

THE KASHMIR

LAPID'S BIASED
SWIPE OF DENIAL
Tumhara Terrorist, Terrorist
Hamara Terrorist, Human Rights



CONNECT

VOLUME 1

EDITION-1

The Learning: Kashmiris
Are The Bulwark Against
Terror Ecosystem

How a

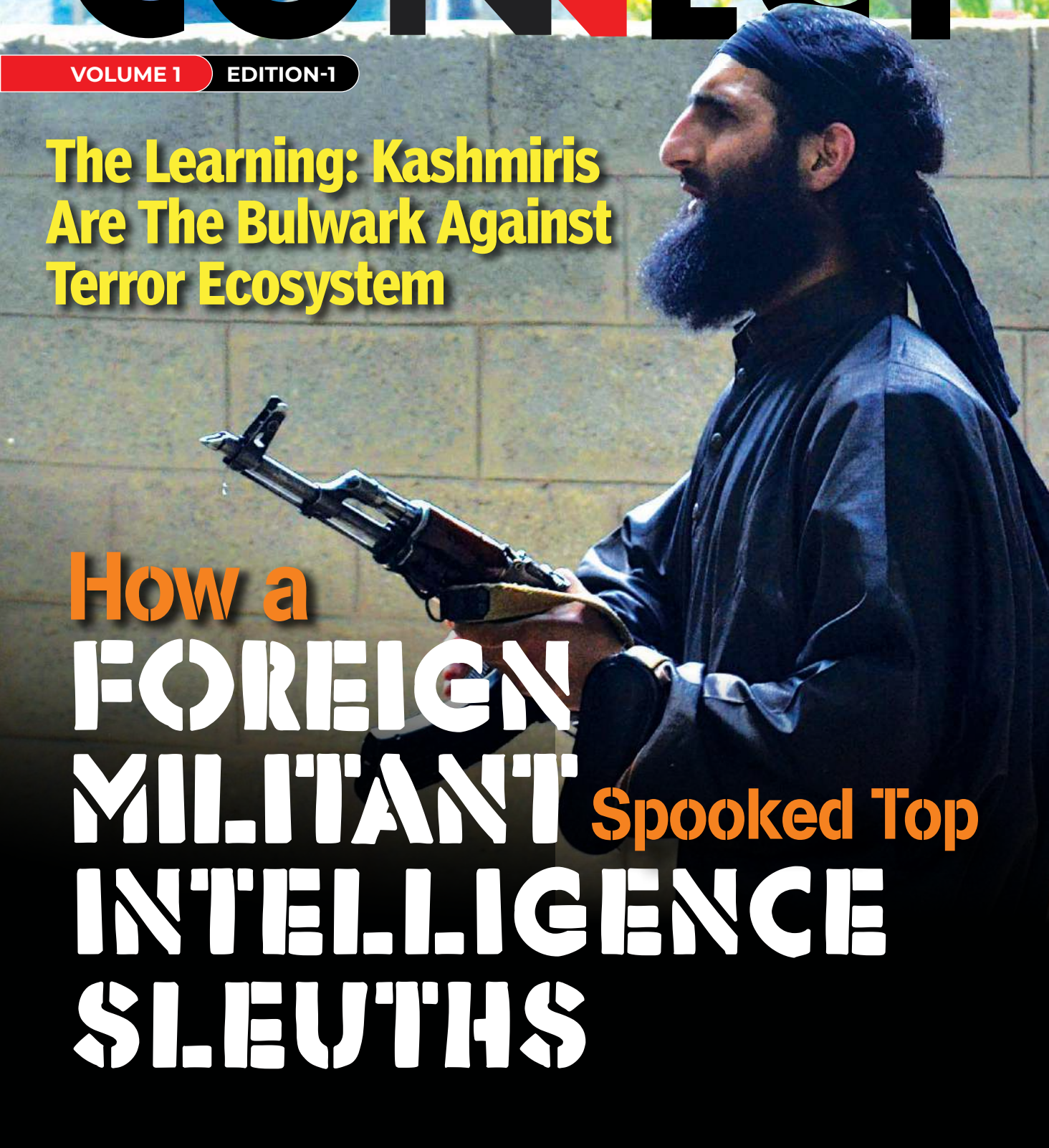
FOREIGN

MILITANT

INTELLIGENCE

SLEUTHS

Spooked Top





THE **KASHMIR**
CONNECT

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Help Kashmir's MSMEs Revive, Sustain And Prosper



A recent video applauding the owners of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) caught my attention. I wish its makers had included some entrepreneurs of Kashmir.

