

**UAE INVESTMENT: Is This Checkmate Pakistan?**

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**KZINE**

OPENING KASHMIR'S EYES

**HOW TO POSITION  
THEMSELVES  
POLITICALLY?**

**Kashmir's Political  
Leaders At A Loss - Except  
Seemingly Sajad Lone**

# It Is Never Late

The civil and military institutions in Kashmir are now celebrating and commemorating what should have their practice since long.

Chinar Corp recently celebrated the 75th year of Shalteng victory with much fervor. People in hundreds participated in the celebrations. The Army re-enacted the battle of November 7, 1947 fought with the Pakistani tribal raiders.

This battle finally led to the fleeing of tribal raiders from Kashmir. But tragically, the raiders had indulged in loot, arson, rape and killing of hundreds of Kashmiri men and women, particularly in Uri, Baramullah and the northern outskirts of Srinagar.

The Shalteng battle was fought decisively by the Army, which had just landed in Kashmir with the support of local population. It was the time when slogans of Hamla aawar khabardar, hum Kashmiri hein tayar would reverberate in the air.

The great son of the soil Maqbool Sherwani was just 19 at that time. Thinking strategically and intelligently, Sherwani misguided the tribal invaders and delayed their March towards Srinagar airport. Sherwani was later killed by the invaders mercilessly.



PHOTO COURTESY: ICHOWK.IN

November 7 was never remembered in Kashmir, and the memories faded away. Not many Kashmiris, particularly from the younger generation, know about the significance of November 7. It was never part of the history books taught in schools and colleges. Instead, selective, subjective and distorted historical events were imprinted on minds.

Is it too late or it is never late? The carnage caused by the Pakistani tribals in Kashmir, the support of the Kashmiris for the Army and the decisive victory should have been part of our collective memory. This is not the only historical event which the civil and military administration is commemorating. Many things have been revived during the last couple of years. Our history can make us understand Pakistan's vicious play in Kashmir. The Persian (Farsi) idiom frequently used in Urdu fits here – Deir aayed durust aayed. It is never late.

**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

# UAE Investment In Kashmir: WILL THIS BE CHECKMATE PAKISTAN?



MoU signed between Government of Dubai and J&K UT Administration in the presence of Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs & Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, GOI, Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha and Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and CEO, DP World

**MAJOR GEO-POLITICAL SHIFTS ARE THE LATENT DYNAMICS UNDERLYING DUBAI'S ACCORD WITH INDIA TO BUILD MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR INFRASTRUCTURE IN KASHMIR. THE SIGNALS HERE: ADVANTAGE KASHMIR. ADVANTAGE INDIA**

by Bashir ASSAD

**T**he blocs in the Muslim world – the Saudi-UAE bloc, the Turkey-Pakistan-Malaysia bloc. Pakistan's drift from Saudi

Arabia as it moves closer into Turkey's embrace. The deepening security and economic ties of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with India. These geo-political shifts are the latent dynamics underlying Dubai's accord with India to build multi-billion dollar infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir. The major signals here: Advantage Kashmir. Advantage India.

Dubai has committed to build world-class infrastructure in the troubled region including industrial parks, IT towers, multi-purpose towers, logistics centers, a medical college and a super-specialty specialized hospital.

Contrast this to Pakistan's relations with Saudi Arabia, which soured in 2020 and saw marginal improvement in the first quarter of 2021. Last month, Khaled Ahmed wrote in Newsweek Pakistan that the once "brotherly" ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia got dented in recent years, partly due to Islamabad's growing ties with Turkey. "The Pak-Turk relationship has tended to disturb the Arab part of the Islamic world due to the well-known split between Ankara and the Arab states," Ahmed noted.

Around March 2021, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia appeared to be in the midst of a reset of relations. Despite the improving



Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and CEO, DP World

**THIS IS WHAT THE DUBAI HAS SAID, STANDING IN SRINAGAR: "WE KNOW THE OBSTACLES." IT WILL NOT BE SO EASY FOR PAKISTAN TO EXECUTE ITS USUAL MALICE IN KASHMIR, AND KEEP THE TERROR NETWORKS IN HIGH GEAR**

trajectory, analysts noted that the bilateral reset would be limited to modest economic and military cooperation.

Meanwhile, the two Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) heavyweights, Abu Dhabi and Riyadh, are now strategically close to New Delhi with strong economic and security ties. That UAE has chosen Kashmir to make multi-billion dollar investments is extremely significant. The move holds great potential for Kashmir.

**WE KNOW THE OBSTACLES IN KASHMIR, SAYS DUBAI**

It is not to be missed that the accord with Dubai comes at a time when Kashmir is witnessing resurgence in violence that has left the locals shaken. The statement of Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, chairman and CEO of DP World Dubai, to Srinagar media must be understood for the deep meaning it carries.

“We are committed to connect Jammu and Kashmir to the rest of India. We know how to do that, we know the obstacles.”

This is what the Dubai has said, standing in Srinagar: “We know the obstacles.” It will not be so easy for Pakistan to execute its usual malice in Kashmir, and keep the terror networks in high gear.

The accord with Dubai for investment in Kashmir is a diplomatic high for India. It also holds major strategic importance.

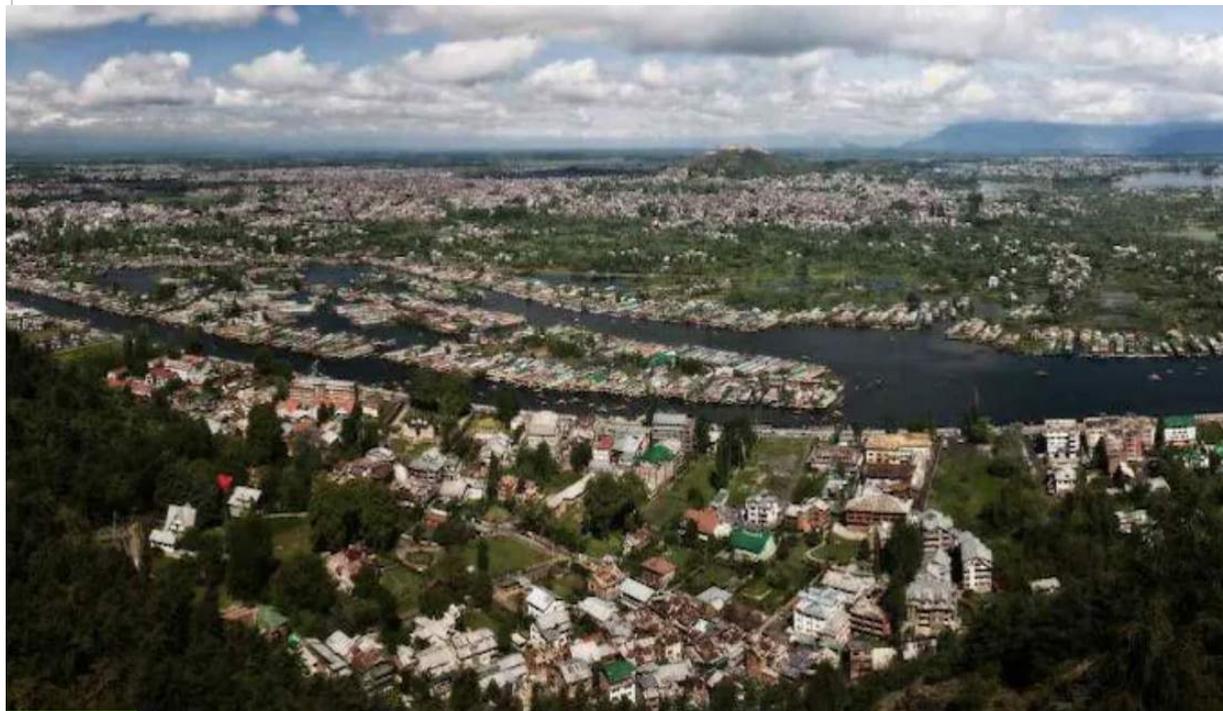
### **WHY DUBAI INVESTMENT IN KASHMIR CARRIES DEEP GEOPOLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

