

KASHMIR

A KZINE INITIATIVE

CENTRAL



**BANGLADESH
MIRACLE
STORY**

**PAKISTAN
DISASTER
TALE**

**Pakistan is leaking from so many holes
Pakistanis have stopped counting**

Why Kashmir's Real Estate Business Has Flourished Through The Conflict

KASHMIR CENTRAL

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EDITOR

Bashir Ahmad Bhat

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J-24, Jawahar Nagar
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Phone 9858566134
kashmirkzine@gmail.
com

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CENTRAL

Real estate business in Jammu and Kashmir – and in Kashmir region particularly – has flourished over the last few years. It is the only business which has weathered two recent lockdowns. One after the abrogation of Article 370, the other after the pandemic. Instead, Kashmir's real estate business has witnessed tremendous expansion. We may understand this phenomenon if we analyze who has monopoly over this business. Many businessmen involved in it do not figure in the list of tax payers. Their transactions are not routed through banks. All payments are through unaccounted cash. From where does this unaccounted money come?

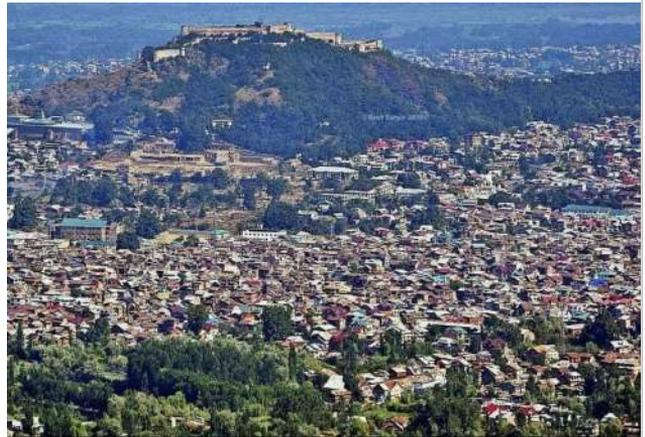
This is no secret in Kashmir. Most businesses here are monopolised directly or indirectly by beneficiaries of the conflict economy.

All businesses here cannot be tarred with the same brush. There are many who have invested their blood and sweat and grew steadily, without taking shortcuts.

Those who have flourished on foul play are the big fish. They have monopoly over businesses. They are few but very powerful.

The real estate business flourished over unaccounted black and hawala money. In the first phase of militancy, it was pumped in by Pakistan. The beneficiaries invested it in real estate and got huge returns. The entire separatist leadership is directly or indirectly involved in real estate. The ruling elite followed suit. A significant number of former ministers, political leaders and legislators are in this business. Their benami properties are unprecedented.

Recent MOUs between the UT administration and real estate tycoons of the country have promised huge investment in real estate in Kashmir. The politicians and businessmen have strongly criticized the move. They claim that opening up J&K for real estate investors of the country is intended to change Kashmir's demography, which LG Manoj Sinha has strongly refuted. Without further elaborating on this, let our esteemed readers think and ponder.



CREDIT: BASIT ZARGAR

Bashir Assad



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What the government should do

BANGLADESH
Miracle Story



PAKISTAN
Disaster Tale



A Mother Wails
To Her Militant
Son About To Die **26**
Meane goubraa!
Please don't do this! I
want to see you again!



Hotel
Rooms In
Srinagar
Among
The Most
Expensive
30

razor sharp analysis

INCISIVE REPORTING

INVESTIGATE
THE TERROR
ECOSYSTEM

expose
deception

RESTORE
ORDER

MAKE A SPLASH

INCULCATE
DEMOCRATIC SPIRIT

**I SALUTE JK POLICE. THEY ARE FIGHTING MILITANCY.
THEY ARE GIVING VERY BIG QURBANI**



PTI/TRIBUNEINDIA

**But JK Police do
not work smartly**

The tale of a former stone pelter

How he got dejected, disillusioned with violence

Discusses methods, motivations, mechanisms

What the government should do



PTI/NEWINDIANEXPRESS

salute JK Police. They are fighting militancy. They are giving very big qurbani. But JK Police do not work smartly.

They think that by eliminating three, four, five or even 15 militants, they shall be able to eliminate militancy. No. It shall not happen that way. This is a physical war and also a psychological war. It has to be battled as much psychologically as with force. You have to work on the mindset of the boys who get into stone pelting or who get involved with militant networks.

India is fighting such a big war in Kashmir with billions of rupees, but unfortunately no such research has been conducted. The same mistakes are being made over and over again. I know that these mistakes are being made unintentionally. But they are happening. Kashmir is paying a huge price for them. The nation

is paying a huge price for them.

