

Cultural Cleansing by Terrorists in Kashmir

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KZINE.IN

KZINE

OPENING KASHMIR'S EYES

Pakistan
Makes
COMATOSE
GEELANI
SPEAK,
He Doesn't
Matter
Anyway

Sartaj
Madni ran
recruitment
MAFIA FOR
JK BANK

TURKEY:
TRT
World's
BLIND
BLUSTER

Our
SILENCE
Is Killing Us

**TERRORISTS SLAUGHTER
KASHMIRIS LIKE ANIMALS**

Mera sar jhukta gaya aur vo vo khuda hota gaya **Break The Toxic Capitulation To Evil**



It is hard to speak the truth. It comes with consequences. Friends, foes, the system – nobody wants to rock the apple cart. Hence compromises. Sometimes at the cost of our personal value system, and also at the cost of the long-term good of our own people and society. You speak the truth, and everybody seems to be out to pillory you. But can you afford to remain mute at all times? When falsehood drives the polity and the society, you have to be courageous to stand up for what is good and just.

I sometimes find myself alien among my own people. They sense what is wrong, but nobody wants to acknowledge it. Many fear the consequences, and with reason. Others have their hands coloured in blood. They make money on the dirty games played here.

What are the consequences of living in fear? This realization has not dawned yet. A laughing and blooming society known for its pluralistic and tolerant ethos has been criminalized. Evils are erupting. The society has an ugly face now. Murderers are masquerading as human rights defenders. The bizarre has been normalized.



And yet, hope springs eternal in the human breast. All we need is the will, and some courage to come out of this morass. Listening to a beautiful song recently, I was struck by the words. *Mera sar jhukta gaya aur vo vo khuda hota gaya*. This is what we have come to. Total capitulation to evil.

We need to cut through the lies and stare the evil in eye. The history of human civilization tells us that the good always wins. So we shall, Inshallah.

Bashir Assad



Our SILENCE Is Killing US

The Terrorists Slaughter Kashmiris Like Animals

WE BLEED TO DEATH IN SILENCE

10

Talibanisation Is A Grave Threat To Our Civilizational Ethos

4

22 TRT World's Blind Bluster



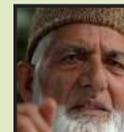
CULTURAL CLEANSING BY TERRORISTS IN

Efforts to Make Kashmir A Radical Islamist Hotbed

26



20 PAKISTAN Makes Comatose Geelani Speak, He Doesn't Matter Anyway



16

Sartaj Madni ran recruitment mafia for JK Bank He goes scot free in probe



THE WAKE-UP CALL 32



TRIPLE WHAMMY! 36



razor sharp analysis

INCISIVE REPORTING

INVESTIGATE THE TERROR ECOSYSTEM

EXPOSE DECEPTION

RESTORE ORDER

MAKE A SPLASH

INCULCATE DEMOCRATIC SPIRIT

KZINE

OPENING KASHMIR'S EYES

The Writing On The Wall!

Religious Fundamentalism Has Taken Root in Kashmir

This **Talibanization** Is A Grave Threat To Our Civilizational Ethos



Collectively, as a society, we need to realize for our own good that we Kashmiris need to stop playing into the devious hands of Pakistan's deep state. Otherwise only further doom, death and destruction await us

by Jan NISSIM

The frequent killings of Kashmiri civilians irrespective of religion continue to devastate the Valley. Policemen are being targeted in cold blood. Even their families are not being spared. Our people in general and our youth in particular need to realize big time that the poisonous wave of religious radicalization which has swept through our valley will only lead us towards more self-destruction and complete annihilation.

Collectively, as a society, we need to realize for our own good that we Kashmiris need to stop playing into the devious hands of Pakistan's deep state. Otherwise only further doom, death and destruction await us.

Extremist religious ideologies lead to savagery under which human lives lose their precious value. Our youth cannot continue to become the fodder for it. This continued blindness is going to achieve nothing good except further devastation of Kashmiri life and society.

STOP THE DRIFT TOWARDS EXTREMIST INTERPRETATIONS OF ISLAM

The surge in the radical sentiments among the Kashmiri youth with their drift towards the more extremist interpretations of Islam like Wahabism or Salafism has only brought us death and destruction in all spheres. If anything, this path of radical jihad has diluted the political and democratic essence of our state. We are far from political emancipation because we have allowed ourselves to become proxies of Pakistan's deep state. By choosing religious extremism, we have chosen the path of doom, death and destruction.

There is something else we need to ponder upon critically. When some of state's policies provide ground to violent practices, there occurs a counter-reaction. At times, this takes things to the other extreme. The state has to necessarily correct many of its policies and has to adopt a more humane approach in ameliorating the people's suffering. There is no doubt about that.

ASK QUESTIONS PEACEFULLY, DEMOCRATICALLY

THERE IS AN URGENCY TO RETRIEVE THE KASHMIRI IDENTITY FROM FALLING INTO THE ABYSS OF RELIGIOUS TYRANNY SPONSORED BY THE PAKISTANI DEEP STATE



Our children look upon us with trust that we shall secure their future in an affirmative, democratic space

Right thinking people should continuously ask questions in a peaceful and democratic manner. People in Kashmir and also in the rest of India are continuously doing it. But for a moment, let's pause and reflect by looking inwards to see what we Kashmiris have done to ourselves. Ultimately, it is we who are at loss – and a terrible loss at that. It is not bad to question oneself honestly when everything has gone wrong.

For many people, including those in the political and security establishment, the recent fundamentalist stir especially post Burhan Wani in the val-



ley has been an unexpected development. We Kashmiris are aware of the underlying reality. We are aware that over the last many years, fertile ground has been prepared in the Kashmiri society for these extremist ideologies to take root.

We know that during the decade preceding Burhan Wani and the new breed of militants, there had been a steady decline in militancy in the Valley. But during those years when militancy was down, did we notice

that Kashmiri society was being deeply radicalized? Did we acknowledge this truth?

During these years when militancy was down, why were our youth being taken towards extremist interpretations of Islam like Wahabism, Salafism, and Deobandism? Who was leading them there? Who was indoctrinating their vulnerable minds? Did we question it? Did we challenge this downslide of our society?

