

KASHMIR CENTRAL

A KZINE INITIATIVE



Have Media Groups Of The Mainland Taken 360° View Of The Dynamics That Drive Journalism In Kashmir?

Why It Is Important For Parents To Help Their Militant/OGW Son In Time

KASHMIR CENTRAL

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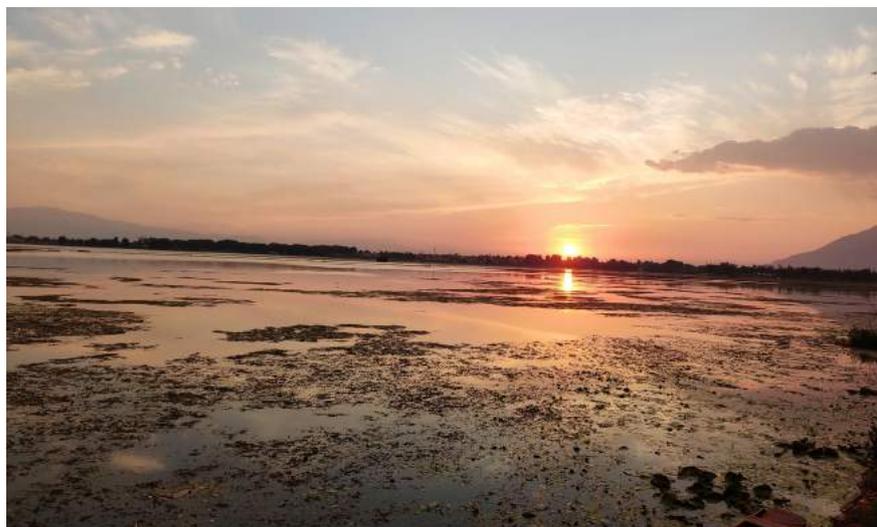
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CENTRAL

The involvement of some Kashmiri youth in militancy and OGW activities, the arrest of these youth, and the subsequent claim by parents that their son is innocent. This is actually a very sensitive issue. But circumstances demand that we should be talking about it. For all parents caught in this tragic set of circumstances, their son is innocent. Even the son carrying a gun on his shoulders is innocent. In their own way, for these grief-stricken parents their son is innocent.

It has become a norm in Kashmir now. Violence has got some kind of social sanction. With social sanction, violence becomes normalized in the society. The unfortunate parents whose sons take to militancy – they are part of the same society which accords sanctity to taking on to arms. Hence the son is regarded innocent.



This is a vicious circle which either the parents are ignorant of, or they conveniently pretend to be ignorant about it. In most of the cases, militants get tracked during the calls made to their parents, siblings or any other relative. But whenever security forces, particularly the police summon the parents or family members of a man who has joined any militant group, they always deny having any kind of contact with him since he left home.

This denial of the parents or the family is self-defeating. The youth who could have been saved from near certain death loses the chance since the parents deny any communication with him. On the other hand, parents who informed the police of the son's involvement in militant or OGW activities were able to bring the youth back from the brink. These youth are now rehabilitated and are living a peaceful, harmonious life within the fold of their family.

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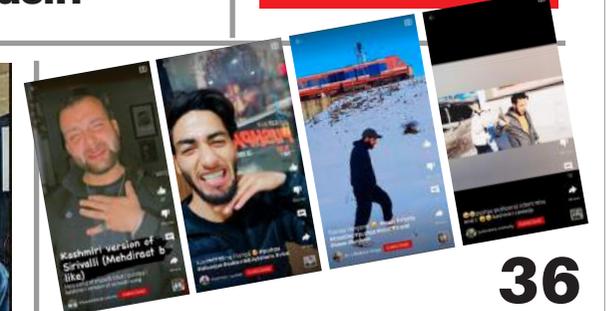


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Mufti Sb, please don't call the acid attacker Beta

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INCISIVE REPORTING

INVESTIGATE THE TERROR ECOSYSTEM

expose deception

RESTORE ORDER

MAKE A SPLASH

INCULCATE DEMOCRATIC SPIRIT



PRESS CLUB OF INDIA



Have Media Groups Of The Mainland Taken 360° View Of The Dynamics That Drive Journalism In Kashmir?

by Iqbal AHMAD

Editors Guild of India has expressed anguish at the way the “space for media freedom and active civil society has been steadily eroding in the region (Kashmir).

On January 18, Editors Guild tweeted a press release signed by its president Seema Mustafa, general secretary Sanjay Kapoor and Treasurer Anant Nath. The release noted that journalists in Kashmir frequently face intimidation from terror groups as well as from the state. “They are also charged under heavy penal laws and are routinely detained by security forces for reporting or for their editorials.”

The release issued by the Editors Guild of India provided the following details.

“In April 2020, an FIR was filed against the journalist Peerzada Ashiq in connection with a report he had filed for The Hindu newspaper. Freelance photographer Masrat Zahra was charged with Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). In October 2020, the Srinagar office of Kashmir Times was suddenly sealed. In March 2021, Fahad Shah, editor-in-chief of The Kashmirwalla, a Srinagar-based publication was detained for the third time for his writings. In April 2021, Kashmir Police issued an advisory forbidding journalists from reporting live encounters

with militants on the specious plea that it is likely to incite violence or that it can promote anti-national sentiments. Most recently, journalist Sajid Gul was arrested for posting a video of a protesting family on social media. In a state ridden with such excesses against the media...”

The statement of Editors Guild was retweeted by Mumbai Press Club.

Press Club of India tweeted on Jan 20:

...for the sake of journalists in J&K who remain committed to the profession despite the difficulties they face and the sensitivities of the region they serve.

Chandigarh Press Club too registered its protest, saying “Stop Attack On The Freedom Of The Press.” The press release issued by Chandigarh Press Club stated: The Chandigarh Press Club also stands in solidarity with the members of the Kashmir Press Club and all those Kashmiri journalists who are surveilled, interrogated and jailed for just doing their professional duties.

We stand with the media fraternity in upholding the freedom of the media and its right to perform its duty without restrictions or duress. When the media performs its role in a fair and unbiased manner, it takes a 360 degree view of everything. Editors Guild and the other journalist bodies cannot isolate themselves from the security situation faced by the nation.



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Note the word chosen by Editors Guild of India regarding the advisory issued by Kashmir Police in April 2021, forbidding journalists from reporting live encounters with militants. SPECIOUS. The Cambridge Dictionary defines specious as “SEEMING TO BE RIGHT OR TRUE, BUT REALLY WRONG OR FALSE”. In a conflict region, Editors Guild of India dismisses the police request to journalists to refrain from reporting that is likely to incite violence or that which can provoke anti-national sentiments. If those manning Editor’s Guild think that such reporting does not happen, they need to delve into the patterns of journalism in Kashmir

Can any journalists' body disassociate itself from the severe security threat faced by India in Kashmir?

IMAGE FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY



PHOTO BY UMER ASIF ASIA.NIKKEI.COM

Can any media group or any professional organization ignore the deep security concerns that the state faces in Kashmir? News reporting in Kashmir cannot be equated with any normal, peaceful area. The strategic implications of news-reporting in a conflict region cannot be ignored.

Has this been fully appreciated by the media groups that have issued statements regarding news reporting in Kashmir? In their recent statements, these professional media bodies have decried that “journalists are surveilled, interrogated and jailed for just doing their professional duties.”