After long years of lull induced by terror, Kashmir is opening up to international investment. The investment in Kashmir is being made by the geopolitical heavyweights of the Islamic world. As Guardian of the Two Holy Mosques, Saudi Arabia’s role as the center of the Islamic faith is beyond reproach.

The House of Saud is recognized as the undisputed leader of the Islamic world. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan is trying hard to position Turkey as the center of the Muslim World.

The rivalry between Ankara and Riyadh is shaping regional events not only in the Middle East. It has the potential to turn the tide in Kashmir. India, with its growing prosperity and huge market, is on the global high table. The shared economic ties between India, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are a

PHOTO COURTESY: MONEYCONTROL.COM



**AFTER LONG YEARS OF LULL INDUCED BY TERROR, KASHMIR IS OPENING UP TO INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT. THE INVESTMENT IN KASHMIR IS BEING MADE BY THE GEOPOLITICAL HEAVYWEIGHTS OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD**



**SAUDI ARABIA IS THE GLOBAL LEADER OF SUNNI ISLAM. KASHMIR IS A DEEPLY RELIGIOUS REGION, IMMERSSED IN FAITH. HEAVY INVESTMENT BY THE GULF MAJORS IN KASHMIR PORTENDS SHIFTS. THE INVESTMENT THREATENS TO WEAKEN PAKISTAN’S HOLD ON KASHMIR**

prime driving force for the investment happening in Kashmir.

### **PAKISTAN’S SELF GOAL IS BORN OF DEEP ANXIETY**

Pakistan recently scored a self goal by denying use of its airspace for the direct flight between Srinagar and Sharjah. Pakistan’s kneejerk reaction is born of its deep anxiety over the deepening ties between India and the GCC titans.

Islamabad’s proximity with Ankara has hurt its relations with Abu Dhabi and Riyadh. Pakistan has consistently exploited its religious proximity

to Kashmir’s Muslim-majority population by planting terror networks here. Now the GCC titans are investing heavily in Kashmir. Pakistan cannot afford to annoy Saudi Arabia or UAE.

2020 saw the much-publicized spat between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, which culminated with Riyadh’s demand for early repayment of \$3 billion in loans meant to buttress Islamabad’s foreign exchange reserves. Pakistan managed to placate Riyadh. After much cajoling by Pakistan, Riyadh announced that it shall not withdraw the final tranche of its \$3 billion loan.

Pakistan is now seen in Turkey camp, but can it afford to annoy

Saudi Arabia and UAE? No. Yet Pakistan denied airspace for the Srinagar-Sharjah flight, which means an hour of additional travel for travelers, and higher ticket price.

Saudi Arabia is the global leader of Sunni Islam. Kashmir is a deeply religious region, immersed in faith. Heavy investment by the Gulf majors in Kashmir portends shifts. The investment threatens to weaken Pakistan’s hold on Kashmir.

Agreed that the situation in Kashmir is always mercurial. In a conflict region, nothing can be said with certainty. But signals should not be missed either.

# HOW TO POSITION THEMSELVES POLITICALLY?

## Kashmir's Political Leaders At A Loss - Except Seemingly Sajad Lone

by Bisma NAZIR

**W**ith no indication whatsoever about when the election in Jammu and Kashmir will be held, the political parties face a dilemma of how to flex muscles and how to position themselves as and when the polls are held. There is confusion among top political leaders about what should be the issues that they should go ballistic with in order to attract the electorate. National Conference seems to be lost between two lines of thought. So far the leadership of National Conference has not been able to come clear on the planks on which the party wants to contest the elections. There are mixed signals from Abdullah Senior. Dr Abdullah tries to play safe but gets swayed by the circumstances at times. Omar Abdullah, barring a few television interviews, has been silent. People's conference headed by Sajad Lone seemingly is an exception. If his coterie is to be believed, Sajad is clear and categorical. He doesn't want that

impractical and emotive issues should in any manner become part of the narrative. Sources reveal that in a recent meeting of the top executive, Sajad took strong exception to what some of his party colleagues suggested about allowing space for soft separatist politics. Barring Sajad and Mehbooba Mufti, no other political party in Kashmir valley has clarity on what kind of politics they are envisioning for the people.

**STRONG NC LOBBY WANTS PARTY TO ACCEPT NEW REALITY, POSITION ITSELF ACCORDINGLY**

According to reliable insiders, a strong lobby in National Conference (NC) has conveyed to the party leadership its reservations on doing politics around Article 370. Sources say this lobby wants that the party should not go against the flow. Rather, it should accept that the rules of the game have changed and it would be wise on part of the leader-



**So far the NC leadership has not been able to come clear on the planks on which the party wants to contest the elections. There are mixed signals from Abdullah Senior. He tries to play safe but gets swayed by circumstances at times. Omar Abdullah, barring a few television interviews, has been silent**



**Mehbooba's aim seems to be not the election but the revival of street theatrics and the authority to rule illegitimately through mobs. The idea is to bargain in the long run using the same modus operandi that Syed Ali Geelani perfected with manufactured protests**

ship to play the game according to the new rules.

This lobby comprising senior leaders and former ministers are of the opinion that time has come when the politics of deceit should be abandoned and people should be told the truth, however inconvenient however it may be. A senior NC leader candidly appreciated the steadfastness and straightforwardness of individuals like Sajad Lone who have chosen not to opt for political adventurism. The leader said that time has come when all political leaders of Kashmir should behave responsibly, not for their partisan interests but to save Kashmir from further distress.

The political leader said that there are many mass leaders in the National conference who share these concerns. "Everything in Kashmir politics is in black and white. It will be appropriate to choose between one. If we don't do that, it shall be great disservice to the people of Kashmir," he said.

**PAKISTAN INVESTING HEAVILY ON MEHBOOBA TO KEEP SEPARATIST POLITICS ALIVE**

Mehbooba Mufti was left clueless after her government was toppled in 2018. She has very limited

electoral prospects in Kashmir, irrespective of when the elections are held. Mehbooba is trying to regain lost ground by pitching herself against the might of the Indian state and playing victimhood. Her target is not the upcoming election – she is particular about casting her daughter in the lead role in the political theatre of Kashmir.