Our babies have to be safe in our hands. We have to raise them in the Kashmir where they can pursue their dreams and aspirations

OUR YOUTH ARE BEING TAUGHT TO HATE PLURALISM, TOLERANCE, DEMOCRACY, AND SECULARISM

For centuries, the majority of Muslims in the valley followed a syncretic philosophy of Islam which laid down emphasis on the universal values of pluralism and tolerance. But today, our youth are taught to hate pluralism, tolerance, democracy, and secularism which have been hallmarks of Kashmiriyat. Instead, they are taught Shariat yaa Shahadat! Who is doing this to us? Why are we suffering this civilizational decline?

Our youth are being indoctrinated to develop hatred towards Hindus. We blame Kashmiri Pandits for everything. Even their suffering is denied.

Unfortunately, through these years, the Kashmiri social paradigm has undergone radical change. Religious fundamentalism has taken root in the Valley. Our children are being raised amidst these radical ideologies which promote intra-religious and intra-sectarian hatred. There has been a proliferation of extremist groups and ideologies like Wahabis, Salafis and Deobandis in Kashmir valley.

In the last two decades, there has also been a manifold increase in the Darasgahs (seminaries), Mosques and the human resource that these groups control.

During that period, extremist preachers freely held congregations and distributed literature. We stood by and watched quietly and in fear as these extremist preachers radicalized our society on the 'Taliban' lines.

Hate preachers and their various organizations indulged in systematic indoctrination of youth using easily available religious platforms like congregations, gatherings, Friday sermons, literature, and even social media.

DISASSOCIATE FROM RELIGIOUS FANATICISM

There is, of course, a need for organizing a genuinely peaceful, democratic and political struggle in Jammu and Kashmir to meet people's aspirations. It has to be dissociated from religious fanaticism. It is a known fact that whenever fascist forces emerge in any society, like they arose in Kashmir, dissent, pluralism and tolerance are its first casualties. It should matter more to us in Kashmir as we are the ones who are on the path of dissent as we struggle for our democratic rights. Having been bred and brought up under the constant shadows of gun, one will inevitably be perplexed at what peace and democracy means under such circumstances. Existing in the shadows of the gun, people in Kashmir have undoubtedly lost faith in such ideas. But if at all we are talking about any solution, its path only lies through a democratic way in the form of people's will.

Religious fascism is its stark antithesis. For a consensus on the fulfillment of legitimate Kashmiri aspirations, religious extremism has to be defeated. The people of India also need to be reminded about this essential concept.



We have to protect our Kashmir which blooms and blossoms

OUR CHILDREN ARE BEING RAISED AMIDST RADICAL IDEOLOGIES WHICH PROMOTE INTRA-RELIGIOUS AND INTRA-SECTARIAN HATRED

ABYSS OF RELIGIOUS TYRANNY SPONSORED BY PAKISTANI DEEP STATE

There is an urgency to retrieve the Kashmiri identity from falling into the abyss of religious tyr-

anny sponsored by the Pakistani deep state. And if this is not tyranny, then what is? These bloody times in Kashmir demand that all people to go back to the methods of constitutionalism. This involves building solidarity, support and strength for the truly secular and progressive forces which are

the real bulwark against the fascist forces. The other like minded political forces who believe in the constitutionalism and the essential secular, plural and tolerant values of republicanism, must also come together to help.

The idea of a modern secular society is not alien to Kashmiri civilizational ethos. It is something that is completely native and inherent in the idea of Kashmiriyat which is based on the universal ethos of secularism and pluralism. This is something that has been taught to us by the teachings of all the poets and saints of the past beginning from such figures as Lalla Ded and Sheikul Alam or Nund Rishi.

KASHMIRIYAT IS OUR IDENTITY, ALSO THE WAY AHEAD

Kashmiriyat or the syncretic confluence of diverse faiths and cultures is the essential identity of Kashmir. This pluralist ethos has historically defined the idea of Kashmir and Kashmiriyat. And this is precisely the discourse that needs to be put back into the Kashmiri social mainstream. But unfortunately, we have had to pay a heavy price because of the conflict and rise of religious extremism. Both politically and socially, our rights and plural fabric have taken a terrible beating. Any emancipatory solution to the genuine aspirations of all the people of the state lies within the framework and spirit of democracy and secularism. It is vital that both in Kashmir and the rest of India, such humane concepts and ideals continue to survive.

(The writer is an alumnus of Kashmir University)



Our **SILENCE** Is Killing US

The Terrorists Slaughter
Kashmiris Like Animals

**WE BLEED TO
DEATH
IN SILENCE**

by Bashir ASSAD

The killing spree in Kashmir by the terrorists continues. Innocent, unarmed people are being targeted every now and then. Even women are not spared. In Hari Parigam village of Tral, on June 27 terrorists barged into the house of Fayaz Ahmad Bhat, working as a Special Police Officer (SPO) with J&K Police. They showered bullets indiscriminately on Fayaz and his family. Fayaz and his wife were killed on the spot. His 25-year-old daughter succumbed in a Srinagar hospital on June 28.

The terrorists were so barbaric that they kicked aside Fayaz's 18-month-old grand-daughter before raining bullets upon him and his wife. This was the fourth terror attack in less than a week.

Why are the terrorists killing innocent civilians? The strategy is to create fear and panic in the society. What pleases the terrorists is the fear they create, and the resultant silence of the society at large. The brutality and the impunity with which the terrorists indulge in such heinous and cowardly acts have resulted in the moral numbness of the Kashmiri society. There are no condemnations, no protests, no agitations, no strikes, no elaborate funerals, no mourning, no chest beating. There are no cries on Facebook and other social media platforms. No pictures of victims of terrorism lying in pools of blood are uploaded. There are no shares and no likes.

This is the fear of the terrorism which looms large. The fear is pervasive and visible. There are only whispers – of the relatives of the deceased, of the community, of passers-by. Hearts are heavy but you cannot exhale. Eyes are numb but you cannot cry. The mind swarms with questions but the lips remain sealed because of the fear of terrorists.

Instead, many among us exercise our democratic freedom to abuse, accuse and blame the state. Many use their democratic freedom not only to protest but also to instigate and provoke. People love to be critical of the state, its apparatus, its law and enforcing agencies. The reason is clear: because of its limitations and responsibilities, the state cannot be feared.