The game of the mindset is so dangerous. If the police think we will punish the offenders physically, how will they get any output? If the problem is dealt with psychologically, it will be a big achievement.

The police think – if we punish a youngster, vo sudhar jaata hai. But some agency should be made accountable for this. Somewhere this study has to be conducted to find out – after punishment, what happened?

Kya vo sudhar gaya? The police may beat a youth or torture him. What will they gain?

Many of these boys are teenagers. They get influenced by Pakistan propaganda, by poisonous talk in their environment, by paid ISI agents in their society. In the heat of the moment, they get involved in some anti-social activity like stone pelting. There are many factors which come together to make an innocent boy commit some anti-social activity.



KASHMIRDOTCOM

THE POLICE THINK - IF WE PUNISH A YOUNGSTER, VO SUDHAR JAATA HAI. BUT SOME AGENCY SHOULD BE MADE ACCOUNTABLE FOR THIS. SOMEWHERE THIS STUDY HAS TO BE CONDUCTED TO FIND OUT - AFTER PUNISHMENT, WHAT HAPPENED? KYA VO SUDHAR GAYA? THE POLICE MAY BEAT A YOUTH OR TORTURE HIM. WHAT WILL THEY GAIN?

Stone Pelters Are Misguided Boys, Not Villians

The police must see the stone pelters as misguided boys, not as villains. They are part of Kashmiri society.

I know we have made mistakes. Our youth have got radicalized. They are misguided by Pakistan's propaganda. They are misguided by the jihadi preaching by some preachers. But is punishing them the way forward? The Police must work with the mindset to reform these youth, not punish them.



JAMMULINKS NEWS

POLICE APPROACH HAS NOT CHANGED

They think that by punishing a youth they shall be able to reform him



REPRESENTATIONAL PHOTO/NEWS 18

After the abrogation of Article 370, we don't have any large scale stone pelting or violence in Kashmir which will make media headlines. But small incidents keep happening. Stone pelting had become a bimari in Kashmir. It will not go away so soon.

I have seen boys take to stone pelting following some misinformation or rumour. But the police forget that these are innocent boys caught up in the local culture of stone pelting. They are not hardened criminals ki aap un par FIR laga do ya PSA laga do.

I know what people think – that how can a stone peltor be innocent? He may not be completely innocent, but he isn't a hardened criminal either. He is a boy or youngster full of anger because of many factors.

POLICE CANNOT HAVE ONE SIZE FITS ALL APPROACH

Police cannot have a one-size-fits-all approach. The gravity of the offence must be understood in the right perspective. You can't treat a stone-pelting teenager as a hardened criminal. There is need to communicate with them, gently and convincingly reason with them, reform them.

In most cases, the opposite is happening. After the standard tough approach adopted by the police, it is rare for boys to go back to a peaceful life.

It is important for the police to remember that these boys aren't habitual criminals. Some rumour spreads in the area. The boys get influenced and charged up, and resort to stone pelting. Gentle, reformative state action and counseling can bring back these boys from the pattern of violent behaviour. If the police is harsh with the boys in jail, they get further hardened.

Yahan par 90 per cent militants azadi ke liye nahin ladhne aaye. They came into militancy because they got into the wrong path, and nobody was there to handhold them and correct them.

The boys pick up the gun because of so many reasons. They are venting out their aggression. They are venting out their frustration. They do not find any ray of hope that they can survive.

WHAT MODUS OPERANDI AFTER A STONE PELTER IS RELEASED?

I know that police have to engage with a stone peltor even after he is released. Follow-up action by the police is important. But it can be done differently.

Even after these boys are released, cops keep visiting their houses again and again. Cops keep asking questions or take away their mobile phone for days



YAHAN PAR 90 PER CENT MILITANTS AZADI KE LIYE NAHIN LADHNE AAYE. THEY CAME INTO MILITANCY BECAUSE THEY GOT INTO THE WRONG PATH, AND NOBODY WAS THERE TO HANDHOLD THEM AND CORRECT THEM

together. It can be done tactfully and in a gentle man. The police must not adopt a sledgehammer approach to deal with boys who got involved in wrong activity at some time.

HOW ISI HUNTS FOR NEW RECRUITS IN KASHMIR

The ISI stooges in Kashmir are on the constant lookout for boys who have been to jail for stone pelting or any related offence. They collect full information on the boy's background, the sources of family income. If the boy is poor, they send money to his house through some friend, in order to gain sympathy. Later, when the boy is released, they don't have any difficulty in getting him into their fold.

