

KASHMIR CENTRAL

A KZINE INITIATIVE

NEW ISI STRATEGY FOR KASHMIR

**For All Operations In The
Valley Barring Hardcore
Militancy, Involvement Of
Girls Should Be Higher**

KASHMIR CENTRAL

Volume 2 Edition 8
20 February 2022

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**OWNED, PRINTED AND
PUBLISHED BY**

Bashir Ahmad Bhat
Registered with the
Registrar of Newspapers of
India under RNI No:

PUBLISHED FROM

J-24, Jawahar Nagar,
Srinagar, 190008

**ADDRESS FOR ALL
CORRESPONDENCE**

J-24, Jawahar Nagar
Srinagar, 190008

Email:

editor@kashmircentral.in

PRINTED AT

Access Publications
HMT, Srinagar
Mobile 6005737819

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All Advertising
enquiries, comments and
feedback are welcome at
kashmirkzine@gmail.com

Periodicity: Weekly
Language: English
Price: ₹40

The information
contained in this magazine
has been reviewed for
accuracy and is deemed
reliable but is not necessar-
ily complete or guaranteed
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CENTRAL

The Forces That Push Kashmiri Youth Into The Black Hole

17-year-old Kaisar Ahmad Dar, who lived in a remote village in Pulwama district, wanted to be a Major in the Army. His mother wanted him to be a doctor. After scoring an impressive 88 per cent in Class 12, Kaisar joined militancy. Celebrations at the family home turned into mourning. Kaisar's father, a cop with JK Police, is frantically searching for his son. "They have taken him away," Kaisar's mother Naseema Begum kept crying, referring to the militants.

We have been witnessing this vicious cycle in Kashmir for years. One after the other, Kashmiri youngsters fall prey to indoctrination and take up arms against the state for establishing the Caliphate – a doctrine which did not find a place anywhere in any modern and flourishing Muslim society.

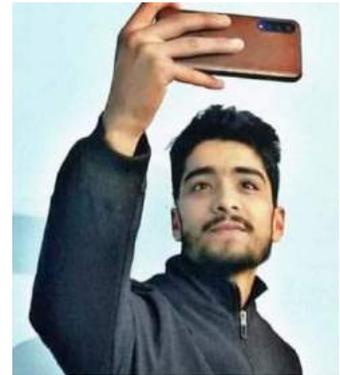
In Kashmir, indoctrination and radicalization are so deep that a youth joining militancy does not make news for long. The Pulwama boy remained in the headlines for a longer time because his father is a policeman, and because he passed Class 12 with distinction.

Reporting on the case for a prominent TV channel, a journalist said that youths in Kashmir are being pushed into a black hole. Why doesn't the government expose the forces that are pushing the youth into the hole, he asked.

Let us talk about the forces pushing the youths into the black hole. Among them are the manifold ISI operatives and their local collaborators who radicalize and indoctrinate the youth. Some of these forces masquerade as journalists. They hold the pen in their hands and take it upon themselves to show the path of death and destruction to the Kashmiri youth in the name of 'freedom struggle' or 'Nizam e Mustafa'.

If the government decides to initiate action against these spin doctors, they quickly spin yarns of "suppression and oppression" of the media in Kashmir. These forces take their children out from Kashmir to study and pursue flourishing careers. Back home, they radicalize the children of poor Kashmiris by romanticizing the death of militants. They shoot videos featuring the fathers of slain or surviving militants. They ask the family members to speak on camera about jihad and shahadat. The families speak about how proud they are about the shahadat of their militant son. The video makers now reach the militants and compel them to speak about shahadat. We watch their familiar script being played out time after time.

These are the forces that create doubts in the mind of people over the killing of a fellow journalist by the militants. They create a discourse blaming the state forces for the killing. These are the forces who never utter a word over the barbaric and inhuman atrocities perpetrated by the terrorists. Let these forces look within when they ask why doesn't the government expose the forces that are pushing Kashmiri youth into a black hole.



Kaisar Ahmad Dar

Bashir Assad

razor sharp analysis
INCISIVE REPORTING

INVESTIGATE
THE TERROR
ECOSYSTEM

EXPOSE
DECEPTION

RESTORE
ORDER

MAKE A SPLASH

INCULCATE
DEMOCRATIC SPIRIT



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For All Operations In The Valley
Barring Hardcore Militancy,
Involvement Of Girls Should Be Higher**



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**NEW ISI STRATEGY
FOR KASHMIR:
For All Operations In The
Valley Barring Hardcore
Militancy, Involvement Of
Girls Should Be Higher**

by Iqbal AHMAD

One of the new ISI strategies for Kashmir is that for all operations in the Valley barring hardcore militancy, the involvement of Kashmiri girls should be higher. As part of this strategy, United Jihad Council (UJC) Pakistan has decided to escalate the so-called spontaneous protests in Kashmir with the help of local girls.

