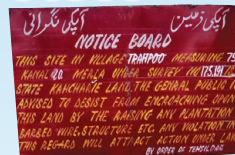


THE KASHMIR

**Make Policy, Protect
Smallholders
Anti-Encroachment
Drive Must Continue**



CONNECT

VOLUME 2

EDITION 13

23 FEBRUARY, 2023

Jammu Demography Changed By State Govts As Part Of Strategic Plan

A Former CM Declared In Jammu Eidgah

Mein Naya Jammu Sidhra Mein Basana Chahta Hoon Jo Jammu Ki Population Ko Balance Karey

**KASHMIR
CONNECT**



By Iqball Ahmad
Executive Editor
Heaven Mail, Srinagar



THE KASHMIR
CONNECT

PM Modi's Old Video About 'Pakistan with a beggar's bowl' went viral in neighbouring country

A few days ago, an old video of Prime Minister Narendra Modi went viral in Pakistan. The video was tweeted by Senator Azam Khan Swati, a minister in former Prime Minister Imran Khan's Cabinet. It pertained to a speech given by Prime Minister Modi during a rally.

During the speech, PM Modi had said that India had forced Pakistan to take a begging bowl and beg for money from around the world. Along with the video, Senator Azam Khan tweeted, "Hear what India's Modi is saying about Pakistan? If there is honour in you, then be ashamed."

For decades now, a sizable section of Kashmiris have been idolizing Pakistan. They assumed that Pakistan was the answer to all their problems.

Now, after decades, Kashmiris are able to see Pakistan in its true colours. Romantic notions about Pakistan are dispersing. People are admitting that a nation which cannot resolve its own problems, a nation which cannot give food to its own people – how will it resolve any

challenges in Kashmir? This is the reason why the rosy picture of Pakistan is being replaced by the bitter and dark reality of Pakistan.

Security and political analysts of Pakistan believe that the terror group, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), will benefit from the current economic crisis faced by the country.

Over the last few months, Pakistani Taliban (TTP) are intensifying their murderous attacks on Pakistani soldiers, ISI officers, on Pakistani police and ordinary citizens. Noted political and defense analysts of Pakistan are writing that their nation's army is unable to take on the monumental home-grown TTP challenge. Instead of focusing on the parts where Pakistan is bleeding, Pakistan Army is engaging itself with the usual empty talk on Kashmir.

The attacks by the TTP have left Pakistan's security forces reeling. Pakistan has seen over 100 attacks by TTP in less than two months. Some of these attacks have left their army red-faced. Among them is the recent capture of the Counter Terrorism Department in Bannu by TTP.

GAYATRI MOHAN

THE KASHMIR
CONNECT

VOLUME 2 EDITION 13
23 FEBRUARY, 2023

Editor-in-Chief
GAYATRI MOHAN

Deputy Editor
ABIDA WAR
(HONORARY ROLE ONLY)

Associate Editor
SHEIKH MUDASIR HUSSAIN

Roving Editors
MUDASIR DAR
SYED AZHAR JAWAD HASHMI

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

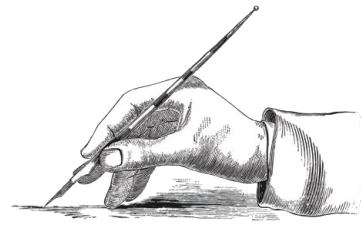
Periodicity: **Weekly**

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
Office Building, Gaash Coaching Centre, Mohalla Khawaja Sahib Old Town, Baramulla
Jammu and Kashmir, Pin: 193101
Phone: 70065 06074

