



MONTHLY THEME

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KASHMIR RIGHTS FORUM CUSTODIANS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN KASHMIR

The Kashmir Rights Forum (KRF) is an informal, secular, apolitical and forward looking interactive platform highlighting human rights violations perpetuated against innocent Kashmiri population by terrorists either directly supported by separatists and their over ground workers or indirectly by sympathizers over last three decades as a result of proxywar initiated by Pakistan on our homeland.

KRF is dexterous, focused forum with overarching mission to mobilize expertise and public opinion to counter the organized attempt to violate human rights of common innocent Kashmiris of all generations by the nexus and tarnishing the image of government and security forces by certain section of media, intelligentsia and conflict entrepreneurs by flaring up allegations of human rights violations on them, thus diverting attention from the real perpetrators of these violations.

We, at KRF encourage response by likeminded or otherwise, people and organizations, on documents, articles & video content produced on multiple social media platforms by us to apprise all citizens of such violations. KRF will endeavor to expose the designs of the perpetrators by studying the past and present and producing the facts for public scrutiny as part of our research and highlight such events in present, earliest on occurrence.

Glimpses of Monthly Theme April 2022

GROWTH OF MAINSTREAM NATIONALISM IN KASHMIR: A TESTIMONY OF REJECTION/ NON-ACCEPTANCE OF RADICALIZATION



PREFACE

'Since abrogation of article 370, Kashmiri youths joining terrorist organizations dropped by more than 80%.'

Post abrogation of Article 370 there has been drastic change in the perception of people in the valley. The omnipresent threat maintained by the separatists nexus fell to its knees & their shops were shut down. The change not only brought socio-economic development in UT of J&K, but it also brought empowerment of people, removal of unjust laws, bringing in equity & fairness to those innocent people who were discriminated since ages. It has



aided in growth of mainstream nationalism which was suppressed till 2019. There has been visible participation by youth of Kashmir in nation building programmes. The change saw participation of youth like Umran Malik into international cricket, active roles of women in political activities and their social amalgamation which was never seen before. Women empowerment schemes of central government proved to be an instrumental in liberating women of Kashmir from shackles of redundant society which was suppressing their legal and basic rights.

Extension of central laws after the abrogation of Art 370 has established an equitable society across J&K while

the implementation of several legislations is bringing a new era of peace, progress & development. Terror related activities have declined & an environment for investment has been created. Extension of 890 central laws, removal of 250 unjust laws & modification of 137 other laws which were the impediments for industrial development along with industrial promotion schemes of J&K by central government has now opened the doors for development in J&K and brought democracy to grass root level which was restricted to a few families earlier. The number of youth who joined militancy has fell to almost 40% of what was there in 2018 while terrorist related incidents declined to 60% as compared to 2018. There has been drastic increase in new employment opportunities for youth in Kashmir. The systematic transparency in the bureaucracy post abrogation of the article 370 has provided noticeable impact in fields of industry, tourism, agriculture, law enforcement including revival of cultural identity of the region and channelizing the energy of the youth in direction which leads to personal, regional and the nationwide development.



UNDERSTANDING THE PROPAGANDA OF PAKISTAN – YOUTH SURRENDERS

The stories of the 17 recruits to the militant movement who took the decision to surrender their arms to the Army officials back in year 2020 are varied but their subtext is the same – the desire to return to the mainstream, as security forces had been focusing on surrenders and have had many successful counter-terror operations in the Valley, especially in south Kashmir.^[1] A 24-year-old from the Valley was persuaded to join militancy by a local militant Abbas Sheikh. He was handed a grenade and designated as a member of The Resistance Front (TRF), a shadow group believed to be a subsidiary of the banned Lashker-e-Taiba terror outfit. However, the disenchantment set in soon after the youth spent a night on a tree, tired, hungry and fearful of a wild bear that lay in prowl for him whole night. He had been roaming the jungles of Kokernag when he encountered the bear. The bear ran after him and he managed to climb a tree. He was on the tree the entire day and night on an empty stomach with a grenade in the hand when he realized that their inimical mentors are making fool of them.

