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OPENING KASHMIR'S EYES

Will The PCI Team Uncover The **UGLY TRUTHS** In Kashmir Media?



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**PCI Panel To Look Into Allegations Of
Harassment Of Journalists In Kashmir**

Pakistan Stooges Can't See Kashmiris Happy



The strategic assets of Pakistan in Kashmir media are unhappy over the enthusiastic youth participation in sports activities across the length and breadth of the Valley. The numbers of youth participating in these events is seeing a manifold increase. Local tournaments are mushrooming, and the youth are evidently having a ball. The love for cricket is phenomenal. Hockey, football, volleyball and other sports are witnessing a surge. Social media is abuzz with live commentaries of tournaments each day. Thousands of Kashmiris come out to watch these sports activities being organized with or without the support of the Administration. At times, jubilant and emotionally charged supporters of opposite teams even fight with each other. At places, police is deployed to avoid clashes. From street sports to organized sports activities, the number of participants is in thousands.

Each district has iconic sports figures now. They have earned name and fame in their respective areas.

The enthusiasm of the youth has made Pakistani stooges in Kashmir media miserable. According to highly-placed sources, a so-called journalist has written a mail to his masters in Pakistan, expressing anguish over the involvement of thousands of youth in sports activities. He has urged his sponsors to do something to stop this positivity.

The two attacks by terrorists in single day on Saturday in Srinagar could be attributed to what this moron has asked for from his masters.

I have long insisted that every killing by terrorists has a context. It is imperative to initiate action against the persons who may have caused it. Investigation must be conducted into the letter written by this so-called journalist. If found guilty, he must be held responsible for the killing of innocents. There should be fast track hearing of such cases, and public prosecutors should ask for capital punishment for such enemies of humanity.

We have reached the point where illiterate, uneducated, narrow-minded bigots like Sarjan Barkati ask for prohibition on laughter and insist that people should remain in perpetual state of mourning. Such people who don't want to see smiles on the faces of our young generation should rot in hell.



Bashir Assad

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INCISIVE REPORTING

INVESTIGATE
THE TERROR
ECOSYSTEM

EXPOSE
DECEPTION

RESTORE
ORDER

MAKE A SPLASH

INCULCATE
DEMOCRATIC SPIRIT

KZINE

OPENING KASHMIR'S EYES

ABDUL RASHID DAR

From Over Ground Worker for Hizbul Mujahideen to MLA Sopore

How Jamaat e Islami and Hizbul Mujahideen propped up Rashid Dar to insulate them against state action

by GM GIR

A

bdul Rashid Dar, former MLA of Sopore, has maintained strong relations with the top leadership of Hizbul Mujahideen in Pakistan for nearly 30 years now.

Abdul Rashid Dar is a resident of Danger Pora, Sopore, and a senior leader of Congress. He entered active politics with the blessings and active support of the top leadership of Hizbul Mujahideen and the Jamaat e Islami leadership, and with the approval of Syed Ali Geelani. Dar entered Kashmir's political fray with the Assembly elections held in 2002 and won the election, courtesy this strong backing.

For Dar, becoming an MLA was like being catapulted from the bottom rung to the top. Dar had studied only till Class 8. What worked for him was his close friendship with Naseem Geelani, son of Syed Ali Geelani.

Nobody knew that securing the candidature of Rashid Dar was the conspiracy of Hizbul Mujahideen and Jamaat e Islami to secure and safeguard their interest. They wanted their own man who would enable them to get access to the state administration and protect them from state action

Dar's native village is at a distance of approximately one kilometer from Dooru, the native village of Syed Ali Geelani. By 2002, this area had been dominated by militancy for about two decades. On account of the stiff resistance to elections and the democratic process in this area, it was very difficult for anyone to enter the political fray from here.

Rashid Dar was working as an over-ground worker for Hizbul Mujahideen. He had (and continues to have) close ties

with Naseem Geelani. Naseem Geelani is the owner of a school named Unique Educational Institute. This school is constructed over about 100 kanals of state land, which has been grabbed by Naseem Geelani.

Unique Educational Institute is considered as a basic office for the leaders of Jamaat e Islami and its establishment. This area has been dominated by Jamaat e Islami, since one of the top JEI leaders Syed Ali Geelani hailed from this area.

RASHID DAR WAS ASKED TO JOIN A NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTY

Some people who have been close to Rashid Dar told me that there was serious discussion that Jamaat e Islam and its militant arm Hizbul Mujahideen should have their man in the political establishment of Kashmir. The top leadership of Hizbul Mujahideen in Pakistan was privy to this discussion and was in agreement that they must have their own man in the political establishment of the state.

Naseem Geelani trusted Rashid Dar. He knew that Dar was a committed over-ground worker for Hizbul Mujahideen. He would always be a loyalist and would continue to do their bidding.

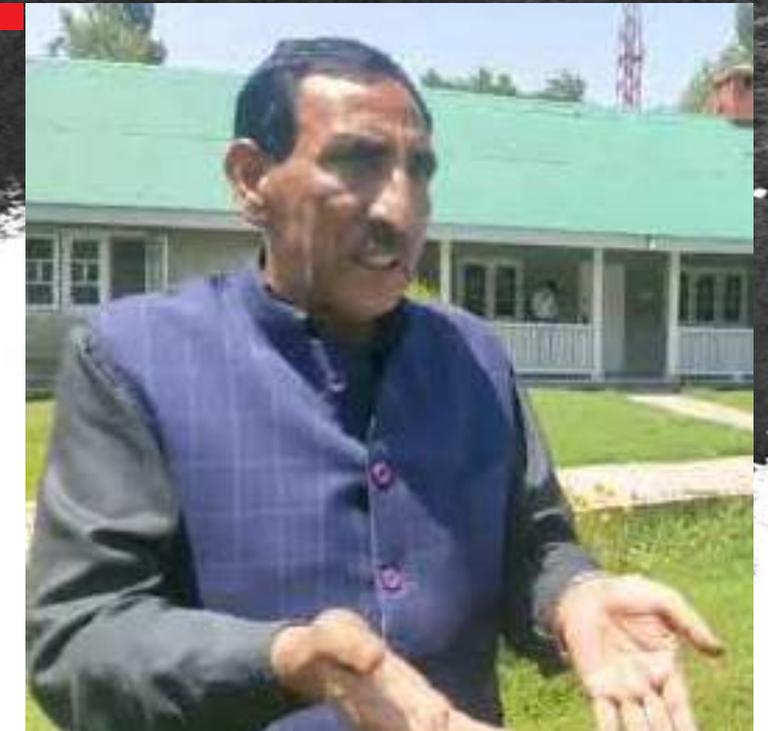
Hence Dar was chosen to be the political face for Jamaat e Islami and Hizbul Mujahideen. It was decided that Dar would join

Rashid Dar won the Assembly election. After becoming MLA, Rashid Dar was used as a tool by the Geelani family, by Jamaat e Islami and by Hizbul Mujahideen to serve their interests in the region. Whenever any JEI leader got arrested in Sopore for pushing anti-national activities, Dar was at the forefront to get him released

a national political party. Jamaat e Islami and the Hizbul Mujahideen leadership in Pakistan were aware that all policies targeting terrorist organizations in Kashmir are made by policy makers in Kashmir. Hence their own man in the political establishment would be a useful tool to always defend and protect them from severe state action. Naseem Geelani also had deep personal interest in installing a man in the political establishment.

