

THE KASHMIR

What Mr KPS Gill
Noted

State's Capitulation
Then And Now



CONNECT

VOLUME 2

EDITION 15

10 MARCH, 2023

In
Dubai



In
Punjab



SIKH SEPARATIST AMRITPAL SINGH

ISI's K2 PROJECT

Hard Lessons Learnt In Kashmir
Being Unlearnt In Punjab



THE KASHMIR
CONNECT

In Video After Video, Residents Of POJK Lament Their Living Conditions And Infrastructure, Envy Jammu And Kashmir

A few weeks ago, Ms Arfa Khanum Sherwani of The Wire made a huge play about how people are so unhappy in Kashmir. In video after video, Ms Sherwani spoke to people and got this feedback, and was suitably melancholic in the entire series. There's a context to why Ms Sherwani got this response, but for that she will have to know Kashmir more.

Meanwhile, in videos emerging from Pakistan-Occupied J&K, residents of those areas talk about their extremely poor living conditions. Students talk about extremely poor educational facilities. They talk about the risk of being targeted by the government if they talk about the problems faced by society. In another video, a woman anchor questions residents of



POJK. They lament the poor infrastructure, single lane roads, the economy in doldrums, poor financial layout for Pakistan-Occupied J&K.

In both videos, the anchors and also the people compare POJK to Jammu and Kashmir. In both videos, they remark that the living conditions of people, the rights available to them, the infrastructure and facilities enjoyed by them – all these are far better in Jammu and Kashmir. These videos are circulating on Kashmir's social media.

GAYATRI MOHAN

THE KASHMIR
CONNECT

VOLUME 2 EDITION 14

3 MARCH, 2023

Editor-in-Chief

GAYATRI MOHAN

Deputy Editor

ABIDA WAR

(HONORARY ROLE ONLY)

Consulting 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    



06 | Women's Day Celebrated At GDC Handwara By JKWET & The Kashmir Connect
By Abida War

08 | Pakistan's K2 Project
By GM Mir

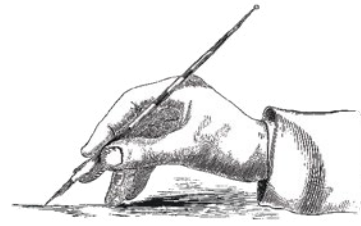


18 | Pattern of Feeble Govt Capitulation Then & Now
By Gayatri Mohan

22 | Dreaded Terrorist Zakir Musa Was Linked To Terror Attack In Amritsar
By Sheikh Mudasir



ABIDA WAR



FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPUTY EDITOR

Women's Day Celebrated At GDC Handwara By JKWET & The Kashmir Connect

**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)**

J&K Women Empowerment Trust (JKWET) & Kashmir Connect, a weekly English news magazine, organized Women's Day celebrations at Government Degree College (GDC) Handwara along with hundreds of students of the college, faculty members and distinguished guests.

The aspirational women of the valley expressed their views over various issues and challenges faced by them. The students also highlighted the achievements of women and girls in different fields.

The students expressed pride that our country's President is a woman, the Finance Minister is a woman, and the prestigious portfolio of the Defense Minister has also been held by a woman. They said that women's empowerment is a priority for the government and our nation. The students said that it is important for women to shoulder the responsibility for progress and development in all sectors of the economy.

The speakers expressed

concern about the alarming rate of domestic violence cases, rape cases and suicide cases. They urged the government to ensure 100 per cent literacy, create higher awareness of women rights, government schemes for women's welfare and other women-centric initiatives.

Secretary District Legal Service Kupwara and Baramulla Mr Muzamil Wani graced the occasion as the chief guest. Mtr Fareeda Shook, an educationist, writer and poet, Best Teacher Award Winner at national level, Vice Principal GDC Handwara; Ms Abida War, President of JKWET and Deputy Editor The Kashmir Connect; Mr Sheikh Mudasir, President Peace Awareness Foundation, an NGO and Consulting Editor The Kashmir Connect were also present on the occasion.

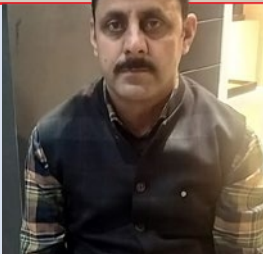
Speaking on the occasion, Ms Abida War, urged the women and girls to be aware of their self-power and also of their duties and responsibilities towards the society and the nation. Mr Sheikh Mudasir said that change always begins with the self, and we ourselves should embody the change that we wish to see in the society.