In the last quarter of 2021, a meeting was of UJC was held at Muzaffarabad in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. It was decided in the meeting that the help of local Kashmiri girls would be taken in lead-

ing the supposedly voluntary youth protests in the valley. During the meeting, members discussed that for any protest that disturbs law and order, there is hesitation on the part of the Indian state to book girls under Public Safety Act (PSA) and arrest them even if they are leading the protest.

The local so-called journalists and other terror operatives in Kashmir who are associated with Pakistan also gave inputs to ISI that if any protest is front-ended by girls, the photographs of the protest are more impactful. Pakistan uses these photographs with greater force to spin its deceptive narratives on Kashmir.

IN THE LAST QUARTER OF 2021, A MEETING WAS OF UJC WAS HELD AT MUZAFFARABAD IN PAKISTAN OCCUPIED KASHMIR. IT WAS DECIDED IN THE MEETING THAT THE HELP OF LOCAL KASHMIRI GIRLS WOULD BE TAKEN IN LEADING THE SUPPOSEDLY VOLUNTARY YOUTH PROTESTS IN THE VALLEY

THE ATLANTIC

Hence during its meeting, UJC decided that the help of local girls would be taken more to lead the protests. The local youth associated with the terror network would stay in larger numbers at the back.

The UJC members identified two women's college in Srinagar and one women's college in Anantnag from where girls would be drawn for leading protests in the valley. The agitations were to be organized with the covert support of Jamaat e Islami. But the raids carried out by National Investigation Agency at the residential premises of some leaders of Jamaat e Islami put a spanner in the execution of the plans of UJC.

UJC decided that the so-called spontaneous protests which would be front-ended by girls would begin in March 2022. Sources reveal that the preparation for effectively implementing this strategy is now being carried out.

It was discussed during the meeting that after the abrogation of Article 370, young men associated with the terror network are hesitant to play a frontal role in any street agitation. UJC members discussed that placing the girls in a lead role during the agitation will help in giving it a veneer of higher credibility locally, within India and also internationally. The photographs emerging from these protests and agitations also make for better optics for building deceptive narratives on Kashmir.

Sources reveal that some recent protests organized by the youth in Srinagar are part of the same strategy. These protests were front-ended by girls. These protests are part of the strategy by which girls are being prepared to lead the protests in Kashmir.



ABOUT UNITED JIHAD COUNCIL



The United Jihad Council, also known as the Muttahida Jihad Council (MJC), is a Islamist Jihadist organisation formed by the Pakistan Army for unified command and control over the anti-Indian militant groups operating in Jammu and Kashmir. It was formed in the summer of 1994 and is currently headed by Syed Salahuddin, the leader of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen. The organisation was created to unify and focus efforts of various armed militant groups fighting against the Indian rule in Kashmir. This made distribution of resources like arms, ammunition, propaganda materials and communications more streamlined. It also made it easier to coordinate and pool resources of various militant groups to collect information, plan operations and strike at targets of military importance inside Indian administered Kashmir.

The militant group has 13 affiliates. Some of the group members are: Harakat-ul-Ansar, Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, Jamiat-ul-Mujahideen, Al-Jihad, Al-Barq, Al-Badr, Ikhwan-ul-Mussalmin, Tehrik-ul-Mujahideen. By early 1999, as many as fifteen organisations were affiliated with the Council, though of these only five were considered influential: Lashkar-e-Toiba, Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, Al-Badr and Tehrik-i-Jihad. Many of these organisations are recognised as terrorist organisations by the United States and the UN.

**AFTER ABROGATION OF ARTICLE 370
AND STRICTER SECURITY
MEASURES, YOUNG MEN
ASSOCIATED WITH THE TERROR
NETWORK ARE HESITANT TO PLAY A
FRONTAL ROLE IN STREET
AGITATIONS**

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and exclusive features that bring to you

KASHMIR

KASHMIR CENTRAL

A KZINE INITIATIVE

On Fahad Shah of Kashmir, Shashi Tharoor is anaphabetic, kamikaze and pharisaical

**INDIANESE:
HE IS
MISINFORMED
AND STARKLY
DELUDED**

by Waseem GUL

Shashi Tharoor can totally charm you with his bearing and his language. The suave Tharoor will not have a hair out of place or appear even remotely suboptimal.