Individuals close to Naseem Geelani and Rashid Dar told me that JEI decided that Dar would also be very useful in case action was initiated against Unique Educational Institute for grabbing state land.

As part of these discussions, a meeting was arranged. Syed Ali Geelani, some top JEI leaders, some fruit merchants, Naseem Geelani and Abdul Rashid Dar attended the meeting. It was unanimously decided to install Rashid Dar in active politics. It was decided that Rashid Dar would get the party ticket from a national party like the Congress. His major task would be to safeguard the interests



of Jamaat e Islami and Hizbul Mujahideen in Sopore.

At this time, Sopore had emerged as the major support base for Hizbul Mujahideen and other militant organizations. All major security agencies were trying to consolidate their base in Sopore so that they would be privy to any upheaval happening here, which would impact the rest of Kashmir. This had compelled the security agencies to have some JEI leaders of Sopore in their network.

JEI and Hizbul Mujahideen provided the strong local mechanism to ensure that Rashid Dar

would win from the area as the Congress candidate. Anybody who was familiar with the area knew that it was beyond anyone's imagination that a Congress candidate could win the election from here. The area was in the total grip of militancy. Passions rose high higher because this was the birthplace of Syed Ali Geelani. Other top JEI leaders hailed from here.

Nobody knew that securing the candidature of Rashid Dar was the conspiracy of Hizbul Mujahideen and Jamaat e Islami to secure and safeguard their interest. They wanted their own man who



The top leadership of Hizbul Mujahideen in Pakistan was in agreement that they must have their own man in the political establishment of Jammu and Kashmir. Syed Ali Geelani's son Naseem Geelani trusted Rashid Dar. He knew that Dar was a committed over-ground worker for Hizbul Mujahideen. He would always be a loyalist and would continue to do their bidding

would enable them to get access to the state administration.

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2002: JEI AND HM WORKED HARD TO ENSURE RASHID DAR WIN

With a strong reach or JEI in the Congress, Rashid Dar got the party ticket for Sopore for the 2002 Assembly election. Jamaat e Islami and Hizbul Mujahideen decided to do everything possible to ensure that their man was elected.

Local militants were directed that the call to boycott the election must be successful in those villages where Kashmiris

were likely to vote for National Conference. Militants were also directed that in all the villages where National Conference did not have a support base, the locals must be directed to vote.

The PDP ticket was given to one Gulam Rasool Shah, a social activist from Hardshiva. Shah was forced and threatened to withdraw his nomination papers for the election. Hizbul Mujahideen and Jamaat e Islami put in their entire effort to ensure that Rashid Dar won the election.

Naseem Geelani also spoke to

Syed Salahudin in Pakistan to get the green signal from the Hizbul Mujahideen command for complete assistance here.

One Nazir Ahmad, a resident of Harvan Sopore was the divisional commander of Hizbul Mujahideen. Jamaat e Islami recommended to Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin that he should be given the charge to fulfil this political project.

Rashid Dar was fortunate that he got Nazir Ahmad to push for his election. Nazir is closely related to Rashid Dar. He is the



A sarpanch of Hardshiva told me: "Once I and other eminent people of the area went to GA Mir, the president of J&K Congress Committee. We complained to him to please replace this illiterate person Rashid Dar. Mir refused. He said that we are helpless in this matter and cannot take any action regarding Rashid Dar. If we think of any action against him, we will need the approval of Geelani Sahab"

Why Rashid Dar Lost The 2008 Assembly Election

Rashid Dar won the Assembly election in 2002. He also won the election in 2014. What went wrong that he lost the election from Sopore in 2008?

In the 2008 Assembly election, National Conference played a trick. It was commonly known that the people in Sopore do not boycott the election because they come out to vote for Rashid Dar. NC fielded a candidate named Haji Ashraf from the village from which Rashid Dar hailed - Danger Pora. This village is the biggest locality in the area with a large population of voters. Haji Ashraf has a large clan of relatives in Danger Pora. All of them voted for him, and influenced other voters too. In this way, Haji Ashraf won the election from Danger Pora in 2008 by a thin margin.

After Feb 2013, there was strong anger all over Sopore against National Confer-

ence (NC) and the Congress. The people of Sopore regarded both these parties as equally responsible for the hanging of Afzal Guru. Afzal was from Mazbugh village. This is close to the same area that Rashid Dar hailed, and was contesting from. Because of Afzal Guru, people of this area had decided not to vote in favour of either the Congress or the National Conference. Accordingly, people of this area did not vote for National Conference in the Assembly elections held in 2014. But the conspiracy of Jamaat e Islami and Hizbul Mujahideen to make Rashid Dar win the election played a deep role. Jamaat e Islami and the Hizbul Mujahideen militants strongly influenced voters to vote for Rashid Dar. People came to know only later of this conspiracy of JEI and HM to push votes in favour of Rashid Dar.

brother of Rashid Dar's son-in-law. Nazir later moved to Pakistan.

Rashid Dar won the election. After becoming MLA, Rashid Dar was used as a tool by the Geelani family, by Jamaat e Islami and by Hizbul Mujahideen to serve their interests in the region. Whenever any JEI leader got arrested in Sopore for pushing anti-national activities, Dar was at the forefront to get him released.



Jamaat e Islami and Mufti Mohd Sayeed were closely aligned by this time. Hence Mufti was asked to take personal care of Rashid Dar.

A sarpanch of Hardshiva told me: "Once I and other eminent people of the area went to GA Mir, the president of J&K Congress Committee. We complained to him to please replace this illiterate person Rashid Dar. Mir refused. He said that we are helpless in this matter and cannot take any action regarding Rashid Dar. If we think of any action against him, we will need the approval of Geelani Sahab."

There is a group of JEI leaders in Zaingeer area of Sopore. They looked after all the pro-

grams of Geelani Sahab under the patronage of Abdul Rashid Dar. Among them is Bashir Ahmad Beigh, former president of Fruit Mandi, Sopore and Chairman, Awqaaf Committee, Dooru. Beigh holds a key position in the trust of Unique Educational Institute, the property of Naseem Geelani. Bashir Ahmad beigh is also a close

relative of Rashid Dar. Bashir's sister is married to the younger brother of Rashid Dar.

After Rashid Dar, Bashir Ahmad Beigh is the second in command in the area to look after all programs to be executed by Naseem Geelani. Bashir is the Awqaaf Chairman because he is the choice of Naseem Geelani.

