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# KASHMIR CENTRAL

A KZINE INITIATIVE

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**HYDERPORA ENCOUNTER**

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**ENTRENCHED  
TERROR  
MODULE**

## For The Safety of Mediapersons, Press Colony Should Be A Secure Zone

**KASHMIR CENTRAL**  
Volume 1 Edition 1  
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CENTRAL

Recently a senior police officer in Srinagar asked me a pointed question. “Do the residents of Srinagar have no grievances they want to share with the police? They don’t visit police stations or other interactive platforms for engaging with police officers at diverse levels. In other parts of Kashmir valley, offices of district police officers flooded with visitors seeking redressal of their grievances and complaints. My response was that there is no Press Colony in the other major cities and towns of Kashmir. It is in Srinagar alone. It is the easily accessible space where one can highlight whatever one wants, attract attention, go viral on social media – prompting authorities to act. I further argued that over the last many years, the growth of social media and Facebook journalists is unprecedented in Srinagar. The Press Colony is flooded with Facebook journalists. The only thing they need is a mike with a logo, available in the nearby Aabi Guzar market.

Srinagar has developed an intriguing culture over the years. If a woman has a problem with her husband, she opts for a sit-in dharna at the Press Colony. Scores of mikes or mobile phones immediately appear before her. In no time, her complaints are uploaded on social media. The video goes viral. The local media have created their own YouTube channels. The video is widely uploaded and shared.

This novel method of highlighting the grievances has benefitted all. The individuals who choose to sit on dharna or protest get their five-minute glory courtesy the Facebook journalists acting as Judge and Jury. Those who have some hidden agenda capitalize on the videos. They twist the videos and give it colour as they please, pushing their narratives of choice.

Journalism seems to have become a mass activity in Srinagar. Fake journos flock to Press Colony. This has security implications for the mediapersons operating there.

Shujaat Bukhari was targeted in Press Colony. There have been repeated attempts in the past to attack mediapersons working there. There are militant associates who have infiltrated into the media ranks. For the safety and security of the mediapersons operating in Press Colony, the Administration must ensure that this isn’t a Free For All Zone.

**Bashir Assad**



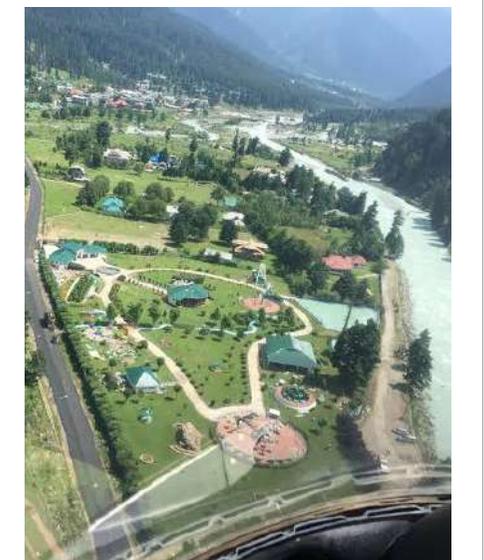
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INCISIVE REPORTING

INVESTIGATE  
THE TERROR  
ECOSYSTEM

EXPOSE  
DECEPTION

RESTORE  
ORDER

MAKE A SPLASH

INCULCATE  
DEMOCRATIC SPIRIT



# The Many Faces Of The **TERROR PLAYERS IN KASHMIR**

**Journalists,  
Activists,  
Human  
Rights  
Defenders...**

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**IT'S  
THE  
MONEY,  
STUPID!**

by Iqbal AHMAD

**M**ilitancy, violence and conflict in Kashmir does not survive courtesy the 150-odd young men who walk into militant ranks indoctrinated and high on jihadi fervour.

The active militants do not have potential to survive for long. They are the visible facet of the problem, and the state is addressing this challenge in diverse ways. The deeper problem is fighting those terror players who operate under catchy, socially acceptable names and banners like journalists, activists, human rights defenders etc.

These terror players nurture and deepen the narratives of separatism and militancy. They are

always selective and subjective in their reportage of human rights incidents. Courtesy their efforts, separatism and terrorism sustains in Kashmir. It survives on invisible conflict structures and institutions that reproduce themselves year after year.

These conflict structures and institutions are reproducing because flourishing careers and personal fortunes are being built on the conflict. The gravy train flows from Pakistan.

Pakistan's investment in these conflict journalists, conflict activists, conflict human rights defenders is peanuts. But malicious diplomatic gains are massive. Internationally, the Kashmir separatism narrative is sustained, fed by the diplomacy networks of Pakistan.

## Deliberate Strategy Of Kashmir's Spin Doctors

Effort to create cloud of suspicion against every effort to dismantle terror network in Kashmir, discredit such efforts



Mehran, a local militant who transformed into a killing machine, indiscriminately targeting innocent civilians

**Militancy, violence and conflict in Kashmir does not survive courtesy the 150-odd young men who walk into militant ranks indoctrinated and high on jihadi fervour. The deeper problem is fighting terror players who operate under socially acceptable names and banners like journalists, activists, human rights defenders etc**

**A** Kashmiri militant Mehran had attained the notorious tag of "killing machine" in the last few months. He had assassinated innocent civilians indiscriminately. The cries of the family members of the victims had reverberated through Kashmir. He was on the radar of the security agencies.