It served as a turning point for him to give up his arms at a nearby Army unit in the interiors of south Kashmir. It was then he realized how the scenario would have been different with a snack in his hand rather than a grenade. The youth was set free and now lives a free life with his family. It is no more hilarious, rather a fact that terrorists manipulate youth in name of religion in danger and later leave them to the fate, becoming targets of the bullets. The so called mentors take time to influence the youth, making his decision to join the terrorism, however timely measures can help curbing the menace that devastates innocent lives. In another incident security forces of the 34 Rashtriya Rifles received inputs regarding the presence of two



Lashker-e-Taiba terrorists Yawar Waghey and Amir Ahmed Mir at Tantraypora in Kulgam district. As the security forces learned that both were locals who had joined the terrorist organization a couple of months ago, efforts were made to identify their families and get their parents to appeal to them to surrender. Waghey's elderly parents made appeals to their son, when finally he came out and surrendered before their security forces. Officials requested Mir's parents plead their son after which he also came out and laid down his arms. Here both the individuals realized what actually is meaningful in their life, like happiness of their parents who have worked hard for their upbringing or getting killed and leaving them to their fate during their old age.

There are many take aways from two stories that were outlined, one, innocent youth fall prey to the religiously radicalized agents which act as entrepreneurs while recruiting the youth into pitfall where they only meet deaths. Second, the agencies must look into the social media, the citations that it preaches which attract the young minds and get manipulated through rigorous efforts of the conflict entrepreneurs. Watching the surrendered terrorists had taught many lessons to the youth of Kashmir, their bold acts to deny the gun culture is a good example for many young boys, who would have ever thought to join terror organizations. The focus

needs to be shifted from reactionary policy to moderation that shall prevent the youth from taking the wrong path of terrorism. The surrendered terrorists should be encouraged by the administration for their bold acts, in order to inspire the radicalized youth to give up the way that has no future. Yet the efforts that had been in place has resulted in valley wide awakening against the radicalization through channels/ accounts/ magazines/ websites that divert the youth from their right and bright careers.

KASHMIRI YOUTH ACHIEVING CAREERS IN SINGING AND MODELLING

Youth of Kashmir are inborn artists having set on line, they have a large potential to achieve careers like singing and modeling. Since the Islamic extremists slog orders over singing and modeling, however the young minds defying all the odds have stood upright to achieve the careers that once seemed to be a dream for Kashmiris. Now, one may find the artists taking such careers and earning in ten figures. The careers like singing and modeling are basically associated with mainstream and liberal ideology unlike the Islamic Jihadists who designate it as strongly prohibited. Many young minds took to their dreams while creating their names in the country's top list, few testimonies include - **Yawar Abdal**, from Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir whose tryst with music started at an early age. He used to write songs and practice all day to the imaginary tunes made in his mind that later made him a star in his career, unlike other youth, who have fallen prey to the militancy due to literature and manipulation from the Islamic Jihadists. At present time, Yawar has a good fan following and his popular songs would include *Tamanna*, *Baal Maraeyo Maraeyo* and *Yamberzalo*, which represent the true Sufi and liberal culture of Kashmir.

Another inspiration for the youth is **Waqar Khan**, who was born in Karnah, located in Kupwara District of Jammu and Kashmir, whose euphonious voice and humble stage presence have made him one of the most loved singers and performers of Jammu and Kashmir. His expansive exploration mindful attention to the convoluted details both in terms of the notes and expression makes his singing reasonably scrumptious. He predominantly sings in various languages like Urdu, Punjabi, Pahadi and Kashmiri, reviving the tradition of singing. Waqar has stolen the hearts with his style and tunes of voice, his beautiful voice has successfully established him among the best artists of Jammu and Kashmir. Waqar shot to fame in 2018 with his first hit "Kali Kali zulfoon." Which garnered near about 4 Million Views on YouTube till now. Khan won million young hearts by singing and composing the pahadi folks with a tinge of modern music and compositions to maintain a balanced synchronization between the old and the novel. Now that they are on path of success, the young minds need to introspect about themselves and to choose their successful careers in respective fields. Had the youth employed their minds in their objective fields, undoubtedly they would have engineered the problems into mindful solutions.

