

Love For Sports Is Shaping Our Youth's Future

VOLUME 1 | EDITION 19 | NOVEMBER 2021

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OPENING KASHMIR'S EYES



# PAKISTAN'S CHEERLEADERS

**Chanting of Pakistan  
National Anthem Reveals  
True Nature Of Celebrations**

## Promotions, Perks For Govt Employees Must Be Subject To Performance At Work

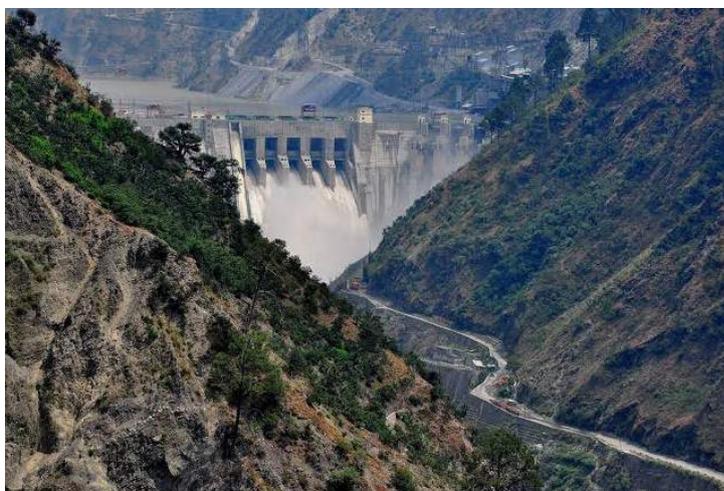
Jammu and Kashmir has the highest number of government employees going by the population ratio. Because of dearth of opportunities in the private sector, state is the largest employer in Jammu and Kashmir. The number of aspirants seeking government jobs is skyrocketing. Unemployment rate has gone up. This sometimes hinders the process of peace and stability in at least creating a narrative around unemployment.

The inconvenient truth about the government employees in Jammu and Kashmir is that this sector also has the highest number of non-performers. The general perception formed over decades is that government servants are anything but hardworking. Work culture is missing. Corruption is rampant. Non-performing government employees are found in all cadres, right from Class IV to Class 1. On account of this non-performance, it is the common people who suffer.

It is amazing that the same government servants are instrumental in popularizing the narrative of disaffection with the state. The antagonists in politics, business and media take it a step further and dub it as disaffection with the Indian state. Very meticulously, the narrative of alienation is constructed, and is attributed to the failure of the Indian state in winning over the hearts of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Baat bas itni se thi jo Himalay ban gaya. Then there is the political class and the conflict entrepreneurs who hide their sins beneath this highly dangerous but distorted narrative.

The LG administration recently terminated the services of 11 non-performing and corrupt government servants. When this news reached the people, the common refrain was that the large majority of government servants in Jammu and Kashmir are non-performers, corrupt and dishonest. But all of them cannot be removed.

In a previous edition, we had suggested that the employees of LAWDA (J&K Lakes and Waterways Development Authority) should be held accountable for the mess we see at Dal Lake, or LAWDA should be dissolved. The promotions, perks and privileges of LAWDA employees should be subject to the cleaning of Dal Lake. Talking forward the same analogy, I would suggest that promotions, increments, privileges and perks should be subject to the performance of each government employee. A separate watchdog or government agency should be created for the issuance of an annual progress report regarding each government employee including department heads. Promotions and other benefits should be awarded only on the recommendations of this agency. Non-performers must be removed at the recommendations of the proposed government agency.



**Baglihar Hydroelectric Power Project**

PHOTO CREDIT: THE WIRE

**Bashir Assad**



*razor sharp analysis*

**INCISIVE REPORTING**

**INVESTIGATE THE TERROR ECOSYSTEM**

*EXPOSE DECEPTION*

**RESTORE ORDER**

**MAKE A SPLASH**

**INCULCATE DEMOCRATIC SPIRIT**

**KZINE**

OPENING KASHMIR'S EYES

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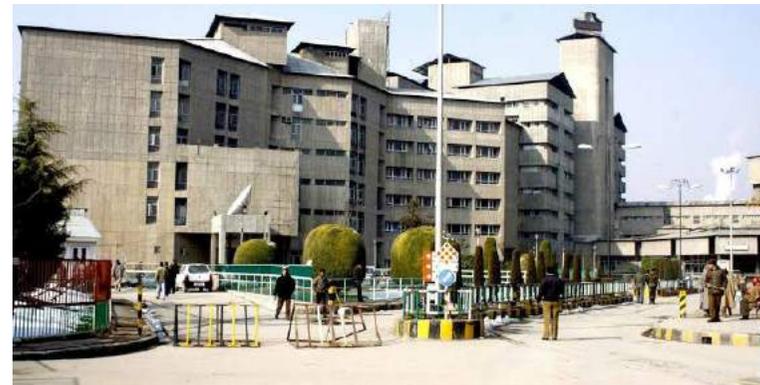


# This Isn't Love of Cricket

## Chanting of Pakistan National Anthem Reveals True Nature Of Celebrations



Celebration picture from SKIMS, Soura



Sher-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura

by **GM MIR**

**O**n October 26, Jammu and Kashmir Police registered a case in connection with the 'celebration' of the Pakistani cricket team's victory over the Indian cricket team in the T20 World Cup.

Police said that "doctors residing in the hostel of SKIMS (Sher-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences) in Soura raised slogans and burst firecrackers" to celebrate the outcome of the cricket match.

Similar complaint was also received from Government Medical College (GMC), Srinagar. The accused have been booked under Sections 105 (A) and 505 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Section 13 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Many Kashmiris have protested the decision, saying that punitive actions against the local population won't work. Nobody should be punished for celebrating Pakistan's win over India in the cricket match. We do not favour the punishment for the students, but the issue has deeper ramifications.

When the state does not respond to any provocation, people

tend to take the state for granted. When the state is taken for granted, a fantastic narrative is spun. The narrative is that the state has no authority and no control. The narrative further claims that the state has lost relevance and credibility. It is separatism that rules the roost.

The state has been magnanimous for the last 30 years, when such errors were overlooked. The ground reality is that following the magnanimity of the state, people propagated separatism and extremist politics. Despite this, they continued to enjoy all benefits drawn from the state.

### DEEP PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT

The decision of the state to overlook all transgressions had a deep impact on the collective psyche in Kashmir. The impact has been deep and lasting. The policy of the state to ignore all errors has led to a social impact where everything is taken as a matter of right. Sedition is regarded as a matter of right. Discrediting the state and its institutions is taken as a matter of right. Going against the state and its interests is seen as a matter of right. Even not following the civil laws is seen as a matter of right.

Globally, wearing a seat belt during driving is mandatory. How pitiful it is that not wearing the seatbelt during driving is seen as a matter of right in Kashmir. We all are witness to the fact that serious mishaps have taken place and many Kashmiris have suffered grievous injuries because they were not wearing the seatbelt during driving. Despite this,



**Indian Captain Virat Kohli hugging Pakistani player Rizwan**  
PHOTO CREDIT: DNA INDIA

the malpractice continues.

