

APPLE GROWERS ARE CRESTFALLEN DUE TO LOW PRICE OF FRUIT

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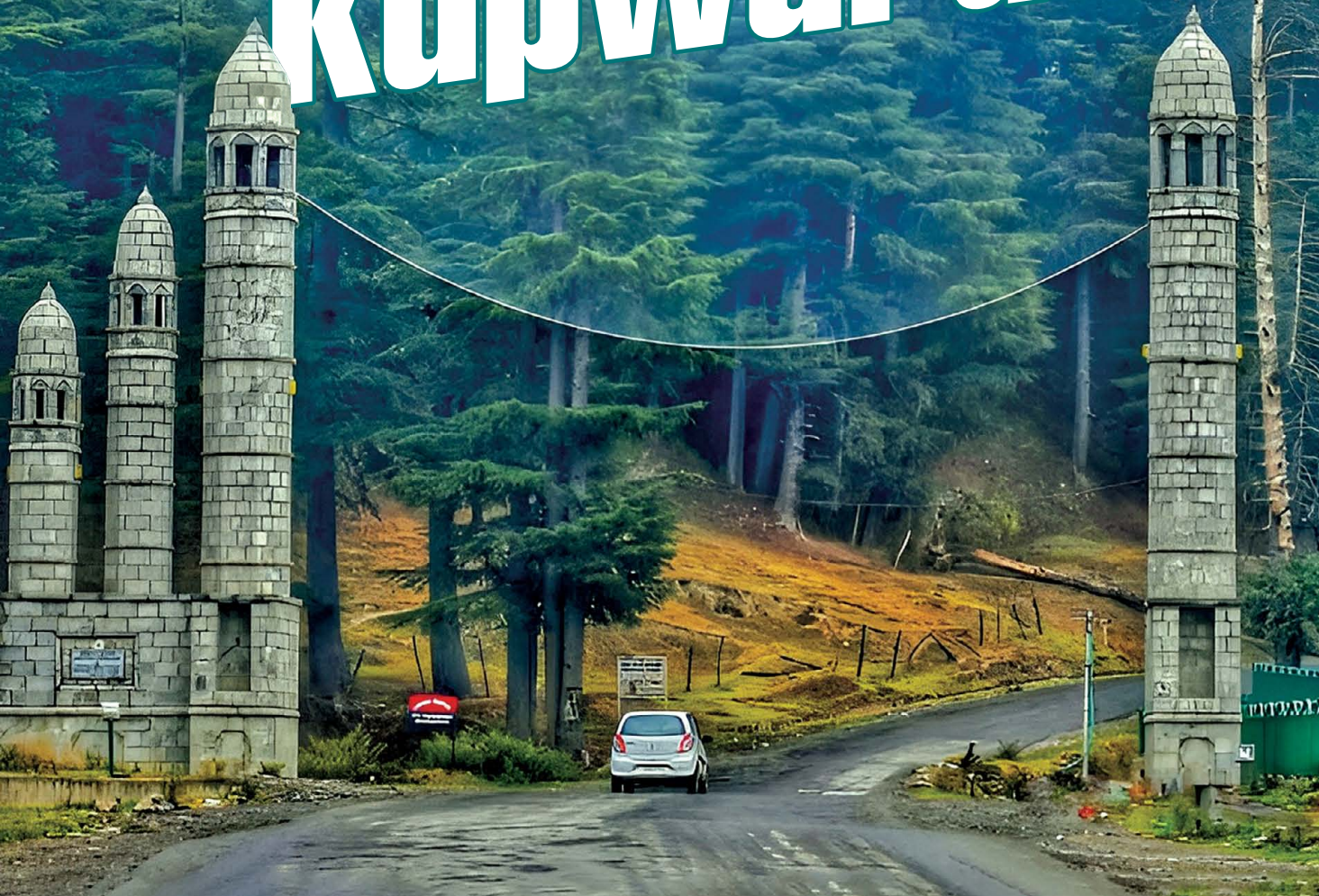
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A KZINE INITIATIVE