Editors Guild of India calls itself premier, non-partisan association of editorial leaders in India. “Committed to free, fair and independent journalism. Not a watchdog, but a conscience keeper”, says its Twitter handle. I agree that other media organizations are equally bona fide institutions, and regard themselves similarly. They too are “committed to free, fair and independent journalism.” Before issuing statements regarding journalism and journalists in Kashmir, they must dwell upon this commitment,

study the ground reality and appropriately respond to the truths that they uncover here.

SOME KASHMIRI JOURNALISTS ARE TOP STRATEGIC ASSETS FOR PAKISTAN

Pakistan has penetrated deep into Kashmir society. Pakistan has strategic assets in Kashmir's media, businesses and politics. In a conflict region, things cannot be taken at face value. Individuals often wear masks here. It is the bounden duty of the media and also the security agencies to look beyond the masks and search for the truth.

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

It is an open secret in Kashmir that some so-called journalists here are the top strategic assets for Pakistan. They drive the anti-India narrative in the national and international media wherein jihadi terrorism in Kashmir is whitewashed. India - the victim of terror - is demonized. These journalists are part of Kashmir's deep and strong terror ecosystem. Their reportage on Kashmir is the Pakistan-sponsored discourse

LET THIS BE UNDERSTOOD CLEARLY IN BLACK AND WHITE. JOURNALISTS IN KASHMIR HAVE BEEN “SURVEILLED, INTERROGATED AND JAILED” BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT BEEN DOING “JUST DOING THEIR PROFESSIONAL DUTIES.” THEY HAVE BEEN QUESTIONED BY THE STATE BECAUSE THEIR WRITINGS TOTALLY ERASE THE REALITY OF TERRORISM IN KASHMIR.

THEIR NEWS REPORTING SEEMS TO COMPLETELY EXPUNGE THE VICIOUS ROLE OF PAKISTAN IN KASHMIR. FOR THESE JOURNALISTS, KASHMIR IS A STRAIGHT AND SIMPLE TWO-FACTOR EQUATION. THEY SEE IT AS THE SO-CALLED BRUTAL INDIAN STATE PITTED AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF KASHMIR.

CAN THIS BE REGARDED AS JUST AND ACCURATE JOURNALISM?

Media bodies in the mainland must question why terrorism in Kashmir is being packaged by these so-called journalists as “resistance in the face of occupation”. This packaging is then sold to top media houses worldwide, because this “woke narrative” is in international demand

THE GRAVY TRAIN FROM PAKISTAN

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

Media bodies who are concerned about Kashmir must question why no journalist in Kashmir brings to light the most tragic human rights violations of Kashmiris perpetrated by terrorists for decades. They must question why terrorism is glossed over in Kashmir.

Media bodies in the mainland must question why terrorism in Kashmir is being packaged by these so-called journalists as “resistance in the face of occupation”. This packaging is then sold to top media houses worldwide, because this “woke narrative” is in international demand.

Why is this fake packaging flourishing? Because Pakistan pays for it. Pakistan has grabbed the information space with these yarns. Journos here are peddling these fabricated narratives. The media bodies need to ask why.

WHY ARE THOSE WHO STAND WITH INDIA TARGETED, KILLED?

Such deceitful, agenda-driven journalism is a deliberate and conscious attack on a nation’s sovereignty. There is a whole ecosystem supporting this charade in Kashmir. Academic careers are being built on it. Journalistic careers are flourishing on it.

For decades, all Kashmiris who stand up for India have lived under the pall of terror. Militants have systematically marked them and killed them for supporting Kashmir’s total integration with India. Even today, we face the same situation.

IMAGE FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY



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Kashmiris who identify with India and denounce Pakistan’s evil designs do so at great personal risk. They can be targeted and killed any time. Think Shujaat Bukhari. Think Babar Qadri. It is a strange situation in a sovereign nation where those who don’t subscribe to the views of the jihadis live daily under the fear of death, and those who ally with the enemy feel safe and secure.

The Press Club incident has brought into centre stage this strange dichotomy in Kashmir. The greater degree of interest taken by media groups across the country into journalism in Kashmir shall bring to the fore the predicament of those who call a spade a spade. What was spoken about in hushed tones of fear shall now come sharply into the limelight.

ANY STATEMENT ON KASHMIR FROM ANY CIVIL SOCIETY GROUP OR JOURNALIST GROUP OR OTHER PROFESSIONAL GROUPS HAS ITS IMPLICATIONS

We cannot issue statements on Kashmir on our free will precisely because Pakistan has its strategic assets in almost all spheres of life in Kashmir

WE CANNOT TREAT KASHMIR LIKE ANY OTHER STATE

This lofty positioning that “journalists are surveilled, interrogated and jailed for just doing their professional duties” sounds so noble

ALL THOSE TAKING THESE LOFTY POSITIONS VIS-À-VIS SOME JOURNALISTS IN KASHMIR – CAN YOU CERTIFY THAT THEY ARE NOT INVOLVED IN SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES? CAN YOU CERTIFY THAT THEY ARE NOT WORKING FOR THE ENEMY NATION?

Our youth continue to be used as cannon fodder for this manufactured conflict. The media groups issuing statements on Kashmir – have they studied the impact of writing that romanticizes militancy or gives it intellectual input?

HAVE THEY ANALYZED WHAT DRIVES THE JOURNALISTS WHO PROPAGATE NARRATIVES PUSHED BY PAKISTAN? HAVE THEY EXAMINED WHY DO THEY DO SO?

These terror apologists glorify and romanticise militancy for the youth, always keeping their children secure and prosperous.
Do you justify this?

SITTING FAR AWAY FROM KASHMIR, DO YOU KNOW WHO PLAYS WHAT ROLE HERE?

Are you aware that you are issuing statements in favour of those who have some kind of understanding with the enemy agents?

ARE YOU AWARE THAT BY DOING SO, YOU ARE MAKING THE POSITION OF THE STATE VULNERABLE? ARE YOU AWARE THAT BY DOING SO, YOU ARE PLAYING INTO THE HANDS OF THE ENEMY?

For a statement favouring any journalist or so-called human rights activist here, please provide an undertaking – we stand guarantee for this person

Before issuing statements regarding journalism and journalists in Kashmir, journalists or media bodies must dwell upon their commitment to free, fair and accurate journalism. They must study the ground reality and appropriately respond to the truths that are deliberately concealed

IMAGE FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY



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National security and internal security. Freedom of the press. These are separate areas. They cannot be merged or equated. Why is state investigation and action against those journalists who deepen and strengthen the terror network labeled as intimidation or harassment? What kind of twisted logic is this that a man wielding a pen can write what he wants to, and he must be regarded as sacrosanct, above and beyond the law of the land?

THE KASHMIR FIGHT BLOGS

The media groups who have responded to the Press Club developments must also examine the spinechilling Kashmir Fight blogs. Even a casual read of the blogs reveals that it is written by an insider. For years now, these blogs have mercilessly marked those Kashmiris who speak up for the vibrant Indian democracy, and identify with India. Thereafter, these Kashmiris have been cold-bloodedly assassinated in broad daylight.

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

within.

These blogs impact not only those who are marked out for the kill. These blogs have a ripple effect on the entire Kashmir society. Such blogs silence other Kashmiris who want to speak up against terror. Such blogs silence independent thought and action.

It is the mandate of J&K Police and the security agencies to protect the citizens. A report published on news portal The Wire on September 22 equated state investigation into those suspected to be associated with the Kashmir Fight blog as an attack on freedom of the press.