Follow me    



FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPUTY EDITOR

Let Us Celebrate Our Mother, Our Language, Our Diversity To Make Bharat Proud

**Staff Correspondent
cum Staff Photographer**
AL MUNEEB LONE

Staff Correspondents
CHASWEEDA ASLAM
DR SUMI SAIDULLAH
MISBA YOUSUF

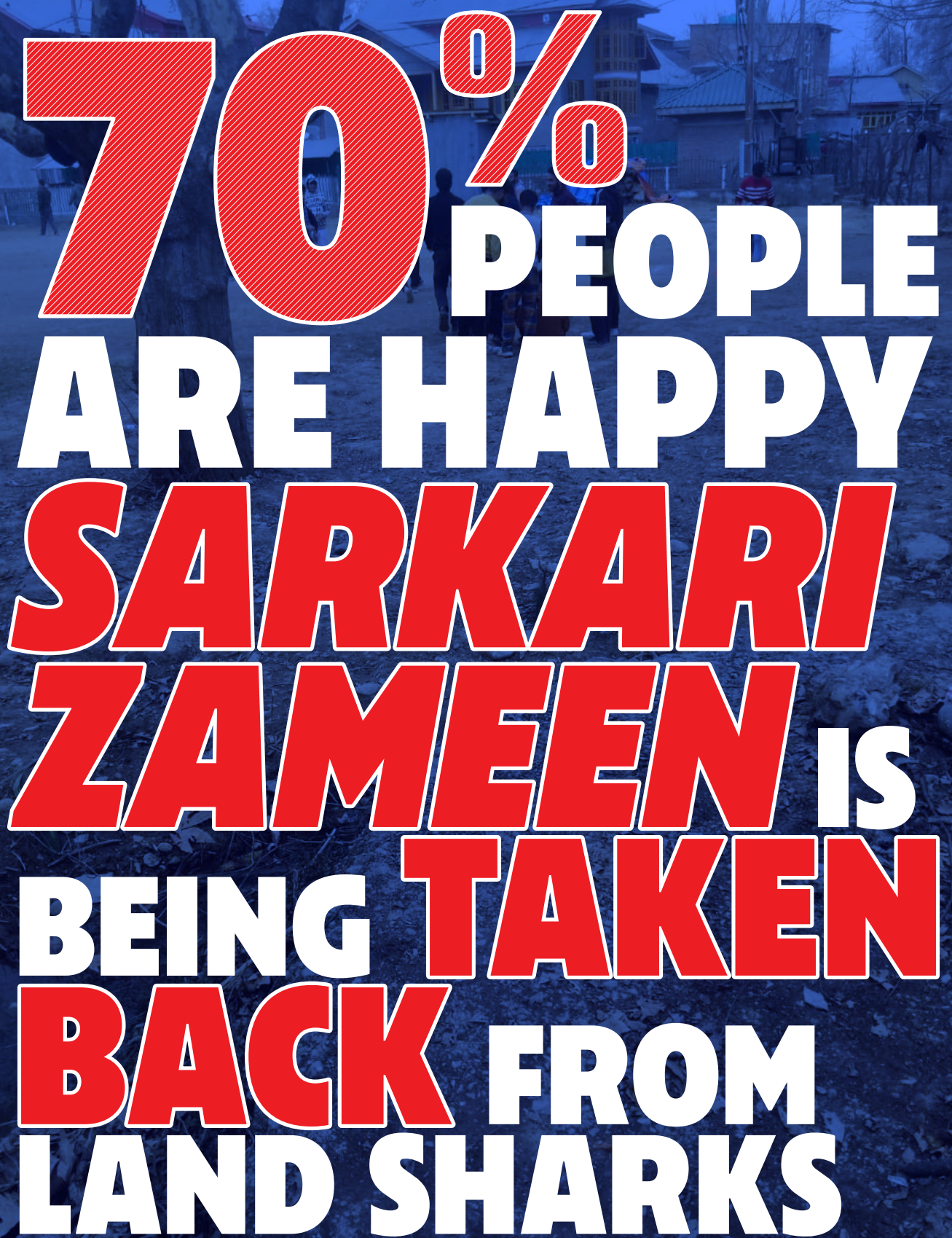
**(Deputy Editor
Ms Abida War
has an honorary
position with The
Kashmir Connect)**

On February 21, we celebrated International Mother Language Day. As the celebrations were in full swing, what struck me was the rich multi-cultural ethos of our country Bharat. And the whole fulcrum on which our syncretic Indian culture revolves is the connection that mothers have with the Nation. Mothers have a huge responsibility, in fact they have an extra responsibility. They care and nurture the future generations so that they make the country proud.

Bharat is one of the most culturally and ethnically diverse nations in the world. It is this unity in diversity that has been its hallmark and its strength. Today, whatever we are is because our mothers

have shaped us. Our mothers have ensured that they build the nation through their children, who have grown up to become leaders, scholars, researchers and linguists.

Bharat is always proud of its mothers for their selfless service. Mother India has seen numerous sacrifices to reach where it has today. The amalgamation of our various regional languages has become a part of our integrity and global ethos. Let us today take a pledge that we will continue to protect our country with the passion that we have imbibed traditionally.



70% PEOPLE
ARE HAPPY
SARKKARI
ZAMEEN IS
BEING **TAKEN**
BACK FROM
LAND SHARKS

WRONG NARRATIVE OF STATE EXCESS BEING FUELLED IN KASHMIR



Mr Iqball Ahmad

Mr Iqball Ahmad is the Executive Editor of Heaven Mail, an English daily published from Srinagar

SMALLHOLDERS SHOULD BE SPARED

It is strange to see a wrong narrative being given shape locally, nationally and internationally. This faulty narrative is that the government is using force or excessive action against the Kashmiris. Those who are building these false narratives are doing so because they are driving some anti-India agenda.



