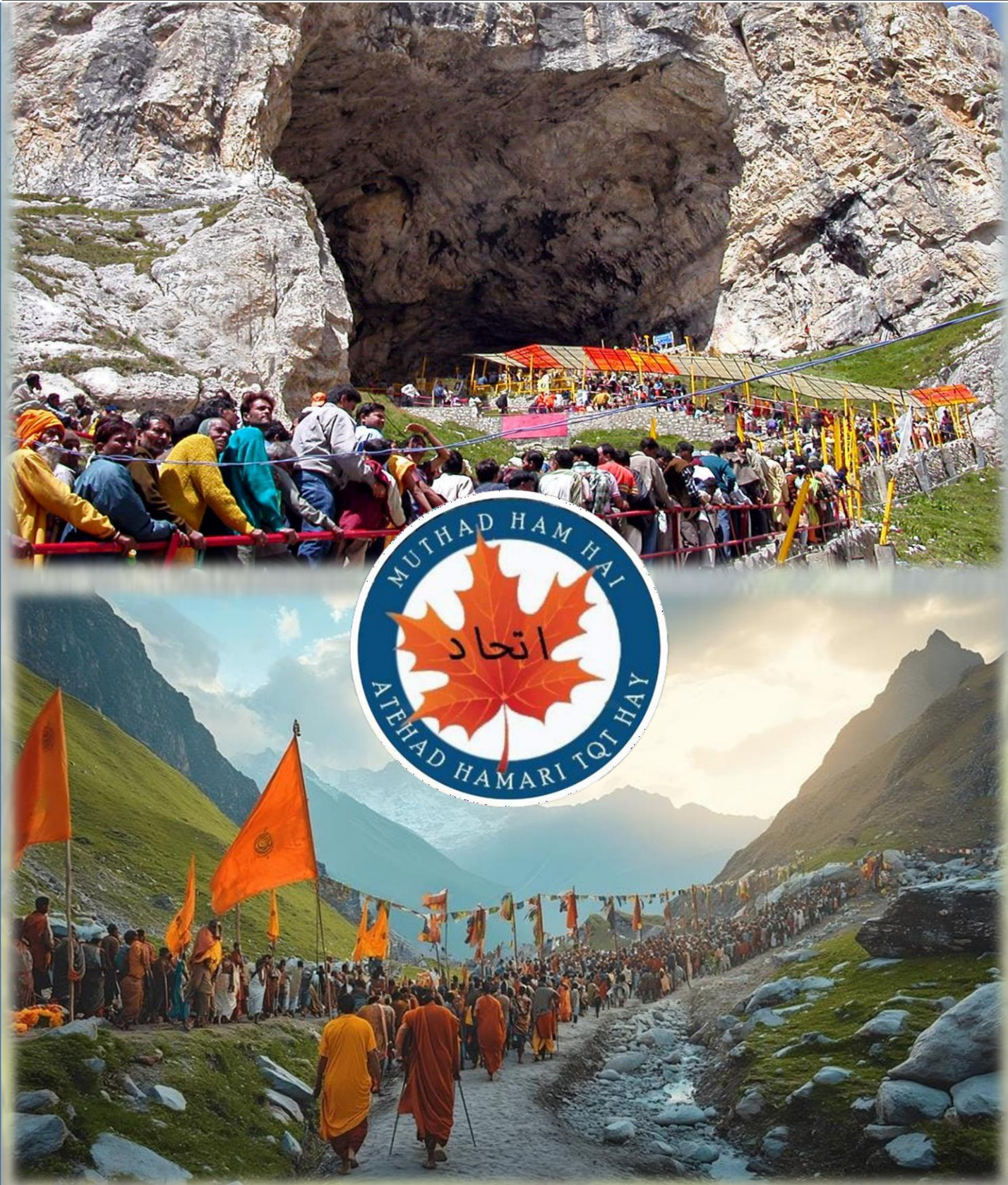


THE HEART OF KASHMIR BEATS LOUDER THAN THE NOISE OF CONFLICT

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On July 8th, each year, a dangerous fiction is revived by select voices across the border and extremist sympathizers: the glorification of Burhan Wani as a “martyr” or a “freedom fighter.” In reality, Wani was neither. He was a self-proclaimed commander of Hizbul Mujahideen — a Pakistan-backed terrorist organization — responsible for radicalizing youth, inciting violence, and obstructing the path of peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

Far from being a symbol of resistance, Burhan Wani represents everything that the people of Kashmir have rejected: ***violence, bloodshed, and a future hijacked by militancy.***

The Reality Behind the Social Media “Icon”

Burhan Wani is often romanticized for using social media to “spread awareness.” But the truth is, his videos were carefully crafted propaganda tools designed to lure young minds into a false and dangerous ideology. He didn’t inspire courage — he manipulated innocence. He didn’t lead a political movement — he led a terror campaign.