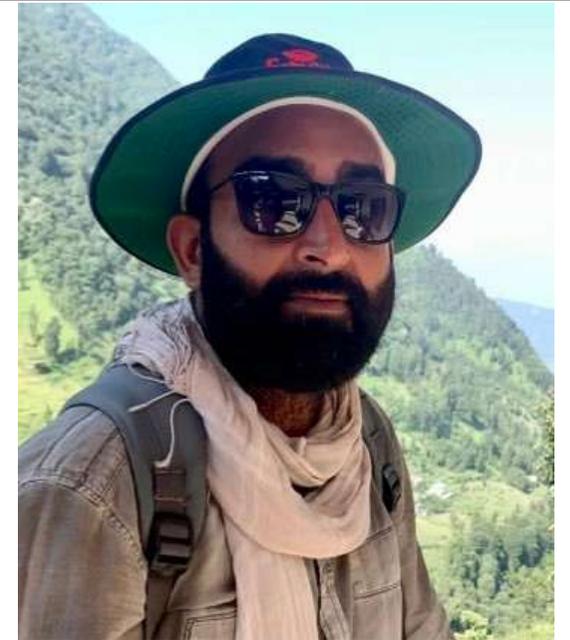
On November 24, Mehran and his three fellow militants were intercepted by police forces in a busy Srinagar area. Three of them were killed in the shootout, one managed to escape. Some passers-by, including some women, witnessed the shootout. These women were hysterical. Unaware of the militant profile of the young men and the police cordon, the women started shouting that three youths had been killed by the police.

The conflict journalists and activists swung into action. Tweet after tweet was churned out that three innocent youth had been killed by the security forces in Rambagh. The videos of these passers-by – who had no idea of the context of the police cordon and shootout – were amplified by the conflict journalists.

Soon, it was revealed that the youths killed by the police included a dreaded militant and his two associates. Now, the spin doctors got into action again. Efforts began to discredit the state regarding the killing of the militant and his accomplices.

The Wire took the lead. The report on The Wire by Jehangir Ali said the shootout "has come under a cloud with regional parties and eyewitnesses questioning the official version of events that led to the killing of three suspected militants, including a top commander of The Resistance Front (TRF)."

Witness the deliberate strategy of the spin doctors in the Valley. The effort is to create a cloud of suspicion against every effort to dismantle the terror network in Kashmir, and attempt to discredit such efforts.



Jehangir Ali, The Wire

**Tweet after tweet was churned out that three innocent youth had been killed by the security forces in Rambagh. The videos of the hysterical passers-by - who had no idea of the context of the police cordon and shootout - were amplified by the conflict journalists**



Gowhar Geelani

**These cabals are sustained by conflict institutions propped up and funded by Pakistan. It's not just the intellectual halo and the international acclaim in select circles that matters. This American expression is rude but accurate. It's The Money, Stupid!**

## Stakeholders In **MAXIMIZING KASHMIR CONFLICT**

**Each Kashmiri  
Who Is DEAD IS  
FODDER FOR  
CONFLICT Machinery**

**Each Death Is  
MILKED FOR  
DEEPENING  
The Gloom**

**H**ow does the conflict economy flourish? Why do conflict journalists, conflict activists and their cabal become part of a nexus that forms the conflict structure? It is because all of them are stakeholders in maximizing the conflict in Kashmir. Each Kashmiri who is dead is immediate fodder for their conflict machinery. Each death is milked for deepening the gloom.

Watch the link. Jehangir Ali writes for The Wire, casting a web of suspicion over the killing of a militant in a police shoot-out. Gowhar Geelani, a conflict journalist, promptly starts tweeting from the Wire report. "Three boys were standing on the roadside when police arrived and started firing indiscriminately at them. I couldn't understand what was happening," said an inconsolable woman, rejecting official claims. Reports @Gaamuk for @thewire\_in.

Gowhar Geelani and others of his like have been striving to get into the international circuit bankrolled by Pakistan where these conflict entrepreneurs are given an intellectual halo and are hero-worshipped. They are part of a global cabal that sit in conferences on Kashmir and pontificate on how and why the conflict is getting prolonged. These cabals are sustained by conflict institutions propped up and funded by Pakistan. It's not just the intellectual halo and the international acclaim in select circles that matters. This American expression is rude but accurate. It's The Money, Stupid!

# Khurram Parvez And The Charade Of The Human Rights Defender

**R**epeat a lie often enough and it becomes the truth", is a law of propaganda attributed to Hitler's Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels. One such lie assiduously built in Kashmir and outside is that Khurram Parvez is a human rights defender.

Khurram is the creation of some left liberals in New Delhi. This is the clique that makes heroes out of rogues.

The props to make Khurram a human rights activist came up fast. He had reportedly lost his grandfather in the highly unfortunate killings at Gawkadal in 1991. So an international theory was carefully constructed that Khurram turned his anger over the death of his grandfather into a life of activism.

Make heroes out of rogues comes easy to the clique that has no understanding of the problems in Kashmir. Their arguments on Kashmir are based on their pre-conceived notions, which are far from reality. They have no idea of the non-state actors in Kashmir, who operate as a hydra-headed monster. These non-state actors strengthen the terror ecosystem in every field of work – bureaucracy, administration, politicians, journalism, civil society and more.

The left liberals and the co-actors of this parallel polity accept every charge against the state as the gospel truth. They are the chief players of the conflict industry which sustains and also thrives on the conflict.

While propping up Khurram Parvez as a human rights defender, no questions are asked regarding the terror funding activities in which Khurram Parvez has been involved. In October 2020, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) had conducted raids at the office of activist Khurram Parvez, who runs the NGO J&K Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS).



**While propping up Khurram Parvez as a human rights defender, no questions are asked regarding the terror funding activities in which Khurram Parvez has been involved. A report published in The Print in October 2020 had stated that these groups and NGOs were "raising funds for charity, using them for terror." Those raided include Khurram Parvez, who runs the NGO JKCCS, his associates...**

J&K Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS) claims to be an "amalgam of various non-funded, non-profit, campaign, research and advocacy organisations based in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir." While collecting funds running into crores from hawala channels, Khurram Parvez demolished every description of his group: "non-funded, non-profit, campaign, research and advocacy..."

An NIA officer had said that these "so-called NGOs and trusts" had raised huge funds within India and globally under the pretext of helping orphans or for charitable activities. The officer had stated that these funds were used to pump secessionist and separatist activities and in terror financing in J&K.