Here's news for him. Mr Tharoor, on Fahad Shah of Kashmir you are specious and sophistic. Indianese: You are wrong.

Tharoor can write a book on how facts are distorted by the me-

dia. He can produce a treatise on how conjectures are presented as the holy truth. He can even guide PhDs on how agenda-driven journalism normalizes disinformation.

Tharoor experienced all of this and more when his charming and beautiful wife Sunanda Pushkar died in January 2014. Sunanda Pushkar's death has been described as one of the most mysterious and controversial cases in recent times. For years, the media

ran amok with conspiracy theories and allegations regarding her death, with Tharoor at the centre of them all.

In his address during the Parliament session, Tharoor spoke about the importance of dissent in a vibrant democracy. "Journalists in Kashmir ... or anywhere in India deserve to be able to do their job safely without fear of arrest or harassment", he said.

Later speaking to a mediator after the Parliament session,



Mr Tharoor makes the specious argument that in the name of national security, the space for media freedom has progressively eroded in Kashmir. Mr Tharoor, Pakistan is incessantly trying to destabilize India using Kashmir. All responsible Parliamentarians, media bodies and others must wake up to the ramifications of national security before they issue statements on journalism and media freedom in Kashmir

Tharoor said that in Kashmir, "... We have journalists being arrested for doing their job. Two Kashmiri journalists, Fahad Shah and Sajad Gul have been arrested... This is really a dangerous situation. It is being noticed around the world and by our own journalist bodies in India... the government should release the journalists forthwith and let them do their work," he said. "There is no way that the government should be allowed to continue freely detaining, arresting journalists for various kinds of charges when all they have done is trying to do their own job," Tharoor grandly announced.

This sounds so noble. Such woke narratives. Tharoor seems truly pained. He holds forth with anguish that Fahad Shah, Editor of the magazine The Kashmir Walla has been detained and arrested when all he has done is trying to do his own job.

Really Mr Tharoor? Have you done some reading on the distortions that Fahad Shah puts forth in his magazine in the guise of "doing his own job"? Have you examined the warped facts that

The situation in Kashmir is not so simplistic that journalists are detained for "their critical reporting of the establishment". In Kashmir, the enemy nation continues to indoctrinate and radicalize the vulnerable youth to pick up arms against the state in the name of jihad. Poor Kashmiris

Are you aware, Mr Tharoor, that because of the jingoism of Fahad Shah and Co, Kashmir society is deeply suffering? Are you aware that these so-called journalists refuse to wake up to the reality of terror? They provide the intellectual impetus to young men who find glory in picking



In a conflict region, deliberate distortion of news is not without agenda. This is part of the ISI strategy for Kashmir, carried forward by its clique of spin doctors. The effort of Fahad Shah and Co is to discredit every effort to dismantle the terror network in Kashmir

Fahad Shah and his team peddle in the name of news reporting? Have you bothered to find out that Fahad Shah and team glorify and romanticize terrorism?

Pakistan has made Kashmir a war zone. Are you aware, Mr Tharoor, of the impact on Kashmiri youth when militancy is glorified or romanticized?

continue to lose their sons to the radical ideologies embedded by Pakistan.

Are you aware that Fahad Shah And Co glorify terrorism and militancy? Are you aware that they whitewash the reality of terrorism in Kashmir and give it fancy labels like 'The Resistance Of Our Boys' and 'Armed Rebels'?

up gun against the state and are lost to militancy and to narco terrorism.

Fahad Shah and team are part of the same clique that is pushing the local vulnerable youth into the folds of militancy in their role as terror glorifiers and terror apologists.

Let it be clear that the state is



**Fahad Shah,
Editor,
The Kashmir
Walla**

Having suffered distortion of facts by the media firsthand, it is astounding that Tharoor chose to stand up for disinformation in the Parliament, and demanded "immediate and unconditional" release of Kashmir journalists Fahad Shah and Sajad Gul "in the interest of preserving the freedom of press in our country"

fighting jihadi radicalization embedded by Pakistan in Kashmir. The fear of the militants' gun is so high that people are afraid to speak up. Pakistan has its strategic assets in all sections of the society and economy. The strategic assets of Pakistan are also in the media. They constantly peddle the Pakistan narrative on Kashmir. This is real and experienced in Kashmir. Please grasp it.

All those who speak up for media freedom for Fahad Shah and his ilk must take personal guarantee for these terror apologists and their "journalism" before they speak up.