### ENCOURAGING VIOLATIONS

When the state goes lazy about implementing or about maintaining its writ, people take it as a matter of right to violate, to breach. One of the arguments being offered is about sports-manship. The reason given is that cheering the team that won may be considered acceptable. So the argument is made that celebrating Pakistan victory cannot be regarded as seditious. The same people make cheering for Pakistan a matter of right, and claim that the state must be

magnanimous.

Those who make this argument must answer the counter question. Should the state allow you to sing the national anthem of Pakistan? Should the state allow you to sing Jeeve Jeeve Pakistan? How is it possible? Which state on earth can tolerate such kind of nonsense that its own people are singing its enemy country's national anthem?

Let us not forget that it is because of Pakistan that our own country's people are dying in Kashmir. If the state does not act at this point in time, it is bound to be taken for a ride. Then such transgressions will be repeated over and over again. The state

will lose its writ and authority. People will say that separatism is the dominant narrative. Belittling the state will be normalised.

### THE SPILLOVER IMPACT OF OVERLOOKING ERRORS

Coming back to singing of the Pakistani national anthem and shouting Jeeve Jeeve Pakistan by girl students of GMC Srinagar and resident doctors in SKIMS. Such action is bound to be repeated and replicated elsewhere if the state doesn't adopt a strict approach. The spillover impact is certain if no preventive action is taken. Supporting a cricket team is not a crime. Singing the Pakistan national anthem and chanting Jeeve Jeeve in the name of support for cricket is seditious.

It is often discussed in Kashmir that everyone except Kashmiris are experts on Kashmir. The impression is that any journalist or a political commentator or for that matter a BJP leader knows everything about Kashmir. The fact of the matter is that whatever is being written for or against Kashmir is always a matter of opinion. The comments are always part of one narrative or the other. The foul play of such agenda-driven narratives has immensely damaged the prospect

**When the state does not respond to any provocation, people tend to take the state for granted. When the state is taken for granted, a fantastic narrative is spun. The narrative is that the state has no authority and no control; it has lost relevance and credibility. Then it is separatism that rules the roost**

## SENIOR SKIMS EXECUTIVE DEFENDS STUDENTS

When contacted by KZINE, a senior executive of SKIMS who did not wish to be identified said that a committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Dean Faculty. The factual report of the incident will be shared with the government for further actions.

The executive told KZINE, "We are taking cognizance of this incident. We are taking it very seriously. Second, we are consistently being informed by some of the resident doctors that the alleged video circulated on social media isn't from SKIMS. The structure in the video doesn't match with the structure of the SKIMS hostel. How far it is true will be verified by the committee. We are waiting for the factual report. This is the preliminary information that I can convey to you."

"It is my personal view that in a democratic and civilized world, you cannot choke somebody's opinion. Do you know what happens with English football teams? Do you know what happens in one country? Ek video kya circulate huva, ye chotai bachai hai, aur iska bada issue bana diya gaya. See what happened with George Floyd, Nelson Mandela, Mather Luther king. You are looking at the issue from the little prism. You need to look at it from a global perspective."



Some video grabs of celebrations of Pakistan win



**The decision of the state to overlook all transgressions had a deep impact on the collective psyche in Kashmir. The policy of the state to ignore errors has led to a social environment where everything is taken as a matter of right - sedition, discrediting the state and its institutions, even disregarding civil laws**

of peace in Kashmir. The argument that the celebrations over Pakistan's win are the result of the decision to abrogate Article 370 is as flawed as the argument that everything is normal in Kashmir.

These celebrations started from the Abu Dhabi stadium when some Kashmiri boys settled in Dubai made some memes on Indian players. These memes went viral on social media. The videos of Pakistan's cricket win after the 2017 Champions Trophy were uploaded and widely shared.

After the recent win of the Pakistan cricket team, celebrations took place only at two places in Kashmir – Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar and Shere Kashmir Institute of Medical Science (SKIMS), Soura. Rest were isolated celebrations at homes and on social media by those supporting the Pakistani cricket team. These celebrations have a communal context. Sadly, communalism has been normalized across the country. Our argument should not rest on



**Home Minister Amit Shah. PHOTO CREDIT: PTI**

communal grounds.

**THE DIFFERENCE AFTER STATE ADOPTED STRICT APPROACH**

Let us examine the difference after the state decided to go hard on those whose actions are detrimental to social peace. The violent mobs fell silent. There is

no stone pelting. There are no street protests, hence no pellets and no pellet injuries.

Home minister Amit Shah during his recent visit to Kashmir rightly said that we barred the internet services only to save our kids. That is the fact. It is a global norm that if the state can protect and save lives by putting some curbs on civil liberties, it should opt for them.

**Let us not forget that it is because of Pakistan that our own country's people are dying in Kashmir. If the state does not act at this point in time, such transgressions will be repeated over and over again. The state will lose its writ and authority. Belittling the state will be normalised**

**Virat Kohli fan in Pakistan faces 10-year jail term for hoisting India flag**

Umar Draz was arrested on January 26 when India beat Australia in a T20 match in which Virat Kohli scored 90 runs.

By: **PTI** | Lahore |  
Updated: January 28, 2016 6:52:34 pm



22-year-old Umar Draz is a tailor by profession from Okara district of Punjab province in Pakistan. (Source: PTI)

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MORE SPORTS



A Pakistani die-hard fan of Indian batsman Virat Kohli is facing up to 10 years imprisonment after being arrested for hoisting the Indian tri-colour atop his home in Punjab Province which he had done to show his love for the cricketer.

22-year-old Umar Draz, a tailor by profession from Okara district of Punjab province, was on Wednesday produced before a district court that sent him to jail on judicial remand.

Draz was arrested on January 26 when India beat Australia in a T20 match in which Kohli scored 90 runs. Police raided

Draz home on a complaint that he hoisted the Indian flag on the rooftop of his house.

Police registered a case under section 123-A of Pakistan Penal Code and 16 Maintenance of Public Order against him.

The section 123-A (acts of damaging the sovereignty of the country) carries maximum punishment of 10 years in jail or fine or both.

Draz pleaded before the judge that he hoisted the Indian flag only for his love for Kohli.

Police had sought his physical remand for investigation into the case, however, the judge sent him to jail on judicial

remand.

Earlier, talking to reporters, Draz said, "I am a big fan of Virat Kohli. I support the Indian team because of Kohli. Hoisting of Indian flag on the rooftop of house only shows my love for the Indian cricketer."

He said he had no idea that he committed a crime, urging the authorities concerned to pardon him as he should be seen as "an Indian cricketer's fan."

Poster size photographs of Kohli were also found pasted on the walls of his house.

Police seized the flag along with Kohli's posters and pictures.

# FLAWED POLICIES, DAMAGING RESULTS

This policy of state being magnanimous severely damaged the interests of state. Some of the flawed policies and their damaging results are discussed below.