The government should not take any action against the small land-holders who have occupied state land, kahcharai land or Roshni Act land to build a small house or a shop. Their livelihood depends on that land

I am a Panchayat member from my village Trahpoo in Achabal block, Anantnag district. I am telling you on authority that 70-75 per cent Kashmiris are happy with the anti-encroachment drive which has been launched by the government all over Jammu and Kashmir.

For the sake of compassion, the government should not take any action against the small land-holders who have occupied state land or kahcharai land (common resource land of village) or Roshni Act land to build a small house or a shop. His livelihood depends on that land.

I was a teenager when militancy erupted in Kashmir. My

father Jenab Ghulam Hassan Wani Sb was the Lambardar (Mukhya) of the village. He was a courageous man physically and mentally. He had very clear ideas on how Kashmir should be, and all that was going wrong in our society. He was greatly respected in the village. Most of the issues faced by the village were solved at our house. He passed away five years ago.

Killing A Pandit, Usurping His Property Was Normalised

Since my father saab was active politically, the political analysis of the emerging scenarios in

Kashmir used to be the usual discussion in our house. These discussions gave me an early understanding of all that was going on around us.

I remember that a large majority of the religious preachers in the masjids, in the religious congregations would openly declare that the properties and assets left behind by the Pandits are maal e ghanimat (halal war booty, that includes not that material gains but also women, men and children, to be taken as slaves and sex slaves). They told us that it is our legal right under Islam to grab Pandit properties and assets.

Over and over again, these religious preachers shouted during their sermons that the Pandit was a kaafir. It was our legal right under Islam to kill the Pandits.

All the religious preachers were not of this thought. But by that time, Jamaat e Islami (JEI) was the major force in Kashmir. JEI Kashmir was Pakistan's brigade in Kashmir. They did not allow any opposition to the violent and radical Pakistan narrative. Whoever questioned or challenged them was killed.

JEI Kashmir never gave any space to Jamaat e Islami Hind in the annual congregations here. This was because JEI Hind used to talk of secularism, of equality of all communities. JEI Kashmir was not interested in any talk of equality.

The time when the gun culture entered Kashmir and our youth became terrorists – this is also the time when large-scale occupation of state land started.

GOVERNMENT MUST NOT BEND

**SMALLHOLDERS
SHOULD BE
SPARED**

ANTI- ENCROACHMENT DRIVE MUST CONTINUE

by Iqball Ahmad

The government must focus on the damage done by the big land grabbers. The whole of Kashmir knows that those who have indulged in large-scale grabbing of state land are only about 30 per cent of the population or even less

The terror ecosystem had engulfed every part of Kashmir. The whole society will have to transform in order to finish the roots of the terror structure nourished and sustained by Pakistan.

The government must not bend to the hue and cry being raised by any of our politicians.

For Over 30 Years, Influential People Of Kashmir Have Grabbed Huge Chunks Of State Land

LAND MAFIA HAS FLOURISHED OVER STATE LAND

Why Are Political Parties Not Accepting This?

Why are the political parties not accepting that for over 30 years, influential people of Kashmir have truly grabbed huge chunks of state land? Why are they coming forward for protest when the government is retrieving large stretches of illegally occupied land?

We must now who are the people who have occupied large chunks of state land? These are the same people who had picked up the gun after militancy started, or they supported terrorism in Kashmir. They have occupied the maximum land.

The peace loving and nationalist Kashmiris did not occupy state land. I still remember from even my childhood that people used to say, 'Khuda ke baad government hai.' They used to accord such high respect to the government.

The people of Kashmir know that all of them are part of the criminal activities that were going on. They allowed these activities and turned a blind eye to them.

The government must focus on the damage done by the big land grabbers. The whole of Kashmir knows that those who have indulged in large-scale grabbing of state land are only about 30 per cent of the population or even less. They should be targeted.

Political Leaders Are Using Drive To Discredit BJP

Our political leaders are defaming the move and giving it a bad name. It has given them a chance to discredit the BJP. After the article of Article 370, there is huge transformation in Kashmir. People were happy with the change. Some percentage of the people may have voted for the BJP in the election.

But the political parties evidently do not want BJP to gain in Kashmir. That is why they are making the anti-encroachment drive a big issue to discredit the BJP. The Jamaati officials at middle rung may even carry out wrong action at some places so that people have genuine grievances against the government. But the government must not bend. The drive must carry on.