JKWET Chief Coordinator Ms Shazia Ali assured the audience about the future initiatives to be taken for the betterment and empowerment of women.





PAKISTAN'S K2 PROJECT Khalistan, Kashmir



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

There are strong signals that ISI plans to create trouble in Punjab and Kashmir. The radicalized youth are a readymade fertile ground

Pakistan's ISI has been working on K2 for decades. ISI has established a strong base in Dubai to run their 'Bleed India' project.

Some Kashmiris are the kingpins of this project for the Valley. Among them are the Qureshi Brothers of Kachhama village in Kupwara, a frontier district of Kashmir. They are playing a very powerful role in ISI's Kashmir project, and are now based in Pakistan.

ISI keeps working on its plan to break India. The government has to be very cautious. *Mazhab ke naam par ISI kisi Kashmiri Sikh youth to influence karne ki koshish zaroor karega*



Now Amritpal is emerging as a kingpin of ISI's project for Punjab. It is not a coincidence that he was working in Dubai,

and ISI was able to rope him in for the same project.

A large number of Sikhs are working in Gulf countries.

ISI has easy reach in Gulf. ISI shall definitely try to influence and indoctrinate the Sikhs working there to get involved in subversive activities in India.

Influence Of Anti-India Elements In Kashmir

This is a big risk factor for the government. It is to be noted that through nearly 40 years of separatism and terrorism, the Kashmiri Sikh never got involved in such subversive activities. In addition to the Kashmiri Pandits, the Sikhs also suffered terrible onslaughts like the Chittisinghpura massacre in which 35 members of the Sikh community were killed by the terrorists.

The Sikhs of Kashmir have never been anti-India. But ISI keeps working on its plan to break India. The government has to be very cautious. *Mazhab ke naam par ISI kisi Kashmiri Sikh youth to influence karne ki koshish zaroor karega.*

Among Muslims, we still have a strong separatist and radicalized constituency in Kashmir. When any man stands up against centre, he starts getting support among a section of the Kashmiris. This is a fault-line in Kashmir that has been nurtured by Pakistan for more than 40 years.

If the radical sections of the Kashmiris see an anti-India figure in a state as close as Punjab, they start feeling emboldened. *Koi bhi Centre to aankhen dikhata hai – ye khush ho jaate hai.* Radicalized youth become vocal on social media

in their support for an anti-India figure.

But sympathy towards a wrong figure has always led to wrong consequences. There are strong signals that ISI plans to create trouble in Punjab and Kashmir. The radicalized youth are a readymade fertile ground.

Why Amritpal Has Been Able To Garner Local Support In Punjab

For many years now, I have been a regular visitor to Amritsar for work-related projects. Over the last couple of months, I was watching the Amritpal phenomenon. From the beginning, it was clear that this Sikh separatist is an ISI template that we are watching all over again. Only the face is new and the name is different.

But the fact remains that ISI can only plant a person to do their divisive, communal and polarizing talk. So what is the reason for Amritpal Singh's popularity at the grassroots level? This is the question that intrigued me.

To answer this question, I met people in various villages of Amritsar and spoke to them about this new drama that we are watching called Amritpal Singh. I asked them the reasons for his popularity. Amritpal hails from Jallapur Khaira village in Amritsar district. A major part of his support base is in his village and the adjoining villages of the area.

Sukhdev Singh of Chicha village in Amritsar district told me that the talk of Amritpal



Singh is such that he will get support of some members of the Sikh community.

The people of Punjab are very angry with Punjab Police for not stopping the drugs trade. In fact, people believe that Punjab Police is party to the drug trade.

Most of the rural folks gave me the feedback that they are supporting Amritpal because he is able to distance their children from

drugs. Men and women alike say that family after family in rural Punjab has been destroyed by drugs.

People visit Jallapur Khaira from distant parts of Punjab to get their drug-addicted or alcoholic family members admitted at the rehab centre started by Waris Punjab De chief Amritpal Singh near his home here.