THE SILENCE HELPS THE TERRORISTS



THE BRUTALITY AND IMPUNITY OF TERRORISTS HAS MADE KASHMIRIS MORALLY NUMB. THERE ARE NO CONDEMNATIONS, AGITATIONS OR CRIES ON SOCIAL MEDIA. NO PICTURES OF VICTIMS OF TERRORISM LYING IN POOLS OF BLOOD ARE UPLOADED

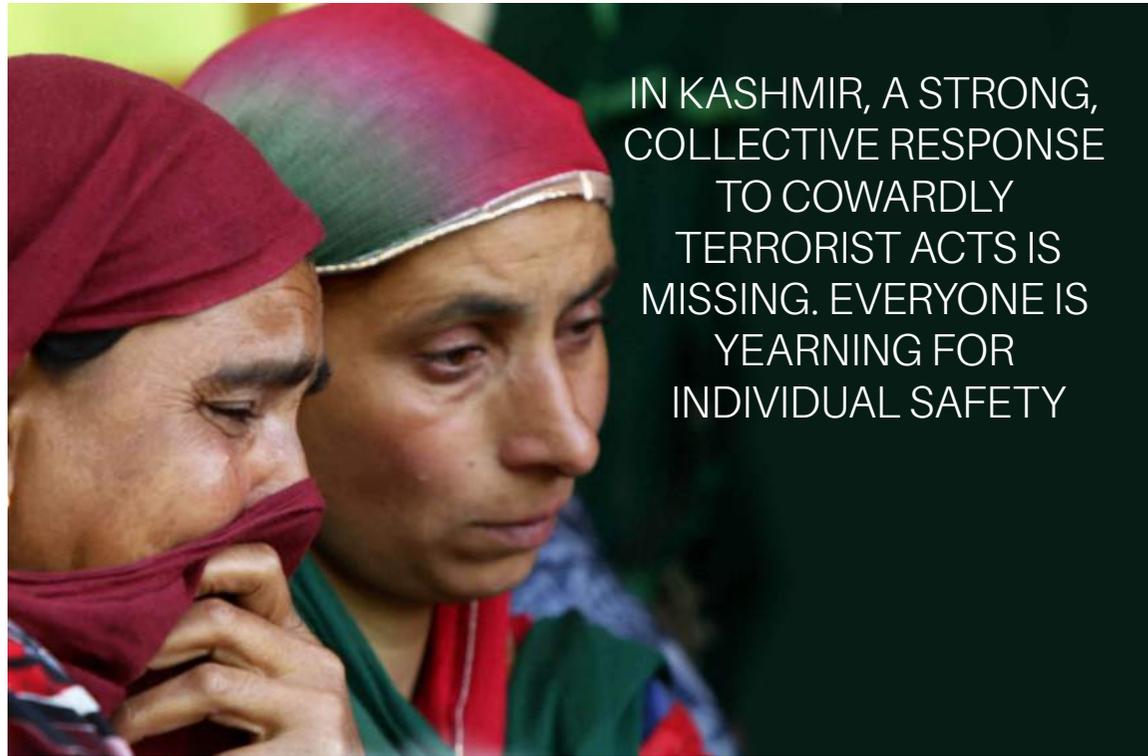
The fear is only from the non-state actors because there is no first information report, no hearing in the court of law, no argument to prove your innocence, no right to defend yourself. They come, hit you and run.

The silence is a win win for terrorists and terror apologists. It counts as your approval and the license to kill you. Fear is the toxin injected into us. Silence is read as our approval. That means that the next door neighbor, the close relative, the friends, the family – all approve of the killings by a terrorists.

The silence is also intentional and deliberate. It

implies that we are collaborators in the killings of the innocents. We are not even ready to identify the killer. Over the last three decades, terror apologists have perfected the use of the phrase, “unidentified gunmen”.

A father or a mother before whose eyes their son is killed repeats the same numbly. “Unidentified gunmen” killed their son. We are ready to identify a uniformed man among hundreds of his mates and colleagues for “manhandling, beating up, thrashing”. But we are not willing to identify the terrorist who breaks the windowpane, enters your house



IN KASHMIR, A STRONG, COLLECTIVE RESPONSE TO COWARDLY TERRORIST ACTS IS MISSING. EVERYONE IS YEARNING FOR INDIVIDUAL SAFETY



and showers bullets.

After the killing of Fayaz Ahmad, a senior police officer said to his neighbours, “Souls when soaked in guilt are the heaviest, and not voicing against brutality is a guilt many of us bear. Let’s stand together for whom we care”. This statement is highly telling of the silence of the Kashmiris even against brutal attacks by terrorists.

We notice the suspicious movement of some Over Ground Workers (OGWs) during the day. We identify them but we cannot name them. This is the fear that the terrorists exercise. Our silence is seen as sanction for the heinous crimes. This is exactly what terrorism and terrorists stand for. It is the universal strategy of the terrorists to create fear among the people who they claim to be fighting for.

FEAR IS TERRORIST GAMEPLAN

This reminds me of an interesting anecdote revealed by a senior intelligence officer. The officer narrates that during his posting in Afghanistan some years ago, he was taken to a place outside Kabul. The son-in-law of the chief of Haqqani Network had been captured and detained by the

Afghan forces. Here goes his account.

“The Indian Ambassador to Kabul was accompanying me. We were taken to the room where the son-in-law of Siraj-ud-din Haqqani had been detained. He was the third most powerful terrorist in the Haqqani Network. Through an interpreter I asked him, Why do you kill people indiscriminately in schools and mosques? What’s the purpose served?

He looked at me and said, The question is genuine. It deserves a truthful response. Terrorists know that they have nothing to offer to people who they claim to be fighting for. They don’t have any roadmap. By killing people indiscriminately, we create fear and disorder in the society. The message is that the state cannot protect its citizens. We create disorder to build the narrative that we only can protect you”.

THIS IS OLD TERRORISM STRATEGY

In Bollywood blockbuster Sholay, the villain Gabbar Singh kills a boy and sends him back to the village Ramgarh, his body dumped on the back of a horse. He leaves a letter in the boy’s pocket.

It reads, “Ramgad ke wassiyo, Gabar ke kehar se tumhe ek he aadmi bacha sakhta hai, aur wo hai khud Gabbar”. This is the universalized strategy of the terrorists.

No Social Pushback – Terrorists Gain

The success rate of this strategy varies from society to society and from region to region. In societies which are fearful and don’t respond, the strategy works for long. Communities and societies which repel these forces and don’t accept their diktat for long are able to oust terrorism.

In Punjab, it was the people who decided they had had enough. A Punjabi friend once explained to me the reason why Punjabis were able to uproot terrorism from their land. “Punjabis love the good life. They love to laugh and party. They love their lavish weddings and grand functions. Within a few years, they realized that terrorism had robbed them of all joy of life. It had replaced the joy with fear. From then on, the days of terrorism were numbered,” he told me.

