

# THE KASHMIR



**SHEIKH ASHIQ**  
The Entrepreneur Assists  
In Nation Building Without  
Being Aware Of It

# CONNECT

VOLUME 1

EDITION 2

## PERILS OF NARRATIVE TERRORISM

Why GOI Refusal To Allow

Sanna Irshad Mattoo And Ilk

To Travel Abroad Is Correct



THE **KASHMIR**  
**CONNECT**

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

## Musical Evenings On The Dal, Nigeen, Wular, Manasbal.....



In July, Jenab Gulzar Ahmed Ganai, a hugely popular Kashmiri artist, sang a beautiful bhajan for Lord Shiv. He said that he and his team had lovingly worked on this gift of love for the yatris for Shri Amarnath shrine. At that time, the bhajan was shared on Twitter by the J&K Department of Information and Public Relations. It was applauded on Twitter by all Kashmiris and shared ahead.

How amazing it would be to listen to such marvelous artists and their heavenly music while enjoying the evenings at the magical lakes of Kashmir. Dal, Nigeen, Manasbal, Wular and the many other delightful lakes of the Valley.

Many years ago, I had heard that the Tourism Department used to organize an amazing series of events on the Dal. The performers would be in a boat, and the viewers around them would also be in boats. The

event would begin at dusk. The breathtaking romance of the Dal at night would mesmerize the audience as much as the lilting music, the singers and the performers. J&K Tourism Department is surging ahead with multiple initiatives to cater to diverse sections of tourists. Perhaps the revival of these amazing evenings may also be on the cards.

Those visiting Kashmir must experience the charm of living in a houseboat. The magic begins right from the time one sits in the shikara to be taken to the houseboat. For all of us bored by traffic and honking, the charming shikara ride to the houseboat is enchanting.

The houseboats are a world unto themselves. Being on a houseboat is a joy at all times. One can look out at the scenic Dal from the porch. And when you climb up to the roof of the houseboat at night or in early morning, magic unfolds. The wide sky and the waters around cast a gentle spell. And then wake up again to crisp, chirpy mornings on the Dal, enjoying the Kashmiri salt tea or kehwa with the locally made delicious kulcha of so many kinds layered with butter. Ah! Hamin Asto!.

GAYATRI MOHAN

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CONNECT

VOLUME 1 EDITION 2

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPUTY EDITOR

**ABIDA WAR**

# ACHIEVING ATMA NIRBHAR BHARAT

**Samasya Nahin Samadhan Chahiye**

**W**e have to work towards achieving Self Reliant Bharat. Jammu and Kashmir, the crown of the country, is part of this proud journey to achieve self reliance for the nation.

Bharat is marching forward in this era of holistic development to fulfill the promise of the mother land for the young generation of our country. We have been powerful since centuries. In between, there was an era of setbacks due to wrong policies and wrong thinking which was adopted without taking into account a holistic understanding of matters.

J&K, particularly Kashmir valley has faced tough times, which has impacted many generations here. The trauma and anxiety led to psychological and behavioral changes among people.

Now the task here is two-fold. One, we have to build the infrastructure that is needed by the progressive Kashmir. Second, we need to be deeply connected with the people of Kashmir with a deeply human touch.

The people want to march ahead with their nation. The youth are speaking up for overall system reform at political, economical and social levels. We need to build these strong institutions and answer the call of our youth.

J&K was marked by lack of political accountability, political chaos and confusion. This left a negative imprint in the mindset regarding the nation and the democratic institutions. Our task now is to mould human behaviour towards positivity and constructive nation-building.