The hard work and courage of Kashmir's entrepreneurs, businessmen and traders is a major reason why, despite all challenges, the region's economy is growing. Their efforts for the pursuit of their dreams in spite of all hardships deserve acknowledgment and respect. Many of them need assistance at this critical juncture.

Kashmir's diverse sectors including tourism, trade, houseboat industry, business and school education stakeholders have urged the government to adopt a "multipronged strategy" to boost these sectors and hold public sector banks accountable for providing hassle-free services.

Mr Sheikh Ashiq, President of Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry, told KASHMIR CONNECT that Kashmir's business community has faced immense hardships for many years due to circumstances beyond their control.

Appropriate handholding by the government and by J&K Bank shall go a long way in helping the MSME sector recover, sustain and prosper.

Mr Ashiq said that he receives constant feedback from the various stakeholders regarding harassment and humiliation by bank executives, tourism officials and the other sarkari babus. "Kashmiri entrepreneurs are playing a vital role by providing employment to the youth and engaging them in constructive, rewarding jobs. GOI spends crores on addressing security concerns in Kashmir. We request the Central government and the Hon'ble LG that a very small part of that huge budget is required to handhold the businesses that have suffered due to extraneous factors," said Mr Ashiq.

He is right. Helping MSMEs grow shall be a win-win for the economy and also for Kashmir's society.

GAYATRI MOHAN

THE KASHMIR
CONNECT

VOLUME 1 EDITION-1

Editor-in-Chief

GAYATRI MOHAN

Deputy Editor

ABIDA WAR

Consulting Editor

SHEIKH MUDASIR HUSSAIN

All Rights Reserved.

Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited

All Advertising enquiries, comments and feedback are welcome at

thekashmirconnect@gmail.com

Website

thekashmirconnect.com

Periodicity: **Weekly**

Language: **English**

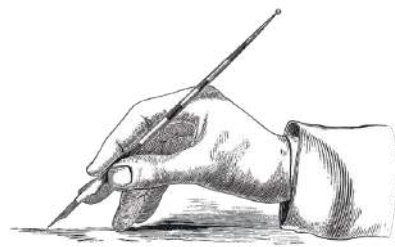
The information contained in this magazine has been reviewed for accuracy and is deemed reliable but is not necessarily complete or guaranteed by the Editor. The views expressed in this Magazine are solely that of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of KASHMIR CONNECT

Office

THE KASHMIR CONNECT

Khan Arcade, Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar

Follow me    



FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPUTY EDITOR

ABIDA WAR



Muluk ki Shaan Aurat ka Maan

COUNTRY COMMITTED TO WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

I hail the landmark decision regarding the Anganwadi workers and AWHs of Jammu & Kashmir by the Administrative Council under the chairmanship of LG Shri Manoj Sinha ji.

Women are born empowered. Their capabilities and commitments are rewarded, respected and regarded in country like Bharat.

Definitely, the recent decision shall be hugely welcomed by the people of J&K. This can be an initial milestone for the start of the journey regarding women empowerment in J&K UT. There are a large number of female Supervisors in ICDS (Department of Social Welfare) who have not been promoted for two decades even though they possess the complete eligibility criteria. They have decades of experience in the holistic development of children. The UT Administration should promote them as Child Development officers (CDPOs).

Women of Jammu and Kashmir are looking forward with high hopes that

they shall be empowered and prioritized, so that they can contribute towards self-reliant Bharat to the best of their ability.

Women have always been worshipped in our culture. The right balance between men and women has been part of our glorious heritage. Wars tested us, but our country retained its deep-rooted culture which has no parallel across the globe.

I observe that Narrative Wars are consistently trying to weaken the social-integrated culture of Bharat. But we – the mothers, sisters and daughters of Bharat – stand shoulder to shoulder with men to share responsibilities and duties at every stage.

Mahatma Gandhi, Swami Vivekanand and all our glorious saints and leaders regarded women as the symbol of our pride and courage. All of us Indians shall together build the integrated ethos of our society and nation.