Mohammad Subhan Wani, a

Hurriyat leader, is a resident of Tujjar Shareef, Sopore. He is a close friend of Abdul Rashid Dar. Whenever Subhan was called to the police station for some untoward activity as a Hurriyat leader, Rashid Dar would quickly intervene and always get him released.

A police officer told me, "Ghulam Hassan Shah, a Hur-

to favour all these JEI leaders."

A local sarpanch, Ashraf Bhat, told me it is a mere accident that Abdul Rashid Dar was the MLA for their constituency. "His being the MLA was a great setback to the residents of this area. He had no idea of development. Our area is lacking in all major aspects like education infrastructure, provision of proper electricity, roads, health sector. Rashid Dar won the election in 2002 and again in 2014 because he was the choice of Geelani Sahab. He did not win because

we wanted to vote for him. The government must constitute a committee and send it to our area to prepare a report on the kind of life we are living here. We do not have safe drinking water. Communicable diseases easily spread here. Our area is in such a bad shape because our representative did not have any idea of development. His only focus was to look out for any adverse action against members of Jamaat e Islami, Hizbul Mujahideen or the Hurriyat, and try to prevent any such action."



A local sarpanch, Ashraf Bhat, said Dar being the MLA was a great setback to the residents of this area. He had no idea of development. "Our area is lacking in all major aspects like education infrastructure, provision of proper electricity, roads, health sector. Rashid Dar won the election in 2002 and again in 2014 because he was the choice of Geelani Sahab," said Bhat

JEI and HM Ensured Rashid Dar Win Despite public anger against Afzal Guru hanging

After Feb 2013, there was strong anger all over Sopore against National Conference and the Congress. The people of Sopore regarded both these parties as equally responsible for the hanging of Afzal Guru. Afzal was from Mazbugh village. This is close to the same area that Rashid Dar hailed, and was contesting from. Because of Afzal Guru, people of this area had decided not to vote in favour of either the Congress or the National Conference. Accordingly, people of this area did not vote for National Conference in the Assembly elections held in 2014. But following the conspiracy of Jamaat e Islami and Hizbul Mujahideen, the Jamaat and the militants strongly influenced voters to vote for Rashid Dar. People came to know only later of this conspiracy of JEI and HM to push votes in favour of Rashid Dar.

riyat leader of Bumai, Sopore, is now in jail. He was also part of this group. He is still in jail because J&K is a UT now, and Abdul Rashid Dar does not have any say in the Administration. Otherwise Ghulam Hassan Shah would have been released or maybe he would not have been arrested. Rashid Dar was always influencing the Administration

PAKISTAN IS **FAKING IT** ON KASHMIR

Kashmir Is The Method For Pakistan to Exist

**The country with
greater urge for
peace will have lesser
power to negotiate**

by Waseem GUL



Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's announcement at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and the subsequent heating of the LOC is a message that a playbook is being played. Pakistan is in no mood to negotiate any lasting peace with India. India may have agreed for ceasefire on LoC hoping it may open doors for sustainable peace on the border.

The harsh truth is that this is wishful thinking on our part. Indians need to understand the fact that the country with greater urge for peace will have lesser power to negotiate.

Past experience has shown that most Indians want peace with Pakistan. Peace is a good thing. But we Indians have the tendency to jump at any option for peace. We are always more willing to make space for it. Equally, it must be understood that peace must be negotiated from a position of strength.



Ali Babar Patra, a 19-year-old surrendered during an encounter-infiltration operation by the Army in Uri sector on September 27. Patra said that he was trained by Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Pakistan Army.

CREDIT: THE TRIBUNE

Only then it can sustain. A settlement for peace from a weak or even equal wicket is always fragile and vulnerable.

PAKISTAN OPTED FOR CEASEFIRE DUE TO INTERNAL COMPULSIONS

In February 2021, Pakistan and India agreed for ceasefire along the LOC and all other sectors. Pakistan opted for ceasefire because it was under pressure on its eastern and also the western front.

As the enemy nation, Pakistan has always tried to keep India engaged in low-intensity proxy warfare on multiple fronts, like in Punjab and Kashmir. Early this year, it was Pakistan which was engaged on both fronts. A ceasefire on the LOC immensely benefited Pakistan. It enable Pakistan to focus its forces

entirely on the eastern front. Immediately after the ceasefire, there were reports of troops from LoC including some SSG moving to the Af-Pak region. We can only guess how they had been employed in the last six months.

PAKISTAN SHOWS TRUE COLOURS

Pakistan showed its true colors and intent immediately after the ceasefire. Even half hearted efforts to start trade were shelved in a day. The lack of change of intent was apparent to all from the continued venom being spewed by Pakistani leaders against India.

If we had desired in time to

ask Pakistan to reveal its true colours or intent, we would have demanded Pakistan to promise some more tangible gains than simply agreeing to the ceasefire. That was the only gain on the table in February 2021. The ceasefire violations stopped. Given our inherent desire for peace, we agreed for what they wanted, ie the ceasefire without negotiating for more. That is our weakness and our mistake.

There is a difference major difference in ceasefire violations when they happen on the LoC. Pakistan military is intentionally deployed inside the villages. When a military target is hit, the villages are vulnerable to be hit. At times, they do get hit. On this side of the LoC, India's

military is intentionally deployed away from the villages. Hence when our villages are hit by Pakistan, it is only when there is Pakistani intent to harm innocent civilians.

PAKISTAN'S WAR IN INFORMATION SPACE

Losing the battle on the LoC, all efforts of Pakistan, especially after August 2019 have been to malign India in the mind space, in the information space. This has only increased in scope. This has proved that Pakistan's thinking towards India has not changed.

The ceasefire was Pakistan's



The ceasefire was Pakistan's ploy. A peaceful Line of Control with India suited Pakistan when they were losing people on the Western front, and losing here also following their violent offensives and India's pushback

The Need To Counter information Warfare

On September 28, General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Chinar Corps Lt Gen DP Pandey stated that terrorists are entering India in connivance with Pakistan military commanders. Lt Gen Pandey revealed that terror launch-pads in Pakistan have been full for four to five months, and over the last one month, infiltration attempts have increased.

Ali Babar Patra, the teenage Pakistani terrorist captured by the Indian Army during a live encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Uri sector in the last week of September confirmed Pakistan's propaganda on Kashmir. "We were told that the Indian Army is carrying out a bloodbath, but everything is peaceful here. I can hear the azaan (call for prayers) on the loudspeakers five times a day. The behaviour of the Indian Army is completely opposite to that of the Pakistan Army. This makes me feel that there is peace in Kashmir," Patra said.

ploy. A peaceful Line of Control with India suited Pakistan when they were losing people on the Western front, and losing here also following their violent offensives and India's pushback.

Pakistan is now more secure on the Western front as compared to a few months ago. So Imran Khan obliquely makes a reference in the UN General Assembly that the ceasefire will not hold.

Why does Imran Khan hint that LOC may not remain incident-free? This is because Pakistan's jihadi mercenaries who were fighting in Afghanistan are back. If Pakistan holds on to

them for too long, it will face domestic pressure. Pakistan cannot restrain them beyond a point.