Through his magazine The Kashmir Walla, Fahad Shah has made concerted attempts to discredit the efforts of the state to give a safe and secure environ-

ment to the people of Kashmir. There is a constant attempt to delegitimize such efforts. This is the strategy constantly adopted by so-called journalists like Fahad Shah.

Such disinformation was largely ignored before August 5, 2019. Thereafter, the state became cognizant of the dangers of disinformation. The state took serious note of how disinformation is milked by Pakistan for pushing its agenda on Kashmir. Through his magazine The Kashmir Walla, Fahad Shah is playing the same barely concealed, insidious role in Kashmir.

It is good, Mr Tharoor, that the doings of Fahad Shah and Co are now being revealed. Courtesy the brouhaha over the detention and arrest of Fahad Shah, his dark de-

signs masquerading as journalism are getting exposed. He was using his media platform to conveniently sell the Pakistan narrative in Kashmir.

Mr Tharoor, next time you stand up for Fahad Shah, remember Sunanda Pushkar. Remember that an insidious agenda cannot be labeled as journalism or even dissent.

The agenda-driven news reporting that glorifies and romanticizes terror has to be called out by the state. This isn't about individual liberties or freedom of the press. This is about the right of Kashmiris to live a safe and secure life free of the narratives that Pakistan wants to spin in Kashmir. You may admit it or not, but it is truly about national security. Get it.

The Bullying Of Aroosa Parvaiz And The Denial Of Choice Over Hijab

When choice is denied, it can no longer be classified as such. It is an imposition

In Jammu, Delhi, Chandigarh, Mumbai, other Indian cities or even abroad, many Kashmiri girls wear the hijab. Many don't wear the hijab. It is a matter of personal choice. No one should dictate to them whether to wear the hijab or not wear it



by Bisma NAZIR

Budgam girl qualifies NEET without joining any private coaching centre

Uzma Zehra, daughter of a carpenter in Central Kashmir's Budgam, has qualified the prestigious NEET examination in her first attempt without joining any private coaching centre.

Uzma is a resident of Watmagam area of Budgam. She is a student of Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Magam. Uzma said that since she could not afford any coaching centre, she surfed the internet and learnt through the Physics, Chemistry, and Biology lessons available on YouTube. Uzma said there are many NEET lessons on YouTube and students can benefit much by using them for study.



ADORABLE FACES OF KASHMIR, INSTAGRAM

Many Kashmiri Girls Feel Compelled To Wear The Hijab When They Are In The Valley

I was once in a flight from Delhi to Srinagar. In the flight a girl was sitting in the same row as me. She was not wearing the hijab. When the plane was about to land in Srinagar, she took her hijab and wore it. When I discussed this among my friends, they said that they had seen other girls do the same in the flight. When the discussion became larger, many Kashmiris responded that they had seen fellow Kashmiri women take off the hijab before the plane landed in another city.

It was evident after the discussion that many Kashmiri girls don't wear the hijab outside Kashmir. But they choose to wear it while they are in the Valley. Why do we see this difference? Perhaps they feel compelled to wear the hijab when they are in Kashmir.

Nobody has the right to judge anyone in the society in the name of religion. It is a choice of every girl to wear the hijab if she wants to, or not wear it. Kashmiri girls are achieving so much, whether in academics or sports. They are making all of us Kashmiris proud. Should we judge them by their choice to wear or not wear the hijab?

is an empowering practice for women. It is a choice that a woman must make through faith, education and freedom.

But the freedom of choice is not really being provided by the social media bullies. Academic scholar Aroosa Parvaiz has been viciously bullied on social media because she chose not to wear the hijab.

What kind of choice is this? Is the choice restricted to only wearing the hijab? Not wearing the hijab is not a choice? When choice is denied, it can no longer be classified as such. It is an imposition.

ADORABLE FACES OF KASHMIR, INSTAGRAM



Tabinda Jan Tops Class 12 Commerce In Kashmir With 99.4 %

Tabinda Jan, who hails from Khalil Colony in Soura, Srinagar, has scored 99.4% in Class 12 and is the commerce topper of Kashmir. Tabinda is the daughter of Fayaz Ahmad Ganie. Talking to mediapersons, Tabinda said that she is thankful to Almighty Allah, her school Kashmir Harward and her teachers. "I am happy and thankful to Almighty Allah, and to my teachers who helped me and guided me. I request the UT Administration to provide the best facilities to the students," she said.

