



Media Analysis Center, Kashmir

- The free flow of negative content on Kashmir and its wide circulation on social media is damaging Indian interests locally, nationally and internationally. There is urgent need to counter this content in an organized and efficient manner.
- **Media Analysis Center, Srinagar** - a civil society initiative of Lehar Foundation - is an organized initiative to counter negative propaganda and content on Kashmir locally, nationally and internationally.
- Media Analysis Center (MAC) shall generate content which shall aggressively counter the lies being peddled regarding Kashmir in the domestic, national and international media.
- The content produced by MAC shall include news reports, features, videos and documentaries.
- The purpose is to break the toxic plot that keeps feeding malicious, negative news on Kashmir and circulating the same to deepen stereotypes of oppression and alienation. The attempt is to bring in a reality check on Kashmir and refresh the narrative in a positive, inclusive direction.
- MAC shall also provide a platform to bring together positive and happy voices of aspirational Kashmir youth, within Kashmir or outside. The Kashmiri voices of positivity and growth within India shall act as a force multiplier for the youth within Kashmir.

FEEDING THE MANUFACTURED PARANOIA OVER KASHMIR

**Yashwant Sinha Group
Again On Mission Hurt Modi**

**Bolstering Pakistan's efforts to keep
alive labels of *dispute, alienation,
separatism* stuck on Kashmir**

This is the time when Kashmiris are fighting hard to shake off the labels of dispute, alienation and separatism stuck on them. Kashmiris are trying to find the life and space where their children can flourish and prosper. But diverse groups of so-called concerned citizens refuse to budge from the past. Their complete focus is on their *Mission Hurt Modi*. These individuals and teams themselves come from peaceful and prosperous cities in the rest of India. In Kashmir, they begin their old chest-beating and laments.

Misleading, Misrepresented Reports

The fact remains that the so-called fact finding teams coming from Delhi or elsewhere allow themselves to be misled – wittingly or unwittingly. There are enough conflict entrepreneurs in Srinagar to feed these groups. Then these so-called fact-finders come out with misleading, misrepresented reports. Take the Concerned Citizens Group. Their personal drivers may differ, but the objective is the same. They are on *Mission Hurt Modi*. They are out of business – some politically, some monetarily.

On many occasions, I have recommended to the policy planners and think tanks in New Delhi that Kashmir needs investment. Only investors and tourists should be encouraged to visit Kashmir. The conflict entrepreneurs who are responsible for inculcating separatists and secessionist tendencies in Kashmiris should be barred from visiting Kashmir. Unfortunately they too seem to be complicit. After August 5, 2019, these so-called fact-finding groups immediately tried to fish in the troubled waters and succeeded to a great extent.

Kashmiris have reconciled with the new geopolitical reality. But Yashwant Sinha and his likes – alongside Mehbooba Mufti – are desperately seeking to keep the past alive in Kashmir. Sinha and his cohorts write on arrests carried out by police and security forces. Read the report and the comments on Waheed Parra. The *Concerned Citizens Group* refuse to see why some individuals were arrested, and how dangerous they were for the law and order. Yashwant Sinha, Wajahat Habibullah, Kapil Kak – they have earlier held highly respected positions with the Government of India. They should have looked into the detailed reports of each individual arrested by law enforcing agencies before making noises about it and casting aspersions.

■ BASHIR ASSAD

Again the so-called civil society members and human rights groups from Delhi are making travel plans to Kashmir to supposedly *find the road ahead*. It does not require a genius to figure out that these individuals or group feed the manufactured paranoia over Kashmir. These teams claim to be impartial and unprejudiced. What they achieve very well is this: They strengthen the faulty narratives that Pakistan has so diligently planted in Kashmir. These individuals or teams are accountable to



Mr Yashwant Sinha has been coming to Kashmir on *Mission Hurt Modi*. He has been trying to resurrect his political career which is in doldrums. He does not seem to care that the statements made by him and his group accord a dangerous legitimacy to the cult of gun and the cult of separatism based on religion

no one. Their so-called *honest assessment* bolsters Pakistan's efforts to keep alive the labels of dispute, alienation, separatism that have been stuck on Kashmir.