CONTENTS

06 | The Filth That We Saw The Filth That We Faced
By Latief Geelani

11 | Our Kashmir Has Lived Through The Dark Age Of Militancy
By Abida War

15 | How a Foreign Militant Spooked Top Intelligence Sleuths
By Gayatri Mohan

19 | Tumhara Terrorist, Terrorist Hamara Terrorist, Human Rights
By Gayatri Mohan



Faces of Silence

Militancy And Terrorism Years

The Filth That We Saw

*The **Filth** That
We Faced*

- I don't know why everybody spoke of Kashmir militancy and terrorism in glorious terms
- I don't know why everybody kept on selling this lie over and over again

by Latief Geelani

This is what they did to our sisters, our daughters at that time. It was so deeply tragic, so deeply unfortunate. Nobody wrote of this deep filth that we faced in Kashmir. Nobody conducted a study on it. Nobody did a research project on it.



Today, I am sitting down to write of the black years of Kashmir, when militancy and terrorism ruled. If I write all of what I observed, all that I watched and heard, I may be writing for weeks and months together. My tears would be falling on the pages as I wrote. Because those years are filled with so much pain.

The pain of those years has made me what I am. My life, my activities today are a response to the heartache, the helplessness of those years.

Till what extent can we describe all that we saw? I don't have the words to describe all that we saw in front of our own eyes. We saw men, women and children becoming victims of

militancy and terrorism. We saw the old, the oppressed, the rich, the traders, the farmers, the professionals becoming victims of militancy and terrorism. We saw sisters, daughters, wives of people among us becoming victims of militancy and terrorism.

Militancy started in 1989. By 1991, the situation had sharply deteriorated.

Militants Used To Take Away Sisters, Daughters

I saw that third-class people had picked up guns and become militants. They took away girls, daughters of highly respectable families. The families were left crying. The girls were sometimes returned. Sometimes

they were not.

I hail from Uri, and I was studying in a college in Baramulla. I observed that parents who had young daughters used to feel so scared. Militants used to come and take away their daughters for a month, two months, three months. Some girls got kidnapped, and they were never restored to their parents. Did they take them to Pakistan, did they kill them? Nobody knows.

The parents used to come to police stations to lodge missing report. So many times, it seemed that the policemen would express their inability to locate the missing girls. The people of the mohallas, the community would form groups who would then form some connect with the militants so that the girl could be restored to the family.

Many times, if the father refused permission to the militants to take away his daughter, they would shoot the father in front of the girl and other family members and take her away. If the brother refused, he was shot dead. And the girl was taken away. So many times, the man of the house was shot, and the wife was taken away. So many times women or girls were exploited within the same house, with the rest of the family

members in other parts of the house.

Parents would protest, they would be crying. But everybody had to bow before the gun.

Militants Occupied Houses, Brutalized Women

So many times, more times than one can remember, we heard that militants had come to occupy a house. They used to tell the men of the house to leave. Then they would occupy the same house with the women. They would bring women from some other houses too.

Eight to ten militants would hold guard outside the house, allowing nobody to come near there. They would also watch if anybody was doing any mukhbiri regarding the activities in the house. About 15 to 20 militants or more would be inside. Many of them would take turns to be the guard, or to be inside the house. All of it was really ugly.

From 1990 to 1997, this continued unabated in Kashmir. The situation was dark and scary. Only about 10 per cent Kashmiris were left who sided with India. I can say that about 90 per cent people had sided with militancy and Pakistan by that time.

Suppose there were ten houses in a street. In eight out of ten houses, boys were taken away for militancy. They were given money or their parents were given money, and the boys were taken to join militancy. All these incidents left a deep impact upon me.

AJEEB NASHA THIHA US WAQT

A single concept was bred among all of us. In the masjid, in the darsghah, in all community areas, a single concept was bred. We were taught *ki hum ghulaam hain. Hum azad hona chahte hain. Hum Pakistan ke saath jaana chahte hain.*

A strange kind of stupor seemed to rule at that time. A strange kind of nasha. It was as if this *nasha* had descended upon the entire population. *Bohot nasha thha us waqt.* Everybody believed in this propaganda.

People started believing that if their son had gone to Pakistan, he would come back and liberate Kashmir from India.