## The Healing Touch Doctrine

A doctrine called healing touch was introduced. At face value, the policy seemed very attractive. It was also received well. Its flaws came to the fore when the policy was flagrantly abused by the adversaries of the state. All transgressions were taken as a matter of right.

## Cross-LOC Trade

Take for instance the Cross-LOC trade. In the name of trade, Pakistan pumped narcotics and arms into Kashmir. Now the state is finding it difficult to control narcotic terrorism in Kashmir.



Arms and Ammunition were recovered by police in Kashmir. PHOTO CREDIT:- ZEE NEWS

## Amnesty For Stone Pelters

Take for instance the amnesty for stone pelters. About 4200 FIRs were set aside by the state, and stone pelters were released from custody. A sizable number of youngsters among them developed the perception that they can fool the state all the time.



Narcotics and Arms seized in Kashmir. PHOTO CREDIT:- ANI

Massive indoctrination took place under the nose of the authorities. The state watched it silently because the healing touch doctrine was in vogue. Most disastrous and destructive agitations were witnessed during those years.

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# WORLDVIEW ON CRICKET IN PAKISTAN

Why cricket  
in Pakistan is  
infused with  
religion and  
nationalism

DW News is a global English-language news and information programme from German public international broadcaster Deutsche Welle (DW), established in summer 2015. The website [dw.com](http://dw.com) is available in 30 languages

**C**ricket in Pakistan has become all about politics and religion, with narratives like “avenging” the “mistreatment” of Muslims by defeating India, or “teaching a lesson” to New Zealand for walking away from a match.

Soon after Pakistan defeated India in a T20 Cricket World Cup match on Sunday, the South Asian country’s interior minister, Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad, said the win was the “victory of Islam.”

“Muslims all over the world are rejoicing,” the minister said in a video message on Twitter.

“It was a reckless comment,” Nadeem Farooq Paracha, a renowned Pakistani social critic and journalist, told DW.

Celebrations were naturally in order, with people across the country taking to the streets, chanting patriotic slogans, dancing and waving national flags.

Relations between India and Pakistan have been acrimonious since the two

**Excerpts Of A News Report  
Published on [amp.dw.com](http://amp.dw.com)**



Mohammad Rizwan offering prayer during breaks

PIC CREDIT: IG NEWS



**Soon after Pakistan defeated India in a T20 Cricket World Cup match on Sunday, the South Asian country's interior minister, Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad, said the win was the "victory of Islam"**

countries gained independence from British rule in 1947. They have fought three full-fledged wars, and they continue to accuse each other of interfering in the disputed Kashmir region, which they both claim in its entirety but rule in part.

The geopolitical hostility has spilled over into sports, especially cricket, which is the most popular sport in both India and Pakistan. After India's defeat on Sunday, Pakistani social media was inundated with anti-India posts, memes, and comments.

**NATIONALISM MEETS ISLAMISM**

In the past, the India-Pakistan cricketing rivalry was punctuated with nationalistic sentiment, and more recently, religion has also started playing a big part.

"Many Pakistani politicians tend to bring Islam into everything. Those in power, who are failing to do what they were elected to do, do it more often. Islam is their last resort," he added.

**Islamization of Cricket**

Until the 1990s, most Pakistani cricketers kept their faith away from their profession. Many of them were clean-shaven, and some, like Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, who won the cricket World Cup in 1992, were British educated.

In the past two decades, many Pakistani cricketers joined the Tablighi Jamaat, an Islamic missionary group that has millions of followers in the country.

Khan, who was once known for his "playboy"

image in the UK, is now a conservative politician, who believes that the Western cultural influence is corrupting young Pakistanis.

Many cricketers now use religious terminology in their press conferences, and some even prostrate on field after a victory.

Pakistani social media users lauded batsman Mohammad Rizwan for offering an on-field prayer during the India-Pakistan match.

Former Pakistani fast bowler Waqar Yunis got so carried away with the gesture that he told a Pakistani news channel that watching Rizwan offering "namaz" (the Muslim prayer) "in front of Hindus was very special to him."

Younis later apologized for his comments: "In the heat of the moment, I said something I did not mean."

But what has prompted Pakistani cricketers to become overly religious on and off field?

"There hasn't been much research on this topic, but few academics and journalists have tried to understand the phenomenon," Farooq Sulehria, a researcher and journalist, told DW.

"We must understand that cricketers are part of society, and Islam has become the 'monoculture' in Pakistan. Cricketers, film stars and other celebrities simply jump on the bandwagon," he added.

**CRICKET AS A SOCIAL DISTRACTION**

Sociologists say that ruling classes all over the world use sports as a distraction from real political



**Many Pakistani politicians tend to bring Islam into everything. Those in power, who are failing to do what they were elected to do, do it more often. Islam is their last resort**

**Nadeem Farooq Paracha, Pakistani social critic and journalist**

issues.

In Pakistan, cricket serves the same purpose. During cricket tournaments, people tend to forget about misgovernance and staggering inflation and take refuge in nationalism.

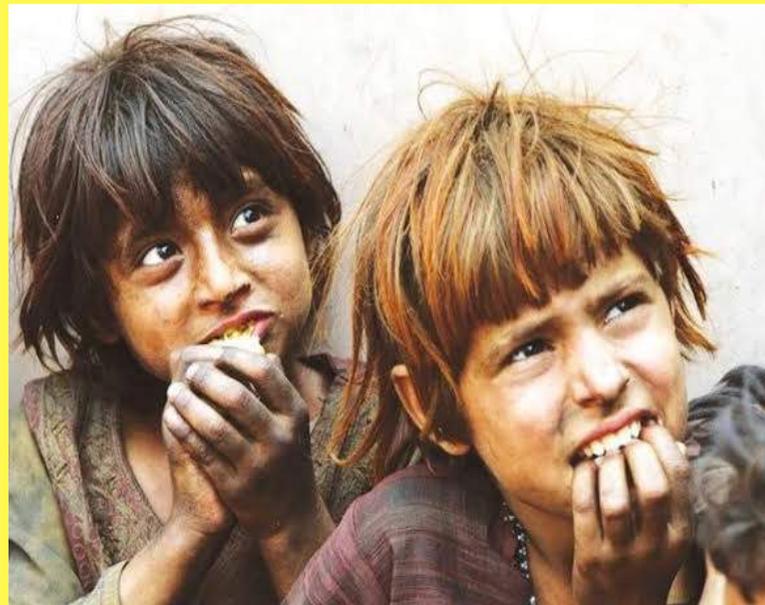
"Cricket has become increasingly associated with politics in India and Pakistan," Paracha underlined.

Sulehria is of the view that sports could also play a positive role. "If you look at the situation

in Afghanistan, cricket has become a symbol of resistance against the Taliban. But in India and Pakistan, the ruling classes are using cricket to distract people from their oppressive measures."

Pakistan is currently facing one of the worst economic crises in its history. Khan has been strongly criticized for rising inflation and the depreciating currency value. Yet, cricket provides his government a chance to "unify" the country.

