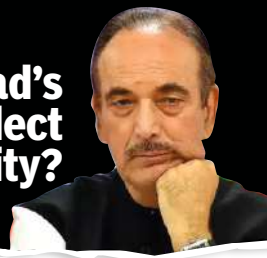


Do Mr Azad's
Words Reflect
Ground Reality?



THE KASHMIR CONNECT

VOLUME 1

EDITION 5

FAROOQ, MEHBOOBA And The Doctrine Of DOVAL VS DULAT





THE **KASHMIR**
CONNECT

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

From Internet Bans to 5G Plus, Kashmir Comes A Long Way

Kashmiris were so tired of the internet bans they had to live with, during the turmoil years. Many elder Kashmiris admit how as children, most of them got influenced by the separatist mindset because the atmosphere around was such. Indoctrinated by these beliefs, many got into activities like stone-pelting, street agitations etc.

The children of the rich and elite Kashmiris were usually sheltered from such lawlessness. They pursued academics, the arts, and largely lived the good life – as all children of our vibrant, democratic nation are entitled to, and should.

But these happy pursuits were largely not the destiny of the children of poor Kashmiris, or those living in highly radicalized areas. Separatists engineered frequent street agitations where stone pelting was common. The youth were pushed into these activities.

At times, even some

mainstream political parties clandestinely organized violent street agitations. This led to a vicious cycle of lawlessness. Youth indulging in violence were killed in counter-terror operations, and the sad cycle continued.

Internet was often snapped to break the flow of communication between riotous groups.

On December 28, Airtel announced the launch of 5G Plus services in Jammu, and importantly, even in Srinagar. According to the news release issued by the group, Airtel 5G Plus services are currently available at no extra cost to the 4G customers in the region. In Srinagar, 5G Plus services are available at Lal Chowk, Dal lake, Rajbagh, Kashmir University, Karan Nagar, Channpora, Srinagar secretariat, Nishat Garden, Chashma shahi, Old city in Kashmir and a few other select locations. The services will further be rolled out to other parts of Kashmir.

India Ahead indeed.

GAYATRI MOHAN

THE KASHMIR
CONNECT

VOLUME 1 EDITION 5

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(HONORARY ROLE ONLY)

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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

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FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPUTY EDITOR

ABIDA WAR

MOTHERS CAN HELP US IN SAVING YOUTH FROM ADDICTION, RADICALIZATION

Kashmir, the crown of our country is currently facing the scourge of drugs consumption. The drug mafia sponsored by Pakistan has engulfed the youth of this strategically sensitive Valley. De-radicalization and de-addiction initiatives are a constant effort of the UT Administration, the security agencies and the Army.

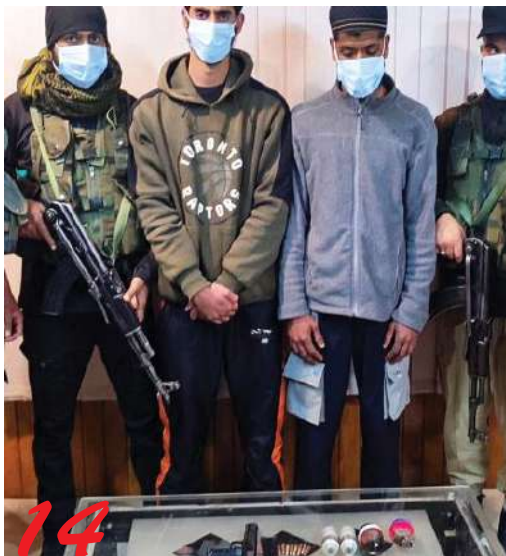
The most powerful weapon to fight the drug menace is the Ma, Mooj, Mata. She plays a very vital role in her child's life. She is the hero for her children, and the most effective reminder for the revival of a responsible society conscious of its rights and duties.

Mothers in general and mothers in Kashmir particularly must come forward to safeguard the nation's strength – our youth. The Pak-sponsored drug mafia is endangering our youth.

It is radicalizing them and corrupting their brains completely.

The revival of the family system is the need of the hour. The traditional family strength must be harnessed to inculcate the right values in our youth. Mothers are the best counsellors of their children. They have to take this challenging task in their hands to act as the best place for de-radicalization and rehabilitation for their young ones. Mothers must initiate the conversations with their children which shall provide them the space to make their inner thoughts heard. We never know what may the woes of our young ones. The mothers can provide the best succor to the children. Mothers are the most appropriate agent of change for the families and in turn for the whole nation. The sensitization of mothers to this role can save our children from the drug menace.