The Daughter Of The Moulvi Saab Who Was Taken To A Terror Camp

In Uri, there was a highly respected Jamia Khateeb, the Moulvi Saab. The daughter of the Moulvi Saab was abducted from her house. She was about 18 years old. She was unmarried.

She was taken to Pakistan and kept at a camp. After about two months, a group of militants brought her back to Kashmir. The family was related to us, and the girl was like my sister. After she was back, she narrated



About the Author



**LATIEF
GEELANI**



I am Latief Geelani, a social and peace activist. I hail from Uri and I reside in Baramulla. I am the District Organiser and State Executive Member of the J&K Rehbar Taleem Teachers Forum

I work with local volunteer organizations like Student for Seva and J&K Women Empowerment Trust (JKWET)

I am a founding member of Panin Wath, an initiative by the Army in Baramulla for women's empowerment

I am an educationist. I organized the Tiranga Abhiyan Rally in Baramulla on 15 August, 2021. The rally was organized in the most sensitive areas of Baramulla district near the LOC

I was also part of the 100 feet Tiranga Rally from Gupkar Road to Lal Chowk in Srinagar on 15 August, 2022

I have organized many integrity sammelans with Kashmiri Pandit brothers. I try to stand by them in their pain and grief

On 26 January 2022, I conducted the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan in adjoining areas



Even the liberals kept on talking of militancy and terrorism in glorious terms. The national and international liberals acted like militancy and terrorism was the duty of the Kashmiris. As if we had no choice but resistance, militancy and terrorism

all that she had undergone there to some of the family members. I would have been about 22 years old at that time.

I cannot even write of what the girl told us – about what she had undergone. She was bitterly crying all through it. She cried so much that at times she could not even speak. She just sat there and cried. Everybody who was sitting there – all the men and women – all were crying.

This is what they did to our sisters, our daughters at that time. It was so deeply

tragic, so deeply unfortunate. Nobody wrote of this deep filth that we faced in Kashmir. Nobody conducted a study on it. Nobody did a research project on it.

Even the liberals kept on talking of militancy and terrorism in glorious terms. The national and international liberals acted like militancy and terrorism was the duty of the Kashmiris. As if we had no choice but resistance, militancy and terrorism.

I don't know why everybody kept on selling this lie over and over again.

**MY TWO COUSINS WERE TAKEN BY
MILITANTS AS HUMAN RESOURCE
INNOCENT TEENAGERS WERE FORCED
TO PICK UP THE GUN**

Our Kashmir Has Lived Through The Dark Age Of Militancy

Everything was dominated by militants, or by Jamaat e Islami. People had to take consent letters from the local Jamaat leaders for getting timber, water connection, electricity connection. This was common practice



by **Abida War**

Only those who lived through the dreadful, horrific times of militancy. After militancy

began, the Kashmiri Pandits were driven out. After that, militants began preparing hit lists of the Kashmiri Muslims they wanted to kill.

The first targets of the militants were those who had joined the Congress or the National Conference. My Baba (maternal grandfather) Ghulam Rasool War was the Sarpanch of 11 villages in Handwara of Kupwara district. He served at many levels from block level to district level in Indian National Congress.

But the militants had no space for democracy. All those who joined INC or NC – their houses were burnt, their properties were destroyed. Our industrial unit was set afire in broad day light. Our Ambassador



car was taken and put to flames. People suffered endless miseries. These were the first hit lists of the militants, and the hit lists continued on and on.

Local Govt Was Run By JEI, Militants

The local government was run by the militants. I still remember

what I saw because the fear, the trauma was so deep.

Everything was dominated by militants, or by Jamaat e Islami. Suppose someone wanted timber for a house, or even a water connection. People had to take consent letters from the local Jamaat leaders for getting timber, water connection, electricity connection. This was

common practice. It became so normal that no one even questioned it.

In those years of militancy, people tasted the *hukumat* of Jamaat e Islami. Hizbul Mujahideen was the militant arm of Jamaat e Islami. From time to time, they would have a list. Fifty people are coming from par. Or forty people are coming from par. The list would be – where will these men be accommodated.

Which were the houses where these people from par were sent? They were sent to the houses of the nationalists.