The government knows from the records that how much of occupied land is state land or kahcharai land. Only 20 to 30 pc people have occupied this land illegally. The rest of the population is deprived of the use of this common resource land of the village.

HOW LAND ENCROACHMENT STARTED IN KASHMIR

JEI SPREAD IDEOLOGY THAT STATE LAND IS *MAAL E GHANIMAT*

THEY SAID WE CAN OCCUPY IT WITHOUT FEAR



Land was illegally occupied across Kashmir blatantly. Politicians and bureaucrats led the land grab. Members of Jamaat e Islami led the land grab in rural areas. *Jis ki jitni himmat thi*, he grabbed state land as much as he could. This pattern was continuing till now with full force

After militancy started in Kashmir, the Jamaatis became the dominant force. Their members declared that Hindustan has no legal or constitutional authority

in Kashmir now. They spread the ideology that Hindustan has no power in Kashmir.

The Jamaatis fuelled the ideology that state land is maal e ghanimat. Kahcharai land is maal e ghanimat. All this is our land. We can occupy as much as we want. Soon we shall have our government, and all the land that we occupy shall be legalized for us.

This is how the area of our huge lakes also got squeezed. At Dal, Nigeen, Wular and our other major lakes, huge encroachments started happening. People grabbed as much land as they could.

JAMMU DEMOGRAPHY CHANGED BY STATE GOVTS IN JEK AS PART OF STRATEGIC PLAN

CM DECLARED IN JAMMU EIDGAH

MEIN NAYA JAMMU SIDHRA MEIN BASANA CHAHTA HOON JO YAHAN KI POPULATION KO BALANCE KAREY

by Iqball Ahmad

It was winter season. Eid was in winter that year. The darbar was in Jammu, so the Chief Minister was in Jammu. Those years, I was doing graduation from Government Degree College, Khanabal. The college was closed during those months and we had gone to Jammu.

There is a large Eidgah near Shaheedi Chowk in Jammu. The chief minister came to the Eidgah to offer *nimaz*. Later, the people asked the CM to deliver a speech. I was seated right there when





the CM was speaking. I clearly remember what he said.

The CM announced, "We shall construct another bridge on Tawi. This is essential so that the distance between Gujjar Nagar and Bathindi is reduced."

Further, the CM declared, "*Mein naya Jammu Sidhra mein basana chahta hoon. Jo yahan ki population ko balance karey.*"

The CM did not make this announcement at his party office. He made the announcement at the bada Eidgah of Jammu near Shaheedi Chowk.

Speaking at a public function, the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir stated his intention to change the demography of Jammu by settling a huge number of Kashmiris in the outer circle of Jammu.

Large-Scale Colonization Of Illegally Occupied State Land

This was possible only if state land was colonized there. This is what steadily happened over the

Speaking at a public function, the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir stated his intention to change the demography of Jammu by settling a huge number of Kashmiris in the outer circles of Jammu. This is what steadily happened over the next many years

next many years. State land in the outer circles of Jammu was illegally occupied and colonized. It was sold to Kashmiris in large numbers with the intention and the approval of the state government.

The Government Housing Colony at Sidhra was made. That was legally sold as milikiyat property to the buyers. All the land around the Government Housing Colony was illegally occupied land. It got heavily colonized.

The demographic change of Jammu was led from the top. Every Kashmiri purchased as

much occupied land in Jammu as his budget allowed. Our politicians and bureaucrats have palatial houses in Kashmir and also in the outer circles of Jammu.

Officials Of Revenue Department Made Crores In Illegal Land Deals

The officials of the Revenue Department made crores of rupees in these illegal land deals. Officials of other departments of the state government that provided

Demographic change of Jammu was led from the top. Every Kashmiri purchased as much illegally occupied land in the outer circles of Jammu as his budget allowed

electricity and water here also made huge money.

Ultimately, through those years, the respective state governments were responsible for the illegal occupation and colonization of this land. Whether it was National Conference. Whether it was the PDP-Congress coalition government. Overtly and covertly, they allowed the illegal colonization of the outer circles of Jammu by the large-scale settlement of Kashmiris here, who built their winter abode here.

The words of the chief minister proved right. The demography of Jammu was changed effectively.

We also saw the Sidhra Housing Scam in the area, running into several crores. A minister of the state government lost his ministry owing to the scam.