Amritpal Following ISI's Hit Formula For Jamaat E Islami In Kashmir

I am feeling alarmed to see the growing popularity of Sikh separatist Amritpal Singh in Punjab. This is an old ISI formula. ISI funded Jamaat e Islami to initiate scores of welfare activities in Kashmir. JEI constructed so many masjids, JEI opened so many schools in the name of serving people. JEI workforce helped the people in times of any disaster.

Through these welfare initiatives, JEI was able to build a strong support base among the people. But the underlying purpose of JEI- Hurriyat was always indoctrination and radicalization.

ISI is using the same formula again in Punjab with Amritpal Singh. The state government and the police force have failed to curb the drug menace. The police is seen as a major stakeholder in the drug trade.

Due to the failure of the state machinery, the commoners are suffering. Their children are falling prey to drugs. A Sikh separatist is giving succor to the people in the name of protecting their children from drugs. His utterances have proved that his motives are not good.

Amritpal is using his sewa for drug-addicts to build a support base among the people. Using de-addiction as frontal

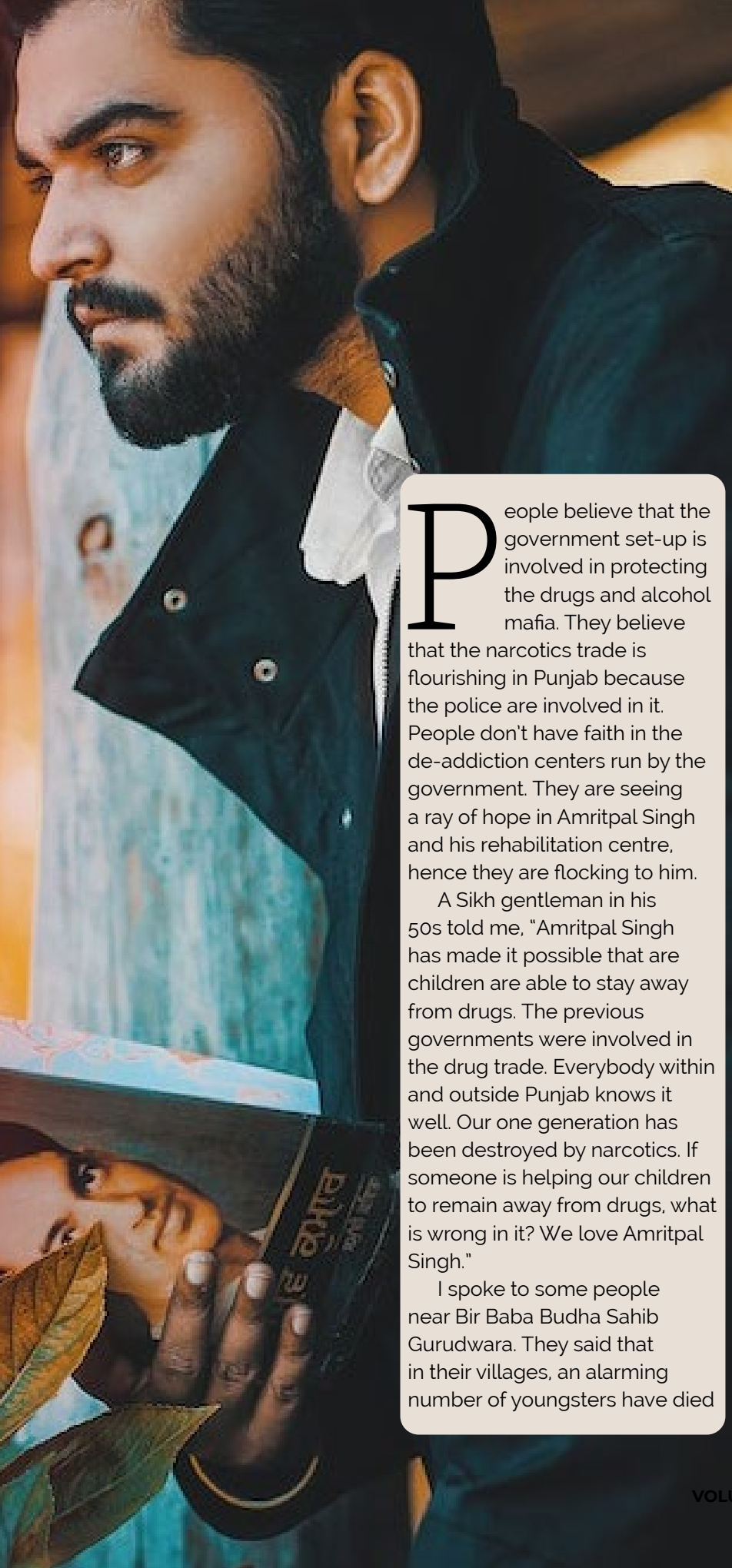
work, Amritpal is building an army of local supporters who will stand and even fight to defend him. The inability of the state government to control the drug menace and organize successful de-addiction initiatives has given space to Amritpal to build his clout as a local leader.

