shall hear them on Radio Chinar 90.4 FM. Indeed, this is a small step for the girls but a giant leap for Palhalan

Interaction with GOC At Local School

The interaction of the Panches, Sarpanches, local Imams and other religious leaders and other eminent citizens of Palhalan was organized at the Govt Higher Secondary School in the village.

The display of creative prowess by the students of the school mesmerized the audience. While the school boys fascinated everybody by presenting a Sufi Kalam, the girls were a notch up in terms of singing talent. A song sung in Hindi and Kashmiri in the same breath was a treat to hearts and

minds of the audience. Such hidden gems of Palhalan are our future. These are the youth who have broken the shackles of indoctrination and radicalization.

To promote such rare talent, various platforms are being provided to this group of girls. Soon we shall hear them on Radio Chinar 90.4 FM. Indeed, this is a small step for the girls but a giant leap for Palhalan.

The GOC said that he was very happy to see Palhalan on the road to development. He urged the villagers to be steady in their efforts to make Palhalan one of the most progressive villages of Kashmir and emerge as a model village.

'BY VISITING THE VILLAGE, GOC SAHAB HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THE POSITIVE SHIFT IN PALHALAN. THIS SHALL ACCELERATE THE PACE OF CHANGE'

by Javed Iqbal



The boys, the youngsters of my village were misguided. They were radicalized by extremist forces. They thought that resistance and antagonism was a suitable response to any welfare initiative of the government, or towards all sarkari officials.

A number of our youth chose violence responses, and FIRs were registered against them. They have realized that they were deliberately led on the wrong path. They want peace, harmony and development now. They want to be given another chance. The youth know that this is possible only if the problem is addressed at the highest level.

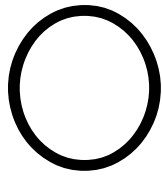
The visit of GOC Maj Gen Salaria is a major boost for the youth. They are feeling confident that things can improve. They too can lead a normal life and pursue happy, constructive dreams. There is immense positive change among the youth. By visiting the village, GOC Sahab has acknowledged the positive shift in Palhalan. This shall accelerate the pace of change. I am feeling overwhelmed to observe that my village is finally on the road to development.

Chapter Of
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Terror Closing,
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India Has Changed The Story In Kashmir Kashmir Now Showcases The India Story

by Gayatri Mohan





On December 3, J&K Director General of Police Mr Dilbag Singh made a statement at the

closing ceremony of a cricket tournament organised by the police in Doda district. The DGP said that the chapter of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism is closing in Jammu and Kashmir.

The media reported the statement made by the DGP at the police function. But the significance of this statement was not highlighted either by the local or the national media.

With this statement, India has defined the New Kashmir. In simplest terms, the policy may be articulated as this: Setting the tone on Kashmir.

The DGP said during his address that there are no "top commanders" of terrorists in the region, and 44 of them have been neutralized this year." He highlighted that terrorism has reached its "lowest level" in Kashmir. This significant and strategically vital milestone has been achieved owing to the support of the locals including the youth, said the DGP.

"We have the support of a large chunk of the population, including the youth. This is why militancy has come down to a big extent and the left part will be finished," Mr Dilbag Singh added.

Reactionary Mode Before Abrogation

Before August 2019 and the abrogation of Article 370, GOI policy on Kashmir had been reactionary to Pakistan. It was largely driven by Pakistan's



J&K Director General of Police Mr Dilbag Singh

The fact that India has changed the Kashmir story is evident in every walk of life. It is evident in every facet of Kashmir.

The India story in Kashmir is still the latent dynamics in the Valley. It has not risen to the fore because this is a tectonic shift. People are still new to recognizing and acknowledging this as the writing on the wall

actions. In this light, GOI policy on Kashmir was seen as the response to Pakistan moves in the Valley.

Since the abrogation of Article 370, the Indian state has taken the lead in setting the tone on how Kashmir moves. This has proved to be a huge strategic win for India. Ever since the abrogation, the government has not allowed Pakistan to call the shots on Kashmir.

Says Prof Yuval Harari, the Israeli historian, philosopher and global top-selling author in his

book, 21 Lessons for the 21st Century: "Humans think in stories rather than in facts, numbers, or equations. The simpler the story, the better."