Now the UT Administration wants to retrieve the illegally

State land in the outer circles of Jammu was illegally occupied and steadily colonized. It was sold to Kashmiris in large numbers with the intention and the approval of the state government

encroached state land. Now the big colonizers and the politicians and bureaucrats who made crores by selling off occupied land or had purchased huge chunks of property here are instigating the people for protests.

The Colonization Of Jammu Outer Circles

Let us talk about Sidhra, Bathindi, Sunjwan and other areas in the outer circles of Jammu, where state land was colonized and sold. The people

who occupied and colonized land here had a pattern. They would purchase about five kanals of land in a particular area. Then after setting up base there, they would start illegally occupying more and more state land. The whole process was easy for them because no one was questioning them.

Most of the *dalals* (land brokers) who used to sell the occupied land in these areas were honest about the fact that this was occupied property. Most of the *dalals* did not befool

any Kashmiris at the time of purchase. The *dalals* used to clearly tell the people that this is not *milkiyat* property (land which is legally and individually owned and is eligible for sale).

Dalals Told Buyers This Is Occupied Land, Will Get Regularized

I myself have heard the *dalals* informing the buyers so many times – *ye milkiyat zameen nahin hai. Ye kabze ki zameen hai.* (This is not legally occupied personal land. This is state land under the occupation of the sellers.)

But at the same time these *dalals* used to assure the buyers that the government has provided electricity connection here. The government has provided water connection here. All this land that has been occupied shall be regularized by the government as *milkiyat* property.

More than 80 per cent of the land colonized in the outer circles of Jammu has been purchased by Kashmiris. Everybody knew that *ye kabze ki zameen hai.* They knew that this is illegally occupied land. But everybody purchased it, knowing that it will be regularized.

National Conference allowed large scale colonization of state land in the outer circles of Jammu during its government. Later PDP did the same thing. It allowed large-scale colonization of more state land in Jammu outer circles.

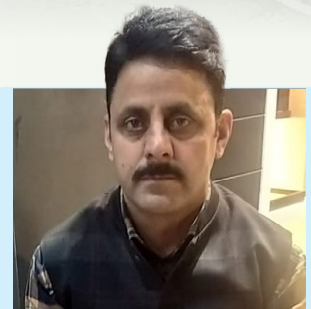


MAKE POLICY, PROTECT SMALLHOLDERS

ANTI ENCROACHMENT DRIVE MUST CONTINUE

**Common Kashmiris
actually happy that LG
Admn is getting illegally
grabbed property
vacated from land sharks**

Many times we are not able to understand whether a government initiative is in the interest of the people or not, because so many anxieties and fears are created around it. More than 80 per cent of the



Mr GM Mir

Editor Of KSHOTZ - The Kashmir Truths, a weekly newsletter brought out from Kashmir that brings to light the many ways in which the terror ecosystem destroyed Kashmir, and what should be the road ahead

Politicians, bureaucrats, JEI leaders and other influential people grabbed huge chunks of state land. The LG Government is finishing that gunda gardi. State land, kahcharai land – all this shall belong to the people. It cannot be milkiyat property of any individual or family

Kashmiris know that the anti-encroachment is a very important move. Many of our masael shall be resolved through this initiative. Yes, some people will have to face problems because they have encroached upon state land, upon kahcharai land. They don't want to return that land. But the fact is that so many commoners are suffering to serve the greed of a few people.

We must realize that the anti-encroachment move is in the larger interest of the society. In village after village, people will tell you that they are not able to access kahcharai land because some influential persons of the village have illegally occupied the access road. They don't allow others to use the access track any more.

In Village After Village,
Access To Common Land
Blocked By Land Grabbers

In village after village, you will find people who will tell you that they want to keep cow or buffalo in the house. But they can't leave their animals in the common meadows for grazing because access has been blocked through illegal occupation of the tracks.

Then it becomes difficult for people to buy fodder for the animals. And why should we

buy fodder when Kashmir grass is so healthy and nourishing for the animals? The kahcharai land must be kept open. The government is doing the right thing.

Sarkar is zameen ko peti mein band kar ke Dilli nahin le jayegi. The cow gives me milk, it gives me khad for healthy soil in the orchard, I also earn some money by selling milk.

Politicians, bureaucrats, JEI leaders and other influential people grabbed huge chunks of state land. Un ki approach bohot door tak thi. The LG Government is finishing that gunda gardi. State land, kahcharai land – all this shall belong to the people. It cannot be milkiyat property of any individual or family.

Badey Badey Magarmach Ko Gardan Se Pakdo

I can tell you on authority that at many places, 98 per cent people are happy with the anti-encroachment drive. But they cannot speak out because of the 2 per cent who are affected are strong and influential people. Also, people avoid to speak out because of community affiliation.