The way Hurriyat- JEI wanted to divide India in the name of religion, this Sikh separatist also wants to divide India in the name of religion. This is extremely dangerous for the country. The government must act against this man fast.

ADVANTAGE AMRITPAL

Anger Against Punjab Police For Failing To Control Drug Menace

by GM Mir



People believe that the government set-up is involved in protecting the drugs and alcohol mafia. They believe that the narcotics trade is flourishing in Punjab because the police are involved in it. People don't have faith in the de-addiction centers run by the government. They are seeing a ray of hope in Amritpal Singh and his rehabilitation centre, hence they are flocking to him.

A Sikh gentleman in his 50s told me, "Amritpal Singh has made it possible that are children are able to stay away from drugs. The previous governments were involved in the drug trade. Everybody within and outside Punjab knows it well. Our one generation has been destroyed by narcotics. If someone is helping our children to remain away from drugs, what is wrong in it? We love Amritpal Singh."

I spoke to some people near Bir Baba Budha Sahib Gurudwara. They said that in their villages, an alarming number of youngsters have died

in the last 10-15 years due to consumption of nasha. "There are people in our village who have everything – land, wealth. Still they sold their land and sent their children abroad for employment. They want to save the life of their children because they know that here, sooner or later the children will become drug addicts," another Sikh gentleman told me. "These are the blessings of the Akalis and the Congress. Punjab Police is well-involved in this trade. It was the same before, it is the same now," he added.

The commoners say that there are thousands of fake FIRs in different police stations against innocent youth who were targeted by the government for involvement in the drug trade, but Punjab Police is not held accountable. "Now this man came to save our youth and we are with him," said a gentleman.

Section of Punjab Youth Radicalized

During the course of the conversation, people of this area told me that from 1984 to 1990, many youngsters of these villages became terrorists and were killed by security forces. Despite this huge personal loss during terrorism years, I found that people are again supporting Amritpal.

This means that there is radicalization among the youth of the area. They are angry with the system. This has become a fertile support base for Amritpal Singh.

AMRITPAL INFLUENCE

RAW Has A Very Major Role To Play In Damage Control

by GM Mir

ISI has very deep roots in the Gulf and in Western nations for anti-India activities.

Hence Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) has a very major role to play here. There is large Sikh Diaspora in the Gulf countries for business or jobs. At the same time, sections of the Sikh Diaspora in US, UK, Canada and other Western nations are highly vocal in their support for Khalistan. They also fund these activities.

Sections of the Kashmiri Diaspora in the Gulf and the Western nations are playing the same role in supporting separatism and terrorism in Kashmir.

RAW will have to keep a very close watch on the networks of Sikhs and also the networks of the Kashmiris in all these nations. The security agency will have to remain on constant alert so that the radical elements in the Sikh networks are not able to institutionalize Khalistan there.

The radical elements may even try to create Sikh training groups for subversive activities in India. RAW will have to maintain very deep roots in the Sikh and Kashmiri networks so that these activities are not given any space to grow.

It is very important for RAW to maintain strong networks among nationalist Sikhs and also among nationalist Kashmiris. This is important to receive early information on any change in the dynamics of the Sikh and Kashmiri communities there.

Roadmap For Punjab Police



Photo: Al Muneeb Lone

Punjab Police must gear into swift action for damage control in the state. In the interaction with PM Mr Narendra Modi and HM Mr Amit Shah during the all-India annual conference of DGs and IGs in New Delhi in January, Punjab Director General of Police Mr Gaurav Yadav flagged the “unease among youth due to the drugs menace and unemployment,

and an apparent breakdown of administrative machinery in several districts.”

Did Mr Yadav also flag the role of Punjab Police in fanning anti-state activity? Punjab Police have a very crucial role at this stage. They must take quick and definite steps to minimize public anger against the police. This shall involve a strong and focused crackdown on the drug mafia in the state.