The energies of youth require to be channelized into innovation fields which would mitigate the whole problem of terrorism, in this regard youth engagement is crucial which had been a priority for



the government, while launching various schemes for the idle youth. In order to provide adequate Job opportunities to the youth of J&K and make them self independent, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has started '*Be Rozgar Se Swarozgar Scheme*'. The scheme is part of 10-point campaign initiated by government to give a renewed push to the implementation of employment and other beneficiary oriented schemes on the ground. The objective of the 10 point campaign is to achieve quantifiable results within specific timelines, in an effort to touch the lives of ordinary citizens at the grassroot level. Under '*Be Rozgar Se Swarozgar Scheme*' scheme, the youth of J&K will get a chance to get employment. This Scheme is launched to provide job opportunities to youth who are struggling to earn their living. It is a targeted campaign to identify and provide self employment to at least 5 persons in every Panchayat and overall two lakh youth in the entire UT. It will include financial support and skilling as part of the process. It will ensure that a local youth will get a chance to earn livelihood.

The main objectives of this scheme is to generate employment opportunities both in urban and rural areas through setting up of self-employment ventures. Due to adversities of COVID-19 on economy of our country, many youths lost jobs. In order to support these youth and provide them adequate opportunities, the Government has decided to run this scheme so that unemployed people will be provided employment.

To create awareness among the youth about '*Be Rozgar Se Swarozgar*' Scheme, the government started "*Yogyata se Rozgaar Mahotsav*". The scheme has been launched with an aim to help the youth of a country to build their future better for tomorrow. This scheme will not only help the youth of the country to get employed but also help the country to get developed. The scheme will be effective for those applicants who want to have job but are facing problems in finding them. Apart from this scheme, the government is doing constant

handholding of youth through various schemes to facilitate employment, provide self-employment guidance and skill development for the unemployed youth so as to enhance their incomes, thus promoting inclusive growth. These efforts made by the government has subsided the radicalization and declined the terrorist joining with a huge margin.

A constant research and continuous effort has been carried out to safeguard the youth with ways possible for the government to tackle the inimical elements, however there is a major role of civil society by creating a terror free environment by boycotting radicalized thought process which is the only solution for the prosperity of the valley. When the normalcy is ensured from the side of youth, they may find the time to grow their skills in diverse fields, thereby allowing them to focus their energy to rightful careers without any space for maligned thoughts.

KASHMIRI GIRLS WON PRICE FOR SINGING NATIONAL ANTHEM

In an unprecedented patriotic feeling for the national integration, a huge number of youth of J&K participated in Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav celebrations organized by Information Department. It was a day-long programme to felicitate National Anthem singing competition winners 2021 at Auditorium Hall of Directorate of Information and PR Srinagar. Pertinently, it was part of celebrations of 75 years of independence; the Jammu and Kashmir government had announced a National Anthem singing competition 2021 for the first time in J&K, which received a vast response from the local youth. Volunteers from primary school students to adults, young minds actively participated in the event. It slapped hard on the face of the separatist propaganda throughout world, and proved that the reality on ground is different. An overwhelming response was witnessed while receiving the video clips of individuals and



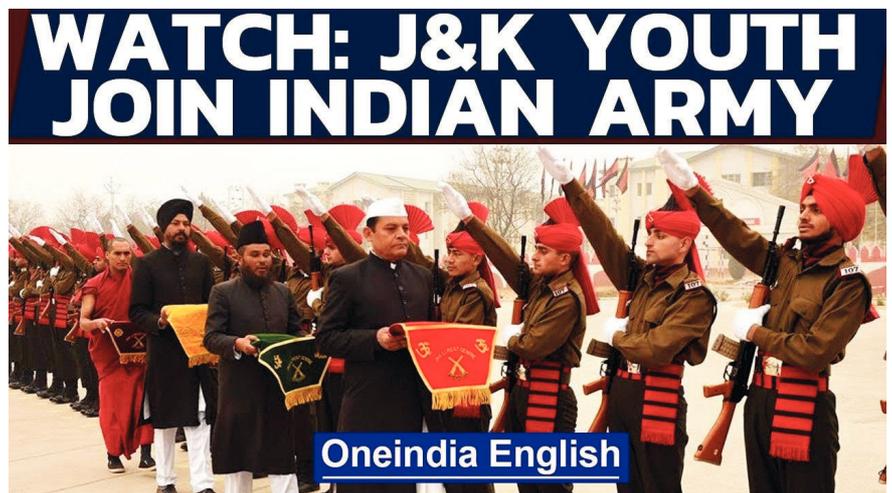
groups from every nook and corner of UT. In the first phase district level competition was held and 90 finalists were shortlisted for three categories i.e. 13-18, above 18 and groups respectively from all the districts of Kashmir only. ^[2] The final selection was made by a professional Jury at the Joint Directorate of Information Kashmir with the consent of Divisional Administration Kashmir and nine winners in three categories were selected on the basis of voice quality, pronunciation, presentation and timing.