The LG had assured that smallholders will not be troubled. This should be made into yakeen by the government. People should be able to trust

this statement.

Baaki badey badey magarmach ko gardan se pakdo. Only then this land shark problem will be solved. Our greed has disturbed the balance. People want to corner more and more land.

Most Kashmiris are happy with this initiative. Those who are losing big land parcels – the corrupt, the land mafia – only they are shouting. They are provoking the people.

They are making the commoners anxious – that tomorrow, your milkiyat land will be taken away. Hence the ho halla is happening.

Large-scale encroachment has not been done by commoners. It has been done by influential politicians and bureaucrats. Wherever land resumption notices have been served to the influential class, people are happy. Obviously those who are affected will shout. But people are happy. Many villages had no space for making any building for public use because some people had occupied most of the land.

Every other department is short-staffed. Only the Revenue Department has surplus staff. And they sleep over all kinds of encroachments. They take money and allow encroachments.

The anti-encroachment initiative must continue. There should be no action against smallholders. Also, we need coordinated efforts for this initiative. The retrieved land should be used for the particular needs of the area.

**MANY OF OUR
MASAEL SHALL
BE RESOLVED
THROUGH THIS
INITIATIVE**

**SO MANY
COMMONERS
ARE SUFFERING
TO SERVE THE
GREED OF A FEW**

POLITICAL GAMES IN KASHMIR, PROVOKING SENTIMENTS OF PEOPLE AGAINST NATION IS NORMALIZED

by Iqbal Ahmad

For decades, we have watched that the politics of the politicians of J&K is based on cheating the Kashmiris. Provoking the

sentiments of the people against the nation has been normalized.

The politics of some select politicians is entirely centered around this. This is the way they think their vote bank shall remain intact. A particular political leader in an eminent position always arm-twisted the party in coalition for accepting

demands against the interest of the nation. This politician was always favouring stone-pelters, law breakers.

Projecting GOI As The Villain Is The Norm

Projecting Government of India as the villain had become the



norm for our politicians. Even now we see this happening. Whenever the Centre announces any initiative for the welfare of Kashmir, our politicians immediately start raising obstacles.

The land grab mafia and the terror ecosystem can flourish in an area only with the blessings of the state government. Under the shadow of Articles 370 and 35A, our ruling parties overtly and covertly allowed the land grab mafia and the terror ecosystem to flourish.

This was done because our politicians found that it suited them to clandestinely align with these forces. The land grab mafia and the anti-state brigade spent huge money in elections so that their candidate would win. When these politicians came to power, they became the partners of these land grabbers. Some of our politicians even aligned with the leading players in the anti-state brigade. This nexus extended to the bureaucracy.

To facilitate land grab, some officers helped the politicians to prepare fake land records. The duplicity was seen in all spheres of activity.

Getting state land and kahcharai land vacated by

Projecting Government of India as the villain had become the norm for our politicians. Even now we see this happening. Whenever the Centre announces any initiative for the welfare of Kashmir, our politicians immediately start raising obstacles

land sharks is a historic move by the LG Administration. This will enable the government to provide infrastructure for public welfare. Hospitals, schools, colleges etc will be made to benefit the common man.

Why Our Politicians Want To Stall Anti-Encroachment Drive

Our political leaders are crying foul because they are trying to save their financial support, which is in the hands of the land sharks. If the land mafia is targeted, their revenue shall be impacted. Then how will the land sharks support the politicians in the elections? Source say that our political leaders are also facing huge pressure from their party leaders to protect them. The party leaders are threatening to defect otherwise to save their illegally occupied government land or common resource land.

The politicians know that the government bulldozer on their land will dent their political image. The common Kashmiris are actually happy to see that the LG Administration is getting illegally grabbed property vacated from the land sharks.

Some politicians are also trying to influence and provoke the business class of Jammu against the LG Administration. These days, a particular politician is visiting the leading markets in Jammu to build a support base here by defaming the LG Administration for cancelling the darbar move. This particular politician is telling the business class, "See, LG Administration is so bad. They did not allow darbar move. Your business has been impacted. LG Administration is not good for you."

This party never had a support base in Jammu and is now trying these tactics.

**70% KASHMIRIS HAPPY
WITH ANTI-ENCROACHMENT
DRIVE**

**GOVT MUST
NOT BEND**

**DRIVE
MUST CONTINUE,
SPARE
SMALLHOLDERS**

**Land Is Being Freed
From Clutches Of Few
For Benefit Of Many**

by Iqball Ahmad

A

bout 70-75 per cent people are happy and they support the move to retrieve huge chunks of state land from the encroachers. They are quiet about it because Kashmir is a very close-knit community. People don't want to come out openly and complain against the members of their community. Because vo hamare hamsaye hain.