India has changed the story in Kashmir. Kashmir now showcases the India story.

This is evident in every walk of life. It is evident in every facet of Kashmir.

The India story in Kashmir is still the latent dynamics in the Valley. It has not risen to the fore because this is a tectonic shift. People are still new to

recognizing and acknowledging this as the writing on the wall.

Rewards Of Decisive, Strong-Willed State Policy

The rewards of the decisive, strong-willed state policy are rolling in swiftly.

In private conversations, people are admitting to the shift. The change is visible and they are talking about it. They talk about it only in closed circles because it is not so much the militant who is dreaded now. It is the hybrid militant. Mr Lateef Geelani, a grassroots activist in Baramulla told me, "The hybrid militant is usually a deeply radicalized lad aged about 16 to 22. He has no idea of how militancy destroyed our lives, our freedoms. One does not know when or where he may emerge and kill to avenge the grievances planted by indoctrination. This is the reason people are afraid to talk about the welcome change. Thanks to strong and decisive state policy, their numbers are steadily shrinking."



India Has Changed the Ballgame And The Rules

During his address, the DGP had said, "The chapter of terrorism is by and large closing. The credit for the success goes to the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he had added.

This statement of the DGP was not analyzed by the media in strategic terms. The statement shall prove as a bait for the militants, who are currently holed up. If they emerge, the security forces shall deal with them appropriately. If they choose to remain hidden, that too is a gain.

It is a whole new ballgame in Kashmir, and the rules of the game have been changed by India. "Those who think of joining the militancy ranks, think several times before picking up the gun. Militancy has reached its lowest level once again. We counsel the youth, tell them that Pakistan agencies caused immense bloodshed in the last 30 years here. There is a need to work against it today," DGP Dilbag Singh pointed out.

The DGP's statement reveals a tectonic shift in the state policy. India has realised that it cannot be a silent spectator anymore and restrict itself to reactionary mode in Kashmir. The old guard of the political dynasties could not usher in this change. The state is now leading Kashmir from the front. The rewards are rolling in swiftly.

TECTONIC SHIFT IN STATE POLICY

Since August 2019, the tectonic shift is also in terms of state policy. India has ended the old policy of managing Kashmir. It is now proactively resolving Kashmir.

After decades of ambivalence, state policy on Kashmir is now purposeful and emphatic. It is evident that the political will is firm – the state will not be a silent spectator and restrict itself to reactionary mode. Here are some examples.

- * The systematic, ongoing dismissal of government employees indulging in anti-national activities
- * Stern action against householders harbouring terrorists
- * Arrest of media-persons or others peddling narrative terrorism
- * Recognition of political redlines in Kashmir, and end of grey zones. One is either with the state or one is not. This has significantly cleared the clouds in Kashmir.
- * Fund channels for terror have been snapped and dried
- * There is all-out war on the narco terror unleashed by Pakistan

Yuval Harari says herds of men tend to go where they are led. Earlier, Pakistan was leading the Kashmiri people to radicalization, destruction and death. Now India has decisively taken the lead in all spaces – be it political, administrative, economic or social.

Union leaders, lawyers, professors, journalists, teachers, business leaders, student leaders, professionals - many persons from these communities were earlier shrill members of the separatist community. They have now changed colour and identify themselves as nationalists.

The nationalists are now the largest constituency in Kashmir, and their numbers are steadily growing. Across Kashmir, people are investing in peace, harmony and development. This is the change, and it is here to stay.

DEPRESSION AMONG MARRIED COUPLES

Why Are Women More Depressed?

by Dr Sumi Saidullah

My research revealed that 6% of married women experience normal depression. 22% of married women suffer from minor mood disturbance depression. Borderline clinical depression affects 23% of married women. 32% of married women suffer from moderate depression. 13% of married women suffer from severe depression



I am a Psychologist and a Researcher. I live with my family in Amnoo, Kulgam.

I have conducted multiple researches. I researched Anxiety Among Flood Victims Of 2015. I researched Personality and Creativity Among Gifted Students. I also conducted researches on Depression Among Married Couples, Psychological Disorders in Married Women, Occupational Stress Among Govt and Private School Teachers, Mental Health Issues among Adolescents of J and K etc.