It can thus be concluded that the people of Kashmir are manipulated in name of human rights violations by certain internal and external elements which result in furthering the propaganda, but a check upon such inimical elements would aid in demystifying the new intents circulated through print and digital media. The responsibility comes upon the intellect class of the valley to put bar on the anti-national elements and the inimical elements spreading hatred, thereby defaming the innocent Kashmiris. The game was organized from Pakistan some time aback, and had been executing the work even today by manipulating the youth in name of religion and jihad. However, the youth have now understood the games that were backed by them from time to time, including agitations in the valley to backstab the

developmental works continuing in the Kashmir. Since many years were wasted in protests and sloganeering which left a big gap in competitiveness of students from valley. Now when the competition has been fastened, youth have interpreted the consequences of falling into the hands of separatist nexus from time to time. Their focus has now shifted from stone pelting to higher education and professionalism in diverse courses.

AMID PROPAGANDA BACKED BY PAKISTAN KASHMIRI YOUTH JOIN INDIAN ARMY

Amid the possible unrest in 2019 which later saw a peaceful period, denying the earlier assessments, a number of 575 youths from Jammu and Kashmir formally joined Indian army after completing a year-long rigorous training at Bana Singh Parade Ground in Srinagar. Saluting the tricolour, youths from the insurgency-hit Himalayan state, formally transformed themselves into young soldiers of Army as Passing-Out-Parade of the latest batch of Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry Regimental Centre (JAKLIRC). ^[3] The dauntless young soldiers of the regiment hailing from all regions and religions of Jammu and Kashmir, marched in



precise unison with a singular aim of devoting their lives in service of the nation, singing their regimental song 'Balidanam Veer Lakshnam', inspired one and all as their voice echoed in the Valley.

The event proved the determination of the youth to serve their nation, at the same time leaving a positive message for the rest of youth, who may have fallen into the hands of the miscreants. However the on-ground stability in the hinterland gave out a strong message to the inimical elements. Off late the Agneepath scheme is drawing huge crowds of youth at various SF posts in the valley for screening and Agniveer training.

PEOPLE OF VALLEY PROUDLY FLAUNTING TRICOLOR

Since the tourism industry took to rise in the valley, in order to promote the cultural integrity, historical places of Kashmir and famous destinations, a trend was followed by district administrations to place sign boards of large size which read as 'I love (that place)'. The love sign was decorated to tricolor upon requests of the local people living the area. Tourists especially the youth were seen and caught on camera while posing with the tricolor which showcases the love and respect for their country's flag. Enthusiasm could have been eyed at the spots, waiting for the turns to capture pictures with high definition cameras. Many would insist their parents for reaching the spot for the shoot with the country's prideful tricolor. Such is the sense of reverence for the nationalism that is being embedded in the hearts and minds of the various generations. The path of the youth that once used to lead them towards stone-pelting is now diverted and this has enriched them with proud feeling of their country. Achieving their life goals is priority for the youth now. In several districts the workshops for



civil services experienced huge rush of the aspirants, who had arrived to receive the expert advice for their futuristic goals. This fervor of the young minds bear witness that they are now on their right path, negating the propaganda that had been spread for decades through various channels to destroy the careers and prosperity of the valley.

YOUTH OF J&K CRAFTING SPACE ON COUNTRY'S SPORTS MAP

Since the youth of J&K introspected into propaganda spread by a group of people antagonist of the prosperity and normalcy, it produced a fruitful environment for the valley to begin the activities that inspire the fellow young minds into sphere of mainstream. Later, despite global Covid-19 pandemic, which badly affected almost every field including the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir witnessed upswing in sports field with regard to development of sports infrastructure, enhancement of sports culture, improvement of sports skill and above all representation of sportspersons at the highest level from Kashmir valley and it means a welcome gesture from the people that their energies in the mainstream are paying and adding to nation building.

