

KASHMIR

SOUTH ASIAN JOURNAL OF CURRENT AFFAIRS

TODAY

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**PM MODI CONGRATULATES
PM SHARIF**



**ROYAL MARRIAGE OF
ABISHEK AND GAURI
KITCHLOO**



ALLAH, ARMY AND AMERICA



**KARACHI
ATTACKER
SHARI
BALOCH**



**INDIA SLAMS
REP. ILHAN
OMAR'S VISIT
TO PAKISTAN**



**IMRAN KHAN
CLAIMS US
DIPLOMAT
INVOLVED IN
CONSPIRACY**



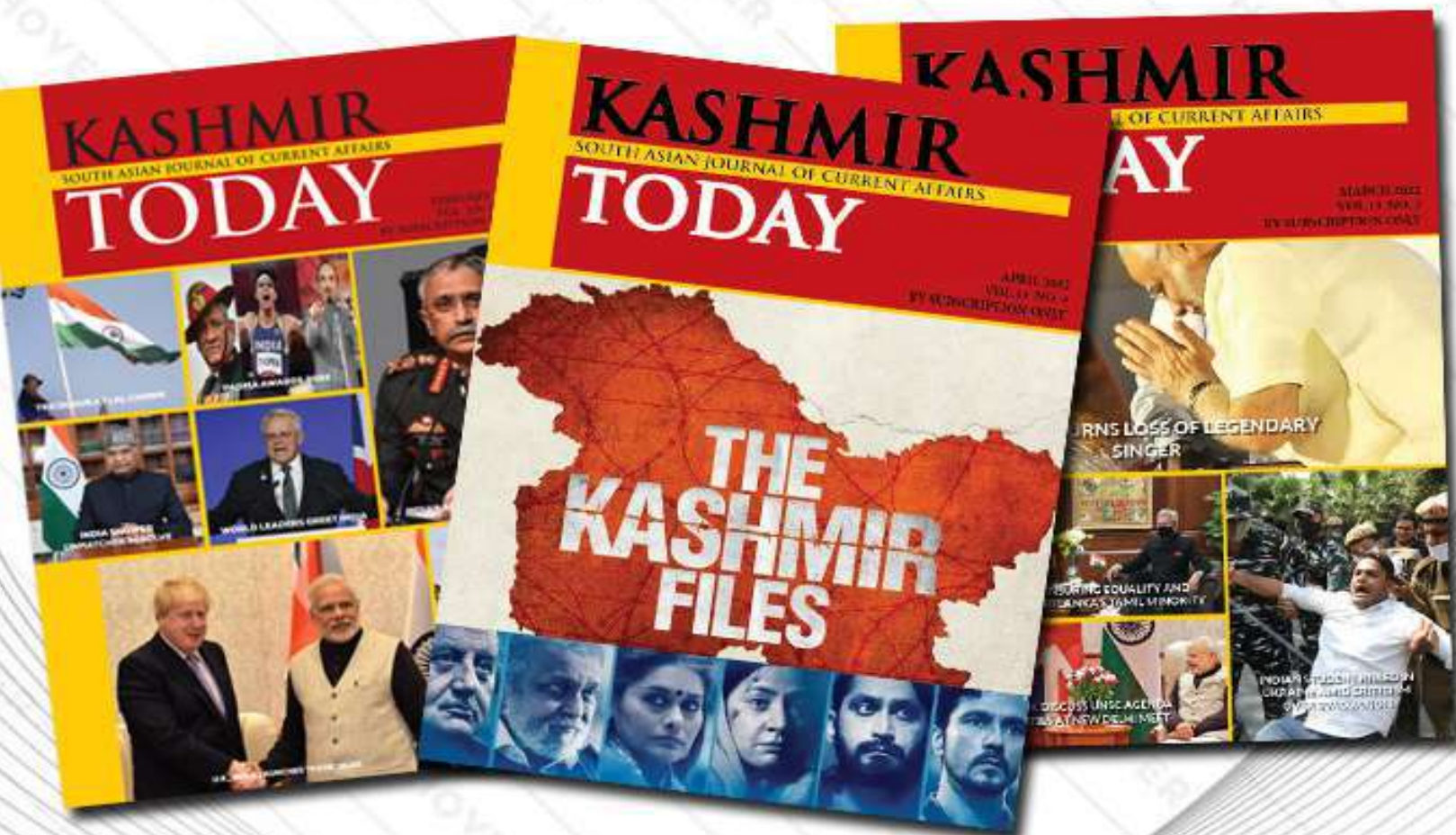
**US SAYS
ILHAN VISIT
TO PAKISTAN
NOT STATE
SPONSORED**

An Insight to India's Beautiful State

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We have it all **KASHMIR TODAY**

SOUTH ASIAN JOURNAL OF CURRENT AFFAIRS





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Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav



Manoj Sinha
Lieutenant Governor, J&K



Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

**People of
Jammu & Kashmir**
Extend

SINCERE GRATITUDE

to

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister



***You have always been a source
of strength and inspiration.
Under your guidance,
Jammu Kashmir will continue to
prosper and scale new heights.***

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

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KASHMIR

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Editor
Surinder K. Zutshi

Deputy Editor
Haji Zakir Ali

Associate Editor
Elizabeth Rao

Managing Editor
Neil Zutshi

Contribution Editor
Tahir Ikram
Srinagar

Raj Dogra
Jammu

Rigzin Dogra
Ladakh

Asha Singh
Delhi

Gazala Khan
Pakistan

Suneil Suri
Photojournalist

Design & Layout
Darryl Tuburan

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A photograph of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a prominent Indian politician, speaking and gesturing with his hands.

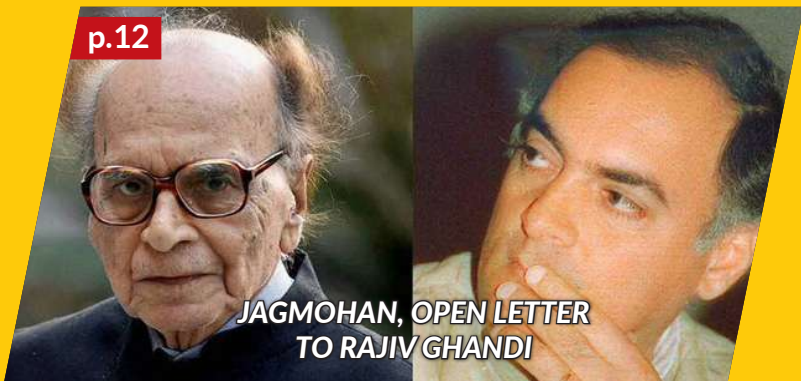
PAK DESIRES PEACEFUL
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A photograph showing a group of people, including women in traditional Indian attire, seated around a table during a celebration.

ROYAL MARRIAGE OF
GAURI AND ABISHEK
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A composite image featuring two portraits: Jagmohan on the left and Rajiv Gandhi on the right.

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A photograph of Ilhan Omar, a U.S. Congresswoman, speaking at a podium with an American flag in the background.

US SAYS ILHAN OMAR
NOT VISITING ON GOVT-
SPONSORED TRAVEL

EDITORIAL

Jammu & Kashmir On the Path of Progress



The Prime Minister Modi's recent first public visit to Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of the erstwhile Article 370 in 2019, that had maliciously divided the State from rest of the country, is a historic one. According to the former Article 370 Constitution had bestowed special status on the now Union Territory (previously a State). With Muslims forming the major ethnic group of the region and its proximity to Pakistan, communal violence between Kashmiri Pandits (originally known as Batta Community) and Muslims reared its ugly head repeatedly, ever since India's independence. Islamic dissidents took advantage of the above-mentioned article for mispurpose invoking religion as a tool to demand a separate country with its own Prime Minister and Sadar-i-Ryasat. The jihadis or the Islamic militants wanted a pan Muslim region with all the Kashmiri Hindus thrown out of the State or they wanted them to convert to their religion. There was a large-scale mayhem and brutal murders, and rapes took place of Hindu Pandits by the extremists which finally led to Genocide and mass exodus of the Kashmiri Hindus out of Kashmir, and they became refugees in their own country. Incidentally, since 800 years, when Muslim raiders came to Kashmir this was not the first exodus of Kashmiri Pandits but the seventh exodus. All this

happened while the then government helplessly stood watching or ignoring the plight of the Kashmiri migrants. Because of Article 370 and 35 A Center pandered to appease the hunger of powerful elites and Separatist leaders of J&K whose greed and selfishness manifested in lining up their pockets and who in turn used the article for their demonic purposes to mislead the poor who were not aware of the true efficacy of the tool. Despite so much of money being pumped into the State the economy and development withered. The Muslim youth was either jobless or turned towards picking up arms against anyone who practiced outside faith. There was total wastage of both fiscal as well as human resources.

