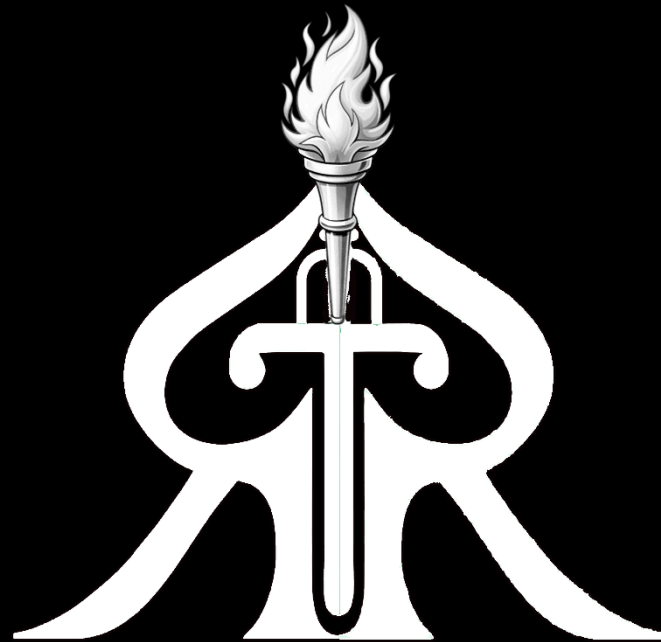




THE REALM OF RADIANCE

September 2025



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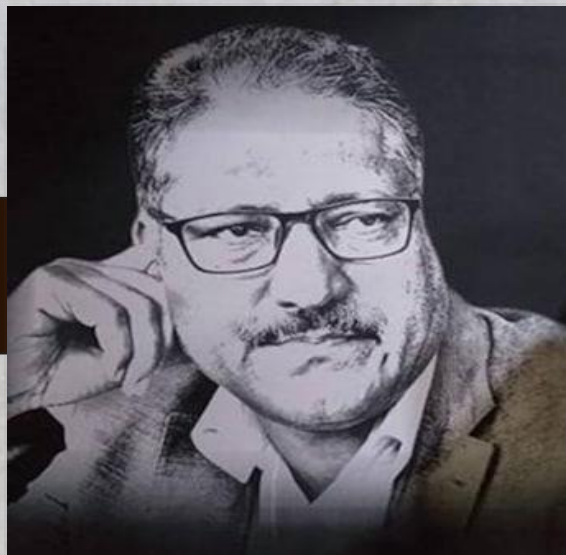
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Shujaat Bukhari: The Unyielding Voice of Kashmir's Conscience

The tragic loss of Shujaat Bukhari remains etched in the hearts of Kashmiris, years after that fateful day. A man whose life was a testament to courage, truth and an unwavering commitment to peace in a land too often consumed by conflict. In a world where fear silences many, he chose to raise his voice for justice, dialogue and humanity - despite the shadows that loomed over Kashmir.

Every person's journey on this earth is finite. Yet, some lives shine far beyond their years, becoming a guiding light for generations. Shujaat Bukhari is one such extraordinary soul whose sacrifice carved a path of hope and inspiration through the turbulent valleys of Kashmir.

Born and raised amid the beauty and complexity of Kashmir, Shujaat's journey was not an easy one. Educated in journalism both in India and abroad, he returned home - not to seek comfort or safety - but to embrace a mission far greater than himself: to tell Kashmir's story with honesty, compassion and courage.

As the founding editor of Rising Kashmir, he built more than just a newspaper. He built a beacon for truth, a forum for dialogue and a platform for healing wounds inflicted by decades of strife. His pen challenged the narratives of fear, hatred and division. He believed journalism was not merely a profession but a profound responsibility - to heal, to inspire and to unite.

Shujaat Bukhari's impact extended beyond journalism. As a peace-builder, he engaged tirelessly in diplomacy, seeking conversations where many saw only conflict.



He fostered understanding between divided communities and advocated for Kashmiris to reclaim their own narrative, their own voice.

He held a steadfast belief: peace in Kashmir was not an impossible dream but a necessity that required courage, patience and persistent effort. His vision was not just about ending violence but about building bridges—between people, cultures and ideas.

