

Urgent Thrust Needed On Security Scenario. Politics Can Wait

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**New-found love
for Taliban among
indoctrinated
sections in Kashmir**

**Kupwara emerges
as gateway for
infiltration,
narco terror**

**"LAWDA NE LOOT
MACHAYI HAI"**

**Mian Bashir
Ahmad Larvi**

**The Spiritual Leader,
The Guiding Light!**

The Thrust Must Be On The Security Scenario. Politics can wait



A conflict – geographical, political or ethnic – is always fueled and supported by external forces. There is hardly a place in the world where the conflict, even though it may have originated from legitimate grievances against the state, remains indigenous in spirit and intent. Conflicts have always been exploited by hostile adversaries. Fishing in troubled waters is the global norm.

Pakistan's proxies in Kashmir are gloating over the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. The recent developments in Afghanistan are likely to have a direct impact on the overall Kashmir situation. External forces, particularly Pakistan, are desperately on the lookout to create more trouble in Kashmir.

The situation demands prompt, pro-active response from the state. The state cannot afford to repeat the past mistakes of ignoring the undercurrent. Some problems have become deep-rooted in Kashmir partly because the state did not respond when the challenges were the undercurrent.

The thrust must be on the security scenario. Politics can wait. One cannot limit the outlook to the assessments and observations of political or defense analysts. The state cannot afford to get caught in the morass of assumptions and presumptions. The challenges are real.

The Taliban fighters of Pakistani origin or from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir are leaving Afghanistan. According to credible intelligence reports, many have returned to Pakistan with the intention to engage the Indian security apparatus in and outside Kashmir. The weaponry left behind by the US-NATO forces is coming in hordes from Afghanistan to Pakistan. This is a huge concern. In the Taliban's quest of Kabul lies the bloodbath in Kashmir. People have started correlating the folk tale of "Kabul Kandhar beye Kashmir (Kabul, Kandhar and Kashmir)". According to the folk tale, the fate of Kabul, Kandhar and Kashmir is the same.

After the Friday prayers on September 10, someone wrote on social media, "Mullah k tewar Badlai Badlai se hai." The Mullah appears changed.

The challenges are multi-pronged. It is imperative to address the internal simmering. The state cannot afford to allow the external forces to sneak in. The state must remain alive to the enormous challenges posed by the reinforcement and realignment of the disruptive forces. This is a critical time. It vests immense responsibility upon the state.



Bashir Assad



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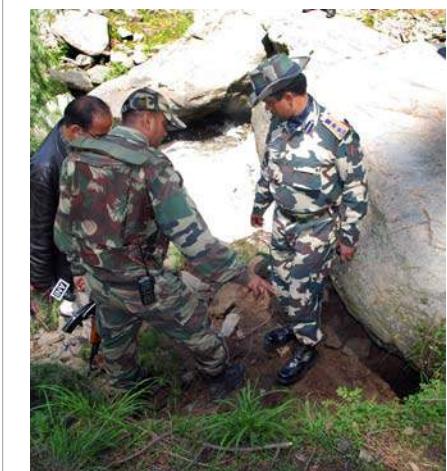


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Mian Bashir Ahmad Larvi

The Spiritual Leader, The Guiding Light!



by Bisma NAZIR

The passing of Mian Bashir Ahmad Larvi marks the end of a glorious era of value based politics and spiritual iconism. Mian Bashir Ahmad Larvi belonged to the Naqshbandi order Sufi tradition. He was a loved and respected spiritual influencer of 21st century Jammu and Kashmir.

Mian Bashir Ahmad stands out among the crowd of political elites and religious preachers for many reasons.

Mian Sahib worked tirelessly for the upliftment and empowerment of the Gujjar community. He was a strong believer in emancipation and was the only leader who earned respect across the community. He stood tall against the shackles of tyranny that the Gujjar community was subjected to. Many leaders emerged from 1923-2021, but nobody could match Mian Bashir's sincerity, zeal and dedication in pursuing the upliftment of the Gujjar community.

Mian Bashir Ahmad Larvi also stands out from the rest because he never resorted to emotive and exploitative politics around the Kashmir conflict. He believed in emancipation of all the sections of the society in the true spirit of democratic secular values. Mian Bashir was an iconic figure who had equal influence in both regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

After the death of Sheikh Mohd Abdullah in 1982, Mian Bashir Ahmad is the first mainstream political figure on whose death thousands and thousands of people continue to mourn, even though a month has lapsed since he passed away. Thousands visit his grave in Baba Nagri Kangan every day.



Mian Sahib worked tirelessly for the upliftment and empowerment of the Gujjar community. He was a strong believer in emancipation and was the only leader who earned respect across the community. Nobody could match his sincerity, zeal and dedication in pursuing the upliftment of the Gujjar community

Old timers recall the emotional outburst in Kashmir over the demise of Sheikh Mohd Abdullah for seven to ten days. In Mian Bashir Ahmad's case, the mourners are yet to reconcile. In the true spirit of a spiritual leader, Mian Bashir Ahmad gave fare more to the people and take back less. He was the epitome of peace and brotherhood, and a strong messenger of the beauty of unity in diversity.

The Hero of the Gujjar and Bakarwal Tribe

Throughout his political career from 1945 -1980, Mian Bashir Ahmad never resorted to divisive politics. On the other hand, he consistently worked for peace and tranquility in the region. During the times of war and turbulence, Mian Bashir totally dedicated himself to rehabilitation and relief work, and never identified with the politics of conflict. His son Mian Altaf Ahmad always emphasized that Mian Sahib joined politics on his own terms and retired from politics on his own terms.

Mian Sahib was a multi-dimensional personality who led the tribal community of Jammu and Kashmir in particular in social, religious, spiritual, economic and political spheres. He will be remembered in history as a freedom fighter, religious and social leader and the hero of the Gujjar and Bakarwal tribe. He remained associated with the top leaders of the country including Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi. In fact, Indira Gandhi is reported to have visited the Shrine of Babaji Sahib at Wanghat during her visit to Kashmir in the 1970s.

Voluntary Retirement From Active Politics at 63!

An amazing political and spiritual leader, Mian Bashir Ahmad may perhaps have the singular distinction of retiring from active politics when he was only 63 years old. After his voluntary retirement, many political stalwarts approach him and pleaded with him to make a comeback. But Mian Bashir never looked back. Thereafter, he devoted himself to the cause of spiritual guidance and helping the poor.

Mian Bashir Ahmad was the only religious and political leader of his times who never bowed before the powers that be. Rather all the powerful political elites would visit him to seek his support and blessings.