**Sociologists say that ruling classes all over the world use sports as a distraction from real political issues. In Pakistan, cricket serves the same purpose. During**



**cricket tournaments, people tend to forget about misgovernance and staggering inflation and take refuge in nationalism**

# THE ISLAMIZATION OF CRICKET IN PAKISTAN

The Islamization of cricket in Pakistan started in the early 2000s when the Tablighi Jamaat movement managed to recruit some leading cricket players as its members. Some of its more famous followers, according to a report in BBC, include members of Pakistan's national cricket team. The report said that Shahid Afridi and Inzamam ul-Haq, and also South African cricketer Hashim Amla are the followers. The team had performed badly in the 2003 World Cup, and the squad was already under scrutiny for being match-fixers. This served a signal for repenting and redemption. Exhibition of religiosity peaked between 2003 and 2007.



Shahid Afridi  
PICTURE CREDIT  
:NEWS18



Inzamam Ul Haq



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REUTERS ARCHIVE

**Militants, Their Mentors In Pakistan focused on keeping the conflict going**



The bags of some pedestrians being checked by the women of the security forces  
PHOTO CREDIT:- UMAR GANIE

# Common Kashmiris Suffering

by Iqbal WANI

**K**ashmiris are largely confused over the recent happenings in the Valley. Viewed from a common perspective, one finds confusion. It is sad and tragic to see people dying – be it non-locals, locals or security forces. There is bloodshed. Militants have their mission to kill. People don't know why anyone should be killed in the name of the majority community.

In October, there have been 46 fatalities in the Kashmir. These include 17 security force personnel (11 in combat, 6 in non-combat), 17 militants (all local boys) and 12 civilians (six are locals from J&K, four are from Bihar, one from Uttar Pradesh) have been killed. Out of 12 civilian killings, 10 were killed by militants and two were shot dead by the paramilitary forces.

Militants, their ideologies and their mentors across the border seem to have no confusion. They are focused on keeping the conflict going. It is the common Kashmiri who is at the receiving end, and hence is confused. Uncertainty and fear have started to permeate Kashmir valley. Ordinary, day-to-day life seems to be degraded.

Pakistan is benefiting from the conflict. The mainstream politicians are also benefiting. And then we have black sheep like the BSF jawan Mohammad Sajjad of Rajouri, who was arrested for sending secret information to Pakistan through Whatsapp.

**Kashmir is trapped in an armed conflict. We are also trapped in a psychological conflict. This is as dangerous as the first one. We are the "Confused Silent Majority"**

## CONFUSED SILENT MAJORITY NEEDS TO WAKE UP

Kashmir is trapped in an armed conflict. We are also trapped in a psychological conflict. This is as dangerous as the first one. We are the “Confused Silent Majority”.

We don't raise our voices when we should. For years together in the past, Kashmiris went for shutdowns following the killing of militants. This was done on the

order of the separatists, be it six months long agitation in 2016, or the earlier agitations in 2008 or 2010.

These shutdowns may not have been voluntary, but we were part of them anyway. We let our families starve, the education of our children suffered, but we never raised our voices. Those who spoke ran the risk of being targeted by militants.

The shutdowns forced Kashmiri daily wagers to sell their utensils to feed their families. During the 2010 unrest, DNA carried a

**These shutdowns of 2016 or earlier may not have been voluntary, but we were part of them anyway. We let our families starve, the education of our children suffered, but we never raised our voices. Those who spoke ran the risk of being targeted by militants**

**Kashmiri women wailing over the killing of their relative by militants. PHOTO: BBC NEWS**



news report titled Unknown Victims of Kashmir Unrest: A Boatman, a Hawker. The news report revealed how shutdowns were forcing daily wagers to sell their utensils to feed their families. The 2016 unrest made J&K suffer phenomenal losses, pegged by an agency at over Rs 16,000 crore.

We were confused and silent then, we are confused and silent now when innocents are being killed. We are failing to put up a definite response as a society. There are no hues and cries over these brutal murders, no wailings. No one is taking a stand against it. Why can't we call spade a spade

### Security checks in Kashmir

PHOTO CREDIT-KAISERANDRABI

and speak about what is wrong? Where are we heading towards as a society? Are we evolving as a society? We don't know.

### SAVING KASHMIR AND KASHMIRIYAT

We forget that our speaking up is not just to secure the safety of others. It shall secure our own safety. Today if we take a stand against the killing of minorities and non-locals, tomorrow we will be saved. If terrorism does not face any social opposition, it shall

continue and strengthen.

It is foolish to assume that the terrorists will stop at killing only the non-locals. If no minority and no non-local stay here, the terror actors will start targeting the majority community. The conflict industry is their source of income – they cannot shut it down for anyone. This is the reason why we need to call a spade and spade, and challenge that which is wrong. If today we not raise our voices, support the security forces, it will weaken the enemy. Our positive action will

save Kashmir, Kashmiris and Kashmiriyat. Martin Niemoller's quote fits best with the current scenario of Kashmir. “First they came for the communists and I didn't speak out because I was not a communist, then they came for the socialists and I didn't speak out because I was not a socialist, then they came for trade unionists, and I didn't speak out because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for Jews, and I didn't speak out because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me and there was no one left to speak for me.”

# SECURITY AGENCIES MUST FOLLOW SOP FOR SEIZING VEHICLES



Bikers waiting for their keys confiscated by police. PHOTO CREDIT:- ZAINAB

Everything was normal before the civilian killings. There was no checking of locals at any point. But when the killings started, checking was consequential. Security forces face huge responsibility. They have to keep a constant check to prevent militant attacks. And all this has to be achieved without making the life of locals oppressive.

Stopping and checking people at every checkpoint is understandable. Security agencies must strictly follow Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) regarding how to trace, track and target those involved in killings. If vehicles have to be seized, these too should have some standard protocol. Vehicle seizure cannot be random.

Seizing vehicles of people without giving them any proper reason and misleading them for days is not acceptable. Hundreds of two-wheelers were seized by J&K police in the last few days. The owners were told that their vehicles would be released after the Home Minister's visit on 25th October.

On the other hand, Inspector General of Police (Kashmir zone) Vijay Kumar said that seizure of bikes and shutting down of internet in parts of Kashmir "are not related to the upcoming visit of Union Home Minister". According to locals, this is harassment in the name of security. They are facing difficulties without being involved in any crime.

## The Viral Video And What It Conveys

### The Boys Know They Are In Safe Hands. They Conveniently Enjoy An Apple During The Security Check



### Would The Boys Feel Equally Secure If Militants Had Stopped Them?

Recently a video went viral on the internet in which security forces were checking two boys near Clock Tower in Lal Chowk. Both boys can be seen eating apples, not much bothered about the checking. This casual attitude of the boys revealed two truths. One, they know that they are innocent. Two, they know that they are in safe hands. The boys are completely unstressed, knowing that they are being checked only for security purposes.