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



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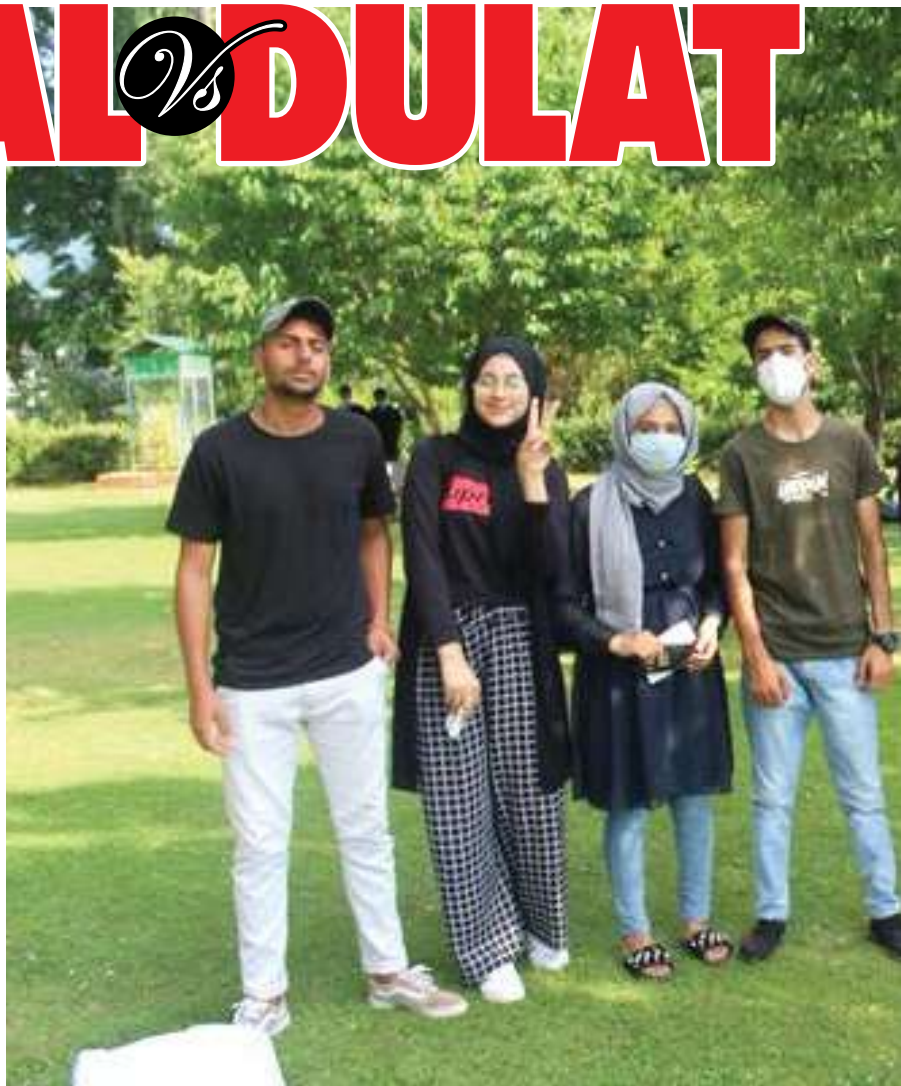
By Mudasir Dar

FAROOQ, MEHBOOBA AND THE DOCTRINE OF DOVAL DULAT

by Gayatri Mohan

In July, a question about the Centre's 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign annoyed Dr Farooq Abdullah, MP and former chief minister of J&K. He retorted: "Keep it in your homes." In October, Dr Abdullah said about the killings by terrorists in Kashmir, "It will never stop until justice is served."

Ms Mehbooba Mufti, former chief minister, declared at a rally in Kashmir on November 27: "No matter how many troops you



send here... *ye khayal hai. Khayal ko aap jail mein nahin daal sakte ho. Aap insaan ko jail mein daal sakte ho. Jab tak aap is khayal ka ilaaj nahin karoge, jab tak aap masla e Kashmir hal nahin karoge...*"

On December 23, Dr Farooq said that unless we open our hearts and admit that mistakes were made in past and we do not make in the future, Kashmiris will never be part of you (India).

For the record, this is not how a sizable section of Kashmiris are thinking. A large majority of



Ms Mehbooba Mufti

The common Kashmiris are now disconnected from the big jumla called *Masla-e-Kashmir*. This jumla, which continues to be a favourite of the politicians, doesn't move them anymore

the Kashmiris have no problem integrating well with the rest of India, nor any problem with the national flag.

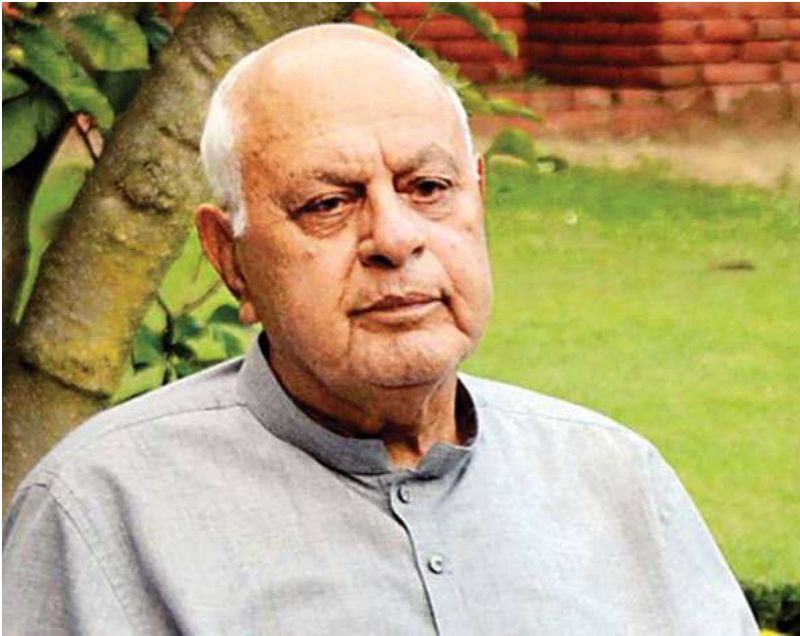
This large majority of Kashmiris are now disconnected from the big jumla called *Masla-e-Kashmir*. The jumla continues to be a favourite of the politicians but doesn't move the common Kashmiris anymore.

Peace The New Normal In Kashmir

Kashmiris have settled well into the new-found peace and stability in the Valley. They are disturbed by incidents of targeted violence against Kashmiri Pandits and non-locals. But for the common Kashmiri, life seems to be returning to normal after decades. It is not interrupted constantly by hartals, shutdowns, manufactured street agitations, deliberately-fuelled attacks against security forces, violent clashes and consequent injuries.

The abrogation of Article 370 was a tectonic state policy shift for in Kashmir. The tectonic





Dr Farooq Abdullah

Violence has lost social sanction in Kashmir. The gun has lost social sanction. Pakistan is not a major force for the Kashmiris anymore. People are observing that Pakistan made fools of Kashmiris for decades

social shift is happening now. It is not making headlines yet, because social change flows subtle. Nevertheless, it is strong and deep.

Violence has lost social sanction in Kashmir. The gun has lost social sanction.

Pakistan is not a major force for the Kashmiris anymore. In conversations across the Valley, people are observing that Pakistan made fools of Kashmiris for decades. They are realizing and admitting that Pakistan used Kashmiris for scoring strategic gains against India.

Disenchantment With Political Leadership

The second major shift is almost a collective social disenchantment with the political leadership. Over the last couple of decades, National Conference and PDP have been the main political forces of Kashmir. Both have lost ground.