Celebrated and Popular Author

Mian ji was the renowned Sufi and author and social reformer of tribal Jammu and Kashmir. He compiled a number of books in Urdu, Gojri and Punjabi, including Israr-e-kabari, Ashar-e-Nizami, Babaji Diyan Siharfian, six volumes of Neer Sumandar Gojri series, Mata-e-Faqar-O-Danish, Maraaf-ul-Tabarqat etc. These books mainly address spiritualism, mysticism, Sufism, Islamic theology and Divine Love. Mian Bashir's poetic compilations represent the Gujjar ethos and rich heritage. Some of his books are socio-ethnic profiles of Gujjars and Bakarwals, and are popular among masses. Mian Sahib was often invited to grace seminars, conferences and other literary and culture events in and outside the state.



Mian Bashir Ahmad Larvi being conferred with the Padma Bhushan by then President of India Smt Pratibha Patil

Honoured With The Padma Bhushan

Mian Sahib was elected as a Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) in 1967, 1972, and 1977 from Kangan constituency of Ganderbal district. In 2008, Mian Bashir Ahmad was bestowed with the Padma Bhushan, India's third highest civilian award, by the government. The award was bestowed upon him for his unparalleled contribution and services towards tribal Gujjars, Bakarwals and other downtrodden groups of society.

Mian Bashir Ahmad had also the honour of representing the nation at the United States. Mian Sahib was the one of the greatest personalities of Jammu and Kashmir. He acted as the lantern for the Gujjar tribals. Mian Sahib was the most popular leader of the tribal community. It is aptly said – A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way. His thoughts were always focused on the good of the people. He always wanted to live in peace, and desired peace and tranquility for others too.

Mian Bashir was the inspiration for a large number of people in Jammu and Kashmir. Mian Sahib's family played a vital role in enriching the Gujiri language and literature. He continuously struggled for grant of

Mian Bashir Ahmad Larvi stands out from the rest because he never resorted to emotive and exploitative politics around the Kashmir conflict. He believed in emancipation of all the sections of the society in the true spirit of democratic secular values



the scheduled tribe status to Gujjar and Bakarwals. In this connection, he continued to lead the delegations to the Union government to apprise them directly about the issue.

Mian Sahib died at the age of 98. He was buried in his native village in the shrine of Babaji Sahib RA located at Babanagri Wangath, Kangan in Ganderbal district. His death is a great loss to the Gujjar community and also for the locals. He was a visionary whose ideals gave a strong sense of community, dignity and consciousness to the Gujjar tribal community. With the death of Mian Sahib, an era of enlightenment and education has come to an end. His legacy in terms of his contribution and teachings will continue to inspire and guide his followers and the generations to come.

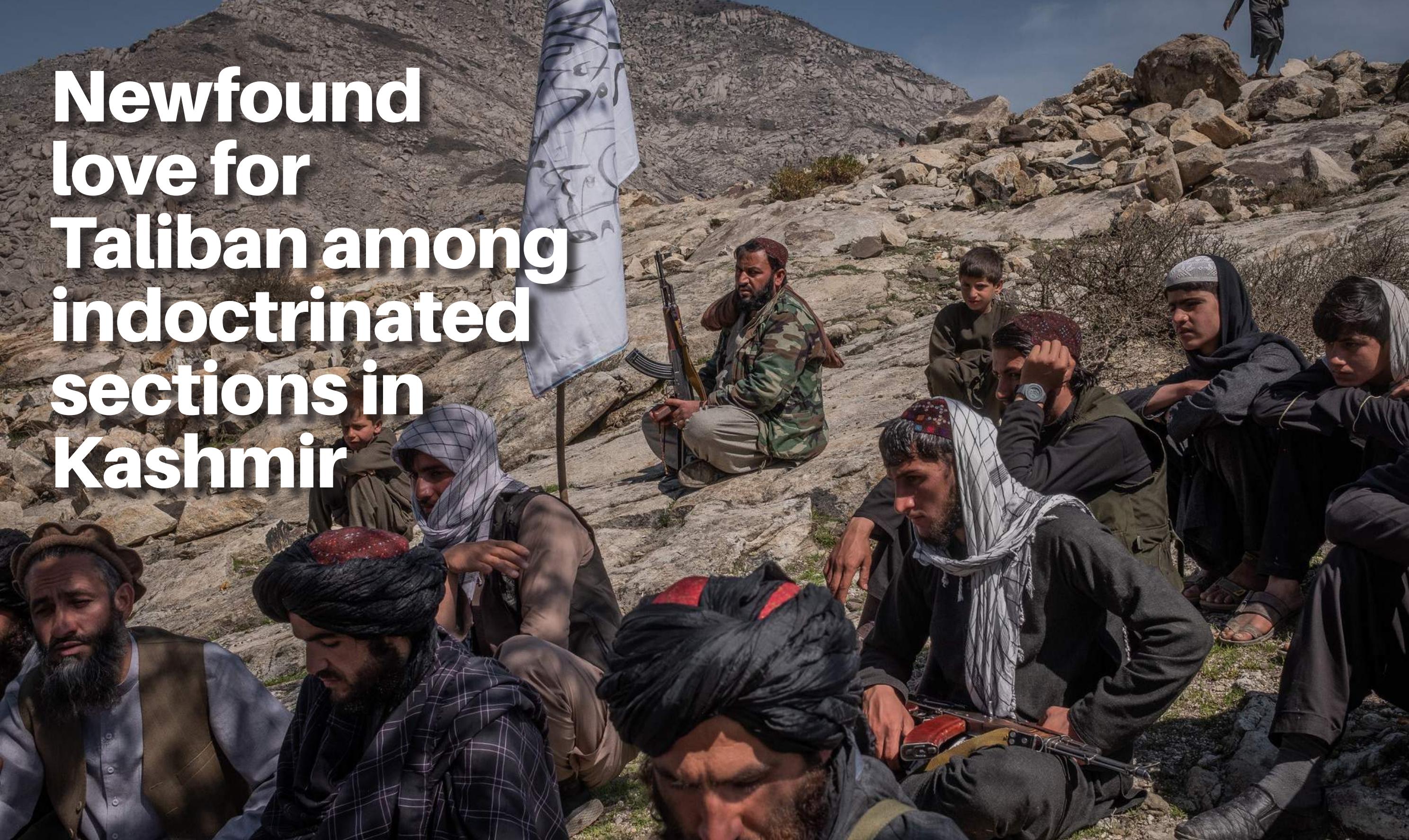


hundreds of followers, who looked upon him to guide them on the path of unity and spirituality.