By alluding in the UN that the ceasefire will not hold, Pakistan has stated its intent. Over the last six to eight months, Pakistan has told the jihadi mercenaries who plan to infiltrate into India – we are not holding you, and we are not stopping you. There has been no infiltration except from the Jammu sector. It is known that if Pakistan Army is not supporting the jihadis, the infiltration cannot take place. The recent surrender of LeT terrorist in Uri sector has thrown the lid

off the direct complicity and intent of Pakistan to continue to push terrorists and weapons into J&K.

WE ARE THE VICTIM OF OUR WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE FOR PEACE

Broadly, we are the victim of our willingness to negotiate for peace. Pakistan, on the contrary, buys peace with India only till the time it suits them. India has to see clearly that unless the Pakistan leadership states its intention for peace in black and white, its actions will not be peace-affirmative. The ceasefire agreement by itself does not offer anything tangible and affirmative, except for relative peace for Indian citizens living near the LoC.

Pakistan has placed nothing on the table to signal any change

of intent towards India. Hence India's kinetic and mind space effort must be to make the cost of war very heavy for Pakistan. The cost must be heavy in all facets of National Power including diplomacy, economy, military and information space.

Peace can be negotiated only from the position of strength. India has the capability to prove military strength on ground. Winning kinetic battle is the start. This has to be the base for the battle for mind space.

Pakistan uses every platform it can to malign India. The Kashmir component of Imran Khan's address in the UN General Assembly was again driven by falsehoods and malicious propaganda. When Pakistan's intention towards India has not changed, anyone singing their tune within India is a radical or a naïve intellectual working against national interest. This has to be clearly understood by our leadership and also our people.

Pakistan is happy with the failure of the allied forces in Afghanistan and the success of the Taliban. It is to be noted that Pakistan has done this after being paid to secure peace in Afghanistan. If we think that they shall ever align with India's interests for lasting peace in the region, we are mistaken

NO ARTICULATION OF CHANGE OF INTENT

There is no statement from Pakistan to prove that the intent of their leadership has

changed. The events unfolding in Afghanistan and Pakistan's participation in it has established Pakistan's complicity. Imran Khan's statements in UNGA have again established that Pakistan is always batting for Afghanistan.

Pakistan is happy with the failure of the allied forces in Afghanistan and the success of the Taliban. It is to be noted that Pakistan has done this after being paid to secure peace in Afghanistan. If we think that they shall ever align with India's interests for lasting peace in the region, we are mistaken.

Supporters of Pakistan are supporters of the two-nation theory, that Islam is one religion and one nation. All those who believe in the two-nation theory are supporting the ideology of ISIS. Is it wrong to say that the supporters of 'two nation theory' are the original proponents of the ISIS ideology that the world abhors?

THE KARGIL LESSON: Pakistan's duplicity should neither be forgiven nor forgotten



WE HAVE TO MAKE COSTS HEAVY FOR PAKISTAN

In all these spheres of National Power, we have to make the cost so heavy for Pakistan that it knows it cannot hit India.

Pakistan's treachery and its use of terror for strategic gains have landed it in trouble with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). With FATF, Pakistan is caught in a bind of its own making.

But at the UN, we are not challenging Pakistan's lies enough. Pakistan keeps bringing up the Kashmir bogey. Why aren't we saying strongly enough – where are minorities threatened in India? Where is the data to prove that the minorities have lost in any way? What locus standi does Pakistan have to talk of minorities in India? Let it produce its own data on minorities – the way the numbers of minorities have fallen every decade, the rampant and blatant attacks on minorities. Macro gross figures are enough to prove India's record of taking care of its minorities and the near extermination or conversion of Pakistani



minorities.

In the information space, we are weak. In the information space, Pakistan's total focus is on Kashmir. Which think-tank in India is focusing enough on Kashmir to counter the propaganda from Pakistan? How many Kashmir experts do we have in Delhi based think-



tanks? Which media house has a dedicated Kashmir desk for the required research and articulation?

Kashmir is the method for Pakistan to exist. Pakistan is the product of the two-nation theory. On account of its many

fault-lines and inherent flaws, Pakistan is failing on multiple counts. Kashmir is Pakistan's raison d'être – the chief reason it is able to exist.

Make a study of the choices that India and Pakistan are making. India is focused on poverty alleviation, on health, on Make in India, on economic progress and social welfare initiatives. Pakistan is focused most on beating

Google the credentials of the so-called academicians, activists and journalists who are labelled as Kashmir experts. Majority of them are from Pakistan or supported by Pakistan. Today it pays to be writing anti-India on J&K. You can avail fellowship and direct funding from ISI proxies. In the West, they are overtly or covertly supported by ISI. Bankrolled by Turkey and ignoring the looming crises within, Pakistan remains steadily fixed on Kashmir

ported by Pakistan. Today it pays to be writing anti-India on J&K. You can avail fellowship and direct funding from ISI proxies. In the West, these self-proclaimed experts are overtly or covertly supported by ISI. Bankrolled by Turkey and ignoring the looming crises within, Pakistan remains steadily fixed on Kashmir.

Pakistan is entirely focused on poisoning its population in the name of Kashmir, and making false fantastic claims. For the average man in Pakistan or in Afghanistan, all that is stated by the Pakistani state on Kashmir is the truth. They believe that there is persecution of Islam in Kashmir. That is why so many Pakistani surrendered or apprehended terrorists have expressed surprise on hearing the azan in the Kashmir valley. They are unmindful that they have been duped.

Pakistan has grabbed huge in-

formation space within its own territory and in Kashmir with its fake and fabricated anti-India narrative. The average Kashmiri knows about the falsehoods peddled by Pakistan on Kashmir. "Allah na karey, itna bura haal nahin hai", the average Kashmiri is likely to say when confronted by Pakistan's falsehoods. But for Pakistan's domestic population, the lies peddled by their government on Kashmir are the truth. The radical mind space has occupied a large space in Pakistan society – the illiterate and the poorly educated is being groomed to be anti-Indian. They are incessantly fed the propaganda to inflame them on Kashmir.

Pakistan is poisoning its future generations against India. This shall come with heavy costs for the deviant nation – Pakistan. This truth must reach Pakistan – and also the rest of the world.

the Kashmir bogey domestically and internationally so that all its failure in taking care of its citizens is covered.

PAK SPREADS LIES OF PERSECUTION OF ISLAM IN KASHMIR

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LEADING CHINA NEWSPAPER MAKES BIZARRE CLAIM

Says Youth From India's NE State Sold In Kashmir As Domestic Help

LIES IN SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

Trafficked from Assam to Kashmir: how Indian youths are forced to work in a conflict zone

- The story of a young man sold as a domestic servant reveals a silent, thriving nexus of modern slavery in Srinagar, the Kashmiri capital

by Mir QAYOOM

On September 26, China's leading English newspaper South China Morning Post published a news report that claimed that youth from the north-eastern states of India are sold as slaves in Kashmir.