From March 30 to April 2, 2021, the so-called Concerned Citizens' Group (CCG) visited Kashmir. They do not come here as trouble shooters. They come here as trouble makers and hate-mongers. Their visit and the subsequent report achieve the same: Foment hate against the Modi government. On April 15, the group came out with its so called fact-finding report. This is their eighth report on the state of affairs in Kashmir.

Every time they are here, such groups meet or try to meet those specific individuals who have consistently nourished separatism in Kashmir. These are the individuals who have been funded and fattened by Pakistan. They will never shift their anti-India positions. Does the *Concerned Citizens Group* appreciate that meeting these individuals strengthens the anti-India constituency in Kashmir? Do the *concerned citizens* stop to think of the impact of strengthening the anti-India constituency among the gullible Kashmiri youth?

Meeting The ISI Proxies

As has been the problem with most Kashmir watchers in Delhi, the *Concerned Citizens* met their select contacts. The links were provided by Sushobha Barve and Kapil Kak, who had established contacts in Kashmir helped by foreign agencies. They met with the coterie of ISI agents in Kashmir which include Advocate Mian Abdul Qayoom, Advocate Zafar Shah, Professor Hameeda Nayeem, Khurram Parvaiz, Shakeel Qalandar, ZG Mohammad, Abdul Majeed Zargar, Dr Javid Iqbal, Gowhar Geelani, Zaheer Ud Din and many other self-professed Pakistani agents or those associated with their coterie.

The *Concerned Citizens* form their opinion on the basis of the biased, concocted and distorted feedback from these Pakistani proxies. I say so with reason.

Blind To The Elephant In The Room

For the *Concerned Citizens Group*, all that is wrong with Kashmir is because of the Modi government. The report by the *Concerned Citizens* is blind to the elephant in the room – terrorism in Kashmir. The *Concerned Citizens* make no reference to the rein of fear and terror unleashed by the terrorists.

Their local contacts feed them stories of disaffection against the Indian state. The disaffection is painstakingly planted and nourished by Pakistan's stooges in Kashmir. Some members of the *Concerned Citizens Group* have earlier held high and respected positions with the Government of India. Yet they suck up the manufactured conflict in Kashmir. In their eighth report – as in their earlier ones – they solely indict the Indian state and its law-enforcing arms for all that they find wrong with Kashmir.

Members of the *Concerned Citizens Group* shut their eyes, ears and mouth to all mention of the choking and muzzling of voices and snuffing of lives by terrorists in Kashmir. Does the *Concerned Citizens Group* tell you of the number of innocent people killed by terrorists since August 5, 2019? No.

Does the *Concerned Citizens Group* tell India and the world – through their report – about the inconvenient truth that terrorists are recruiting juveniles? Does the *Concerned Citizens Group* state in its report that terrorists are using juveniles and women as conduits? No.

On April 5, soon after the *Concerned Citizens* left Kashmir, the Police arrested two girls from Budgam district. The girls were involved in an attack on a police post in Nowgam in which a police man was killed. Do the *Concerned Citizens* state in their report that terrorists are using girls as pawns to carry out attacks on police and security forces? No.

Feeding The Ecosystem Which Nourishes Separatism

The *Concerned Citizens Group* suggests the course of action to the state actors and the political parties in India.

*** They say that India must "address the sense of defeat and anger amongst**

The Collective Objective of The Concerned Citizens: Mission Hurt Modi

In 2016 when Yashwant Sinha formed this so-called group, I went to meet him at his Noida residence. What prompted me to go and meet Sinha was my conversation with former RAW chief AS Dulat. Dulat believed that Yashwant Sinha was tasked by the Modi government to open channels of communication with people in Kashmir post the Burhan Wani upsurge. My assessment was that Sinha was on *Mission Hurt Modi*, because he had been completely sidelined by the Modi government. From 2014 to 2016, Sinha overtly and covertly tried to get positions of power in the new dispensation. When his efforts did not bear fruit, like many others he embarked on *Mission Hurt Modi*. He was joined by some conventional conflict entrepreneurs who had got prominence by earning contracts from foreign agencies for studying and analyzing the Kashmir conflict. They lost their relevance after the government hardened its position and tightened it noose around Pakistan's proxies in Kashmir.