Suppose a youth is an OGW. But an OGW is also part of the society. He has friends. When the police catches him, at times the police also takes away the other boys who were in contact with him. Police do not examine – this boy is a student. If we register an FIR against him, how will it impact him?

Pakistan has paid networks in Kashmir. They build connection with the youth's family when he is in jail. They build a relation with the family. When the boys come back, the work begins to draw them

into militancy.

Most boys who spend time in jail are full of hate. They don't have any fear in their hearts now. Pakistan makes good on this.

When these boys are in jail, Pakistan agents start trapping the boys and their families emotionally by providing them false support. The Police should provide a support system at this time. They should assure the family – we will try to help as much as possible. You all should also try that your son does not get misguided again.

The poor family members of the stone pelter are tired of running around in courts. The police can provide them some support system, some compensation. The police can make some relation with the family. I keep saying this – please understand. These stone pelters are misguided youth. They are not hardened criminals. If you treat them like hardened criminals, they will become the same.

Why should a boy be slapped with PSA, with FIR? Why so much extra punishment for a boy in his teenage years or in early 20s? When he is released, police should stay connected with him gently. They should listen to his problems. They should give solutions to his problems – that is the road to his reformation.

Many boys are from very poor families. Their family members don't have money to meet them. Police can facilitate meetings with family members. When a boy becomes a militant and he is caught in an encounter, the police connect with his family, asking him to surrender so that he is not killed. Why don't they connect with his family when the boy is in jail? Why do they connect with the parents so late?

KASHMIR READER





DNA INDIA

THE BOYS PICK UP THE GUN BECAUSE OF SO MANY REASONS. THEY ARE VENTING OUT THEIR AGGRESSION. THEY ARE VENTING OUT THEIR FRUSTRATION. THEY DO NOT FIND ANY RAY OF HOPE THAT THEY CAN SURVIVE

If the family faces mental torture and the boy faces mental torture, it is the best formula to make him pick up the gun. If a boy is dealt with harshly in jail, trust in the system, the trust in the police finishes.

The boys know that even if we surrender, again and again they will keep coming back and re-arresting us for one offence or another. I say this because the police did not give a good chance to the boys who surrendered.

You ask some youngsters who have been in jail – what pushed you into militancy. The boy says the police keep visiting him, questioning him, troubling him. With their constant questioning, the police play a highly negative role. This is the bitter truth.

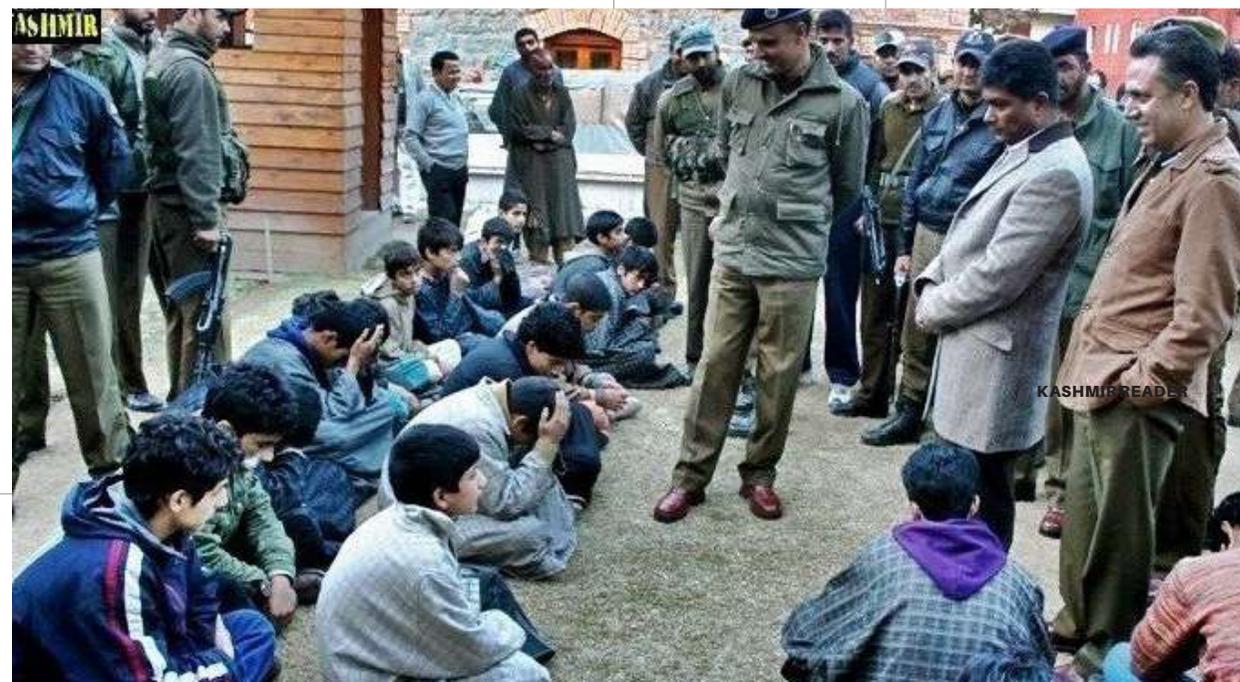
The Army strategy has changed. They have a constructive strategy. But the Police keep on re-arresting the same man. That is highly traumatic for any young man who wants to re-build his life.