Kashmiris like me whose youth was spent in a happy, laughing Valley know that this was our life too. We too loved the good life, laughing and blossoming in our Kashmir.

All that has changed. We Kashmiris have been

bearing the brunt of terrorism for more than 30 years. Thousands have been killed by terrorists in broad daylight, Properties have been destroyed.

But Kashmiris don’t speak up. They don’t protest terrorism. Apart from the fear of the terrorists, Kashmir’s terrorism has been regionalized. The so-called opinion leaders, the conflict entrepreneurs in media, politics, business and education quickly attribute cowardly terrorist acts to “unresolved conflict”. They justify the miseries and agonies inflicted on the people by the terrorists. They condone what should not have been condoned. And justify what should have been condemned. This is the sag of the terrorism of Kashmir. A strong, collective response to cowardly terrorist acts is missing. Everyone is yearning for individual safety.

We forget Martin Niemoller’s famous words. “First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out-because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out- because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out-because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me- and there was no one left to speak for me.”

SARTAJ MADNI ran recruitment mafia for JK Bank



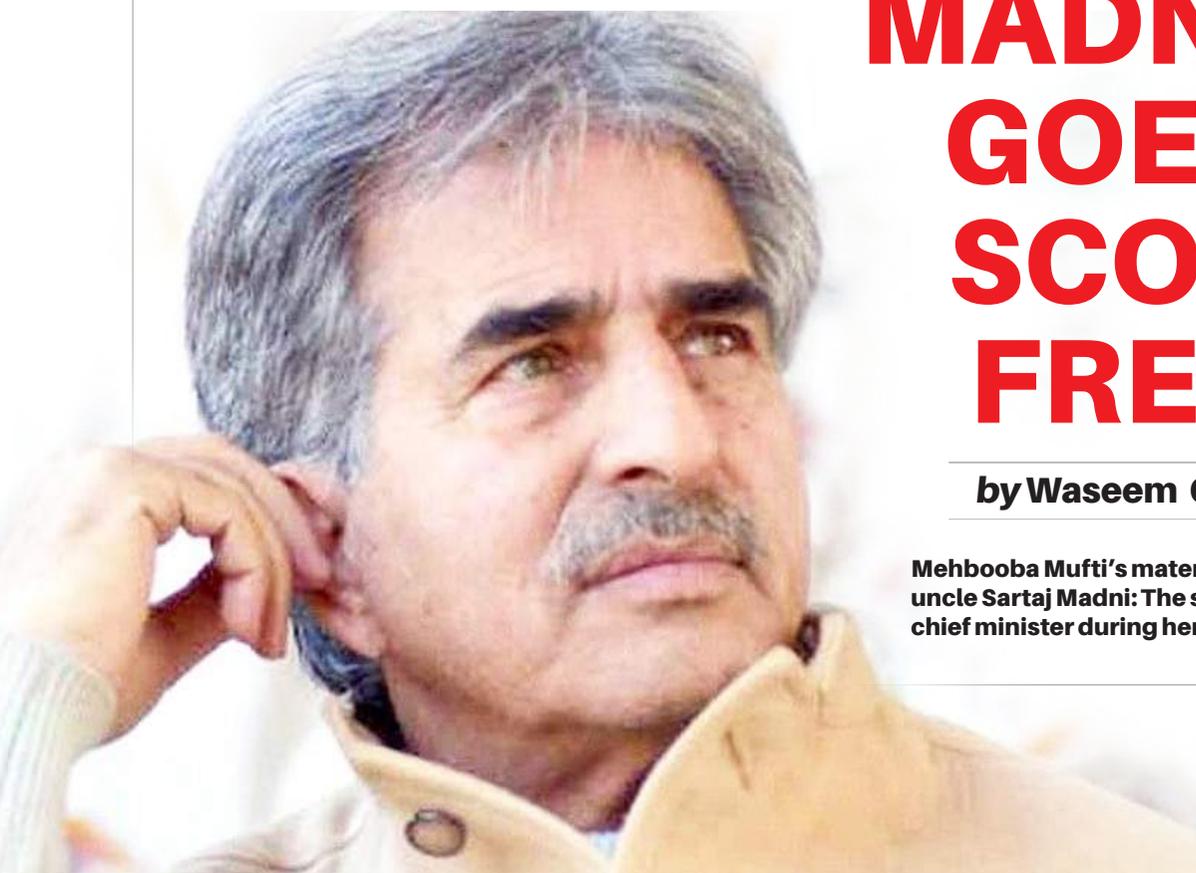
More than 3,000 Illegal Appointments

Two Former Chairmen and 17 Officers Charge-Sheeted,

MADNI GOES SCOT FREE

by Waseem GUL

Mehbooba Mufti's maternal
uncle Sartaj Madni: The shadow
chief minister during her tenure



Jammu and Kashmir's Anti Corruption Bureau has charge-sheeted two former Chairmen of JK Bank, Shaikh Mushtaq and Parvaiz Nengroo, and 17 other officers of the bank for the recruitment scam. The man who moved the strings of this entire puppet show has been allowed to go scot free.

Everybody in the power corridors of Kashmir knows who moved the strings of the scam. Mehbooba's maternal uncle Sartaj Madni, who played shadow chief minister during her two-year tenure in the CM chair.

Mehbooba became chief minister of the erstwhile state of J&K in April 2016. Her chief ministership abruptly ended in June 2018. During this time, Commissioner Secretaries of all departments would visit Madni's residence in the morning, seek his blessings and then go to their respective offices.

Madni presided over the cor-



PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti

rupt government of Mehbooba Mufti. Those whom Mufti and Madni wanted to favour were handed over appointment letters into Jammu and Kashmir's most eminent institutions.

So it was that backdoor appointments happened in JK Bank. In small batches over two years, hordes of freeloaders were given appointment letters, making them staffers of JK Bank. The modus operandi was this. Recommendation letters from Madni reached the Chairman of JK Bank. The Chairman passed orders to his staff to do the needful.

FORMER GOVERNOR MR SATYAPAL MALIK TOOK NOTE OF THE COMPLAINTS

Interestingly, the scam was exposed after former J&K Governor Mr Satyapal Malik acted upon the complaints received by him regarding fraudulent appointments at the bank. Mr Malik handed over the complaints to the Anti-Corruption Bureau to investigate the case. ACB found that 582 men and women recommended by Sartaj Madni had been fraudulently appointed at the bank. Sources reveal that the actual number of such illegal appointments is over 3,000. Similar appointments took place in other institutions of Jammu and Kashmir, and are being investigated.