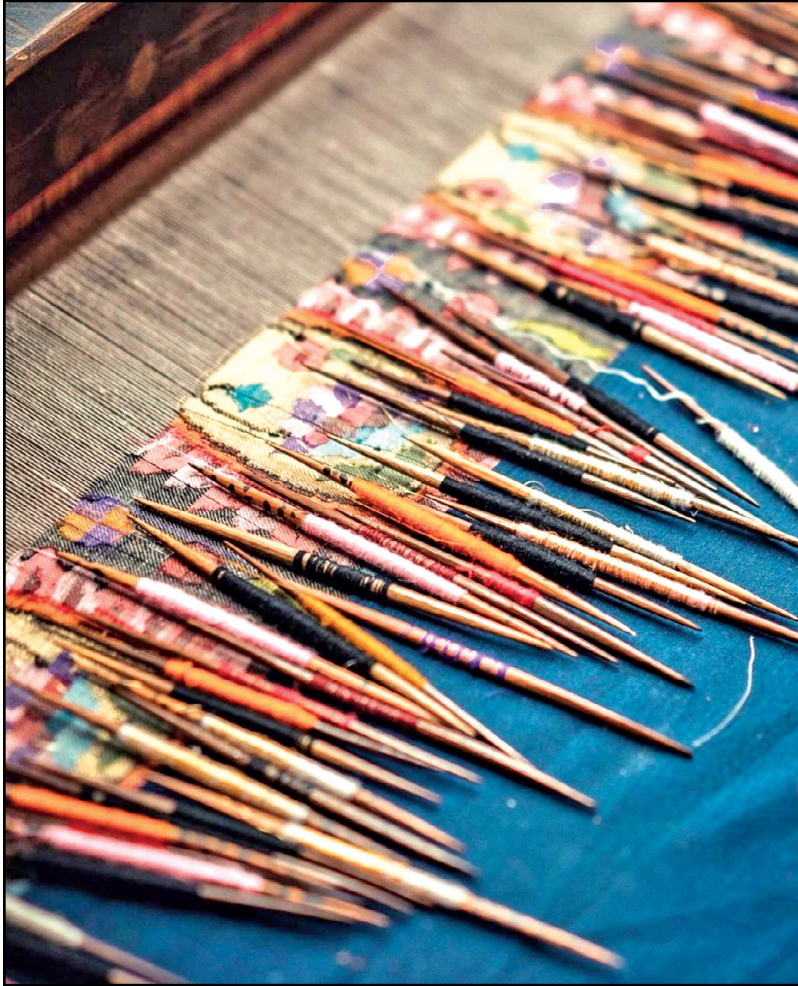
Politically Vibrant District, People Against Violence,
Efforts By Pakistan Handlers To Vitiating Atmosphere

As Complex As Kupwara



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Threat Is Always There

Whether intelligence agencies warn of attacks on soft targets or not, the fact is that the threat is always there for those who are somehow seen not aligned with the ideology of terrorists. Even when there are no intelligence intercepts or inputs, militants strike as and when they find a target. It is strange that police

and security forces sound the alert only after receiving such information of possible attack on soft targets.

It is known to one and all that those who are ideologically or professionally against the ideology

of terrorism could be targeted sooner or later because terrorizing people and spreading terror is at the core of the terrorism. Post the events of August 5, 2019, the non-local labour and members of the minority community are particularly targeted. This continues to be the pattern.

The militants have made their intentions clear, therefore the vigil has to be consistent. The state forces are under oath to protect the life and property of every peaceful and peace-loving citizen. It has been observed many times during the past that the subversive elements adopt diversionary tactics. The state forces need to be alert all the time while as the militants wait for a moment of breach. And that is just a moment.

Bashir Assad



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Politically Vibrant District, People Against Violence, Efforts By Pakistan Handlers To Vitiating Atmosphere

As Complex As Kupwara

by **Bisma Nazir**

How will you describe the frontier district of Kupwara in North Kashmir? A holistic look at the geographical entity of Kupwara gives us a very complex picture. Kupwara is politically perhaps a showcase district of Kashmir regarding electoral participation. Kupwara witnesses overwhelming participation of people in electoral politics, and is least affected by the boycott politics that has afflicted some other districts of Kashmir. A strange dichotomy is that as the lone frontier district, Kupwara witnessed record migration to the other side of Line of Control

(LOC) during the early years of militancy.

On one hand Kupwara is the most peaceful district in Kashmir region. There is not a single local militant active in the area. At the same time, Kupwara is susceptible to influences because of the regular communication with people on the other side of the LOC through social media applications.

DEEP DEMOCRATIC CULTURE

In terms of people's participation in governance, Kupwara has always played a remarkable

role. By this account, the people of Kupwara are aligned with the democratic culture of the country. A close study may reveal that on the democratic deep roots, Kupwara may even be better than many parts of the country.

But Kupwara also has the most volatile sectors of Karnah, Machil and Tanghdar, which at times witness infiltration attempts by terrorists backed by Pakistan army. On account of these infiltration attempts and activities by the terrorists pushed in by Pakistan, Kupwara occasionally turns into a battlefield.

CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH SECURITY FORCES

Kupwara is the one district where the people enjoy a very cordial relationship with the security forces. The interdependence of the security forces and the people on each other is vital. That is why the Army initiatives here are seen as people friendly, and there is public cooperation with the Army operations here. The mutual dependence and respect has registered a very positive influence on the people of Kupwara.

At the same time, the attempts to influence or corrupt the locals by the terror handlers from across the border

continue. Pakistan stays engaged in carrying out activities for facilitating weapons and drug smuggling in the Kupwara sector.

STRONG, WELL KNIT PANCHAYATI RAJ SYSTEM

Kupwara has a strong and well knit Panchayati Raj system in place. Gram Panchayats are vibrant. There are around 10,000 elected public representatives including Panches, Sarpanches, BDCs and DDCs working day and night to improve and upgrade the socio-economic infrastructure in the district.

Simultaneously, there are undercurrents that are not

aligned with the peace and progress initiatives. Hence, one often witnesses overt and covert attempts by the strategic assets of Pakistan to vitiate the peaceful atmosphere.

People are undeniably against violence, as they have witnessed enough of it in the past. Whatever the political scenario, the people of Kupwara exhibit no interest in going against the system. Rather, endorsement to the government decisions always comes first from Kupwara district. Pakistan, the hostile neighbour, is always in search of opportunities to vitiate the atmosphere.