Physical indicators suggest that Pakistan is investing heavily on Mehbooba Mufti to keep separatist politics alive in Kashmir. By that standard also, the aim is not the election but the revival of street theatrics and the authority to rule illegitimately through mobs. The idea is to bargain in the long run using the same modus operandi that Syed Ali Geelani perfected with manufactured protests.

**WHERE SAJAD AND ALTAF DIFFER**

Apni Party of Syed Altaf Bukhari has the credit of going against the wind immediately after the events of August 05, 2019. It is in confused space now essentially because of the grievances against the local administration. Altaf is clear about his future politics, but the grievances are high on his mind. Because of limited experience of electoral

# LAX SECURITY FOR SAJAD LONE?

The perception among many quarters is that the entire SSG (Special Security Group Kashmir) seems to be left to the service of the Abdullahs and the Muftis. More than 300 SSG personnel guard them. Their cavalcade is bigger than the cavalcade of the LG. Abdullahs and Mufti enjoy every single privilege from the government only to keep the narrative of secessionism alive. How can this be justified?

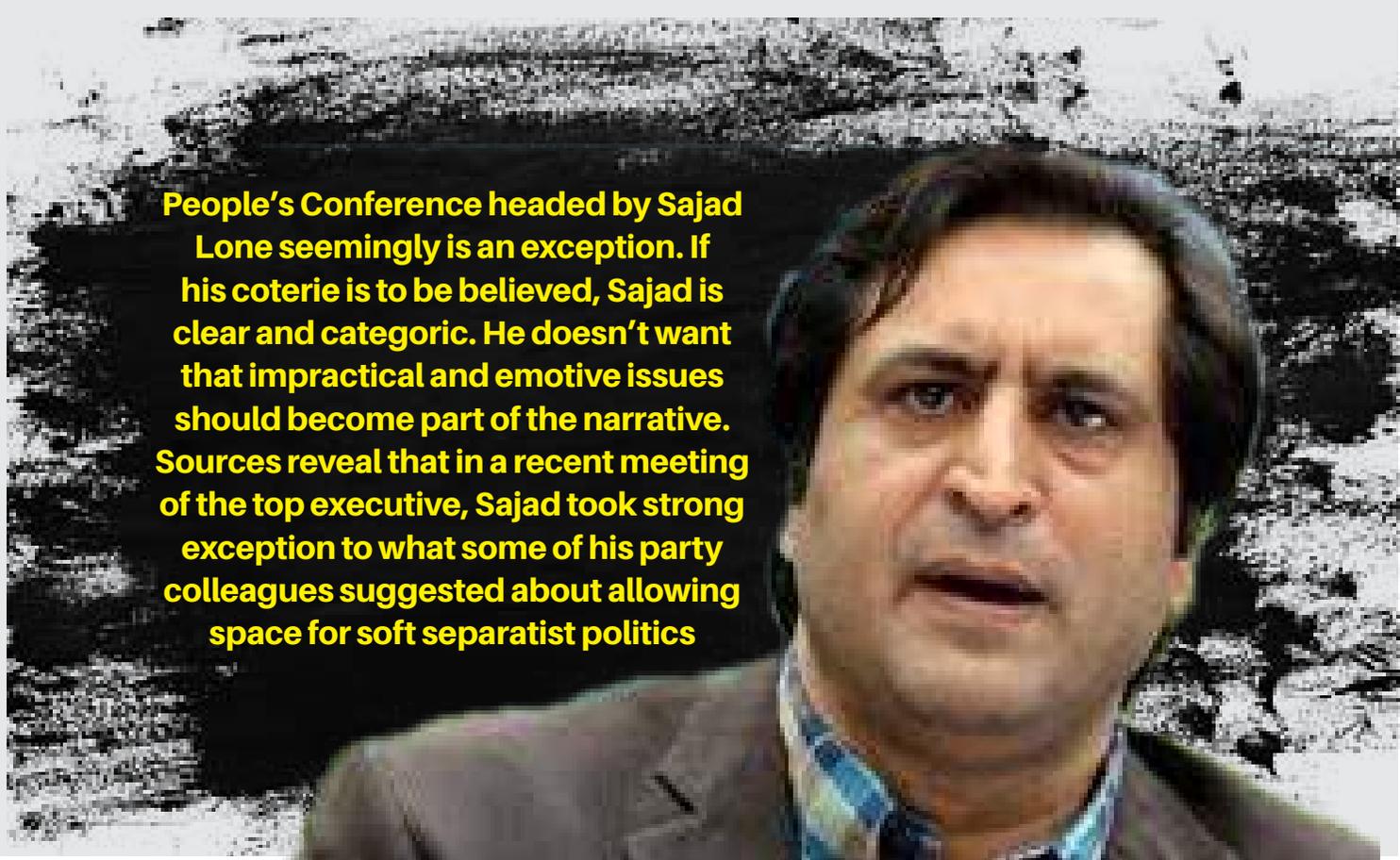
This correspondent twice visited Sajad. Surprisingly, there was not even a single police wala at the gate to enquire about the purpose of visit, or why one was going inside. On books, Sajad enjoys Z Plus security cover.

On the other hand, one may say that even a bird cannot fly across the residence of the Abdullahs and Mufti. There

is some evidence that suggests that a section in the police and civil bureaucracy still take orders or at least accommodate Mufti and Abdullahs more than others.

Another genuine complaint is that the workers and cadre of Apni Party and People's Conference are not allowed to connect or interact with the people for security reasons. On the other hand, National conference and PDP workers, who avail the same security, are given free passage. There are many other such grievances that have annoyed both Altaf and Sajad. Both have responded to it differently. Sajad is silent, Altaf agitates on such issues. His public posturing could be appropriately described as *Na khuda he mila na wisal e sanam*.

**People's Conference headed by Sajad Lone seemingly is an exception. If his coterie is to be believed, Sajad is clear and categoric. He doesn't want that impractical and emotive issues should become part of the narrative. Sources reveal that in a recent meeting of the top executive, Sajad took strong exception to what some of his party colleagues suggested about allowing space for soft separatist politics**



# A SENIOR NC LEADER ON THE HARD TRUTHS KASHMIR POLITICIANS MUST FACE

NC leader who did not want to be named gets candid with KZINE

We must honestly mark the end of the era of deceptive and delusional politics.

A question I often face is that why did some political leaders believed to be close to the Abdullahs left the party. Movements across political parties are not new. They have always been part of electoral politics. The exit of Devender Rana and Hilal Raheem Rather was a great loss for National conference. I shall be the last man to leave the party but the first one to speak my mind. The era of emotive and exploitive politics has ended.

Abrogation of Article 370 and 35A and bifurcation of state into two Union Territories no doubt was a unilateral decision. It ultimately led to the disempowerment of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. But given the geo-political scenario, the action seems to be irreversible at least in near future. So we should be focused on two things:

1. Deflate the attention of the people from what could not be achieved by the confrontation.

Let us learn to live and let live with peace and harmony. We should provide a secure environment to our younger generation which is only possible by the politics of reconciliation.

2. The world is evolving with the pace of a missile. We need to come out of our cocoons and be part of the evolution. For that we need to reject violence in all its forms and manifestations and secure a safe environment for the people to flourish.