Amritpal Rise – Roadmap For State and Central Government

by GM Mir

*** Razor Cut Policies, Zero Tolerance For Terror**

Punjab government must have razor cut policies and zero tolerance for terror. In order to bring the situation back on rails, this is very important. The state government must ensure corruption-free administration and efficient governance

*** Rural Masses Must Feel Connected With Govt**

The rural masses must feel connected with the government. A high percentage of radicalization happens in the rural areas. The rural masses must feel that the government cares for them and ensures their welfare.

*** Immediate Strong Action Against Amritpal Essential**

Whoever speaks of Khalistan and espouses the separatist ideology must be arrested and jailed. The government must not allow any separatist and subversive activities to flourish. The way National Investigation Agency had a very focused approach in Kashmir, the same should be followed for Punjab. It is essential for the government to have a very tough, no-compromising approach on the subject.

Gurdwara Committees, Masjid Committees have strong influence on the society. It is a matter of concern that whenever Pakistan has kickstarted terrorism in Punjab or Kashmir, it has done so by influencing a section of the clergy at the religious places

Tight Check On Corruption

People have suffered corruption and nepotism for too long. There must be strict government action against this scourge.

Punjab Police must learn from JK Police on how to effectively combat terror. JKP is fighting international terror organizations. Yet they are able to squeeze their space, push them back. PP must learn from JKP on how terror and radicalization are combated.

Vital Role Of Gurdwara Committees

The Gurdwara Committees, Masjid Committees, Mandir Committees – all these have a very strong influence on the society. It is a matter of concern that whenever Pakistan has kickstarted terrorism in Punjab or Kashmir, it has done so by influencing a section of the clergy at the religious places.

In order to combat this problem, the government must have regular interactions with Gurdwara Committees and those manning other religious places. Who are the persons manning these committees? What is their political affiliation? These questions are very important for the government to answer. The positive initiatives taken by the gurdwara committees shall play a very crucial role in addressing the angst among the youth and keeping them on the right track.

**HARD LESSONS LEARNT
IN KASHMIR UNLEARNT
IN PUNJAB**

**Pattern of
Feeble Govt
Capitulation
Then & Now**

by Gayatri Mohan



Former Punjab DGP KPS Gill

1984, Amritsar, Punjab **Excerpt From Write-Up By KPS Gill, Former Punjab DGP, Titled 'Endgame In Punjab: 1988-1993'**

A single incident epitomises the impotence of Punjab Police at that time. On February 14, 1984, a group of militants attacked a police post at some distance from the entrance of the [Golden] Temple. Six policemen, fully armed, were 'captured' and dragged inside. The 'police response' came twenty four hours later in the form of a senior police officer who went to Bhindranwale in the Akal Takht and begged him to release his men and return their weapons.

Bhindranwale agreed only to hand over the corpse of one of the policemen who had been killed. He later relented and released the remaining five men who were still alive. Their weapons, including three sten guns, and a wireless set, were not returned. No one asked for them. No action was ever taken in the case of the murdered policeman.

I cannot imagine any police force in the world reacting to such an outrage with such utter cravenness, in such complete and impotent prostration.

2023, Ajnala, Punjab

Hundreds of supporters of Sikh separatist Amritpal Singh, including several carrying swords and guns, clashed with police and stormed the Ajnala police station near Amritsar. They camped there until police "assured" Amritpal and his supporters that his associate Lovepreet Singh Tufan, arrested on charges that included kidnapping, would be released.

Amritpal Singh warned of more protests and threatened bloodshed in Ajnala, and said that "the real violence is yet to be seen". Speaking about it later, Amritpal Singh said that the incident was "not violent enough".



AJNALA ATTACK ON POLICE STATION



Senior Cop Says It Was 'Technical Retreat, Police Underestimated Mob Strength'

"The Ajnala police station episode was unfortunate, but should not be seen as a capitulation or abdication of duty by the Punjab police... it was a technical retreat... it can be said there was some intelligence failure about the 'cowardly' act of protestors using Sri Guru Granth Sahib as a shield... and probably they underestimated the strength of the mob."