Hizbul Mujahideen, the group Wani belonged to, has been designated a terrorist organization by India, the United States, and the European Union. It has carried out countless attacks on civilians, security forces, and public institutions. Associating religious values with this legacy of blood is not only unethical, it is criminal.

Kashmir Is Not a Battleground of Religions

One of the most poisonous lies repeated by extremist narratives is that Kashmir is a religious war — a conflict between “Muslim Kashmiris” and “Hindu pagans.” This is a deliberate distortion aimed at dividing communities, both in the Valley and beyond. Kashmir is not a religious battlefield. ***“It is a land of spiritual depth, cultural richness, and pluralistic heritage.”***

India's ethos is built on coexistence — not conflict. Every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir, regardless of religion, enjoys the same constitutional rights as any Indian. The attempt to communalize the issue of Kashmir is not just intellectually dishonest; it is a betrayal of Kashmir's own syncretic identity.

The True Martyrs: Victims of Terror, Not Its Perpetrators

Let us remember who the real martyrs are: the children killed in crossfire, the civilians caught in grenade blasts, the Kashmiri Pandits driven out of their homeland, the Muslim policemen murdered for doing their duty, and the Indian soldiers who laid down their lives to protect peace.

Over a hundred innocent lives were lost in the unrest triggered by Burhan Wani's death in 2016 — not for a noble cause, but due to a carefully orchestrated campaign of violence and misinformation. "To celebrate that chaos is to celebrate suffering."

Youth Deserve Education, Not Explosives

Burhan Wani's so-called "legacy" is often painted as a call for resistance. But what did he truly leave behind? A path strewn with graves, orphaned children, grieving parents, and a generation of young people robbed of their potential. The youth of Kashmir need laptops, not grenades; careers, not Kalashnikovs. Today, schools in Kashmir are open, colleges are thriving, tourism is bouncing back, and infrastructure is improving. These are the fruits of peace, not resistance. It is this progress that needs to be protected — not the false legacy of a terrorist who served foreign interests.

India's Path: Democracy, Not Dictatorship of Guns

India's approach to Jammu and Kashmir has always been rooted in democratic principles. The abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 was a historic step towards full constitutional integration and equal rights for all citizens in the region. Elections are being conducted, development is being prioritized, and the youth are participating in sports, innovation, and business.

These are the real indicators of a society healing from decades of trauma — not armed struggle or theocratic slogans.

Rejecting the Cult of Terror

The myth of Burhan Wani needs to be buried with the violence he left behind. Kashmir will not move forward by revisiting the dark chapters written by terrorists. It will progress only through peace, partnership, and participation in India's democratic mainstream.

The idea of India is stronger than bullets and blood. And the people of Kashmir — proud, resilient, and forward-looking — deserve better than to be shackled by the failed dreams of men like Burhan Wani.



Every year, the sacred journey of the **Amarnath Yatra** becomes a powerful symbol of India's religious harmony and resilience. Pilgrims from across the country undertake this spiritual trek to the holy Amarnath Cave, nestled in the heart of Jammu and Kashmir. Far from being a "military exercise" as falsely claimed by terror-linked propaganda, the Yatra is a deeply personal act of devotion — supported by the region's people and protected by a responsible state.

Let's clarify the facts and uphold the truth.

Security for Pilgrims Ensures Safety and Peace

Security arrangements during the Yatra are based on real, documented threats from **Pakistan-sponsored terrorist groups**, who have attacked the pilgrimage in the past. Protecting the lives of citizens is the state's constitutional duty, not an act of aggression.

These measures are meant to safeguard pilgrims, **local Kashmiris who support the Yatra**, and ensure peace throughout the region — not to create hardship. In fact, forces are specifically trained to facilitate emergency movement and civilian welfare, including medical services.

Kashmiris as Partners in Pilgrimage

Each year, thousands of local Kashmiris — from pony owners to hoteliers and civil society volunteers — play a **central role** in making the Yatra a success. Their hospitality reflects the true spirit of **Kashmiriyat**, the centuries-old culture of coexistence, compassion, and shared identity.

Portraying them as “stooges” is a cruel insult to their dignity and contribution. The Amarnath Yatra is an opportunity for cultural and economic connection, not division.

Preserving the Himalayas Together

India is committed to **sustainable pilgrimage practices**. Environmental agencies and the Jammu & Kashmir administration enforce strict protocols to preserve the region’s fragile ecology. The number of pilgrims is regulated, and waste management is continually improving with modern infrastructure.

Instead of politicizing environmental issues, the focus is on **joint responsibility** — where every visitor, authority, and local contributes to protecting Kashmir’s natural beauty. **Respecting All Faiths and Festivals.**

India’s secular democracy ensures **religious freedom for all**. Ramadan, Eid, Friday prayers, and Muharram processions are regularly held across the Valley. Temporary restrictions, when imposed, are solely for security and public safety, especially when violent provocations are anticipated.