Note the serious charge and the complete disinformation against India – that youth from some north-eastern states are brought to Kashmir and sold here. This was the headline of the news report: Trafficked from Assam to Kashmir: how Indian youths are forced to work in a conflict zone.

The following were the words under the headline: The story of a young man sold as a domestic servant reveals a silent, thriving nexus of modern slavery in Srinagar, the Kashmiri capital.

The gravity of the charge: sold as domestic servant. The photograph of a young man was taken with the news report with the following caption: Philimon Basumatary was trafficked to Kashmir

and sold as a domestic worker.

At multiple points, the news report makes reference to employment and the salary given to the youth brought from Assam.

Then how does the China newspaper justify this claim? ...The story of a young man sold as a domestic servant ...

Can a man working for a specified salary every month can be stated to be "sold as a servant"? Admittedly, the wages are low – which must be corrected. It deserves state attention and action. But does that authorize the China newspaper to say that youth from north-eastern states are sold for work in Kashmir?

WHY THE REPORT HURTS

As China's leading English newspaper, South China Morning Post has global circulation. The news report was placed in the global mailer from South China Morning Post. It would have reached

Can a man working for a specified salary every month can be stated to be "sold as a servant"? Admittedly, the wages are low - which must be corrected. It deserves state attention and action. But does that authorize the China newspaper to say that youth from north-eastern states are sold for work in Kashmir?

THE GIST OF THE NEWS REPORT

Here is the gist of the news report on South China Morning Post (SCMP). Philimon Basumatary and some other youth of Assam were brought to Kashmir by some labour contractors. The group included a minor girl aged about 15.

The labour contractors got the youth here on the pretext that they would be given work in an apple factory or some other good commercial establishment. Instead, the youth were forced to work as domestic servants. Kashmir has a huge demand for domestic servants or for people who can be engaged in menial labour in hotels, restaurants, hospitals etc.

The news report stated two days after working as a servant, Philimon told his employer that he had been cheated by the labour contractor, and did not want to work as a domestic servant. The employ-

er took him to the contractor. The labour contractor did not heed the demand of the aggrieved youngsters. He attempted to force them to continue work in the same role.

Philimon Basumatary had earlier studied in Pune, Maharashtra, in an educational institute run by Sarhad, an NGO. He was able to connect with the NGO. Aqib Bhat, a member of the NGO who is a Kashmiri helped the youth. Bhat convinced the employers that the youth had been forced to work against their will. He also prevailed upon the labour contractors that the youth who did not want to work in Kashmir should be allowed to go back to their home states. By this time, the youth had been in Kashmir for about a month. With Aqib's intervention, they were able to go back home.

the mailboxes of readers worldwide. Imagine the reach of this disinformation against India all over the world.

KZINE spoke to Adil Rashid, the journalist who wrote the misleading news report for South China Morning Post. On being asked about the grave false charge made in the news report, Adil Rashid said, "Please write about the matter to the Editor of my newspaper. I have nothing to say on the subject." He stated that he shall provide the mail address of the newspaper editor and also his

own mail address, but did not do so later.

When contacted by KZINE, Aqib Bhat expressed shock about the wrong charge made in the news report that Philimon and other youngsters had been sold. "The youngsters were being forced to work as servants against their will. We prevailed upon the labour contractors that the youth should be allowed to go back to their home states. Bringing youth from north-eastern states to work in Kashmir is a common practice," he said.



South China Morning Post

REPORT BY South China Morning Post DEMOLISHES PAKISTAN'S GLOBAL PROPAGANDA ON KASHMIR

THE FAKE SCMP REPORT



“Philimon Basumatary trafficked to Kashmir, and sold as a domestic worker”

The news-report carried a photograph of a young man with the caption: Philimon Basumatary was trafficked to Kashmir and sold as a domestic worker

EXAMINE SOME STATEMENTS IN THE NEWS REPORT:

- ...That decision led Philimon and seven others from villages in Assam, including a female minor, to be trafficked to Kashmir, where they would be sold as domestic workers...

- ...Indeed, Srinagar has become a nexus of modern slavery, with hundreds of shady “placement agencies” having cropped up all over the Kashmiri capital, where they are thriving amid lax official scrutiny.

- They were woken up the next day and escorted to different houses to work as domestic servants, instead of the jobs at hotels and factories they had been promised. “They waited for the night, and sold us off in the morning,” recalled Philimon, who was also told to never call his parents.

HOW SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST DEMOLISHES PAKISTAN’S PROPAGANDA AGAINST INDIA

The report by South China Morning Post demolishes Pakistan’s global propaganda on Kashmir. Pakistan has consistently tried to promote the falsehood that Kashmiris are persecuted by India. Pakistan has consistently tried to circulate the fake narrative that India is an occupying force and a colonial power in Kashmir.

Examine the following statement in the news

report published by South China Morning Post: Madeeha Placement Services, like other such agencies in Srinagar, provides services such as household help, drivers, and nannies to upper class and upper middle-class working families in the city. To be noted: A placement agency of Srinagar gets labour from other parts of India to serve at Kashmiri households as domestic servants. Similar



A migrant worker straightens an iron rod at the construction site of a parking lot in Srinagar October 30, 2019. Picture taken October 30, 2019. REUTERS/Danish Ismail

The news report by South China Morning Post reveals a familiar truth. Like other states of India, Kashmiris also hire labour from the eastern and north-eastern states for skilled and unskilled labour. The report by South China Morning Post demolishes Pakistan’s global propaganda on Kashmir

other Kashmiri placement agencies facilitate the employment of labour from other parts of India for menial work in Kashmir's hotels, hospitals, restaurants, shopping centers, factories and the like. Other placement agencies get skilled workers like carpenters, plumbers, electricians, masons and the like for work in Kashmir.

These and other statements in the news report reveal a familiar truth. The report by South China Morning Post demolishes Pakistan's global propaganda on Kashmir. Pakistan has consistently tried to promote the falsehood that Kashmiris are persecuted by India. Pakistan has consistently tried to circulate the fake narrative that India is an occupying force and a colonial power in Kashmir.

It is a known fact that labour from other states prefer to work in Kashmir than in other parts of India. One, their employment is guaranteed. Kash-

miris are not interested in doing the tasks for which they can hire labour. Hence the jobs are passed on to the needy.

The employer provides for the boarding, lodging and food for the worker, provides medical care if required, and also provides clothing as may be required. The contractors may try to scrimp money from the wages given to the labour. But there have been no complaints that any Kashmiri employer denied the payment to a migrant labourer.

Migrant labour from other states prefers to work in Kashmir because the wages are higher here. Kashmir does not have a strong work culture. Hence Kashmiris tend to hire migrant labour for the major haul.

Kashmiris do not prefer to hire a local man for skilled or unskilled jobs. It is often observed that a local labour will take two days for the task that the migrant labour will complete in one day. Also, it is common experience that a local Kashmiri labourer has more demands at work regarding food and comfort as compared to migrant labourer.