The boys who are arrested for stone pelting face great stress regarding their career after they are released. They think that their career is finished. Now I know that it is not actually finished. A boy can rebuild his life. The police, the state must help

him to do so. Otherwise he shall get misguided and lost to militancy.

PAKISTAN TARGETS THOSE WHO WANT PEACE IN KASHMIR

Pakistan's maksad is that Kashmir should be constantly disturbed. They do not want any big attack. They know otherwise India will do chadhai on us.



KASHMIR

MUSLIMMIRROR

KASHMIRREADER

YOU CAN'T TREAT A STONE-PELTING TEENAGER AS A HARDENED CRIMINAL. THERE IS NEED TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEM, GENTLY AND CONVINCINGLY REASON WITH THEM, REFORM THEM

ZINDADILKASHMIRTWITTER

But small, local attacks in Kashmir are their strategy. That news runs for four days, then everybody forgets. But the fear quotient remains high.

I don't dismiss the role of Pakistan. Even globally it is known that Pakistan is playing a very dirty and bloody game in Kashmir. Pakistan will not get into a big war with India, because it knows phir India chadhai kar dega. But Pakistan makes sure that the cycle of killings keeps happening, whether the victims are Kashmiris or outsiders. Pakistan constantly wants to give the message ki hum kahin nahin gaye hain. Hum yahin hain.

Anybody who wants peace here – Pakistan finishes them off. If I identify myself, they will not spare me. Anybody who tries for peace, he is killed.

The police, the Army sometimes asks such people to speak at platforms. Those people who want peace in Kashmir – they motivate the youngsters not to go on the wrong path. But later the Army or the police don't care for this man's security. Then Pakistan gets such people killed.

**EVERYONE HAS SELF RESPECT
The Police Must Know
How To Deal With People**

The Police do not know that indirectly and unintentionally they are creating militancy. The policemen do not know how to deal with people.



Everybody has self respect. If a boy gets arrested for stone pelting, the police do not know how to deal with his parents.

These things matter. Wahin se kahani shuru ho jaati hai. Then other things come together. Propaganda from Pakistan. Poisoning in the media.

Pakistan will keep on doing its dirty work in Kashmir. But it is the responsibility of the police to keep things right. Police represents our nation at the ground level.

If you meet any policeman on the road, they don't know how to talk to people with respect. The police are not bothered about the law. They misuse the law.

THE BOYS WHO ARE ARRESTED FOR STONE PELTING FACE GREAT STRESS REGARDING THEIR CAREER AFTER THEY ARE RELEASED. THEY THINK THAT THEIR CAREER IS FINISHED. THE POLICE, THE STATE MUST HELP HIM TO REBUILD HIS LIFE. OTHERWISE HE SHALL GET MISGUIDED AND LOST TO MILITANCY

MAHARASHTRA ANTI TERRORISM SQUAD DE-RADICALIZATION PROGRAM

Kashmir Needs This Positive Police Intervention Model

In 2019, I read about a series of news reports in The Indian Express on the Maharashtra Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) de-radicalisation programme. The report said that police from Jammu and Kashmir and some other states were studying the possibility of replicating the model. It said that the Maharashtra experiment was being seen as a tangible intervention to draw back misguided youth.

I felt very happy that such a good police intervention model would be implemented in Kashmir. I kept on waiting for it so that aur ladke is bhatti mein na jayen. But the program was not implemented here. In Kashmir, the police is still making the same mistakes that it made 20 years ago.

Maharashtra ATS worked on the roots. They thought – if we punish the boys, it will spread among other Muslim boys. Police can play a very big role in bringing about peace in Kashmir, but they do not do it.

If the Police know how to deal with the boys at the psychological level, many will get reformed. Who needs psychological treatment, who needs firmness – police must know the distinction.