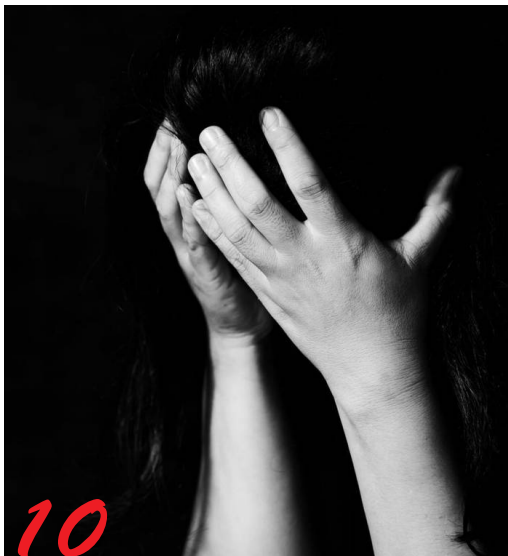
The complaining attitude of the people is a challenge we face. We need to remember that a pro-active attitude and the search for solutions lead us to development. Complaints don't lead us anywhere.

We all need to do our individual roles to the best of our ability so that the youth who are afflicted by negativity and pessimism are able to come out of this dark space. We have to enable them to recognize the immense potential of our nation as the land of opportunities. Our Valley is rich with resources. We have the potential to achieve Atma Nirbhar Bharat. What we need is the right impetuses to kick start the process. More and more role models of Atma Nirbhar, responsible citizens will mould the thinking of our youth and our people.

We have to steadily rectify the errors of the past on all fronts. The implementing agencies need to be committed 24X7 to prosperity and peace.

The multi-dimensional corruption culture had become endemic to our system and was ruining it. This is now being checked and stemmed. The system is being cleaned.

We shall achieve real change when we stand up for total accountability. We must leave no space for activities which harm or compromise national security. Our youth feel optimistic when they encounter honesty and integrity in the political, economic and social spheres. We need to focus on all these challenges so that our youth become Atma Nirbhar. Let us build a sense of responsibility among all, which will pave the way for Atma Nirbhar Bharat.



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# Govt Must Realize Cost To Nation When Entrepreneurs Suffer



by Sheikh Ashiq

If the trucks of the horticulturists are stranded on the road, if the consignments of the businessmen or industrialists are delayed – it should alarm the departments concerned, the officers concerned

Whenever we reach out with genuine demands and grievances, we are assured of full support. This needs to translate into more affirmative initiatives at ground level



**T**he entrepreneur assists in nation-building without being aware of it. We may see him as a trader, a businessman, a farmer, a horticulturist, a manufacturer, an industrialist.

I fully respect the work being done by the government employees for nation building. With respect and regard, I note the difference between the public sector and the private sector.

The government employees work for an assured amount of money, and for the working days specified by the government.

Traders, businessmen, farmers, horticulturists, manufacturers, industrialists – all of them work regardless of government working day or holiday, any time of the day when required.

They invest their own money in the economy. They work to ensure that they create money for themselves, for their employees. To safeguard their investment, to ensure that they are able to provide for their family and their employees, they strengthen social harmony, peace, growth and development.

The government must realize the cost to the nation when the entrepreneurs suffer. If the trucks of the horticulturists are stranded on the road, if the consignments of the businessmen or industrialists are delayed – it should alarm the departments concerned, the officers concerned.

## **Why The Govt Must Assist Entrepreneurs**

These are the men and women of Kashmir who invest their blood and their sweat to create employment. They are the men and women who take great personal economic risks so that within their small circle, the people associated with them are able to make a decent living. In the short run, in the long run – whichever way you look at it, these men and women are part of the development process. They support the initiatives and objectives which the government wants to promote at ground level.

When entrepreneurs face challenges and obstacles, it calls for immediate response from the Administration. The delays won't help. When the

trucks of a horticulturist are stranded and he is sweating in worry, his children are watching him. When an exporter is stressed because of procedural delays, his children are aware of his distress.

These children may say – we don't want to undergo this distress. We won't engage in this family activity when we grow up. We will take up a job or we will go abroad.

**How much investment will it take for the government to boost business, trade, industry, horticulture, agriculture? Whatever the government invests in all these sectors is returned manifold to the economy and to the nation**





## Mr Sheikh Ashiq

President, Kashmir Chamber Of Commerce and Industry (KCCI). He is a major exporter from Kashmir. Mr Ashiq is on the Board of Directors of Carpet Export Promotion Council set up by the Ministry of Textiles, GOI, and represents Kashmir on this august body

Who is the sufferer then, in the long run? The nation suffers.