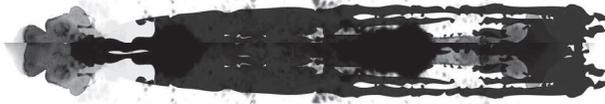
NIA sources had revealed that JKCCS and some other so-called NGOs had no record of the funds received by them, who were the donors, or where the money was spent. Huge sums were reaching these groups through hawala channels. These groups were also linked to the separatists. Pakistan had used these groups to park money to fund terror activities in Kashmir and across India.

A report published in The Print in October 2020 had stated that these groups and NGOs were "raising funds for charity, using them for terror." The Print report stated that "Those raided include Khurram Parvez, who runs the NGO JKCCS, his associates..."

Turning a blind eye to these gross violations by Khurram Parvez, a campaign has been started by the Pakistan proxies in Kashmir and outside. A lie is being carefully constructed that Khurram Parvez is truly a human rights activist. There are efforts to erase his murky past of using charity funds for terror activities. All this is the handiwork of the Pakistan proxies in Kashmir. Using influence, a few tweets decrying Khurram's arrest have also been managed globally.

# HYDERPORA TERROR MODULE

**MUDASIR GUL  
was a militant  
associate**



**Amir helped  
Bilal escape  
after killing  
Advocate  
BABAR QADRI**



The commercial complex in Hyderpora where the encounter took place

## KASHMIR CENTRAL SPECIAL

**T**here are strong human, digital and physical evidences establishing the involvement of Dr Mudasir Gul and Amir Latief Magray in militancy-related activities. Dr Mudasir, a dentist by profession and Magray were killed presumably in cross firing in the Hyderpora encounter on November 15. The encounter was widely decried. Initially the bodies of three locals including Dr Mudasir and Amir were not handed over to their families.

Later, facing pressure from the families, the bodies of Dr Mudasir and Altaf Bhat, a businessman, were exhumed and handed over to their families for last rites. The police had clearly hinted regarding the involvement of Mudasir and Amir militant activities. Their families strongly denied these statements and refused the charges. There was a stalemate for few days after the encounter. Thereafter, the bodies were exhumed and handed over to the families.

All along, the police have remained confident about the direct involvement of Amir in militancy-related activities. Police investigation has revealed that Amir was functioning as a mole for Pakistani terrorist Saqlain, also known as Chhotu or Bilal. Police did not hand over his body to his family.

## ALTAF BHAT'S KILLING: POLICE SAY VITAL TO EXAMINE BULLET INJURIES

There are conflicting statements and counter statements about Altaf's killing. Police sources say that Altaf was killed by Bilal. Altaf opened the door to the room where Bilal was holding up. But immediately as the door opened, Bilal pumped bullets into Altaf's body, killing him on the spot.

A magisterial enquiry was ordered into the incident by Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha. Police is confident that the cause of Altaf's death shall be ascertained. A senior police officer who did not want to be identified told KASHMIR CENTRAL, "It is not difficult to ascertain the truth. If Altaf was hit by a pistol bullet, then he was killed by the ter-



**Police is confident that the cause of Altaf's death shall be ascertained. A senior police officer who did not want to be identified told KASHMIR CENTRAL, "It is not difficult to ascertain the truth. If Altaf was hit by a pistol bullet, then he was killed by the terrorist. If it was an AK 47 bullet, then it would be from the security forces"**



Altaf Bhat

gal rights to demand the return of their bodies for performing the last rites. Unfortunately, the political class has tried to exploit the situation to further their political agenda. They have seemed as irresponsible and desperate in creating some kind of law and order situation.

National Conference Patron Dr Farooq Abdullah and People's Democratic Party President

Mehbooba Mufti cast aspersions as to whether the fourth person killed in the encounter was a terrorist. Soon after the bodies were exhumed and handed over to families, Mehbooba hurriedly called a press conference. She stated that the body of the fourth person killed in the encounter has not been claimed by anyone. It needs to be investigated whether the encounter took place at all or it was stage managed.

Security forces, meanwhile, assert that there is no doubt regarding the fact that notorious foreign terrorist Bilal was killed in the Hyderpora encounter on November 15

## WHO WAS BILAL?

Saqlain alias Chhotu alias Maaz alias Bilal infiltrated into Kashmir in September- October 2019 along with three associates. Two of his associates were locals, and one was a foreigner. This group of terrorists was affiliated to Lashkar e Taiba (LET), internationally designated as a terrorist organization and banned.

The group infiltrated through the Gurez sector. Bilal's local associates include Abid Haqani

(Prevention Act). Owais had built a network of OGWs in Bandipora, mostly operating for the internationally proscribed LeT.

On November 9, Bilal was spotted in Jawaharnagar area in a black Alto car which did not have a number plate. Police sources say that he was likely doing a reconnaissance of the area where a senior journalist is residing.

The information gathered by the security agencies reveals that

**Natipora is in uptown Srinagar. For decades now, the locality has been known for producing the highest number of OGWs for diverse militant groups. As per police records, almost every militant organization operating in Kashmir has OGW assets in Natipora area**

and Qaiser Manzoor, both from Bandipora.

An interesting fact came to light during investigation into the case. Abid and Qaiser had gone to Pakistan in 2018 via Wagah. They had travelled on legal travel documents. Qaiser was killed in an encounter at Lawdara, Bandipora in October 2019.

Abid Haqani and Saqlain alias Bilal remained active in Bandipora for quite some time. One Owais Ahmed of Bandipora, a top LET over-ground worker, provided logistics support to Abid and Bilal.

Owais was later arrested by the police and is currently in jail under UAPA (Unlawful Activities

Bilal was putting up in a room at Raj Bagh in the winter of 2020. The house is located on the Raj Bagh-Jawahar Nagar Road. Investigation reveals that Bilal was planning to shift back to the same area. The location had been tagged by the police and movement around it was being watched.