MAHARASHTRA ATS WORKED ON THE ROOTS. POLICE CAN PLAY A VERY BIG ROLE IN BRINGING ABOUT PEACE IN KASHMIR. IF THE POLICE KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH THE BOYS AT THE PSYCHOLOGICAL LEVEL, MANY WILL GET REFORMED

EXCERPTS FROM THE REPORT
PUBLISHED IN THE INDIAN EXPRESS, AUGUST 2019

* The de-radicalisation programme of the Maharashtra Anti Terrorism Squad has been able to pull back many youngsters from the edge. According to Maharashtra Deputy Commissioner of Police Dhananjay Kulkarni, the three-year-old programme has “reintegrated” at least 114 young men and six women who were being wooed by IS. The ATS claims to have counselled 200 others, too.

* As part of the de-radicalisation programme, the police turned counsellors and worked with a hastily put-together roadmap with a clearly defined goal.

* At the ATS office, there was no lock-up, just a lot of questions, conversations, and long counselling sessions over multiple days.

* “While my son was with the ATS, I felt he

was secure because they treated him like family,” said the father.

* “By the time my counselling got over, everyone became my friends. I have their phone number and I have been in touch with them. I come here quite often to meet them,” said the son.

* For the next 15 days, the youth reached the ATS office at 11 am to “chat” until late in the evening. Sometimes it would be just one officer, at times there would be two or three. “Rather than formal sessions, we made it seem like informal chats. We would chat about his perception of the world. It was more like friends talking over tea,” an officer said.

* At least three officers involved in the counselling said the topics would range from Bollywood to key events in Islamic history.

BANGLADESH **Miracle Story**

PAKISTAN **Disaster Tale**



**PAKISTAN IS LEAKING FROM SO MANY HOLES
PAKISTANIS HAVE STOPPED COUNTING**

by Basir ASSAD

In May 2021, a write-up by Abid Hasan, a Pakistani who is a former adviser to the World Bank, made international headlines. It appeared in *The News*, a Pakistan publication. Hasan wrote: If Pakistan continues its dismal performance, it is in the realm of possibility that we could be seeking aid from Bangladesh in 2030. In 2021, Bangladesh celebrated 50 years of its independence from Pakistan. Bangladesh's rise as an economic power and Pakistan's downslide has been a matter for deep shame for discerning Pakistanis. Bangladesh came into being

amidst deep distress caused by war and an acute famine. Pakistani soldiers had mercilessly mutilated the people living in its eastern flank, and Bangladeshis were dying of hunger and poverty. Dr Henry Kissinger, the National Security Adviser to then US President Richard Nixon, called Bangladesh a 'basket with a hole'. 50 years later, Pakistan is leaking from so many holes that Pakistanis themselves have stopped counting. Read what Pakistani thinkers are writing in Pakistani newspapers: "Every government in Pakistan, including the current one, has gone around the world with a begging bowl. We are now drowning in debt."

It is easy to quickly read and slide over these words. It is difficult to pause and digest them. Pakistan has been begging for money from every nation that it can approach. The only nation to which Pakistan has not come with a begging bowl is India. No prizes for guessing why. Today, Pakistanis are writing with a sense of deep humiliation that the label of "basket-case" is stuck on Pakistan while Bangladesh is surging ahead. Examine what Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina confidently predicted a couple of years ago for 2021. Sheikh Hasina had predicted that by the time Bangladesh is 50, it shall defeat Pakistan in terms of all economic, human and social development indicators. Moonis Ahmar, former Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Karachi wrote in *The Express Tribune*, Pakistan: Sheikh Hasina's prediction several years ago has now come true mainly because of criminalisation of politics, corruption and nepotism in Pakistan.

Sheikh Hasina predicted that by the time Bangladesh is 50, it shall defeat Pakistan on all economic, human and social development indicators. Her prediction came true mainly because of criminalisation of politics, corruption and nepotism in Pakistan

TIME TO GET REALISTIC

More and more Pakistan thinkers are warning that it is time for Pakistan to get sensible about what truly matters. "Surely it is time to get realistic. Shouting 'Pakistan zindabad' from the rooftops while obsequiously taking dictation from the Americans, Chinese, and Saudis has taken us nowhere." These sobering words of caution are by Pervez Hoodbhoy, Pakistan's noted



Former World Bank Advisor Abid Hasan in *The News*, Pakistan



Abid Hasan, Former World Bank Advisor

Pakistan's poor performance is our own fault, but our leaders conveniently blame our enemies and the IMF and World Bank. The deep hole that Pakistan is in is largely its own doing. While corruption and the economic impact of terrorism have a role in the mess, for the most part the poor performance is a result of pursuing irresponsible, inappropriate and unpredictable policies, and half-hearted reforms. The two most glaring examples of reckless policies were: excessive overspending by government, financed by domestic and foreign debt; and imports far exceeding exports leading to unsustainable external debt.