National security and internal security. Freedom

of the press. These are separate areas. They cannot be merged or equated. Why is state investigation and action against those journalists wrong who deepen and strengthen the terror network labeled as intimidation or harassment? What kind of twisted logic is this that a man wielding a pen can write what he wants to, and he must be regarded as sacrosanct, above and beyond the law of the land?

WHO HAS TRULY CHOKED THE VOICES OF JOURNALISTS IN KASHMIR?

It is time for the media groups of the country to frame the question that has not been asked in Kashmir for decades. Who has choked the voices of the media in Kashmir?

Any objective study by the media groups in India or abroad shall establish that it is not the state that has muzzled the voice of the media in Kashmir. The cruel, merciless gun of the terror forces has muzzled honest journalism in Kashmir.

We are living in a region where men and women have been routinely killed for standing up against jihadi terror. The gun wielded by Pakistan-sponsored forces has normalized the killing of those



PAKISTAN CONSISTENTLY ATTACKS INDIA THROUGH A DISINFORMATION FLOOD. INDIA MUST PROTECT NATIONAL INTEREST BY KEEPING A WATCH ON THOSE WHO DRIVE THE NARRATIVE GLOBALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY. THIS MAY INCLUDE KEEPING A WATCH ON JOURNALISTS, ACTIVISTS, ACADEMICIANS AND THE LIKE. THIS IS NOT AN ATTACK ON FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. IT IS NATIONAL SECURITY

who don't support jihad. The fear of death chokes voices. The fear of death chokes truth. The same has been the fate of Kashmir.

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

How do the media groups across the country define a journalist? What are the criteria stipulated by them for a journalist?

Adil Farooq – the man who hurled a grenade at the busy Hari Singh High Street in Srinagar and was caught with two more live grenades. Can he be called a journalist because he also worked for a media house? Adil's duplicity got exposed because of his extreme action.

The so-called journalists who peddle Pakistan propaganda in Kashmir do not get exposed because their actions are quiet and far more insidious.

How does one come across the reports of the

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

It shall be a fortunate development if media bodies in the mainland look into the hypocrisy that defines most of media work in Kashmir. They must bring before the nation how jihadis have consistently threatened, intimidated, killed and maimed journalists for honestly doing their job.

The media bodies who are concerned with journalism in Kashmir must come out with details of all those journalists and activists killed by terrorists at the behest of those colleagues who are part of the terror ecosystem in Kashmir.

Are these media bodies across India aware of the chilling hit lists of journalists released by terror organizations over social media on a regular basis? These hit lists carry names of journalists who must be targeted and killed. The inputs for these lists are provided by local self proclaimed journalists. The militants threaten. The journalist or activist is killed. This has been the pattern over the last few years.

Regarding the commotion directed against the Indian state post August 5, 2019, the international media represented by local faces in Kashmir have filed baseless, concocted reports unsubstantiated by evidence. Evidently, they consider that mudslinging against the Indian state constitutes evidence in itself.

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

The moot point is this: We are confronted with serious questions that have not been addressed for far too long. We hope that the interest taken by the media groups in journalism in Kashmir may serve as the moment to unravel these ugly truths and expose this darkness in Kashmir journalism.

We are hopeful that media bodies like Editors Guild and others shall make a panoramic, comprehensive assessment of media functioning in Kashmir. We earnestly hope that these media groups are not held hostage by the people who are being paid by the enemies of the state to demean and demonise India.

DISCLAIMER

THE PURPOSE OF THIS WRITE-UP IS NOT TO INSINUATE OR CLAIM THAT THE JOURNALISTS AGAINST WHOM THE POLICE ACTION WAS INITIATED SHOULD BE REGARDED AS GUILTY. THE PURPOSE OF THE WRITE-UP IS TO STATE THAT KASHMIR IS A CONFLICT REGION. INDIA IS FIGHTING A WAR ON TERROR. J&K POLICE, THE ARMY AND THE PARA-MILITARY FORCES AND SECURITY ARE DEALING WITH A MALEVOLENT ENEMY ACROSS THE BORDER.

PAKISTAN ROUTINELY USES EVERYTHING AT ITS DISPOSAL TO BLEED INDIA. IN THIS CONTEXT, ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE STATE AND ITS ARMS, AND THE INVESTIGATION OR ENQUIRY INTO SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY CANNOT BE VIEWED IN SIMPLISTIC TERMS OF SO-CALLED ATTACKS ON FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.

ISPR USES THE WORD 'TERRORISTS' FOR PAKISTAN

GOWHAR GEELANI USES THE WORD 'ARMED REBELS' FOR KASHMIR

Raja Muneeb, a freelance columnist and activist in Kashmir called out Gowhar's duplicity. "This conflict entrepreneur has the gumption to call terrorists suspected armed rebels. This shameless stenographer of terror machinery gives legitimacy to terrorists in Srinagar"



The vicious play of Pakistan to export cross-border terrorism is not the only challenge faced by the Indian state in Kashmir. Another major challenge is the constant effort by some local players to grant legitimacy to terrorism.

This duplicity of these supposedly credible figures of the society has an insidious, damaging impact on Kashmir. These credible figures keep their families and their children away from the conflict in safe and secure zones. Their children seek education in

prestigious institutions and go into lucrative careers. The terror apologists amass personal wealth courtesy a happily obliging Pakistan.

The ones who pick up the gun and burn in the flames of militancy are the sons of poor Kashmiris. The indoctrination by the well-oiled terror ecosystem takes them into the cult of violence and death. The impetus provided by the terror apologists gives the militants the halo that they seek.

Examine the tweet emanating from Pakistan regarding a terror attack. Here is what Inter Services Public Relations Pakistan (ISPR) stated regarding

Well-oiled machinery is in place to demolish the efforts by the Indian state to combat terrorism. Within Kashmir, terror apologists and sympathizers ensure that the conflict structures do not weaken. People like Gowhar Geelani are the terror apologists and sympathizers who enable and facilitate the terror ecosystem

the attack.

In general area Dossali, North Waziristan District, in an intense exchange of fire, terrorist Mobeen AKA Majrooh got killed by Pakistani security forces in an IBO. He was involved in terrorist activities against security forces, target killing and kidnapping for ransom.

Examine a similar tweet from Kashmiri "journalist" Gowhar Geelani regarding a terror attack in Kashmir. "Suspected armed rebels shot policeman identified as Shabir Wagay, resident of Amshipora Shopian, leaving him critically injured...."

The tweet by Gowhar created a furore was hotly debated in Kashmir. The Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of proscribed terror organization Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) had claimed ownership of the attack. A message released by TRF read, "Cadre of Shaheed Abbas Squad #TRF carried out a targeted attack on occupational stooge JK/SOG personal at Shopian. More targets on list. Waiting for the worst."

Gowhar chose to call the terrorists "suspected armed rebels." Raja Muneeb, a freelance columnist and activist in Kashmir called out Gowhar's duplicity. "This conflict entrepreneur has the gumption to call terrorists suspected armed rebels. This shameless stenographer of terror machinery gives legitimacy to terrorists in Srinagar."