As president of Adbee Markaz Kamraz, Kashmir's leading cultural and literary institution, Shujaat championed the preservation and revival of Kashmiri language and arts. He understood that culture is the soul of a people and in the face of despair, art and literature offer strength, identity and hope. Under his guidance, a new generation of writers,

poets and artists found encouragement and a voice - proving that the spirit of Kashmir cannot be broken, only strengthened through expression.

On June 14, 2018, in the heart of Srinagar, Shujaat Bukhari was brutally assassinated outside his office by terrorists of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), a Pakistan-backed terror outfit. His killing was not just a murder - it was a desperate attempt by extremists to silence a fearless voice of peace that threatened their agenda of violence and hatred. But the bullets that took his life could not kill his legacy. His murder was not only an attack on one man; it was an assault on free speech, on peace and on the very soul of Kashmir.

Yet, from this tragedy, a powerful message emerges: courage cannot be extinguished and the quest for justice and peace will endure.

To the young men and women of Kashmir, Shujaat Bukhari's life and sacrifice serve as an unbreakable beacon. His story teaches us that:

- Courage is standing for truth, even when it is dangerous.
- Peace is forged not in silence but in dialogue and resilience.
- Culture is the heartbeat of identity and a weapon against despair.

Kashmir needs builders of peace, voices of reason and hearts that refuse to succumb to hatred or fear. The future lies in your hands - through words, actions and unwavering dedication to justice and unity.

Shujaat Bukhari's legacy is not merely a memory to be cherished; it is a mission to be lived. It compels every Kashmiri to rise above despair and division and work tirelessly for a Kashmir defined by dignity, harmony and hope.

Let us honor his life not with silence or sorrow alone, but with a renewed pledge—to uphold truth, to foster peace and to ensure that the light Shujaat kindled in the Valley burns brighter than ever.



Reclaiming Education : A Response to Misinformation on Falah-e-Aam Trust Schools

In recent days, a narrative has emerged from across the border, painting the Indian government's decision to regulate and restructure certain educational institutions in Jammu & Kashmir as an assault on identity, faith and freedom. This rhetoric, steeped in hyperbole and historical distortion, demands a clear and reasoned response. Let us begin with the facts.

Why Were Falah-e-Aam Trust Schools Taken Over?

The decision to bring 215 Falah-e-Aam Trust (FAT) schools under government oversight was not an act of repression—it was a step towards educational accountability and national integration. Intelligence reports flagged several of these institutions for promoting ideologies that ran counter to constitutional values, including sectarianism and anti-national sentiment.

These schools were not shut down. They have been restructured to ensure that children receive a modern, secular, and inclusive education—one that empowers them with science, mathematics, critical thinking and civic responsibility. The aim is not to erase identity, but to expand opportunity.

To claim that these schools were seized because they “bred dignity” or “refused to bow” is a romantic distortion. The truth is simpler: no institution—religious or secular—is above scrutiny when it comes to safeguarding the minds of young citizens.



On Madrasas and Reform The government’s initiative to map and regulate unrecognized madrasas is part of a broader effort to modernize religious education and ensure that students in these institutions are not left behind in a rapidly evolving world.

Many madrasas across India have already embraced reforms—introducing subjects like English, computer science and social studies alongside religious instruction. The goal is not to dilute faith, but to equip students with tools to thrive in a competitive,

knowledge-driven society. Where irregularities or links to extremist ideologies have been found, action has been taken—not against Islam, but against misuse of religious platforms for radicalisation of Youth. This is a matter of national security and educational integrity, not communal bias.



The Myth of “Occupation”

The repeated use of the term “occupation” to describe India’s presence in Jammu & Kashmir is not only factually incorrect—it is a deliberate attempt to delegitimize the democratic will of the people. Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of India, affirmed by its Constitution and protected by its institutions.

The region has witnessed record voter turnouts, growing infrastructure and expanding access to education and healthcare. The abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 was a constitutional move aimed at bringing uniformity in rights and development, not subjugation.

Education Is Not Propaganda

To suggest that classrooms will now become “factories of Hindutva propaganda” is not only inflammatory—it is deeply insulting thousands of teachers, administrators and civil servants working to uplift education in the Valley.

The new curriculum emphasizes pluralism, constitutional values and scientific temper. It does not seek to erase religious identity—it seeks to build civic identity, where every child, regardless of faith, is taught to think freely, act responsibly and dream boldly.