My Two Cousins Were Pushed Into Militancy

I remember that the year was 1992 or 1993. There was a knock on the door. When my Uncle opened the house, we heard the shouts – *Vo Congressi kahan ha?* The *Congressi* they were asking for was my maternal grandfather. They wanted to kill him.

They had come with knives and with ropes to kill my grandfather. I saw that my uncles, my other family members had made him run and hide in another house.

My grandfather had worked hard to build a good life for his family. But extortion was a common practice for the militants. So often the order would be sent to my family. Send 50 pairs of shoes. Send 50 jackets. All these were given to militants. Such orders were commonly received.

Our whole family of about 60



When some intellectuals or thinkers justify and lionize militancy and terrorism, they never tell stories of how innocent boys were forced to become militants and got killed. They are forgotten sons of this soil. Nobody talks about them

people lived together in a big house. All uncles, aunts, cousins. The militants ordered that there was only one way in which our family could live peacefully. We were ordered to provide them with human resource. This was the diktat of the militants. They ordered that we would have to choose two boys from our house and give into militancy.

Among all our cousins, 12 were boys. Our big family had no choice. Again and again, again and again the militants hounded our family, they tormented our family because my grandfather had chosen to join politics and because he was an affluent man.

Finally, from among the 12

boys of our family, two were two were chosen to go into militancy. They did not want to go. They cried. They protested. They were only innocent teenagers at that time. What was their fault?

But we had no other option. When some intellectuals or thinkers justify and lionize militancy and terrorism, they never tell these stories. They never tell the stories of how innocent boys were forced to become militants to save the family. Many became militants like this also and were killed. They are forgotten sons of this soil. Nobody talks about them.

Among my two cousins who went, one somehow managed

About the Author



ABIDA WAR



I am Abida War, a peace and social activist. I am a public motivational speaker. I am the Chairperson of JKSEW-WA (Solace Employees Working women Association), the president of JKUT JKICDSSU, vice president of UT JKECC, and the patron of J&K Women Empowerment Trust

I am the Founder of Chirag International, a volunteer at Mother Helpage, an international NGO. I am associated with JKSWM (Student Welfare Mission)

I am the JK UT Incharge Girls for Student For Seva. I am the NSF Coordinator for J&K.

I have organized multiple campaigns in Kashmir for 'Ek Gavun EK Tiranga Abhiyan'

I am an organizer of the 100 feet Flag Yatra from Gupkar Road to the historic Lal Chowk

On 15 August, I organized the programs to unfurl the national flags in various villages and mohallas

I have been engaged with nation-orientated programs for a decade. I am proud of my grass root connectivity spanning across elders, mothers, fathers, youth, children



to escape and came back. The other cousin was killed. We cried for that blameless child who had to die.

We Begged For My Grandfather's Life

Our village is Baki Aker, in Handwara tehsil of Kupwara district. It is only three km from the sub-district headquarter at Handwara, and 21 km from district headquarter at Kupwara. Our village had become the hub of militants in that area.

Since my grandfather was an affluent man, we had a water connection in our house. One day, when my grandfather was walking on the road, the militants stopped him and told him – all that you wanted to do is over. Now you live a retired life and hand over the water connection to the public.

My grandfather was kidnapped by the militants seven times. Once when he was kidnapped, I was in Class V. For three days we had no information about Baba.

After three days, someone told us that he was at the house of a leader of Jamaat e Islami. My grandmother, I, my two

younger sisters and my brother went to the house of that man to plead for my release of Baba.

When we entered the house fearful and scared, we found about 10-20 militants sitting with guns there. We cried and asked them to release our grandfather. I was a little child.

As a small child, I was crying in front of so many militants to release Baba. I said to them, my father is no more. There is nobody to look after us, to care for us. Please release my Baba or there will be no one to look after us, we will be *yateem*.

I was a small girl and I was crying. My grandmother, my brother and sisters – all were crying. I remember the name of a main militant sitting there. His name was Zubair. He said to me – *Kyon roti ho. Yahaan bohut saare bache yateem hai. Un ko dekhne wala bhi koi nahin hai. Tum kaun se ladle ho.*

I looked at him in horror. Whether those children were *yateem* or whether we would be *yateem*, was this a way to live? Was this a way for any society to exist – where children were crying and *yateem* and women were widows?