A peace loving populace and a determined administration seem to be resolute in making this frontier district a hub of socio-economic activities. There are challenges but there is collective will of the people for a better future. The district administration is capitalizing on the goodwill of the people.

Kupwara is the most peaceful district in Kashmir region. There is not a single local militant active in the area. Contrarily, Kupwara has undercurrents, overt and covert attempts by Pakistan to disrupt peace

Managing Editor Kashmir Central Bisma Nazir with SSP Kupwara Yougal Manhas, JKPS



PEOPLE WANT PEACE, HARMONY AND DEVELOPMENT

SSP Kupwara
Mr Yougal
Manhas, KPS

The SSP expressed his concern over the growing incidents of domestic violence. He said that the cases of domestic violence are on rise, which is a disturbing trend



Senior Superintendent of Police Kupwara district Mr Yougal Manhas, KPS, in an exclusive interview to Kashmir Central said that the district faces challenges since it is a frontier belt. “What is fascinating is the resolve of the people to contribute towards peace and harmony. Even former militants are publicly denouncing violence. People of this district have seen a lot of turbulence in the past. There is realization that the violence is self-destructive,” Manhas told Kashmir Central.

The SSP said that there is complete unanimity of the thought processes in Kupwara. People are fed up with the militancy and border skirmishes. They want peace at all costs. The DC added that there is a fringe which is under the influence of terrorists from across the border, and is constantly on the lookout to foment trouble.

TERROR MODULES TRY TO INFLUENCE SOME YOUNGSTERS

“The terror modules from across the border try to exploit two things. One, people in large numbers have migrated to that side of LOC during the early phase of militancy. Many of them have settled there, they have families there. Many have returned here with families. They have communication channels. They keep talking to their relatives on this side and sometimes try to influence them

to be in the business of weapon and drug smuggling,” Manhas said.

He added that the police recently arrested a woman who was involved in the smuggling of drugs and weapons at the behest of her relatives from across the border. The woman belongs to Lolab valley. “Interestingly, six of her family members were already arrested on charges of weapon and drug smuggling,” informed Manhas.

SOCIAL MEDIA ABUSE

Social media also plays a role in radicalization and indoctrination. “People from across the border use social media platforms vociferously to indoctrinate and influence the young minds on our side. The common pattern adopted by the handlers from across the border is that they send friend requests on Facebook to amenable users on this side. They exchange messages, share Whatsapp numbers and then task them with certain unlawful activities,” stated the SSP.

Talking about a recent incident, the SSP said that a youngster in a mosque all of a sudden started waving the Pakistan flag. “Police got into action and arrested the boy. During interrogation, the boy narrated that he got a friend request from an anonymous Facebook user and got in touch with him on messenger. The handler gradually influenced

him and finally tasked him to create a scene in the mosque by waving the Pakistan flag.”

Those who have returned from Pakistan under the controversial surrender policy have got families from POK with them. In Kupwara district there are 76 Pakistani women who are married to the locals. They have relatives in POK and they keep in touch with them. In certain cases, the Pakistani handlers try to involve these women in the terror and narcotics network, or at least involve them in sharing sensitive information.

DISILLUSIONMENT OF PEOPLE WITH VIOLENCE

“These are the challenges. But at the same time there is complete disillusionment of the people with violence. That is why terror handlers from across the border have not been able to create terror structures in the district despite their desperation to do so,” Manhas told Kashmir Central.

The SSP informed that there is not even a single local active militant in the district as on date. Human and technical surveillance is good. “The people have stakes in strengthening the human surveillance,” Manhas said. He added that people are so invested in building peace and harmony that they themselves



will choose to pounce upon the terrorists and will not leave them.”

On police-public partnership, SSP Kupwara said that the police have started Thana Devas on the analogy of Block Devas in the entire district. “Thana Devas is observed on weekly basis. People in large numbers participate in these events for immediate redressal of their issues,” Manhas told Kashmir Central. He said that the overwhelming response of the people to the initiatives is fascinating. “We have ensured greater interaction between the police and the local people,” SSP Kupwara said.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON THE RISE

The SSP expressed his concern over the growing incidents of domestic violence. He said that the cases of domestic violence are on rise, which is a disturbing trend. The SSP said that incidence is now so high, and the cases are being highlighted by those involved in such large numbers that the Station House Officer (SHO) of Women Police Station Kupwara cannot find time to relax. “Her police station always remains over crowded. However, she is very passionate and hardworking and never complains about the heavy burden she faces,” said the SSP.

NARCOTICS SMUGGLING

Regarding drug peddling, SSP Kupwara said that there are desperate attempts from across the border to pump in as much narcotics to this side as they can. Definitely, they are able to achieve this with local support only. Some locals are involved in narcotics smuggling. “A total of 76 people have been arrested during this year including four women drug peddlers. We have been able to crack the drug peddling modules,” said SSP Kupwara.

Manhas added that according to an unofficial survey, there are around 900 drug abusers in the district. However, the numbers could be more. The SSP said that there are coordinated efforts from the police and the civil society to isolate the drug abusers and rehabilitate them.