SCMP SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE ERROR IN NEWS REPORT

The news report of "sold as a domestic servant in Kashmir" has been filed for South China Morning Post by Kashmiri journalist Adil Rashid. South China Morning Post cannot claim that the state-



KZINE spoke to Adil Rashid, the journalist who wrote the misleading news report for South China Morning Post. On being asked about the grave false charge made in the news report, Adil Rashid said, "Please write about the matter to the Editor of my newspaper. I have nothing to say on the subject." He stated that he shall provide the mail address of the newspaper editor and also his own mail address, but did not do so later.

ments made in the news report are Adil Rashid's fault, and the newspaper is not responsible for the grave error in the news report.

During Lockdown 1, a video was being actively circulated on social media. In the video, a Chinese news anchor was visibly angry an opinion column in a leading English newspaper. In the opinion column, the writer had called corona virus a "Chinese virus". The news anchor vehemently argued that the newspaper could not claim that it did not bear responsibility for the opinion column. She argued on the lines that if someone claims in an opinion column that the holocaust did not happen or that slavery is legal, will the newspaper publish it? It shall not. Then how could the newspaper allow anyone to call corona virus as a Chinese virus in the opinion column.

FOUNDER OF NGO SARHAD, MR SANJAY NAHAR SAYS USING THE WORD SOLD IS WRONG

KZINE spoke to Mr Sanjay Nahar, Founder of the Pune-based NGO about the wrong charge in South China Morning Post (SCMP) that the youth were sold in Kashmir. "We received the complaint from the parents and relatives of the youth. One youngster was studying with us at Pune earlier. The youth were told that they would be given good work in some factories in Kashmir, but were later made to work as domestic servants. One group brought from Assam had a minor boy, about 15-16 years old. The other group had a minor girl about the same age. But it cannot be said the youth were sold in Kashmir. That's completely wrong. We sent Aqib Bhat, who is with our NGO, to help the youth. He helped them to go home," said Mr Nahar.

When contacted by KZINE, Aqib Bhat said that after he came to know of the predicament of the youngsters, he spoke to their employers and the placement agency. "The placement agency wanted that the youngsters should continue to work here. But since the youth were not happy and wanted to return, we arranged for their return to their home state. I cannot understand why the newspaper should say that the youth were sold," said Aqib.



**Mr Sanjay Nahar, Founder of Pune-based
NGO Sarhad**

**As China's leading
English newspaper,
South China Morning
Post has global
circulation. The news
report was placed in the
global mailer from South
China Morning Post. It
would have reached the
mailboxes of readers
worldwide. Imagine
the reach of this
disinformation against
India all over the world**

IT IS TIME FOR THE TRUTH TO BE REVEALED

PCI Appoints Committee To Look Into Allegations Of Harassment Of Journalists In Kashmir

by Bashir ASSAD

We welcome the initiative taken by The Press Council of India (PCI) to constitute a three-member fact finding committee to look into the

allegations of intimidation and harassment of journalists in Kashmir. These allegations were leveled by former chief minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti in a recent communication to PCI.

According to media reports, the members of the fact-finding committee are Mr Prakash Dubey, Convener and Group Editor of Dainik Bhaskar; Mr Gurbir Singh of The New Indian Express and Dr Suman Gupta, Editor of Jan Morcha. They shall visit Kashmir to conduct a thorough probe into the allegations of “systematic harassment” of journalists in Kashmir.

We stand with the media fraternity in upholding the freedom of the media and its right to perform its duty without restrictions or duress. Equally, we are aware that the Press Council of India cannot isolate itself from the security situation faced by the nation.

When the media performs its role in a fair and unbiased manner, it takes a 360 degree view of everything. The highest standards of journalism can be expected of the Press Council of India and the august three-member fact-finding committee constituted by it.



If so-called journalists living in Kashmir are peddling fake narratives which challenge India’s sovereignty, then they cannot be regarded as journalists simply because they wield the pen. We are confronted with serious questions that have not been addressed for far too long. Mehbooba Mufti’s letter to Press Council of India has become the fortunate vehicle to bring these vital truths before the nation



PRAKASH DUBEY
Group Editor
Dainik Bhaskar



GURBIR SINGH
The New Indian
Express



SUMAN GUPTA
Editor, Jan
Morcha

Why is state investigation and action against those journalists wrong who deepen and strengthen the terror network labeled as intimidation or harassment? What kind of twisted logic is this that a man wielding a pen can peddle any falsehoods that he wants to, and he must be regarded as sacrosanct, above and beyond the law of the land?

SOME KASHMIRI JOURNALISTS ARE TOP STRATEGIC ASSETS FOR PAKISTAN

While examining the allegations of alleged systemic harassment of journalists, the august fact-finding committee of PCI may take cognizance of the fact that the enemy country has penetrated deep into Kashmir society. Pakistan has strategic assets in Kashmir’s media, businesses and politics.

The august committee may be aware that in a conflict region, things cannot be taken at face value. Individuals often wear

masks here. It is the bounden duty of the media and also the security agencies to look beyond the masks and search for the truth.

Kashmir has its fair share of double-dealers, particularly in the media. It is an open fact that some so-called journalists in Kashmir are the top strategic assets of the enemy country. They drive the anti-India narrative in the national and international media wherein jihadi terrorism in Kashmir is whitewashed. India – the victim of terror – is demonized. These journalists are part of Kashmir’s deep and strong terror ecosystem. Their reportage on Kashmir is the Pakistan-sponsored discourse.

THE GRAVY TRAIN FROM PAKISTAN

For decades, Pakistan has lavishly paid journalists, activists and academicians to support the anti-India narrative locally and internationally. For a growing number of beneficiaries, the conflict has become a “family business”. The anti-India stance on Kashmir has been consistently bankrolled by Pakistan. Every so-called human rights ‘concern’ on Kashmir is connected with the Pakistan nexus.

We are certain that the Press Council of India will question why no journalist in Kashmir brings to light the most tragic

Conflict Kashmir State

FIR Against 'Kashmir Fight' Blog For Posting 'Hit List' Of Media Persons

By PK Desk - October 3, 2020

924



human rights violations of Kashmiris perpetrated by terrorists for decades. We are certain that the august committee constituted by PCI will examine as to why terrorism is glossed over in Kashmir.

We hope that the fact-finding committee shall question why terrorism is being packaged by these so-called journalists as resistance in the face of occupation. This packaging is then sold to top media houses worldwide, because it is in international demand.

Why is this packaging flourishing? Because Pakistan pays for it. Pakistan has grabbed the information space with it. We will provide the august three-member committee of PCI with abundant evidence that journalists and media houses in Kashmir have been receiving money from Pakistan and other nations to peddle this fake narrative.

WHY ARE THOSE WHO STAND WITH INDIA TARGETED, KILLED?

We are certain that the PCI will take note that such deceitful, agenda-driven journalism is

We are living in a region where men and women have been routinely killed for standing up against jihadi terror.