My Baba Always Said – Our Present And Future Is With India

My grandfather was abducted seven times. Finally we had to shift him from Handwara to Baramulla for his safety. I am thankful to the Almighty that we were blessed that he lived to a ripe old age despite all the threats that he had faced.

My grandfather had lived in Pakistan for seven years. He used to hate militants. It was after coming from Pakistan that he contested the Panchayat elections. My grandfather used to love his nation India. He always used to say that we are safe and secure only with India. Our present and future is with India.

A hand holding an assault rifle in a crowd. The background shows a dense crowd of people, some wearing headscarves, in a wooded area. A banner with orange and white stripes is visible in the upper right.

**THE LEARNING:
KASHMIRIS ARE THE
BULWARK AGAINST
TERROR ECOSYSTEM**

How a
FOREIGN
MILITANT
INTELLIGENCE
SLEUTHS

Spooked Top

by **Gayatri Mohan**

Darul Uloom Raheemiyah at Bandipora is the biggest Islamic seminary of Kashmir.

Intelligence reports say that speaking there some time ago, a Pakistani terrorist made a big boast.

The terrorist boasted that Pakistan spends only about Rs 5 lakh in creating a new terrorist and pushing him into India. Meanwhile, India spends about Rs 1.30 crore in keeping the fauj, the entire security apparatus in place to make sure that the terrorist does no harm and is neutralized as early as possible. His boast was this: How long can India afford to sustain the cost of subduing foreign terrorists? The burden will get too much sooner or later.

We tend to think in a linear fashion. We think that with the Army and the security forces stationed in Kashmir, a foreign terrorist is dealt with automatically. His presence does not inflict any cost. We think that only war inflicts cost.

But the golden rule of manufacturing and trade is staring us in the face. Everything costs. The question always is – how do we minimize the cost without compromising on quality, or without lowering the benchmarks. And finally, how do we neutralize the cost.

How To Reduce The Humungous Cost To The State?

The Army and the security forces now have an upper hand on terrorism in the Valley. But



The larger Kashmir society is our bulwark against the terror modules that exist within Kashmir. The large green zones in Kashmir society that prioritize harmony and peace are the nation's safeguard against pockets of terror. They are our assets in this war

the state has to incur huge costs to keep the upper hand. How do we reduce the cost that the state must necessarily incur in Kashmir, or in other areas where conflict is deliberately fomented?

Costs can be kept low by leveraging on our strengths. If we play up our strengths and make them even stronger, they shall provide support for the weak areas.

Our weak areas are the pockets in Kashmir that give space for terror modules to grow and sustain. If terrorists are on the back foot in Kashmir, it reveals that these pockets are getting more and more limited.

But the fact remains that they exist. The wise always warn that never underestimate the enemy.

Who Helps Us Neutralize The Terror Modules?

Recently, ADGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar told some visiting journalists that the police have busted 119 terror modules this year. From where do the police get information regarding these terror modules? It is from the Kashmiri society, the people who refuse to make space for terrorism in Kashmir.

The larger Kashmir society is our bulwark against terror

Flourishing societies stand up against terror. A good economy combined with strong welfare measures shall make J&K flourish. Hence the Union government's insistence on good governance in J&K, and on effective delivery of services

modules that exist within Kashmir. The large green zones in Kashmir society that prioritize harmony and peace are the nation's safeguard against pockets of terror. They are our assets in this war.

There is no room for mistake here. The Pakistani terrorist who spoke at Bandipora knows that with every terrorist that it pushes in, Pakistan is inflicting war upon us. If we do not look at this whole matrix as war, we may be losing the equation.

Hence the need is to strengthen this support system – the people of Kashmir. In terms of strategy, it helps us to have more and more Kashmiris in the green zone who have zero tolerance for terrorists.

Flourishing societies stand up against terror. A good economy combined with strong welfare measures shall make J&K flourish. Hence the Union government's insistence on good governance in J&K, and on effective delivery of services.

THE WAR TACTIC

Media houses recently carried the headline, “Three districts in Kashmir free of terrorism: Police”. According to the reports, ADGP (Kashmir zone) Vijay Kumar told some visiting journalists that Bandipora, Kupwara and Ganderbal districts in Kashmir have zero active terrorists currently. Police also said that two prominent terror organisations, Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed, have gone headless after security forces neutralised their operatives and commanders.