## AMIR LATIEF MAGRAY - A MILITANT ASSOCIATE

Amir Latief Magray was a resident of Sangaldhan, a remote village in Gool tehsil, Ramban district. He was studying at Babul Uloom madrasa at Natipora in Srinagar. In September 2018,



**Amir Latief Magray**

**When Bilal and Haqani shot Babar Qadri, they were accompanied by two accomplices - Amir and Sam Manzoor. Amir did not enter Qadri's house. After Bilal and Haqani shot Qadri, Amir and Sam hurriedly boarded the duo in a car and escaped from the spot to some unknown destination. Sam and his associate Muiz Ahmad Khan, both from Rajbagh, are currently in police custody**

Amir completed his course at the madrasa. The same day, Amir was referred to Dar-ul-Uloom Raheemiyah in Bandipora for another course.

The house of Owais Ahmed, the top LET over-ground worker who provided logistics support to Abid and Bilal, is at a distance of about 50 meters from Dar-ul-uloom Raheemiyah.

Natipora is in uptown Srinagar. For decades now, the locality has been known for



**Amir Latief Magray's voter ID card, made in January 2016. He was 25 years old now**

producing the highest number of OGWs for diverse militant groups. As per police records, almost every militant organization operating in Kashmir has OGW assets in Natipora area.

Amir got in touch with some OGWs of LeT in the area. With the help of some teachers of Babul Uloom, Amir was deputed to Bandipora as part of a plan. On reaching Bandipora, Amir was contacted by Owais.



**Bilal, A Pakistani Terrorist**

### **AMIR ASSISTED BILAL IN KILLING ADVOCATE BABAR QADRI**

In January 2019, Qaisar Manzoor, the accomplice of Bilal was killed in Bandipora in an encounter. Bilal moved from Bandipora to Srinagar. According to police sources, Amir travelled with Bilal from Bandipora to Srinagar. According to police, Abid Haqani of Bandipora also travelled with Bilal and Amir the same day. They stayed in Srinagar through 2019 and conducted reces of many soft targets. Finally, Bilal and Haqani killed Advocate Babar Qadri on September 24, 2020 inside his house.

According to police, when Bilal and Haqani shot Babar Qadri, they were accompanied by two OGWs. These OGWs were identified as Sam Manzoor Bhat of Rajbagh and Amir Magray. Police investigation revealed that Amir and Sam did not enter Babar's house. After Babar was shot, Amir and Sam hurriedly boarded Bilal and Haqani in a car and escaped from the spot to some unknown destination. Sam and his associate Muiz Ahmad Khan, also from Rajbagh, are currently in police custody.

Digital evidence suggests that Amir was using two SIM cards. The SIM card that had been procured in the name of his

father Abdul Latief Magray was used for communication with the militant commanders. Since Abdul Latief was a protected person, a SIM card procured in his name was not immediately within the ambit of suspicion. Hence it was chosen by the militant associates for use in communication. According to sources, the SIM card was used twice for communicating with the LeT handlers in Pakistan.

Amir's father Abdul Latief Magray had been provided protection by the police after he had killed a militant in his village.

Why Did Dr Mudasar Leave dentistry and Become A Real Estate Broker? It was not his domain.

Dr Mudasar arranged for Bilal's logistics in the commercial complex owned by businessman Altaf Bhat. After the local terror network of the blog 'kashmir-fight.wordpress.com' was busted, the militants and their handlers in Pakistan were looking for a control room in Srinagar for information warfare purposes. Mudasar established a high-tech lab in Altaf Bhat's property for this purpose. Bilal was shifted here for providing information to the handlers in Pakistan.

Sources reveal that Mudasar's associate, who is in police custody now, has confessed that Bilal had been staying in Altaf Bhat's premises for about two months.

### **HOW WERE MUDASAR'S ASSOCIATES ARRESTED?**

Police seized the dongle and other hardware and software being used in the high-tech lab in

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**KASHMIR**

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Altaf's property. When the data from the software being used by Bilal was unencrypted, the location where Mudasir's associate was residing got pinned. Police finally zeroed in on Mudasir's associate. He was taken into custody. He confessed that Bilal had stayed at his residence at least for two nights.

The man also revealed that he had spotted Bilal at Mudasir's so-called call centre on many occasions.

Four of Mudasir's associates were OGWs and were frequent visitors to the call centre. Two were from Raj Bagh. One was from Nawa Kadal and the fourth from Rawalpora. They would stay there for long durations and would plan the execution of the soft targets identified by the handlers in Pakistan. They would also accompany Bilal to the places where these soft targets resided, to conduct the recce of the areas and plan the modus of the attack.

There are two aspects of the controversial Hyderpora encounter. One is that according to the police and security agencies, the involvement of Mudasir and Amir in the militant networks has been established. There are concrete digital and physical evidences of their involvement.

The other aspect is that both Mudasir and Amir were unarmed. Killing non-combatants cannot be justified even if they were providing logistics to active militants. They may be tried in a court of law for engaging in these unlawful activities. Senior police authorities categorically deny that Amir, Mudasir or Altaf were targeted. Police officers are emphatic that it can be easily



Mudasir

**Dr Mudasir arranged for Bilal's logistics in the commercial complex owned by Altaf . After the local terror network of the blog 'kashmirfight.wordpress.com' was busted, militants and their handlers in Pakistan were looking for a control room in Srinagar for information warfare purposes. Mudasir established a high-tech lab in Altaf's property for this purpose. Bilal was shifted here for providing information to the handlers in Pakistan**

ascertained whether it was Bilal who shot Mudasir and Amir by studying the bullets that were used in the attack.

The magisterial inquiry into the incident is underway. The report is expected soon. The family members of those killed in the Hyderpora incident are wait-

ing anxiously for the report. That said, there were some loopholes in the entire operation due to which fingers are being pointed towards the security forces.

LG Shri Manoj Sinha has committed of stern action on errors that may be found in the operation.