## ON DR FAROOQ ABDULLAH

The top brass of our party is clueless about the ground reality. Till the recent past, Dr Abdullah was the only leader in Jammu and Kashmir who would feel the pulse of the people. Dr Sahab was known for telling the inconvenient truth even in highly volatile situations. In 2010, Dr Farooq Abdullah categorically advised Chief Minister Omar Abdullah not to resign when pressure was being built by many quarters. "He would coolly say that extraordinary situations are temporary. We should not take any decision under the influence of such temporary situations. I am surprised to observe that Farooq Sahab seems nervous. It seems that he is not able to sail the boat amid the storm.



**The cadre of Apni Party and People's Conference are not allowed to connect or interact with people for security reasons. NC and PDP workers, who avail the same security, are given free passage. There are many other such grievances that have annoyed both Altaf and Sajad. Altaf agitates on such issues. His public posturing could be appropriately described as *Na khuda he mila na wisal e sanam***

politics, he messes up both, due to which there is confusion.

During conversations and public interactions, Sajad has indicated that he is aware of the grievances. The clarity he brings forth is that these wrongs shall be rectified once he is in power. His stand is that one must not lose focus of the real target – power.

Why does Altaf seem missing in this clarity? Perhaps because of the pressures he faces from his cadre, who went against the wind with expectations that were sky high. At this juncture, Altaf needs to take a clear view of the pursuit of power and the grievances against the bureaucracy.

The Kashmir bureaucracy has always been more powerful than in any other part of the country. The objective of the government has been that in the conflict scenario, the bureaucracy must govern without intervention from any quarter. It is here

that Syed Altaf Bukhari and his cadre lose patience. So we find that at times, Altaf outpaces Mehbooba and others in taking the administration head on. Over the past few weeks, Altaf has been more vocal in his criticism of the Administration than his hawk rivals in NC and PDP.

Both Sajad and Altaf are of the view that the lapses of the bureaucracy are unintentional. But the fact remains that any complaints against the bureaucracy go to the advantage of NC and PDP.

The confusion also seems to be there on what the Centre is up to as far holding elections in Jammu and Kashmir is concerned. NC, Congress and other small players including PDP have no idea about what kind of political arrangement New Delhi is up to in Kashmir. The big question that is generally being posed by the political leaders cutting across the party lines is that who will be the chief minister and from where.

**SOME LOCAL OFFICERS  
WHO HAVE ANTI-INDIA  
SENTIMENTS ARE  
CRIPPLING FUNCTIONING  
OF DDCs**

**Clash of egos,  
interests have  
sabotaged process**

**There is confusion  
We Need  
Training Sessions  
To Streamline  
System**



The swearing-in ceremony of DDC members was held in every district of Jammu and Kashmir. Image: Khalid Hussain

PHOTO CREDIT: DNA INDIA

by Iqbal AHMAD

**T**he gulf between Srinagar and New Delhi was born because democratic institutions in J&K were never allowed to flourish. No serious efforts were made to strengthen the grass root democratic structures.

The argument over the development of Jammu and Kashmir – or the lack of it – continued on two lines of thought. Those favouring the abrogation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir said Article 370 of the Indian Constitution was a road-

block. They claimed that constitutional provisions applicable to rest of the country were not applied to J&K because of Article 370. As a result, historic amendments made to the Constitution for strengthening the Panchayati Raj Act were not applicable to J&K. The argument was that the 73th and 74th amendment to the Constitution of India revolutionized the Panchayati Raj system in the country. But J&K could not benefit from it because the Act did not apply here.

The counterargument against this was that J&K had its own Constitution. Those provisions of the Constitution of

India which were applicable to the erstwhile state of J&K were tempered with, rather breached. This resulted in disempowerment of the people of J&K and the democratic structures here.

The argument made by the antagonists was that manipulation of electoral democracy, rigging of elections and a host of other measures weakened the foundations of democracy in J&K. The interesting angle herein is often missed by both schools of thought. Elections in J&K were manipulated (if at all) when Article 370 was invoked. Every nasty thing was affected when Article 370 was still there

**THERE IS SERIOUSNESS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL IN PROVIDING A SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR THE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN J&K. UNFORTUNATELY, THE LOCAL BABUS SEEM TO HAVE CONSCIOUSLY RESOLVED TO DISRUPT THE DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES, PARTICULARLY WHEN IT COMES TO PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS**

## THE THREE-TIER PANCHAYATI RAJ SYSTEM

The three-tier Panchayati Raj system includes Gram Panchayats at the village level, Block Development Council (BDC) at block level and District Development Council (DDC) at district level.

**Gram Panchayat:** Every village has a Panchayat. Registered voters of the village elect a president (Sarpanch) and a Vice-President (Panch).

**Block development Council:** Composed of elected members of the area, and the Block Development Officer.

**District Development Council:** Headed by an Additional District Development Commissioner (Additional DC) as Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the council representing the district. Functions at district level.

The three-tier system was not there in Jammu and Kashmir before the abrogation of Article 370



1 of 5  
**Victory procession after announcement of DDC election result**

in the statue book. Therefore, the argument that Article 370 was a guarantee for a flourishing democratic culture Jammu and Kashmir is fundamentally flawed. Article 370 was most effective for the politicians of Jammu and Kashmir. They conveniently used it for politics around its abrogation or its res-

toration. This still holds true.

For the strengthening of Panchayati Raj institutions in J&K, abrogation of Article 370 has not helped a bit. This is not because of any fallout of the abrogation. This is because the mental makeup of the bureaucratic structure in J&K is such that with or without Article 370,

they are resolute not to allow democratic institutions to take root in J&K.

A major distinction needs to be made here. The intentions at the highest level of the government cannot be questioned. There is seriousness at the highest level in providing a support system for the democratic institutions in J&K. Unfortunately, the local babus seem to have consciously resolved to disrupt the democratic structures, particularly when it comes to Panchayati Raj institutions.

The inherent drawback, particularly in Kashmir valley post the inception of militancy in 1990, is the lack of credible faces in participatory democracy. That said, the babus need to understand that those who contested or will contest in future are doing so at great personal peril. The system and the state must provide due recognition to those who dare to challenge the non-state terror actors, their ecosystem and their sponsors across the border.

The Indian state has earned respect globally and continues to emerge as global leader because of its democratic values and its commitment to strengthen the democratic structures. Babus have a bare minimum role in making this country great. Unfortunately the mindset of local babus in Kashmir even today is the major roadblock in strengthening the democratic institutions. For deeply analyzing this malaise, KZINE spoke to people's representatives associated with the Panchayati Raj system. All of them said that the bureaucrats are to be blamed for the failure of Panchayati Raj in Kashmir.

# Some Local officers don't want the Panchayati Raj system to work. They feel that their interests shall be thwarted if DDCs and Panchayats get empowered

Safina Beigh, Chairperson District Development Council (DDC), Baramulla



# SAFINA BEIGH,

## Chairperson District Development Council (DDC), Baramulla

The three-tier system is a self governance concept. From the grass root level it has some golden points. In the form of sarpanches and panches, villages get economically as

well as politically empowered. People don't need to move from one MLA to another for their development works. Today the Sarpanch has the authority to get all these works rolling.