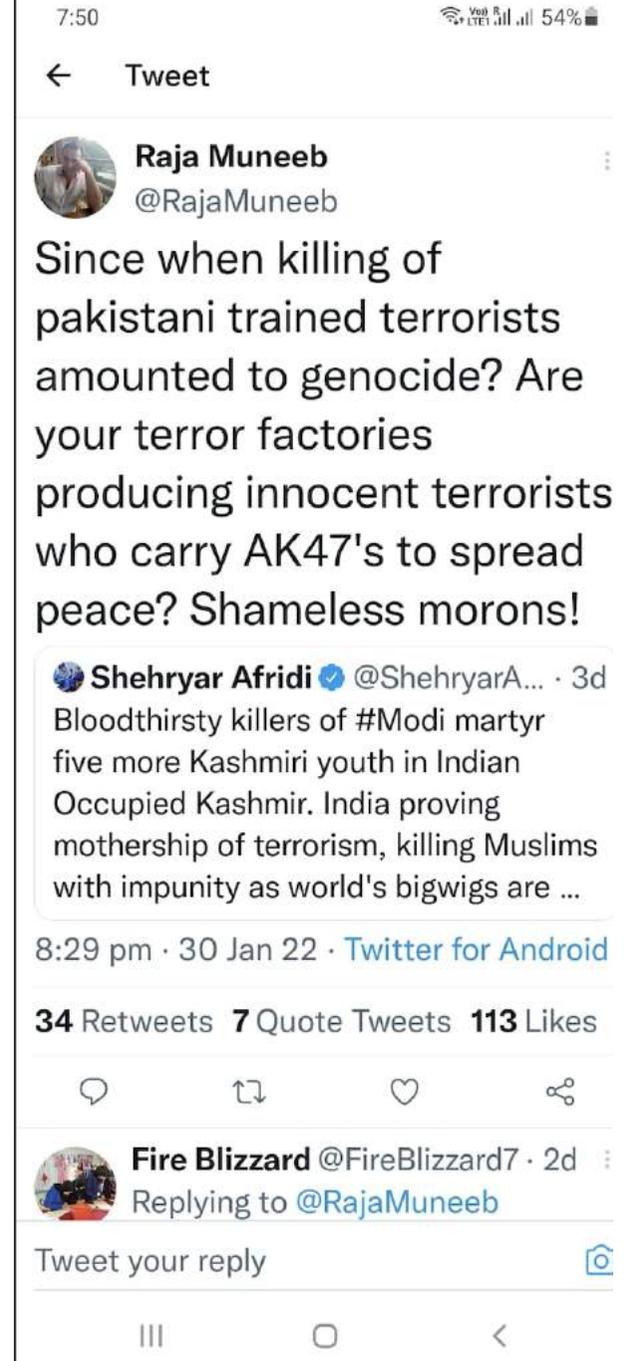
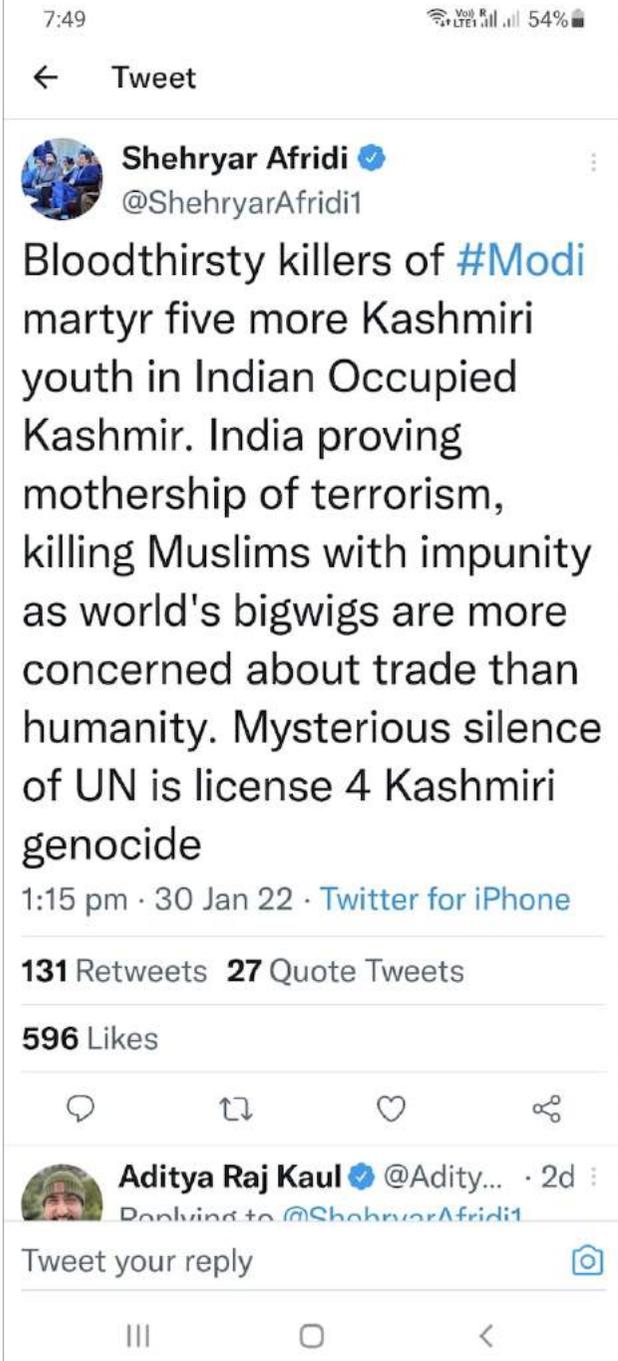
Gowhar is not alone. Well-oiled machinery is in place to demolish the efforts by the Indian state to combat terrorism. Pakistan cannot front-end this demolition. Pakistan provides the back-channel fodder for this terror machinery in various ways.

ISI funds terrorism in Kashmir through terrorists and the supportive terror ecosystem. ISI sends the operatives into Kashmir to keep the terror ecosystem flourishing. ISI bankrolls all the so-called intellectuals to keep up the international disinformation war against India.

Within Kashmir, terror apologists and sympathizers ensure that the conflict structures do not weaken. People like Gowhar Geelani are the terror apologists and sympathizers who enable and facilitate the terror ecosystem



PAKISTANI PEDDLES LIES ON TWITTER, KASHMIRI DEMOLISHES HIM



January 18, 2022: Editors Guild Of India in its press release

... space for media freedom and active civil society has been steadily eroding in the region (Kashmir)...journalists in Kashmir are also charged under heavy penal laws and are routinely detained by security forces for reporting or for their editorials...In October 2020, the Srinagar office of Kashmir Times was suddenly sealed”

EDITORS GUILD DECRIES ‘MEDIA OPPRESSION’: SRINAGAR OFFICE OF KASHMIR TIMES WAS SUDDENLY SEALED

The Preposterous Lies Of Anuradha Bhasin



Anuradha Bhasin in The Caravan, August 2020

The helplessness of Kashmiris evinced itself in the breakdown of daily lives. Security forces raided home and picked up men and boys—some as young as nine years old—and tortured them brutally. They were beaten up with rifles, hanged upside down, given electric shocks, their bodies covered with purple bruises before they were let off, if they were. In villages in South Kashmir, the shrieks of torture victims were amplified on loudspeakers to create terror among the listeners.

I have been a journalist in the Kashmir valley for nearly thirty years...

More than a year later, has Bhasin offered any evidence in support of her bizarre claims for Kashmir? She has stated herself that she has been a journalist in Kashmir valley for nearly 30 years. Surely in 30 years, she has developed sources deep enough to uncover truths. Surely other journalists in Kashmir have the sources to establish the graphic details provided by her, as mentioned above. None of this has emerged or has been corroborated by any other journalist.