There are so many cases all over Kashmir where people who have plots close to kahcharai land have occupied the portion close to the road. Hence the road on the side of their land has got blocked. The people who have land on the back side cannot get access to the road. Also, access to kahcharai land is blocked this way.

This has been happening for decades because land encroachment has become the norm. But the encroachers do not budge. They do not give space to the people at the back.

Now when illegal encroachment is being removed, people are happy that they will get access to the road. They will get access to kahcharai land and the common village resources.


Occupying state land and kahcharai land has happened blatantly in Jammu and Kashmir. The government must not bend to the political forces that want to stall the move. Action should not be taken against the smallholders. But no one who has occupied huge chunks of land illegally should be spared.

Govt Must Carry Out Extensive Survey, Resume Drive

The drive must be carried forward. Political leaders, powerful bureaucrats and others who have occupied state land or kahcharai land are deliberately giving a move a bad name. The government must carry out an extensive survey to determine which is state land or grazing land. Then the drive must be resumed.

Only a small percentage of people have occupied the state land or grazing land. Rest all are deprived of the use of the common resource land.

In their hearts, 70 pc people are happy with the anti-encroachment drive. There was no land for public amenities, for school, for hospital, for



The drive must be carried forward. Political leaders, powerful bureaucrats and others who have occupied state land or kahcharai land are deliberately giving a move a bad name.

other government buildings because influential political and bureaucrat families or JEI leaders or land mafias have occupied large parcels of government land. People don't want to speak out. They want the government to spare the smallholders and continue the drive against big land grabbers.

These 70 pc people are those who never picked up the gun, never encroached upon state land, did not break the law. They are the silent majority. Their silence gave support to militancy.

Blatant Illegal Occupation Of Kahcharai Land

The brother of a separatist in Kashmir became the MLA from a part of south Kashmir in 1987, when elections were rigged. During the years of militancy, he shifted to Jammu. At two places in the outskirts of Jammu, he raised big colonies on state land that was forcibly occupied. They would purchase 10 kanal, occupy 50 kanal and colonize the area. He is now a multi-millionaire.

Schools of men affiliated to Jamaat e Islami have been made on kahcharai land. Everybody knows it. Political leaders and bureaucrats have raised palatial houses or huge commercial structures on state land or kahcharai land. Everybody is aware of that also. Now these men are decrying the anti-encroachment drive. Some of them continue to occupy acres of encroached land. There has been no action against them.

HOW A MEDICAL SHOP ON STATE LAND WAS REGULARIZED

During the years when the only kanoon was the bandook, a JEI leader raised a medical shop right next to a hospital in Achabal. Later the shop was legalized by PDP. A JKLF local leader wanted to have a shop there, but the JEI leader had his way. By that time, JEI and Hizbul Mujahideen were the dominant forces in the valley. JKLF did not have so much clout any more.

These are some of the dynamics that have dictated illegal land kabza in Kashmir.

WE WELCOME ANTI-ENCROACHMENT MOVE

TARGET LAND SHARKS, SPARE SMALLHOLDERS

by Latief Geelani

We appreciate the anti-encroachment drive initiated by the UT Administration. This is a very important decision. We welcome the government move.

The government must net the big fish. The bureaucrats, politicians, land mafia. Poor people who have occupied 5 to 15 marla for residence or for commercial purposes should not be disturbed.

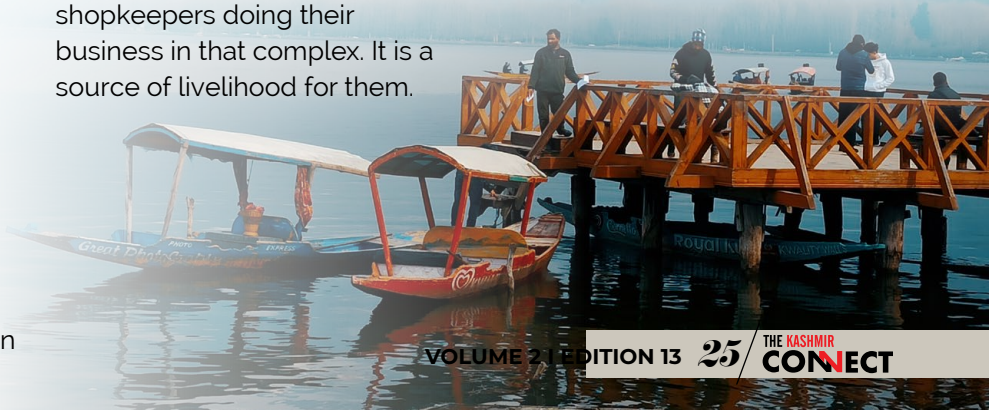
The government must continue to retrieve the land from influential land grabbers. We will stand with the government.