The inquiry revealed that during the PDP-BJP led government in the state, relatives of politicians or those carrying a strong recommendation letter were given jobs at JK Bank. Madni, the main culprit who ran the recruitment mafia, has escaped without mention. Officers associated with the

case reveal that there is enough evidence to nail him.

During the course of investigation, raid was carried out by the ACB officials at J&K Bank's corporate headquarters. Incriminating documents were seized from the HR Department and the Recruitment Department.

RECRUITMENTS DESPITE HEAVY LOSSES

The appointments were done on the basis of the money paid for the post, or closeness to the PDP-BJP leaders. Most appointees were from the south Kashmir. Sources reveal that those candidates who did not enjoy

Sartaj Madni played shadow chief minister for niece Mehbooba. He moved the strings of this entire puppet show. Those associated with the probe say there is enough evidence to nail him

close connection to powerful politicians had to pay Rs 3 lakh to Rs 5 lakh for the appointment.

No procedures were followed for the recruitment. Documental verification was not done. Previous crime records were not checked. The result – eight stone pelters were given plush jobs at JK Bank. The deserving candidates were rejected for trivial reasons.

The recruitment was done when the bank was suffering the loss of about 200 crores approximately. At this time, the bank could have focused on reducing its liabilities and bring down the losses. Even during this critical period, the top brass

of JK Bank was busy making money or earning political brownies for the appointments.

"MEHBOOBA BAJI EMPLOYED MY UNEDUCATED WIFE IN JK BANK!"

However one may try to hide, skeletons tumble out of the cupboard. Recently, visitors to DC Office, Anantnag were left laughing on witnessing the fight between two Kashmiris. One Kashmiri had said something offensive against PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti. The second Kashmiri was Mohd Muteen Wagay, a youth PDP leader from Nai Basti, Anant-

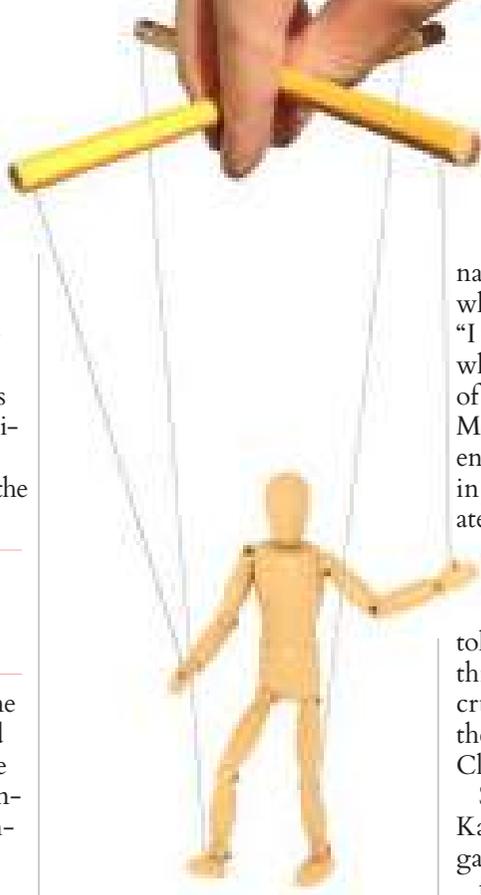
nag. He shouted at the man who had spoken against Mufti: "I will put an end to the person, whosoever, who shows any kind of disrespect to Baji (Mehbooba Mufti). She is my leader. She engaged my uneducated wife in JK Bank. How can I tolerate any insult to her?" Muteen shouted.

The manager of a branch of JK Bank at Anantnag told KZINE that in his branch, three persons had been recruited who could not even read the alphabets on a document. Clearly, Muteen was right.

Such favouritism is costing Kashmir dear. A youth of Budgam told KZINE that the favoritism, nepotism and caste discrimination is damaging Kashmir society. "Our potential and creativity is ignored. This is one of the reasons why we have high cynicism in our society, and rise in cases like suicide, drug addiction and joining militancy. Our leaders have sown hate amongst us through their policies and practices. How can they expect the harvest of love? They will receive only hate from the youth," he said.

Nepotism has been the standard formula for jobs at various departments like PHE, Irrigation, R&B, state schools, colleges and universities etc, and even the health department and other departments.

About three years ago, the lists of regularization of daily wagers were circulated on social media. It was found that three, four and even five members of a single family were adjusted for recruitment in different departments. Those who were regularized had not worked as daily wagers in any department.



HOW FAR WE HAVE COME

Jaish terrorists kicked 18-month-old baby before killing police officer's family

This is the cost of our deliberate blindness to our fatal errors

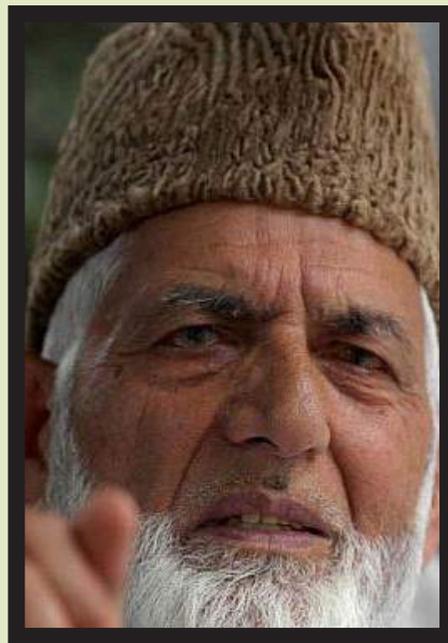
This is the cost of making a few political grievances many decades ago the reason for terrorism in Kashmir for 30 years. On June 28, an 18-month-old girl was kicked mercilessly by Jaish terrorists. The terrorists entered the house of ailing SPO Fayaz Ahmed in Hariparigam village in Awantipora, south Kashmir, around 10:30 pm and started thrashing him. His wife Raja Begum and 22-year-old daughter Rafia frantically tried to save him, but met with the same fate. Fayaz Ahmed's daughter in law Saima laid her baby at the feet of the terrorists, pleading them to spare the family. The terrorists mercilessly kicked the 18-month-old child and her mother, and sprayed bullets upon Fayaz and his wife. The couple were killed on the spot. Their daughter Rafia sustained grievous injuries and died the next day.