The deep hole that Pakistan is in is largely its own doing. While corruption and the economic impact of terrorism have a role in the mess, for the most part the poor performance is a result of pursuing irresponsible, inappropriate and unpredictable policies, and half-hearted reforms

Surely it is time to get realistic. Shouting 'Pakistan zindabad' from the rooftops while obsequiously taking dictation from the Americans, Chinese, and Saudis has taken us nowhere



Pervez Hoodbhoy, Noted Physicist

nuclear physicist, in *The Dawn*. Why has Pakistan reached this stage? Prof Hoodbhoy reveals the reason. Pakistan continues to

45% richer than Pakistan. Pakistani thinkers say it is painful to admit that their country is far behind Bangladesh. "It will hurt our national ego, but the only sure way for Pakistan to accelerate growth and reduce debt, and avoid seeking aid from Bangladesh, is to

Moonis Ahmar, former Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Karachi



pamper its hyper-privileged ones without caring for the society or the economy. It has nurtured extremists since the 1990s without caring for its people or for human development. Commenting on the development surprise called Bangladesh, an economic analyst wrote in *Business Standard*: In 1971, Pakistan was 70% richer than Pakistan; today, Bangladesh is

Pakistan continues to suffer from economic degradation, political instability, bad governance and societal breakdown

What is most worrying is Pakistan's dismal performance in the social sector: 25 million children out of school (according to Alif Ailaan); continuing wide gender gap; poor quality of education and health; the worst infant mortality rate in the world; rampant malnutrition and stunted growth in 40pc of the children. These issues do not bother either our political leaders



Tasneem Ahmed Siddiqui, social scientist

emulate Bangladesh," noted Abid Hasan.

Pakistani thinkers are stating the honest truth. Pakistan has gone downhill because of corrupt, incompetent and dishonest leadership. The ones most conscious of this truth are the Pakistanis themselves. "It seems as if those wielding power in Pakistan are least mindful about contributing for the betterment of the country. As a result, Pakistan continues to suffer from

Jim Mattis, Former US Secretary of Defence

economic degradation, political instability, bad governance and societal breakdown. Merely securing military capability is not enough for a country to be recognised as a successful state particularly when its performance in terms of economic, human and social development indicators is deteriorating," wrote Moonis Ahmar of the University of Karachi in The Express Tribune, Pakistan.

All those who have studied

Pakistan have come to the same conclusion. Former US Secretary of Defence Jim Mattis led the US forces into Afghanistan in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. He has a decade of experience of interacting with the military leadership in Pakistan. Mattis wrote in his book, "...the tragedy for Pakistani people is that they do not have leaders who care about their future."

Pakistani thinkers can only write about the alarming situation in their country. They cannot do anything about it because they do not wield any power. Tasneem Ahmed Siddiqui, a social scientist of Pakistan wrote in The Dawn: "What is most worrying is Pakistan's dismal performance in the social sector: 25 million children out of school (according to Alif Ailaan); continuing wide gender gap; poor quality of education and health; gaps in routine immunisation; the worst infant mortality rate in the world; rampant malnutrition and stunted growth in 40pc of the children. These issues do not bother either our political leaders or our intelligentsia."



In China, Pakistan has tied itself to a country that is responsible for the incarceration in concentration camps of one million Muslims solely on the basis of their religion and it has partnered with a country that thinks nothing about killing Pakistanis and humiliating Pakistan

Is Pakistan Nothing More Than A Colony Of China?

One day, China will turn Pakistan into its own semi-colony as it did with Sri Lanka, notes Panos Mourdoukoutas, an American economist and Professor and Chair of the Department of Economics at LIU Post in New York



Thinktanks and analysts globally are commenting that Pakistan has been reduced to be a colony of China.

Dr Michael Rubin, a former Pentagon official, noted in his write-up published by The National Interest, "Pakistanis will soon realise -- if they have not already -- what a devil's bargain their country has made. In China, Pakistan has tied itself to a country that is responsible for the incarceration in concentration camps of one million Muslims solely on the basis of

In China, Pakistan has tied itself to a country that is responsible for the incarceration in concentration camps of one million Muslims solely on the basis of their religion and it has partnered with a country that thinks nothing about killing Pakistanis and humiliating Pakistan



Dr Michael Rubin, a former Pentagon official and Senior Fellow, The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research

their religion and it has partnered with a country that thinks nothing about killing Pakistanis and humiliating Pakistan.”

Rubin has darkly warned that China seeks not a partner but a colonial vassal in Pakistan, “... the deaths of whose citizens it sees as wholly irrelevant,” he writes. “Pakistanis may soon die en masse for China’s interests, and the Pakistani government may allow it to happen.”