Mian Bashir's Personal Diary

A social, political, spiritual and cultural icon, Mian Bashir Ahmad would record every single incident in his life - big or small - in his personal diary. Daily, every happening would be meticulously recorded in his personal journal.

Mian Bashir was regarded across Jammu and Kashmir as the spiritual guide and a political heavy-weight. He was always surrounded by



Newfound
love for
Taliban among
indoctrinated
sections in
Kashmir

The **DANGERS** of Talibani Ideology

Significant number of Kashmiris seem to willingly embrace the Taliban ideology by welcoming their victory and offering justifications for their violent, extremist practices

by J N AHMAD

Those in Kashmir who identify with Taliban ideology were pushed to the margins post August 5, 2019. They seem to

have got fresh lease of life after Taliban took over Afghanistan. Those influenced by extremists religious ideology see the developments in Afghanistan as resurrection of the global jihadi forces. These ideological extremists are now building fancy dreams that the global jihadi forces shall alien with Pakistan-backed extremist forces in Kashmir and do an Afghanistan here.

Religious extremists have not been able to celebrate Taliban's victory in Afghanistan because of the persisting fear of the state. But one can easily observe the change in body language of this particular section of Kashmir society. It is alarming to observe some select journalists and political opportunists endorsing the Taliban ideology in TV debates, social media posts and exhaustive articles online. They are unmindful of the consequences of promoting the domination of hard-core

religious extremists in any part of the world. Unfortunately, such intellectual deceit provides expression to dangerous but marginalized narrative, and the consequences are borne by the entire humanity.

Pakistan Emboldened by Proxy Victory

Taliban, as the new epitome of global Islamic fundamentalism, has declared a self-styled cabinet

in Afghanistan and enforced a strict version of Shariah law. In restoring the Taliban to power in Kabul, the role of Pakistan is now well known. One of the spokespersons of Taliban recently vowed to what he called "support the Kashmiris and Indian Muslims." The assumption that the Pakistani establishment won't use the Taliban to create trouble in Kashmir is to be naive. Pakistanis seem emboldened by this "victory" of their proxies.

There is an euphoria of sorts in Pakistan, and already there have been calls for "liberating Kashmir" on the same lines. There is also talk of the Pakistani Islamist construction of the so-called Khorasan Covenant, which im-

It seems that in Kashmir valley, some youth have been tricked in by the Taliban propaganda. THESE YOUTH NOT ONLY FEEL INCLINED TOWARDS THE HARDCORE IDEOLOGY OF TALIBAN, but can also be seen adoring militant Salafi groups and figures like Al-Qaeda's Bin Laden and Al Zawahiri and also Iraqi Abu Musaib al Zarqawi who is the original fore father of ISIS.

IT IS REALLY A LETHAL COMBINATION WHICH CAN RADICALIZE ENTIRE COMMUNITIES

plies the Ghazwa-i-Hind aimed at violently Islamizing the whole subcontinent. Such constructions are reinforced by fascist teachings of extremist ideologues. Their controversial preaching related to this subject is being propagated with ferocity. This is not the first time – nor the last, perhaps – when extremists are influenced by the developments in neighborhood and reinforce in Kashmir. During the last 30 years, we have seen them getting erased from mindsphere, remerging and disappearing again with a heavy cost upon the society.

Past experience shows that trouble is on its way for us. Having suffered enormously for 30 years, we cannot afford more disturbances.

Some Kashmiri Youth tricked by Taliban Propaganda

The worrying trend is that even before Pakistan's ISI can



As Kashmir grapples with its own Pakistani imposed religious fundamentalism and violent extremism, THE TILT OF A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF ITS YOUTH TOWARDS THE TALIBAN IDEOLOGY OF ISIS IS A CAUSE OF WORRY. Among other destructive things, the advent of Taliban ideology coupled with the already existing extremism has the potential of greatly hurting social harmony in the valley through the rise of SECTARIAN HATRED WHICH LIES AT THE HEART OF TALIBAN IDEOLOGY, besides fomenting existential threats to national security



foment fresh trouble, a significant number of Kashmiris seem to willingly embrace the Taliban ideology. They are welcoming the Taliban victory and offering justifications for their violent, extremist practices. This new found love for the local extremists and their mentors in media and politics, combined with the dangerous Wahabi-Deobandi ideology of the Taliban, is extremely worrying. Pakistani social media handles and local secessionist supporters are spew-

ing massive content on social media to garner support for Taliban.

It is noteworthy that Taliban is a hardcore Deobandi-Wahabi group which believes in Islamist supremacy and the most strict interpretations of Quran. It is led by a group of highly conservative Mullahs who have been nurtured in Pakistani madrasas and funded and supported by Pakistani state. Mullah Akhundzada has emerged as the new poster-boy for Islamic radicals

globally. It seems that in Kashmir valley, some Kashmiri youth have been tricked in by the Taliban or Pak propaganda. These youth feel inclined towards the hardcore ideology of Taliban. They can also be seen adoring militant Salafi groups and figures like Al-Qaeda's Bin Laden and Al Zawahiri and also Iraqi Abu Musaib al Zarqawi, who preceded ISIS. This is a lethal combination which can radicalize communities.

No space for violent, extremist ideologies

Ideologically, Taliban's beliefs and doctrines are similar to that of groups and organisations operating in Kashmir. For instance, the Hizbul Mujahideen and its ideological fountain-head, Jamaat e Islami (JeI), also subscribe to the same Taliban Islamism in their own ways. On many occasions in the early 1990s, Syed Ali Geelani had not only justified the armed militancy in Kashmir, but had also attempted to put it into a pan-Islamic skeleton by calling



upon the Muslims of all countries, especially Afghans, to join the 'Jihad' in Kashmir just as had been done in Afghanistan. The newfound attachment towards Taliban among the indoctrinated section in kashmir can also be observed through social media sites which are abuzz with praise and love for Taliban, with many messages and posts regularly condoning Taliban's brutal practices and actions in Afghanistan.

As Kashmir grapples with its own Pakistani imposed religious fundamentalism and violent extremism, the tilt of a significant number of its youth towards the Taliban ideology of ISIS is a cause of worry. Among other destructive things, the advent of Taliban ideology coupled with the already existing extremism

Every Kashmiri regardless of any sect or religion cannot afford even a bit of this extremely hateful and inhuman ideology. TO SUCH VIOLENT EXTREMIST IDEOLOGIES, WE MUST SAY A BIG NO!

has the potential of greatly hurting the social harmony in the valley through the rise of sectarian hatred which lies at the heart of Talibani ideology (as Shias, Hazaras and other sectarian minorities would testify), besides fomenting existential threats to national security. We have seen the brutal acts of Taliban in Afghanistan which go against the basic tenets of humanity. The religious minorities in the valley

like the Shias and Ahmadis are looking at the situation with concern. They have seen the worst of atrocities being committed against their sect members in Pakistan and Afghanistan by the brutal Taliban ideology. Like them, every Kashmiri regardless of any sect or religion cannot afford this extremely hateful and inhuman ideology. To such violent extremist ideologies, we must say a big No!