The barbarians who kick our tender children mercilessly and kill us in cold blood. These are the barbarians holding our paradise to ransom. They are terrorizing us and degrading us because we are deliberately blind to their inhumanity.

You can't keep snakes in your backyard and expect them only to bite your neighbours. Eventually those snakes are going to turn on whoever has them in the backyard.



PAKISTAN Makes Comatose Geelani Speak,



He Doesn't Matter Anyway

In December 2020, Ruwa Shah wrote in Al Jazeera about her grandfather Syed Ali Geelani.

(He was) now struggling to comprehend the most mundane things going on around him. He could not even recognise the faces of his own family members.

Ruwa Shah's statement in her write-up was testimony to the fact that Syed Ali Geelani has been suffering from dementia for two years. She admitted that Geelani, her maternal grandfather, is not able to recall and identify his family members. Those near and dear to Geelani have publicly stated that the old man is not able to recognise people around him.

But Pakistan is making the comatose Geelani speak.

On July 2, Geelani tweeted: Political prancing about in New Delhi and Srinagar meaningless and infantile. Observe complete shutdown on July 8 and 13 as a gesture of solidarity and full adherence with the mission of the martyrs.

Pakistan, this statement is so ISI. It has ISI stamped all over it.

How come Geelani's masters are not aware that his popularity among the Kashmiri youth sharply declined soon after Burhan Wani emerged on the scene as the poster boy around 2016. Geelani was elbowed out by new generation terrorists Burhan, Zakir Naik, Riyaz Naikoo and others.

There was no love lost between the terrorist commanders and Geelani. The old man's carefully constructed political empire was crumbling before his eyes. Soon, he lost grip over the separatist and secessionist narrative.

Simultaneously, for the first time in his political career spread over 45 years, the law enforcement agencies started investigating Geelani's assets. Hawala channels funneling the riches to him were busted. Geelani's sons and sons in law came under the scanner. The so-called grand-daddy of Kashmiri separatism was easily tamed. He fell silent.

For decades, Geelani lorded over the deaths of the Kashmiris. He flourished while they suffered. But life came full circle for Geelani. He had never imagined that his children would taste suffering too. It has happened.

Pakistan is attributing the statement over the Delhi meeting and the sham bandh call to a man neither dead nor alive.



LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES BUSTED THE HAWALA CHANNELS FUNNELING THE RICHES TO GEELANI. HE, HIS SONS AND SONS IN LAW CAME UNDER THE SCANNER. THE SO-CALLED GRAND-DADDY OF KASHMIRI SEPARATISM WAS EASILY TAMED. HE FELL SILENT

TRT World's Blind Bluster

Turkish Media Giant Doesn't Say Pakistan Is Infesting Kashmir With Drugs To Serve Its Evil Ends

On June 23, Istanbul-based Turkish media giant TRT World published a news feature written by a Kashmiri named Suhail A Shah, who tweets at @shahsuhayl.

The headline of the report: Kashmir's heroin crisis is reaching epidemic proportions. Read the news feature here: <https://www.trtworld.com/magazine/kashmir-s-heroin-crisis-is-reaching-epidemic-proportions-47761>

Witness sham journalism! Blind to the elephant in the room. Blind to the geo-politics driving terror and drugs in Kashmir.

Where are the drugs coming from?

Does Jammu and Kashmir produce them?

Does the rest of India produce these drugs and supply them to Kashmir?

A young Kashmiri ruined by drug abuse



No.

These drugs come from across the border, produced in golden crescent area of Afghanistan and Pakistan. They are smuggled into Kashmir by Pakistan.

Yes. The heroin crisis is reaching endemic proportions in Kashmir. But does TRT World tell you that Kashmir is fight-

ing narco-terrorism? Does TRT World reveal that terrorism in Kashmir is being financed by the sale of drugs?

TRT World is silent on the fact that the parts of Kashmir which have strong terror networks and terrorist movement have higher drug trade at district level. The local terrorists and the Over-



JK Police setting fire to drugs seized in Pulwama, south Kashmir

Ground Workers provide the eco-system for supplying the drug supply chains. The police and security forces are fighting not just terrorism but narco-terror too.

TRT World does not reveal that Pakistan is using drones to

drop arms and ammunition in Kashmir, and also for dropping narcotics. Frequent seizure of these drone consignments have been made by the police, but heavy supply continues.

Pakistan Has Invested Heavily in Making Kashmiri Youth

Drug Addicts, Also Indoctrinating Them. TRT World Does Not Reveal This

The Turkish media giant and the so-called journalist from Kashmir conveniently belt out the trope – Kashmir is on fire with drugs.

TRT world does not tell you the inconvenient truth – that Pakistan has invested heavily into making Kashmiri youth drug addicts. Pakistan has poured in money to destroy our young generation.

The problem of drug abuse was alien to the Kashmiri society. Just a few decades ago in which it was found out that charas (cannabis) was being grown on any field in Kashmir, the Kashmiris would themselves go and destroy the field.

This is the same society that Pakistan has destroyed by pumping in drugs. Now the Kashmiri society is not able to control the fire of drug abuse



CROSS-LOC TRADE BETWEEN INDIA, PAKISTAN WAS USED FOR FUNNELLING OF ILLEGAL WEAPONS, NARCOTICS, FAKE CURRENCY

Pakistan used cross-Line of Control (LOC) trade with India to deepen the drug networks in Kashmir. The trade routes were used by rogue merchants to smuggle narcotics into India. The routes were also used as a conduit for hawala money, weapons and fake currency. Several such consignments were confiscated by the Indian security agencies. Finally in April 2019, India suspended the cross-LoC trade in Jammu and Kashmir. According to top security officers, the misuse was happening "on a very large scale."

Probes by security agencies revealed that a significant number of persons engaged in the trade were closely associated with terrorist organizations in Kashmir.

Cross-LOC trade began in 2008 with the setting up two Trade Facilitation Centres located at Uri's Salamabad in Baramulla, and Chakkan-da-Bagh in Poonch. The trade used to take place four days a week. It was based on barter system and zero duty basis.



The Trade Facilitation Centre at Uri's Salamabad in Baramulla district. LOC trade was suspended by India in 2019 after it was found that the routes were being used to smuggle illegal weapons, narcotics and fake currency into India on a very large scale



Pakistan is using drones to drop arms and ammunition in Kashmir, and also for dropping narcotics

raging in its midst. Parents are scared of their children falling prey to drug abuse.

THE TRIPLE WHAMMY DESTROYING KASHMIR

Destroying Kashmir is Pakistan's well conceived strategy.