NC and PDP have not lost ground to any major political force in the Valley. It is not as if People's Conference led by Mr Sajad Lone, Apni Party led by Mr Altaf Bukhari or Democratic Azad Party led by Mr Ghulam

Nabi Azad have made any major political gains in Kashmir due to the disenchantment with the NC or PDP leadership. No strong political camps have formed yet.

When Dr Farooq or Ms Mufti say things like what they have stated above, they are not speaking for Kashmir's common masses. They are indulging in political jumle-baazi. This jumle-baazi is disconnected with what is happening at people's level.

Admittedly, Kashmir is still witnessing attacks on Pandits and non-locals. These are Pakistan-sponsored attacks aimed to derail state policy regarding KPs or domicile moves.

Naukri, Bijli, Paani, Sadak

The Issues That Matter To People

At people's level, the biggest issues are employment for the youth, better power supply, better hospitals, schools, better civic infrastructure, and drug addiction, which has emerged as a major concern in Kashmir.

But Dr Farooq or Ms Mufti are not talking about any of these issues. They are still hoping to get votes by politicking on emotive issues. They are not talking about development and prosperity – and this is what people are seeking.

Cinema halls have opened at various places across Kashmir. Kashmiris are enjoying this newfound return to normalcy. They are talking about things that make life better, and initiatives that bring better opportunities for them and their children.

HOW THE SHIFT IN KASHMIR HAPPENED

by Gayatri Mohan

Unfortunately, the benevolence of the Indian state and the approach for accommodation was seen as the timidity of the Indian state

In his recently-released book, *A Life in the Shadows*, former head of RAW Mr Amarjit Singh Dulat writes of the muscular policy of the Modi government in Kashmir. In his interview to Mr Karan Thapar for *The Wire*, Mr Dulat said, "I'll tell you what MK (former NSA MK Narayanan) once said that if he needed to wield the stick in Kashmir, he would depute Doval. And if he needed, if he wanted to offer a carrot he would send me. So that's the type, that's the difference that there is between the two of us."

Mr Dulat seems to agree with this comparison – that Mr Doval wielded the stick and he offered the carrot. We

know of the times when the Indian state offered the carrot to Kashmir. At that time, separatists were given space for talks. Dr Farooq, Ms Mufti and other political leaders were given the space to indulge in soft separatism or talk of Self Rule, Autonomy etc.

This was done in the hope that there would be accommodation on both sides, and there would be common middle ground to restore peace in Kashmir. Unfortunately, the benevolence of the Indian state and the approach for accommodation was seen as the timidity of the Indian state.

Pre Abrogation Kashmir

- Hartals, shutdowns, school and college closures
- Regular, violent street agitations
- Violent clashes with security forces
- Fatal and non-fatal injuries for youth in counter-action by security forces
- Long rope to terror operators
- Public dominance of separatist camp
- Steady recruitment in militant ranks

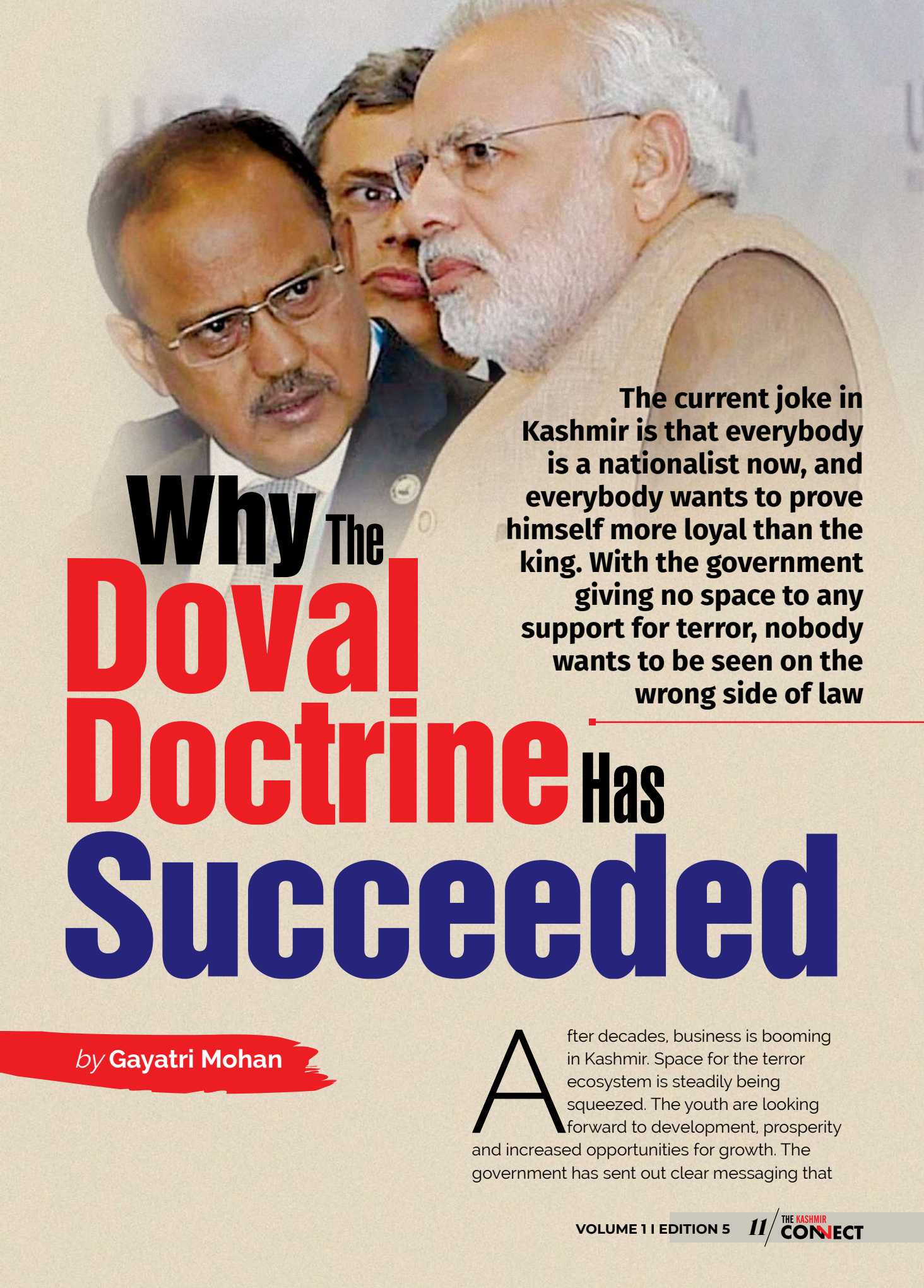
Post Abrogation, The New Normal

Since the abrogation of Article 370, Kashmir has witnessed what has been called the 'muscular' policy of the Indian state.