Bhasin does not offer evidence in support of her preposterous statements. What may be the reason that Bhasin is concocting such ridiculous tales on Kashmir? She is evidently spinning yarns that Pakistan can conveniently use.

Through her newspaper and through her writings, Anuradha Bhasin has consistently romanticized the separatist sentiment in Kashmir.

On January 31, popular journalist from Srinagar Ahmed Ali Fayyaz tweeted that post Independence, Kashmir has seen 43 years of peace and 32 years of violence. “First bomb blast in Kashmir on 31st July 1988...JKLF militants conducted their first attack...17 September 1988.”

In response to his tweet, a Kashmiri netizen commented: An obliging Kashmir Times was so excitedly fanning the fires. Another netizen wrote: KT was hand in glove with the anti national elements... What these netizens are stat-

ing is common knowledge in Kashmir.

Is Bhasin finding that old allegiances die hard, and hence her outrageous claims in her write-ups in The Caravan and elsewhere?

When the Editors Guild decries that “the Srinagar office of Kashmir Times was suddenly sealed”, is it taking into account the incendiary impact of Kashmir Times on vulnerable Kashmiri youth? Does Editors Guild appreciate that even now, Kashmir Times (KT) continues to attempt to fan the flames? Sadly for it, Greater Kashmir pushed KT out of business decades ago by comprehensively claiming this space. Nevertheless, Bhasin tries hard to take forward the torch lit by her father.

What may be the reason that Bhasin is concocting such preposterous tales on Kashmir? Bhasin does not offer evidence in support of her claims. She is evidently spinning yarns that Pakistan can conveniently use

Anuradha Bhasin's ETHICAL OBLIGATION

- Anuradha Bhasin must reveal with all her writings that her father was a member of Majlis Shura, the supreme command council of Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), which waged war against the Indian state for separating Kashmir from India
- Anuradha Bhasin must reveal with all her writings that Mr Ved Bhasin was a minister in the government-in-exile formed for Kashmir by late Amanullah Khan, founder of JKLF



A book on Kashmir by Saiba Varma (below, left) was in the eye of a storm with questions raised on representation, accountability and ethics. Does this not apply to Anuradha Bhasin (above, left) too?

In September 2021, a book on Kashmir by Saiba Varma, an Indian anthropologist from the University of California, was at the centre of a controversy. On September 22, The Indian Express carried the report with the headline, A book on Kashmir is in the eye of the storm with questions being raised on representation, accountability and ethics.

A furore was raised after it was found that the author did not give full disclosure to publishers about her father. According to news reports, Saiba's father was posted in the Valley in the 90's with India's external intelligence agency, the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW).

The controversy grew as questions were raised about Varma's

"ethical obligations" in terms of disclosing her background. On ground of this controversy, the publisher Yoda Press distanced itself from the book. Arpita Das of Yoda Press tweeted that writers must locate themselves clearly and transparently in their writing.

Can the same questions of "ethical obligations" be raised for Anuradha Bhasin, Executive Editor of Kashmir Times? With all her writings, should Bhasin reveal that her father, the late Ved Bhasin, a journalist-cum-activist, was a member of Majlis Shura, the supreme command council of Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), which waged war against the Indian state for separating Kashmir from India?

Through her newspaper and through her writings, Anuradha Bhasin has consistently romanticized the separatist sentiment in Kashmir. Should she reveal with all her writings that Mr Ved Bhasin was a minister in the government-in-exile formed for Kashmir by late Amanullah Khan, founder of JKLF? Should Anuradha Bhasin admit that she was raised in a home environment inclined positively towards JKLF's armed insurgency in India with backing from Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence?

These are questions about "ethical obligations" that face Anuradha Bhasin, in terms of disclosing her background, specifically relating to her father.



**@ZULFIKARMAJID TWEETS
ON KASHMIR TIMES EXECUTIVE EDITOR
ANURADHA BHASIN**



Journalist covering Kashmir conflict for last 19-years <http://deccanherald.com>, previous <http://greaterkashmir.com>

I'll exposing a big conflict-entrepreneur, who has for generations been milking both parties involved in the dispute for generations first in the name of journalism and now activism. The person claims to be "champion of press freedom", but

Selective amnesia behind Anuradha Bhasin Mam's 'press freedom' tirades Undertaking illegal construction on govt land is no less than a case of land grab. But when KT did so by coming up wd a pvt building on govt land, it was 2 be haild as "press freedom & journalistic ethics", alike

Recently when journos of repute tried to set chaotic KPC into order, she joined bandwagon, to label it a "state sponsored armed coup." I face threats, but she is silent as 4 her "press freedom" is selective.

Victim card she plays, incentives she forgets –selective amnesia!

The 'torch bearers of true journalism' KT as on Oct 29, 2020, owed Rs 7,65,833 as rent 2 govt vch remained unpaid 4 decades.

Mam dare 2 speak on this. Recently they raised hullabaloo on press freedom. Jai ho "press freedom"



ZULFIKAR MAJID ON ANURADHA BHASIN

Selective amnesia behind Anuradha Bhasin Sahiba's 'press freedom' tirades

Undertaking illegal construction on Govt land makes no less than a case of land grab & encroachment. But when Kashmir Times did so at Press Enclave Srinagar by coming up with 3-floor pyt building on Estates Dept land, it was to be hailed as "freedom of press and journalistic ethics", alike.

For decades, worthy Kashmir Times had been enjoying three govt accommodations-1 in Jammu and 2 in Srinagar. Two years ago when, govt decided to revoke one of the accommodations, there was a hue-n-cry 2 confuse Govt land grab with assault on "freedom of press." And it had its takers.

Anuradha Sahiba's sister was made VC of cluster university Jammu during PDP-BJP govt & still we must believe that Bhasin family has been victimized "for speaking in favour of Kashmiris." When govt perks & privileges r lessened, she starts crying loud about "press freedom"

The "victims" at KT still enjoy four govt accommodations? Once a leading daily, if it has now run into rough waters essentially coz journalism had been overtaken by activism under leadership of Anuradha Madam who forgets the govt incentives only to play victim card. Till not long ago it was 2nd or 3rd biggest receiver of govt ads despite being at bottom in circulation (less than 1500 copies per day).

& what happened to the eviction/demolition notice which the 'revolutionary' Omar Abdullah sent to late Ved Bhasin ji after becoming CM in 2009? Who hushed it up? Idhar bhi loot, udhar bhi loot aur zabaan par tebreak!

Recently when journalists of repute tried to set the chaotic Kashmir Press Club into order, Anuradha Madam joined the bandwagon, who labelled it a "state sponsored armed coup." I face threats, but she is not speaking about it as for her "press freedom" is must for activists only & not journalists.

The victim card she plays, incentives she forgets–selective amnesia!

Media Subterfuge In Kashmir

**Woman's Talk
Reveals Her
Brother Was A
Militant, Some
Journos Try To
Distract Public
Opinion**

**Spin Yarns Of
"Multiple And
Conflicting Versions"**

On January 30, Sunday, a top Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) militant commander was gunned down along with his associates in south Kashmir's Pulwama district. Police said Zahid Ahmad Wani, who joined JeM in 2017, was gunned down in the encounter with suspected Pakistani militant Kafeel Bhari alias Chotu and a local militant named Waheed Ahmad Reshi.