For three decades, Pakistan has exploited its religious and linguistic affinity with Kashmir to indoctrinate the Kashmiris with deadly Islamist ideology and the most extremist interpretations of Islam like Wahabism, Salafism

and Deobandism.

Second, Pakistan has flooded the social media in Kashmir with massive disinformation and lies in order to poison vulnerable Kashmiri minds.

Third, Pakistan has used narco terrorism as a war tactic to waste the young Kashmiri human resource.

TRT World and the fake journo are content to skim the surface of the iceberg. The fake journo does not have the guts to address the root cause of Kashmir's drug malaise in Kashmir. TRT World does not want to reveal Pakistan's culpability for the epidemic of drug abuse and narco terrorism in Kashmir.

Both are molding facts for the convenience of their masters.

This is deliberate international disinformation and journalistic deceit. These are deliberate fabrications to target India, and they should be treated so.

The play fields should be leveled.

CULTURAL CLEANSING BY TERRORISTS IN KASHMIR

Efforts to Make Kashmir A Radical Islamist Hotbed

Our culture and the people trying their best to revoke and preserve it are in immense danger. The terrorist organizations are a threat to our heritage, as well as its protectors

by Zoon The MOON

Cultural destruction has become an instrument of terror in a global campaign to destabilise civilizations, spread hatred and erase memory. This cultural cleansing is a war crime that is currently being utilized as a war tactic to separate mankind from its shared heritage. As a result, cultural preservation must be a component of all humanitarian and security activities. It cannot be separated from the protection of human lives and the assistance we owe to all victims.



Kashmir's folk theatre Bhand Pather is possibly the oldest in the subcontinent, inspired from mainland India's Natya Shastra

TERRORISTS DEGRADED, DEHUMANIZED MODERATE KASHMIRIS

Kashmir has been a contentious region for many years, dating back to the partition of India and Pakistan. Conflicts have erupted for a variety of reasons, both external (such as geopolitical conflicts between Southeast Asia's three nuclear contenders) and internal (such as a cultural divide). For both India and Pakistan, all of these factors have resulted in multiple wars and immense death and damage. The most serious consequence of the aforementioned issues, however, has been endemic terrorism and the ensuing proxy war between

Pakistan and India since 1988.

Terrorism has wreaked havoc on the valley and its inhabitants. This terrorism does not seek to acquire a strategic advantage or territory from India. Instead, it aims to terrorize and exterminate innocent and moderate Kashmiris in order to turn Kashmir into a radical Islamist hotbed. A secular, passive, Hindu-dominated country like India would immediately be at conflict with such a region. As a result, the region would inevitably separate from India and join Pakistan. This proxy war, in which ter-

rorism is used instead of direct military action, has radically transformed the face of the Kashmir crisis. It has transformed the territorial conflict into a complex social, economic, political, military, and religious issue that must be handled before Kashmir may enjoy peace and security.

In terms of the horror and atrocities experienced by the people of Kashmir today, it is being compared to some of the worst global genocides. Since 1990, over 100,000 people have been killed in Kashmir, according to official figures. Terrorists have used intimidation, terror, rape, murder, and assault against innocent Kashmiris (Hindus, Sikhs, and moderate Muslims) in order to drive them out of the state. Targets were classified as religious as well as political opponents. Because they were recognized as "informers" and "agents of India," several of these people were slain. These people were usually intellectuals and moderates, such as doctors, teachers, attorneys, and poets. They were pillaged, and their riches were used to fund the terrorists' activities.

Terrorists degraded and dehumanized moderate Kashmiris, in flagrant violation of the globally acknowledged Charter of Human Rights and other international norms. Their ambitions included separating India from the state in order to build a new political order based on religion. Anyone who spoke out against the campaign was subjected to severe torture and persecution. Sikhs and Hindus were frequently dismembered, bled to death, strangled by steel wires, burned alive, hung, impaled, and even had their eyeballs gouged out. As a result of the violence





Kashmiri teenager Zaira Wasim, the overnight Bollywood star, was brutally attacked on social media for choosing a job that was “un-Islamic”

and brutality, almost 350,000 Kashmiri Pundits have fled the region. Since 1988, there has been no evidence of this damage slowing down.

OUR PRIZED KASHMIRI HERITAGE

Women clad in pherans and intricate jewellery would sing and sway on the groomed lawns of Shalimar Bagh, which overlooks the Dal Lake, in the beautiful years before terrorism crippled Kashmir. In his book *Sahibs’ India: Vignettes from the Raj*, Pran Nevile describes the effect that Kashmiri dancers had on their audience in the 19th century as “sweet fantasy of a never to be forgotten night.” Foreigners referred to them as “nautch” (dancing) girls, who were essentially hafiza (reciters) who danced to Sufi melodies, a custom that is now abandoned.

Kashmir has a long history of dance, music, and drama. Its folk theatre Bhand Pather is possibly the oldest in the subcontinent, inspired from mainland India’s

Natya Shastra and dedicated to Hindu goddess Shiva Bhagwati.

Astonishingly, Kashmir produced several exceptional women who led social revolutions by shattering gender taboos around art, from Bhakti poetess Lalleshwari in the 14th century to the romantic Habba Khatoon in the 16th century. In Salman Rushdie’s novel *Shalimar the Clown*, the protagonist was a Pandit dancer Boonyi Kaul. She marries a Muslim tightrope walker, Noman. The metaphor reflected both the age-old syncretic concord and the modern post-1990 horrific war of Kashmir.

OUR CULTURE IS CEASING TO EXIST

It is with immense trepidation that we view our people, who had once been unmistakably interwoven with heart-warming brotherhood, rendered helplessly nonplussed and directionless. Amidst a myriad of undeniable troubles, we cannot help but wonder what it is that holds the power to have been our undoing,

and what had held us all together in the first place. The answer, a rather obstinate one, is that our strength as a people has consistently been, and will forever continue to be, pertaining to our culture, our art, our precious heritage. Although, it is somberly observed it has fell prey to certain meddling souls.