The State was in shambles till the new Government (Bhartiya Janta Party) at the Center revoked Article 370 in 2019 and with that the Special status bequeathed on the State was made redundant. Of course, the process of revocation was not passed without a struggle by the majority Muslims and matters are still not hunky dory, but it is a step in the right direction if India must fight divisive forces to remain united as a country.

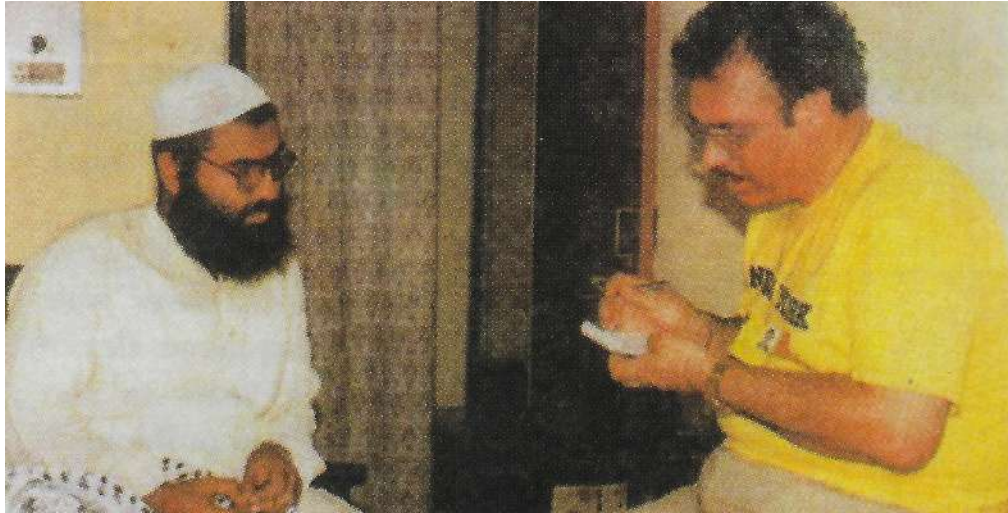
In his first visit recently to the valley after the revocation of Article 370 in 2019, the Prime Minister in his speech emphasized grassroots democracy and a development push for the region. Speaking at Palli, Modi officially declared it as the country's first carbon-neutral panchayat. Modi celebrated the first panchayat day celebration in J&K. He also, inaugurated numerous projects, worth over INR 20,000 crores, including the opening of the Banihal-Qazigund tunnel connecting Jammu and Kashmir. Besides giving the people

of J&K message of the new investment Modi also introduced to the people new business investors who had joined him from UAE (for investing in the valley). The latter's proposed investments could cross over Rs. 3,000 crores as per government claims.

The focus of both panchayat and new investment are also on how politically viable the region is. In other words, the previous Article 370 was restricting the development in J&K and hopefully the State can revel in the fruition of prosperity. The current government is of the view and as proven right to a T, the previous system only favored a few political elites in the Valley. The point that needs highlighting is that there was always a surplus of central financial support for J&K, which is well known did nothing much for the economic development. Therefore, the actual economic test in post 370 revocation will be whether new investment and the new political set up can create new avenues, this is presuming Pakistan aided terrorism can be contained.

Internal terrorism in the Valley is another major test for the Center, this the government must tackle by wooing the hearts and minds of the people. This is the only way that Center can arm the State from random attacks from Pakistan. Abating terrorism will go a long way in helping new investment in stabilizing economic conditions in the State. Last but not the least for assembly elections to be conducted successfully in the State and ultimate restoration of statehood is important for citizens to have a say in their state's development. This will also help in attracting Kashmiri Pandits back to their homeland.

India designates JeM chief Maulana Masood Azhar's brother Ammar Alvi as terrorist



"Jaish-e-Mohamed Masood Azhar with Surinder Zutshi, Editor, KASHMIR TODAY. (File Photo: KT)"

The Centre on Monday designated Mohiuddin Aurangzeb Alamgir alias Ammar Alvi, the mastermind of February 14, 2019 Pulwama attack and brother of Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Maulana Masood Azhar, as an "individual terrorist" under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Ammar Alvi, 39, a resident of Bahawalpur, Punjab (Pakistan), is a senior leader of JeM and was involved in the 2019 Pulwama suicide attack, in which 40 personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were killed, according to a notification issued by the ministry of home affairs.

"Mohiuddin Aurangzeb Alamgir

alias Alvi is involved in anti-India terror activities on behalf of Jaish-e-Mohammad. He looks after JeM's fund collection activities from Pakistani nationals and routing the said fund to Kashmir in India," it said.

A government official said on condition of anonymity that once a person is designated as a terrorist under the federal anti-terror law, agencies such as the National Investigation Agency (NIA) can seize the assets of such persons.

The home ministry further stated that Alvi has also been involved in facilitating the infiltration of Afghan cadres and coordinating terror attacks on Indian security forces in Jammu and Kashmir.

Ammar Alvi has already been charge-sheeted along with his brothers, Maulana Masood Azhar and Abdul Rauf Asghar, in August 2020 by the National Investigation Agency (NIA). The agency also named their nephew Umar Farooq, who was sent to Kashmir to execute the Pulwama attack, and 15 others.

Investigators said it was Ammar Alvi who was constantly guiding Umar Farooq on the Pulwama conspiracy from Pakistan over the phone.

Alvi's designation under UAPA comes two days after the Centre notified Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) chief Hafiz Saeed's son Talha Saeed as a terrorist.

A 2019 amendment to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act empowers the Centre to designate people as terrorists under the law if it believes that they are involved in terrorism.

"Mohiuddin Aurangzeb Alamgir alias Alvi is involved in anti-India terror activities on behalf of Jaish-e-Mohammad. He looks after JeM's fund collection activities from Pakistani nationals and routing the said fund to Kashmir in India," it said.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Colonel Romesh Kaul

I think that the subject edition is very well compiled especially so post The Kashmir Files movie release. The central theme is the movie by Vivek Agnihotri with kudos for a stellar performance by Anupam Kher. Rightly the emotions run high as the truth has been told plainly and bluntly, something that the Congress hid under a thick cloak of lies and subterfuge.

I complement the authors who contributed to the articles therein for the same.

A word of caution, emotions should not get the better of us as in the real body politic, these have limited value. We as a community are not a vote bank for the politicians who run the show. Nonetheless we must as a community be persistent to emphasize our state of having been hounded out for just being the peace loving educated and spiritually enlightened community. I would like to place on record the stellar work done by Mr Surinder Zutshi for the Kashmiri Pandit community in North America. He has balanced his options very well and presented the plight of the hounded out pandits. His selection of the articles in the Kashmir Today journal has been of a high order. Complements to him and his dedicated team, wishing them all God Speed. I wish them success in all endeavors they undertake.



Anupam Kher

Very good. Thanks. 🌈 🙏 🌸



Mr. Surinder Zutshi, Editor of Kashmir Today, Honoring Anupam Kher

Major Askok Kaul

I appreciate Kashmir Today's work in highlighting emerging global situations. And I am sure the publication, with its positive vision, will continue to champion peace and happiness across the globe.

Dr. Shayker

Excellent coverage..Thanks 🙏 for highlighting our story..

R. K. Sinha

Thank you so much for your coverage of the Kashmir Files. The interview with Anupam Kher was especially riveting. Kashmir Files was a game changer and it was nice to see your magazine devote so much coverage to it.