Let us analyze present day Kashmir.

- No hartals, shutdowns, school or college closures
- No street agitations
- No violent clashes with security forces
- No fatal or non-fatal injuries for youth in counter-action by security forces
- State tough on terror ecosystem, so space for terror operators being squeezed
- Race among Kashmiris to be seen as staunch Indian nationalists
- Number of local militants down to two-digit figure in Valley





Why The Doval Doctrine Has Succeeded

The current joke in Kashmir is that everybody is a nationalist now, and everybody wants to prove himself more loyal than the king. With the government giving no space to any support for terror, nobody wants to be seen on the wrong side of law

by Gayatri Mohan

After decades, business is booming in Kashmir. Space for the terror ecosystem is steadily being squeezed. The youth are looking forward to development, prosperity and increased opportunities for growth. The government has sent out clear messaging that



Mr AS Dulat

those associated with the terror ecosystem will not be spared, and all citizens engaged in bona fide pursuits shall be provided the right atmosphere to flourish.

In this light, does analysis of present-day Kashmir reveal that the doctrine of Mr Doval has done Kashmir more good than the doctrine of Mr Dulat?

Mr Dulat Is Wrong In His Assessment Of 'Why Remove Article 370'

Mr Dulat says at one place in his interview to Mr Thapar, "The Doval who was once interested in some kind of engagement (with Pakistan)

has gone for good. He wants nothing to do with talking, with accommodation. His focus is on toughness, on ruthlessness, on ensuring that targets are met." About Government of India's "muscular" policy in Kashmir, Mr Dulat says for Mr Doval, "He and Modi Ji are made for each other."

About the removal of Article 370 in Kashmir, Mr Dulat says in his interview, "Why do it? It was the same way. Why remove 370? There was nothing in 370."

But going by what is being witnessed in the Valley following the abrogation, it seems that Article 370 was far more than the sum of its parts. Its removal has caused significantly positive shifts in Kashmir.

Over the decades, it was observed that Article 370 emboldened the terror ecosystem. Its removal has strengthened the nationalist narrative in Kashmir.

In Kashmir, All Opposites Apply

Mr Dulat says for present day Kashmir, "We are defeating the idea of India and that is why Mehbooba says from time to time that there'll be nobody left to hoist the national flag." At another point, he says, "There is no expectation left from Delhi, and it's a sad story. It's a very sad story. And talking of kids going to school, who used to take great pride in carrying these paper national flags and singing the national anthem on Independence Day, on Republic Day. It doesn't happen anymore, and it's become an issue. 'Why

do we need to carry these flags?”

With his vast experience in Kashmir, Mr Dulat knows that in Kashmir, everything is true, and its opposite is equally true. Kashmir has people who don't want to hoist the national flag. It has an equally and even higher number of people who are more than happy to unfurl and hoist the national flag with honour. These include grown-ups, youth and children alike.

In fact, the current joke in Kashmir is that everybody is a nationalist now, and everybody wants to prove himself more loyal than the king. With the government giving no space to any support for terror, nobody wants to be seen on the wrong side of law.

Here too, interesting developments have been observed. There is huge appreciation among the common masses for the tough and uncompromising stand of the government against terror and corruption. The dismissal of the employees indulging in anti-national activities has been welcomed by the society. The

There is huge appreciation among the common masses for the tough and uncompromising stand of the government against terror and corruption. The dismissal of the employees indulging in anti-national activities, along with the insistence on work culture in government officers has been welcomed

insistence on work culture in government officers has been highly welcomed by the general populace.

‘Nothing Is Irretrievable In Kashmir’

In August 2021, Lt Governor Shri Manoj Sinha famously said about a week after the Independence Day on August 15, “If Pakistan uses a gun to keep shops closed in Kashmir, what's wrong if I use a stick to keep the shops open?”

The initiatives of the UT

Administration in enforcing the rule of law have been greatly welcomed in Kashmir. The Valley is now seeking change and wants to leave its tumultuous past behind. Mr Dulat makes an accurate analysis of Kashmir when he says, “Nothing is irretrievable in Kashmir.” The good news is that the retrieval has begun on multiple fronts, and is meeting with success.

In the ultimate analysis, the question is not whether a particular Article of the Constitution stays or goes. The question is of national security. The question is of the quality of life that people experience, and whether they are able to flourish in a conducive, enabling environment.

With better law and order, Kashmiris are now demanding more activities for the evenings. They are demanding large food courts across the Valley that celebrate diverse cuisines and Sufiana culture. They are demanding that the Valley be made a hub for medical tourism, for health and wellness tourism. This is the pace of change in Kashmir after abrogation.



In July, Budgam police in collaboration with Kashmir Youth Web organized a signature campaign to spread awareness about drug menace in the society. Youth and the police are working together to curb this menace

Why Are Dr Farooq, Ms Mufti Behaving Like The Fringe?

by Gayatri Mohan



Why are all hybrid militants of Kashmir all in the age-group of about 14 to 22 years? The reason is that teenagers or those in their early 20s are easily influenced by the hateful propaganda unleashed by ISI



Why are Kashmir's most visible and mainstream politicians behaving like the fringe? One can expect such talk from a leader of Jamaat e Islami (JEI) or other radical organizations. But with the noose tightening around all anti-national speech or activity, no JEI member or those from other such organizations are making any such provocative comments.