Imagine what would have been the condition of the boys if the militants had stopped them. Would they still be eating the apples casually? The checking is to ensure that Kashmiris don't have to endure the wrath of the terrorists.

Some people have been complaining against the checks by the security forces. They complain that women in the security forces check the bags of women. What is wrong with being stopped for a few minutes for checking? This checking can save many lives. It can save Kashmir and Kashmiriyat.

# Love For Sports Is Shaping Our Youth's Future

by Waseem GUL

Cricket on a meadow in  
Pahalgam  
PHOTO CREDIT: SHAHID  
MUSHTAQ ON INSTAGRAM





Football is all about skill and speed



A football tournament in progress in Kashmir



Even as the sun sets in early winter, the boys don't want to leave the field

**S**

port has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair," said Nelson Mandela. Kashmiri youth are discovering the wisdom of the words of

South Africa's first President. Kashmiri youth are finding their wings with gali cricket and football, graduating to matches, tournaments and prestigious leagues. Sport is in the air, and so is a new cheer.

**HOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED**

There was a time when every young child of Kashmir was getting influenced by the scenes of stone pelting. From kids to young men, many had stones in their hands. In the last few years, the stone has been replaced by

a cricket bat, a ball, a football or other popular sports. From picking up the stone to picking up the cricket bat, the youth of Kashmir are moving ahead in life. There is no interest in any more in being a stone pelter. Kashmiris want to move ahead in life, do something thrilling and exciting.

**CRICKET FEVER**

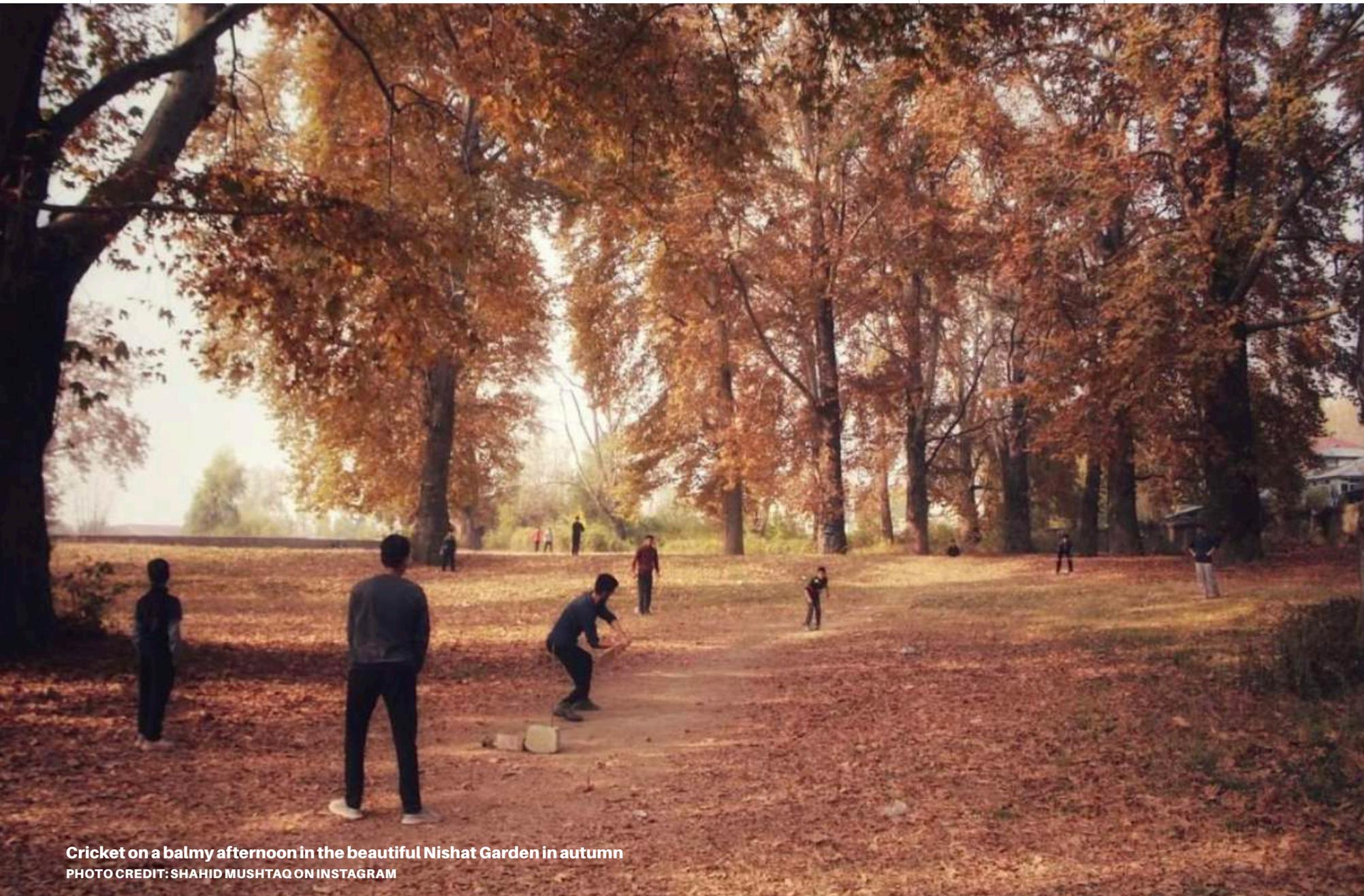
Cricket is the choice sport for a large number of Kashmiris. The lanes and play-grounds of Kashmir are filled with youngsters playing cricket. From kids

**Kashmiri youth are finding their wings with gali cricket and football, graduating to matches, tournaments and prestigious leagues. Sport is in the air, and so is a new cheer**

to adults, one can spot thousands of Kashmiris playing cricket every day. If we just try to get a glimpse of Kashmir lanes, from little kid to adult people are playing the game. Their interest in the game can be ascertained from the happy shouts one hears

from the playing teams. The gali cricket played in the narrow lanes of Kashmir's cities, towns and villages to organized matches in designated sports grounds is proof of how much love for cricket is growing. The youth are finding more and more

playgrounds to indulge their love of the game. In Srinagar, at the grounds of Poloview, Sher-i-Kashmir, tournaments are held among the teams. Cricket fever among the youth is so high that hundreds of youngsters can be seen near the



Cricket on a balmy afternoon in the beautiful Nishat Garden in autumn  
 PHOTO CREDIT: SHAHID MUSHTAQ ON INSTAGRAM

**Cricket fever is so high among the youth that hundreds of youngsters can be seen near the flood channel areas of Tengpora playing the game. Many boys are seen dressed in proper kit and uniform to pursue the sport**

**MAJID DAR**  
 CEO, Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA)



PHOTO CREDIT: KSPORTSWATCH.COM

“We are trying to provide the basic infrastructure so that our youth can practice sports with convenience. From next year we shall start tournaments for boys and girls. The youth are filled with energy. Their energy can be utilized properly on the sports ground, so that they are not influenced by any negative activities,” said Dar.



flood channel areas of Tengpora playing the game. Many boys are seen dressed in proper kit and uniform to pursue the sport. One can see the shine in their eyes as they engage in sport, and feel the hope in their hearts. One can see that all they are looking for is some opportunity that can

enable them to hone their sport skills and shine.