Dr. Lalita Masson

Kashmir is very dear to me and I know my colleague Mr. Surinder Zutshi has fought hard on the issue. Enclosed please find my renewal of subscription check. Good luck for your mission. I appreciate your invitation to me to your next World Leadership Conference in the near future. Please count me in.

Manmohan Dhar

Prime minister Narendra Modi's dream of a Naya (New) Kashmir got a boost when he greeted the people of Jammu and Kashmir with a bouquet of bumper packages for the Union Territory on the eve of National Panchayat Day at Palli. He



said that it was a matter of great pride that democracy had reached the grassroots levels in the Valley. Modi also assured the youth of J&K about their bright future and asked them for a proactive role in matters of the State to fulfill their dreams.

Since Bhartiya Janta Party came into power Kashmir has seen development in political and socio-economic areas. The people of Valley are slowly and steadily

“Some Kashmiri Pandits who claim to be the voice of Kashmiri Pandit community have criticized the PM for not highlighting their plight. The time has come when Kashmiri Pandits need to rise above prejudices and become one with the voice of nation. Narrow political outlook has been a talk of the past. Nationalism is the new name of the game.”

trying to understand the difference between the Kashmir prior to Modi regime and the current BJP rule. Some local political parties termed PM's visit as a political gimmick. Some termed it as rhetoric and an eye wash. No political party could see the sincere efforts that PM put from day one of taking office, in bringing the strife torn State into the purview of mainstream politics. The criticism from the opposition is quite understandable but it is ironical and sad that some Kashmiri Pandits who claim to be the voice of Kashmiri Pandit community have criticized the PM for not highlighting their plight. The time has come when Kashmiri Pandits need to rise above prejudices and become one with the voice of nation. Narrow political outlook has been a talk of the past. Nationalism is the new name of the game.

Dr. Vaidya Bhat

Nice to see Kashmir Today Cover Story of Kashmir Files. I salute Vivek Agnihotri for bringing the truth from so many years out. Shame on Congress government who made Kashmiri Pandits refugees in their own Country.

Mary FitzGerald

As an American I had an eye opening experience reading Kashmir Today.

I have never heard about the terrorism in Kashmir and the genocide of Hindus till reading this magazine. I am now aware of how Pakistan is a Country acting as a bad actor in supporting terrorism and not to be trusted as well as China (which seems behind so much in Asia). China apparently has much involvement since the 90s and Kashmir.

This magazine was a history lesson for me. Looking forward to next issue.

**PJ Mistry, Rotterdam, Netherlands**

As usual I enjoyed reading about the diversity of issues that Kashmir Today covers, however, the Kashmir Files articles discussing the issues in the region were very informative. I heard a few people talking about

The Kashmir Files movie and now my Mom and I will definitely be seeing it. Very sad to hear about the ethnic cleansing that took place in Kashmir and how the Government at the time did nothing to protect them. The citizens of India became refugees in their own Country. What a shame! Our honorable Prime Minister Modi Ji is working on relocating Kashmiri Pandits with honor and dignity. Hopefully more people are now aware of this atrocity and can help moving forward in making a positive change.



Modi and Johnson agree on new Anglo-Indian security partnership



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, right, shakes hands with his British counterpart Boris Johnson after a joint press conference in New Delhi on Friday.

The prime ministers of India and the U.K. agreed Friday on a new and expanded defense and security partnership and committed to completing a free trade deal by the end of the year.

After talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, British leader Boris Johnson said it is “a decade-long commitment that will not only forge tighter bonds between us but [also] support [New Delhi’s] goal of ‘Make in India’” -- a policy aimed at turning the country into a manufacturing hub. “The U.K. is creating an India-specific open general export license, reducing bureaucracy and slashing delivery times for defense procurement,” Johnson said at a joint media appearance with Modi after extensive talks in the Indian capital. “We have agreed to work together to meet new threats across land, sea, air, space and cyber, including partnering on new fighter jet technology, [and] maritime technology to detect and respond to threats in the oceans.”

The Ukraine war was also on the pair’s agenda. India has not outright condemned Russia’s invasion and has abstained from key votes on the issue at the United Nations. Instead, New Delhi has called for an end to

the violence and to seek a solution through diplomacy and dialogue.

“We stressed on dialogue and diplomacy for an immediate ceasefire in Ukraine and resolution of the problem [there],” Modi said, adding that they also emphasized “a free, open, inclusive and rules-based order” in the Indo-Pacific.

Johnson, who described Modi in his local language as his “khas dost,” or special friend, made an oblique reference to the war in his remarks to the media after meeting Modi.

“In challenging times, it is very important that we, the ‘khas dosts,’

At the media event, both leaders also noted the 2030 roadmap launched last year to advance bilateral ties, including doubling annual two-way trade to about 50 billion pounds (\$64 billion) by the end of this decade.

get closer together,” he said. “It was great to see you at the G-7 but since then threats of autocratic coercion have grown even further and it is therefore vital that we deepen our cooperation, including our shared interest in keeping the Indo-Pacific open and free,” he said directly to Modi.

Ahead of the summit, Johnson, who is in India on a two-day visit, said in a statement that the world faces

“growing threats from autocratic states which seek to undermine democracy, choke off free and fair trade and trample on sovereignty.”

“The U.K.’s partnership with India is a beacon in these stormy seas. Our collaboration on the issues that matter to both our countries, from climate change to energy security and defense, is of vital importance as we look to the future.”

At the media event, both leaders also noted the 2030 roadmap launched last year to advance bilateral ties, including doubling annual two-way trade to about 50 billion pounds (\$64 billion) by the end of this decade.

“We have decided to make all efforts toward concluding the FTA by the end of this year,” Modi said.

Johnson said the two sides are also taking “big steps” together on energy security, “helping each other to reduce our dependence on imported hydrocarbons and adopt cheaper, more sustainable homegrown alternatives.” About his Gujarat visit on Thursday, Johnson said he became the first Conservative prime minister to travel to the western Indian state, also the birthplace of Modi. He said the grand welcome extended to him in Gujarat, including hoardings with his picture everywhere, made him feel like Sachin Tendulkar and Amitabh Bachchan -- cricket and Bollywood living legends in India.

“As India celebrates its 75th year of independence [from British rule], I’m filled with optimism about the years ahead and the death of the friendship between our countries and the security and prosperity that our partnership can deliver to our people for generations to come,” he said. Johnson will now return to a political storm in the U.K., where some Tory lawmakers have called on him to resign ahead of an investigation being launched into whether the prime minister lied to parliament over the “Partygate” scandal.



Royal Marriage Celebration of Gauri and Abishek Kitchloo

BY: STAFF WRITER

SAAT MAANZ



The maenzraat ceremony takes place a week prior to the wedding. It begins with krool khanun, a ceremony which involves decorating the door of the houses of the prospective bride and the groom by their respective aunts (father's sister). In the evening, the bride-to-be follows an elaborate bathing ritual, during which her feet are washed by her maternal aunt. After the bath, her eldest aunt decorates her hands and feet with maenz (henna). Maenz is also distributed among the relatives and neighbors. The women invited for this occasion are served a delicious Kashmiri meal prepared by the waza. Dinner over, all participate in a lively wanvun or music session. In the groom's house, a little mehendi is applied on his hands as it is a symbol of auspiciousness.

Margaret Wagner, Family Friend of Gauri, Witnessed the Marriage

I recently attended the wedding ceremony of dear Gauri, my daughter's best friend. They went to high school together and we have remained friends throughout the years. When we moved from our home in Melrose Park to Wauconda, my daughter Niaz started a new school. A freshman in a new school, my daughter didn't know anyone. Feeling all alone, here comes a girl who fast became her best friend. Her name was Lauren. Lauren said to her, "You have to meet my best friend. Her name is Gauri." They met and the three of them were inseparable for the next four years. Where you see one you see all three of them. When one had a problem they all

had it. Gauri spent many a weekends at our house. It was always fun when the girls were together. Gauri and her family became our family too.

I was delighted when I received the invitation of Gauri and Abishek's wedding. The ceremony was absolutely beautiful. All the colorful dresses, flowers, and decorations were put together very well. Everything was so organized and professionally done. The food for all the events were absolutely delicious! There were so many varieties of different choices that it was almost impossible to taste everything.