Why are such comments emerging from Dr Farooq and Ms Mufti? And who are they provoking?

Answer: Dr Farooq and Ms Mufti are provoking a section of Kashmir's teenagers and youth. These boys and girls are fed on inflammatory anti-India social media content generated from Pakistan, which floods Kashmir's social media daily. Such youth are further confused by rabble-rousing comments from the leading politicians which deliberately stoke anger. The youth start believing in violence as a suitable response to vent their anger.

Why are all hybrid militants of Kashmir all in the age-group of about 14 to 22 years? Why aren't men in their late 20s, 30s or 40s sucked into hybrid militancy?

The reason is that teenagers or those in their early 20s are easily influenced by the hateful propaganda unleashed by ISI. Senior Kashmiris admit that these youngsters have no idea of the terror years that the elders lived through. These boys are who are easily co-opted by terror operatives as hybrid militants. They are used to carry out targeted killings.

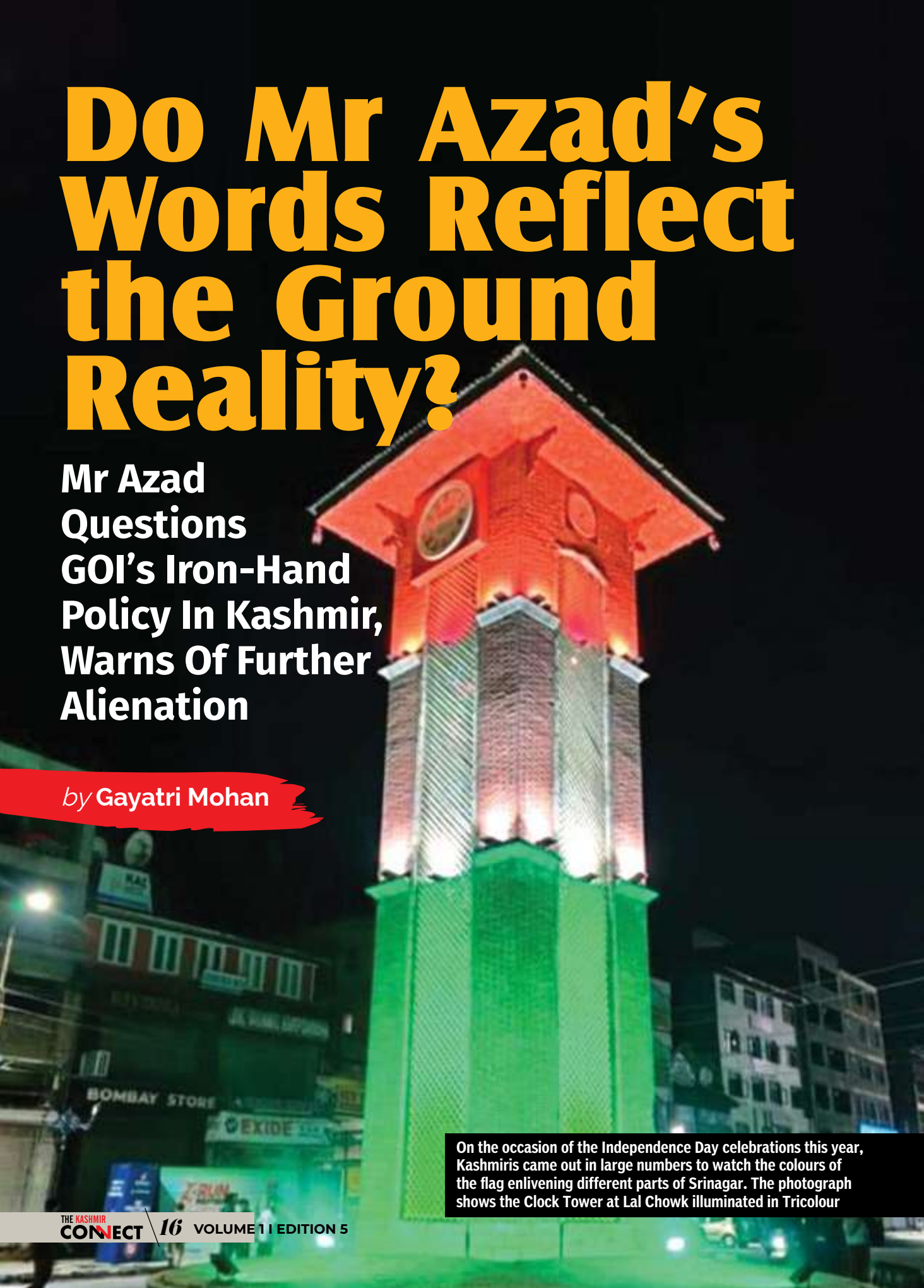
Girls influenced by the propaganda emanating from Pakistan get influenced to provide logistics support to terror groups. By engaging in such activities, these youngsters threaten the safety and security of the people, and also jeopardize national security.

A large majority of these youth are from poor or lower middle class families. If they initiate any violent action, they get killed by security forces in counter-terror operations. Parents of these youth are left wailing for life. This certainly cannot be the terrible consequence that any political leader may seek.

Do Mr Azad's Words Reflect the Ground Reality?