'Storytelling is not a tradition in Kashmir. The way we communicate is through stories'

ONAIZA DRABU IN SCROLL

SCROLL.IN

"We are who we are through the stories we are told and the stories we tell. I would be curious then, to know what our stories say about us Kashmiris. Kashmiri folklore tells us that as a race, we enjoy the macabre; that evil sometimes triumphs; that men need to be afraid of beautiful women who may lure them to a brutal end; that women must constantly be kept on vigil against ogres; that luck is vital and pretty much nothing can change if you're destined for misfortune. We Kashmiris love our stories. Cut off from the rest of the world, in this multicultural, multilingual potpourri of customs and traditions, we have spun our own yarns to live by." — Onaiza Drabu, "The Legend of Himal and Nagrai and Other Stories"



SOCIAL MEDIA BULLIES HAVE NO RIGHT TO GIVE MORAL LESSONS TO ANYONE

These social media bullies have no right to give moral lessons to anyone. They are threatening Aroosa with violence. Do they think they are practicing our beautiful religion by doing so? No. These social media abusers should be ashamed of their comments on Aroosa. The girl can get depressed by their abusive comments. Who knows a scholar of such high merit may choose to leave Kashmir because of their violent threats.

Nobody has the right to judge anyone in the society in the name of religion. It is a choice of every girl to wear the hijab if she wants to, or not wear it. Kashmiri girls are achieving so much, whether in academics or sports. They

are making all of us Kashmiris proud. Should we judge them by their choice to wear or not wear the hijab?

Many Kashmiri girls say they are fond of wearing sarees, jeans, skirts etc. But they cannot wear any of these outfits in Kashmir because some loud and aggressive members of our society do not give them the choice. Many progressive Kashmiris give this choice to the girls in their family, but they say – you can wear Western clothing or sarees outside Kashmir. Please avoid it within Kashmir. The situation is not congenial here for you to exercise your choice

These silent, peaceful and harmonious members of our society do not want to confront the social media bullies. They believe in a peaceful approach and a peaceful life. Why is the social code of Kashmir being dictated by rigid and hardcore Islamists? Why do we see this stark difference?

KASHMIR FOLLOWED INCLUSIVE ISLAM AND KASHMIRIYAT, BUT PAKISTAN HAS RIGIDLY INDOCTRINATED US

From our study of our Kashmiri heritage, I know that Kashmir followed inclusive Islam and Kashmiriyat. It is tragic how deeply Pakistan has indoctrinated us. Now Islamic extremists try to rule the Kashmir society with their strict code.

In Jammu and Delhi, I have seen many Kashmiri girls. Many of them wear the hijab. Many of them don't wear the hijab. It is their individual choice, which must be respected. My friends tell me of many Kashmiri girls in Chandigarh, Mumbai, Bangalore and other cities within India, or those living abroad. Many wear the hijab. Many don't wear the hi-

jab. Again it is a matter of personal choice. All individuals must have their own choice. Their rights should not be restricted.

But the social media bullies of our society don't understand this. Regarding the girls of Karnataka, these bullies are shouting that girls should have the choice to wear what they want to. But do the bullies give the same choice to the girls in Kashmir? No. They only use the word 'choice' when incidents like Karnataka come up.

SOCIAL MEDIA BULLIES SHOULD ADDRESS CONCERNS LIKE DRUG MENACE

The social media bullies who are so concerned about girls wearing the hijab should take up many other major concerns of our society. Drug consumption by the youth is an alarming issue for the

Kashmir society. The growing use of narcotics is the root cause of crimes against women and other crimes in Kashmir. Why aren't social media bullies concentrating on these issues if they are so concerned about Kashmir?

No one has the right to trespass into anyone's life. Aroosa's words were a fit answer to social media bullies. "Wearing or not wearing hijab doesn't define one's belief in their religion. Maybe I love Allah more than these trolls. I am a Muslim by heart, not by a hijab," said Aroosa.

Social media bullies shall always be there, trying to impose their will through aggression or violence. They shall always try to degrade women or also degrade other men with whom they don't agree. But it is not the bullies who show the way to the society. It is the achievers who are role models. They show the way to the society.



I stand by the girls of Karnataka who want to wear the hijab. Equally, I stand by Aroosa Parvaiz.

SANA IMTIYAZ The Happy Baker

"I shifted from a conventional science student to the art of baking, not entirely by choice when I started off but eventually ended up finding my niche in life. I had enjoyed baking since childhood, but never knew this was my true calling.