Development as well as involvement is in the hands of people. We get public participation from village level. There is no problem with funds. In fact the budget is more than enough. The main motive of Panchayati Raj is employment generation in rural areas. There are avenues for youth engagement through the Directorate of Rural Development and other departments. With the Panchayati Raj system, women got a chance to take part in the development process. Development leads to peace. Misgovernance leads to alienation.

Across political lines, no government wanted this system to strengthen, because if the Panchayati Raj system became strong, MLAs would lose their powers. So the government and the MLAs halted the implementation of this program. It was the prime minister's policy to strengthen the system. The LG government tried their best to implement the Panchayati Raj system and conducted fair elections. Despite the ruthless ways of the militants and the conflict, people participated in the election. This was the first successful election of Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370. It raised people's expectations from the elected DDC members.

**"THE PROCESS IS BEING SABOTAGED"**

The three tier system is going to complete one

**Paralysing the functioning of the DDCs and the Panchayats is the handiwork of some local bureaucrats who have anti-India sentiments. They know that DDCs and Panchayats are one of the best outreach programs from the Central government to the people of Kashmir. So they don't want to make it work. Their hidden agenda is that this is a process being promoted by the Prime Minister, so this process has to be sabotaged**



**We have Deputy Commissioners in Kashmir who don't even receive the phone calls of DDC chairpersons or members. This institution isn't getting the respect that it deserves. The members aren't getting the respect that they deserve**

year soon but there are teething problems. We understand that when new systems are established, the implementation process takes time. But there are some officers in Jammu and Kashmir who don't want this system to work. They feel that their interests shall be thwarted if the District Development Committees (DDCs) and Panchayats get empowered.

Some DDC members complain about the officers. But they don't understand the politics behind why they are not being allowed to function. Paralysing the functioning of

the DDCs and the Panchayats is the handiwork of some bureaucrats who have anti-India sentiments. They know that DDCs and Panchayats are one of the best outreach programs from the Central government to the people of Kashmir. So they don't want to make it work. Their hidden agenda is that this is a process being promoted by the Prime Minister, so this process has to be sabotaged.

The second reason why DDCs and Panchayats are not able to perform well is that Jammu and Kashmir is a Union Territory. UT officers consider

themselves superior. They don't want to surrender their powers. For example, if J&K UT gets a chief minister tomorrow, he/she shall be a toothless tiger – a CM without any powers. These are the main reasons why this system is shaking. It is not able to stabilize.

Unfortunately some DDC members have started considering themselves as Super MLAs. That is why I am requesting the LG to start training sessions. It is important because the officers will get to know of the powers of DDCs. Simultaneously, the DDCs will get to know about their jurisdiction.

There is a lot of confusion.

It is very important to have training sessions so that the system gets streamlined. This can be the best system if both sides work with cooperation and coordination. The system is accountable, it is very transparent and corruption can be controlled easily. It should be continued the way the prime minister has committed. A serious message should be sent to the Administration. We have Deputy Commissioners in Kashmir who don't even receive the phone calls of DDC chairpersons or members. This institution isn't getting the respect that it deserves. The members aren't getting the respect that they deserve. But they too expect a lot from the officers.

There is also the issue of accommodation for sarpanches, panches, DDC members. There are many security concerns in Kashmir. Panchayat members are usually more vulnerable to attacks. It is not easy to provide security to all of them. We understand that it will take some time to arrange things.

# When We Participated In The Elections, The Govt Made A Lot Of Promises But Local Officers Don't Cooperate With Us

**Riyaz Ahmad,**  
DDC Member, Devsar, Kulgam District

Riyaz Ahmad



When we participated in the elections, the government made a lot of promises. During election days, the SHO would come to pick me up along with escorts. But after the elections, they have kept us like prisoners. Now you won't find any difference between us and Central Jail prisoners. In fact they have more facilities than us.

We wanted to make this three tier system successful on ground level. But we are not able to fulfil people's promises. We don't receive public calls now because no work is getting done through us. If we tell Block Development Officers (BDO) or Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), "Please do this work," they do not comply with our request. They do not agree with us. No officer is ready to cooperate with us. They don't have to support us in any wrongdoings but genuine works

**We wanted to make this three tier system successful on ground level. But we are not able to fulfil people's promises. We don't receive public calls now because no work is getting done through us**



should be done at least.

We are DDC members by election but we are not allowed to stand even in the District Planning Committee. We don't have any platform where we can keep our points, where we can discuss issues. Officers don't let DDC members meet the Lt Governor. They don't let us reach them. Sometimes they give us security reasons and sometimes they ignore us. They only take us to those meetings where they want us to be present. Not where we need to be present.

Recently the newly appointed young KAS officers were posted in rural development and as BDOs. They don't know anything about public dealing. They should be sent to the Revenue Department first where they can learn things.

I agree that during the tour, we learn about Panchayats of different states. But it is not tours that will really help us. Training in our own state about our duties, responsibilities and powers – that shall truly help us. No training took place after the 2020 election. To grab government's money, the officers take members for a tour. There is a difference between training and a tour. For us training is more important.

For instance, the Panchayat of Punjab and Kashmir isn't the

same. The SHO of Punjab isn't allowed to enter any village without the permission of the Sarpanch. But here the Sarpanch can't tell SHO not to enter the village because we have security reasons here. Also, if the Sarpanch dares to tell the SHO not to enter the village, he will be booked under Public Safety Act (PSA) the next day.

What we immediately need is training where all members shall be told about their rights, duties and powers. As a DDC member, I have never received any training except once in March 2021. It was scheduled to be held in Jammu for two days. Due to some protests the program was not successful.

## **DEPARTMENTS ARE NOT COOPERATING WITH US**

In Kulgam district, plan for Rs 250 crore approximately shall lapse because the departments

are not cooperating with us. When we make the plans, we first ask the departments about their estimates. But they refuse to give estimates. They say – send us plans, then we will see about estimates. For instance, I made a plan of Rs 2.5 lakh for a transformer. The department prepared the same estimate for Rs 7 lakh.

For the panchayat spending also, we should follow the pattern of Constituency Development Fund (CDF). This way, estimation shall be submitted first, then feasibility check done, then work executed.

The government has initiated a great step of removing deadwood from all departments. Currently we have 50% deadwood in all departments. They are even violating the Panchayati Raj Act by giving the tenders to the local mafia and not to those who we recommend. Babus are not giving us the respect we deserve.

**We are DDC members by election but we are not allowed to stand even in the District Planning Committee. We don't have any platform where we can keep our points, where we can discuss issues**

# Pakistan's Poster Boys Of Rage Are More Loyal Than The King

**PAKISTAN'S INTENT IS TO KEEP KASHMIR CLOSED TO THE WORLD**

**More the world sees Kashmir, more Pak's Lies Shall Be Exposed**

by GM MIR

**E**arlier this month, Pakistan scored a self-goal. It is globally known that the Pakistan Army also has the significant portfolio of the country's foreign relations and foreign policy. But one had not assumed that the Generals would be so blinded as to score a clear self goal.

Self goals arise out of misjudgment, and Pakistan scored a classic here. It refused to allow the use of its airspace for the direct flight between Srinagar and Sharjah. The Srinagar-Sharjah flight revived the direct air link between Kashmir Valley and the

United Arab Emirates after 11 years. Most Kashmiris know that Pakistan is no friend of Kashmir. For over 30 years, Pakistan has bled Kashmir in its bid to make India hurt. Those few Kashmiris who had remained star-struck are getting a lesson in Pakistan's malice.