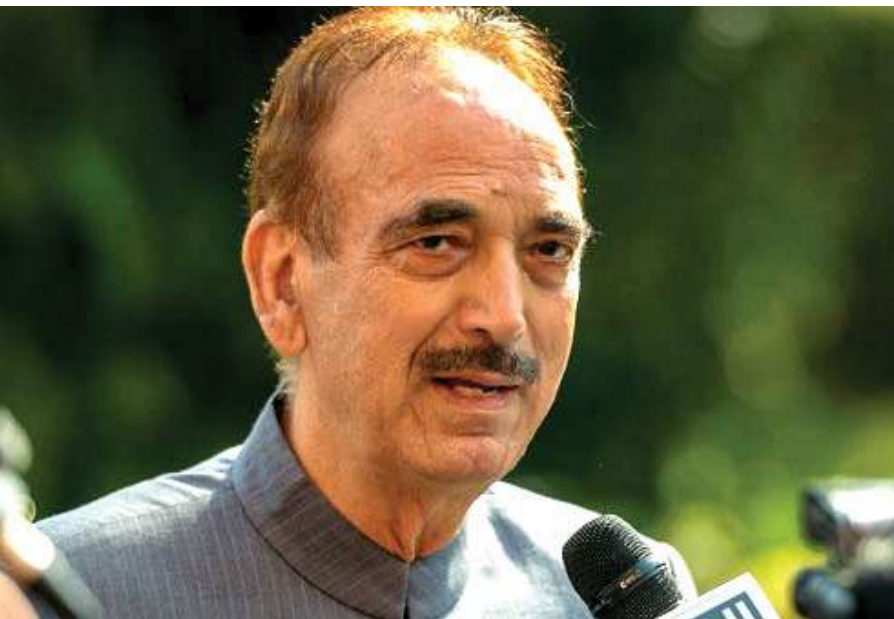
Mr Azad
Questions
GOI's Iron-Hand
Policy In Kashmir,
Warns Of Further
Alienation

by Gayatri Mohan



On the occasion of the Independence Day celebrations this year, Kashmiris came out in large numbers to watch the colours of the flag enlivening different parts of Srinagar. The photograph shows the Clock Tower at Lal Chowk illuminated in Tricolour

The iron-hand policy of the union government has resonated with common Kashmiris. It has restored law and order. Kashmir was rocked by terrorism and conflict for 30 years. The return to total normalcy will take time. The change isn't total. But the change is rapid, and it is spreading.



Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad

Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad is a highly respected politician, and has earned immense goodwill through his long political career.

Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad visited Anantnag for a political rally on December 26. According to a news report published in The Hindu, Mr Azad questioned the iron-hand policy adopted by the government in J&K, and warned

“of further alienation” in the Union Territory.

Do the words of Mr Azad reflect the ground reality in Kashmir?

No. Those living in Kashmir know what has been the government's iron-hand policy. It is strict adherence to the rule of law, with zero space for lawlessness on the streets like stone pelting, shutdown or hartal schedules and street agitations.

With the state taking full responsibility for law and order, people have faith that the government is serious about its objectives.

The commoners are greatly relieved. There is greater faith and stronger connect with the administration. Far from causing alienation, the clear-cut, development oriented policy of the union government has been hugely appreciated in the Valley.

The iron-hand policy of the union government has resonated with common Kashmiris. It has restored law and order. It has empowered the peaceful, law-abiding Kashmiris to live a normal life and work for their dreams and aspirations in a conducive, harmonious atmosphere.

There still are radical pockets that support the terror ecosystem. But their space is shrinking. Kashmir was rocked by terrorism and conflict for 30 years. The return to total normalcy will take time. The change isn't total. But the change is rapid, and it is spreading.

This is the new reality of Kashmir.

Pulwama, Kupwara **Case** **Studies**

**Zero Tolerance For Terror,
Empowering Environment For Law
Abiding Citizens**

by **Gayatri Mohan**

On December 26, Mr Azad addressed a public rally in Anantnag. While speaking to media persons there, Mr Azad noted that the the Government should fight militancy instead of producing more militants.

“We have to fight militancy and we don't have to produce more militants. We should not target people to such an extent that instead of bringing them back, they will go against us. This should be the policy of



Deputy Commissioner Pulwama Mr Baseer Ul Haq Chaudhary during a village visit

the Government, whether local or Central Government. There should be separate policy for dealing with militants and the common people," he said.

According to the report, Mr Azad stated that Kashmir was witnessing rampant arrests and there had to be a separate policy for militants and the common man, to ensure that the latter's dignity was safeguarded. Mr Azad is correct. This indeed should be the aim of fair policing – whether locally, nationally or globally.

I bring to light some recent cases where JK Police can set an example for the rest of the nation on fair and just policing. The objective is to follow the policy where there is zero tolerance for terror, and the law-abiding citizens do not face any harassment.

Sahil, A Youth, Sent Back By SSP Pulwama Late At Night To Keep His Faith In The System

In a recent interaction, SSP Pulwama Mr Jeelani Wani told me that a few weeks ago, he received information that a young man named Sahil in a village named Jandwal was in possession of an AK-47.

"When we made enquiries, we learnt that there were two young men named Sahil living in the area. Both are about the same age, and live in close proximity. It was night-time. We picked up both of them. After assessment, it was clear that one of them was innocent. I told my team to leave him back at his

village even though it was past midnight. An officer in my team said to me that we can send a police vehicle in the morning to take the innocent Sahil back to his house. I told him, No. If we keep this young man in custody all night, it may always hurt him that he was held back even though he was innocent. We must send a police vehicle right now to take him back to his home honourably even at this late hour."

Mr Jeelani told me that this humane approach of the police goes a long way in building bonds at the people's level. These and other positive administrative and policing

measures are the reason why there has been a sharp drop in terror activities in Pulwama district.

Deputy Commissioner Pulwama Mr Baseer ul Haq Chaudhary told me that this is the consistent approach of Pulwama Police. Those associated with any terror activity shall not be spared, and all those who are leading a peaceful and harmonious life shall be enabled and empowered by the state, he said.

In April this year, Mr Choudhary had received the coveted Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration.



SSP Pulwama Mr Jeelani Wani interacting with the youth at a sports meet

Mr Jeelani told me that this humane approach of the police goes a long way in building bonds at the people's level. These and other positive administrative and policing measures are the reason why there has been a sharp drop in terror activities in Pulwama district



INNOCENT YOUTH SENT BACK HOME HONOURABLY BY KUPWARA POLICE

Here is a heart-warming example about the fair policing in Kupwara district led by SSP Mr Yougal Manhas.

Some youth of Pir Panjal region were arrested by Kupwara Police a few weeks ago for questioning. Sources reveal that during investigation, the police came to know that these youth are innocent, and they are victims of terror activities in their area. These youth were promptly released and handed over to their parents.