In the gunfight, Inayat Ahmad Mir, the son of the owner of the house was also killed. His family later staged a protest outside the police control room in Srinagar. They demanded his body claiming that Inayat was innocent. They told mediapersons that Inayat raised sheep for a living.

A video clip, meanwhile, went viral in Kashmir. The video was the response of Inayat's sister, who was asked by the security forces to narrate the sequence of events.

In the video, Inayat's sister told the police that the three militants had come to their house at about 10 pm on Thursday. "There were three of them... They came at 10 pm on Thursday."

Thereafter, Inayat's sister was asked to narrate the sequence of events after her family was asked by the security forces to come out of the house on Saturday evening.

"We two sisters and our mother came out. Father was in Trichal (adjacent village). He (Inayat) was with them (militants). I couldn't muster the courage to tell you (the truth). He did not agree to come out. He said he would die with them (militants)."

This was the plain sequence of events narrated by the militants' sister. Some correspondents chose to deflect the information provided by the militant's sister in the name of "multiple and conflicting versions".

In a conflict region, such deliberate distortion of news is not without agenda. This is part of the strategy of this clique of spin doctors in the Valley. The



Ahmed Ali Fayyaz
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3 of the 4 killed in Naira (Pulwama) encounter established as enlisted militants. 4th one was the house owner's son Inayat Mir who refused to come out and chose to die with the 3 militants hiding at his home. His sister narrates the episode calmly, as if nothing big has happened.



effort is to create a cloud of suspicion against every effort to dismantle the terror network in Kashmir. There is a constant attempt to discredit such efforts.

The police summoned some local journalists for incorrect reporting on the Pulwama encounter. These included prominent TV commentator Majid Hyderi, Kamran Yusuf of NewsClick, Vikar Syed of Free Press Kashmir and Fahad Shah, editor of the Kashmir Walla magazine.

IN A CONFLICT REGION, SUCH DELIBERATE DISTORTION OF NEWS IS NOT WITHOUT AGENDA. THIS IS PART OF THE STRATEGY OF THIS CLIQUE OF SPIN DOCTORS IN THE VALLEY. THE EFFORT IS TO CREATE A CLOUD OF SUSPICION AGAINST EVERY EFFORT TO DISMANTLE THE TERROR NETWORK IN KASHMIR. THERE IS A CONSTANT ATTEMPT TO DISCREDIT SUCH EFFORTS

“Why isn’t anyone saying anything? Why isn’t anyone doing anything?”

AFGHAN WOMEN CRY FOR HELP

There has been continued disappearance of people connected with the recent women’s rights protests in Afghanistan. Many Afghan women have been taken from their homes after speaking out.

Women say they are stopped, lashed with whips, and beaten with batons that emit electric shocks. “Why isn’t anyone say-

ing anything? Why isn’t anyone doing anything?” they cry.

Reports emerging from Afghanistan reveal that many medical staff have fled the country, and most clinics have closed. A woman gynaecologist says that she travels to 12 districts providing front-line care to women and children. Afghanistan has one of the worst maternal and infant mortality rates in the world.

An Afghan female activist named Mursal Ayar has been forcibly taken from her home, the latest in a string of alleged arrests by the Taliban. According to a BBC report, Ayar is the sixth woman to have been taken by the Taliban in the past weeks.

In mid-January, some women who had participated in peaceful protests for work, study and political rights had been taken



In Afghanistan, mothers can't decide whether to buy cooking oil to make food for children, or heating oil so that they don't freeze



A screen grab from an amateur video of a mob beating an Afghan woman in Takhar Province



away by the Taliban. These include Parwana Ibrahim, Tamana Paryani and Paryani's three sisters Zarmina, Shafiq and Karima. In the days that followed, there was no information about their location and well-being.

Some days later, Tamana Paryani posted a video on social media, which showed armed men entering her apartment block. She cried for help in the video.

"Help, the Taliban have come to my house," she said before the video ended. The Taliban accused her of making fake films in order to seek asylum abroad.

The UN stated that the reports of missing women highlighted "a pattern of arbitrary arrests and detentions", as well as torture and mistreatment of civil rights activists, journalists and former government officials in Afghanistan.



Globally, Afghanistan is the only country where the government officially restricts education to women. Afghanistan has been seeking legitimacy internationally, but its mistreatment of women has been severely criticized. As a result, international sanctions against the Taliban have not been lifted.



David Beasley  @WFPCh... · 2d :

What people are facing in [#Afghanistan](#) is just catastrophic. Millions of families are making impossible decisions. Mothers asked me: should I buy cooking oil to keep my children from starving, or heating oil to keep them from freezing??

NO parent should have to make this choice.



5,550 views

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Mufti Sb, please don't call the acid attacker Beta

PLEASE DON'T SAY
THE GIRL COULD BE
AT FAULT

Please don't
make everything
a woman thing



DAILYEXCELSIOR.COM

by Mareaya FAYAZ

For many of us, the girl who suffered the acid attack is only a headline. How would the girl be suffering? Her face has been destroyed. Doctors say her eyes have been damaged beyond repair. What a horrific life! One can cry thinking about her fate.

Imagine the plight of her family! The happiness of a household has been crushed. It is so tragic.

There have been these kind of

news earlier too. Most of the times these attacks happen because the girl says no to the advances made on her. When I think about the victim, I feel numb. I want to cry out loud. I do not know whether to be angry at the man who attacked her, or at the society that raised him to believe that he can do such a barbaric act in order to satisfy his ego.

Yesterday, I saw a video posted on a common group. It was a recording of Mufti Muzaffer Hus-sain Qasmi Makhdoomi DB.

He was condemning the attack. Mufti Sb rightly said that this attack is a shame on humanity and on Muslims. I would say that it is a shame on Kashmiris as well. We have failed as a community to protect our women and our sisters from such monsters.

The second point Mufti Sb made was: We do not know if the girl was at fault and even if the girl was at fault the man should not have punished her.

I felt deeply sad to hear this. Imagine a girl whose life is fin-



MUFTI SB SAID: WE DO NOT KNOW IF THE GIRL WAS AT FAULT AND EVEN IF THE GIRL WAS AT FAULT THE MAN SHOULD NOT HAVE PUNISHED HER. MUFTI SB, IS THERE ANY ANY ANY FAULT THAT COULD HAVE ATTRACTED SUCH TERRIBLE PUNISHMENT?

ished. She is alive but perhaps she would be wishing that she was dead and did not have to bear this trauma. Imagine the state of her parents, who would be devastated seeing her on the hospital bed, struggling for everything. How her brothers and sisters would be crying.

Mufti Sb said, We do not know if the girl was at fault...

What fault could that girl have made? Is there any any any fault that could have attracted such terrible punishment? Mufti Sb,

it is enough to say that the man should not have done this. Why are you again making it about the woman? Why are you linking his terrible terrible criminal act to the woman?

Mufti Sb again and again called the attack a punishment. A punishment for what? What has the girl done to deserve this punishment? Why is Mufti Sb creating double standards and confusion? Is he condemning the attack or giving an explanation for the attack?

WHY DO WE BLAME WOMEN FOR MEN'S FAULT

Then Mufti Sb spoke about the monster who has committed this act. While speaking of him, Mufti Sb said Beta.

Mufti Sb, please don't call this man Beta. He does not deserve to be anyone's beta. Please don't give him respect by calling him Beta.