One would not have thought it was possible to better Pakistan's self-goal on the denial of airspace. But Pakistan's carefully nurtured strategic assets – the poster-boys and poster-girls of rage – manage to outdo their mentors. The gravy train from Pakistan works the magic. It makes them more loyal than the king.

Gowhar Geelani, one of Pakistan's poster boys of rage could not digest the anger of the Kashmiris at Pakistan's refusal of air space. Gowhar tweeted: Those tweeting rage about the airspace permission or denial for the Srinagar-Sharjah flights must also share the same sentiment in relation to the trans-Kashmir bus service and trade routes like the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad, Poonch-Rawlakot etc. You can't selectively hail & deplore.

Gowhar is a classic instigator. But sometimes, even those masquerading as intellectuals and the bearers of truth let their carefully cultivated mask fall. With his tweet expressing outrage on





**Gowhar is a classic instigator. But sometimes, even those masquerading as intellectuals and the bearers of truth let their carefully cultivated mask fall. With this tweet, Gowhar has picked up the ball and carefully and deliberately put it into**

the airspace issue, Gowhar has picked up the ball and carefully and deliberately put it into Pakistan's net.

Working on Pakistan's payroll, Gowhar does not care that the so-called trade routes were used by Pakistan as instruments of

narco terrorism. He does not care that these routes were used to pump guns into Kashmir, to strengthen the terror ecosystem sponsored by Pakistan and terrorise more and more Kashmiris.

Every Kashmiri knows that the bus service failed because

of Pakistan's terror nexus in the region, supported by Syed Geelani and others. The terror nexus turned the trans-Kashmir bus service and trade routes into well-greased smuggling networks. Weapons, drugs and hawala – all these flourished. The nexus killed the effort and has been complicit to snuffing any efforts to open trade or routes.

**SOME STATISTICS THAT GOWHAR MAY INGEST - THE BIG HAULS**

Cross-LOC trade was briefly suspended after discovery of cocaine worth INR 10 crore from a truck involved in this 'trade'.

January 2014: Police seized 114 packets of Acetyl Morphine, a kind of heroin from a truck involved in Cross border trade. Kameshwar Puri, an officer involved in the find said, "We found 148 sacks of almonds, and 114 of them contained a one-kilogram brick of acetyl morphine, a kind of morphine, a kind of heroin, embedded in the centre. The drugs were completely pure, so after it reached its suppliers in India, 114 packs could easily be stretched to 500 Kgs." Police investigation further revealed that the consignment was booked at the Chakoti Trade Facilitation Centre (CFTC) in Muzaffarabad in the name of Masroor Mir. Masroor had crossed into the Pakistan Occupied Kashmir in 1990s for arms training and has since then continued to live there. The camouflaging of the drugs in the packaging of 'allowed materials' creates less suspicion and detection.

**LATER IN 2014:** 3 Kg heroin was recovered from a truck involved in cross LoC trade.

**FEBRUARY 2015:** 12 Kgs of contraband substances was recovered from a Pakistani truck in

Uri. The substances were carefully hidden in orange cartons.

**MARCH 2015:** 2 kgs of heroin was recovered in Srinagar from two persons belonging to Jabra village in Uri, Kashmir

**FEBRUARY 2017:** A truck involved in transporting goods in the cross LoC trade with registration number JK03B-1586 while coming back from the other side was apprehended near Uri. A Chinese pistol, two magazines and 14 pistol rounds, 4 AK magazines, 120 AK rounds and two Chinese grenades were confiscated from camouflage cavity of the truck.

**JULY 2017:** 67 kgs of cocaine worth INR 300 crore was recovered from a truck involved in cross border trade at Uri. The vehicle was a part of the trade project, carrying number AJKXA-267.

Going by Gowhar's playbook, if Kashmiris want that Pakistan airspace must be allowed for the Sharjah flight, terror sponsor Pakistan must again be allowed a free run in Kashmir for the supply of narcotics, arms and ammunition.

In April 2019, India suspended cross-LoC trade, alleging misuse of the facility by individuals linked to terrorist groups. Since then, Pakistan has focused on drones and terrorist infiltrators to supply narcotics and ammunition to Kashmir.

Drones and terrorist infiltrators do not work as well as the charming façade of cross-border trade. Drones are a far more expensive deal for Pakistan. There is only a limited amount of narcotics and ammunition that the drones or terrorist infiltrators can carry. And both invite far more international censure and condemnation if caught.

Gowhar, Pakistan's foot soldier, understands this.



**The police found 148 sacks of almonds, and 114 of them contained a one-kilogram brick of acetyl morphine, a kind of morphine, a kind of heroin, embedded in the centre. The drugs were completely pure, so after it reached its suppliers in India, 114 packs could easily be stretched to 500 Kgs**

# Kashmiriyat and Pakistaniyat

# CHOOSING BETWEEN

# LIFE AND DEATH



by Imtiaz MUNEEB

**K**ashmir's 5,000 years old socio-cultural milieu continues to be eclipsed by the externally imported religious extremist ideology of fanatic Islamism. In this context, it is important to recount what Kashmir was and what Kashmiriyat means.

In Kashmir, religious extremism and terrorism sponsored and nourished by Pakistan led to the annihilation of ideas like pluralism, secularism, freedom and tolerance in the past three decades. We have seen how the extremist and regressive principles continue to be violently asserted in the most malevolent manner in Kashmir. In the exceptional circumstances of 1947, the secular and democratic foundations of Kashmir brought it closer to India. Kash-

mir squarely rejected the two-nation theory. The idea of a secular democracy found natural coherence with the idea of Kashmiriyat, which is based on the universal ethos of secularism and pluralism.

This pluralist ethos has historically defined the idea of Kashmir and Kashmiriyat. But unfortunately, we have paid a very heavy price on two counts. One: the conflict and political unrest caused by Pakistan's proxy war. Two: Pakistan's mission of cultural and ideological cleansing. Both politically and culturally, our existence came under severe attack for these three decades.

However, it is often stated that the pluralist ideals are best valued in places where they are under heavy onslaught. Their true value is realized in their absence. This is what Kashmiris like me have been tragically made to feel in their lives so far.

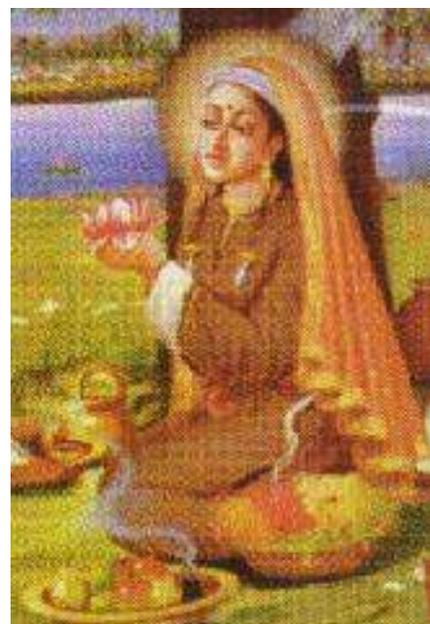
It is time that we Kashmiris stand to uphold and fight for the great pluralist ethos and identity which our 5,000 years old syncretic culture has given to us. It is impor-

tant to reclaim it collectively in the given circumstances if we are to survive. We just cannot let “Pakistaniyat” destroy us. Pakistaniyat is something that is completely antithetical to what Kashmiriyat stands for.