The emergence of sensational speedster Umran Malik, rise of promising, stylish and gritty gymnast,



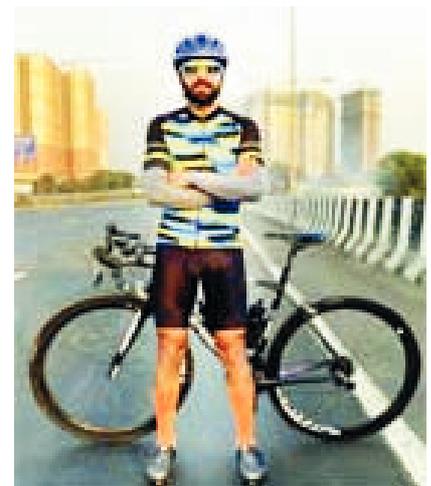
Bavleen Kaur at the national scene, para athlete Chandeeep Singh's heroics at the World Games, Atul Pangotra's brilliance at International level, the duo of Kuldeep Handoo and Krupali Singh's role as Chief Coaches of India in their respective sports disciplines and above all, the selection of the trio of Sarla Devi, Arya Thakur and Bawandeep Kour in prestigious Challengers Trophy were a few highlights which every member of sports fraternity of the UT ought to be proud of. Moreover, despite poorest show by J&K Footballers in Santosh Trophy- courtesy, fractured and jaundiced JKFA, the quartet of young footballers in Sajjad Hussain, Ravi Rana, Muheet Shabir and Danish Farooq made their presence felt at the bigger circuit in the year 2021. Young Footballer Suhail Bhat won hearts with his extraordinary soccer skills. The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, which otherwise, is striving hard to craft a space on the country's sports map, had a good fortune for sports in 2021 with a greater enthusiasm from the youth.

One such inspiration for the young minds came out as sensational Umran Malik, cricketer, a cut Rookie Jammu and Kashmir pacer Umran Malik made it to the team India. A squad that toured South Africa in November this year and is likely to make a mark in the upcoming England tour. He had clocked 152.95 kph the fastest of the tournament during Sunrisers Hyderabad's game against Royal Challengers Bangalore, whose captain Virat Kohli was left impressed. He along with talented Abdul Samad were retained by SRH for Rs. 4 crore each.

The youngster has risen through the ranks despite humble beginnings. His father owns a small grocery shop in Jammu's Gujjar Nagar area. The rise of this young star brightened many minds and hearts of the youth from Kashmir to leave radicalization sphere and start making their careers dazzle in the sports field that has a tremendous potential. The message that went out from the Umran's inclusion into team IPL has left deep impression on minds of the local youth, who have utmost interest for the cricket and other sports activities.

ADIL PADDLES FROM KASHMIR TO KANYAKUMARI:

Another inspiration was a 23-year-old youth Adil from Kashmir who pedalled from Kashmir to Kanyakumari in just eight days, covering a distance of 3,600 kilometres, thus creating a Guinness Book of World Record for the fastest Kashmir to Kanyakumari journey on cycle. Adil, who hails from Narbal in Kashmir's Budgam district, completed the distance on cycle in eight days, 1 hour and 37



minutes. He started his journey from the iconic Ghanta Ghar at Lal Chowk in Srinagar around 7:30 am on March 22 this year and reached Kanyakumari around 9 am on March 30. This has set an example to the people of world that youth of Kashmir are dictated toward their goal and they put their soul to achieve their aim.

SKIER ARIF QUALIFIES FOR BEIJING OLYMPICS:

Jammu and Kashmir Alpine skier Arif Mohammed Khan has qualified for the 2022 Winter Olympics to be held in Beijing. Khan, who hails from North Kashmir booked the Winter Games ticket in an

Olympic qualifier alpine skiing event in Dubai. He has earlier represented the country in many International events, including World Championships, besides winning a galaxy of medals at the national scene. Arif 31 has practised skiing consistently for eight to nine months a year in minus 20-25 degrees Celsius to make it to the coveted sports competition. He was the only Indian athlete to contest for Beijing Olympics, hence inspiring the young minds of valley to ensure their energies reach to the main stream.