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**“LAWDA
Ne Loot
Machayi
Hai”**

**“They are so
corrupt they join
offices wearing
plastic shoes and
leave wearing shoes
made of gold”**



by Iqbal WANI

Dal Lake, globally recognized as the face of Srinagar city, is a unique waterbody with hundreds of houseboats. Tourists love to reside on the lake in an atmosphere of peace and tranquility. The lake has historically been one of the focal points of Kashmir civilization, and has played a major role in the economy of the state as a favourite jaunt of tourists. The Dal Conservation Plan was made in the year 2000, and it has not been implemented yet. Due to lack of hygiene and weed proliferation, the Dal is

losing its charm, and nobody seems to take the responsibility for it.

Kashmir's wetlands are depleting. In the Jhelum basin of Kashmir, the total area of the major wetlands (with area more than 25 hectares) stood at 288.96 sq. km. in 1972. By 2013, it had reduced to 266.45 sq. km. A major factor contributing to the environmental deterioration of the lake comes from the intensive growth of weeds, and human encroachment.

LAWDA was established in 1997. In 24 years, it has not been able to set up a drainage system in Dal Lake. Nearly 7,500 people live in house-

boats on the lake. More than 50,000 people populate the small islands adjoining the lake. Household waste from these houses is inevitably dumped into Dal. For lack of a drainage system, no other option is available. Sewage and sullage is discharged directly into the lake. Continuous disposal of waste has severely depleted the lake's water quality. It is alarming that foul smell emerging from the lake spreads to even far off residential areas like Soura and Dalgate when the water gets too dirty. A few houseboats have installed their individual tanks for drainage, but most are not equipped with it.

'For the first time, we have deployed 20 machines for de-weeding at Dal Lake'

J&K Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) was created by the J&K government to serve as a one-point agency to look after, manage and conserve the waterbodies and waterways of Jammu and Kashmir. KZINE spoke to Vice Chairman LAWDA Dr Bashir Ahmad Bhat to enquire about the sewerage plan, de-weeding, lily extraction, dredging, solid waste issues and houseboat sanitation at Dal Lake, and its bad condition at various spots. Here are excerpts from the interaction.

What is LAWDA planning to do about the garbage collected at various places in the lake?

Houseboat garbage has been disposed in the lake. From this year we will connect the houseboats. The survey of houseboats is almost complete. Proposals were submitted to connect them to bio-digesters. Before scaling up this project, we needed a pilot test. That didn't yield results. It needed the gap of some years for sampling purposes. But this year, the houseboats will be connected. It is on cards.

Are there any illegal structures around the lake?

There is an issue of illegal structures. We regularly deploy our enforcement wing, and we have demolished more than 200 illegal structures. FIRs have also been registered against them.

Is any cleanliness drive going on at Dal Lake?

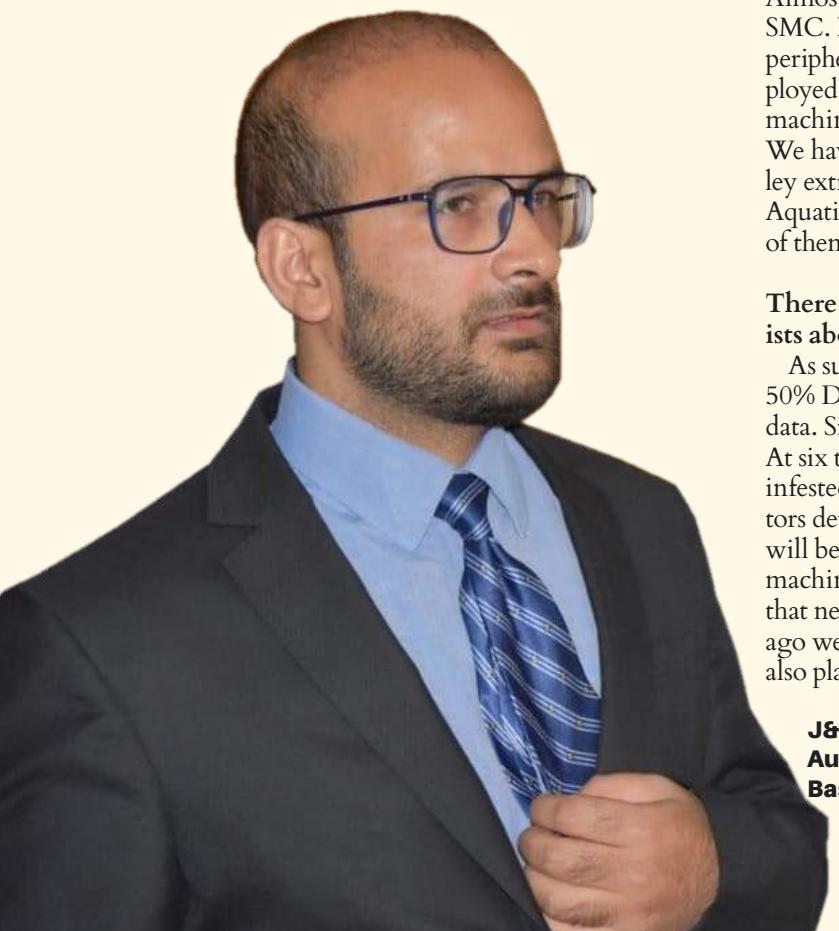
Dal lake cleanliness is a recurring activity. The cleanliness drive started from April and will continue till year end. Currently LAWDA has five sewage treatment plants which can treat 36 minimal liquid discharge (MLD) sewage. The last STP was installed in 2017. Five STPs are not enough. There is a proposal to set up an STP at Gupt Ganga with 30 MLD capacity. The proposal was submitted by the Urban Environment Engineering Department to the government a couple of months ago.

How many employees does LAWDA have for manual cleaning of the lake?

Cleaning and de-weeding are separate activities. Cleanliness is outsourced – it isn't employee-based. Almost 1-1.5 tons of solid waste are disposed of by SMC. For de-weeding and manual cleaning of the periphery of the lake, 400-500 employees are deployed every day through outsourcing. We have five machines for the purpose, but these are not enough. We have deployed 14 more machines through valley extraction. We have also some small machines. Aquatic weed is regularly cut down. We can't cut all of them. We can cut only 30-40% of the weeds.