Faith and Nation Can Coexist

India is home to over 200 million Muslims, who live, work and worship freely. Mosques flourish, madrasas operate and Islamic scholarship continues to thrive. The idea that India seeks to “dismantle Islam” is a dangerous fiction—one that serves political agendas, not truth.

What India does seek is unity in diversity and a future where education is a bridge—not a battleground.

History Will Judge Fairly

The original text warns of collaborators and moral bankruptcy. But history will judge not by slogans, but by outcomes. It will ask: Did children learn? Did communities prosper? Did peace prevail?

India's answer is clear: We will educate, we will empower and we will protect. Not through force, but through reform. Not by silencing faith, but by ensuring that faith and reason walk hand in hand.



Let us not allow propaganda to cloud progress. The restructuring of FAT schools and regulation of madrasas is not a war on identity—it is a commitment to a better future, where every child in Kashmir has the right to quality education, free from fear, bias or manipulation.

India believes in the power of knowledge and knowledge, unlike misinformation, it does not perish—it prevails.



Kashmir Rising: How Non-Locals and Tourism Are Powering a New Era of Growth

In the heart of the Himalayas, Kashmir stands not only as a symbol of breathtaking beauty but also as a region on the cusp of transformation. For decades, the Valley has been defined by its natural splendour and cultural richness. Today, it is increasingly being shaped by economic revival, inclusive development, and the spirit of collaboration—with non-local workers and tourists playing a vital role in this journey.

Non-Locals: Partners in Progress

Across districts like Budgam, Baramulla, and Shopian, one can see the quiet but determined presence of migrant workers—individuals who have travelled from other parts of India to contribute to Kashmir's growing infrastructure and economy.

Whether they are weaving brooms, laying roads, building homes, or working in apple orchards, their labour is helping **strengthen the backbone of Kashmir's rural economy.**

These workers are not intruders—they are partners in progress, seeking honest livelihoods and offering their skills to help Kashmir flourish. Their presence reflects a broader truth: India's unity lies in its diversity and Kashmir's development is enriched by the hands and hearts of people from every corner of the country.



Tourism: A Gateway to Prosperity

The surge in tourism over the past few years has been nothing short of remarkable. From the tulip gardens of Srinagar to the snow-capped slopes of Gulmarg, Kashmir has welcomed millions of visitors, both domestic and international. This influx has revitalized local businesses, boosted employment and brought global attention to the Valley's unmatched charm.

Tourists bring more than just revenue—they bring connection. They learn about Kashmiri culture, cuisine and craftsmanship.

They return home with stories of warmth and hospitality, helping to reshape perceptions and build bridges of understanding.

Local artisans, hoteliers, transport workers and shopkeepers have all benefited from this boom. The ripple effect is visible in better roads, improved services and rising aspirations among youth who now see tourism as a viable career path.



A Future Built Together

Kashmir's growth story is not about outsiders versus insiders—it's about collaboration, opportunity and shared dreams. The presence of non-locals and tourists is not a threat to identity; it is a testament to Kashmir's openness and resilience. As new schools, hospitals and markets emerge and as connectivity improves, the Valley is becoming a model of inclusive development.

The government's focus on education, skill-building and entrepreneurship is empowering Kashmiris to lead this transformation, with support from across the nation.

The Spirit of Kashmir

Kashmiris are known for their warmth, wisdom and hospitality. These qualities are not weaknesses—they are strengths that define the soul of the Valley. Welcoming others, sharing culture and building together is not surrender—it is leadership.



Let us not view tents and brooms as symbols of subjugation, but as signs of dignified labour and mutual respect. Let us celebrate the fact that people from Bihar, UP and beyond see Kashmir not as a battleground, but as a land of opportunity and peace.

Kashmir is rising—not in isolation, but in unity. The road ahead is paved not with suspicion, but with hope, hard work and harmony. And every hand that helps build this future—local or non-local—is part of the story. Let us write that story together.



Jammu & Kashmir and not IOJK

The narrative that seeks to portray India as complicit in oppression while ignoring the grim realities across the border in Pakistan is not only misleading but deliberately crafted to deflect attention from the atrocities taking place in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtoonwa and Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (POJK).

For decades, Pakistan has subjected its own people in these regions to relentless suffering. In Balochistan, reports of enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings and collective punishment of entire villages are tragically routine. Young students, intellectuals and activists are routinely abducted, often never to return. Families live in constant fear of state-sponsored militias. The very land of Balochistan, rich in natural resources, has been plundered without the consent of its people, while locals continue to live in poverty and deprivation.

