



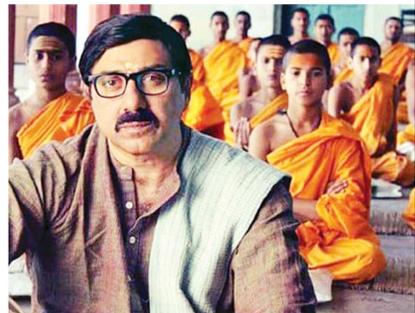
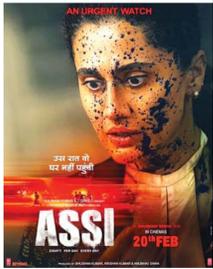
Celebrating The People Who Power Workplaces

ational Employee Appreciation Day is a reminder that behind every successful organisation are employees whose dedication, ideas and resilience keep the wheels turning. Observed to recognise their contributions, the day highlights the importance of gratitude, respect and acknowledgment in the workplace. Whether it is a simple thank-you note, flexible work hours or public recognition, small gestures can go a long way in boosting morale and motivation. In an era where burnout is real and retention is critical, appreciating employees is not just kind, it is smart leadership.

#FILM REVIEW

'Assi'

Despite being dehumanized by the system, the character listens to inner moral voice. Not out of revenge, but out of responsibility towards humanity



Abhishek Goswami

atched ASSI today... and felt compelled to write.

This is not a loud film. It does not rely on spectacle. Yet, it unsettles you deeply. It is not merely about injustice, it shows how systems slowly dehumanize people through procedures, normalization, and a culture of silence.

There is no single villain here. The antagonist is the system. And even more than that, our collective complicity.

The film carefully reveals how silence becomes participation. The character does not begin as a revolutionary. There is hesitation, fear, adjustment. The system attempts to erode dignity gradually, almost politely.

And then comes a moment... when silence cracks. That becomes the film's most powerful turning point.

ASSI shows us how long and difficult the journey towards real social justice truly is. It is not concerned with poetic justice or heroic revenge that temporarily satisfies audiences. It refuses to offer the comfort of easy vic-

ories. Instead, it leaves us with necessary discomfort. Despite being dehumanized by the system, the character listens to inner moral voice. Not out of revenge, but out of responsibility towards humanity. That shift makes the film deeply moving.

Perhaps that is why, while we are alive, it becomes essential to think. To speak. To stand.

It proves once again that a good story, strong screenplay, and precise dialogue help actors construct the inner journey of their characters. When performers stay truthful to the lines, the situation, and the chain of actions and reactions, nothing needs to be demonstrated explicitly. The performance grows from within.

In this film, every actor travels that inner journey with remarkable subtlety, maintaining a fine balance between rational clarity and emotional depth. Kudos to Anubhav Sinha and Gaurav Solanki for creating cinema that does not comfort, but awakens responsibility.

ASSI does not offer relief. It offers conscience. And perhaps, that is the most necessary form of cinema today.



The cricket pundits have been insisting on giving domestic cricket utmost importance and the J&K victory is a very special occasion for domestic cricket, as neither in the valley nor in plains of Jammu, good cricketing facilities are available. Yet, the valley has been able to produce players such as Yawer Hassan, Abdul Samad, Qamran Iqbal, Abid Mushtaq, and of course, the Kohinoor of Kashmir Auqib Nabi Dar should be credited for their great show, having learned their cricket from scratch in a valley where cricketing infrastructure is lacking.

J&K Did It!!!!!!

#RANJI TROPHY



Prakash Bhandari
The writer is a senior journalist

domestic cricket.

The biggest moment for them came in 2015-16 when the Parvez Rasool led team stunned Mumbai by defeating them at their home ground of Wankhede Stadium in the preliminary round. Then, the team was coached by Sunil Joshi who was rebuilding a weak side with his master's strategies.

The J&K association has suffered heavily because of internal politics. Cricket politics in Jammu and Kashmir divided the cricket administration into two, one faction controlled by the valley districts, while the Jammu section controlled the various districts in the plains. There was a time when the BCCI had to appoint an administrator and sent Irfan Pathan as mentor-cum player in 2018 and it was he who won the confidence of the local lads to build the J&K team once again.

In the 2024-25 season, J&K reached the knockouts before being pipped by Kerala on the basis of a one-run first-innings lead in the drawn quarterfinal encounter.

J&K wins Ranji Trophy

This season, J&K had five outright wins, all against former champions: Rajasthan, Delhi, Hyderabad, Madhya Pradesh, and Bengal. The only setback came against Mumbai. The side's performance over the past two seasons isn't a fluke. It is the outcome of vision, effort, and faith that a team once defined by mere 'participation' could rise not just to compete, but to dominate.

The J&K got an opportunity to host three one-day internationals at Sher-I-Kashmir Stadium and one at the Maulana Azad Stadium in Jammu. These matches were allotted to the J&K because of the interest taken by the former Chief



Minister Sheikh Abdullah. But in 1983, when India played a match at Srinagar in 1983 immediately after India won the World Cup under Kapil Dev, unfortunate incidents took place during the match when the Pakistan backed terrorists chanted anti-India slogan, dug up the pitch during the break and attacked Kapil Dev's team members with stones and bottles. The match became one of the darkest days in the history of India cricket. Slogans of Pakistan Zindabad and posters of Pakistan skipper Imran Khan popped up the stands. Both Indian skipper Kapil Dev and the West Indies skipper Clive Lloyd, and the team members of both teams were given a hard time by the crowd and the security agencies had a lot of problems in providing the teams security cover. After that, the BCCI, having learned a lesson, never allotted an international match in Kashmir.