The Prime Minister gives the call again and again. Atma Nirbhar Bharat. Become employment generators. Create employment.

How will this be achieved if the man who can create employment is suffering and crying? We need enabling and responsive support systems. We need pro-active government structures that understand our pain and promptly take remedial measures.

## Our Work Needs To Be Incentivized

I gently make the point again – all these entrepreneurs are building

the national economy brick by brick without being aware of it. They are among the biggest contributors to nation building. They are the biggest contributors to income growth, to meaningful economic expansion.

This work needs to be acknowledged. This work needs to be appreciated and incentivized. These men and women need substantial incentives to sustain and to prosper. When they prosper, the society, the economy, the nation prospers.

When the right support systems are not created, all these sectors suffer. Business, trade, industry, agriculture, horticulture – all these sectors suffer setbacks when they don't get the handholding they need. The men and women who drive these sectors need acknowledgement and appreciation. They have nothing to fall back on.

## We Make Govt Investment Grow Manifold

How much investment will it take for the government to

make these sectors grow? The fact is that whatever the government invests in this sector is returned manifold to the economy and to the nation. By creating employment, by creating revenue, by ensuring income generation – all the investment of the government is returned manifold.

I acknowledge that whenever we have reached out with our genuine demands and grievances, we have always been assured of full and total support. This needs to translate more and more into more affirmative initiatives at ground level.

## We Need Long-Term Solutions

For all those from the entrepreneur sector who have not been able to sustain revenue – the government must realize that we are victims of circumstances beyond our control. Our problems need a well-thought out, long-term solution. Short term fixes won't work. We need the right policy, the strategic support to grow.

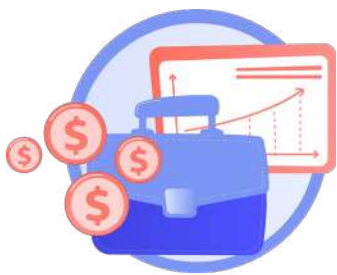




# HOLD BANKING SYSTEM



# ACCOUNTABLE FOR PROVIDING HASSLE-FREE SERVICES



KCCI has to become a bridge to bring a new lease of life to the sick business units and other battered businesses of the valley. For this purpose, the help of the banking sector and the government departments is crucial.

The government must address the problems that we face in the banking sector. The government must hold the public sector banks accountable for providing hassle-free services. J&K Bank is a vital institution for the entrepreneurs of the region. Prompt service and constructive support of JK Bank and other public sector banks are essential.

The Kashmir industry cannot compete with other states or UTs which have been regions of long-term peace and development.

We all are aware that for employment generation, entrepreneurs must be provided a level playing field and an enabling environment.

Kashmir needs RBI intervention for the support of banking policies which answer the needs of the region. RBI must formulate policies specific for Kashmir region which will encourage and sustain entrepreneurship for existing players and also for aspiring youth who want to be entrepreneurs.

Life as we  
**KNOW** it

**WE NEED  
TO STAND  
UP TO IT**

# Domestic Violence Cannot Be Normalized

by Chasweeda Aslam

*Aurat ko bardasht karna  
padhta hai!*

**H**ow many times we have heard this. Said over and over again, perhaps to teach all girls to suffer domestic violence without questioning or protesting it. *Bardasht karna padhta hai.*

Just last week, a young woman two years senior to me in college came to her parents house, beaten by her mother-in-law and her nanand. There were bruises on her face and her body. There were injuries caused by nails on her face. All of us who know her were aghast to see her.



## No Excuse Is Acceptable

No excuse for domestic violence is acceptable. It is a crime that women are taught to ignore. Domestic violence is deeply entrenched in our society for ages. It is characterized by the violent behavior inflicted to assert dominance over the partner or any other family member. Often, the victims of this violence are women. It is not a stray or one-off incident. It is repetitive and follows a pattern of intimidation and suppression.