The ADGP added that there are about 15-18 active “hybrid” terrorists. Most of these hybrid terrorists are located in South Kashmir area comprising Pulwama, Shopian, Kulgam and Anantnag districts.

The ADGP's statement carries strategic significance. The ‘Bait And Kill’ approach is a war tactic. If the terrorists rise to the bait and reveal themselves through some action, the police and the security forces are ready to deal with them.





Incentivize, Empower Kashmiri Youth Working For The Nation

More and more young Kashmiris are now identifying themselves with India. It is time to incentivize and strengthen them. It is time to give these youth recognition and honour so that they feel empowered and their numbers grow. The UT Administration must take proactive measures in this regard.

The Central government must institutionalize the effort to strengthen and reward the Kashmiri youth who are identifying with India. It will effectively counter Pakistan's

false international narrative that the conflict in Kashmir is home-grown. It will also make the constituency of these youth prosper and grow.

Intelligence reports have consistently noted that a strong pro-India constituency in Kashmir shall translate into better security situation, stronger flow towards peace and prosperity. Large pro-India numbers in Kashmir shall steadily squeeze and minimize



the terror pockets.

The Kashmiri youth who do sterling work in the service of the nation can be honoured with coveted titles on the pattern of the glorious civilian honours bestowed by the President every year.

MR LAPID'S JUSTIFICATION OF
HIS REMARKS SPEAKS OF HOW
BLIND AND IGNORANT THE NEW
"WOKE" LIBERAL CLASS IS

Tumhara
Terrorist,
Terrorist
Hamara
Terrorist,
Human
Rights

by Gayatri Mohan



After the initial pain and shock over the extremely insensitive remarks made by the jury head of the International Film Festival of India Mr Nadav Lapid subsides, let us note some somber observations.

Mr Lapid's obtuse remarks have twisted the knife in the wound. And though this may have been far from his intentions, Mr Lapid has brought the sufferings of the Kashmiri Pandits on the global stage. He has unwittingly brought international attention to the told and untold tragedies of the Kashmiri Pandits. Let there be light. Let the truth be told.

Mr Lapid's justification of his remarks speaks of how blind and ignorant the new "woke" liberal class is. Speaking to a media house in the aftermath

Mr Lapid has unwittingly brought international attention to the told and untold tragedies of the Kashmiri Pandits. Let there be light. Let the truth be told

of his speech, Mr Lapid said the film Kashmir Files 'basically justifies the Indian policy in Kashmir, and it has fascist features.'

“Woke” Observations From Mr Lapid

Here are more “woke” observations from Mr Lapid, made in a telephonic interview to Israeli news outlet Ynetnews.

* In countries that are increasingly losing the ability to speak their mind or speak the

truth, someone needs to speak up

* ...It basically justifies the Indian policy in Kashmir, and it has fascist features...It is that the dimensions of the event were hidden by the intellectuals and the media. And it is always the same method – that there is the foreign enemy, and there are the traitors from within”

Clearly, in his ability to speak the truth, Mr Lapid has no comment to make on Islamist jihad. He is not moved by the tragic plight of a community that has faced persecution and

genocide solely on account of religion, and because they were and are a minority.

Mr Lapid Seemed To Have Lost Colour Later

Mr Lapid admitted after being questioned by host Mr Rahul Kanwal on the news channel India Today, "No one can determine if one film is propaganda and one is not. I totally respect and accept the fact that there are many people who love this movie, who think that it is a brilliant movie..." At the IFFI podium, Mr Lapid was sanctimonious. Speaking to Mr Kanwal on India Today, Mr Lapid looked frazzled and seemed to have lost colour.

Mr Vivek Agnihotri, the Director of Kashmir Files, posted a video on his Twitter handle. The video featured the priceless lines by

Mr Lapid is blissfully ignorant of the current geopolitical global realities. The reason is clear. Mr Lapid is protected and shielded from the scourge of terrorism that rips the lives and living of those in afflicted regions



Mr Lapid's Remarks

A Marie Antoinette Moment

Mr Lapid's obtuse remarks seem to be a Marie Antoinette moment. They have a parallel to the "Let them eat cake" remark of the queen of France during the French Revolution.