There are complaints from locals and also tourists about lack of cleanliness in Dal Lake.

As such there is no cleaning issue. There are weeds. 50% Dal water is bearable, B class water as per TCB data. Since about 8-10 years, lilies have proliferated. At six to seven points, the surface area of the lake is infested by lilies, totaling about 6 sq km. Various factors determine weed proliferation, and these things will be there. For the first time, we have deployed 20 machines to deal with it. There is a scientific exercise that needs to be done. We are on the job. A few days ago we tried to optimize machines usage. We are also planning to intensify labour.



J&K Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) Vice Chairman Dr Bashir Ahmad Bhat

SEWAGE AND SULLAGE IS DISCHARGED DIRECTLY INTO THE LAKE. CONTINUOUS DISPOSAL OF WASTE HAS SEVERELY DEPLETED THE LAKE'S WATER QUALITY. IT IS ALARMING THAT FOUL SMELL EMERGING FROM THE LAKE SPREADS TO EVEN FAR OFF RESIDENTIAL AREAS LIKE SOURA AND DALGATE WHEN THE WATER GETS TOO DIRTY



Encroachments, Illegal Structures Abound

The biggest cause of pollution of Dal Lake is the unabated encroachment and the illegal structures around it. As per the Master Plan 2035, the government has specified green belt for water bodies in and around Srinagar city. The green belt zones for Dal and Nigeen lakes from Dalgate and Nehru Park is 50 meters from the edge of the lake or building line. These are 100 meters from the edge of the lake from Nishat Park to Nehru Junction; Naseem Bagh to Ashai Bagh Bridge; around 50 meters from the western periphery of Dal Lake from Saida Kadal to Dalgate; and around 20 meters from Telbal Nallah, Nallah Amir Khan and other tributary nallahs. Green belts are the areas around the water bodies where construction is prohibited in order to protect the lake, and also the fauna and flora living there.

"Inhu ne loot macahye huvi hai"

LAWDA employees who

did not want to be identified told KZINE that the Lakes and Waterways Development Authority receives highly generous funding, but work execution is poor. "Inhu ne loot macahye huvi hai. This is a very corrupt department. LAWDA officers allow constructions on state land. When someone complains about the illegal constructions, they destroy a little bit of structure for show off, take money and tell the owner to start construction again. There is no cleanliness drive for Dal Lake. They only take out the garbage and throw it in Dada Mohalla in Harwan, Ward 1, adjacent to Foreshore Road. Dada Mohalla residents have to suffer foul smell. When the garbage dries, LAWDA sells it as fertilizer," said an LAWDA employee. Residents of Foreshore Road gave the same information about LAWDA.

A shikara wala said that the LAWDA officials do not demolish any illegal structures. Any action against illegal structures is like a joke. "Police and LAWDA employees are together in this. They are so corrupt that they join offices wearing plastic shoes and leave wearing shoes made of gold. LAWDA gives permission for illegal structures, then registers fake FIRs against owners. The owners are arrested for one or two days. The LAWDA officials demolish a little bit of construction just to show that they are not allowing illegal constructions. Then they allow people to construct whatever they want to construct. No illegal structure has been demolished fully till date or stopped from completion."

Another shikara wala complained that the back side of Dal



"ANY ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IS AN EYEWASH. POLICE AND LAWDA EMPLOYEES ARE TOGETHER IN THIS. LAWDA OFFICIALS DEMOLISH A LITTLE BIT OF CONSTRUCTION JUST TO SHOW THAT THEY ARE NOT ALLOWING ILLEGAL CONSTRUCTIONS. THEN THEY ALLOW PEOPLE TO CONSTRUCT WHATEVER THEY WANT TO CONSTRUCT. NO ILLEGAL STRUCTURE HAS BEEN DEMOLISHED FULLY TILL DATE OR STOPPED FROM COMPLETION"

is full of weeds and garbage. "You can check it. Machines come but they just waste fuel. They do not do anything concrete." When asked that why don't shikara walas protest it, the man said, "We are illiterate people. How would we know about these offices? To show one's fist to a blind man is neither a sin nor a virtue."

The KZINE correspondent asked the shikara walas if the tourist make Dal Lake dirty. They responded that tourists never throw anything in the water. They are conscious of the beauty around them, and try to keep the lake clean."

From The Tourists' Lens



The KZINE correspondent asked a tourist, Samarprita Sarkar, who had come from Kolkata. Samarprita said that she is visiting Kashmir for the third time. "When I came here the first time, I stayed in a house-boat at the backside of Dal. The surroundings were really dirty. That view was not pleasant. I do not think people can help it. All the waste and the weeds can be cleaned only by the management. On a scale of 1-10, I would rate the cleanliness at 7," she said.

CHILD EDUCATION ALLOWANCE FOR GOVT EMPLOYEES

Fraudulent withdrawals malign the initiative



Enquiry ordered against Tehsildar, two teachers suspended

by Waseem GUL

The Child Education Allowance (CEA) Scheme launched by the UT Administration with the aim to benefit the children of government employees in Jammu and Kashmir has been fraudulently misused by undeserving persons. The scheme is under the radar of investigation agencies. Action is being taken against the persons who committed the fraud. Some employees involved in fraudulent withdrawal of CEA have been suspended. An enquiry has been ordered to probe the matter in North Kashmir's Handwara.

Sources reveal that the Child Education Allowance Scheme was launched in Jammu and Kashmir on November 28, 2019. The scheme provides for Education Allowance and hostel subsidy for the UT employees at par with Central government employees. According to the provisions of the scheme, the reimbursement of CEA/hostel subsidy can be claimed only for the two eldest children. The scheme provides that an exception can be made if the second childbirth results in twins/multiple birth. The amount for reimbursement of Children Education Allowance is fixed at Rs 22,501 per month

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per child. The amount is double in quantum for the specially abled (divyaang) children of government employees.

The scam came to light after it was learnt that some employees from Handwara attained the education allowance in a fraudulent manner. These employees procured bonafide certificates from educational institutions to avail the CEA, but furnished wrong details that did not meet the prescribed criteria. As per sources, many employees posted in different educational institutions have sub-

Students of Aiims school, Handwara in a playground.



Similar cases of fraudulent withdrawal of CEA have surfaced in Revenue Department, Handwara. Sources reveal that Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara constituted a committee to conduct an enquiry against Tehsilder Handwara Aijaz Ahmad Khuroo, who is allegedly involved in the fraudulent withdrawal of Child Education Allowance

mitted the certificates of children who are underage and don't meet the criteria specified for CEA.