For the past four years, I have served as District Coordinator for SFS (Student for Seva).

I've always thought that I should write about my researches on any platform for the good of my society and to empower women. The sadness of people moves me. Hence my research as a Psychologist has been focused on Psychological Disturbances (Disorders) such as Anxiety, Stress, Depression, OCD, Personality Issues, Suicide, Mental Health problems etc, among others. If we look closely around us, we will notice that several people are suffering from one or more psychiatric disorders.

Why I Decided To Study Depression Among Married Couples

I remember the time when I had gone to the court for some personal work. As I was waiting for my turn, I heard a group of advocates discussing divorce



Women who become housewives and mothers often find that their work is devalued by society. Women who work outside the home may face conflicts between their roles as a wife and mother, and as a working woman

cases. I joined the group for discussion.

After much discussion, we concluded that psychological disturbance and depression is one of the causes of divorce. Subsequently I decided to explore this subject as the focus of my next research.

I travelled to meet numerous communities in my district to gather information. After gathering data, I was astonished to discover that women are more depressed than married males.

I discovered that 6% of married women experience normal depression. 22% of married women suffer from minor mood disturbance

depression. Borderline clinical depression affects 23% of married women. 32% of married women suffer from moderate depression. 13% of married women suffer from severe depression

It is not good that 13% of females suffer from Severe Depression. And it's getting worse by the day. Following my analyses, I attempt to determine the cause of this psychological problem.

We are all aware that marriage is the most significant and beautiful aspect of our lives. But after seeing this, I'm not sure whether it's a lovely aspect of life or a hardship for women. I take up my pen and begin



I know that many women are happy after marriage. They have a loving and caring husband, and also beautiful, loving and caring children. But I feel scared when I hear the negative aspects

writing on the challenges that a woman faces after marriage.

When Women Find Their Work Devalued

Women who become housewives and mothers often find that their responsibilities and their work are devalued by society. Women who work outside the home may face discrimination and workplace inequalities. They may also face conflicts between their roles as a wife and mother, and as a working woman.

Women employ a more emotional, ruminative coping strategy to help them forget about their troubles. Women have more stressful life events and must be more aware of them throughout their lives.

Most working women have felt frustrated by their inability to strike a balance between

domestic responsibilities and professional obligations. This double guilt sometimes leads to a loss of confidence in one's own capacity to efficiently manage these daily activities.

When children enter the scene, the vicious cycle becomes even more virulent. A woman's mental health can suffer as a result of her (actual or perceived) incapacity to supervise home duties, ensure that her children are not neglected, and be in the zone at work.

Deep feelings of shame, helplessness and pessimism are the most typical symptoms of post-marriage depression. When women shift to the residence of her husband and parents in law after marriage, the separation anxiety caused by leaving their own home can be severe.

Following the demands of the husband's house may

appear natural to the man in the months following the wedding. But a woman may find the work heavy, and may perceive a lack of support from her spouse. After the wedding, a husband's behaviour toward his wife may change. She may see a whole different side of him. If the change is negative and is coupled with anger issues, this could lead to emotions of desertion.

Domestic violence, whether verbal, physical, emotional, or sexual, is a major cause of depression. It has a significant impact on mental health and quality of life. Domestic violence and depression have a strong link.

Dilemma Of A Working Woman

One of my friends told me that it is difficult to integrate into a new family and become a part of

the new home. She is a working woman and has a government job, but her parents in law and her husband have told her to quit her job.

We know how highly a government job is ranked throughout India. Same is the case with Kashmir. My friend feels that her job is her anchor for life. She doesn't want to leave it. All these conflicting emotions in her mind are taking a mental toll on her. Before marriage, she was looking forward to a happy and bright future. Now she is in depression.

During my research, many women revealed that they tend to lose agency over their own judgments and choices after marriage. In many circumstances, the husband and his family have more power over a woman. This marks the transition from independence to a form of co-dependence. This includes but is not limited to new responsibilities under the 'watchful' eyes of her parents in law, particularly in a joint family set-up. Consequently, a woman may not have enough time to engage in pursuits that interest them—when there is a loss of agency, some women may gradually slip into a depressed state accompanied by anxiety. In severe cases, a woman may be reduced to total dependence.