On the question of infiltration, SSP Kupwara said that going by the statistics, there were least infiltration attempts during this year from Keran, Machil and Tanghdar sectors. Intelligence agencies keep cautioning, and the level of infiltration has considerably gone down. “It seems that currently Pakistani army is not that active on dispatching terrorists to this side,” Yougal Manhas said. There is a lull but we are vigilant and cannot take any chances,” SSP Kupwara added.

Frontier District On The Move With New Initiatives, Focused Growth

KINETIC KUPWARA

KASHMIR CENTRAL | 6 NOVEMBER 2022 | 10

by **Bisma Nazir**

Gram Panchayat system has done wonders all across the country.

The same model is being implemented with focus and commitment in Kupwara district. Strengthening the grassroots level democratic

institutions is key to India's vibrant democracy. Legislature is just one aspect of the democracy. A strong democratic culture and spirit comes from robust grassroots level institutions that ensure the involvement and empowerment of people.





This was stated by Deputy Commissioner Kupwara Mr Doifode Sagar Dattatray, IAS, in an exclusive interview to Kashmir Central. “It would not be an exaggeration to state that I am here as District Magistrate Kupwara because of the Gram Panchayat System and the Cooperative Movement,” informed DC Kupwara. “I come from a remote village of Maharashtra. There were 250 households in my village. The cooperative movement established a sugar mill in the village followed by a school and a hospital. The villagers earned and learned from the cooperative movement. There are 120 tractors in my village. Now we have huge infrastructure too. My father studied in the village school. His education gave him a strong foundation, and he went on to become the Deputy

Commissioner of Mumbai,” said Doifode.

STRENGTHENING PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS, DDC

The DC informed that the same model is being replicated in Kupwara district. “There are around 10,000 elected representatives in Kupwara district. This reflects on the participation of people in the governance. We have 385 Sarpanches, more than 3000 Panchs, 26 BDCs and 14 DDCs,” Doifode said. He said that Panchayat Raj System is revolutionizing the lives of the people of Kupwara.

Kupwara district participates in electoral democracy overwhelmingly, be it the PRI institutions or the assembly, Doifode said. He said that the

grievance mechanism is very vibrant and there is quick disposal of public grievances.

The DC pointed out that Kupwara district is a case study of participatory governance. Block Divas program is organized every Wednesday at block level in the district. Every time, more than a thousand people are part of the Block Divas program. There is enthusiastic on the spot registration and prompt redressal of the people’s grievances.

The DC said that his office receives just 1% of the grievances. Meanwhile, 99% of the grievances are addressed at other levels. Responding to a question, DC Kupwara said that the institution of District Development Council (DDC) is still in infancy. The administration is extending every possible support to the

institution to make it vibrant and effective.

“We are educating the DDC members about their rights, duties and responsibilities,” said DC Kupwara. He added that it has been observed that

As part of National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), 2,000 women have been trained in stitching, and a large number of women have been skilled to take up village level enterprises. “We are exploring the possibility of having our own brand in handloom,” said DC Kupwara Mr Doifode Sagar Dattatray

the DDC members in Kupwara district have lesser number of complaints as compared to the DDC members from other districts. “We are conscious that these elected representatives are answerable to their voters. They should be provided every kind of support for the larger good of the public,” Doifode said.

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

On strengthening the institutions of women empowerment, DC Kupwara said that women are actively involved in developmental activities. The DC said he has observed that the women want to work for their self empowerment, and there is urge for socio economic independence among women.

The DC informed that about 50,000 women in the district are involved in handicraft and handloom activities under National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), an initiative of the Ministry of Rural Development.

As part of NRLM, 2,000 women have been trained in stitching, and a large number of women have been skilled to take up village level enterprises. “We are exploring the possibility of having our own brand in handloom,” said DC Kupwara.

It is a matter of pride for Kupwara district that it has the highest production of walnuts in Jammu and Kashmir. The district produces around 30,000 tons of walnuts each year. This is the only district having two walnut processing plants, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara told Kashmir Central.





We are taking steps that Keran, Tanghdar and Machil remain connected to the rest of the world throughout the year. I assure you that all through this winter, we will keep the roads to these areas functional: DC Kupwara

ENTERTAINMENT AVENUES

The district administration is also keen in providing entertainment to the youth of the district. In this direction, one cinema hall with the capacity of 120 seats is likely to be opened for the public in the second week of December. Another cinema hall of the same capacity shall be made available in next three to four months, informed the DC.

It is significant that an elected representative of the district offered a place for the cinema hall to the government. This reflects on the commitment



Managing Editor Kashmir Central Bisma Nazir with DC Kupwara Doifode Sagar Dattatray, IAS

of the elected representative in changing the outlook of the youth of the district.

DEVELOPING THE TOURISM POTENTIAL OF KUPWARA

Doifode said that Kupwara can be an attractive tourist destination because of its scenic beauty. The government is seriously working towards bringing Kupwara prominently on the map of Kashmir Tourism.

To achieve this, what is urgently required is the development of physical infrastructure. The government has taken many steps in this direction, informed the DC. “Kupwara boasts of the mesmerizing Bangus and Lolab valley. We also have the beautiful frontier locations of Keran, Machil and Tanghdar. People shall love to explore these areas provided there is basic infrastructure,” the DC said.