The gun wielded by Pakistan-sponsored forces has normalized the killing of those who don't support jihad. The fear of death chokes voices. The fear of death chokes truth. The same has been the fate of Kashmir

a deliberate and conscious attack on a nation's sovereignty. There is a whole ecosystem supporting this charade in Kashmir. Academic careers are being built on it. Journalistic careers are flourishing on it.

For decades, all Kashmiris who stand up for India have lived under the pall of terror. Terrorists have systematically marked them and killed them for supporting Kashmir's total integration with India. Even today, we face the same situation. Kashmiris who identify with India and denounce Pakistan's evil designs do so at great personal risk. They can

be targeted and killed any time. Think Shujaat Bukhari. Think Babar Qadri. It is a strange situation in a sovereign nation where those who don't subscribe to the views of the jihadis live daily under the fear of death, and those who ally with the enemy feel safe and secure.

The letter written by Ms Mufti and the subsequent action taken by PCI in constituting the fact-finding committee has brought into centre stage this strange dichotomy in Kashmir. The investigation by the three-member committee shall bring the predicament of those to the forefront

who call a spade a spade. What was spoken about in hushed tones of fear shall now come sharply into the limelight.

THE KASHMIR FIGHT BLOGS

We hope that the august three-member committee constituted by the Press Council of India shall examine the spine-chilling Kashmir Fight blogs. Even a casual read of the blogs reveals that it is written by an insider. For years now, these blogs have mercilessly marked those Kashmiris who speak up for the vibrant Indian democracy, and identify with India. Thereafter, these Kashmiris have been cold-

kill. These blogs have a ripple effect on the entire Kashmir society. Such blogs silence other Kashmiris who want to speak up against terror. Such blogs silence independent thought and action.

It is the mandate of J&K Police and the security agencies to protect the citizens. A report published on news portal The Wire on September 22 equated



Babar Qadri

We are certain that the Press Council of India will question why no journalist in Kashmir brings to light the most tragic human rights violations of Kashmiris perpetrated by terrorists for decades. We are certain that the august committee constituted by PCI will examine as to why terrorism is glossed over in Kashmir

bloodedly assassinated in broad daylight.

The persons driving the Kashmir Fight blogs may be living outside India. But the casual insider talk of these blogs reveals that the content is coming from within.

These blogs impact not only those who are marked out for the

state investigation into those suspected to be associated with the Kashmir Fight blog as an attack on freedom of the press.

National security and internal security. Freedom of the press. These are separate areas. They cannot be merged or equated.

J&K Lt Governor Shri Manoj Sinha famously said at the launch

my third book titled Kashmir: The War Of Narratives, "If Pakistan attempts to shut down Kashmir using the force of the gun, then what is wrong if we use the stick to counter it?" Using the same analogy, why is state investigation and action against those journalists wrong who deepen and strengthen the terror network labeled as intimidation or harassment? What kind of twisted logic is this that a man wielding a pen can write what he wants to, and he must be regarded as sacrosanct, above and beyond the law of the land?

WHO HAS TRULY CHOKED THE VOICES OF JOURNALISTS IN KASHMIR?

It is time for the honourable Press Council of India to finally frame the question that has not been asked in Kashmir for decades. Who has choked the voices of the media in Kashmir?

The Press Council comprises some of the most respected and trusted members of our profession. It shall not take long for the Press Council to establish that it is not the state that has muzzled the voice of the media in Kashmir. The cruel, merciless gun of the terror forces has muzzled honest journalism in Kashmir.

We are living in a region where men and women have been routinely killed for standing up against jihadi terror. The gun wielded by Pakistan-sponsored forces has normalized the killing of those who don't support jihad. The fear of death chokes voices. The fear of death chokes truth. The same has been the fate of

LOOK WHO'S CLAIMING VICTIMHOOD!

Duplicity Flourishing In The Name Of Journalism

If so-called journalists living in Kashmir are peddling fake narratives which challenge India's sovereignty, then they cannot be regarded as journalists simply because they are writing for a media house. By aligning with the enemy nation, they are violating the trust of the society and the nation. Investigation into their activities cannot be labeled as violation of the freedom of the press. We are certain that the honourable Press Council of India will not place the freedom of the press above the law of the land.

India is facing a proxy war unleashed by Pakistan in Kashmir. India is fighting an onslaught of terror on its land by jihadi groups supported by Pakistan. The sole aim of these jihadi groups is to destabilize and break India. These jihadi groups work under the façade of religion to justify their evil machinations. They

are using the instrument of religion to serve Pakistan's political designs. This duplicity cannot be allowed to flourish in the name of journalism.

Perception management is key to success in a conflict region, where external forces are constantly seeking greater space to deepen their agenda. Pakistan uses so-called journalists, activists and academicians to malign India. It routinely keeps journalists on its payrolls worldwide to peddle its anti-India narrative.

Pakistan consistently attacks India through a disinformation flood. India must protect national interest by keeping a watch on those who drive the narrative globally and internationally. This may include keeping a watch on journalists, activists, academicians and the like. This is not an attack on freedom of the press. It is national security.

Kashmir.

For decades, Kashmir has been ruled by the dark forces of terror. Radicalization and indoctrination of successive generations has been the ongoing project funded by Pakistan.

How shall the honourable Press Council of India define a journalist? What are the parameters stipulated by PCI for a journalist?

Adil Farooq – the man who hurled a grenade at the busy Hari Singh High Street in Srinagar and was caught with two more live grenades. Can he be called a journalist because he also worked for a media house? Adil's duplicity got exposed because of his extreme action. The so-called journalists do not get exposed because their actions are quiet

and far more insidious.

How does one come across the reports of the alleged high handedness of the Administration against the journalists? Obviously, one reads about this content from the reports filed by these same breed of journalists working for national and international media. So where and how are their voices choked? How do you establish that these journalists are being harassed and intimidated by the state?

It is fortunate that the PCI is looking into the hypocrisy that defines most of media work in Kashmir. The august three-member committee constituted by PCI will finally bring before the nation how jihadis have consistently threatened, intimidated, killed and maimed journalists for

honestly doing their job.

In studying this dire situation which confronts the nation, the fact-finding committee constituted by PCI must come out with details of all those journalists and activists killed by terrorists at the behest of those colleagues who are part of the terror ecosystem in Kashmir.

Almost on regular basis, online content posted by vicious, blood thirsty terrorists carries chilling lists of media persons and others who have to be killed. The inputs for these lists are provided by local self proclaimed journalists. The terrorists threaten. The journalist or activist is killed. This has been the pattern over the last few years.

Regarding the commotion directed against the Indian state

INDIA

Pro-Pakistan blog, which had hit out at Shujaat Bukhari, continues to threaten journalists and leaders in Kashmir

The anonymous blog kashmirfight.wordpress.com, which the police claimed was run by Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) from Pakistan, also hit out at separatist leaders.