Sushobha Barve and Kapil Kak milked the conflict cow for decades. Now they were out of business. Hence the Concerned Citizen's group.

I met Sinha at his residence in December 2016. I articulated my concern. I urged him if he was carrying a brief from the Modi government, he should urgently visit Kashmir and make his plans public. I also advised him that even if he was carrying the PM's brief, he should not meet the separatist leaders or the separatist ideologues. My argument has always been that these separatists are non-entities, and serve as extensions of Pakistan in Kashmir. They have determined anti-India positions, and talking to them is useless.

I urged Sinha that if the government is not in loop, he should not visit Kashmir for two reasons. One, being a former minister in the Vajpayee government and still a BJP member, his visit would convey the message to ordinary Kashmiris that he is an emissary of Prime Minister Modi. It would falsely raise the expectations of the Pakistani constituency in Kashmir. Two, by projecting Sinha as an interlocutor of the government, the Pakistani constituency would hoodwink the innocent masses. Sinha and his group had their own designs. They followed their *Mission Hurt Modi*.



The Yashwana Sinha group had photo-ops with separatists who have indoctrinated generations of Kashmiris with hatred for India and accession to Pakistan on the ground of religion. The same separatists have led organizations that nourish dangerous anti-India militant groups under their umbrella. Seen here with separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani. Photo courtesy indianexpress.com

the Kashmiris by opening up the democratic space for people to express themselves.”

Where is the sense of defeat or anger? Are the *Concerned Citizens* talking about the ecosystem which breeds and nourishes separatism and alienation? They are senior enough to know that in any land, peace shall remain elusive and fragile if this ecosystem is not demolished.

*** “Opening up of democratic space”. If this means allowing separatists and soft separatists like Mehbooba Mufti to undermine state authority and poison young minds by instigating people through their political machinations, then Kashmir definitely has no space for it. Did the *Concerned Citizens* study the enthusiastic response across Kashmir for elections to the District Development Councils, and the high percentage of voting in Kashmir?**

*** Another suggestion of the *Concerned Citizens*: Restore the earlier policy of restraint and preventing ‘collateral damage’ during counter-insurgency operations by the security forces.**

Dear *Concerned Citizens*, the policy of restraint is more visibly in place than ever before. It is amazing the group has completely shut its eyes to the new restraint policy where in the middle of counter-insurgency operations, local terrorists are persuaded over and over again to surrender so that they do not have to be killed. The parents and families of local terrorists are safely escorted to the sites of the encounter for this purpose. This was not the case before.

*** The *Concerned Citizens* tell the Indian state: Do not blow-up the homes of hapless villagers which are occupied forcibly by the militants for shelter or for using them tactically against the security forces.**

The *Concerned Citizens* seem to be completely blind to the network of overground workers (OGW) in Kashmir.

Dear *Concerned Citizens*, please get your facts and information correct before you make a report for India and the world on your concerns for Kashmir. On April 2, when the *Concerned Citizens* were still in Srinagar, terrorists came from Kakpora in Pulwama district, ferried by an OGW. They attacked the house of a political worker in Srinagar’s outskirts at Nowgam, and

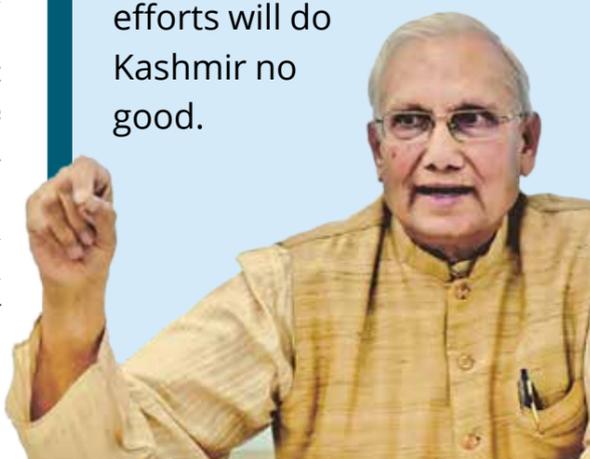
fled back in the same car to Kakpora. They took shelter in the house of the same overground worker who had accompanied them to Srinagar.