Marie Antoinette was told that the peasants of France had no bread to eat. They were starving. The queen famously responded: "Well, let them eat cake!" Since cake is far more expensive than bread, the anecdote has been cited as an example of the French queen's obliviousness to the conditions and daily lives of ordinary people.

This, Mr Lapid, is your insensitivity.

Mr Ricky Gervais, the British actor-writer-director at the 2020 Golden Globe awards for excellence in American film and television.

"If you do win an award tonight, please don't use it as a platform to make a political speech, right? You're in no position to lecture the public about anything. You know nothing about the real world. Most of you spent less time in school than Greta Thunberg. So if you win, right, come up, accept your little award, thank your agent, and your God, and %&%\$ off! Okay!"

Blissfully Ignorant Of Geo-Political Global Realities

Mr Lapid, evidently, did not heed Mr Gervais' advise. Political and cultural analyst Ms Sumati Mehrishi observed on Mr Lapid's "Cunning Broad Brush Of Denial": "Sometimes, politics behind art and its absorption is more gripping than art itself." Mr Lapid is blissfully ignorant of the current geo-political global realities. The reason is clear. Mr Lapid is protected and shielded from the scourge of terrorism that rips the lives and living of those in afflicted regions.

The Ambassador of Israel to India, Mr Naor Gilon undertook damage control on Twitter. In his wise and sensitive response to Lapid, Mr Gilon said, "You will go back to Israel thinking that you are bold and "made a statement"...As you vocally did in the past, feel free to use the liberty to sound your criticism of what you dislike in Israel but no need to reflect your frustration on other countries. I'm not sure that you have enough factual basis to make such comparisons..."

Kashmir Files Director Mr Agnihotri had posted on Twitter after Mr Lapid's comment: "Truth is the most dangerous thing. It can make people lie."

Mr Lapid's observations remind me of a popular phrase used in recent times. Tumhara terrorist, terrorist; Hamara terrorist, human rights...

At A Discussion On Kashmir Files

The Separatists Only Told Us To **Die!**

A young Kashmiri recently observed that the slogan 'Raliv Galiv Chaliv' was made in the 90s. He said he was sorry such a slogan was made for the Pandits. The youngster added, "At least the Pandits were given three options – leave, mix or die. The separatists gave us only one option with the agitations, stone-throwing and constant indoctrination – Die!"

This is the callousness and hollowness of the separatists who claimed to represent the Kashmiris. While their own children flourished, the sons of the poor Kashmiris were used as cannon fodder for the manufactured conflict.

NOTES FROM THE VALLEY



FROM THE CONSULTING EDITOR'S DESK

SHEIKH MUDASIR HUSSAIN



TOGETHER WE SHALL PROGRESS, TOGETHER WE SHALL PROSPER

Our country is gradually developing as a successful nation. We are gaining massive victories in each and every field. At international level, our nation has reached the position where other nations at the global high table take opinion from us. They wait for us to take the lead.

Pakistan is our enemy nation and it hates our progress. It is even trying to stall our consistent progress. Pakistan tries to indoctrinate and radicalize our youth. It is undertaking all efforts to make the Kashmiri youth drug addicts.

Our youth must open their eyes to the evils of our enemy nation. We have to understand our enemy. We have to understand its evil designs on our society, our economy.

If we peep into the past, we shall find that our enemy nation was always making efforts to divide Kashmiris from their motherland India on the basis of religion. Pakistan was doing this for its own benefit. But this led to the separation of children from their mother. It led to tragic deaths and destruction in the entire Valley.

Now it is the responsibility of each and every Kashmiri youth to retaliate against the diabolical designs of our enemy nation. We have to come forward and work for peace and prosperity in the Valley and our entire nation. We have to again make Kashmir the paradise where each and every person of different religious ideas and thoughts can stay and flourish in peace.

Now is the time to make hate and discord vanish from our land. We need to work on a strong base of love. The youth of Kashmir should remember that we must never be part of the destruction unleashed by Pakistan for more than 30 years.

We must stay in the forefront for the development of Kashmir and of the entire nation. We have to lighten the burden of our parents. We have to take care of them in old age. Our youth should follow their dreams and prosper. Their consistent efforts and consistent dedication must be towards achieving and living their dreams, and living a happy, harmonious and successful life.



THE **KASHMIR**
CONNECT