Speaking on this issue, Zila Education Officer (ZEO) Handwara Shabir Ahmad accepted that many employees working in the department were involved in fraudulent withdrawal of Child Education Allowance. Did this happen on account of loopholes in the verification process? The ZEO said it seemed that some

employees had taken advantage of the loopholes in the scheme for availing the grant illegally. The ZEO said that as part of the scheme, an undertaking is obtained from the beneficiary that if it is found during verification that the child does not meet the specified criteria, the amount given as grant shall be remitted from the salary of the employee. "We have deducted the amount from the salary of the employees

and action has been initiated," he added. When asked about steps taken by the department for the verification of future applicants, the ZEO said that some employees of the department shall be given special verification duty to ensure transparency in the process.

Sources revealed that two out of 14 teachers who were asked to emit the amount have been put under suspension by ZEO Hand-

wara. Investigation is still on. KZINE also made enquiries regarding the private school which issued the bonafide certificate, and inquired about the process of verification for issuing the certificate. Sources revealed that these schools provide the bonafide certificate verifying that the child is enrolled in the school. Further verification regarding the grant

of CEA and whether it is rightfully demanded is the responsibility of the department.

Similar cases of fraudulent withdrawal of Child Care Allowance have surfaced in Revenue Department, Handwara. Sources reveal that Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara constituted a committee of three members to con-

duct an enquiry against Tehsilder Handwara Aijaz Ahmad Khuroo, who is allegedly involved in the fraudulent withdrawal of Child Care Allowance. The committee comprising of Deputy Chief Education Officer Handwara, Treasury Officer Langate, and Treasury Officer Villgam was asked to submit the factual report along with documentary proof

Some government employees in Handwara availed the education allowance fraudulently. These employees procured bonafide certificates from educational institutions to avail CEA, but furnished wrong details that did not meet the prescribed criteria



Government Degree College, Handwara.

within three days to Deputy Commissioner Kupwara. The order was issued by Additional Deputy Commissioner Handwara on August 23.

KZINE repeatedly tried to connect with Tehsildar Handwara Aijaz Ahmad Khuroo regarding the charge against him, but he did not take the calls.

When contacted, Additional Deputy Commissioner Handwara said that he received the information from DC Office Kupwara about the fraudulent withdrawal of Child Care Allowance by the Tehsildar Handwara. Accordingly, he formed a committee to investigate the matter. "A committee of three members was formed. Some officers who were members of the committee were busy, so the report has not been received yet," said the ADC. He added that he has given one more day to the committee to file the report.

NARCO TERROR: Pakistan's Strategy To Destabilise The Region

Kupwara Again Emerges As Gateway For Infiltration, Pumping In Ammunition and Narcotics

by GM MIR

W

hen terrorism began in Kashmir in 1990, many people were in the race to create their own militant groups and establish a lucrative business through this medium. Pakistan was sending money for militants and their families. For this entire trade – whether it was infiltration of militants, enabling youth/militants to go to Pakistan or to receive ammunition or hawala money routed through Pakistan, Kupwara became the gateway. The routes through Kupwara district were the first choice for these activities. This is because the district has a long border with Pakistan. In this way, criminals and anti-national forces based in Kupwara district played a big role in destroying one generation in Kashmir.

Youth In Kupwara District Being Used For Narcotics Movement

Now after 30 years of terrorism in Kashmir, Kupwara may again become the epicenter to destroy another generation of Kashmiris. Vicious forces are at play on the border between India and Pakistan along Kupwara. Once again, infiltration routes in the district connecting with Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir are



Soldiers discover a tunnel on LOC. Vicious forces are at play on the border between India and Pakistan along Kupwara. Once again, infiltration routes in the district connecting with Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir are being used by the Pakistani Army to send narcotics and ammunition into Kashmir

The youth of Kupwara district are being used as conduits to ferry carry drugs from one place to another. They are paid commission on each consignment ferried by them. The militants supply the narcotics to their local handlers to generate funds for their activities. In this way, narcotics have emerged as Kashmir's terror currency

Photographs For Representational Purposes Only

Narcotics - The Currency For Terror Networks

For many years, it has been known that the Taliban were able to sustain the war against the US using funds from the narcotics trade. US Commander General John Nicholson stated in the 2018 Special Inspector General for Afghan Reconstruction (Sigar) report that the drug trade accounts for up to 60% of the Taliban's annual revenue. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimated the drug trade of Afghanistan to be more than 80 percent of global opium and heroin supplies.

The same tactics is being used in Kashmir for many years in order to fund and sustain terrorism. Now, with the hawala channels blocked by the security and intelligence agencies of the state, the terror groups do not have access to easy funding. With this, narcotics have emerged as the major source of funding terrorism in Kashmir. Drones are being used to push drugs into Punjab and Kashmir.

Kashmir is being increasingly made a hub of narco terror. After the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan, it is anticipated that more drugs will be pushed into Kashmir by the narcotics terror networks.

Kupwara may again become the epicenter to destroy another generation of Kashmiris. Vicious forces are at play on the border between India and Pakistan along Kupwara. Once again, infiltration routes in the district connecting with Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir are being used by Pakistan Army to send narcotics into Kashmir. Since hawala channels have been busted, narcotics have replaced the medium of sending hawala money into Kashmir



Security agencies setting fire to a huge consignment of narcotics seized on the border

Toxic Role Played by Many Kashmiris in POK, Their Families Here

A big concern in this trade is the role played by many Kashmiris who have relatives in Pakistan. Many of these Kashmiris in Pakistan are those who had gone from here to get arms training, stayed back for long periods and got engaged in the narcotics trade. These Kashmiris are among the best sources for ISI to get information regarding what is happening in Kashmir. Through their family members here, the Kashmiris in Pakistan get information regarding who are the nationalists in Kashmir and what are their current activities.

With advanced mobile phone technologies available, these

families use different applications to remain in contact with their relatives across the border in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir or other areas of Pakistan. Whenever the drug cartels there send a consignment of drugs across the border, the Kashmiris in Pakistan inform their family members in advance to take the kheph (consignment) from the border. Sometime this conversation leaks, and security forces are able to seize the consignments in order to save the youth of Kashmir. Kupwara district has taken the lead in this illicit trade and is used as an active gateway for the supply of drugs and ammunition.

Huge Profits For Militant Commanders

Militant commanders staying in Pakistan are making huge profit from this drug business.

The narcotics operation has the full blessings of ISI, since it meets the needs of the militants in Kashmir. This also helps ISI to involve more and more youth in Kashmir in militant activities. Many youth of Kashmir are getting trapped in the narcotics trade to make easy money.