# Hardliners In HC Bar Association Kashmir Trying To Wash Off Past Sins

## POSITIONING THEMSELVES AS MORE INDIAN

### Constantly Trying To Vilify and Bully Members Of Newly-Formed Kashmir Advocates Association



by Bisma NAZIR

#### RONGA AND GANG CONSTANTLY TRYING TO DISCREDIT KASHMIR ADVOCATES ASSOCIATION

**J**ammu & Kashmir High Court Bar Association Srinagar has been the staunch supporter of separatist ideology for decades. It has been at the forefront to support terrorism and secessionist ideology in Jammu & Kashmir. The Srinagar chapter of the Association has organised many conferences over the years where slogans for azadi, in support of Pakistan and against the India were raised. The association has also remained at the forefront to malign the image of J&K police and other security forces by organizing seminars on alleged human rights violations. Their duplicity is evident by the fact that over the years, the association has never raised its voice against the unspeakable violence and the human rights violations by the Pakistan-sponsored terrorists.

The welfare of the advocates in Kashmir valley has never been the concern of the association. Their agenda has always been political, and staunchly anti-India. Kashmir High Court Bar Association positioned itself as a fertile political platform for anti-national sentiments. The core members of this association built their careers on the Kashmir issue. These conflict merchants did not leave any opportunity to vilify India globally.

The malicious attitude of the top members of the association has been so overpowering that lawyers with a nationalistic outlook have been routinely denied membership of the Kashmir High Court Bar Association for many years now.

In order to break the noxious hegemony of Kashmir High Court Bar Association, a group of young lawyers recently formed the Kashmir Advocates Association (KAA). The sole motive of KAA is the welfare of the legal fraternity in the valley.

This has not gone down well with the goons of the Bar Association Srinagar. They leave no stone unturned to discredit this young lot of advocates who have dared to create a platform where a genuine lawyer can put forth his point and can think about the welfare of the fraternity.

Kashmir High Court Bar Association has launched a campaign against the members of the Kashmir Advocates Association. They are constantly trying to vilify and malign the young lawyers so that they can be discredited. The effort is to ensure that nobody else can challenge the monopoly of Ronga and Gang.

It is known across the length and breadth of the Valley that J&K High Court Bar Association (JKH-CBA) Kashmir has never worked for the welfare of the advocates of the region. They have always followed a political agenda. The formation of KAA has upset the apple cart. The office bearers of Kashmir High Court Bar Association are feeling restless after the formation of KAA.

Feeling threatened by the formation of KAA, the Chairman of Kashmir High Court Bar Association

KASHMIR CENTRAL posed the following questions to Nazir Ahmad Ronga. He did not answer them stating that he was busy.

**1. There are charges that you and other members of the Kashmir High Court Bar Association are trying to vilify and discredit the members of Kashmir Advocates Association. Is this true?**

**2. There are charges that the Kashmir High Court Bar Association was constantly engaged only with politics and did not care for the welfare of lawyers. Is this true?**

**3. There are charges that the Kashmir High Court Bar Association is not allowing members of the Kashmir Advocates Association to use the Bar library. Is this true?**



Adv Nazir Ahmad Ronga along with other office bearers and executive members has visited every District Bar Association in order to make sure that they did not lose their relevance. Nazir Ronga and other office bearers and members of JKHCBA Kashmir recently also visited the Jammu & Kashmir High Court Bar Association, Jammu Chapter. The interesting part is that in the past, JKHCBA Kashmir never entertained the members of the Jammu Bar Association. All this is being done to keep Kashmir High Court Bar Association relevant.

Additionally, the team of Kashmir High Court Bar Association led by Chairman Advocate Nazir Ahmad Ronga also recently met Hon'ble Chief Justice of the J&K and Ladakh High Court Justice Pankaj Mittal. This reach out was done after the meeting of the young lawyers of KAA with the Hon'ble Chief Justice.

This is an act of damage control. The Kashmir High Court Bar Association is trying to wash off the sins of the past. But maintaining relevance now shall not be easy for Ronga and gang. Their monopoly has been challenged

by the young lawyers of Kashmir Advocates Association on merit.

For decades, those within the legal fraternity of Kashmir knew that Kashmir High Court Bar Association was always pursuing political goals in the Valley, and kept the separatist and secessionist narrative dominant. Far from focusing on the welfare of the fraternity, they exploited the young lawyers. This nexus of top lawyers terrorized young lawyers, created deep fear psychosis among them and forced them to defend separatists, stone-pelters, OGWs etc.

## I am not associated with Hurriyat Conference. I have nothing to do with them. I have nothing to do with militancy. I have always disapproved of this throughout my life: **Nazir Ahmed Ronga**

It was laughable to read the statements of Nazir Ahmad Ronga in a recent edition of KASHMIR CENTRAL. While answering queries regarding their new-found love for Jammu lawyers, Ronga had said, "I am not associated with Hurriyat Conference. I have nothing to do with them. I have nothing to do with militancy. I have always disapproved of this throughout my life."

Ronga's statement is hilarious. This is because for decades, Nazir Ronga has been a staunch supporter of separatist ideology. He has been grooming young lawyers to take up cases claiming innocence for stone-pelters, OGWs, militants and other anti-state elements. Ronga was affiliated with Mirwaiz Umar Farooq-led Hurriyat Conference. He has consistently claimed innocence for separatists, over-ground workers and stone-pelters. He had organized seminars, rallies and other programs aimed at creating large-scale law and order problems during the mass agitations of 2008, 2010 and 2016.

Ronga is also a former president of the Kashmir High Court Bar Association (KH-CBA). He is enjoying a convenient position politically by seeding his men into Kashmir's mainstream political parties to ensure that he is able to escape the wrath of the state.

When Ronga was booked by the government under the Public Safety Act following the abrogation of Article 370, the documents for action against him stated that he was affiliated with Mirwaiz Umar Farooq-led Hurriyat Conference. As a lawyer,

he had consistently tried to defend the separatists in courts and claim innocence for them. He had also organized seminars, rallies and formulated various programmes with a purpose to fuel young brains in the wrong direction. His focus has not been allowing lawyers to focus on legal matters. His focus has been to make the Bar Association a fertile political platform for anti-national sentiments and an internship space for grooming the pro-separatist agenda.