Kashmir has always remained a symbol of esteem for great musicians, artists, scholars, and teachers. Enormous contribution in terms of art, culture and music can be found everywhere. Sadly, less information is available about most of these contributors, especially Kashmir’s music

on music. India is celebrated for being rich in its cultural diversity. The country easily offers music by independent artists in almost over a hundred languages, but there still are a set of problems all musicians face. The problem for regional music is that the crowds who entertain independent music consider regional to be complete nuisance. The attempts of fusion are shunned off with claims of hypocrisy. A very small amount of people appreciate the effort put in. The others maintain that it is nothing but a waste

of time. Every artist struggles immensely while pursuing their dream. It, more often than not, leaves one mentally disturbed, and most musicians give up and some go into a downward spiral of depression. For someone who plans to pursue music, the path is filled with questions of self-doubt. When people ask what is it that I do for a living and I respond saying ‘music’, they always ask me about my “real” job. And this is a common scenario for all musi-

cians. I have a job like everyone else, and that is to conceptualize and deliver good music!” Even well-established music bands face challenges. The lead singer of a music band in India explained to me, “The independent music industry is not streamlined at all. The number of production houses that support music is miniscule.”

The road for every artist across sectors is full of thorns and



Kashmiri filmmakers produced their first full-length film Mainz Raat (The Night of Henna) in 1964, a romance written by Ali Mohammad Lone

bumps. Some major hustling is a part of the job description, if artists are to carve a niche for themselves in the creative sector. For us Kashmiris, the problem is compounded. The very first challenge that our culture is facing is the way it is ceasing to exist gradually. The young generation of Kashmir is not aware of just how rich our culture actually is.

THE WAKE-UP CALL



Our wilful and deliberate denial of the barbarism unleashed by the terrorists is taking Kashmir on the path of doom, destruction and death

On June 28, Terrorists Mercilessly killed Special Police Officer Fayaz Ahmed, His Wife Raja Begum and His Daughter Rafia







Cancellation of Amarnath Yatra due to Covid concerns dashes the hopes of thousands of Kashmiris, especially service providers in Pahalgam and Sonmarg who are dependent on it for their livelihood



Triple Whammy!

by Sajeeda AKHTER

The hopes of thousands of Kashmiris who were looking forward to a major economy impetus from the annual Amarnath Yatra have been left dashed. The government has decided that the yatra shall not be held this year due to Covid restrictions.

Every year, lakhs of Hindus from the other parts of the country and also abroad converge in Kashmir for the Amarnath Yatra, regarded as a divine pilgrimage. The inflow of the large number of yattris (pilgrims) gives a major boost to Kashmir's economy. The yatra happens through two routes. The longer and

more popular route is through Pahalgam. The shorter route is through Baltal near Sonmarg.

Thousands of Kashmiris in Pahalgam and also in Sonmarg are able to earn handsomely from providing various services to the yattris. The economic boost given by the Amarnath Yatra can be gauged from the fact that by the time the Yatra was cancelled midway in 2019, 3.42 lakh pilgrims had paid obeisance at the holy cave. The previous year, in 2018, 2.85 lakh pilgrims had travelled to the holy cave. Due to Covid restrictions, the Amarnath Yatra was cancelled in 2020, and has again been cancelled in 2021.

Thousands of Kashmiris residing in Pahalgam and Sonmarg

used to depend on the Amarnath yatra for a good part of their annual earnings. Many service providers like the pony wallahs, dhaba owners, transporters, tent providers, hoteliers, restaurant owners and the labour class in and around Pahalgam and Sonmarg are anguished that the yatra has been cancelled.

In addition, the spending by the tourists in Srinagar and other towns on the way to Pahalgam used to majorly benefit the local economy. Covid has left them all in lurch. Many families used to make their earnings for a whole year from providing services at the yatra.

Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board said it will arrange online darshan for the devotees world-

wide. Kashmiris in and around Pahalgam and Sonmarg understand that on account of Covid, organizing the yatra this year was risky. Nevertheless, they are disappointed staring at the loss of income again this year.

About 5000 Kashmiris wholly dependent on Yatra for earnings

Tehsildar Pahalgam Mohammad Hussain said the government has taken the decision in the interest of the devotees and the local population alike. "We are aware that many kinds of service providers depend on the yatra for augmenting their annual income. They will suffer because the Yatra shall not happen. Even though we

want to boost tourism, it is essential to follow standard operating procedures (SOPs) which are part of Covid protocol. We have five working days a week which are non-curfew days. Local tourists as well as those from other parts of the country are coming here for holidays. In this way, we are trying to promote tourism by following the Covid protocol," he said.

When asked about the number of families who are almost wholly dependent on the Amarnath Yatra for their annual earnings, Mohammad Hussain said that almost 5,000 Kashmiris are may be severely impacted. "The local and national tourists are the main source of income for these people associated with the tourism sec-

LOG INTO KASHMIR @



tor. Covid has hit each and every sector of tourism like transport, dhabas, restaurants, hotels etc. We are hopeful that our district shall make it to the Green Zone. Once that is done, the weekend restrictions shall be lifted, and all sectors shall be able to earn better," he said.

Sheikh Ashiq, President of Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and industry said that Kashmir had suffered economic losses worth Rs 40,000 crore since August 2019. "Kashmir's economy is sinking. It's a matter of survival for a major section of the society. If things continue like this, it will have grave social impact, I fear," said Ashiq.

Ghulam Nabi Lone, President of the Pony Walla Association at Pahalgam said that for three consecutive

years, the earnings of all the pony wallahs had suffered. "Almost 2500 pony wallahs are left in lurch. Many of them have sold their ponies and saddles in order to feed their family. We are living on God's mercy," Lone said despondently.

The hoteliers in the Pahalgam are unhappy with the decision of the government to cancel the Amarnath Yatra this year too. Bilal Ahmad, a hotel owner, said that the cancellation of the Amarnath Yatra for the third consecu-



THE INFLOW OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF YATRIS GIVES A MAJOR BOOST TO KASHMIR'S ECONOMY. KASHMIRIS IN AND AROUND PAHALGAM AND SONMARG UNDERSTAND COVID CONCERNS, BUT ARE DISAPPOINTED STARING AT THE LOSS OF INCOME AGAIN THIS YEAR

tive year is a big setback for the hotel industry of Kashmir, and more particularly for the hoteliers of Pahalgam. "The Yatra is a major source of our livelihood. Since the past few years, we are not able to pay the salaries of our staff on time. Earnings have dipped because of low occupancy rate in the hotels. We know Covid is a major concern, but even then we

were hoping that the Yatra would run this year with adherence to Covid protocol. The livelihood of thousands of people is dependant upon the Yatra," he said.

The transporters and dhaba owners are badly impacted too. Many service providers are demanding Covid relief packages to help them recover from the losses induced by the pandemic.



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OPENING KASHMIR'S EYES