A prime objective of ISI is to keep increasing local support in Kashmir to constantly strengthen the terror ecosystem. ISI wants to create handlers in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir for the narcotics project, and a network of youth in the valley who shall directly support the narcotics trade and movement.

ISI is keen that Lashkar e Taiba and the Taliban should operate jointly in Kashmir and keep it on constant boil. One, LeT operates with new-age technologies to engage in terror activities. Second, LeT has created a network of female Over Ground Workers (OGWs) who support narcotics from one place to another, but do not arouse much suspicion. LeT creates a large network of OGWs who can undertake risky tasks for them in return for monetary gains.

Bid to Engage Kashmiris Who Lost Their Families Members To Conflict

In this project, ISI also wants to engage those families in Kashmir who lost their loved ones in the conflict. ISI is making efforts to incorporate the youth from these families in the name of jihad. ISI proxies are feeding vulnerable Kashmiri youth the potion that with the

WELCOME TO KAMAN



Many people go to Pakistan on the Indian passport to meet their sons who are settled there. Their sons had initially gone to Pakistan for arms training. Many of the Kashmiris who are visiting their relatives are extensively questioned by the ISI about the situation in the valley

help of Taliban, they shall be able to secure some so-called freedom for which they lost their loved ones.

ISI knows that the youth from such families can be very important for their project. Their sentiment can be recharged in the name of Islam and jihad. Many of these families are already helping ISI by giving them regular information regarding the Valley.

ISI Extensively Questions Kashmiris Who Go to Pakistan To Meet Relatives

Many people go to Pakistan on the Indian passport to meet their sons who are settled there. Their sons had initially gone to Pakistan for arms training. They became part of the terror network. Through ISI, their marriage was solemnized with local Pakistani

girls so that they would remain rooted with their families.

Most Kashmiris who go from here to meet their sons in POK are extensively questioned by the ISI about the situation in the valley. Through diverse interactions, I have learnt that many of these persons give detailed information to ISI about the location and other details of security establishments in their area. They also provide detailed information about all the persons they know who help the local administration or the security forces. Through this medium, ISI gets detailed information about the people who are helping the state to keep peace. The decision of the state to issue passports frequently to people whose relatives went to Pakistan for arms training and settled there has proved to be a wrong decision. The sensitive information regarding Kashmir shared by such persons is a threat to peace in the region.

Kashmir is being increasingly made a hub of narco terror. After the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan, it is anticipated that more drugs will be pushed into Kashmir and Punjab by the narcotics terror networks

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OPENING KASHMIR'S EYES

Kashmiri chides Pakistan stooge Carin Jodha Fischer on Twitter, she blocks him

So much for the liberal values of the West!



carin jodha fischer
@carin_fischer

But they won't protest over #GeelaniSahab who was revered in Sopore! Sorry but it makes me so angry!!



thekashmirpress.com
Sopore residents protest against dilapidated conditions on link road

6:55 pm · 08 Sep 21 · Twitter Web App

by Mir SOHAIL

On September 8, a media house in Kashmir reported from Sopore that residents of a village protested against the Roads and Buildings Department for failing to macadamize and repair roads from the past six years. The residents complained that the road is in dilapidated condition as the stretch has not been repaired since long.

Pained by the news, German/ American Carin Jodha Fischer tagged the news and tweeted: But they won't protest over #Geelani Sahab who was revered in Sopore. Sorry but it makes me so angry!!

A Kashmiri named Owais Nanda had a royal retort for Carin. Owais tagged her tweet and retorted: Dear Jodha, do you know as to what is the real problem of Kashmir? It's 'More Loyal Than

The screenshot shows a Twitter exchange. Owais Nanda (@Owais.Na... - 1d) replies to @carin_fischer: "Dear Jodha, do you know as to what is the real problem of Kashmir? It's 'More Loyal Than The King' syndrome. Every Tom, Dick & Harry starts to meddle in our affairs - Cultural, Religious, Political et al. As if Kashmir can't think, decide & act for itself..." Carin Jodha Fischer (@carin_fischer - 1d) responds: "Every alien takes it upon himself/herself to decide for us. Geelani Saab died. Naturally. Amidst his kith & kin. He was 92...What should be the fuss? Protest for what? Death?" Owais Nanda replies again: "How fine it would be, if we would be left alone, by every outsider, every! Life would be so regal. Here's the icing on the cake. For all the democratic, liberal values that these so-called Kashmir experts claim, Carin Jodha Fischer blocked Owais Nanda from following or viewing her tweets. So much for liberal values!"



Owais Nanda, Baramulla. Teacher with J&K Education Department



Carin Jodha Fischer, Pakistan stooge paid to malign India

The King' syndrome. Every Tom, Dick and Harry starts to meddle in our affairs – cultural, religious, political et al. As if Kashmir can't think, decide and act for itself.

Continuing the chide, Nanda continued: Every alien takes it upon himself/herself to decide for us. Geelani Saab died. Naturally. Amidst his kith & kin. He was 92...What should be the fuss? Protest for what? Death?

How fine it would be, if we would be left alone, by every outsider, every! Life would be so regal.

Here's the icing on the cake. For all the democratic, liberal values that these so-called Kashmir experts claim, Carin Jodha Fischer blocked Owais Nanda from following or viewing her tweets. So much for liberal values!

Owais Nanda is the teacher working with J&K Education Department. He also runs an NGO to help poor children and is involved in other social welfare activities.

Carin Jodha Fischer Is Paid By Pakistan To Malign India: [sundayguardianlive.com](https://www.sundayguardianlive.com)

On her Twitter handle, Carin Jodha Fischer says she lived in Kashmir for ten years till she was exiled from there. Read below the excerpts from a report on Carin on [sundayguardianlive.com](https://www.sundayguardianlive.com)

As part of their continuous focus on using "softer" methods to dent India's image in the international forum, an elected member of the ruling Pakistan Tehreek E Insaaf (PTI) party, has tied up with two lobbying firms in the United States (US) in January this year with the stated agenda of mobilizing support against India in view of the "atrocities" taking place in Kashmir.

The two lobbying groups (are) Kashmir Action Network (KAN) and Chinar Consulting, both based in Washington...KAN had come into existence in May 2020, the Chinar consulting group was born in January 2020. Both groups are owned by Germany born US national Carin Jodha Fischer. Fischer, as per multiple accounts, came to Kashmir in 2006 as a tourist, till she was asked to leave by the Indian government in June 2016.

For her service, the Pakistan government will be paying both these lobbying groups, owned by Fischer, a monthly fee of \$3,500.00 each which translates to Pakistani Rs 11 lakh monthly or Pakistani Rs 1.32 crore annually.