Kashmiri culture over a long period of time has been marked by the ideals of Buddhism, Shaivism and Sufism. It was through the blending of these three philosophies that the idea of Kashmiriyat was nourished and propagated. Lord Buddha is said to have remarked that Kashmir is a land of Dhyana and Samagra (Contemplation and Meditation) for the peace, amity, tolerance and quietude it offered.

The Sufi mystic vision present in the teachings and literature poetry of Kashmiri saints and poets like Lala Ded and Nund Rishi gave essence to the idea of Kashmiriyat. The whole focus of this great ideal was on pluralism, tolerance, amity, and brotherhood transcending all socio-religious and sectarian barriers.

Lal Ded, or, Lalleshwari, as she is popular among Kashmiris of all backgrounds, is very important in the articulation of Kashmiriyat. Elaborating her universal mystical vision borne



## We have paid a very heavy price on two counts. One: the conflict and political unrest caused by Pakistan’s proxy war. Two: Pakistan’s mission of cultural and ideological cleansing



and message. These mystics or Sufis are respected by Kashmiris of all hues. One of the prominent figures among these is Sheikhul Aalam or Sheikh Nooruddin, whom we lovingly also call Nund Rishi. He is often referred to as Lal Ded’s spiritual successor. His teachings also form the core of the idea of Kashmiriyat. Following the footsteps of Lal Ded, Nundi Rishi states his pluralist vision:

*We bear no ill will to each other,  
Should our love bind us all alike, Hindu and Muslim,  
Then surely God is pleased with us*

Show me the Kashmiri who is not moved by the spiritual enlightenment of these verses sung in our beautiful, lilting Kashmiri. These verses shake us to the core. They remind us of who we have been, who we are, and show us the light of who we shall be.

After Lal Ded and Sheikhul Aalam, the idea of Kashmiriyat as a way of life was further nourished and propagated by mystics and poets like Rupa Bhawani, Arnimal, Rahim Sahab, Shamas Faqir, Wahab Khaar, Socha Kral, Samad Mir, and many more. This led to the articulation of Kashmiriyat as the most fundamental and the most defining element of Kashmiri identity.

### TAKE A STARK LOOK AT THE DARK “PAKISTANIYAT” FOR WHICH KASHMIRI YOUTH ARE DYING ENDLESSLY

Take a hard, clear look at what constitutes the “Pakistaniyat” for which a section of radicalized, indoctrinated Kashmiri youth is dying endlessly. Kashmiris have fallen into Pakistan’s bait and its attempt to injure India. In the bargain, these Kashmiri youth have brought death, destruction and misery upon themselves, their loved ones and also upon Kashmir. Why is a section of our youth doing this? For some deluded men enjoying power and privilege in Rawalpindi. This has been our lot for 30 years.

It has been so till now. But Kashmiri youth need to be conveyed in blunt terms that they need to stop self destructing themselves for the rich upper class Punjabi establishment of Pakistan. Pakistan’s self-serving establishment has been playing the failed, divisive and hate-filled ideology of the Two Nation Theory to conserve its unbridled power and privilege.

Kashmiris need to open their eyes and demystify all the “myths” constructed about Pakistan by the ISI-backed local propaganda machinery. We need to think about our lives, our own good, our own interests, our own welfare, our own future. We need to recognize that the upper class Punjabi establishment of Pakistan has a long history of oppressing lower class Punjabis and all non-Punjabi ethnicities and nationalities in Pakistan besides non-Sunnis.

## Show me the Kashmiri who is not moved by the spiritual enlightenment of these verses by Lal Ded and Nund Rishi, sung in our beautiful, lilting Kashmiri. These verses shake us to the core. These verses remind us of who we have been, who we are, and show us the light for who we shall be

out of the philosophy of Shaivism, Lala Ded writes:

*Shiv choy thale thale rozaan  
Mov zan heund te muslmaan  
Trukey chokh te panun paan parzan  
Soye chai sahibs seth zane zaan*

*Shiva abides in all that is, everywhere  
Then do not distinguish between a Hindu and Muslim.  
If thou art wise, know thyself  
That is true knowledge of the Lord.  
I gave up falsehood, deceit, untruth,  
I saw the one in all fellow beings, and  
Preached the same doctrine to the mind.  
What then is the inhibition in eating  
The food offered by a fellow human being?*

Lal Ded’s thought was further preached by a long line of Kashmiri mystics or Sufis as they spread the universal values



# Why Pakistan Encourages Extremism, Fundamentalism

In order to suppress various internal ethnic struggles as its existence is so fractured, Pakistani establishment has a deliberate policy. It encourages extremism and fundamentalism to dilute these struggles for justice. Imagine living in a nation which has no unifying factor except promotion of religious extremism and fundamentalism. This is Pakistan.

This policy comes at a cost of self destruction as these groups ultimately acquire much power and ideology. However, the Pakistani establishment continues to use them against internal dissenters and also outside the country in Kashmir and Afghanistan. Within Pakistan, no dissent is tolerated. Journalists and intellectuals are frequently targeted and forced into migration or submission, or killed. In recent times, intellectuals who dared to critique were brutally murdered. These include Sabeen Mahmud, Salman Taseer, Mashal Khan and many others. Their killers enjoy patronage and protection of ISI.

The stark difference between the two worldviews and ideologies - Kashmiriyat and Pakistaniyat - is clear as day and night. The choice is ours - whether to choose life, amity, pluralism of Kashmiriyat? Or choose division, hate, death and destruction of Pakistaniyat.



**Kashmiri youth need to be conveyed in blunt terms that they need to stop self destructing themselves for the rich upper class Punjabi establishment of Pakistan. Pakistan's self-serving establishment has been playing the failed, divisive and hate-filled ideology of the Two Nation Theory to conserve its unbridled power and privilege**

## **PAKISTAN A HORRIBLE, ALMOST UNLIVABLE NATION**

On this count, Pakistan is a horrible, almost unlivable nation. It is not simply something worth dying for. Pakistani flag cannot cover the mass atrocities being committed by Punjabi establishment in Pakistan on a daily basis.

Pakistan is a country which is beset with the most rigid form of inequality and feudalism even in this modern age. In the rural areas of Punjab, Sindh, KPK and Baluchistan where Jagiradari is still prevalent, ancient age-type slavery still exists. Pakistan is essentially ruled by an exploitative nexus of feudal-military-clergy. Numerous scholarly studies have shown this.

Pakistan was created in the name of Islam. But it broke down into two parts within 24 years because of the Punjabi and Urdu speaking establishment's brutal political, cultural and economic oppression of Bengalis in East Pakistan.

Balochs, Sindhis, Mohajirs and Pashtuns from time to time have resisted against the Punjabi domination through movements like "Independent Baluchistan", "Sindhu Desh", "Jinnah Pur" and "Pakhtunistan". Shias, Ahmadiyas, Hazaras and Gilgitis also suffer from repression of all kinds.