It is pertinent to mention that the premises of Ronga's son Uzair Nazir Ronga were raided by Counter-Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) on October 2 this year. His Son Uzair Nazir was seen dining and dining with officials of intelligence and security agencies at Hotel CH2 in Sonwar. The children of Ronga and gang are feeling the brunt

after the formation of Kashmir Advocate's Association and are at forefront to vilify the members of the KAA.

Ronga and gang are indirectly bullying the young lawyers to step back and not be associated with Kashmir Advocates Association. They are trying to threaten the young lawyers of dire consequences like that of late Adv Syed Babar Jan Qadri, who was killed by unknown gunmen at his home.

Nazir Ronga's younger son Umair has been indirectly threatening the young lawyers by adopting a hostile approach towards them in the High Court premises. Umair Ronga has been maligning members of the Kashmir Advocates Association through loose talk. Given the links of his father with the terror ecosystem in Kashmir, this malicious approach cannot be brushed away.

**Kashmir High Court Bar Association has launched a campaign against the members of the Kashmir Advocates Association. They are constantly trying to vilify and malign the young lawyers so that they can be discredited. The effort is to ensure that nobody else can challenge the monopoly of Ronga and Gang**



**Waseem Gul, President, Kashmir Advocates Association**



**Adv Mubashir Majid Vice President Kashmir Advocates Association**

**Nazir Ronga's younger son Umair has been indirectly threatening the young lawyers by adopting a hostile approach towards them in the District Court premises. Umair Ronga has been maligning KAA members through loose talk**



**THERE ARE CHARGES THAT YOU ARE TRYING TO VILIFY AND MALIGN THE MEMBERS OF KASHMIR ADVOCATES ASSOCIATION. IS THIS TRUE?**

**This is not the case. I don't know them. Not a single member. I don't know what they are up to. I don't know what the Bar is up to. I am just a Bar member. I am nowhere involved in political activities. I have nothing to do with anything.**

**KAA will never talk against me. They are running their organization. They know Umair has no involvement in it. He is not interfering in our work.**

**I am nowhere in the picture. So you better talk to relevant people whosoever is involved. This is not me. I am just a professional lawyer dealing with my profession and that's it.**

**Earlier also you projected the wrong picture. Some meetings went on the outlines of an event between the lawyers. Who told you the Srinagar Bar is hiding behind the Jammu Bar?**

# MANY IN LEGAL FRATERNITY SAY ADV GN SHAHEEN MORE DANGEROUS THAN ADV RONGA

**M**any in Kashmir's legal fraternity and outside who have closely watched the activities of Advocate Nazir Ronga and Advocate GN Shaheen say that Shaheen is more dangerous than Ronga. Shaheen has been trying his best to threaten and discredit the young lot of lawyers who have formed Kashmir Advocates Association. He has been calling the young KAA advocates the Kuka Parrays of the Bar Association.

Advocate GN Shaheen is a resident of Midoora village in Tral in south Kashmir. He belongs to a Jamaat family. His close family member was a militant and was killed. GN Shaheen was affiliated with Muslim Conference, a constituent of Hurriyat (G) faction. Shaheen has consistently endorsed the ideology of Syed Ali Shah Geelani, which is primarily secessionist and illegal in nature.

Shaheen is the chairman of the self-styled organisation called Kashmir Council for Justice. He has worked closely with Aasiya Andrabi and has attended several programs with her. Shaheen is the counsel for JKLf leader Mohammad Yasin Malik and also for Nayeem Khan, along with Advocate Mir Urfi and Advocate Mohammad Rafiq Joo. He consistently spreads venom against the state on his Facebook page.

Shaheen's constant endeavor is to inflame the Kashmir youth while he himself lives a plush life. He has two children – a daughter named Zuha Fatima and a son named Khalid Murtaza. Shaheen wants his children to attain the best education but advocates the terror path for the children of common Kashmiris. He is constantly influencing impressionable young minds against the state and seeding secessionist ideas among them.

Shaheen is always on the forefront to destabi-



**Shaheen's constant endeavor is to inflame the Kashmir youth while he himself lives a plush life. Shaheen wants his children to attain the best education but advocates the terror path for the children of common Kashmiris. He is constantly influencing impressionable young minds against the state and seeding secessionist ideas among them**

lize Kashmir valley at the behest of his political masters sitting across the border. He has visited Pakistan several times and is in close contact with his masters in Pakistan, and is always dancing on their tunes.

Shaheen was detained under PSA thrice in order to prevent him from disrupting peace and public order. He takes the lead role in finding faults with the state, and always blames the police and other securities agencies for alleged human rights violations. Shaheen is blind to the killings of Kashmiris by the terrorists. He has never spoken up for Kashmiris who were brutally done

to death by militants for their political views, because they had an anti-terrorism stand or for other reasons.

After the abrogation of Article 370 and keeping in view the change in the winds, Ronga and gang are trying to position themselves as Indian are doing everything they can to remain relevant.

With the formation of Kashmir Advocates Association, Ronga and gang can sense that the ground beneath their feet is shifting. Hence they are projecting themselves as more Indian and are leaving no stone unturned to discredit the young Turks.

## **KASHMIR'S TOURIST HOTSPOTS**

**Flourishing  
Hotels, Malls  
Paying Pennies  
to State As  
Lease Rent**

**Land Leases  
Expired Or  
Very Low Rent,  
No Efforts  
Yet To Review**

**HUGE REVENUE LOSS TO STATE**





by Sheikh SAMEER

**P** rime land in Pahalgam, Gulmarg and Sonmarg was leased out decades ago by the state to hoteliers and other tourism players to boost tourism and the local economy.