Gauri and Abishek, the bride and groom, looked spectacular. They seemed to be very happy and were having a good time. Their was dancing till the wee hours of the morning. Fun was had by all. It really was so much fun! I have Been to many weddings from all over but I can honestly say that this one by far has been my favorite.



Margaret Wagner, Gauri, and Abishek Kitchloo



The Wedding Ritual Kicked-Off on an Excellent Start of Gauri and Abhishek

BY: RAVI MUNSHI



Little over a week ago, the Kitchloo family from Miami, Florida, proudly celebrated the wedding of their son, Abhishek with Gauri, a beloved daughter of the Kukreja family from Chicago, Illinois. It was a 'destination wedding,' held in the land of Magic, where all wishes come true – Orlando, Florida.

Truly a magical affair from the start to the finish, the wedding ceremonies were held at the famed and beautiful hotel, Rosen, which is known for its exceptional hospitality. About two hundred friends and family gathered for the celebrations that were spread over two days and nights. It was heartening to watch how relatives and friends from both sides had come to attend the wedding from far and near.

Those that have attended an Indian wedding know that the marriages are not just about the tying of a ceremonial knot between the bride and the groom. It's far more involved, in that it is the coming together of two families, in a relationship that lasts a lifetime. In the case of Abhishek and Gauri, there was an added fun of melding two cultures, which made the wedding ceremonies even more interesting and lively. Whereas Abhishek is a Kashmiri Pandit whose religious, cultural, and linguistic



Aacharya Mehta, Mr./Mrs. Kukreja, Abhishek and Gauri, Mr./Mrs. Kitchloo



moorings, and traditions are practiced by only a few hundred thousand the world over, Gauri comes from a Punjabi family whose community prides itself on having mastered the art of having a good time in the times of joy and happiness.

The wedding rituals kicked-off on an excellent start, beginning with the welcome dinner joyously hosted by the Kukreja family. Gauri,

the bride-to-be, had her hands and feet adorned by the application of bridal mehndi, and many of the female guests also joined in the fun of having mehndi applied.

The following night was the formal Mehndi Raat, where Gauri and Abhishek were greeted to a rousing welcome at the hall that served both as the dining hall and dance floor. In attendance were two women experienced in the art of applying mehndi specifically to cater to anyone who wished to have their hands decorated with the traditional intricate henna art. The dinner was served in a beautifully decorated hall that easily accommodated the two hundred guests who had gathered to join in the celebrations with the Kitchloos and Kukrejas. The food was wonderful and – from finger foods to formal delicacies reflected – all reflected the delicious confluence of Kashmiri and Punjabi cuisines. After dinner, Abhishek and Gauri's siblings shared anecdotal tidbits about the bride and groom, which brought great amusement to all in attendance. Finally, a dance frenzy descended upon the hall, as the guests danced the night away to the latest Bollywood hits.

Finally, the day of the wedding arrived. The Baraat

Photos by: Kashmir Today

accompanying the bridegroom assembled near the hotel's parking lot and, while dancing with a great pomp and show, proceeded to the hall where the marriage ceremony took place. Riding a palki, the bride entered the hall in style and proceeded to join the groom for the religious ceremonies to invoke God's blessings for their sacred union. All in attendance were touched to witness the love and devotion of the couple and their respective families. Following the marriage ceremony, an inviting Indian lunch was waiting next door for the guests who attended the ceremony. The guest then rested for a few hours in the afternoon, before coming back for one final celebration that evening: the bride and the groom were greeted as husband and wife for the very first time at the reception. Again, everyone was treated to delicious Indian food to enjoy, great music to dance to, and a parade of men and women seen in the best of their formal Indian attire.

Even with all these wonderful things to enjoy throughout the days of the wedding, the biggest highlight of the whole weekend was the opportunity to witness Abhishek and Gauri's joy, and to bless them in beginning their married life together. All those in attendance wished the young couple a joyous, healthy, and happy married life.



Photos by: Kashmir Today

Jagmohan's 'Open Letter' to Rajiv Gandhi; Blood on Congis hand on Pandits genocide



Jagmohan with Rajiv Gandhi

BY: SHAILAJA WANCHOO

Vivek Agnihotri's recent release of 'The Kashmir Files' has opened up a Pandora's box about the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the valley and has brought it in to the mainstream narrative. The film has evinced mixed responses from experts in the field of media and various individuals in the political circles. Many big wigs names have come to fore to those related with the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits. And one among the many that are known is that of Jagmohan Malhotra. Jagmohan Malhotra was the then governor of Jammu and Kashmir when there was a mass genocide of Kashmiri Pandits which ultimately led to their migration from the valley. Jagmohan Malhotra was a bureaucrat turned legislator. After working with the Indian National Congress, he joined the Bhartiya Janata Party in 1995. He served as Lieutenant Governor of Delhi and Goa, as the 5th Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, and for three terms as Member of Parliament for New Delhi. In the cabinet he served as the Union Minister for Urban development and Tourism.

Jagmohan has been misunderstood by many from all sides the media, the opposition party (which ironically had instated him as the Lieutenant Governor of J&K initially in the first term when he was in their party) and also by public at large. He did his best to stem the turbulence when he took over the state in



From left to right Farooq Abdullah, Rajiv Gandhi, and Mufti Mohammad Sayeed

both the terms. Although he took some concrete steps, rather harsh measures to control the situation, and before he could persist with his measures, he was taken off the post by the Center. From the start he sounded the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi about the nefarious arms infiltration across the Line of Control from Pakistan. But the warning fell

on deaf ears. Rajiv Gandhi ignored the admonitions from the State as he had good relations with the then Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah. During Farooq Abdullah's regime dreaded JKLF militants were set free and Rajiv Gandhi did not even bat an eyelid. In 1984 Intelligence had intimated Rajiv Gandhi about the mosques being heavily loaded with armaments in the downtown Hazratbal area, but again this was largely ignored by Central government upon assurance given by Farooq Abdullah, that the case was not so. Abdullah, and it is on records, used to visit foreign countries playing golf without a shed of responsibility towards his State. The condition was same as in the erstwhile era of the former Prime Minister Indra Gandhi when communal tensions in Punjab had raised its ugly head in the country. Foreign aided Sikhs wanted a separate state (Khalistan) for themselves. Again, it was the religious sanctuary, Golden Temple, in Amritsar which was made the repository of arms. And it took a Sikh DIG, K.P.S Gill sent by Indira Gandhi to wipe out the terrorists from the country. Although the country had to pay a heavy price for the same, Indira Gandhi was assassinated by the Khalistani miscreants. Jagmohan sounds irate at the half-hearted, dilly-dallying efforts of the center to sort out the problem of Kashmiri militants in J&K. Jagmohan time and again in his open letter to Rajiv Gandhi talks about the failure first of Congress and then the V.P Singh government to solve the matters of Kashmir. He was amongst the first to show the counter-productiveness of Article 370 which was a powerful tool for the elites that exploited the poor who did not understand the true efficacy of it. He holds the politicians

responsible who wanted to garner vote banks both at the Center as well at the State level for the creation of awful mess who just twiddled their thumbs taking no concrete steps to ameliorate the grim situation which ultimately led to the mass exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the valley. Jagmohan castigated all those in power who were blaming him for mishandling the situation. He indicated that they should set their houses in order first before playing the blame game.

Even though Muslims are a minority in India, they form the largest ethno-linguistic group in J & K. Laws which are abided by Muslims in rest of India are strongly opposed and twiddled around their little finger in Kashmir by the Muslims. Because of erstwhile article 370 and 35 A the special status that was conferred on the State festered it with rampant corruption and mire by the vested interests. According to the above-mentioned status Center accorded the State with goodies like subsidies in the form of cheap electricity and other allowances. Leaders like Abdullah used the moolah to fill the coffers of the like-minded separatist leaders. Separatists were instrumental in sending youth across the LOC to Pakistan and to take training and bring back dangerous weapons. It was happening right under Jagmohan's nose, and he cracked down on the subversives with an iron hand. This action was misconstrued sadly not also by the usual suspects but also by the ministers at the Center like N.K.P Salve who slammed Jagmohan for an interview that he had never given. Jagmohan was labelled as anti-Muslim and anti-article 370 by the Center without understanding him or giving him a hearing.