FROM THE DESK OF THE ROVING EDITOR

PROACTIVE POLICIES, CHANGING NARRATIVES

THE WAY FORWARD IN KASHMIR

**Weekly Public
Outreach Programs
Needed In Every
Village Of Kashmir**



by Mudasir Dar

**Need for a swift mechanism of
delivering justice to victims of
violence and from day to day
social injustice in Kashmir**

Post the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, Kashmir has changed a lot. The situation seems better. People have evolved themselves to a new mindset of development, of social justice and employment. They are shunning violence. They are working for peace building to bring back Kashmir's lost glory of peace and harmony. People have started paving the way for peace and dialogue.

Yet, the entire population can't be painted with the same brush. There is still a popular sentiment that is in the mindset of alienation. These sections of the local population give space to the anti-social elements to get succeed in their mission.

So the situation all around can't be considered hunky-dory.

People at the helm of affairs have dealt brilliantly with the harshest circumstances looming in Kashmir. Still, a lot more has to be done to ensure a peaceful,

violence-free society.

The responsibility of peace development lies on the shoulders of every citizen. The contribution of the youth is much more important than any other section of the society. It is the youth who hold the flag of peace and prosperity for the coming generations. This is what a sizable number of youth are doing during the present times in Kashmir.

The Youth Are The Future

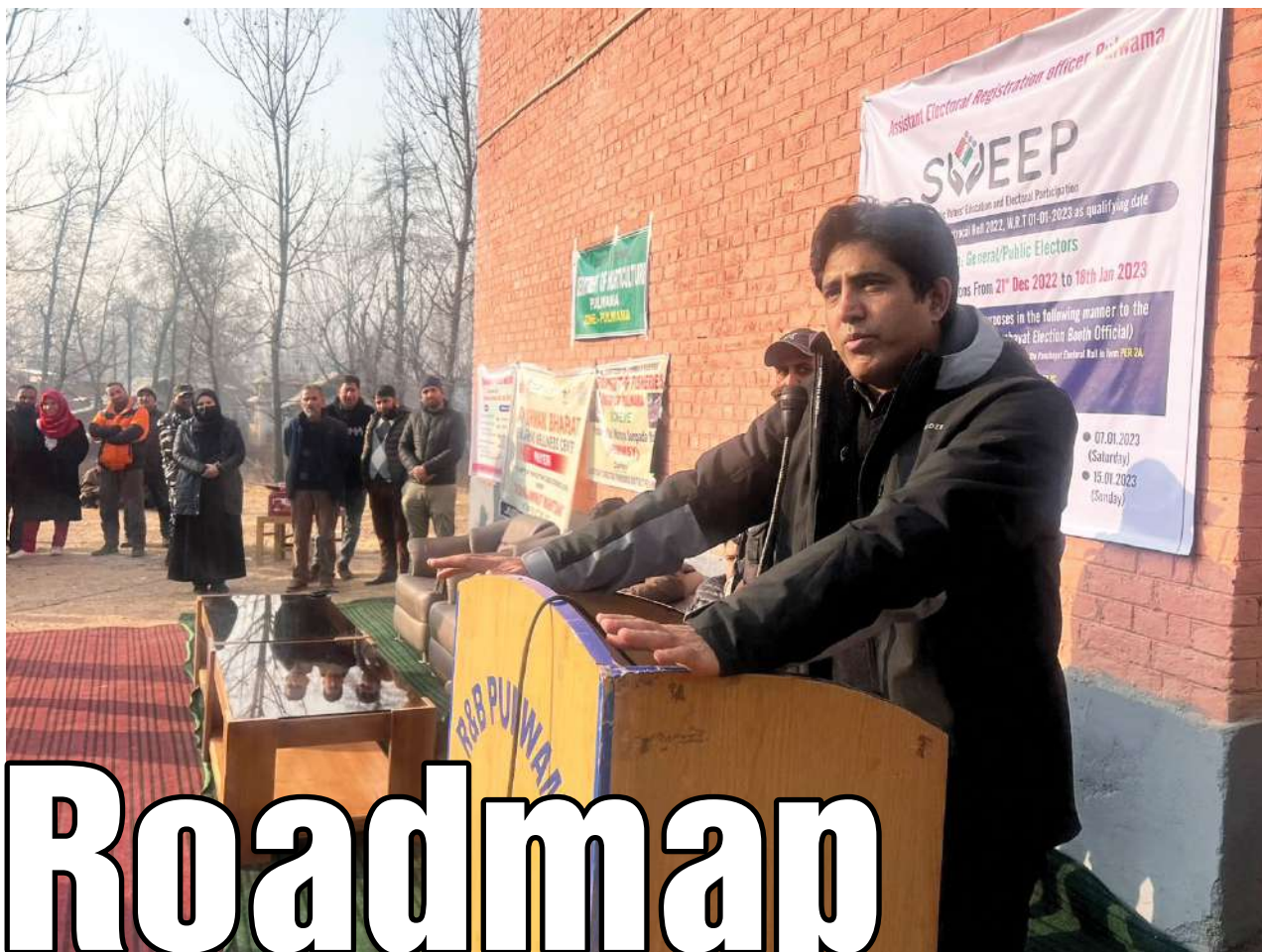
For every nation, the future lies in its young population. They are the ones who shape the future and the attitude of a nation. If you impress their minds with vibrant policies, the other challenges can be taken head-on.

In order to win the hearts and minds of people, the policymakers must understand that being mindful of public opinion is important. The best option to engage with people is to find out the problems they face vis-à-vis the local government, and resolve those problems.

When we avoid engagement with the common masses, we are actually reducing the space for peace and harmony. Problems fester when a void is created between the administration and common masses. There have been many unsuccessful talks in the past, with no concrete solutions. The Administration must put in sincere efforts and must interact regularly with those at the grassroots level who are working tirelessly for peace building.