As one of the steps in this direction, the blacktopped

road connectivity to these locations is almost complete, informed the DC. “We are taking steps that Keran, Tanghdar and Machil remain connected to the rest of the world throughout the year. I assure you that all through this winter, we will keep the roads to these areas functional,” said DC Kupwara.

In addition to providing the tourism infrastructure, more is being done to enhance the tourism appeal of the area. “We are developing 12 tourist viewing points on the Kupwara-Keran road. Keran is a site for pilgrimage tourism, and we are developing it so that the pilgrims can visit the place comfortably. A plan is being worked out to construct a site for the holy dip in the Kishanganga river which flows from the foothills of Maa Saraswati towards Keran in Kashmir valley. A small township with tented accommodation is also coming up at Keran to accommodate the tourists. Infrastructure development in the border areas has been prioritized,” Doifode told Kashmir Central. “This year around 3 lakh tourists visited Kupwara. The district administration is expecting a three-fold rise in the tourist influx next year,” said the DC.

IAS CLASSES FOR ASPIRING YOUTH

DC Kupwara said that the youth of Kupwara district are ambitious and aspirational. “It is heartening to see that the youth are career-oriented. They are conscious of building a happy and fulfilling life, and working towards a better future,” said Doifode.

The DC highlighted that sports play a major role in the harmonious development of the youth. “It is important to achieve harmonious development, and we are looking even beyond that, taking into consideration the conviction and commitment among the youth to achieve something big. We are providing the educated youth with coaching for Indian Administrative Services (IAS). For this purpose, we have brought teaching faculty from outside Kashmir who can equip the local youth to clear the exam,” said the DC.

“There is fire among the youth to achieve something. We need to channelize their energy. We need to provide them guidance and make their goals easy,” DC Kupwara said. Doifode informed that the district administration is planning a mega sports meet soon, in which youth from every part of the district shall prove their potential. “We are committed to have a playground in every Panchayat across the district,” the DC said with pride.

Apple Growers Are Crestfallen Due To The Low Price Of Fruit The Entire Season, Demand Market Intervention Scheme

Season of Distress



by **Mareaya Fayaz**

The harvesting of apple is in its final stage. However, there is no respite to the fruit growers because of the way the rates crashed in the beginning of the season. Hundreds of truckloads are dispatched from local mandis of Kashmir valley on daily basis. The stagnation in market has disappointed the apple growers across the length and breadth of Kashmir. On an average, 200-250 truck loads are dispatched

from Sopore mandi alone. Same is the case with other smaller mandis in north and south Kashmir.

The debt ridden farmers are aghast over the abrupt and certain crash of market during the ongoing season. The farmers and dealers alike ask many questions over the downfall of the market value of Kashmiri apple. Many cast aspersions over the blockade of Srinagar Jammu national highway twice during this season.





A few years ago, the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) was launched to lift Grade 3 apples from the orchards on a specified price. Fruit growers say the scheme had provided some support to poor farmers. Regrettably, this scheme is no more in vogue. This has led to a disastrous cascading impact on the farmers

FRESH FRUIT STRANDED ON HIGHWAY FOR DAYS TOGETHER

It needs to be mentioned here that the Srinagar-Jammu national highway remained closed for vehicular movement for 15 and eight days respectively in the months of September and October. Around 12,000 trucks were stranded on the highway during the first blockade of 15 days.

The trucks were carrying Kashmir apple to mandis all over the country. The second time, around 8,000 fruit laden trucks remained stranded on Srinagar Jammu national highway the second time when the highway was blocked for eight days. Fruit growers allege that the market crashed when the bulk of fruit reached the mandis across the nation after the movement was allowed on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway. They complain that handling this sudden bulk was beyond the intake capacity of the fruit mandis.

It has to be admitted that fresh fruit has very short shelf life. What will the growers gain if the fruit reaches the market after it has lost its freshness? The aggrieved fruit growers smell foul in the blockade of the national highway. According to them, the blockade was avoidable.

PRICE CRASH IS DELIBERATE, ALLEGE SOME GROWERS

Some of the aggrieved fruit growers who had come to sell their fruit in the Sopore fruit mandi got emotional alleging that the crash in the market was deliberate. "If the crash in the market is because of the economic downslide, then why are oranges and other fruits selling at twice the market price as compared to last year," an aggrieved fruit grower told Kashmir Central. He was seen arguing with the exporters over

low rates of high quality apples. The fruit grower said that he had come all the way from Tral in south Kashmir to sell his produce in Sopore mandi. He was looking for a good price for the high quality apples, but was deeply disappointed when the exporters did not offer a promising price.

The apple growers of Kashmir say they are surprised by these current developments. They say that the market has never remained so stagnant. "It has never happened in the past that the market remains down for so long. The pattern earlier was that even if the market went down for some time, it would bounce back," said a fruit grower in his 50s.

But in the current season, fruit growers say that they are witnessing a strange phenomenon. "We have observed that the market has refused to go up even though the major part of the apple produce as already been sold out," Mr Zahoor Ahmad, General Secretary Fruit Dealers Association Sopore Mandi told Kashmir Central. "It is really beyond our comprehension why there is so much of downslide. It is also surprising that the market has remained stagnant that these low rates. As far the quality is concerned, we have far better quality as compared to last year. The colour is magnificent, freshness is intact and taste is delicious. But the market has not shown any sign of improvement this year," Ahmad noted sadly.