A Newly-Wed Friend Told Me Not To Marry

One of my close friends from Kulgam recently got married. We met after about a month. I asked her, "Tell me about your

We are all aware that marriage is the most significant and beautiful aspect of our lives. But after seeing this, I'm not sure whether it's a lovely aspect of life or a hardship for women

married life." I was shocked by the response of a newly-wed woman. She advised me not to get married. She told me, "Single life is preferable. I wanted to remain single and had proposed the same to my parents. My other married friends and relatives had also advised me not to marry. But..."

After hearing all of this from a newly-married friend, I became terrified. I have chosen not to marry because I cannot risk my future. I cannot sacrifice my ambitions for marriage. I believe that there is little likelihood of a bright future following marriage.

I know that many women are happy after marriage. They have a loving and caring husband, and also beautiful, loving and caring children. But I feel scared when I hear the negative aspect.

I know a lady in Baramulla. She is in her mid-30s and has two little children. Her mother-



Dr Sumi Saidullah

I have done PG in Counselling Psychology from IGNOU. I did Masters of Philosophy (MPhil) and PhD in Psychology from Bhagwant University, Ajmer, Rajasthan.

I am positive about every aspect of life. There are many things I like to do, to see, to experience and explore. I like to read, write; I like to talk and listen to others. So many things...

in-law, sister-in-law, husband – all are caring and loving. She also loves her family, but she feels that a woman has to sacrifice all her ambitions if she chooses to get married. "I wanted to do so many things but I could not," she told me. I also feel scared that many women say that daughters-in-law are considered as no-salary servants in the house.

Case Of Severe Wife Beating

Such Incidents Scare Unmarried Girls

by Dr Sumi Saidullah

**Many young girls
feel scared and
do not want to
get married.
They get scared
when they come
to know of
domestic abuse
and suffering of
other women**

I recently read in the newspaper that a case of domestic abuse had been registered at the Kulgam police station. The woman had been severely beaten by her husband. The injured woman was taken to District Hospital Kulgam for treatment. The video of the hapless woman was posted on social media. Later, her husband was detained by the police.

Is this the way to treat a woman? Is this what we mean by women's empowerment? There is seldom a day when an incidence of domestic violence does not occur. This is the reason so many young girls feel scared and do not want to get married. They do not want to undergo the pain that they see other women undergoing. There are happy marriages and happy couples also. But so many girls get scared when they come to

know of domestic abuse and suffering.

I have observed that many women experience domestic abuse but they remain silent out of respect for their loved ones, particularly their parents. Some believe that they will be blamed for the domestic abuse and their honour will be destroyed. They accept everything in silence.

But sadly, such women who keep their pain bottled up lead a life of depression. It is important to make the victims talk about their problems so that they can find a release. Why should a woman have to endure suffering for her family and dignity?

Everyone seems to be talking about women empowerment. But as long as our women continue to suffer, this talk doesn't seem real. There are several more issues that need to be addressed. I will try to address them in a future edition.

Paper Mache Artistry



by Hakeem Ahsan Ali





For so many years, my father's immense talent was not recognized. My father is a master craftsman, but there was no support or recognition from the government. There wasn't much support from the local people too. My father did not have many orders for his amazing craft.

My father Hakim Manzoor Ahmad is a highly gifted paper mache artist.

He has been engaged with the traditional Kashmiri paper mache artwork for about 40 years. His elder brother learnt the art from a man in their neighbourhood. My father was only 13 or 14 years old at that time. He liked what

his elder brother was doing, so he also learnt the art.

For years, my uncle was also engaged in paper mache artwork, but he doesn't do it now. We live at Ganidoori, Alamgiri Bazar, Srinagar.

From my childhood, I saw my father creating amazing paper mache artwork. His art made me feel very proud. He creates such amazing patterns, gives

them such amazing colours. And I feel very proud that my father is rooted to the culture of our beloved valley. He is carrying forward one of our most cherished traditions of paper mache.