From left to right Farooq Abdullah, Rajiv Gandhi, and Mufti Mohammad Sayeed

Jagmohan vehemently defended

himself against the accusations hurled against him by Rajiv Gandhi labelling him as anti-Muslim, anti-Kashmir. He reminded Rajiv Gandhi that had he been anti-Muslim he would not have built roads in a Muslim area of Delhi, as is annotated in his book. He calls Farooq Abdullah a hypocrite with double standards who on the one hand, when he first took office, praised Jagmohan as out doing both National Conference as well as Congress party members, if he were to stand for elections. Later the very same Abdullah turned his stance and shouted out to the Center by proclaiming that there was humanitarian violation being committed on the civilians by the paramilitary forces and

“ There seems to be total empathy with Kashmiri Pandits' pain from Jagmohan's side. He had seen the pain and anguish first hand and had he not been removed by the vested interests at the Center, the Kashmir story would have been totally different; ”

there is curfew 24x7 in the State. And for this Abdullah blames Jagmohan. Jagmohan in his letter to Rajiv Gandhi, accuses him of 'perverting' real conditions before and after he arrived on scene. Jagmohan points in his letter that the machinery had totally mentally 'surrendered' to the subversives before the imposition of governor's rule. He points out that even prior to kidnapping of Dr. Rubaiya Sayeed, many violent incidents and bomb blasts had taken place in eleven months, which ultimately led to the reinstatement of him being the Governor. Also, the deal of releasing Dr. Sayeed by the militants was made in exchange for release of dreaded militants. One among the many being Shabir Ahmed Shah. Incidentally,

the kidnapping and release of Rubaiya Sayeed led to the famous Gawkadadal massacre where the paramilitary forces had to open fire on the civilian masses,



Dr. Rubaiya Sayeed

which was followed by a wild hunting down of Muslim households for subversive suspects and procurement of illegal weapons. The next day masses came out in hordes challenging the paramilitary forces and matters went haywire after that day with dissidents crossing over to Pakistan and coming back after training with dangerous weapons. Thereafter, the haunting history was there for everyone to witness.

Jagmohan seems very irritated rather outraged at the falsities levied against him this despite when he actually took some concrete steps to ameliorate the pains of Kashmiri migrants. It was he who secured leave salary for the State government officials instead of handing out cash doles to them, he was also responsible for the allotment of houses for widows upon payment who had been brutally murdered by terrorists. There seems to be total empathy with Kashmiri Pandits' pain from Jagmohan's side. He had seen the pain and anguish first hand and had he not been removed by the vested interests at the Center, the Kashmir story would have been totally different; where the minority Kashmiri Hindus would have co-existed peacefully with the Muslims as in the days of yore.

PM Modi congratulates Pakistan's new PM Shehbaz Sharif



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi wished Pakistan's new PM Shehbaz Sharif on Monday, with a message of peace in a region "free of terror". In a speech to the National Assembly a few hours earlier, Mr. Sharif had said that Pakistan desires good ties with India, which is "not possible without the resolution of the Kashmir dispute".

The comments from both leaders, while different from the period of no bilateral engagement between Indian and Pakistani leaders during the last few years of ousted PM Imran Khan's tenure, indicated that both sides will maintain their positions on terrorism and Jammu and Kashmir respectively.

"India desires peace and stability in a region free of terror, so that we can focus on our development challenges and ensure the well-being and prosperity of our people," said Mr. Modi, expressing his congratulations to Mr. Sharif, in a tweet just minutes after Mr. Sharif was sworn in as Prime Minister in Islamabad.

Mr. Sharif was elected Prime Minister in the National Assembly on Monday, after days of uncertainty over the no-confidence motion against Mr. Khan, which was eventually resolved by the Supreme Court, who directed the vote be held on Saturday.

The Ministry of External Affairs had declined to comment on the "internal matters" of

Pakistan, when asked about the turmoil in the neighbouring country. However on Monday, Mr. Modi discussed the situation in Pakistan and Sri Lanka during his virtual meeting with U.S. President Joseph Biden, officials said. Mr. Biden had not held any conversation with Mr. Khan after taking office in 2021, and the US President's engagement with the new Sharif government will be watched closely as well.

“The comments from both leaders, while different from the period of no bilateral engagement between Indian and Pakistani leaders during the last few years of ousted PM Imran Khan's tenure, indicated that both sides will maintain their positions on terrorism and Jammu and Kashmir respectively.”

In an hour-long speech after winning the vote, Mr. Sharif castigated Mr. Khan, accusing him of fostering a deterioration in Pakistan's ties with several countries including China, Saudi Arabia and the US. He also criticised Mr. Khan for a failure to conduct any "serious diplomacy" after India's decision to reorganise Jammu and Kashmir and amend

Article 370.

"We want good ties, but there can be no peace without the resolution of Kashmir," Mr. Sharif said, adding that "neighbours are not a matter of choice", calling it a "misfortune" that India-Pakistan don't share good relations.

Mr. Sharif had accompanied his elder brother and three-time Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif in December 2015, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi had made an unannounced visit to Lahore. Although ties between the two countries deteriorated shortly after, after the terror strike on Pathankot military base in January, Mr. Shehbaz Sharif was known for efforts to increase business and energy ties between the two countries. He was also believed to be privy to the backchannel dialogue held behind the scenes, with prominent businessmen as interlocutors, which eventually was taken over by NSA Ajit Doval and Pakistan's military leadership.

In the weeks ahead, Delhi and Islamabad will be tracked for any outreach by either side, particularly on the economic front. India withdrew Pakistan's MFN status, and Pakistan cancelled all trade ties with India in 2019, ending all economic engagement between them, except for pharmaceuticals over the past three years.

‘Pak Desires Peaceful Ties With India’: New Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif Tells PM Modi

India and Pakistan should secure peace and focus on the socio-economic development of their people, Pakistan’s new Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Tuesday while responding to a congratulatory message from his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi. Sharif offered an olive branch to India shortly after being elected on Monday, saying in his maiden speech that the resolution of the Kashmir issue will allow the two countries to focus on shared problems such as poverty and employment. Modi responded on Twitter, congratulating Sharif on his election and linking any engagement with Pakistan to an environment free of terror.

“Thank you Premier Narendra Modi for felicitations. Pakistan desires peaceful & cooperative ties with India. Peaceful settlement of outstanding disputes including Jammu & Kashmir is indispensable,” Sharif said in a set of tweets on Tuesday. “Pakistan’s sacrifices in fighting terrorism are well-known. Let’s secure peace and focus on socio-economic development of our people,” he added.

In his congratulatory message on Twitter, Modi had added that India “desires peace and stability in a region free of terror, so that we can focus on our development challenges and ensure the well-being and prosperity

of our people”.

Sharif was elected premier during a



Pakistan's prime minister-elect Shehbaz Sharif

parliamentary vote boycotted by more than 100 MPs from former prime minister Imran Khan’s party. He subsequently took the oath of office on Monday night. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Modi were among the first world leaders to felicitate Sharif after his election on Monday.

“Thank you Premier Narendra Modi for felicitations. Pakistan desires peaceful & cooperative ties with India. Peaceful settlement of outstanding disputes including Jammu & Kashmir is indispensable,” Sharif said in a set of tweets on Tuesday.

While speaking in Pakistan’s National Assembly after his election, Sharif laid out Pakistan’s standard position of raising the Kashmir issue at international forums and offering diplomatic and moral support to the Kashmiri people. However, he devoted more time to India in the foreign policy

segment of his speech than any other country, including China and the US.

“We desire good relations with India but there cannot be lasting peace till

the equitable resolution of the Kashmir issue,” he said, speaking in Urdu.

“I would give Prime Minister Modi this advice that you should understand about the poverty, unemployment [and] sickness on both sides. People don’t have medicines, education, trade or jobs. Why do we want to cause harm to ourselves and the coming generations?” he said.

“Come, let us decide the Kashmir issue according to UN resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people and end poverty on both sides and create jobs, and bring progress and prosperity.”