My journey hasn't been a smooth sail, as it might seem to many people. Moving away from the conventional career choices that were offered in our society was anything but an easy path. But what kept me going is the contentment and joy baking gives me; and also the support from my family & friends. After I passed my 12th boards, I was supposed to go to a Medical School (as it's an implied norm in our society which we adhere to organically) but things didn't go as planned. So I went to Miranda House, Delhi University to pursue BSc. However, I wasn't at peace with my own true self and I constantly felt like I'm doing something I don't enjoy. This is when I decided to find my true calling and quit the course. After exploring for a while I zeroed in on 'Baking'. It is like a happiness pill to me. Everything seems better when I'm designing and crafting new things on my own & putting in all the effort. I feel like this is where I belonged all along! I wish to do more in the field of baking and live upto my full potential as a baker" -Sana @sweettemptationbysanaimtiyaz.



FACEBOOK.COM/ADORABLEFACESOFKASHMIRR/PHOTOS

Many Kashmiri girls say that they are fond of wearing sarees, jeans, skirts etc. But they cannot wear any of these outfits in Kashmir because some loud and aggressive members of our society do not give them the choice. Many progressive Kashmiris give girls in their family this choice, but it is likely they will say - You can wear these clothes outside. Don't wear them in Kashmir. The situation is not congenial here for you to exercise your choice

KASHMIR IS A PROGRESSIVE, DYNAMIC SOCIETY

Pushback By Conservatives And Modernists Is Part Of Social Churn

It is wrong to see Kashmir as a monolith where no personal choice or agency is given to girls. Kashmir has a vibrant life in its own way. Our weddings and family functions are large, jovial spaces where clans come together for fun and frolic. We also have a vibrant restaurant and café culture in Srinagar and in our large towns and popular tourist destinations.

Kashmir continues to be a deeply aspirational society despite the current crisis. At the same time, our religious ethos is a deep part of us. In our public spaces, one can see a vast majority of girls who wear the hijab with pride. One can also see a small emerging percentage of women and girls who are choosing not to wear the hijab. Most of them

are from among the elite Kashmiris who have studied or worked outside, or have been raised outside Kashmir.

Earlier, social disapproval for not wearing the hijab was higher. Now, women or girls who do not want to wear the hijab are making themselves visible. The society has space for them. Despite Pakistan's rigid indoctrination, we Kashmiris retain some of our tolerant and moderate values.

Yes – there is a pushback from the conservatives. Equally, there is a pushback from the modernists who want to practice their religion the way they see right.

This social churning is always part of any progressive and dynamic society. So is Kashmir. Progressive and dynamic despite Pakistan's attempts to tie us to the yoke.

Kashmiri beaten, humiliated, kicked out for daring to eat at Syed Salahuddin's office in Pakistan

A video recently went viral over social media in Kashmir. A man is seen in the video beating his head aggressively and bitterly crying. "Mere saath zulum hua. I served Aamir Sahab and Peer Sahab for 20 years. Why did they beat me? I have even picked up Peer Sahab's and Aamir Sahab's shoes. Why did they do this to me? Why did they beat me?" Other men are seen consoling the man, but in vain.

The crying man is referring to Aamir Khan, the militant commander from South Kashmir residing in Pakistan, and Peer Sahab is Syed Salahuddin, the head of terrorist organization Hizbul Mujahiddin. This person seen in the video has served Syed Salahuddin and militant commander Amir Khan for 20 years. He was the security guard of Syed Salahuddin, who is living a luxurious life in

Pakistan in the name of carrying out jihad in Kashmir. The man was ruthlessly beaten, humiliated and kicked out after daring to eat at Salahuddin's luxury office. All his hard work to serve his bosses counted to nothing. For him, it was all over in the blink of an eye.

This is not the first time that a Kashmiri is facing such a situation. Hundreds of Kashmiri youth who had gone to Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir for waging jihad against India are now facing a similar situation for their children and families.

Syed Salahuddin Sahib is asking for azadi living amidst luxury in a posh colony in Pakistan. The innocent Kashmiris have been dying for decades so that the so-called conflict goes on, and Pakistan Army and the likes of Syed Salahuddin can keep raking in millions.



Ms Nirupama Subramanian of *The Indian Express* and Ms Suhasini Haidar Of *The Hindu* DO THE THARROOR On Kashmir. A Kashmiri Gives Them A Fitting Response

For Our Comments, Refer Page 10 to 13

Nirupama Subramanian @tallstories
At the rate at which JK police/administration is going after journalists, there will be soon more journalists in Kashmir jails than militants. The targeting of journalists in Kashmir should worry media across the country.
10:23 am · 18 Feb 22 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

Suhasini Haidar @suhasinih
What will Jammu Kashmir authorities do once they have hunted down and locked up every journalist? [#JournalismIsNotACrime](#)
The Hindu @the_hindu · 18h
A J&K court issued an arrest warrant against journalist Gowhar Nazir Geelani on Thursday, writes @peerashiq trib.al/57TdyDk

Raja Muneeb @RajaMuneeb
Jammu Kashmir authorities are locking up propagandists, terror apologists and mouthpieces of ISPR run propaganda who masquerade as journalists. Now the question is, which category are you defending among these?