The next day, security forces received inputs about the presence of terrorists in this house. An encounter took place, and finally the house was blown up. Do the *Concerned Citizens* consider this overground worker and terrorism collaborator “hapless”?

*** The *Concerned Citizens* suggest that the UT Administration must allow**

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On April 24, OP Shah, Chairman of Centre for Peace and Progress, is organizing a webinar on Changes in J&K post August 2019: An Impartial Assessment. Shah has done a series of such conferences over the last few years. I have attended some of them. As long as Shah keeps interacting with those who are part of the terror ecosystem, his efforts will do Kashmir no good.



For the Yashwant Sinha Group, all that is wrong with Kashmir is because of the Modi government. Their report is blind to the elephant in the room – terrorism in Kashmir. Some members of the group have earlier held high and respected positions with GOI. Yet they suck up the manufactured conflict in Kashmir

civil society organisations to function by holding meetings, seminars, and discussions which would allow the people to vent their emotions and relieve the psychological pressure on them.

Dear *Concerned Citizens*, a host of activities are going on in Kashmir Valley, with a large number of people participating in every activity. Festivals, education symposiums, seminars and workshops have become commonplace. What remain barred are the activities of the ecosystem which sustained terrorism in Kashmir. Do the *Concerned Citizens* expect India to give its blessings to the aforementioned Pakistani proxies to reoccupy space in Kashmir and revive their activities?

*** Next, the *Concerned Citizens* have suggested: Do not criminalise journalism and allow journalists and media persons to freely report from the ground – even the state might be better informed if the press is free.**

Shabash. On daily basis, local journalists – essentially those who are in glove with the adversaries of the Indian state – write on Kashmir in local, national and international media. They are equally active on social media. These journalists portray the picture of Kashmir as grim as they can. At the end of each report, they talk about the muzzling of voices in Kashmir. Our Administration is so spineless that they these allow these so-called journalists to criminalize journalism in Kashmir.

Mr Yashwant Sinha and his business partners have no idea about how much falsehood is spread by a section of so-called journalists in Kashmir. These so-called journalists continue to be free to do so under the garb of freedom of Kashmir.

*** The *Concerned Citizens* further suggest: Do not impose artificial political processes on the Kashmiris which seem democratic outwardly but are bereft of any democratic muscle.**

Artificial political processes! The most bizarre and irresponsible statement, unbecoming of the stature of individuals like Yashwant Sinha and Wajahat Habibullah. Do the *Concerned Citizens* want to convey to India and the world that election to the District Development Councils was an artificial political process? Do they want to convey that the keen participation of large majorities of Kashmiris across villages, towns and cities in the electoral process was a farce?

*** The *Concerned Citizens* state in their report: Allow the DDC members to visit their constituencies instead of creating hurdles in their way.**

It would have been appropriate and in the fitness of things if the *Concerned Citizens* had asked terrorists to allow DDC and Block Development Council members and political workers to visit their constituencies instead of creating hurdles in their way.



■ WASEEM GUL

I was a teenager when I started hearing about the individuals and groups visiting Kashmir. The names would be on repeat sometimes. Gautam Navlakha, Medha Patkar, Arundhati Roy, Kavita Krishnan, Yashwant Sinha, Kapil Kak, Wajahat Habibullah, Sushobha Barve, Bharat Bhushan, others. I heard them talking of the “pain of Kashmir”. Through school and college, I heard boys discussing the statements made by these individuals. They described even normal events in the society as “New Delhi’s attack on Kashmiri identity, culture religion and demography”.

Photo-ops with leading separatists

These individuals had photo-ops with the leading separatists of Kashmir. The same separatists who have indoctrinated generations of Kashmiris with hatred for India and accession to Pakistan on the ground of religion. The same separatists who have led organizations that nourish dangerous anti-India militant groups under their umbrella.