Sharif emphasised that neighbours are “not a matter of choice”, and are “something you have to live with”.

The two countries have not had any structured dialogue since the 2008 Mumbai attacks by Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba. Pakistan snapped virtually all ties and downgraded diplomatic relations after India scrapped the special status of Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019.

Back channel contacts between senior Indian and Pakistani security officials resulted in the two countries reviving the ceasefire on the Line of Control (LoC) in February 2021, ending years of skirmishes involving artillery, mortars and small arms.

Former prime minister Imran Khan made repeated personal attacks on Modi even as relations were at an all time low. The latest messages between the two prime ministers showed the two sides were sticking to their stated positions on Kashmir and terrorism.

Allah, Army and America': How Pakistan's Khan played anti-U.S. card

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's move to have parliament dissolved on Sunday, blocking a no-confidence vote that was poised to oust him, has plunged the nuclear-armed Islamic republic of 220 million people deeper into a constitutional crisis. Along the way, Khan has dragged the U.S. further into Pakistani politics.

Even though he has lost support of the powerful military, coalition allies and even some members of his own party, Khan has blamed Washington for his attempted ouster, claiming that his "independent" and pro-Beijing foreign policy triggered a U.S. bid for regime change.

Most experts doubt his allegations. However, anti-Americanism resonates on the street and fits into Khan's brand of Islamist populism.

While the opposition has turned to the Supreme Court, the country faces the prospect of elections in 90 days. And Khan has set the stage for making Pakistan's foreign policy -- and its decades-old balancing act between Washington and Beijing -- a campaign issue in what is being called its first "foreign policy election."

Is the U.S. really involved in Pakistani politics? Here is a closer look at Khan's argument and what it means for the country and region.

What is Khan saying about American interference?

"The move to oust me is blatant



Protesters burn a U.S. flag in Islamabad: The prime minister has accused Washington of plotting to overthrow him.

interference in domestic politics by the United States," Khan said on the eve of the vote of no confidence. In a flurry of interviews, speeches and tweets over the weekend, he continued to hammer this point. The crux of his argument is a cable sent by Pakistan's outgoing ambassador to Washington, Asad M. Khan (no relation to the prime minister), which states the minutes of his exchange in Washington with the U.S. assistant secretary of state for South Asian affairs, Donald Lu.

Prime Minister Khan's interpretation of the communique is that the U.S. diplomat made it clear that the Joe Biden administration was not pleased with the Pakistani leader -- especially because of his visit to Moscow and meetings with Russia's Vladimir Putin on the eve of the invasion of Ukraine -- and that there would be implications in case Khan survived the vote of no confidence.

In the buildup to the vote, Khan broke diplomatic protocol by publicly naming and shaming Donald Lu. He also got Pakistan's powerful National Security Committee -- which comprises the armed forces chiefs, intelligence bosses and top defense and foreign service officials --

to further investigate the matter and issue a strong demarche to the U.S.

Pinning the whole parliamentary movement against himself as being part of a U.S.-backed foreign conspiracy, Khan used the national security demarche to block the motion of no confidence. The White

House has denied the charges.

Why pull the U.S. into local

politics?

"Populist politicians in Pakistan have found it easier to raise the specter of distant America rather than present economic or domestic political solutions," said Shuja Nawaz, distinguished fellow at the Atlantic Council in Washington and author of "The Battle for Pakistan: The Bitter U.S. Friendship and a Tough Neighborhood."

"Analysts throw in the powerful and interventionist military into the mix. All this because civil society is fractured and unable to coalesce," he said.

Since the Cold War, "Allah, army and America" have been the three popular tenets of Pakistani politics. The first, "Allah," embellishes the theocratic credentials of the state, which was founded as a home for the Muslims of the Indian subcontinent after a bloody partition from India in 1947. However, progressive scholars argue against this tenet, claiming that the country's founder, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, was strictly secular. In the face of rising extremism in Pakistan, theirs is a lost argument.

The second, “army,” is in acknowledgment of the outsize role of the world’s sixth-largest military in the country’s internal politics. Though nuclear-armed and 650,000 strong, the Pakistani military is considered a deep state within the state, and has ruled the country directly or indirectly, through martial law, emergency or proxy, for most of its existence. Today, besides facing off against India or managing the Taliban in Afghanistan, the army builds roads, runs factories, owns banks and manages TV channels. However, it claims that it has nothing to do with politics.

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, in sunglasses, attends a military parade with top officials.

Thirdly, “America,” though once a strong Cold War ally of the country, is now considered a fair-weather partner at best. Having armed and supported Pakistan during the 1950s and 1960s as an Islamic bulwark against the Soviet Union, and then financing it as base for its proxy war against the Red Army in Afghanistan in the 1980s, the U.S. eventually sanctioned and isolated Pakistan in the 1990s -- the decade when Khan was rising as a politician.

“The U.S. was Pakistan’s greatest ally once, but now ours has become a transactional relationship,” said Brig. Muhammad Zeeshan, a retired Pakistani intelligence officer and currently the director general of the Center for Peace, Security and Developmental Studies in Islamabad. “People like American goods, American customs and culture. But the way Americans have used Pakistan and Pakistanis, that is not digestible anymore. That is something the general public, which is rightist in its politics because it is religious, and even the educated middle class agrees with. Being anti-American is fashionable on the Pakistani street.”

How did America become an election issue in Pakistan?

“Imran Khan came to power with the

army’s help and has lost it once the army said it is politically neutral. He is using the name of Allah and Islam to garner support. And he is invoking the specter of threat from America,” said Husain Haqqani, senior scholar at Washington’s Hudson Institute and a former Pakistani ambassador to the U.S.

Besides economic governance, Khan’s hardline stance on Washington has been one of the primary sources of tension with the country’s army chief, Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa -- the de facto most powerful man in the land.



Since the Cold War, “Allah, army and America” have been the three popular tenets of Pakistani politics. The first, “Allah,” embellishes the theocratic credentials of the state, which was founded as a home for the Muslims of the Indian subcontinent after a bloody partition from India in 1947. However, progressive scholars argue against this tenet, claiming that the country’s founder, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, was strictly secular. In the face of rising extremism in Pakistan, theirs is a lost argument.

Bajwa, an infantry officer with United Nations peacekeeping experience, is a graduate of U.S. and Canadian military colleges, and has been publicly pro-Western about his national security positioning. While Khan’s government has remained neutral about Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, Bajwa has condemned Russia. Shockingly, compared to Khan, he has been more flexible about dealing with the

country’s archenemy, India, suggesting talks with New Delhi on Saturday even as the country was in the throes of a constitutional crisis. Besides policy, adding to the tension between Khan and Bajwa is the issue of patronage, as the former has refused to give the latter an extension of office.

It cannot be said whether the military chief’s irregularly liberal leanings have divided the army -- intelligence officials approached for comment were clear about the chain of command. But Khan is spinning his “independent foreign policy,” going to the opening of Xi Jinping’s Beijing Olympics, visiting Putin, not attending Biden’s Democracy Summit in Washington, and rejecting any dialogue with Narendra Modi’s India until it reverses its annexation of Kashmir. All this, he argues, is why the Americans are out to get him.

While Pakistan’s Westernized top brass may not buy his spin, Khan’s incessant politicking, which now includes tweeting analogies about Islamic military history, has wide appeal on social media and may reflect in the polls.

“America doesn’t have the wherewithal to even fathom regime change in Pakistan,” said Mosharraf Zaidi, senior fellow at advisory firm Tabadlab in Islamabad, who has projected the next polls to be Pakistan’s first “foreign policy election.”

“Let’s remember that America has tried to get Pakistan to do very basic, linear things for decades. And Pakistani leaders, military and civilian have gone ahead and always done what Pakistan was going to do. They just haven’t budged,” Zaidi said.

“There is no conspiracy. Only a badly run superpower withdrawing from the region, and leaving behind an even more badly run middle power, with a faltering economy and toxic leaders that cannot see beyond their noses.”

India slams Rep. Ilhan Omar over 'condemnable' visit to Pakistan



Rep. Ilhan Omar's visit to Pakistan is the first by a member of Congress since a new coalition government came into power in Islamabad last week

India's Ministry of External Affairs blasted far-left Rep. Ilhan Omar's visit to Pakistan.