In the valley, innumerable women are subjected to different forms of abuse from their spouse or their in-laws within four walls. Sexual or physical abuse by the spouse, psychological or physical abuse by the in-laws – we hear of all these from time to time. Women belonging to all classes, sects, ages and caste are subjected to extensive barbarism in their households.

Women are being exposed to an environment that teaches them to uncomplainingly accept the abuse and pretend to be happy and satisfied, suppress their ambitions and prioritize every other thing over themselves. This toxic traditional indoctrination is making women vulnerable to exploitation.

## I Was 14 When I First Heard Of Domestic Violence

I was 14 when I first heard about the case of a woman being hanged by her In-laws in her own house. It wrenched my heart and was enough to disturb



**Women are being exposed to an environment that teaches them to uncomplainingly accept the abuse and pretend to be happy and satisfied, suppress their ambitions and prioritize every other thing over themselves. This toxic traditional indoctrination is making women vulnerable to exploitation.**

the frame of my mind for a long period. After a month or two, the incident was beautifully presented to society that she was not killed. She committed suicide, leaving her innocent children behind.

Cases of a woman burnt to death by her husband. Killed by her devar because she resisted his sexual advances. Beaten by her husband on a frequent basis for no apparent reason. Beaten by her mother-in-law, her nanand - one heard of such cases all too often.

I grew up to be 22 years

old listening to such incidents year after year. Women beaten, insulted, cheated on, killed, assaulted, abused by a close friend, or by in-laws, siblings. An extreme pain runs within my veins when I think of women who are not safe in their own families, in their own homes. The pain has provoked me to write. It amazes me when I my fellow Kashmiris – a Valley known for its warmth and hospitality - turn a blind eye easily to the pain of their daughters, their sisters, their better halves.

# How The Society Normalizes Domestic Violence

There are these standard sentences we hear.

“Yeh to hota rehta hai.” This happens.

“Sasural to aisa he hota hai beta.” Inlaws are like this only, dear daughter.

“Yeh unka apas ka masla hai.” It is their private affair.

“Mard maaf nahi karte.” Men don't spare.

“Ab jo hai, jaisa hai, wohi tumhara ghar hai.” Now whatever it is, however it is, it is your only home.

All these are the nourishing factors for male dominance in society.

## The Pattern Of Blaming The Girl

Often I used to hear incidents of domestic violence from my married classmates or neighbours in the last one or two years. I started discussing it among my friends, my relatives. I asked them why it happens and why women are expected to bear.

Different people answered these questions differently because their perspectives are different. Many people told me to stay out of this and not to get affected mentally. Some told me that the girls are at fault.

Some told me it was just a slap or a push and the girl is being over-dramatic. Some told me the girl doesn't know how to do the household chores. As such things are objectionable to in-laws, so they don't spare. In one way or another, most of the times the girl is blamed.

Keeping her dreams, aspirations, expectations, and respect aside, people expect the



**The law of our country protects the rights of women against domestic violence, as it is considered to be a violation of basic human rights. This is in no way anyone's private affair. Such violence does not only affect the victim but society holistically. It is an issue that is epidemic as it has taken the life out of individuals and families**



**Ms Chasweeda Aslam**

I am Chasweeda Aslam. I reside at Salamabad, Uri. I have been writing for a while. I always felt the need to use my pen to empower weak sects of the society and spread awareness regarding many said and unsaid issues like mental health, suicidal tendencies, social issues like education, gender discrimination, political awareness, violence, equity, equality, health. I am deeply concerned about one of the most vulnerable issues of drug-addicted teenagers. For the well-being of the society, I desire to use my pen to challenge all these odds and become a voice of the helpless. I want to connect to the people through this, as I consider it to be one of the most powerful ways to make a change. Domestic violence is my first published article, the first among many...

# The Difference An Empowering Household Makes

I am fortunate to have been brought up in a family where my views and opinions are considered pre-eminent. Where my dreams are applauded and my existence is cherished. The men in my life – be it my grandfather, father, brother or any friend – have always pushed me forward. They have always invested in my well-being and chosen to be on my side, no matter what.