Decorative items of paper mache are seen more commonly. But the paper mache artwork that my father does on the walls is truly unique. We







The real demand for my father's work started when I created an Instagram page for him in 2018. Then the people in Kashmir got to know of his immense talent. Since then, there is good demand for the work done by my father. He keeps getting orders for making highly decorative paper mache panels in private homes

can find such wonderful work of paper mache in ancient masjids and other religious shrines. We can find them in old houses of affluent Kashmiris. We can also find such colourful and wonderful work of paper mache on the walls in houseboats.

The tourists get really surprised to see such creative artwork. They are greatly surprised when they are told that the work is done in paper mache.

The government knew that my father is a paper mache

artist of high caliber. In 2012, a fire broke out at the ancient Peer Dastgeer Sahib at Khanyar in Srinagar. Extensive damage was caused. The shrine was 200 years old, and the government undertook restoration work there. In addition to the woodwork, the artists had to reconstruct the paper mache work that was seen before the damage.

Work of such high quality was required that the government got it done through The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH). At that time, my father was among the group of artists who were chosen for the restoration work. It was highly specialized work that started in 2014 and took three years to complete.

Talent Recognized Through Social Media

But for so many years, my father's immense talent was not recognized. My father is a master craftsman, but there was no support or recognition from the government. There wasn't much support from the local people too. My father did not have many orders for his amazing craft.

The real demand for my father's work started when I created an Instagram page for him in 2018. Then the people in Kashmir got to know of his immense talent.

Since then, there is good demand for the work done by my father. He keeps getting orders for making highly



**Mr. Hakeem
Ahsan Ali**

I am Hakeem Ahsan Ali. I reside at Alamgari Bazar in Srinagar. I am highly proud that my father is carrying forward the art of paper mache, which is part of the proud heritage of Kashmir

decorative paper mache panels in private homes. He charges Rs 2500 square foot for art work on the walls. If the design is highly intricate, then he charges up to Rs 8,000 per square foot. In these intricate designs, he uses real gold.

People have seen my father's work. When they see it in someone's house, they make inquiries and reach us. They did not know the beauty of my father's art till I posted it on social media. But now there is appreciation at people's level. My father has one year's booking in advance for his artwork. He has clients in Delhi also for his artwork.

Some Of The Projects Undertaken By My Father

2010: Charar e Sharief

2013: Masjid at Police Line, Srinagar

2014 to 2017: Peer Dastageer Sahib, Khanyar

2016: Shah Hamdan Shrine, Tral

2017: Shalimar garden (For the artwork spoiled during the concert of Zubin Mehta

2018: First floor in the Masjid at Police Line, Anantnag

2022: Second floor in the masjid at Police Line, Anantnag

Renovation work at Khanqah-e-Moula, Srinagar

New work at Ziyarat Naqshband Sahib, Khanyar, Srinagar

Extensive artwork in private homes

NOTES FROM THE VALLEY



FROM THE CONSULTING EDITOR'S DESK

SHEIKH MUDASIR HUSSAIN



WE NEED YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS WHO ARE TRUE NATIONALISTS

India is the largest democracy in the world. Our country stands at the forefront globally in giving each citizen the right to enjoy a happy, peaceful and progressive life.

I always observe that our elderly people talk about problems only. They discuss one masla after another. I never find people talking about positive government initiatives. The same mentality is then passed on to our youth. They find fault with every government initiative. They develop a negative and pessimistic attitude.

At the forefront of this race are our politicians who are dismissive of every government initiative or project. This leaves our youth highly confused. They do not know whom to trust, who is their friend and who is not.

Politicians should not put the peace and stability of the nation at stake to pursue their

vested interests. They are willing to mislead the vulnerable Kashmiri youth in order to score their political brownie points.

It is we who have to change the system. A young man is eligible to vote at the age of 18 years. At the same age, our well meaning and educated youth must also use their positive energy in politics. Why should we be slaves to anyone's thinking?

We need new political leaders who can ably, truthfully and honestly lead our society.

We need young leaders who can understand the problems of the people and solve them. Gone are the times when only two political families ruled the roost here. We need the youth who have the courage, conviction and sincerity to lead their society and their nation.



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