India's Ministry of External Affairs blasted far-left Rep. Ilhan Omar's visit to Pakistan this week, calling her trip to the disputed region of Kashmir "condemnable."

"We have noted that she has visited a part of Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir that is currently illegally occupied by Pakistan," ministry spokesman Arindam Bagchi said of the Minnesota Democrat during a Wednesday press conference. "Let me just say that if such a politician wishes to practice her narrow-minded politics at home ... that may be her business."

"But violating our territorial integrity and sovereignty in its pursuit makes it ours," he continued. "And we think this visit is condemnable."

Since gaining independence from Britain in 1947, India and Pakistan have fought three wars and several smaller

armed conflicts over Kashmir, none of which have proven decisive. The region is mainly governed by India, with Pakistan and China controlling the remaining territory.

“ A day earlier, the Minnesota Democrat met with Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbad Sharif, Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar and President Arif Alvi in the capital, Islamabad. With her visit, Omar became the first elected US official to meet with members of Pakistan's new coalition government, which took power last week after the removal of Imran Khan in a vote of no confidence. **”**

Earlier Thursday, Omar had visited the Pakistan side of a cease-fire line in the region, known as the Line of Control, and told reporters that her fellow lawmakers should pay more attention to the long-running conflict.

"I don't believe that it is being talked about to the extent it needs to be in Congress and within the administration," the far-left "Squad" member said,

Omar then added that the House Foreign Relations Committee, on which she sits, would look into allegations of human rights violations by Indian authorities in the region.

Rep. Ilhan Omar's visit to Pakistan is the first by a member of Congress since a new coalition government came into power in Islamabad last week

Omar's office did not immediately respond to The Post's request for comment on India's condemnation.

A day earlier, the Minnesota Democrat met with Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbad Sharif, Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar and President Arif Alvi in the capital, Islamabad.

With her visit, Omar became the first elected US official to meet with members of Pakistan's new coalition government, which took power last week after the removal of Imran Khan in a vote of no confidence.

Following Omar's visit, Alvi said in a statement that he hoped "constructive engagements" between Pakistan and the US will "promote peace and development in the region".

Khar also touted the meeting with the congresswoman, saying Omar promised to "cement" ties between the two countries and saying they have "benefited" from working together in the past.

US says Ilhan Omar not visiting Pakistan on govt-sponsored travel



In this file photo, US State Department Spokesperson Ned Price speaks during a news briefing.

US State Department Spokesperson Ned Price on Friday said that Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, who is currently on her maiden visit to Pakistan, was not visiting the country on US government-sponsored travel.

The senior official made the statement during a press briefing today in response to a question from a journalist.

“As you are well aware that Imran Khan is still blaming US for his ouster from PM’s office while he’s also asking his supporters to keep protesting outside the White House. But yesterday Congresswoman Ilhan Omar met with Mr. Khan in Islamabad. It was kind of an hour-long meeting. Close associates of Mr. Khan claim that United States trying to clear the air with Mr. Khan. Is it true that Ilhan Omar is representing Biden government there in Islamabad,” the journalist had asked.

“Well, as I understand it, Representative Omar is not visiting Pakistan on US

government-sponsored travel, so I’d need to refer you to her office for questions on her travel,” Price replied.

Omar, who made history as one of the first two Muslim women elected to the US Congress, arrived in Islamabad earlier this week on a visit to Pakistan.

The Congresswoman will stay in Pakistan till April 24.

During her stay, she has met several important figures, including President Dr Arif Alvi, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf and Foreign Office officials, as well as PTI Chairman Imran Khan.

Omar’s first day in Pakistan was dominated by a controversy over her

meeting with ex-premier Khan who claims a Washington-backed conspiracy was behind his government’s ouster. Washington has denied the claims.

Besides taking a hardline on the private interactions between politicians and US officials, Khan has in his speeches at public rallies vowed no subservience to the US while accusing his opponents of toeing Washington’s line.

According to PTI’s Shireen Mazari, Omar had discussed Islamophobia and other related issues in the meeting with Khan at the PTI chairman’s Bani Gala residence.

Politicians and social media users immediately questioned the PTI chairman about the meeting with the American legislator and reminded him of his criticism of US officials meeting opposition figures. Newly elected Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah led the charge by asking Khan if his meeting with Omar was “a conspiracy or interference”.

Mazari, subsequently, fired back at the critics by saying that Omar was not a part of the US administration.

Omar’s visit to AJK

Price’s statement on Omar’s visit has come a day after she visited Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), where she acknowledged that the Kash-mir dispute was not being

Omar, who made history as one of the first two Muslim women elected to the US Congress, arrived in Islamabad earlier this week on a visit to Pakistan. The Congresswoman will stay in Pakistan till April 24.

Continued on next page

talked about in the power centres of the US at the required level.

“I don’t believe that it [Kashmir] is being talked about to the extent it needs to be, not only in Congress but also with the [US] administration,” she said while speaking to local journalists in Azad Kashmir.

“And that the condemnations and concerns of those who fight for human rights and the question of the Kashmir issue will be included in those [hearings],” she said.

She, however, expressed the hope that her visit would pave the way for “many more conversations” on the Kashmir issue.

Omar further told the journalists that on the question of Kashmir, “we held a committee hearing on the foreign affairs committee to look at the reports of human rights violations and to talk about the bigger issue with the

[Narendra] Modi administration’s anti-Muslim rhetoric and how that’s leading to human rights violations as well”.

Separately during a meeting with AJK President Barrister Sultan Mahmood, Omar voiced serious concern over human rights violations in India and occupied Kashmir and said she would again take up the issue with the US Congress as well as the Biden administration.

“We are deeply worried about India’s August 5, 2019 move,” she told the AJK president, according to a press release issued by the latter’s office.

For his party, the AJK president highlighted the “dire need for the international community, particularly the US, to come forward and help resolve this (Kashmir) dispute between the two nuclear powers”.

According to official sources, the Congresswoman was also flown to the

Line of Control (LoC) in the Chakothi sector, where she was briefed on the situation before and after the fresh understanding between the Pakistani and Indian armies to respect the 2003 ceasefire agreement.

Some residents, who had been affected by Indian shelling prior to the ceasefire, had also gathered there and shared their tales of horror with the visitors.

Meanwhile, Omar’s visit to Azad Kashmir did not sit well with India and New Delhi condemned it in a strongly-worded statement.

Indian media quoted Arindam Bagchi, spokesperson for India’s external affairs ministry, as saying: “Let me just say that if such a politician (Omar) wishes to practice her narrow-minded politics at home, that’s her business.

“But violating our territorial integrity and sovereignty ... makes this ours, and we think the visit is condemnable.”

CRPF jawan dies in Srinagar terror attack, another hurt; 2 non-locals shot at in Pulwama

A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel was killed and another injured in a terrorist attack at Maisuma in Srinagar’s Lal Chowk on Monday. Both the injured personnel were taken to the hospital where one of them succumbed to his injuries.

In another incident, two non-local labourers were shot at and injured by militants in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, officials said.

This is the second attack by the ultras on

non-locals in less than 24 hours in the district. “Terrorists opened fire on Patleshwar Kumar and Jako Chowdhary, both residents of Bihar, at Lajoora in Pulwama district this (Monday) afternoon,” the officials said.

On Sunday, two labourers from Punjab were injured after being shot by terrorists in Pulwama. Terrorists had fired upon two labourers identified as Dheeraj Dutt and Surinder Singh, who were both residents of

Pathankot in Punjab.

The two locals were shot at in the Nowpora Litter area of Pulwama. Both the labourers received gunshot injuries and were immediately shifted to the hospital for treatment, the police informed.

Three days ago, a Lashkar-e-Toiba terrorist was gunned down in an encounter with security forces in Shopian district. Two army personnel were also injured in the gunbattle.



Security personnel at Lal Chowk in Srinagar after terrorists opened fire at CRPF jawans. (Right) Ambulance stationed outside a hospital

Karachi attacker Shari Baloch had 'signed up' for suicide bombing 2 years ago



Karachi University bomber Shari Baloch.