Ishfaq Naseem | June 29, 2018 16:59:22 IST



Shujaat Bukhari

For decades, all Kashmiris who stand up for India have lived under the pall of terror. Terrorists have systematically marked them and killed them for supporting Kashmir's total integration with India. Even today, we face the same situation. Kashmiris who identify with India and denounce Pakistan's evil designs do so at great personal risk. They can be targeted and killed any time. Think Shujaat Bukhari. Think Babar Qadri. It is a strange situation in a sovereign nation where those who don't subscribe to the views of the jihadis live daily under the fear of death, and those who ally with the enemy feel safe and secure

DISCLAIMER

The purpose of this write-up is not to insinuate or claim that the journalists against whom the police action was initiated should be regarded as guilty. The purpose of the write-up is to state that Kashmir is a conflict region. India is fighting a war on terror. J&K Police, the Army and the para-military forces and security are dealing with a malevolent enemy across the border.

Pakistan routinely uses everything at its disposal to bleed India. In this context, actions taken by the state and its arms, and the investigation or enquiry into suspicious activity cannot be viewed in simplistic terms of so-called attacks on freedom of the press.

post August 5, 2019, the international media represented by local faces in Kashmir and the so-called Leftists and liberals in New Delhi have filed baseless, concocted reports unsubstantiated by evidence. Evidently, they consider that mud-slinging against the Indian state is enough.

We have no intention to defend the actions of the Administration in any way. The Administration has its own lacunae and flaws. It is a global phenomenon that the state administration everywhere has its share of black sheep.

We are confronted with serious questions that have not been addressed for far too long. Mehbooba Mufti's letter to Press Council of India has become the fortunate vehicle to bring these vital truths before the nation. The state has evidence that Mehbooba Mufti has links with terrorists and used them for electoral gains.

We are hopeful that the august three member committee appointed by PCI will make a panoramic, comprehensive assessment of media functioning in Kashmir. We are ready to depose before the committee to prove our point with concrete evidences. We earnestly hope that the august three-member committee is not held hostage by the people who are being paid by the enemies of the state to demean and demonise India.



US withdrawal from Afghanistan

IS JAMMU AND KASHMIR GOING TO BECOME AN ARENA AGAIN?

by Haris QADIR



Chief Editor of POK Newspaper
Writes For KZINE

Within days of the withdrawal of US and coalition troops from Afghanistan, the Taliban succeeded in capturing Kabul and forming an interim government. In the past, at the time when the Soviet Union withdrew from Afghanistan, a large number of armed groups were fighting in Afghanistan at the behest of the United States and its allies. They turned to Jammu and Kashmir. A proxy war was on in the Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir. These armed groups massacred the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir and engaged in battle with the Indian state.

In 1991, hundreds of Hezb-e-Islami fighters led by Afghan warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar took part in armed militancy in the Kashmir Valley. A large number of fighters from other proxy groups who were involved in the Afghan war also focused their attention here. The armed militancy, which began in late 1988, has killed at least 40,000 people, according to figures compiled by some human rights activists.

As soon as the Taliban came to power, they made it clear that Afghan soil would not be allowed to be used against any other country. At the same time, the Taliban clarified that the ongoing militancy in Jammu and Kashmir would

not be supported. The Taliban made it clear that Kashmiris would definitely speak out in favour of Muslims.

Fear That Pakistan-Based Mercenaries May Come To India

Some world powers including the Indian state fear that militants from various Pakistani cities and Pakistan-administered Jammu and Kashmir, who were fighting with the Taliban in the war in Afghanistan may now try to infiltrate Jammu and Kashmir. Apart from Indian analysts and state officials, the Indian media is also looking confused after the Taliban's occupation of Afghanistan.

According to a recent UN report, two major militant groups operating in Jammu and Kashmir, Jaish-e-Muhammad and Lashkar-e-Taiba, have historical ties to the Taliban. According to the report, about 6,500 Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Muhammad fighters were active in the Afghan war. Speaking to The Guardian, Douglas London, the CIA's counter-terrorism chief in South and Southwest Asia, had said that he was committed to the Taliban's promises and declarations to stop militant Kashmiri groups from operating on Afghan soil. Very few believed the militant groups on this count.

Indian rulers and analysts believe that the Taliban who came to power in Afghanistan are completely under the control of the Pakistani state, and their coming to power is very detrimental to Indian interests.

Given the various events and



Some world powers including the Indian state fear that militants from various Pakistani cities and Pakistan-administered Jammu and Kashmir, who were fighting with the Taliban in the war in Afghanistan may now try to infiltrate Jammu and Kashmir. Apart from Indian analysts and state officials, the Indian media is also looking confused after the Taliban's occupation of Afghanistan

historical facts, it is clear that neither the Taliban have been under the full control of the Pakistani state, nor India has

completely severed ties with the Taliban. In the past, the Indian state had back-channel relations with the Taliban from 1996 to

numerous reservations about the Pakistani state. Anti-Pakistan rhetoric in protests in Afghan cities also shows that the Afghan people have more suspicions about the Pakistani state than ever before. There is also a backlash against Pakistan within the Taliban. Many Taliban cabinet leaders have spent years in Pakistani jails. Several Taliban leaders have been arrested by Pakistani forces and handed over to the United States.

India has spent more than 33 billion in Afghanistan over the past two decades on various projects in Afghanistan, including the construction of schools, colleges, hospitals, power plants, dams and the parliament building. The Taliban have made it clear that they want India's plans continue.

The Taliban have numerous reservations about the Pakistani state. Anti-Pakistan rhetoric in protests in Afghan cities shows that the Afghan have more suspicions about the Pakistani state than ever before. There is also a backlash against Pakistan within the Taliban. Many Taliban cabinet leaders have spent years in Pakistani jails. Several Taliban leaders have been arrested by Pakistani forces and handed over to the United States

2005. Even before the Taliban regained power in Afghanistan, the Indian state had re-established these secret relations with the Taliban.

According to some sources, the Indian state has maintained secret relations with some factions of the Taliban in the intervening years. On the other hand, during the previous rule of the Taliban, Pakistan's relations

with them were considered to be the most ideal. But despite these ideal relations, the Taliban did not recognize the Durand Line as the official border.

Backlash against Pakistan in Afghanistan

Today, the Taliban have

Given all these facts, it is safe to assume that the bonds in these relationships of interest are weak. It is more likely that the Taliban, instead of being completely under the control of the Pakistani state and institutions, will seek to establish as free relations as possible and to take into account their own interests as well as those of other regional powers in decisions.

(Haris Qadir is Chief Editor, Daily Mujadila, Rawalakot, Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir)

LOG INTO KASHMIR @

kzine.in



September 1950. A woman faces the waterfront wearing a pheran, suthan trousers (shalwaar) and traditional Kashmiri jewellery.

Photograph by McKeown

Your window to news, views, exposes, scoops
and exclusive features that bring to you

THE REAL KASHMIR

KZINE

OPENING KASHMIR'S EYES