FACT CHECK

The mobike rally of Amritpal Singh and his supporters brandishing swords rode a 60-km distance. For several weeks before attack at Ajnala Police Station, Amritpal Singh had been on the radar of the police and the intelligence agencies for his divisive speeches. It was also known in security circles that Amritpal Singh has been planted by ISI to deepen the communal faultlines



in Punjab and revive the talk of Khalistan.

Amritpal Singh and his supporters stormed the Ajnala police station on February 24 carrying lathis, swords and guns. They took control over the police station for several hours, but no action was initiated against the rioters then or later.

In Jan, Punjab DGP Red-Flagged Amritpal Rise

On January 22, PM Mr Narendra Modi and Home Minister Mr Amit Shah joined the deliberations at the all-India annual conference of DGs and IGs in New Delhi. During the conference, Punjab Director General of Police Mr Gaurav Yadav made a presentation on 'Khalistan Extremism – Communication and Logistics Networks in Punjab'.

According to a report in the Indian Express, the following was highlighted for Punjab during the conference: "The ground situation in Punjab, pregnant with unease among youth due to the drugs menace and unemployment, and an apparent breakdown of administrative machinery in several districts, could have been exploited by any such radical element."

An officer who was present at the conference told the media that Amritpal's posing a challenge to the police would not have worked if there was clear political direction. In this way, the

senior officer indicated upon the lack of communication between the Punjab Police and the state political leadership.

Sikh Separatist Using Oldest Tactic In Book: Serving The Needy

Sikh separatist Amritpal Singh is employing a time-tested strategy to get into the collective mind-space in Punjab. The deepest pain of the people in the state is drug addiction, which has acquired monstrous proportions. Amritpal Singh has opened a rehabilitation centre in his native village Jallapur Khaira village in Amritsar district. Sewadars (voluntary workers) at the centre say that drug addicts are given free treatment which includes ayurvedic medicines, yoga, good diet and shabad-kirtan (Gurbani recital).

If all is sewa and service here, where is there tension in the village over talk of Khalistan? A report in The Indian Express on February 27 noted that while there is clear personal support for Amritpal for his de-addiction work, there is also a sense of disquiet about his demands for Khalistan.

PAKISTAN'S K2 PROJECT

NOV 2018

DREADED TERRORIST ZAKIR MUSA WAS LINKED TO TERROR ATTACK IN AMRITSAR

by Sheikh Mudasir

ISI The Common Link

In November 2018, one of Kashmir's most deadly terrorists Zakir Musa was connected to the deadly grenade attack on Nirankari Bhawan in Amritsar's Rajasansi village in which three people were killed and 20 injured. Musa was

the commander of Al-Qaeda in Kashmir and the chief of Kashmir-based Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind, an Al-Qaeda cell.

Security agencies learnt that two men who were accused of the terror attack were fresh recruits of Zakir Musa. The

accused used HG 84 grenades, which are similar to the ones manufactured by the Pakistani Army Ordinance factory.

In November and December 2018, Zakir Musa was spotted in Amritsar by the security agencies. His photographs

appeared in the mainstream media, in which he was seen wearing a turban, following which a high alert was sounded across the state. I remember seeing a photograph of Musa on social media in Kashmir in which he had pinned a Khalsa symbol in his turban.

Musa carried a bounty of Rs 1 million Indian rupees on his head announced by GOI in 2017. Intelligence agencies said that Musa was planning to replicate J&K-style attacks in Punjab. He was in Punjab with a group of five or six Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists.

Bond Between Khalistan, Kashmir Terror Networks

How did a terrorist of the stature of Zakir Musa manage to stay in Amritsar for two months? Who gave him food, shelter, accommodation? It is understood that he went there to connect with the Khalistan networks, supported by ISI.

National Investigation Agency (NIA) learnt that Khalistani terrorists, Al-Qaeda cell and Pakistan's ISI were suspected to be behind the attacks. Musa was killed by the security forces in Kashmir in May 2019.

At that time, we read that the entire security establishment was on high alert over the security threat from Jaish terrorists in Punjab. Intelligence agencies know that ISI is always on the job to widen the arc of terrorism by creating a pipeline between Kashmir militancy and Khalistan radicals. Investigations have revealed over years that



Dreaded terrorist Zakir Musa in Kashmir and (right) in Amritsar

sleeper cells are set up in Punjab under the supervision of ISI, Kashmir and Khalistan radicals to gather arms and ammunition.

Now we are seeing Sikh separatism getting momentum in Punjab with the rise of Amritpal Singh.