The cricket pundits have been insisting on giving domestic cricket

utmost importance and the J&K victory is a very special occasion for domestic cricket, as neither in the valley nor in plains of Jammu, good cricketing facilities are available. Yet, the valley has been able to produce players such as Yawer Hassan,

Abdul Samad, Qamran Iqbal, Abid Mushtaq, and of course, the Kohinoor of Kashmir Auqib Nabi Dar should be credited for their great show, having learned their cricket from scratch in a valley where cricketing infrastructure is lacking.

What is credible is the way coach Ajay Sharma, who is from Delhi, built the team. Sharma's career got a hit when he was named in the match fixing affairs that marred not only Indian, but also international cricket. Sharma was not accepted as a coach. Yet, Sharma never gave hope and was supported by the association and a hard-task master, he carried on with the job.

By the boys, he worked very hard to build the confidence of his players and developed faith. The J&K team is led by paras Dogra, who is from Himachal and plays as a professional with the J&K. He led the team admirably and played a key role in the team's Ranji final victory with good scores with his bat. It was remarkable, how a 41-year-old from Himachal Pradesh built a team with the support of his coach Sharma. The J&K team in the past was a divide between Jammu and the valley players. But both Sharma and Dogra could knit a strong team instilling faith. The biggest success of the J&K team was Auqib Nabi, who has been contracted to play the IPL for Rs 8.40 crores. Nabi, with a 60 wickets haul this season, has staked his claim for the Indian team, and even former Indian skipper Sourav Ganguli, Sachin Tendulkar

and many others have praised Auqib for his splendid play in the domestic cricket.

From the plains, Shubham Pundir, Kanhaiya Wadhawan, Sahil Lotra were the star performers for J&K. But all these players need much more match experience.

A medium pacer like Auqib will be watched with much interest in the forthcoming IPL.

Auqib Nabi, fast bowler Umran Malik, batter Abdul Samad and Yudhvir Singh Charak have been contracted to play in the IPL. The J&K cricket has come of age and it has been proved that domestic cricket would still be the cradle or the nursery of the Indian cricket. Domestic cricket has produced Auqib, Vaibhav Suryavanshi and many more. I only hope that the various state associations and the BCCI would give their utmost attention to domestic cricket.

One word of praise for the J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who flew to Hubbali, the venue of the Ranji Trophy final, to cheer his team along with the officials of the J&K, and when the team won the final, he announced an award of Rs. 2 crore for the team and the support staff. Interestingly, two of the support staff, P Krishna Kumar and Dishaant Yagnik, are from my home state, Rajasthan. Now, I only hope Omar Abdullah Saheb allots funds to build cricket infrastructure both in the valley and in Kashmir

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#MARCEL MARCEAU

The Mime Artist Who Spoke Through Silence in a World at War

While helping Jewish children escape from Nazi-occupied areas, he used mime to calm them and keep them quiet during dangerous journeys

In the darkest years of the 20th century, when Europe was engulfed in the devastation of the Second World War, one artist chose silence, not as surrender but as resistance. That artist was Marcel Marceau, the world's most famous mime, whose quiet performances carried extraordinary power.

A Childhood Interrupted by War

Marcel Marceau was born in Strasbourg, France, in 1923. When World War II broke out and France fell under Nazi occupation, his life changed forever. Being Jewish in occupied France meant living under constant threat.

Marceau joined the French Resistance, using his talents in unexpected ways. During this period, silence became more than an artistic choice, it became a matter of survival.

The Silence of War

Mime is an art form built on unexpected ways. During this period, silence became more than an artistic choice, it became a matter of survival. It communicates through gesture, facial expression, and movement rather than spoken words. For Marceau, this silent art became especially meaningful during wartime.

While helping Jewish children escape from Nazi-occupied areas, he used mime to calm them and keep them quiet during dangerous journeys. Silence was essential. A single sound could reveal their location.

Through gentle gestures and imaginary stories told without words, Marceau helped frightened children feel safe. He made them smile, even when fear surrounded them. In those moments, art became protection.

Guiding Children to Safety

Marceau assisted in guiding groups of Jewish children across borders to safety in Switzerland. His calm presence



Art as Protection

Marceau's wartime experiences shaped his belief that art is not merely entertainment, it is human connection, courage, and even survival. In a world filled with shouting, explosions, and propaganda, silence became a form of resistance.

After the war he created his famous stage character 'Bip the Clown', recognizable by his striped shirt and battered top hat with a red flower. Through Bip, Marceau expressed universal human struggles: loneliness, joy, hardship, resilience.

Though he rarely spoke on stage, audiences around the world understood him perfectly.

A Mime Artist with a Purpose

Marceau once said that silence allows people to imagine and feel more deeply. His purpose was never just to perform; it was to communicate beyond language, nationality, or politics.

Having witnessed the horrors of war, he knew that words could divide, but movement and expression could unite. His art crossed borders because it required no translation.

He toured internationally for decades, becoming a global symbol of peace and artistic expression.

His Silence Still Speaks

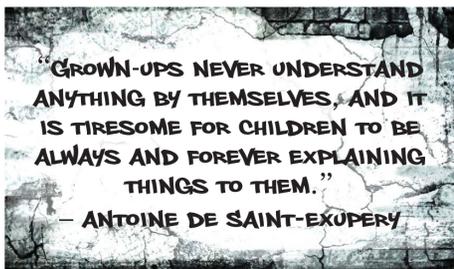
Marcel Marceau passed away in 2007, but his legacy remains powerful. He proved that silence is not emptiness, it is space for empathy, understanding, and courage.

During a time when the world was filled with violence and fear, he chose to communicate through gentleness and imagination. He used mime not only to entertain but to protect, guide, and inspire.

In the quiet movement of his hands and the expression in his eyes, entire stories unfolded. And in the silence of war, his art spoke the loudest of all.



THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