It is indeed a matter of pride to see Kashmir's tourism industry flourishing. Kashmir now has appropriate infrastructure available for a diverse range of tourists, including high end tourism. As per the statistics of 2018, Kashmir has 1300 rooms available for high end tourism alone. There are well-provided five star and seven star hotels. After 2018, the number of high-end rooms would have seen an increase since more hotels and more hospitality chains have come up.

This is a positive development

for Kashmir and strengthens the local economy. Private players are earning handsome profits. Enquiries reveal that in the high-end segment, room rent in some hotels is as high as Rs 1 lakh to Rs 2.5 lakh. This is indicative that Kashmir can match the best in the hospitality sector.

It is also important to look at whether the state is economically benefitting from the prosperous hospitality sector. While the private stakeholders in the hospitality industry are thriving, the state is not gaining in revenue from tourism hotspots like Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonmarg.

Why is the government losing out on resources and revenue generation at Kashmir's popular tourist places? A major reason is because the hotels and other players in the hospitality industry are not paying any lease money to

the state for occupying this prime commercial land.

The salary bills of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir UT are bigger than the salary bills of some big states in India. Government revenue from the tourism hotspots would have been higher if the lease rates for the prime properties here had been revised. But enquiries reveal that even though the lease for some properties expired decades ago, the needful has not been done.

This is leading to a major loss of revenue to the state exchequer. If the lease rates had been revised in time keeping in mind the immense tourism traffic in these areas, the government would have added to its kitty. It would have enabled the government to initiate additional development work in these areas and boost a self-reliant economy.

## THE CURRENT STATUS

At Gulmarg, Sonmarg, Pahalgam and other tourist spots, lease rates have not been revised for decades. At many properties, the lease expired 20 to 30 years ago. It is astounding that for the most exclusive commercial properties, hotels and the like, not even a single penny is being charged as lease rent because the lease expired and it was not renewed.

The lease amount was fixed decades ago, when the price index was very low. With zero revision of these figures, the government continues to get extremely low rent or no rent for these lavish properties built on prime state

land. The state is the only loss-making player in this thriving industry. Since no remedial action has been taken, the state is yet to correct the loss.

Let us examine the rent that is given to the state in Pahalgam, Gulmarg and Sonmarg for prime commercial land taken on lease. On average, the rent per kanal is Rs 600 per year. That means the hotel operator is paying Rs 50 per kanal per month.

Now look at the revenue earned by the leading hotels in Kashmir. The rent charge may vary from Rs 15,000 a night to Rs 2.5 lakh a night. This implies that a single day's revenue from a hotel with 30 rooms runs into lakhs of ru-

pees. But the government is getting only Re 1 per day as rent for the premium commercial space.

In Gulmarg, approximately 462 Kanals and 45 marlas have been leased out for 57 hotels and huts. From all this prime property, the government gets only Rs 23,100 as rent.

The icing on the cake is that for the last 10-12 years, even this low amount that was fixed as lease has not been paid to the government. This is because the lease period is now over. For Pahalgam, the lease was signed in 1930. It was not refreshed and has expired. So the private players occupying this space are not paying any rent at all.

Similarly for Gulmarg, 90 per cent leases were signed in 1978 for 40 years. They expired in 2018. Sources reveal that the lease for more than 100 properties has expired. For years together, the issue was addressed neither by the political lords nor by the bureaucracy. Those whose lease period is over for the last 10-12 years are not even paying the little amount of rent. The expired lease is proving to be sonai pe suhaga for them.

## WHY WEREN'T THE LEASES AND RENT RENEWED?

There were no efforts by the previous governments or corrupt officers to sort out the leased land issues because of their nexus with the affluent hoteliers. No efforts were made to increase the lease amount or renew the expired leases. Most officers associated with these tourist hotspots were busy in building their personal fortunes, resulting in mismanagement and loss of revenue to state.

**With the connivance of the political lords and the bureaucracy, a strange situation has emerged.**

**Businessmen with properties in Pahalgam, Gulmarg and Sonmarg are paying extremely low amounts to the government as rent for use of commercial space. The state is losing out on revenue from these popular tourist spots**





**No Authority In  
Pahalgam Is Ready To  
Accept That They Know  
About The Lease Issue**

**ALL PASS  
THE BUCK**



**I don't know about the lease for the commercial property. This is looked at by the Revenue Department. Please contact them.**

**MASARAT HASHIM**  
Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Pahalgam

**I don't know anything about the leased lands. Talk to SDM Pahalgam. He knows the present status. We are two ADCs in Anantnag. I don't look at revenue matters. I only deal with non-revenue matters.**

**GHULAM HASSAN SHEIKH**  
Additional Deputy Commissioner



**SYED NASEER**  
Sub-Divisional Magistrate

This office has no record that government land has been leased out, so there is no question of getting rent from anybody. The one who gives land on lease decides the rent. Since I have been here, no land has been given on lease to anyone. So I don't have any information regarding this. Apparently the leases here are very old. Perhaps they were given decades ago. I can't comment. You can approach other offices. I can provide you with today's information. This office was established in 2014. There is no record as such of any land being leased out from Pahalgam, and no information is available in this office. We don't take any rent from any person. We are not connected in any way with leasing out the land and making any agreement.

# There Is No Act By Which The Rent May Be Increased

**DR ZAHOOR AHMAD RAINA (JKAS),**  
Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority (TDA) Gulmarg  
In Conversation With KASHMIR CENTRAL

When contacted by KASHMIR CENTRAL, Dr Zahoor Ahmad Raina, CEO of Tourism Development Authority, Gulmarg said that the state land was transferred to TDA Gulmarg in 2005 so that it could be given on lease for 90 years to interested builders. Before Abrogation of Article 370, Land Grant Act was in operation. Now land cannot be given on lease to anyone. There is no policy now to give land on lease.

Regarding the lease rent being charged from hoteliers, Dr Raina said that the amount is very low. It ranges from Rs 10 to Rs 600 per kanal. The lease rates were very low because no brokers were ready to take the land on lease. The state used to allot land, and the hoteliers built the structures on their own.