The final words of Mufti Sb

were even more confusing. I do not know how everything gets twisted and is turned into the women's fault. Mufti Sb advised the girls to move in purdah. He said girls should not go out when it is late, and they should always leave home with a mahram.

I cannot understand this. How could a veil have protected this poor woman from acid? How would a mahram accompanying the woman have

stopped the acid from reaching her face and making it melt?

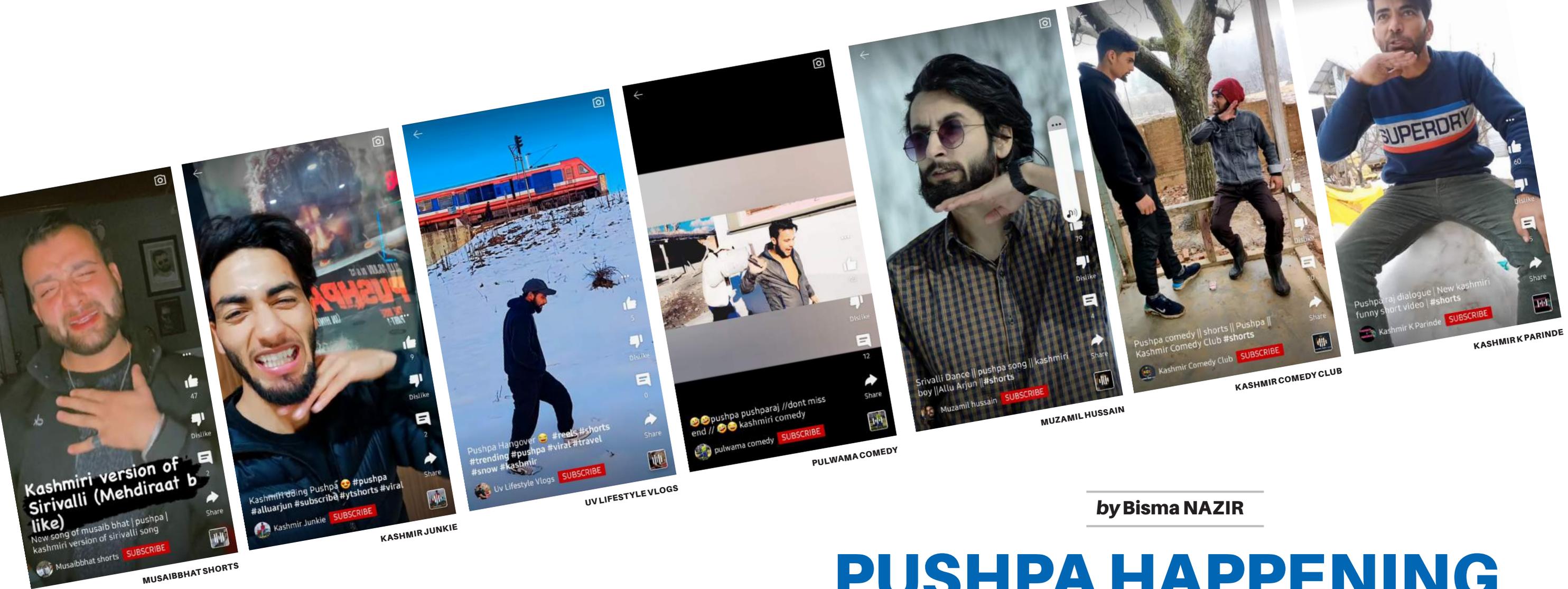
Mufti Sb, please just condemn the act of the horrific man. Please just call it completely against Islam. Don't say things which humanize the monster who carried out the act. Don't say things to give him space, as if it was totally not his fault. Women take forward our civilization. It is not right to blame them for the wrongs committed by men.

But this is very typical of our Kashmiri society. We blame women even for the faults and mistakes of men. Shockingly, this trend has been encouraged by some women in our society.

When the photographs of these monsters were released by the police, they were allowed to cover their faces. The police should have kept their faces uncovered. The world should remember the faces of these hateful beasts.

MUFTI SB AGAIN AND AGAIN CALLED THE ATTACK A PUNISHMENT. A PUNISHMENT FOR WHAT? WHAT HAS THE GIRL DONE TO DESERVE THIS TERRIBLE FATE? WHY IS MUFTI SB CREATING DOUBLE STANDARDS AND CONFUSION? IS HE CONDEMNING THE ATTACK OR GIVING AN EXPLANATION FOR THE ATTACK?