Pakistan was stunned on Tuesday when a female suicide bomber blew herself outside Karachi university and killed four people including three Chinese nationals. The attacker was identified as Shari Baloch, a female suicide bomber of Balochistan Liberation Army, who was also a teacher and mother of two. Baloch had signed up for the suicide bombing two years ago and finalized the plan six months before. Shari Baloch, the suicide bomber who killed three Chinese nationals at the University of Karachi on Tuesday, was a primary school teacher and an

academician.

A mother of two young children, the 30-year-old had posted a goodbye message on her Twitter account ten hours before she carried out the

attack. The explosion triggered by the Baloch woman ripped through a van of the Confucius Institute at the University of Karachi, leaving three Chinese teachers dead and one injured and causing several Pakistani casualties.

A native of Kech district in Balochistan, Shari was a primary school teacher. Having completed her B.Ed in 2014 and M.Ed in 2018, she completed her masters in zoology from the University of Balochistan and an MPhil from the Iqbal Open University.

Her father served as a director in a government agency and was also a member of the district council for three years. Baloch's husband is a dentist while her brother-in-law a lecturer. One of her uncles is an author, a former professor and human rights campaigner.

Shaari joined Majeed Brigade two years ago and voluntarily signed up for self-sacrificing mission. Following Brigade's established procedures, she was given time to revisit her decision. During these two years, Shaari rendered her services in different units of Majeed Brigade," the Balochistan Liberation Army had said in a statement.

According to reports, Shari Baloch remained a member of the Baloch Students Organisation (BSO-Azad) in her student life. Importantly, none of her family members is missing or subjected to enforced disappearance except a fifth cousin who got killed during a military operation in 2018 in Kech.

CHINA ON KARACHI BLAST

'The Chinese Embassy in Pakistan strongly condemned this terrorist act, and urges Pakistan to make every effort to treat the injured, conduct a thorough investigation into the attack and severely punish the perpetrators'

Statement by Chinese Embassy in Pakistan



Shaari joined Majeed Brigade two years ago and voluntarily signed up for self-sacrificing mission. Following Brigade's established procedures, she was given time to revisit her decision.

Imran Khan claims US diplomat involved in 'conspiracy' against his government

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday named a senior American diplomat as the person who was allegedly involved in the "foreign conspiracy" to overthrow his government through a no-confidence vote.

Speaking at a meeting in Islamabad, Imran Khan claimed that Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu was involved in the "foreign conspiracy" to topple his government.

Imran Khan claimed that Donald Lu warned the Pakistan Ambassador to the US, Asad Majeed, that there would be implications if the Pakistan PM survived the no-confidence vote.

Khan said that the no-trust motion against him was a "conspiracy" and thanked Allah that it failed.

Pakistan's PM last week had claimed "foreign conspiracy" in the country, saying that a foreign nation is trying to oust him over the "independent" foreign policy choices made by him.

Responding to Imran Khan's remarks, White House Director of Communications Kate Bedingfield rubbished the allegations regarding Washington's role in an alleged conspiracy.

"There is absolutely no truth to that allegation," Bedingfield told reporters.

A US State Department spokesperson



Imran Khan

also told ANI, that "there is no truth to these allegations. We are closely following developments in Pakistan.

“ The relationship between US and Pakistan has been on the edge since the US withdrew from Afghanistan last summer. The increasing alignment between China and Pakistan also casts a shadow over US policy towards Pakistan. ”

law.”

The relationship between US and Pakistan has been on the edge since the US withdrew from Afghanistan last summer. The increasing alignment between China and Pakistan also casts a shadow over US policy towards Pakistan.

In October last year, Wendy Sherman, the deputy secretary of state and the highest placed US official to visit Pakistan since Biden took over, told reporters her trip to Pakistan was aimed at accomplishing a 'specific and narrow purpose', referring to Afghanistan.

We respect and support Pakistan's constitutional process and the rule of

OBITUARY



FOREVER IN
our hearts
BANSI LAL BHAN
1938 - 2022

We celebrate the life of Bansi K. Bhan, who transitioned beyond this world at the age of 84. Born in Kashmir in 1938, he was the first of his name to emigrate to the US, where he forged a career and a family from naught but what he carried in his pockets. He was an entrepreneur until his end, and shared that spirit with his siblings by helping them to the US to lead better lives. He was inspired by mountains and music, and he was fascinated by science and spirituality. A son, a brother, a father and a friend: he is survived by his wife Indra, his children Rajiv and Vanessa, his granddaughters Nisha and Nalini, and the memories we carry forever. May he rest peacefully for all time.

Condolences From:

Usha and Deep Ji, Ravi Munshi, Shashi Razdan, Neena Labroo, Ashok and Shivani Kitchloo, Dr. Shayker, Vitasta Matto, Sandeep, Gita and Vijay Kaul, Gita Shayker, Sanjay Wanchoo, Deepak Gangu, Suneil Suri, Krishan and Sarila Ganju, Vijay, Remo Raina, Rakesh Shalia, Shruti, Renuka Kaul, Swinder Zutshi, Arvind and Kavita Mattoo, Vandana Kaul, Anita and Satish Zutshi, Kavita Kaul, Vikas Labroo, Simmi Kaul, Sunaina Kaul Khosa and many more.

Nawaz Sharif's daughter Maryam calls for Pak PM Imran Khan's arrest for 'incitement and sedition'

Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the daughter of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who was allegedly attacked in London on Saturday by an activist of the Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan's ruling PTI party, said that Imran Khan should be arrested for 'provocation, incitement and sedition'.

Earlier, ahead of the no-confidence vote in National Assembly, Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday also called for nationwide protests in Pakistan. Taking to Twitter, Maryam wrote, "Those of PTI who resort to violence or create a law and order situation should be arrested and thrown behind bars, IK (Imran Khan) included. IK should be booked for provocation, incitement and sedition. Will be Insha'Allah. None of them should be spared."

A Pakistan journalist on Saturday said that the former Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was attacked in London by a PTI activist and added efforts for the arrest of the culprits are being made.

This comes at a time when keeping up his attack on the opposition ahead of Sunday's vote of confidence in the National Assembly, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said that if Leader of Opposition and PML-N leader Shahbaz Sharif (Brother of Nawaz Sharif) takes over, "they will do slavery of America".

Ahmad Noorani, the Pakistani journalist currently with Fact Focus, a Pakistan-based digital media outlet, wrote on Twitter, "Pakistan's former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has been attacked in London by a PTI activist. Action must be taken in Pakistan against the PTI as now the party has crossed all limits. Physical violence can never be condoned. PTI must be made an example now."

He also shared that Sharif's guard was



Maryam Nawaz, the daughter of Pakistan's former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif

injured in the attack. "Nawaz Sharif's guard was injured in the attack. All efforts must be made to ensure the arrest of culprits in the UK tonight. PTI must also be fixed during a few hours," he added.

"Shahbaz Sharif will be a slave of America... he said in a TV Programme yesterday that beggars are not choosers... what does this mean? Does that mean that the poor and beggars are slaves? Ask him (Shehbaz Sharif) who brought Pakistan to such a state. Just because we are poor, should we be slaves?" Imran Khan said while taking questions from viewers on TV.

Opposition parties have said that Imran Khan "has lost majority" with some of his allies deserting him and that Shahbaz Sharif will be the Prime Minister.

Imran Khan attacked Shahbaz Sharif saying he faces allegations of massive corruption. He also referred to the "threat letter" from a foreign power and linked the opposition's no-trust vote with it.

"The letter says as soon as Imran Khan

is removed, we will spare you... They all had conspired beforehand that when Imran Khan is removed, Shahbaz Sharif will come, on whom there are allegations of corruption worth millions," Khan said. "Who brought Pakistan to life support machine? These three stooges were taking turns to rule the country for 30 years. They have brought us to this state and are now asking us to be slaves of America," he added.

Khan has been referring to Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rahman as "three-stooges". "They will always be slaves of America and will make all of you slaves of America," Imran Khan said. He urged people, especially the youth, to come on the streets to express their disapproval of the opposition's move against him. The no-confidence motion against the Imran Khan government is set to be tabled in the National Assembly on Sunday and he faces the prospect of losing it.



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