**SPORTS IS  
 REFRESHMENT AND  
 REMEDY**

Interacting with the KZINE team, boys in Allouch Bagh

said cricket makes them feel refreshed, and better able to deal with school work. Juneet, a member of Cricket Club Endless United XI said, “Cricket helps me stay focused. It motivates me. Sports has changed the perspective of many of my friends. They were into drugs and stone

pelting but now they are into the sports, playing cricket or football,” he said. Mutahir, 15, says he practices the game every day and is trying hard to get selected in the Under 19 team.

### LET'S SPIN THE BALL

Another game gaining popularity amongst the youth is football. A large number of youngsters are very fond of football. Serious players of the sport compete in the matches organized by Jammu and Kashmir Football Association. Many girls too are fond of both cricket

and football, and are passionate about playing the game. Many girls can be seen practicing at Polo View Ground TRC.

Recently, Jammu and Kashmir Professional Football League was organized in Srinagar. Eight professional teams participated in it. Football tournaments are often organised to involve more and more young men. These include the Mushtaq Tournament (Police League). Football is creating a broad platform for the youth of Kashmir. Clubs like the Real Club FC are making opportunities available for the youth to pursue their football dreams.

Naveed, a local football player, said he has been pursuing the sport since his youth. “Football is the game to have positive attitude and thinking towards life. My seniors in school influenced me during my school years to take up this game. Now I play for JKFA. My motto is: Let's get up and start grinding again for this all (pandemic) will end and we all will resume with the game again.”

### GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

The passion of Kashmiri youth for cricket and football is

steadily growing. There is no short-cut in life. Every little step takes us towards success. Some will be able to graduate from gali cricket to a professional team, but proper guidance is needed. The government has been organizing tournaments and providing proper infrastructure to give the youngsters a chance in sports. Many NGOs are organizing tournaments for the youth, and motivating the players to pursue their dreams.



Players chasing the ball to score a goal

**“Cricket helps me stay focused. It motivates me. Sports has changed the perspective of many of my friends. They were into drugs and stone pelting but now they are into the sports, playing cricket or football”**

**Children playing cricket with a makeshift bat amidst tulips in Pampore**

PHOTO CREDIT: INAM ON INSTAGRAM



# TENSIONS BETWEEN TALIBAN, AFGHAN CITIZENS CONTINUE

## How Cricket Has Become A Symbol Of Resistance In Afghanistan



Afghan cricketers singing their national anthem after their win over Scotland. Their national anthem has been banned by the Taliban PIC CREDIT: ALJAZEERA.COM

***You have to obey us. We don't have a parliamentary system: Taliban General Threatened Afghan Cricketers***

by Yasmin AFGHAN

**O**n October 25, the Afghan cricket team appeared on an international platform for the first time since the Taliban takeover of Kabul. Afghanistan won the ICC T20 World Cup game against Scotland, held at Sharjah in UAE.

It was an emotional moment for all Afghans. The Afghan national flag was hoisted in the stadium and then the Afghan national anthem was played. The resistance of the people against the Taliban came to the fore at the cricket stadium. The Afghan spectators in the stadium held the original tricolour of the country, and sang the national anthem after their team's win. The people were emotional. The members of the cricket team also got emotional.

The spectators were moved to see Afghan cricket team captain Mohammad Nabi wiping away his tears as the national anthem played. After Afghanistan's take-



Afghan cricketers celebrating after taking the wicket  
PIC CREDIT: ALJAZEERA.COM

### Silenced By Taliban Threat, Afghan Players Decide To Keep Politics Out Of Cricket

**A**ccording to media reports, the Taliban government has asked the players of the Afghanistan cricket team to keep their emotions on the field under control. Media reports said that the players decided to follow Taliban instructions and keep their focus solely on cricket. They decided that they shall not make any statement on field that could be politically sensitive, and restrict themselves to sports only.

**THE SPECTATORS IN SHARJAH WERE MOVED TO SEE AFGHAN CRICKET TEAM CAPTAIN MOHAMMAD NABI WIPING AWAY HIS TEARS AS THE NATIONAL ANTHEM PLAYED. AFTER AFGHANISTAN'S TAKEOVER BY THE TALIBAN, THE NATIONAL FLAG HAD BEEN CHANGED AND THE NATIONAL ANTHEM WAS BANNED IN THE COUNTRY**



over by the Taliban, the national flag had been changed and the national anthem was banned in the country.

Hence it was a surprise for many to see that the original tricolour of Afghanistan was hoisted in the stadium after the win of the Afghan cricket team. As the Afghan national anthem

was played, the Afghan spectators and also the cricket team members sang along.

### AFGHAN CRICKET STAR THANKED FANS FOR BRINGING THE ORIGINAL AFGHAN FLAG TO THE STADIUM

Man of the Match in the win against Scotland was ace Afghan bowler Mujeeb-ur-Rehman. During his address, Mujeeb thanked his fellow Afghans and said, "I want to congratulate my people and I am happy that I am representing my Afghanistan. I want to thank the fans who came here and brought the three

## Are Social Media, Power Of the People Putting Curbs On The Taliban?

**T**his is the era of social media, and hence the ordinary people have more power. These times are different from 25 years ago when the Taliban first came to power. Now with social media, Afghans have been able to change a few things using the power of the social media. The Taliban recently removed their nominee for Chancellor of Kabul University. The new head of the university is a PhD. The general has also indirectly apologized.



Supporters watch the match between Afghanistan and Scotland  
PIC CREDIT: ALJAZEERA/AFP



## Gen Mubeen Had Warned Pak PM of Interfering In Internal Matters of Afghanistan

In September end, Taliban commander General Mubeen, who is also head of Taliban social media, had warned Prime Minister Imran Khan against interfering in the internal matters of his country. Speaking on a news channel, he had also called the Pakistan PM a puppet.

“Imran Khan himself did not come with the vote of Pakistani people. Everybody calls him puppet,” he said while talking to a local Pashto language TV channel. He had specified that the Taliban do not give anybody the right to interfere in Afghanistan. “If anybody interferes, then we also reserve the right interfere,” he said.

Mubeen Khan’s statement came after some Taliban soldiers were seen removing the Pakistani flag on top of a truck carrying relief goods from Pakistan into Afghanistan.

color flag here. It gives us positive energy.”

At the end of the match, videos and photos of the captain crying and Mujeeb-ur-Rehman thanking the Afghans for bringing flags were widely shared. These videos and photographs provoked the Taliban.

Taliban See Red, Commander Threatens Cricket Team

Within minutes of the display of emotion at the cricket stadium in Sharjah, an audio recording of General Mubeen, a Taliban commander, went viral in the country. General Mubeen was angry that members of the cricket team had decided to express their feelings on the international platform. In the audio clip, General Mubeen can

be heard threatening the Afghan cricket team. He makes reference to Mohammad Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, who served as the last president of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan between September 2014 and August 2021.