I always thought this is how every girl is treated and respected in every household. But as I grew older, I witnessed many sad incidents that made me realize that life isn't fair for everyone. Being guided and loved unconditionally by such men made me strong within. These men taught me to value myself first. This made me unstoppable and unbeatable in this society.

girls to adjust and not question any harassment or abuse. It makes me sick at heart that I and my friends who played together, got raised together and laughed together are exposed to different environments. Some have to go through the pain of domestic violence. Why so? Why can't we all peaceful, respectable lives where there is harmonious space for difference of opinion?

The government considers the exploitation of women a punishable act. The law of our country protects the rights of women against domestic violence, as it is considered to be

a violation of basic human rights. This is in no way anyone's private affair. Such violence does not only affect the victim but society holistically. It is an issue that is epidemic as it has taken the life out of individuals and families.

What is the reason the victims choose not to leave and stay back? Why do they choose to seal their lips? What can be done to effectively deal with domestic abuse? How can women be protected from it? What can they be empowered so that they are not subjected to violence? I shall discuss these issues and more in a subsequent edition.

**Why  
GOI Refusal To  
Allow Sanna  
Irshad Mattoo  
And Ilk To  
Travel Abroad  
Is Correct**

*by* Gayatri Mohan

India is fighting terrorism in Kashmir. One of the forms of terrorism India is fighting is narrative terrorism. Those with blinkers on may deny narrative terrorism. People living in the valley know it as a real and present danger.

## How Mattoo Practices Narrative Terrorism With Her Camera

Sanna Irshad Mattoo practices narrative terrorism with her camera. Proof – the photographs taken by her, posted on her social media accounts and displayed at the global platforms she can reach.

Mattoo was recently barred by the immigration authorities at New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport from flying to the US despite having a valid visa and ticket. It was the second time in four months that

Mattoo was stopped from flying abroad.

Earlier this year, Mattoo had been awarded the Pulitzer for the coverage of Covid-19 pandemic for Reuters. On October 25, Press Club of India (PCI) tweeted that it "failed to comprehend the Government decision" to stop Mattoo from travelling to the United States to receive the Pulitzer Prize.

## Did PCI Examine Sanna Mattoo's Work?

It seems that the august members of Press Club of India did not see what kind of photo-journalism Mattoo is engaging in. While standing up for media freedom, PCI is unaware that Mattoo engages in narrative terrorism. In her photographs, Mattoo projects India as an occupier force in Kashmir. Mattoo keeps reinforcing

the stereotype of 'Occupied Kashmir'.

This is done not just by Mattoo. Projecting India as an occupier force in Kashmir is routinely done also by some other so-called journalists and photo-journalists from the Valley.

The narrative posited by Mattoo and others in her league is highly dangerous. It deepens the anti-state sentiment among the radicalized youth of Kashmir. Vulnerable and radicalized youth believe in this propaganda and become militants, hybrid militants or Over Ground Workers (OGWs).

Romanticization of terrorism is among the reasons why a section of Kashmiri boys continue to choose violence and death. These radicalized youth get misled by the dangerous propaganda. They kill innocent people and get killed, leaving their parents wailing and without support in old age.





Swayed by narrative terrorism and other associated factors, militants or hybrid militants kill policemen or Special Police Officers (SPOs) of JK Police. They kill Kashmiri Pandits and they kill non-local labourers who choose to work in Kashmir to make a living.

## Romanticizing Terrorism In The Name Of Media Freedom

Sanna Mattoo and League romanticize terrorism in the name of media freedom. All these media projections have a deep impact on indoctrinated Kashmiri boys still in their teens.

Terror in Kashmir is hand-cranked by Pakistan. Sanna Mattoo and Co whitewash the lived reality of terror in Kashmir. The terror inflicted by indoctrinated teenagers or youth is sold as "the resistance of our boys".

For this job, Sanna Mattoo and other so-called journalists

and activists are suitably rewarded with international accolades by agenda-driven global think-tanks. They move in international circuits courtesy their anti-India stance.

On ground level, the sons of poor Kashmiris bear the brunt of this chicanery.