Suppose there are commercial structures made on

Land grabbing by so many politicians and bureaucrats is being revealed. They are provoking the people to protest. They are inflaming people against BJP

state land, ghas charai or Roshni Act land. Then government can attach that property. But there may be many small shopkeepers doing their business in that complex. It is a source of livelihood for them.

Such a complex should not be demolished. The shopkeepers can be asked to pay rent for the premises.



Govt Can Provide Housing For Employees, Homeless People

Part of the land that has been retrieved from illegal occupation can be used for providing housing to government employees. They can be given plots as per government rate. Or shelters for the poor can be made. The homeless people can be given houses there.

Wherever the government demolished any structure, the political parties used it to target the BJP, target the Centre. The propaganda of the parties made people fearful and anxious.

The government should also draft a policy for suitable action against the revenue officials who deliberately allowed the land ghotala. The Tehsildar, Naib Tehsildar, Girdawar, Patwari – they are the biggest players in this scam. Revenue officers fudged the documents to show state land, kahcharai or Roshni Act land as milkiyat land.

Jamaatis In System May Have Sabotaged Anti-Encroachment Drive

Custodial land was the property of those who went to Pakistan after 1947. Baramulla has huge custodial land. There were huge scams in custodial land. There

Many Tehsildars and other officials are Jamaatis. They deliberately demolished properties belonging to the poor in order to give a bad name to the government

was a huge scam associated with this land. The government would give this land on lease to private parties. Rs 1-2 lakh would go into government treasury. The rest was kept by the officers of the department.

If somebody has grabbed 3-4 kanals of state land, he should be allowed to keep only half a kanal. The rest should be attached by the state. Land grabbing by so many politicians and bureaucrats is being revealed. They are provoking the people to protest. They are inflaming people against BJP.

Many Tehsildars and other officials are Jamaatis. They deliberately demolished properties belonging to the poor in order to give a bad name to the government. Land grabbing by so many politicians is coming to the fore. A former Congress minister had grabbed huge chunks of forest land in Shopian. There are endless cases.

People will be totally with the government for the anti-encroachment drive. They will be happy. Just don't target the poor.

Kashmir now has zero percent killings or protests or unrest. And we have 100 per cent normalcy. The entire opposition of the political parties is to discredit the BJP.



Mr 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

NOTES FROM THE VALLEY

FROM THE ASSOCIATE EDITOR'S DESK

SHEIKH MUDASIR HUSSAIN



PEOPLE WITH ANY ASSOCIATION WITH TERROR NETWORKS MUST BE MADE INELIGIBLE FOR GOVT JOBS

The demolition drive is among the many efforts of the UT Administration to correct the wrongs that had been normalized in Kashmir for years. People are in agreement that the demolition drive was much required. There is also agreement that the smallholders should be spared. It is to be noted that the government has taken the same line that there should be no harshness against smallholders. The policy is being finalized accordingly.

We need corrective action from the Administration in all the departments. We are used to the education system where teachers didn't turn up in the classes for days together. Perhaps what was even worse was that individuals of the Jamaati mindset had filled the education department in large numbers.

For 30 years, such teachers have filled the minds of the children with separatist thought. I know of a man who was studying at Government College, Sopore. He was a hardliner. When he started speaking in favour of Pakistan and in favour of the separatists, one would assume that

he has learnt the art of provoking the masses from Jaish commander Azhar Masood. Today, this man is the faculty member of a government college in Kashmir.

What kind of teaching will such a teacher give to the students? Can we expect that they will make the children nationalistic or they will guide children to love the country, the Constitution?

It is because of such elements that successive generations of Kashmir lost their way. The government must keep a constant check on such elements within the system. They sabotage the system and mislead the youth.

The LG Government must announce a strong, fair policy that if a person has been involved in anti-national or militancy-related activities, he or she shall not get a passport. In addition, any youth whose family has a strong and long association with militancy should not be eligible for a government job.

This initiative shall send the right message to the people who have always taken the correct path and have assiduously stayed away from separatist or terrorist networks.



THE **KASHMIR**
CONNECT