The Taliban anger over the nationalistic display by the cricketers became the hot topic of discussion among the Afghan people. In an interview after the reaction, General Mubeen calmed down and said, “It was my voice but it was a private conversation with someone who leaked it, but I will not name them. Decisions about the flag are made by the leaders and the people, not us. Zabihullah Mujahid has spoken about it many times. Yeah Al that sounds

pretty crap to me, looks like BT ain’t for me either. I have used some harsh words against the cricket players. I should not have done that. Cricketers are our heroes. We should commend them and when they come back we should welcome them and give them strength and encouragement. The whole nation should pray for their upcoming match with Pakistan so that we can win and make a fortune in the history of cricket. We predict that Afghanistan will win.”

(Zabihullah Mujahid is an official Central Spokesman for the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan since 25 October 2021, and Deputy Ministry of Information and Culture since 7 September 2021)



**WHEN IT COMES TO THE USE OF FORCE, WE KNOW OF MANY DIFFERENT WAYS. SET THE FLAG (ISSUE) ASIDE. WE WILL NOT TALK ABOUT IT. YOU HAVE TO OBEY US. WE DON'T HAVE A PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM**

## The Threat of Taliban Commander General Mubeen To the Afghan Cricketers

The audio recording in which General Mubeen has threatened the Afghan cricketers begins with these words: “Everywhere they talk about the three-colour flag. We will not let them go to the cricket ground again. Then they go to Scotland, India and other places. We show tolerance, cricketers should not try to be a part of politics. Cricket was formed by the UAE and its foundation was laid by the UAE. Now the UAE is not against the game but they (the cricketers) have to obey. Cricketers should speak as representatives of Afghanistan. There is a system here, we have a flag, there are ministers. Afghanistan Cricket Board has sent a team. Ghani’s cricket board has not sent him. Their expenses are paid by the UAE Islamic Cricket Board. The Islamic Emirate has chosen him. We have many cricketers in Afghanistan and they are better than them. We will select them. The choice is in the hands of the UAE and not in the hands of Rola (General Mubeen was insulting Ashraf Ghani’s wife by calling her Rolgai or Rola). When they return to Kabul airport, I will see what flag they are carrying. I will stand there and see which flag they will raise. I will see their love there. The ambassador will stand there with the flags and each player will have to kiss the flag and then he will be able to get off the plane. This is no joke. We have done everything by force. We have defeated America with the help of Allah and the punches of our heroes and martyrs. We have forced Ghani to leave the palace. We have defeated the infidels by force. When it comes to the use of force, we know of many different ways. Set the flag aside. We will not talk about it. Afghans should not be so foolish as to listen to ISI agent Mohsin Dawar and Ali Wazir and start doing something else from a PTM post. You have to obey us. We don’t have a parliamentary system.”

## Mohsin Dawar, Ali Wazir

In his threat to the Afghan cricket team, Taliban commander General Mubeen threatened that "the Afghans should not be so foolish as to listen to ISI agent Mohsin Dawar and Ali Wazir and start doing something else from a PTM (Pashtun Tahafuz Movement) post".

Mohsin Dawar is a member of the National Assembly of Pakistan and central chairman of the National Democratic Movement.

Mohammad Ali Wazir, a member of the National Assembly and a PTM leader, has been under torture and humiliation in Pakistan for his alleged involvement in anti-state activities on the behest of Afghanistan and Indian secret services. Wazir has been a member of the National Assembly of Pakistan since August 2018. In June 2018, Wazir survived an assassination attempt by the Taliban in Wanna who opened fire on him, killing three supporters of the PTM and injuring dozens others. In December 2020, Wazir was arrested by the Sindh Police in Peshawar, where he was present to commemorate the 2014 Peshawar school massacre.



**AFTER THE WIN, ACE BOWLER AND MAN OF THE MATCH MUJEEB-UR-REHMAN THANKED HIS FELLOW AFGHANS AND SAID, "I WANT TO CONGRATULATE MY PEOPLE AND I AM HAPPY THAT I AM REPRESENTING MY AFGHANISTAN. I WANT TO THANK THE FANS WHO CAME HERE AND BROUGHT THE THREE COLOR FLAG HERE. IT GIVES US POSITIVE ENERGY"**



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# **POK** AGAIN HAS NO FINANCIAL POWERS

# ALL FINANCIAL CONTROL IN THE **HANDS OF** **FEDERAL** **GOVERNMENT**

**Prime Minister POK Abdul Qayyum Niazi kept the whole matter secret; Ministry of Finance and Finance Minister Abdul Majid Khan not consulted**

## GOVT EYEWASH

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE OF RS 500 BILLION

The annual budget of Pakistan-Administered Kashmir is Rs 141 billion. In such a scenario, the announcement of a development package of Rs 500 billion is nothing but manipulation and forgery considering the economic and political situation of Pakistan



by Haris QADIR

Chief Editor of POK Newspaper  
Writes For KZINE

**T**he Prime Minister of Pakistan-administered Jammu and Kashmir has once again handed over the financial powers vested in the government to the Federal Government of Pakistan.

On the instructions of Prime Minister Abdul Qayyum Niazi, the Services and General Administration Department has removed the Additional Chief Secretary General from the post of Central Board of Revenue (CBR) and appointed Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir as the new Chairman.

It may be recalled that the Additional Chief Secretary General is an officer of Pakistan-Administered Jammu and Kashmir while the Chief Secretary is a Lent Officer posted in the region by the Federation of Pakistan. Thus, the CBR, a tax-collecting agency in Pakistan-administered Jammu and Kashmir, has once again come under the control of the federal government.