UNPRECEDENTED CRISIS FOR APPLE INDUSTRY

In the absence of a price support system and devoid of incentives, the apple industry in Kashmir is facing an unprecedented crisis. The fruit growers say that they do not receive any kind of support from the government, hence the situation has become far worse this year. A few years ago, the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) was launched to lift Grade 3 apples from the orchards itself on a specified price.

The fruit growers say that the scheme had provided some support to the poor farmers to deal with the market issues. Regrettably, this scheme is no more in vogue. This has led to a disastrous cascading impact on the farmers. Since the market value of quality fruits and all other kinds of fruit is down, farmers are facing difficulty because of the Grade 3 apples. On the other hand, the prices of pesticides, fertilizers and farming tools are sky rocketing. The farmers are not in a position to pay off the debts.

Double Blow

For Apple Growers

President of Fruit Dealers Association Sopore Mandi, Fayaz Ahmad Malik told Kashmir Central that the life of a fruit grower has been made miserable. “On one hand the market has receded vertically. On the other hand the prices of fertilizers, pesticides and farming tools have increased manifold,” Fayaz Malik said. “It is not just that the prices of fertilizers and pesticides have increased. Sadly, the quality of these products has been compromised to unimaginable

levels,” he highlighted.

Malik expressed deep concern that substandard pesticides and fertilizers are being pumped into Jammu and Kashmir in connivance with the local dealers and distributors. Malik stated that even the maximum retail price label is being recommended to the manufacturers of substandard pesticides and fertilizers by the local dealers and distributors to get more and more money from the pockets of poor farmers.

Malik alleged that replicas of recognized brands are specially designed for the

pesticides and fertilizers dealers of Jammu and Kashmir. He stated that the same is made available to the farmers on exorbitant rates. “The farmers are suffering because there is no quality control mechanism. The enforcement wing of the Agriculture Department or the Horticulture Department is complacent. The Horticulture Department and the Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Ltd (JKHPMC) have miserably failed in their duties and responsibilities,” alleged Malik.



'HP GOVT HAS BETTER SUPPORT POLICIES FOR APPLE GROWERS'

Malik stated that farmers and fruit growers in Kashmir have been left at the mercy of God. As against Kashmir valley, the Himachal Pradesh government is providing every kind of support to the fruit growers, Malik informed. "The HP government introduced crop insurance scheme long time back. The scheme provides financial assistance to the fruit growers in case of damage to the crop by natural calamity. The HP government has a transparent and efficient quality control mechanism in place. Because of this, substandard pesticides and fertilizers cannot be sold in the markets of Himachal Pradesh. The government also provides pesticides, fertilizers and transport facility to its farmers on subsidized rates," the President of Fruit Dealers Association Sopore said.

President of Fruit Dealers Association Sopore Mandi Fayaz Ahmad Malik Says Highly Poor Quality Of Fertilizers, Pesticides Hits Farmers Hard, Govt Departments Complacent Regarding Gravity Of Problem



'GOVT MUST SUPPORT FRUIT GROWERS'

Farmers point out that on the other hand, GST has been enhanced from 12% to 18%. Malik made a passionate appeal to the LG administration to come to the rescue of the farming community. He said that the least J&K Administration can do is to

stop the influx of substandard and poor quality pesticides and fertilizer to Jammu and Kashmir. He demanded that the government must put in place an efficient quality control mechanism to punish the dealers and distributors who are supplying poor quality pesticides and fertilizers. Malik called upon the government to re-invoke the market intervention scheme.


Malik highlighted that the apple industry is going through difficult times. He said that it is incumbent upon the government to save the farmers from devastation. Malik also demanded that the LG administration should provide some kind of support to the fruit growers to overcome the challenges they face.

Juice Plant In Mazbugh Rafiabab Must Be Made Functional

President of Fruit Dealers Association Sopore Mandi, Fayaz Ahmad Malik informed that under the given circumstances when the market of Kashmiri apple has receded, it is imperative upon JKHPMC to make its lone Juice Plant situated at Mazbugh Rafiabab functional. Farmers are correct in pointing out that the juice plant could have crushed at least 10 to 20 lakh metric tons of Grade 3 apple. The move would have saved farmers from additional loses.

Farmers say that it is a matter of worry and concern that the juice plant has remained non-functional throughout the season. The only juice factory which takes Grade 3 apple from the fruit growers is that of Mr Altaf Bukhari. This factory has the intake capacity of a few lakh metric tons.

"The factory can absorb only some percentage of the Grade 3 produce. The rest comes to the fruit mandis for sale where it is left struggling for a good price. Even quality apples are selling for peanuts. What can poor farmers expect for his Grade 3 produce?" Malik questioned.



live laugh love

by **Dr Shafiya**

▼
Love is a feeling of well-being and of good emotions. It is an activity that keeps us in good spirits and happy emotions. Let us engage and create feelings of love by making ourselves capable through appropriate changes in our dealings with others. There is no other way to love and be loved.

LOVE - A PIOUS EMOTION

▼
People often fail to conceive love as pious in essence. Physical intimacy which is devoid of good feelings is not love but lust.