Panos Mourdoukoutas, an American economist and Professor and Chair of the Department of Economics at LIU Post in

New York, has darkly predicted that China is doing the same to Pakistan that it did to Sri Lanka.

Mourdoukoutas has written for Forbes, one of the leading global think tanks that “One day, China will turn Pakistan into its own ‘semi-colony,’ as it did recently with Sri Lanka.”

Mourdoukoutas observed: China has been nice to Pakistan, on the surface that is. It has been building the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which will connect Western China with the Indian Ocean, provided of course that

India will allow it. That could certainly benefit Pakistan, helping the country make a big step forward, from an emerging to a mature economy, creating a lot of jobs in the process.

But it could hurt Pakistan, too. Like adding to Pakistan’s corruption, which keeps pushing the costs of the project higher by the day, making Pakistan more indebted to China, which has been financing the project.”

Mourdoukoutas noted that Pakistan’s rising indebtedness comes at a time when the country is already living beyond its means, as evidenced by persistent current account deficits, government debt, and external debt. It is considered impossible that Pakistan will be able to pay off the debts it has taken from China.

Leading economists warn that we may see a replay in Pakistan of what China did to Sri Lanka. Beijing may convert these loans to equity with Pakistan too. In essence, this will convert Pakistan into a “semi-colony” for Beijing. “That’s what will eventually happen to Pakistan when China takes over CPEC, and end up collecting tolls from every vehicle that passes through,” is the dark prediction by Panos Mourdoukoutas for China Pakistan Economic Corridor.

In terms of economic and social development, Bangladesh clearly surpassed Pakistan in all the domains

**STUDY AT COLLEGE OF ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
KARACHI**

In 2021, Syed Saif Ur Rehman Shah, a student of the College of Economics & Social Development, Institute of Business Management in Karachi published a study paper. The study paper is titled Pakistan & Bangladesh: Comparative Economic Analysis 1971-2020.

Shah examined and conducted a comparative economic analysis of Pakistan and Bangladesh based on different economic indicators from 1971 to 2020. The findings of the study suggested that in terms of economic and social development, Bangladesh clearly surpassed Pakistan in all the domains. After studying the material published in various secondary sources, Shah found that Bangladesh’s progressive and consistent economic approach with emphasis on the economic empowerment of their population was the key towards its success.

Leading economic analysts have called Bangladesh a “development surprise”. It is to be noted that each element of Bangladesh’s stupendous success is missing from Pakistan. One can examine this in the conclusion drawn by the study of Pakistan vis-à-vis Bangladesh.



DESPITE RECEIVING SIGNIFICANT CURRENT TRANSFERS, PAKISTAN’S CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE KEPT DETERIORATING

The researcher specified that the objective of the study is to assess and comprehend the economic performance of both the countries in the last fifty years and determine which country outperformed in terms of economic growth and performance.

After studying Pakistan’s account balance since 1971, the study came to the following analysis.

“Despite receiving significant current transfers, Pakistan’s current account balance kept deteriorating which highlighted the fact and can be assumed that political instability, lack of accountability, failing to promote and revive domestic industries, and failing

| Analysis | Pakistan | Bangladesh |
|---|----------|------------|
| 1. Progressive | No | Yes |
| 2. Consistent | No | Yes |
| 3. Sound Economic Approach | No | Yes |
| 4. Emphasis on economic empowerment of population | No | Yes |



to become self-sufficient had contributed significantly towards the cause.”

CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE OF BANGLADESH VIS-À-VIS PAKISTAN

In terms of current account balance, Bangladesh was always ahead of Pakistan which is clearly evident by the statistics. In the last 50 years, the mean current account balance of Pakistan was recorded to be \$2,629 million (deficit) whereas Bangladesh's mean current account balance records way below at just \$137 million (deficit). In terms of net current transfers, Pakistan has received the most transfers in the last 50 years. According to the data, the mean net current transfers which Pakistan received in the last 50 years were \$7,383 million and Bangladesh received \$991 million.

PAKISTAN CONSTANTLY DETERIORATING DESPITE MASSIVE AID

Despite receiving significant current transfers, Pakistan's current account balance kept deteriorating which highlights the fact that political instability, lack of accountability, failing to promote and revive domestic industries, and failure to become

self-sufficient has cost Pakistan immensely in the past 50 years. In contrast, Bangladesh's progressive economic approach, efforts towards economic empowerment and social development today are proved by their positive economic indicators.

ECONOMIC GROWTH RATE, STANDARD OF LIVING OF POPULATION

To assess the performance in real terms, it is important to study and comprehend the economic growth rates and determine the change in the standard of living of the population through them.