Amritpal Talk Same As Radicalization Talk In Kashmir

ISI is constantly active on its project to destabilize India. On January 24, Baramulla Police prevented five youth including two boys from joining militancy. ISI stays active to build connections with Kashmiri boys who are radicalized and involve them in the terror networks. Already these boys have a fertile mind to get into terror tracks.

Amritpal is doing the same talk that is drilled into the heads of vulnerable Kashmiri boys. These boys are poorly educated. They lack employment, they lack financial resources. It is very easy for any terror handler to induct the radicalized youth into such activities.

How is it that Amritpal is firing salvo after salvo? In speech after speech, he is mocking and challenging the government. He says he is ready for dialogue, he is ready for fight. All these arrows being shot by Amritpal have come with ISI coaching.

How is it that Amritpal is firing salvo after salvo? In speech after speech, he is mocking and challenging the government. He says he is ready for dialogue, he is ready for fight. All these arrows being shot by Amritpal have come with ISI coaching

ISI's K2 PROJECT

PLAYING THE RELIGION CARD



Photo: Al Muneeb Lone

The first card that Amritpal has played is the religion card. Amritpal Singh speaks the same language that Zakir Musa and other major terrorists of Kashmir spoke. The security agencies have long established that for Khalistan and also for Kashmir, the networks connect to ISI.

Terrorism started in Kashmir with slogans of Yahan Kya Chalega - Nizame Mustafa. Pakistan Se Rishta Kya - La Ilaha Illa Allah. Azadi Ka Matlab Kya - La ihala ILAL Allah.

Amritpal is also playing the religion card. He is playing the Khalsa card. When I join these dots, I can see the same ISI template at play.

Amritpal Singh speaks the same language that Zakir Musa and other major terrorists of Kashmir spoke. He is also playing the religion card. When I join these dots, I can see the same ISI template at play



Photo: Al Muneeb Lone



Photo: Al Muneeb Lone

The unfortunate part is that when the religion card is played, people go mad. They cannot make out the difference between right and wrong. They cannot distinguish who is using them and how they are being used. They think that what they are doing is azeem kaam, it is a huge service to religion. They think that they are doing it voluntarily.

Even now, our youngsters who join terror ranks feel that they are doing a great service to the religion. Shariyat ya shahadat was the common theme of Zakir Musa. I can see the same pattern emerging with Amritpal Singh.

If the government takes it lightly, it will become a big problem for both states. This shall have repercussions elsewhere too. If Khalistan activity heats up, communal lines between Sikhs and Hindus will deepen. This is exactly what ISI wants – to flare up communal fires in India.

This chingari cannot be allowed to take the shape of a fire. The government must not display any weak points. If action had been initiated against Amritpal Singh at Ajnala, it would have kept things relatively simple compared to what the situation is now.

Now, with so much freedom and media coverage, Amritpal's stature and clout have gone up in the eyes of the youth. He talks of the twin themes of religious supremacy and religious victimization. He is able to influence young blood. He is being fed from the same source that fed Kashmir terrorism. The government needs to be very careful and must initiate prompt action against him.

ARMED KHALISTAN SLEEPER CELLS MAY BE WAITING IN WINGS



SHEIKH MUDASIR
Consulting Editor

His show of strength at Ajnala shocked the country. How did so many youths join him? There were hundreds

of men with Amritpal at Ajnala, and he said that only 10 per cent have come with me. He is not making youth join him by doling out money. There is deep planning which has gone into mobilizing the high numbers of these youth.

It is pointless to assume that Amritpal is going to radicalize these youths. These youths are already radicalized by ISI's Khalistan networks. Many more Khalistanis are waiting in the wings, watching for their turn to come when they will also join the drama that is unfolding.

Amritpal is giving huge statements, divisive speeches, getting huge gatherings and media coverage. It is

not possible that he will be unarmed. The men who accompanied him to storm the Ajnala police station were carrying guns and swords. In all likelihood, the Khalistanis have armed sleeper cells in Punjab which are hidden as of now.

Amritpal knows that with the speeches that he is making, the government will initiate action against him today or tomorrow. Already his associates have weapons.

A problem that I observe in Punjab is that the alertness level is not high as it is in Kashmir. The ammunition received by Khalistan networks there can be easily sent to Kashmir.



THE **KASHMIR**
CONNECT