### WHY PAKISTAN ARMY MANUFACTURES CONSTANT DELUSIONS, UNTRUTHS

Pakistan is controlled and dictated by the Punjabi-dominated military establishment. Any politician who doesn't toe the line is shunted out like Nawaz Sharif. The real power centre in Pakistan is not Islamabad, but the Army General Headquarters in Rawalpindi. Pakistani military also has acquired immense wealth, land and corporate ownerships at the cost of poor Pakistani people. The military establishment manufactures constant delusions and untruths to keep the gullible Pakistani masses in ignorance.

As one famous Pakistani author and former ambassador writes: "About 95 percent of Pakistanis were born after partition, but the Pakistani education system reinforces a national narrative that airbrushes a lot of history out and photoshops a lot of non-history into people's minds. So Pakistan generally has a national discourse that has not always been completely open. Pakistani nationalism has been built around two ideas: antipathy to India, and Islam as a political slogan. So those two mixed together do confuse the people, and don't forget that half of Pakistanis are illiterate and that 42 percent of school-age children don't go to school of any sort. Also, there are very well-organized Islamic political parties that use violence to make sure that facts and history are not openly discussed and debated."

If a country does this distortion in the minds of its own people by feeding lies and propaganda, what good can it think of us Kashmiris? It is our responsibility to reject such propaganda which is meant to harm us rather than anyone else.

**Pakistan is a horrible, almost unlivable nation. It is not simply something worth dying for. It is beset with the most rigid form of inequality and feudalism even in this modern age. Pakistani flag cannot cover the mass atrocities being committed by Punjabi establishment in Pakistan on a daily basis**

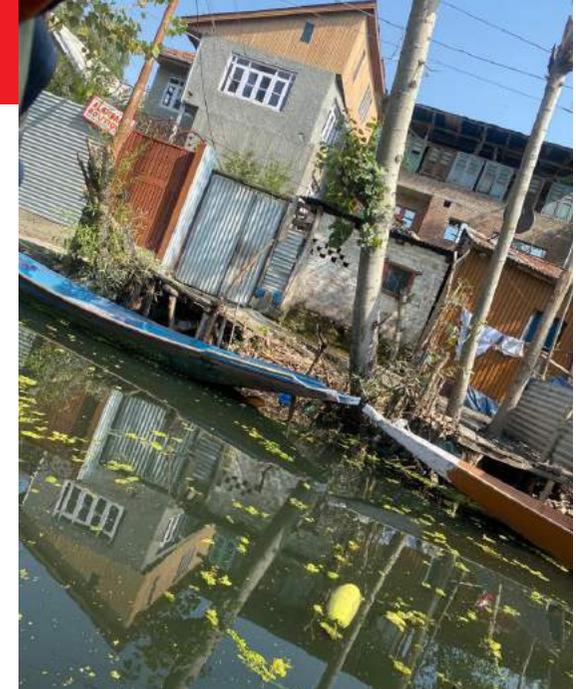
EDITION 13

## LAWDA Ne Loot Machaye Hai



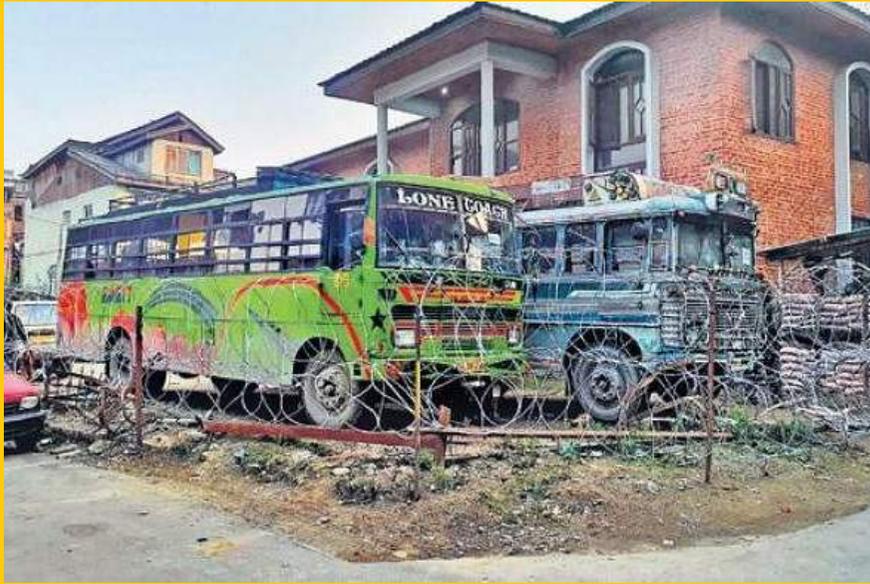
EDITION 17

## Illegal Constructions Carry On Unabated In Green Belt Around Dal Lake



**UT ADMINISTRATION TAKES SERIOUS NOTE OF ISSUE HIGHLIGHTED BY KZINE, INITIATES ACTION**

KZINE in its 13th and 17th editions exposed how LAWDA had failed in its primary task to protect Srinagar's pride, the Dal Lake. KZINE had suggested that LAWDA should be abolished and its employees should be held accountable for the mess seen at the Dal. The UT Administration took note of the issue highlighted by KZINE, and is seriously pursuing the cleanliness of Dal Lake and other water bodies.



CRPF takes over marriage hall  
PICTURE CREDIT: NEWINDIANEXPRESS.COM



PICTURE CREDIT: KASHMIROBSERVER.NET



Shutrashahi Mohalla Committee appeals to LG Shri Manoj Sinha to relocate CRPF from Marriage Hall  
PICTURE CREDIT: KASHMIR PATRIOT

# PUBLIC GRIEVANCE

## Residents In Old Town, Adjoining Areas Urge For Relocation Of CRPF Units

by Gur Simran KOUR

**K**ZINE has received dozens of calls from residents of many areas in old town and adjoining localities. The callers have been complaining about the inconvenience caused to the general public because of the additional deployment of Central Reserved Police Force (CRPF).

The callers complain that the Administration has designated mostly marriage halls and community halls for additional deployment of CRPF. This is causing inconvenience to the residents. These areas are densely populated and congested. Social gatherings like weddings are usually organized in marriage and community halls. Many desperate callers told KZINE that they had planned or were planning to organize the marriage and other social gatherings at these centers constructed by the government for this purpose. They urged upon the administration to relocate the additionally deployed force to alternate places.

KZINE spoke to the Divisional Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner Srinagar in this regard. He said that this is a security-related issue, and only the security establishment can answer it.

Senior officers in CRPF told KZINE that the CRPF forces have been accommodated in the marriage or community halls as a temporary arrangement. "We assure people that the forces will be relocated very soon," said a senior officer.

# LOG INTO KASHMIR @

kzine.in



PICTURE CREDIT:- LEVELUP STUDIO

## WELCOME TO THE GRAND, OPULENT KASHMIR

Your window to news, views, exposes, scoops  
and exclusive features that bring to you  
**THE REAL KASHMIR**

# **KZINE**

OPENING **KASHMIR'S EYES**