**The hoteliers have been flourishing here, so why hasn't the rent been revised after 2005?**

Yes, we should increase the rent. But the court intervened in 2012. This whole matter needs a review, and we are the main party to that order. For instance, one university has been asking us to charge rent from them.

But we cannot charge rent from the university. First we have to find out how the university occupied 10-12 kanals. They don't have the papers. They have illegally occupied the land.

In the same way, the lease period of the state land given to some hotels has expired. The hotels are ready to pay rent. In return, they are asking for papers which will regulate their continued use of the land.

We need directions from the court in this regard. We can increase the rent ten times, but we have to work under some Act. As on date there is no Act which can regulate the lease part. We hope that some new Act comes up by which we can take decision regarding the lease.

**Are the hoteliers and others who had taken commercial space on lease paying the low lease amount which was fixed earlier?**

Only a few people are paying that amount. I have been writing to the government to take a decision regarding the matter. We have to adhere to what the Court has said. We also have to adhere to government rules. I cannot set the law regarding the lease amount or the payment.

The people are not going to say that they have done anything wrong in not paying the lease amount, or by paying the low amount fixed earlier. In fact the commercial players are asking for more land to be given to them on lease.

This problem is not specific to Gulmarg alone. There are other places too

**“The lease period of the state land given to some hotels has expired. The hotels are ready to pay the lease amount. In return, they are asking for documents which will regulate their continued use of the land”**

where the land decision is yet to be taken. It's the same case where a marriage is a complete failure but both the partners still carry on till their old age.

**Have you discussed this issue with the LG or any other senior authority?**

You are talking to a very junior and small village officer. I don't know what's happening at the higher level, and no one asks me. I am an officer for pony wallas and shopkeepers of Gulmarg. There are high authorities to deal with big issues. The LG, the Commissioner, the DC and others. These people have more knowledge than me. How can I become an advisor to them? I am a low level employee. I will execute things on their command.

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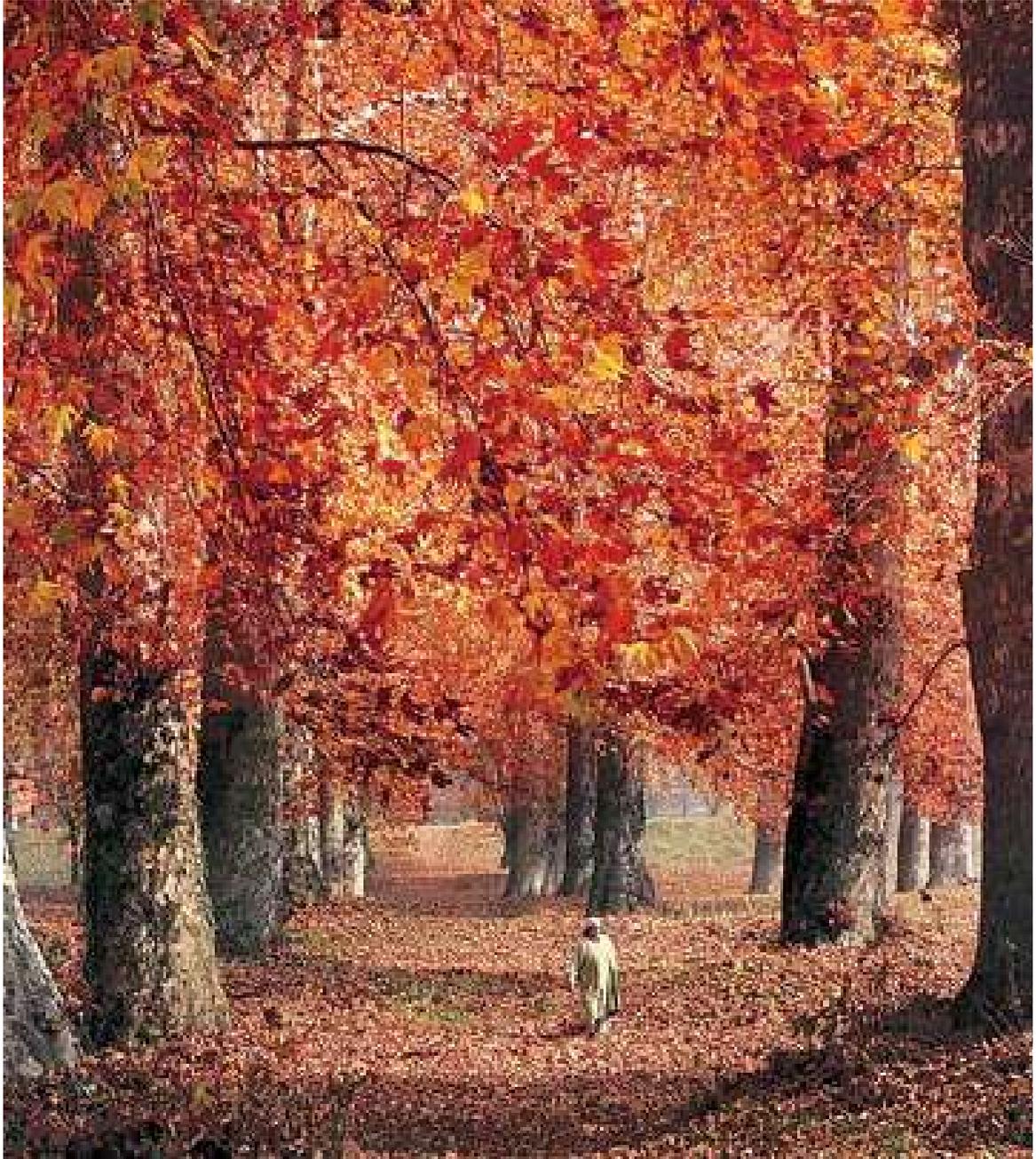
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