The Hypocrisy Of Social Media Bullies In Kashmir

by Bisma NAZIR

The hypocrisy of social media bullies in Kashmir brazenly played out recently when the photograph of the Class 12 topper went viral on social media. No sooner had people started congratulating her and sending her good wishes that social media bullies unleashed her vicious trolling for not covering her head with the hijab or headscarf.

It is a coincidence that around the same time, a hijab-wearing student of Karnataka was chased by goons of another faith for her attire. Over the last few days, trolls in Kashmir have been aghast at the heckling of the girl from Karnataka for wearing the hijab. They vociferously argued that to wear or not wear the hijab is the girl's choice.

They also put forward the argument that India is a secular democratic nation. Every individual has the right to wear what he or she wants to wear. On many social media accounts, the comparison was drawn that if the chief minister of the largest state in the country can wear saffron kurta and dhoti to office, why can't a girl choose the attire of her choice? This argument is valid. Nobody has the right to impose his or her choice on others.

Herein lies the hypocrisy. The social media bullies in Kashmir want the Indian state and the Indian people to follow the secular principles because there is accommodation in the idea of secularism and democracy. It guarantees equal rights and opportunities for all without any discrimination on the basis of race, colour, language, region or religion. The

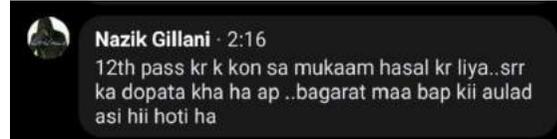
The social media bullies in Kashmir want that girls in Karnataka must be given the choice to wear the hijab if they want to. They are refusing to accept the same argument in Kashmir - that a girl has the choice and free will to wear or not wear the hijab as she wills. Why? Kashmir is not an Islamic state. Here too, one has the same choice that is available in secular India



PICUKI.COM



Aroosa Parvaiz with her family



well-founded argument is that India is a secular democratic country. It is constitutionally bound to allow the girl from Karnataka the free will to wear what she chooses to.

But the trolls are refusing to accept the same argument in Kashmir – that a girl has the choice and free will to wear or not wear the hijab. Why? Kashmir is not an Islamic state. Here too, one has the same choice that is available in secular India. In Kashmir as in the rest of India, one is not compelled to follow religious bigots or social media bullies.

It is deeply unfortunate that the girl who chooses not to wear a headscarf in Kashmir is abused. Here the argument of freedom of choice is not extended

PAKISTAN'S EFFORT TO DEEPEN KASHMIR'S EXCLUSIVITY

An interesting dimension of trolling in Kashmir is that Pakistani social media users immediately jump into the argument related to Kashmir and raise the din several notches higher. Their consistent attempt is to deepen Kashmir's exclusivity.

There is a definite pattern which is being followed by Pakistan to socially discredit the freedom of choice in Kashmir. This pattern is evident in the anti-India rhetoric and also in the project of Islamization. The pattern is this: A social media bully or a so-called working journalist comments on something vengeful against the Indian state or against those Kashmiris who have nationalist credentials.

Thereafter, the argument is given strength by social media bullies within Pakistan or those owing allegiance to the Pakistan establishment. They are the first to give traction to these comments through Twitter or Facebook. In this way, a storm is unleashed on social media in favour or against the subject.

Class 12 topper Arusa is the latest victim of this pattern. It has rightly been pointed out by some that these trolls are swarms of radicalized Kashmiri well-frogs who want Kashmir to remain a cesspool. The concerted efforts by the Pakistani establishment through their radicalized stooges have intruded deep into Kashmir society. They have blinded many by their narrow world view. The bold and confident Arusa appropriately responded to the trolls by saying that she doesn't need the certificate of being a good Muslim from anyone.

by the religious bigots. Her family and friends are cursed for giving the girl an upbringing where they don't insist upon their daughters to wear hijab.

Semi-literate and small-minded people jump into the debate to shame the girls who exercise their

right of choice. While many Kashmiri youngsters are seeking excellence and glory in diverse fields, other Kashmiris are plunging to new depths. Some are conjuring up lies to undermine the Kashmiri girls studying in the mainland.