As per the agreement entered into by Fischer and government of Pakistan, the services provided by KEM will include grassroots advocacy mobilization related to the subject of "civil, political, and human rights violations and international law violations taking place in Indian occupied Kashmir" and "raising awareness about the complete absence of civil and democratic rights, the shrinking political rights, and the absolute crushing of the will and determination of the Kashmiri people".

For this purpose, as per the promise made by Fischer, she will try to influence the legislature and media. Similarly, the services provided by Chinar Group will include improving the Pakistan government's relations with the US government and media.

It is pertinent to mention that Pakistan has already hired two other US lobbying groups, BLJ Worldwide and Linden Government Solutions, to mount an anti-India campaign in the West as reported by The Sunday Guardian (<https://www.sundayguardianlive.com/news/pak-employs-lobbying-firms-smear-indias-image-us>) earlier.

Pursidam az kharabiye gulshan zi baghban, Afghan kashid guft ki Afghan kharab kard

*Sar buridan pesh
in sangin dilan
gulchidan ast*

When Afghans Invaded Kashmir: A saga of brutality and destruction

by Saquib SALIM

bn Khaldun, a 14th century Arab scholar, wrote, “The past resembles the future as water resembles water.”

In the light of the above wisdom, India should be very cautious in dealing with the Taliban in Afghanistan. An assumption that Afghans will take no interest in Kashmir contradicts the historical understanding of the region. In the 18th century, tyranny of Afghans led to destruction of the huge population of Kashmir. Afghans were politically dominant in Kashmir for almost half a century. During this time, the Afghans reduced Kashmir to the lowest depths of penury, degradation and slavery. The destruction of the state was so profound that it is still etched in the memories of Kashmiris. A popular couplet in the region says;

Pursidam az kharabiye gulshan zi
baghban, Afghan kashid guft ki Af-
ghan kharab kard (I enquired of the
gardener the cause of the destruc-
tion of the garden

Drawing a deep sigh he replied,
“It is the Afghans who did it”)

Kashmir, ruled by a Mughal gov-
ernor, was always under the threat
of an Afghan invasion. In the 18th
century, as the Mughal empire
started declining the Afghans, first
under Nadir Shah and then Ahmad
Shah Abdali, set their eyes on In-
dia’s riches. The loot, destruction
and pillage caused by the Afghans
in their repeated invasions are still
part of Kashmiri folklore.

Ahmad Shah Abdali deputed As-
mat Ullah Khan to capture Kashmir
in 1748. The Afghan forces were
resisted valiantly by the Kashmiri



Top: Avantipur 1883. Bottom left: Nader Shah; Right: Ahmad-Shah-Abdali



Photographs For Representational Purposes Only

forces led by Afrasiyab Khan. The battle was decisively won and the Afghan commander, Asmat, was killed. A failed Abdali took to deceit. A servant was bribed to poison Afrasiyab in 1753, throwing Kashmir into a state of anarchy. A feud over succession to the governorship followed the assassination of Afrasiyab Khan.

History states that two Kashmiri noblemen, Mir Muqim Kanth and



TWO KASHMIRI NOBLEMEN, MIR MUQIM KANTH AND KHWAJA ZAHIR DIDAMARI, APPROACHED ABDALI WITH 'A REQUEST TO INVADE KASHMIR'. ABDALI CAME WITH HIS ARMY, PUSHING KASHMIR INTO A PERIOD OF BRUTAL OPPRESSION HITHERTO UNKNOWN TO THE KASHMIRIS

Khwaja Zahir Didamari, approached Abdali with 'a request to invade Kashmir'. Nobody knows what they wanted to achieve, but this invitation pushed Kashmir into a period of brutal oppression, hitherto unknown to the Kashmiris.

In 1753, the Afghan army led by Abdullah Khan Ishk Aqasi reached Kashmir, following the invitation from Mir Muqim and Khwaja Zahir. They met the Kashmiri forces

near Shopian. The Afghan army had its stooges inside Kashmir. The battle stretched over 15 days and the Afghans secured a win. The governor of Kashmir was captured and sent to Kabul. Aqasi ascended the throne of Kashmir as a viceroy of Abdali. For the next five months, Abdal-

lah Khan Ishk Aqasi let loose a reign of terror rarely witnessed elsewhere in the world.

The Tyranny Of The Afghans

Walter Lawrence, a 19th century settlement commissioner of Kashmir, in his book *Kashmir Valley* has described this period as a time of brutal tyranny. Afghans assembled merchants and noblemen at a place and forced them to surrender their wealth. Those who did not follow were killed and their houses ransacked. At times, whole families were killed for resisting the loot.

Jalil, a rich merchant, was tortured with red-hot iron rods on the suspicion of hiding money. Qazi Khan was tortured with his son till death because they resisted the loot of their hard-earned money. The peasantry was destroyed, merchants had to migrate, shops were shut down and women were captured. After five months, when Aqasi was sure that no more could



PHOTO COURTESY: SIKHNET.COM

HISTORY TEACHES US LESSONS. WE MUST NOT REPEAT MISTAKES, OTHERWISE HISTORY WOULD BE NO DIFFERENT FROM FICTION. WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT NO MIR MUQIM SHOULD, FOR SELFISH REASONS, BE ALLOWED TO BURN THE VALLEY THIS TIME

be extracted from the valley, he left a destroyed 'paradise' under the governorship of Abdullah Khan Kabuli. Abdullah Khan Kabuli was no good for Kashmir.

At this time, a resistance movement under Abdul Hassan Bandey mobilized Kashmiris against the Afghan rule. The chief adviser of Kabuli, Sukh Jiwan Mal, collaborated with Bandey and Kabuli was assassinated. Sukh Jiwan Mal became the Raja, with Bandey as his Prime Minister. This was just the start for decades of Afghan invasions.

Afghans Cut Off Heads Like They Plucked Flowers

In 1762, Nur-ud-din Bamzai led the Afghans and defeated Sukh Jiwan. For the next half a century, the valley remained under Afghan domination. Regarding this period, Lawrence writes: "Pathan (Afghan) rulers are now only remembered for their brutality and cruelty, and it is said of them that they thought no more of cutting off heads than of

plucking flowers.
Sar buridan pesh in sangin dilan gulchidan ast

The whole Kashmir valley, all of them innocent citizens, paid the price for the maneuvers of Mir Muqim and Khwaja Zahir. For their selfish interests, they threw the valley under the bus. History teaches us lessons. We must not repeat mistakes, otherwise history would be no different from fiction. We should understand that no Mir Muqim should, for selfish reasons, be allowed to burn the valley this time.

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