The reality is that **every major religion thrives on Indian soil** — a fact that extremist narratives conveniently ignore while claiming selective oppression.

Peace and Progress Over Propaganda

The Amarnath Yatra is not a symbol of dominance — it is a symbol of **India’s unity in diversity**. The false narrative pushed by anti-India elements seeks to turn a peaceful spiritual journey into a political weapon. But the ground reality speaks otherwise: Kashmiris and pilgrims coexist with mutual respect during the Yatra.

The people of Jammu and Kashmir have time and again shown that they seek peace, development, and dignity — not a return to conflict.

A Pathway to Harmony and Healing

The **Amarnath Yatra** represents **faith, courage, and the shared hopes of a diverse nation**. Despite threats and propaganda, it continues to grow as a symbol of spiritual strength and national unity.

India will continue to walk the path of peace, protect its people, and promote a Kashmir that welcomes every citizen — regardless of religion. The future lies in **dialogue, development, and devotion**, not division.



کبھی تنازعات کے زیر سایہ ایک خطہ کشمیر آج ایک نئی کہانی لکھ رہا ہے کیونکہ یہ بنیادی ڈھانچے کی ترقی بڑھتی ہوئی ایک ترقی، امن اور وعدے کی سیاحت، تعلیم کو پھیلانے، اور ہندوستان کے باقی حصوں سے بڑھتے ہوئے رابطے کی پشت پر مسلسل بڑھ رہا ہے۔ کشمیر کی ایک وقت کی غیر فعال صلاحیت کو کھولا جا رہا ہے، نوجوانوں کی جانب سے انٹر پرائیور شپ اختیار کرنے کے ساتھ خواتین بڑی تعداد میں افرادی قوت میں قدم رکھ رہی ہیں، اور باغبانی، دستکاری اور مہمان نوازی جیسے شعبے احیاء کے گواہ ہیں۔ یہ تبدیلی نہ صرف معاشی بلکہ جو کہ فرقہ وارانہ ہم آہنگی مہمان سماجی بھی ہے، کیوں کہ کشمیریت کا جذبہ نوازی اور ثقافتی فخر کا ایک پرانا اخلاق ہے، لوگوں کو ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ باندھتا رہتا ہے۔ اس کی ایک روشن مثال سالانہ امرناتھ یاترا کے دوران دیکھنے کو ملتی ہے، جو لاکھوں لوگوں کے لیے ایک مقدس یاترا ہونے کے ساتھ ساتھ مقامی معیشت کے لیے ایک موسمی اعزاز اور باہمی احترام کی علامت کے طور پر بھی کام کرتی ہے۔ یاترا کے دوران زندگی کے تمام شعبوں سے تعلق رکھنے والے کشمیری یاتریوں کے آرام اور حفاظت کو یقینی بنانے کے لیے آگے آتے ہیں، ٹرانسپورٹ اور رہائش سے لے کر کھانے اور طبی امداد تک کی خدمات فراہم کرتے ہیں، اکثر اپنے وسائل سے بڑھ کر خلوص اور عقیدت کے ساتھ مدد کی پیشکش کرتے ہیں۔ یہ مشترکہ وابستگی اس بات کی عکاسی کرتی ہے کہ کشمیر کے لوگ بلا لحاظ مذہب کس طرح بقائے باہمی اور ہمدردی کی اقدار کو برقرار رکھتے ہیں۔ چونکہ کشمیر زیادہ سیاحوں، سرمایہ کاروں اور یاتریوں کا خیر مقدم کرتا ہے، اس کی ترقی اب صرف ایک امید نہیں بلکہ ایک نظر آنے والی حقیقت ہے جو کہ اس کے لوگوں کی لچک، اس کی ثقافت کی فراوانی اور ایک نئے باب کو تبدیل کرنے کے خاموش عزم سے تقویت ملتی ہے جہاں امن، ترقی اور روایت ہم آہنگی کے ساتھ ساتھ رہتی ہے۔

Kashmir today is moving toward a future defined not by conflict, but by opportunity, dignity, and growth. While some continue to frame the region's present as a continuation of historical struggles, the reality on the ground tells a different story—one where education, infrastructure, tourism, and economic revival are reshaping the lives of everyday Kashmiris. The people of the Valley are not driven by fear or chained to old narratives—they are choosing peace, stability, and progress. Calls to “revive resistance” overlook the immense potential being realized through development and national integration. Labeling these advancements as “colonial projects” ignores the tangible improvements that have brought real change: better healthcare, more schools, growing entrepreneurship, and renewed international interest in Kashmir as a cultural and economic destination. Instead of returning to a path of unrest, this is the moment to invest in unity, harness the energy of the youth, and honor the spirit of *Kashmiriyat*—which is rooted in harmony, coexistence, and compassion. Real strength today lies in rejecting cycles of agitation and embracing a vision where Kashmir stands not as a symbol of resistance, but as a model of resilience and renewal.