CHOOSING CIVIL SERVICES OVER SEPARATISM

There never ever was a doubt in any mind that the young boys and girls of Jammu and Kashmir are talented. Their talent was on full display yet again when a number of them were declared successful in the civil services examination results on August 4 last year. Number could have been higher than this, had the political events did not cast their shadow over the state. Such "momentous" events are better known by their impact, more than the event itself, as the propaganda machinery started to play the old-trick of destabilizing the region. For a moment, let it be put on record that the inspiration of these young minds riveting to the competitive exams and beating all odds goes to Shah Faesal whose extraordinary success in 2010, when he topped the list of the successful candidates in the All-India Civil Services, inspired the new generation. He was cherished by the young minds and his success paved a way for mainstreaming the youth even more. In the past



decade not even a single year has passed when the young boys and girls, some from remote and backward areas have defied the conservative assessments and made it to the civil services at different ranks. A testimony of change brought in past few years bring forth that young intellectual sect of Kashmir has left the path of radicalization and choose civil services to prove their mettle in the government sector. A lot of schemes launched by the government have been highly productive for the people of valley, thereby giving a new lease of aspiration to the young and determined youth of Kashmir. ^[4]

DROP IN STONE-PELTING CASES

Post abrogation the overall situation in valley remained peaceful, without any major incident of violence. There was 87.13 per cent dip in incidents of stone-pelting in 2020, compared to 2019 in Jammu and Kashmir. In 2018 and 2017, 1,458, and 1,412 incidents of stone-pelting were reported. When compared to 2016, the dip in such incidents in 2020 was 90 per cent. In 2016, 2,653 stone-pelting cases were reported as the killing of Burhan Wani, a commander of the terrorist organization Hizbul mujahideen, had triggered violent protests across Kashmir. ^[5]

Youth of Kashmir have shown a strong determination in leaving protests as witnessed in the past three decade. The scars of past had



wasted the energy of youth basically due to the misguidance from the hardliners. However the heart-warming gestures from Centre and security forces paved way for youth to return to Kashmiriyat - which relies on peace, harmony, mutual understanding and a respect for the other faiths. The hearts have opened from either sides giving peace and mutual understanding a life time chance to evolve. The guidance that youth are now receiving from the security forces in particular has glittered the minds of youth in so many ways. There is no new resentment amongst them now, however misgovernance in certain areas, has been a cause of worry to the youngsters. Having a dynasty rule in Kashmir valley had angered the youth in distinct ways that resulted in amplifying the anti-national sentiments. Now that there is direct connection of youth with the centre, it thus reflect a ray of hope amongst the youth.

The Governor's rule in the state, has left no scope for anyone to further the gap between young minds from the mainstream. It has also ensured a transparent way of governance in the region as institutions serving to apprehend the conflict entrepreneurs have tightened their grips and people are happy with the zero tolerance attitude of government towards corruption in any public institution. An exemplary governance in the region will always be compared with the rest of the country, therefore leaving no space for antipathy that may at time arise of any misunderstanding between the Kashmiris and their saviors.

KUNAN-POSHPORA - A REMOTE VILLAGE THAT STITCHES NATIONAL FLAGS

Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing a drastic change in the attitude and mindset towards the mainstream nationalism. District Kupwara had once fallen into the grip of gun culture and the propaganda spread by the anti-state machinery. The women from the Kunan Poshpora in an example of patriotism prepared a large quantity of national flags of Jammu and Kashmir had received an order for sewing the tricolor (national flag) on a large scale for the army and government offices ahead of August 15.

The change took time to emerge and did not draw closer in a day, state and many NGOs had to work among the people for decades. After many years of service under many Govt/Army schemes, people's faith in the armed forces increased gradually, and many women-centric activities were initiated. This fits as a testimony of change in the perception of youth towards the main land India. Now the youth including girls have redrawn their priorities towards their duties that they owe to the nation. Though govt had also made lots of efforts for their empowerment, like under the Jan Shikshan Sansthan scheme of the Union Ministry, girls from Kunan Poshpora and other districts were taught various skills like tailoring and embroidery.