While dealing with others, let us take care that our

dealings make them cheerful, by helping them to come out of their problem, appreciate their successes and be grateful for the help received from them. All these activities are to express love.

The benefit of giving love to others is that it appeals to our hearts and makes us connected to others, provides stability and security, removes fear and gives a feeling of being good toward other people. One can get to know love by first generating such feelings of being good to others. How can a person feel love from others if he is filled with ego, anger, and selfish tendencies? These negative emotions suppress the inner urge to love others.

LOVE - THE DIVINE ENERGY

▼
Love is a divine energy. I had a very vague idea about love initially. As I tried to understand more about it, a completely different perspective and thinking developed that explained the true essence of love. I have come to know from spiritual literature that love is God and God is love. It appears too abstract in the first instance, but the more we tend to think of God will make us to love God and all other creations of God. It is like energy flowing within us derived from the Ultimate that thinks positively and helps in inner purification.

WE ARE PART OF THE DIVINE ENERGY

Albert Einstein discovered the energy mass equation that explains the interconnection of material and energy. It revolutionized the thinking of the present century by using a small amount of mass to derive tremendous energy. Hence, along with our material existence, somewhere we are also part of the divine energy lying within us as dormant. Logically, this divine energy which is nothing but love brings us close to the Ultimate.

OUR HIDDEN CAPACITY FOR LOVE

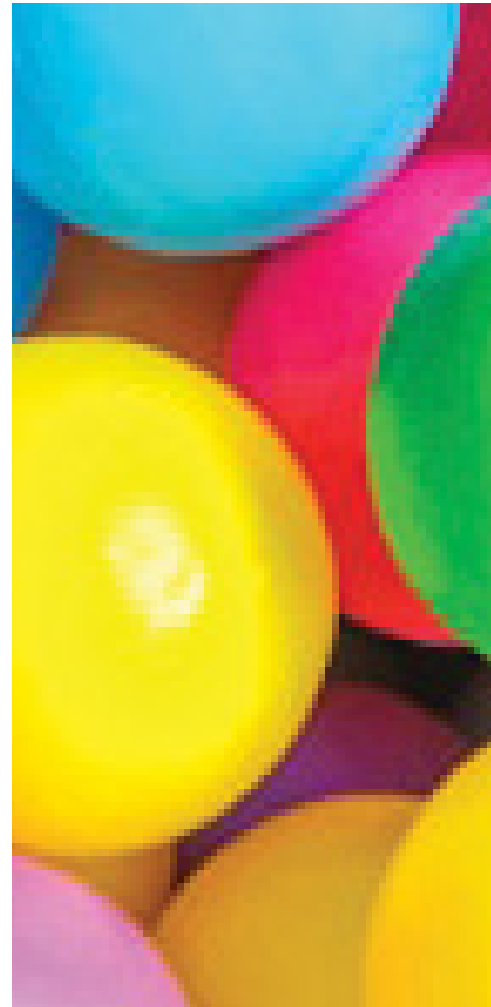
I can imagine that every one of us has a great capacity of this divine love within us, but it is hidden, untapped and misdirected. Great saints have worked on human beings from time to time by developing intense feeling of love and concern for others. This has helped them to achieve higher levels of spiritual growth and closeness with the ultimate. The true meaning of love is inner purification of soul. This is the real purpose of love.

Love is nothing but inner need and the reason for feeling happiness. Fill the requirement of soul by being in love with other person. The other person whom you love is only the recipient of our loved. It is our own emotions that create love for that person.



People love someone if they feel that person is an object of love. This feeling comes out of inner need. This is the reason that when the object of love is same, but still different people react to it in a different manner.

A person may become an object of love for someone but similar feelings may be missing in the heart of other person. The feeling of love resides in us. The other person becomes only a facilitator to bring out this feeling. Irrespective of how good other person may be, love will have to originate from you to create that loving emotion. All other things follow thereafter. These emotions come when we feel need of love as against negative emotions of anger and hate.





God is love. This appears too abstract, but the more we think of God, it will make us love God and all other creations of God. It is like energy flowing within us derived from the Ultimate that thinks positively and helps in inner purification

OUR INNER NEED TO GENERATE HAPPINESS

▼

The advantages of giving love to the other person are essentially to fulfill our inner need and to generate happiness. If we demand love from other person, we may not be able to feel it when our inner condition is filled with negative feelings.

Love is an activity of thinking good about others, doing all that can be done to make others feel good and acting in a manner that other person feels comfortable. It is not something to be demanded as it cannot be preserved. We cannot take it or feel it unless we make ourselves capable for it.

Everyone feels the impact of love in their life. When you think good of another person, you are in same wavelength as your inner self (soul), which makes you feel light and joyful. Such feeling is love. It is not easy for a person to love someone as it takes time to understand and then develop liking of that person.

Love does not mean that there will not be any differences and the other person will always remain dumb. It does not mean that a person who is not handsome or beautiful will be less attractive and loving in nature. The attractiveness of a person derives from the overall personality that is a combination of physical looks, positive attitude and confidence

MEDIA PROJECTIONS OF LOVE

Media influences the understanding of various issues in life including perception of love. Love has different connotations in the media, which is not actual reality.