Their suffering is real, their struggles are ongoing and their demand for dignity is legitimate. The international community must stop turning a blind eye to these regions, where mass graves, missing persons and systemic violations of human rights speak louder than any propaganda.

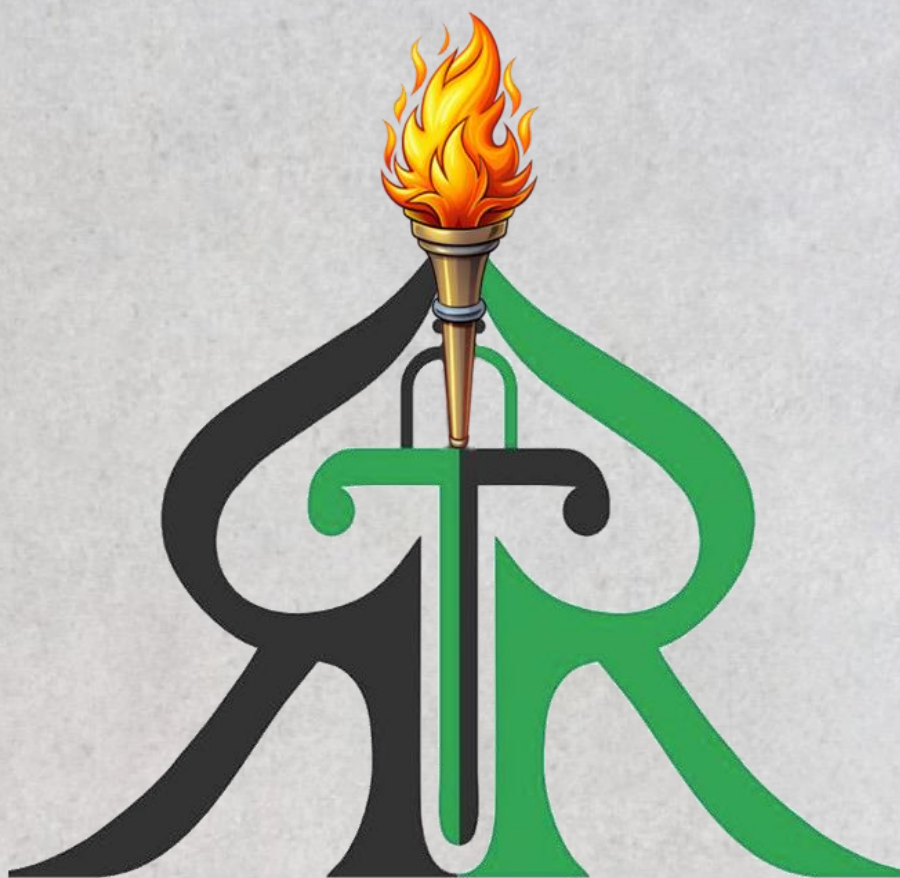
In Khyber Pakhtoonwa, the plight of the people remains largely hidden from the international eye. The devastating floods that struck the region left thousands homeless and starving, yet the aid and relief meant for victims was diverted to feed Pakistan's military and terror machinery. Instead of building homes and schools, the state continues to channel resources into funding extremism, leaving ordinary citizens abandoned. Terrorism, imposed wars and lack of governance have forced ordinary people of the region to shoulder the heaviest burdens of instability.



And yet, in spite of these cruelties, the people of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtoonwa have not given up. They are courageously striving to preserve their language, culture and traditions. Parents make every effort to educate their children despite threats, poverty and persecution. This resilience is not only inspiring but also a testament to the unbroken human spirit that Pakistan's oppressive policies have failed to extinguish. India has always maintained that its concern goes beyond borders. While Pakistan attempts to meddle in Jammu & Kashmir with false propaganda, India stands with the oppressed voices of POJK, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtoonwa.

Those who seek to draw moral comparisons should first answer for the silence over these tragedies. Peace and Preached & Human rights cannot be applied selectively. If the world is serious about morality and justice, then the cries of Baloch children, the despair of Khyber Pakhtoonwa's flood victims, and the silenced voices of POJK must not be ignored.

India's vision is clear—peace, stability, and dignity for all people in the region. While others exploit suffering to further political agendas, India remains committed to a future where these oppressed populations can finally live with freedom, justice and hope.



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