Jameela, who works as a trainer, at one of the skill



centers quoted that the center is being run with the help of the army. In the center, girls from Kunan - Babagund and its surrounding villages are trained for tailoring, cutting, and fashion designing. Jameela also added that the army is serving the country in uniform and we contribute to enhance the feeling of patriotism by sewing the tricolor. About 40 girls were being trained there. Along with training, the girls also prepare and design the dresses to earn their livelihood. Recently they had also received an order for masks which was accomplished successfully. Initially, very few girls visited the center. But when they felt that they would learn a new skill, their number increased. Now people want such centers to be started in almost all the villages so that women can become self-reliant. In the way an ice breaking period had passed, and sense of forbidden activity (taboo) was broken as had been spread by the inimical elements through last three decades. The project helped the women to earn their livelihoods at the time of COVID crisis, when their families required it the most. The intent of army to empower women was warmly welcomed by the elders of the village and the adjoining areas. Earning had an impression of self-reliance on the women section young girls employing their skill and arts to design the dresses, sew flags, and set a testimony for the rest of the girls. The smiles on their faces spoke their own language of inspiration, confidence, and self-belief to stand for their rights and benefits provided by the government for their empowerment. Whole women section should take a lesson from the women of Kunan Poshpora, who left the disconcertion and joined the work force to stand with their security forces.

NREGA A SCHEME THAT CHANGED THE FATE OF YOUTH

The youth of the valley earlier having meager employment opportunities have now shown their interest in government led schemes significantly. One better opportunity available to every youth and

the people of other ages is NREGA, which can be flagged as master of all schemes. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) has led to a marked improvement in the rural economy in certain areas of Kashmir. The study, conducted by the Centre for Research on Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID) for the Planning Commission, points out that the scheme, if properly implemented, has the potential to bring down unemployment. The team led by CRRID director PP Balan studied the impact of the scheme in Kupwara, Poonch, Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban and submitted its report. The team advised that, if a few additional schemes are launched to engage the youth at village levels, there will be a drastic change which will change the face of the valley forever.

At Dhar, a remote village in Poonch district, almost the entire population comprises Muslim Gujjars dependent on livestock for livelihood. During lean seasons they come down to Jammu, Punjab and Haryana. However, following the implementation of NREGS, most of the male population of the village has been involved in the local development works. People are of the view that in the border areas, especially in Mandi block, the spirit of terrorism has heavily come down after the implementation of this programme, and the job-seekers are showing interest in NREGS.^[6]

As the NREGS has not been able to involve women in Kashmir as has been elsewhere, it is proposed that the scheme can be tailor-made to suit the cultural conditions of the state, which is a primary requirement to soften the scheme. NREGS can be extended to traditional crafts which women do



sitting in their houses, adds Balan. Highlighting that due to the terrain those employed under NREGS find it difficult to access their bank accounts, the CRRID director says villagers suggested that banks should open one extension counter for two-three villages. But the problems met at remote villages are not same, yet if the government takes stock of the complaints, several good measures can turn on the button of speeding up the scheme, also providing the people with its proper benefits. Notedly, the good governance is foremost issue that was tackled at centre by incorporation of Governor's rule, however more is needed to be done to ensure complete sweep of the propagandists from the valley.

CONCLUSION

It has become clear that, paradoxically, initiatives need to be firmly embedded in government structures and funding allocations and remain flexible to respond to events. Not only do initiatives need to be rooted in a whole - counseling approach that is consistent across different areas of coordination between civil society and the security managing authorizes. History has indicated that relative stability and peace is usually short-lived and temporary in the Kashmir valley. The government policies should be relooked that will prevent the increase in resentment among Kashmiris and encourage join hands in countering terrorism. Minor incidents can trigger mass protests despite the risk of a heavy crackdown by security forces, as the Pakistan factor prevails. Pakistan can never free the Kashmir from terrorism as the development in the valley means the fading of its relevance in the region, hence to keep themselves relevant to the situation terrorism would probably be continued with their sponsored efforts. Kashmiris are now

unlikely to continue prioritizing their political ambitions over socio-economic incentives and promises of good governance, as new developments and job creations has maintained an environment of trust and faith from both sides. Peace building, education, and social cohesion campaigns are to be regarded as goodwill gestures. Social media warfare from Pakistan is also likely to continue as terrorist groups leverage these platforms to spread their propaganda and exploit local grievances, however timely efforts need to be put in place to check the scale of propaganda. Though the youth have chosen mainstream over the radicalization but more efforts to prevent radicalization would offer more peaceful environment and understanding from the both ends.

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