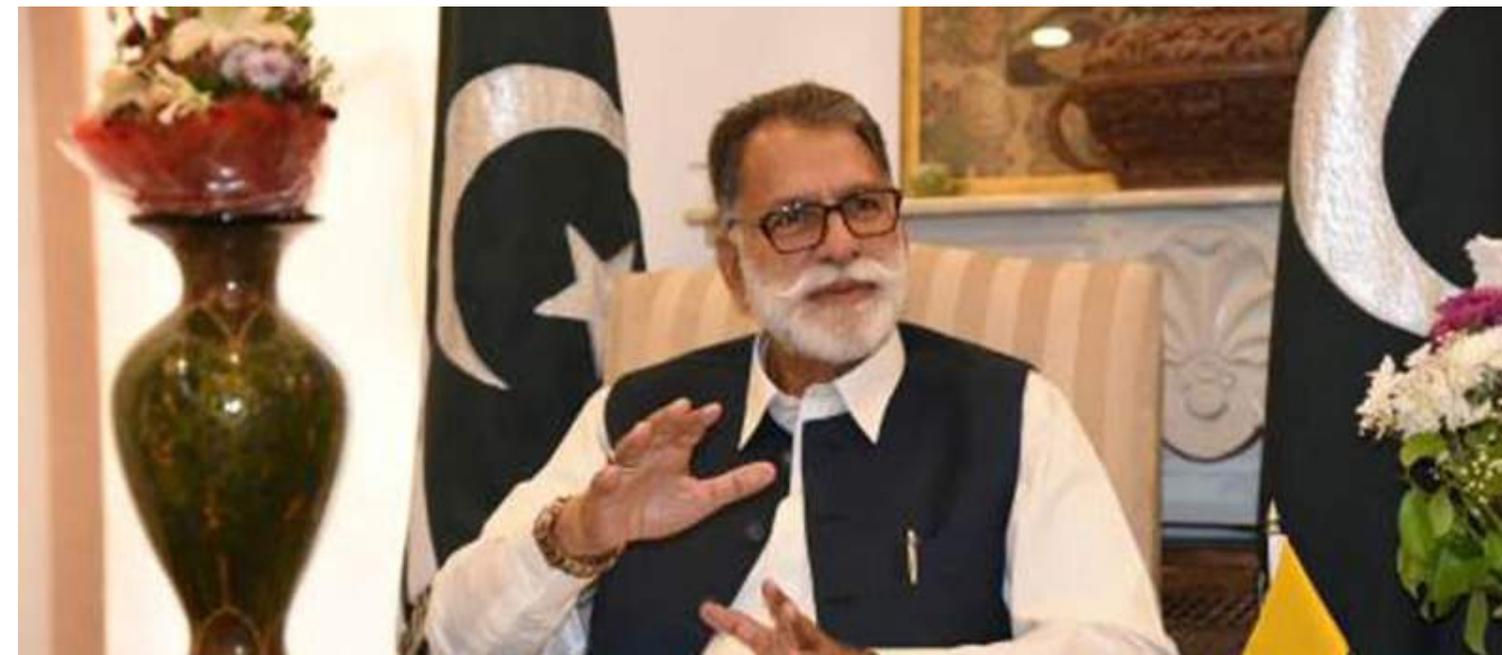
Prime Minister Abdul Qayyum Niazi kept the whole matter secret and the Ministry of Finance and Finance Minister Abdul Majid Khan were not consulted on this important issue. According to inside sources, the Prime Minister had given special instructions to the Secretariat not to take the Finance Ministry on board in this matter. Finance Ministry sources have also confirmed that they have been kept unaware of the whole process.

The Services and General Administration Department has issued a notification according to which the charge of Chairman CBR has been withdrawn from Additional Chief Secretary General Dr Asif Shah and handed over to Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan.

Finance Ministry sources have confirmed that they have been kept unaware of the whole process.

Thus, by disabling the Kashmir Council in the previous government, the Prime Minister himself has taken the financial benefits of the transfer of financial and administrative powers from the

**Abdul Qayyum Niazi** PICTURE CREDIT: DAWN





**THE PAKISTAN MUSLIM LEAGUE (N), POPULARLY KNOWN AS PML-N, HAS A REPUTATION FOR MAKING MONEY BY INITIATING DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. PML-N HAS MANAGED TO INCREASE THE DEVELOPMENT BUDGET IN THE REGION BY 100 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT, BUT HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO BUILD ANY MAJOR PROJECTS. THE BUREAUCRACY WAS ABLE TO BETTER PLAN FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF THE INCREASED DEVELOPMENT FUNDS**

Government of Pakistan-administered Jammu and Kashmir. He handed these over to the Federal Government. Financially, the government of Pakistan-administered Kashmir has once again come under the mercy of the Lent officers.

Following these steps of the previous government, the Finance Ministry had revealed that the annual taxes collected through the Kashmir Council were around Rs 12 billion. The

financial powers were transferred from the Kashmir Council to the government through the CBR at Rs 30 billion.

Earlier, the Kashmir Council used to collect all kinds of taxes from Pakistan-administered Jammu and Kashmir. The agency, based in Pakistan capital Islamabad, is run by the Federal Ministry of Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan and is chaired by the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

Nationalist parties, including

mainstream political parties, have been demanding the abolition of the Kashmir Council and the transfer of financial and administrative powers to the local government. The previous government had acquired financial powers by deactivating the Kashmir Council, but administrative powers were delegated directly to the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

The Pakistan-Administered PTI government in Pakistan-Administered Jammu and Kash-

# ATTRACTIVE PACKAGING, NO WORK AT GROUND LEVEL

The PTI government has slashed all kinds of development budgets in Pakistan. The government did not spend the loans obtained from the imperialist institutions on big development projects. The economy has suffered due to spending on loans and financial and administrative expenses. Development has been negatively impacted. If we look at all the announcements and claims of the government, from the package announced for the victims of corona virus in the past to the development package announced for the city of Karachi, we find only a spate of announcements and claims. No work has been done at ground level.

The previous government of Pakistan-administered Jammu and Kashmir had also accused the federal government of cutting the budget for the current financial year. Thus,

given the strategy of the federal government of Pakistan, this development package is likely to be limited to mere announcements. However, under the guise of this, the financial powers of the local government have also been handed over by the federal government to its sent Lent officer.



**A bus stand in Pakistan**  
PICTURE CREDIT: FOREIGN POLICY

**ACCORDING TO INSIDE SOURCES, THE PRIME MINISTER HAD GIVEN SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO THE SECRETARIAT NOT TO TAKE THE FINANCE MINISTRY ON BOARD IN THIS MATTER. FINANCE MINISTRY SOURCES CONFIRMED THAT THEY HAVE BEEN KEPT UNAWARE OF THE WHOLE PROCESS**

**A protest site in Pakistan** PHOTO CREDIT: THE PAKISTAN DAILY



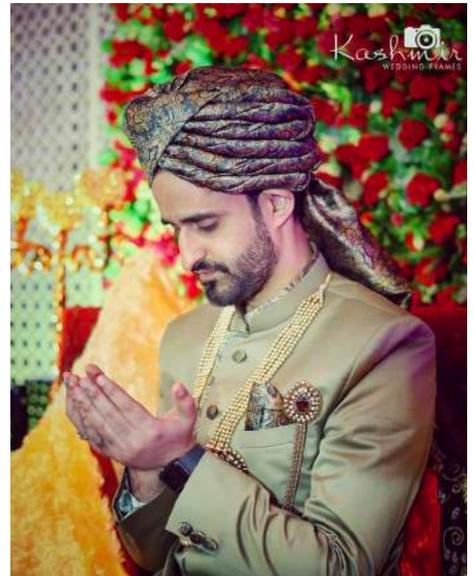
mir is busy forming committees around the announcement of a Rs 500 billion development package by the federation. On the other hand, the financial powers have been delegated to the central government. The annual budget of the region is Rs 141 billion. In such a scenario, the announcement of a development package of Rs 500 billion is nothing but manipulation and forgery considering the economic and political situation of Pakistan.

The PML-N, which has a reputation for making money by building development projects, has managed to increase the development budget in the region by 100 per cent in the previous government, but has not been able to build any major projects. The bureaucracy was able to better plan for the expenditure of the increased development funds.

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

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