These individuals prepared reports based on their visit to Kashmir and released them to the media. Did these individuals realize that their statements accorded a dangerous legitimacy to the cult of gun and the cult of separatism based on religion?

Playing a dangerous game in Kashmir

I realized that some of these individuals seemed to have too much of a sugar-coated tongue for Kashmir. Did they realize that their words would indoctrinate young Kashmiri minds? Or did they do this deliberately?

Through my college years, I continued to think of these individuals as mercenaries in Delhi and other parts of India who do not want peace to return to Kashmir. I always wondered whether they were paid by Pakistan to do so. It seems to me that these individuals want the Kashmir pot to remain

Don't let those groups visit Kashmir who accord a dangerous legitimacy to the cult of gun and the cult of separatism based on religion

boiling so that they mint money and lead a luxurious life at the cost of gullible Kashmiri Muslims. Kashmir has become a *Get Famous Quick* zone for such individuals.

I have gone through the reports prepared by these groups after their visit to Kashmir. Only a few days ago, one such report was released by a group called the Concerned Citizens Group (CCG), comprising Mr Yashwant Sinha, Mr Wajahat Habibullah, Mr Kapil Kak, Ms Sushobha Barve and Mr Bharat Bhushan. I found the report nasty, like their earlier reports. These reports are based on lies. They are drafted based on inputs given by Pakistan’s proxies. The group seems to have ignored all sane or nationalist voices in Kashmir.

Why do these groups only meet only those people who have a separatist mindset? Why do they seek to convey that their reports represent the ordinary Kashmiri youth?

In order to keep their shops going, these individuals make reports and issue statements that support the secessionist narrative. Their stand propagates the narrative of foreign agencies and Pakistan’s proxies in Kashmir. This impacts young minds in the Valley.





Photo courtesy: NDTV.com

They begin their report by saying: “On the face of it, Srinagar seemed peaceful. People were seen going about their daily chores. Life seemed more ‘normal’ compared to our earlier visits.”

In the rest of the report, they work on demolishing the assumption that life in Srinagar is normal. The group claims in their nasty report that the people of Kashmir are not ready to accept the Centre’s decision to revoke the special status of Jammu & Kashmir. The report further states that there is no space for any dissent or criticism of the government policies and police action on any platform – be it social media, print or electronic media, and that journalism has been virtually criminalized. The report claims that no protests by

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civil society are allowed, nor are rallies by political parties permitted.

What the Sinha Group Seeks to Achieve

So here is what Mr Yashwant Sinha, Mr Wajahat Habibullah, Mr Kapil Kak, Ms Sushobha Barve and Mr Bharat Bhushan are trying to do. They are trying to portray the Modi government as a dictatorship over Kashmir. Are they deliberately trying to provoke the common youth of Jammu and Kashmir, which will lead to bloodshed, loss of lives and a toxic circle of death? Are they so desperate to keep the Kashmir pot boiling for their own benefits?

Why does Mr Yashwant Sinha’s group neglect the ground reality that democracy has been strengthened in Jammu and Kashmir through elections to District Development Councils?

Why does the Yashwant Sinha group ignore that stone-pelting has become a rare occurrence in Kashmir, when it was once commonplace even by school and college students. Why doesn’t the Yashwant Sinha group appreciate that stone-pelting by indoctrinated youth has stopped, because it criminalizes the society.

The CCG report is a bundle of lies being peddled by these individuals for their own benefit. The youth of the Valley must rise against this propaganda and make it clear once for all that the machinations of these thugs are not going to work. Why doesn’t the Government of India act tough against these thugs, who are here to burn the valley again? If the Indian state does not act tough against these groups, the message will be sent that these groups have the nod of the government. In that case the Government of India should stop drumbeating that they are serious about bringing peace to Kashmir.



Kapil Kak Kavita Krishnan Medha Patkar
Sushobha Barve Wajahat Habibullah Gautam Navlakha



Photo courtesy: Press Trust of India

The Yashwant Sinha group is trying to portray the Modi government as a dictatorship over Kashmir. Are they deliberately trying to provoke the common youth of Jammu and Kashmir, which will lead to bloodshed, loss of lives and a toxic circle of death?