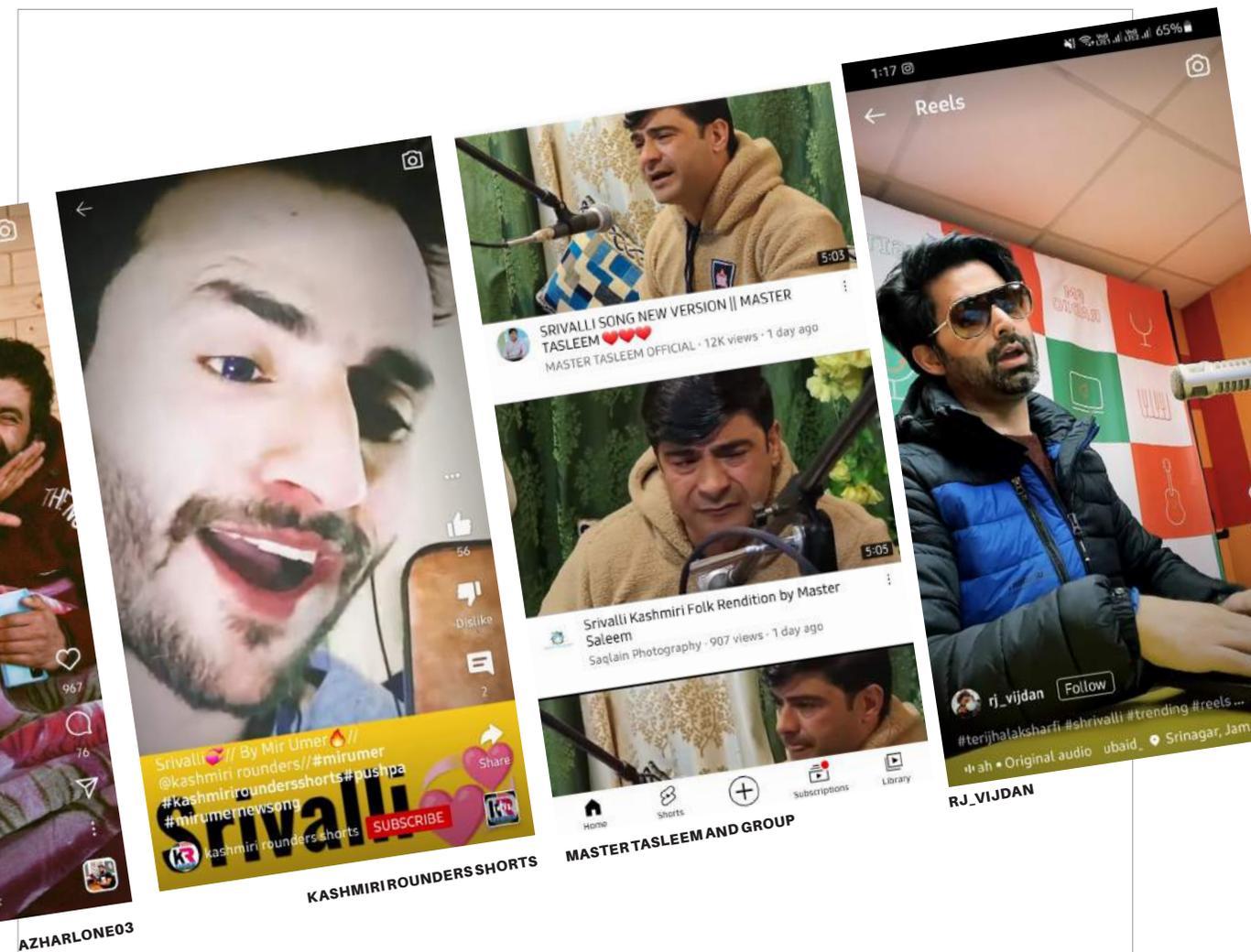
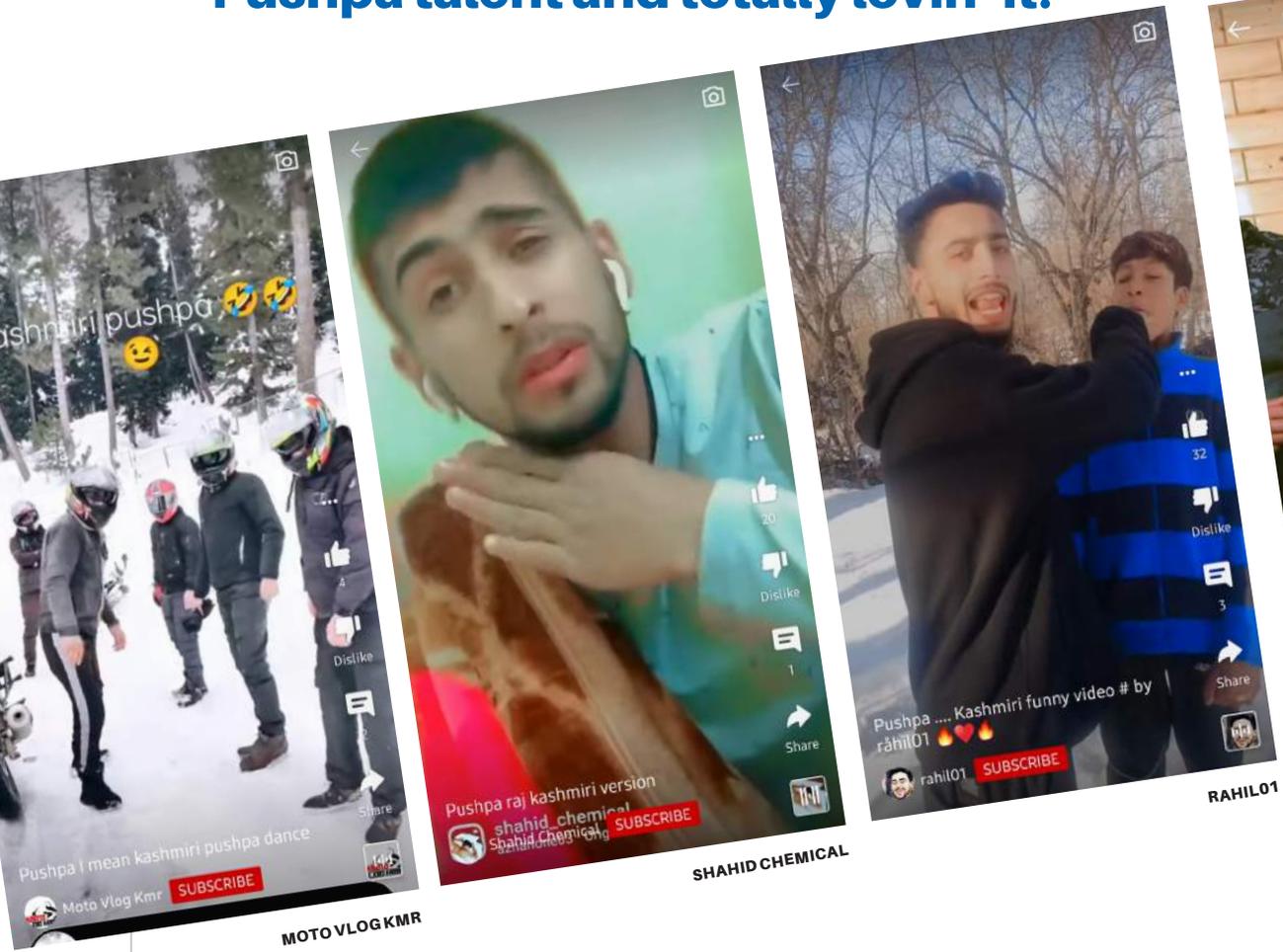


by Bisma NAZIR

Kashmiris join pan India hit with multiple local versions of Srivalli and memes

PUSHPA HAPPENING EVERYWHERE IN INDIA, Kashmiris Join The Fun

Funny Srivalli memes from Kashmir like Pushpa Zukam ho gaya Sala, Pushpa Chillai kalan Nikal gaya Sala, 2 din ki sick leave apply kiya to sick samjhe kya, Kashmir Ghumne aaya hai mein are a huge hit. The youth are showing up their Pushpa talent and totally lovin' it!



*Teri Jhalak Asharfi Srivalli, Naina Madak Barfi
Teri Jhalak Asharfi Srivalli , Bathein Kare Do Halfi*

Some In Their Cozy Rooms, Some In Snow, Kashmiri Youth Dance On Srivalli

Kashmiris have a passion for dancing, singing and acting. K-Instagram is the synonym for talent, hash tags, funny videos, dances and the like. Kashmiris are quick to respond to trending songs, movies and memes.

Whenever there is a new trend, you can find Kashmiris creating local content on it, both fun and troll stuff.

This time, with the increasing hype around the Telugu movie Pushpa, Kashmiris are again to the fore with their funny takes. The Kashmiri version of Srivalli song is out. Pushpa acting videos

are trending over Instagram in Kashmir. Memes and funny videos are rolling.

From RJs to kids, footballers to comics – all are participating. Most Kashmiris are filming the hook steps in the song Srivalli. At a picturesque location, Kashmiri youth have filmed themselves – their bikes parked, wearing hel-

met and dancing on snow. Pushpa fever has made some Kashmiri motorists dance, and they have totally nailed it.

Memes produced locally are equally hilarious. Funny Srivalli memes from Kashmir like Pushpa Zukam ho gaya Sala, Pushpa Chillai kalan Nikal gaya Sala, 2 din ki sick leave apply kiya to sick samjhe kya, Kashmir Ghumne aaya hai mein are a huge hit. The youth are showing up their Pushpa talent and totally lovin' it!

MEET THE SINGING GROUP BEHIND THE KASHMIRI VERSION OF SRIVALLI

A group of five artisans led by Master Tasleem have gone viral with the Kashmir version of Srivalli. Master Tasleem uploaded the song on his eight-year-old Youtube channel. The song went viral on social media.

Master Tasleem and his

group including Adil, Shabir, Sahil and Sameer have performed in various states of the country. He has sung many Bollywood songs and gazals in Kashmiri style. The group said that their Srivalli version has been greatly loved, and they are enjoying the attention. Others too, including RJ Vijdan and tiktoker Musaib Bhat have made videos on Master Tasleem's version of Srivalli.

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