The people in love as shown in media are projected



somewhat special. It makes us think that we are incapable of offering or getting that sort of love. People often adore type of love which is without any argument, full of sacrifices and tolerance from the other person. The media glorifies love and shows loving couple who do so many unusual things to attract each others' attention. It affects the perception of love.

We imagine women in love as beautiful, sacrificing and never arguing. The media depicts love based on physical attraction. In actual life situations, things are different.

Love does not mean that there will not be any differences and the other person will always remain dumb. It does not mean that a person who is not handsome or beautiful will

be less attractive and loving in nature.

The attractiveness of a person derives from the overall personality that is a combination of physical looks, positive attitude and confidence. The love stories as reflected in media and narrated by other persons mostly narrate physical aspect of love. It does not emphasize on the emotional closeness and spiritual part of the love which is more subtle and enduring. Our perception of love is thus limited in nature.



THE MYRIAD WAYS OF LIFE

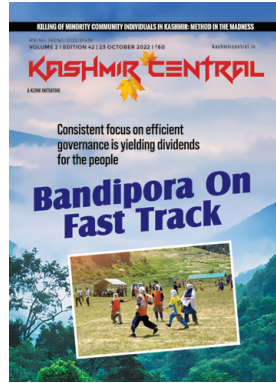
Life is not always about happy or sad situations. It has its own moments of ups and down. How to adjust in each situation and take it in stride will greatly affect the quality of life and relationship with other people.

The perception of love as being devoid of any problem, trouble, and pain is thus a misconception. People feel more and more pain as they are not able to live in love in a relationship with other people. Our perception of love has to change. We have to live with all the problems that we face in unison, sort out our differences, and make change in our life style to bring a semblance of love and tolerance in our attitude. We have to meet the need of the soul to develop spiritual love for other persons which goes beyond physical attraction.

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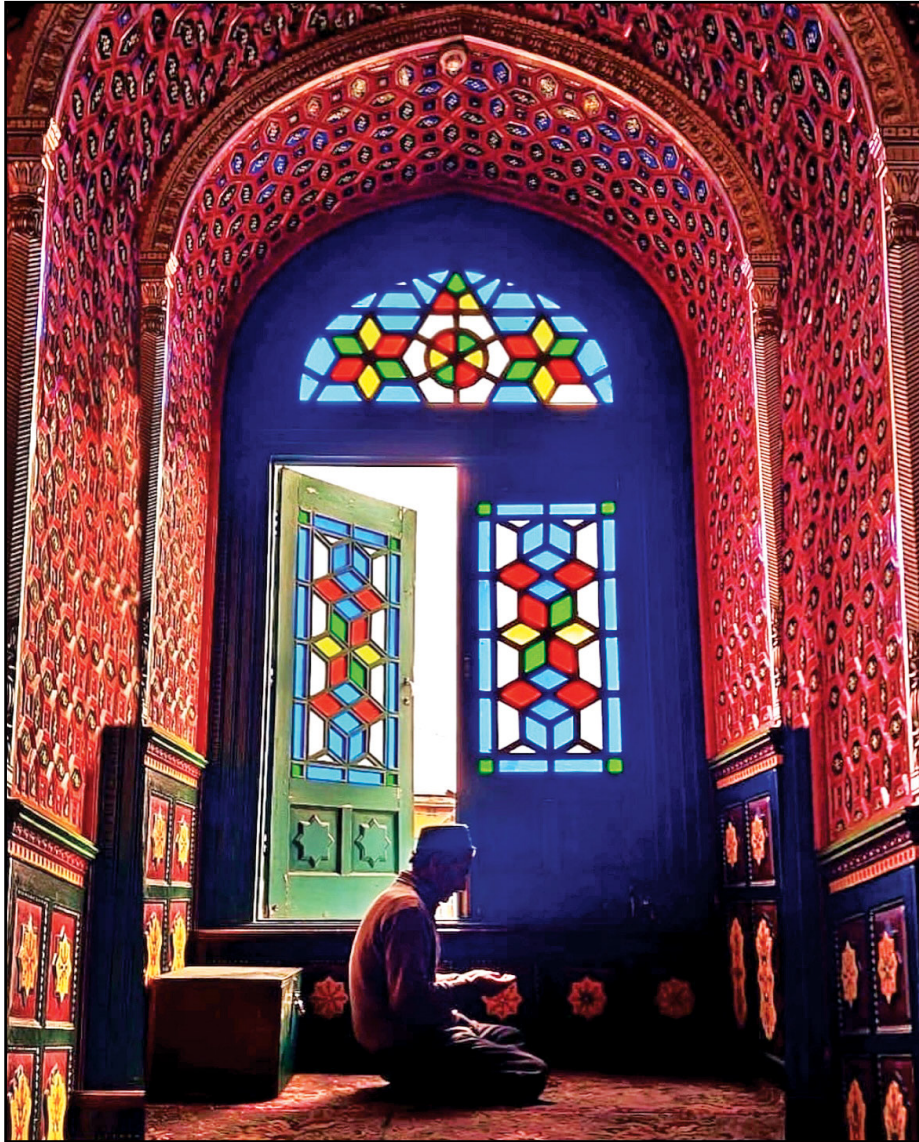
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