## Ending Media Duplicity In Kashmir

Regarding the refusal to Sanna Irshad Mattoo to fly out of India, PCI tweeted that Mattoo attending the Pulitzer Prize ceremony would have added to the prestige of the country. "Press Council of India demands that the government should come out clean in this matter,"

PCI said on its official Twitter handle.

"On the one hand, the government is making all out effort to integrate Kashmir with the national mainstream, on the other such actions only act as deterrents and further aid in alienating people from Kashmir," said the PCI tweet.

The Telegraph wrote on October 25: Ms Mattoo, who was not allowed to travel to the United States of America on an earlier occasion, is entitled to an explanation from the government for its spitefulness.

What is labeled as the government's "spitefulness" is acknowledgement and action on national security, and saving the lives of innocent people.

## What Is Narrative Terrorism In Kashmir

Criminal conspiracy to spread terrorism and create a false narrative. Create, sustain, and spread disaffection, hatred and enmity against the Indian State. Preserve Pakistani influence by manipulating and playing with facts. This is done subtly or brazenly, by putting information without context or out of context. This is done through selective reporting or selective exaggeration. This is done by underplaying or muting others. This is done by craftily and cunningly invoking the legal rights to press freedom and political dissent guaranteed by the very Indian State which they wanted to undermine





## The Hindu Mocks J&K State Investigation Agency (SIA) For Narrative Control

# Why The Control Is Indispensable In War Zone

by **Gayatri Mohan**



In late October, Mr Varghese K. George, Resident Editor Delhi of leading English daily The Hindu mocked narrative terrorism. In the Political Line newsletter of The Hindu, Mr George wrote a passage on 'Narrative terrorism, and who gets to tell our stories'.

Living in the peaceful, developed, inclusive and multi-racial metropolis, Mr George finds himself well-placed to take a swipe at the state for acknowledging and initiating action against 'narrative terrorism'.

**J&K State Investigation Agency is controlling the narrative because once the narrative spins out of control, it's a direct hit on national security**

## **Mr Varghese George Mocks J&K State Investigation Agency (SIA)**

Mr George writes:

We have heard of various types of terrorism, and now there is a new one – “narrative terrorism.” Or so we are told. The J&K State Investigation Agency (SIA) recently filed a chargesheet in a case of a “narrative terrorism,” describing journalist and editor Fahad Shah and scholar Aala Fazili as “contaminated and compromised media persons.” According to the SIA, the duo was indulging in “narrative terrorism”, as part of a criminal conspiracy to spread terrorism and create a false narrative. “Their (Shah and Fazili) end objective was to create, sustain, and spread disaffection, hatred and enmity against the Indian State. Their interim objective was to preserve Pakistani influence by manipulating and playing with facts, subtly or brazenly, by putting information without context or out of context or selective reporting or selective exaggeration or underplaying or muting others and by craftily and cunningly invoking the legal rights to press freedom and political dissent guaranteed by the very Indian State which they wanted to undermine,” the SIA statement said.

### **Holds Forth On State Control**

After satirizing the J&K State Investigation Agency (SIA) for taking note of narrative terrorism, Mr George holds forth on state control. He writes: “Controlling the narrative is a critical part of politics – and state control. It is noteworthy here that the SIA is claiming the right to decide what is ‘fact.’ The battle over narrative is often premised on who decides what is fact and what is not. ‘Fact checking’ is a new field of journalism, and parallelly the state asserts its right to have the final say on what indeed is fact.

# **CRUCIAL**

## **Controlling The Narrative In War Zone Is Part Of State Control On Security**

Mr George rightly states that controlling the narrative is a critical part of politics – and state control. J&K State Investigation Agency is controlling the narrative because once the narrative spins out of control, it’s a direct hit on national security. It doesn’t impact you or me or Mr George, because we are in our safe cities, protected from the worries that mark Kashmir.