It is a matter of shock and concern that they regard moral policing as a matter of right. Recently, a video went viral in which a group of Kashmiri young men were seen barging into the rooms occupied by Kashmiri girls late at night. The young men are seen alleging that the girls staying there had slept with boys of another faith.

Does this rowdiness define how we as a society are going to grow? Are we going to be a society where every Kashmiri shall take it upon himself to do moral policing for girls – regardless of whether he knows them or not?

A couple of years ago, moral policing by some elements in the UP government was widely denounced by the same lot of social media bullies. But where Kashmiri girls are concerned, they take it as a matter of right to abuse them if the girls don't follow the diktat.

Screenshots of the incident at Amritsar



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SIX MONTHS OF TALIBAN RULE

August 15 to February 15

NEWSNATIONNOW.COM/



The Taliban have taken no steps to limit the activities of foreign terrorists, who enjoy greater freedom than at any time in recent history



Hundreds of thousands of Afghans have fled Afghanistan



Afghanistan has the potential to become a safe haven for al-Qaeda and other terror groups that can threaten stability in Central Asia and beyond



SEVERE CHECKS ON EDUCATION FOR GIRLS

Majority of secondary schools - for girls aged from 13 to 18 - have not reopened since August 15.

Taliban say that education for all will resume by March end, but it seems difficult to achieve. A large number of women teachers have fled, and men cannot lead classes for girls.

Most private universities have opened but face teacher shortage. Classes are segregated by gender. There can be no mingling of men and women between classes. Some government universities are operating under similar conditions. The attendance of women is very low



THEGLOBEANDMAIL.COM

SOME DESPERATE AFGHAN PARENTS SELLING CHILDREN SO REST OF FAMILY CAN SURVIVE

Aziz Gul's husband sold the couple's 10-year-old girl into marriage without telling her so that he could feed his family of five children. Without that money, he told her, they would all starve. He had to sacrifice one to save the rest. Many are even trying to sell their sons

FOURALS.COM



Half the population of around 39 million is facing starvation



WOMEN BANISHED FROM MOST ASPECTS OF PUBLIC LIFE

Women have been effectively barred from employment. They can work only in specialized sectors such as health care and education. Taliban intelligence operatives keep a close watch to make sure that strict segregation between men and women is enforced

DW.COM



THE AFGHAN ECONOMY IS ON THE BRINK OF COLLAPSE

Afghans have to wait for hours to withdraw even a limited amount of their own money. Legions of state employees, including doctors, haven't been paid in months



BBC.COM

WOMEN CANNOT TRAVEL WITHOUT MALE RELATIVE

Women cannot travel between cities and towns unless a male relative is with them. Taxi drivers have been told that even if a male relative is with the woman, she cannot take a taxi if her head is not covered



BEAUTY PARLOURS, FASHION BOUTIQUES SHUT SHOP

Beauty parlours and fashion boutiques in the capital were booming before the Taliban's return, but they have largely disappeared



NO WOMEN ON TV

Television channels have been ordered to stop showing dramas and soap operas featuring women actors, while female journalists must wear a hijab in front of cameras

INDIABLOOMS.COM/



86 radio stations have halted operations over the past six months



IBTIMES.SG

NO SPORTS FOR WOMEN

Senior Taliban officials say it is "unnecessary" for women to play sport. But they have not been able to stop women sports because international funding is received only if both genders are allowed to play



THEATLANTIC.COM

DEATH FOR THE ARTS

Many of the country's leading singers, musicians, artists and photographers have fled since the Taliban's return, while those who couldn't escape have gone into hiding or are keeping a very low profile

Afghan Women Risking Their Lives To Protest

WHAT DO WE WANT?

**Existence
Rights
Freedom**

WHEN DO WE WANT?

Now

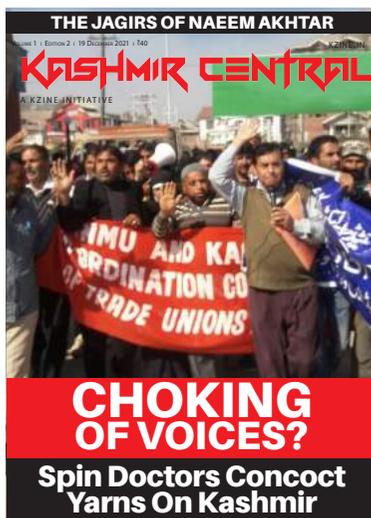
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