In order to win the hearts and minds of people, the policymakers must understand that being mindful of public opinion is important. The best option to engage with people is to find out the problems they face vis-à-vis the local government, and resolve those problems





Roadmap For The Goals That We Seek

Deputy
Commissioner
Pulwama Mr Baseer
Ul Haq Chaudhary
at an interaction
with villagers

Organized Schedule For Weekly Public Outreach Programs

To create a favourable environment for the local masses, weekly public outreach programs in every village of Kashmir are the need of the hour. Addressing public demands in a time-bound manner and reducing the gap of bureaucracy with the public will

help in rebuilding the faith of the people on the administration.

Engage The Youth At Block, District Levels, Listen To Their Voices

The administration has been successful in this all to a large extent, and still a lot more has to be done. Listening young voices is important. Keeping them out of the dialogue will

widen the already existing gap between the youth and state administration.

To take the youth in confidence, the Administration must organize events to engage the youth at block and district levels. The youth must be given the right platforms to communicate, to speak of what's on their mind. This shall also help the Administration in



appropriate policy formulation to address the youth. It shall also help in dealing with the alarming drug menace in Kashmir.

State Must Help In Developing Stronger Networks, Bond With Fellow Indians

People in the valley have been complaining about the selective approach of the fellow Indians towards them in other parts of the nation. Many incidents in past have created mistrust between Kashmiris and our fellow Indians. Tarnishing all the Kashmiris with the same brush is not wise. It goes against our fundamental rights as Indian citizens. This also jeopardizes the rule of law.

We should have stronger networks with our fellow Indians, a stronger feeling of brotherhood. The shared love with the people shall heal the burns of trauma and conflict that we have received for three decades.

State Must Ensure That There Is No Identity Discrimination

There should be no discrimination on the basis of region or identity. This is guaranteed to all citizens by the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution of our nation. At times, identity discrimination has led us to confrontations with our fellow Indians. Sometimes, the situation has also turned ugly.

Our young generation of students, professionals and businessmen who study or work in different parts of India are at times victimized by some anti-social elements. There are reports of their being beaten or ill-treated at times.

Those who victimize Kashmiris are unaware of the delicate relationship between Delhi and Kashmir. I see the same playing out at Aligarh Muslim University these days. At times, students can make mistakes. But the adverse treatment that follows towards them is not justifiable. It should be avoided.

The Kashmiris who have gone to other parts of their country to study or work are

young and brilliant minds who have shunned the path of militancy. They have joined academics for a better future, they have started their business, or they have chosen to be professionals. They must be given equal opportunity to shine and work in a fair environment.

Ensure Swift Mechanism Of Justice

A swift mechanism of delivering justice to victims of violence, terrorism and from day to day social injustice needs to be encouraged. When people get justice, it heals their wounds and ends the gap between the system and people. Our system has been eloquent. It

must continue to deliver justice to the people at the right time. There is no space for injustice in the world's largest democracy. Our judicial system is among the finest in the world. Justice delivered always wins minds and hearts, and the same for us in Kashmir.

Organize Counselling Sessions For Radicalized Youth

The approach of dealing with the youth of Kashmir needs a swift change. Those who take the extreme path of self-destruction by taking the path of terrorism or narco terror must be dealt with as per law.

At the same time, counselling

sessions must be organized for the boys who are on the brink of taking the path of terror. Kind and sincere efforts can take us to the heights of peace and stability that we seek.

Provide Handholding For Youth Weaned Away From Wrong Path

The Administration can examine whether it can offer some kind of career or vocational training hand-holding to the youth who have been deterred from choosing the wrong path. This shall encourage and give faith to many others of the benevolence of the system. Constructive engagement with the youth must be encouraged, since they



shape tomorrow's opinions and attitudes.

Security Forces Must Ensure Minimum Damage To Houses Occupied Forcibly By Militants

The Kashmir conflict has consumed millions of lives, and property worth billions in the past few decades. This trend of destruction and loss continues even today. Many times, militants forcibly take refuge in the houses of Kashmiris. These houses are immediately razed by security forces. Herein, a positive change is visible. While neutralizing militants, security forces ensure minimum collateral damage of the houses which were occupied forcibly. These Kashmiris have already lost a dwelling place. They should not be dealt with like they are with the enemy.

State Must Formulate Policies Which Win Hearts

The policymakers must formulate policies which address national goals, and also win the hearts of the people of Kashmir. It brings a sense of belonging to a vast majority of Kashmiris.

Our nation's democratic traditions must be fiercely protected. People feel secure in a democratic atmosphere. Bureaucracy can never replace democracy (electoral politics). The democratic institutions need to be revitalized. Youth must be taken on board as change makers. The youth must be empowered towards electoral politics, which makes democracy shine. Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah spoke of these same ideals during his rally at Baramulla, when he referred to connecting with the youth.



Mr Mudasir Dar

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NOTES FROM THE VALLEY



FROM THE CONSULTING EDITOR'S DESK

SHEIKH MUDASIR HUSSAIN



A TEACHER OF GOVT DEGREE COLLEGE, BARAMULLA, TOOK SOME STUDENTS TO MILITANT'S FUNERAL GOVT MUST INITIATE ACTION AGAINST SUCH SABOTEURS

Some days ago, I learnt that a teacher of Government Degree College, Baramulla, took some under-graduate students to the funeral of a militant from our area who had been killed in Shopian. I was shocked to know this. These youngsters are at such a tender age. It is so wrong for a teacher to radicalize or indoctrinate them by taking them to the funeral of a militant.

If the teacher really wanted to show sympathy to the militant, why didn't he ask some fellow teachers of the college or some of his family members to accompany him? But he didn't do that, because he knew that the other teachers or his family members may not agree. That is why he asked innocent students studying there to go with him for a militant's funeral.

These are the kind of people who are

sabotaging the system from within. The UT Administration and the security forces are trying to restore peace and stability in Kashmir. From my conversations with people around the township, I know that many people are appreciating the atmosphere of peace in Kashmir. We have experienced peace and calm after so many decades.

But some people, like this teacher from the Government Degree College, are damaging the efforts for peace. This teacher has a secure government job himself. But if he manages to radicalize some youth in his classes, it shall be disastrous. Those youth will set off on the path of militancy, and their parents will be left wailing for life.

The UT Administration must initiate an exercise to identify all such saboteurs within the system and take suitable action against them.



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