But once the narrative is out of control, the radicalized sons of many poor Kashmiris decide to become militants, hybrid militants or Over Ground Workers for terror groups. Then the narrative of Pakistan rules in Kashmir, and the terror handlers of Pakistan find it easy to recruit indoctrinated youths into their ranks, thrusting upon them one role or another. The role may be to kill a cop, a soldier, an innocent Kashmiri Pandit. Once the narrative is out of control, all this follows.

Then the state is seen as weak for failing to control the situation in Kashmir. Controlling the narrative in war zone is part of state control on security.



# Why should we be part of the problem?

We shall be part of the

# Solution

by Sheikh Mudasir Hussain

For years now, I have observed a strange tendency in Kashmir. The positive initiatives of the government are not spoken about or highlighted. The government keeps coming out with welfare initiatives for the youth, children, for the aged, for women and other vulnerable groups. But the media does not give any space to these initiatives. The social media cells of the political parties keep criticizing every government move. The political parties keep planting doubts in the minds of the people regarding every government initiative.

NC, PDP and other political parties of Kashmir are vocal and loud about their anti-government agenda. They keep pushing their agenda at the people.

## Constant Criticism Builds Negativity, Suspicion

Political parties don't realize that this constant attack builds negativity among the people. They start looking at every initiative with suspicion. People develop a negative bias towards all the efforts of the state. This negatively impacts the trust bond between the government and the people. People don't come forward and they are not able to benefit from government schemes the way they should.

It is the constant effort of the government to bridge the gap with the people. But this gap does not get filled. In the name of freedom of expression, we have given space to the media to run their own agendas. This negativity makes the youth of Kashmir feel justified in indulging in anti-state behaviour. In extreme cases, they pick up the gun. This impacts national security.

The grassroots public opinion does not get space in the media. The political parties do not really highlight the day-today demands and issues of the people. They run a narrative which is not reflective of public opinion.

Why is public opinion important? When the government gets to know public opinion, it is able to



**When the media creates only negativity all the time, people get confused. They don't believe in anything. Is ka ground level par bohot nuksan hai. Now negativity has seeped deep. People are doubtful about everything. Har cheez ko shaq ki nigah se dekhte hain**

formulate the policies and welfare initiatives accordingly. These policy decisions impact development initiatives and programs.

### The Media Did Not Counter Mehbooba Mufti's Rant

There are so many other good initiatives that are never counted. But if anything goes wrong or has a negative tilt, everybody pursues it. The recent rant by Mehbooba Mufti – everybody gave her space. The media can ignore her. They

can also counter her. But nobody countered her.

When the media creates only negativity all the time, people get confused. They don't believe in anything. Is ka ground level par bohot nuksan hai. Now negativity has seeped deep. People are doubtful about everything. Har cheez ko shaq ki nigah se dekhte hain.

I used to feel sad about this state of affairs. But now through our own magazine, I want to bring to light the positive initiatives of the government. Why should we be part of the problem? We shall be part of the solution.



**Mr Sheikh  
Mudasir Hussain**

I am a resident of Old Town Baramulla. I run Gaash Coaching Centre, a free coaching centre in the old town for the holistic development of the children of this area. Most children of this area cannot afford tuition. Some of them were getting involved in wrong activities. In order to engage the children constructively, I started the coaching centre. I also provide counseling and guidance to the youth so that they do not go on the wrong path. I organize events and seminars to counsel the youth and make them aware of their duty to the society and to the nation.

I have decided that I myself will highlight all these positive initiatives so that people are aware of all the facilities that have made their life better. In the next edition onwards, we shall make this difference Insha'Allah.



## **DC BARAMULLA INTERACTS WITH PEOPLE EVEN AFTER OFFICE HOURS TO RESOLVE ISSUES**

We never see positive reporting on the government schemes. The government has a scheme where assistance of Rs 50,000 is given to poor girls at the time of their marriage. Nobody profiles those poor girls – how they were helped. The government has schemes for farmers, for labour. Nobody talks about how farmers and other classes are benefited by government schemes.

Let me share a local example. The DC of Baramulla Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar often goes to the local markets to engage with people, listen to their issues in the evening hours after work. She addresses their problems, resolves them. This is so new for all of us. But the media does not highlight this. They highlight only the negative.



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