The annual GDP growth rate for Pakistan in both the economic phases highlighted deteriorating economic growth. During 1971-2000 the average annual GDP growth rate was 4.99 % whereas in the second economic phase it deteriorated to 4.28 %. Similarly, the growth in average GDP per capita also dropped marginally from 1.90 % to 1.88 % respectively.

Pakistan & Bangladesh: Comparative Economic Analysis 1971-2020
 Syed Saif Ur Rehman Shah
 College of Economics & Social Development
 Institute of Business Management
 Karachi, Pakistan

Another Area Where Pakistan Lagged IT DID NOT EDUCATE ITS DAUGHTERS

Major Reason For Bangladesh's Progress EMPHASIS ON WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



One of the major reasons for Bangladesh's growth was their emphasis on social and women empowerment which had significantly contributed towards their labour force in all three economic sectors: Secondary, tertiary, and quaternary. As per The Economic Times, "Since 2008, the government has also vigorously promoted a policy of women's empowerment, as a result of which a greater number of women have been making their way to professions, including civil services as well as armed and security forces. Women entrepreneurs are growing. Many young women are leaving their jobs as housemaids and joining readymade garment units, which they find satisfactory in terms of workplace security and wages, thanks to the attention given to the readymade garments sector".

The study concluded that Bangladesh's emphasis on the economic empowerment of their population played a contributing role towards the country's growth and progress. In contrast, Pakistan's economic growth and progress deteriorated because of inconsistent political regimes followed by inconsistent economic policies. Adding further, unlike Bangladesh, Pakistan failed to empower their population which added towards illiteracy and adversely affected the productivity and employment in the economy.

Almost half of the population is illiterate and only one-third of the female population is literate. More than half of the population does not have access to decent health facilities. The infant mortality rate of 80 per thousand is still very high. The health status of women and children is particularly low. Female labour force participation rates are the lowest among South Asian countries.

- Study By Dr Ishrat Hussain
 on Pakistan's Economy and
 Regional Challenges,
 September 2018

MEANE GOUBRAA!

Please don't do this! I want to see you again!

A Mother Waits To Her Militant Son About To Die

Wailing Parents, Son Walking Into Death's Arms - Kashmir



REPRESENTATIONAL PICTURES

by Iqbal AHMED

PAIN AND DISTRESS

Everyday Kashmir faces encounters and attacks. Everyday our own are killed by our own. As a cop, as a militant, as a civilian – it is a Kashmir who is killed. The shrouds are made by common Kashmiris. The blood riddled bodies are shouldered by common Kashmiris. Nobody from Islamabad or Delhi comes to console us when our dear ones die. Why should we blame them? We ourselves have chosen this cycle of death. We ourselves refuse to end it.

Everyday, someone is orphaned. Someone's child is killed. It has been normalized. The wailing mothers, the distressed fathers, the mourning relatives. All have one question on their hearts and minds. When will bloodshed end in Kashmir? You can shout and abuse the state if you want to. If you shout and abuse the militants, that will be the last shouting you will do. Then the shroud shall await you.

Will there be any day in Kashmir when people feel free to live and are free from worries? Why are our young children taking up arms and choosing to die? We are scared to ask these questions. Hum is bhatti mein jal rahen hain.

Who can put into words the pain, the distress the parents faced after receiving the news that their militant son had been killed! How many times the nightmare will haunt them – his body mutilated by bullet holes, lying under debris somewhere.

The thought may kill them every day. But they shall die alone. Now nobody will visit them to ask about their well being. Whether they need food. Whether they need medicines. Whether they need warm clothing. Whether the roof needs repair. Whether they need wood.

All romantic celebration of a young Kashmiri turning to militancy vanishes now. The young Kashmiri died with a gun in his hands. Us ko militant banane ka maqsad poora ho gaya.

The wailing parents may be cursing Kashmir. They may be cursing the day they had begotten their loving son. Who shall answer the question in their minds – Is this the day for which raised our beloved son? One day he will call us and say I am going to die, forgive me if I hurt you. Who will heal this biggest hurt, this deepest cut? Who will heal this old man and woman full of pain and anger, bitter towards state and society?



NOBODY FROM ISLAMABAD OR DELHI COMES TO CONSOLE US WHEN OUR DEAR ONES DIE. WHY SHOULD WE BLAME THEM? WE OURSELVES HAVE CHOSEN THIS CYCLE OF DEATH. WE OURSELVES REFUSE TO END IT

What about some sons of Kashmir who play in blood?

All parents wish that one day their son or daughter will make them proud. The children work hard to achieve big, make their parents feel proud and take care of them in old age. There may be some children who may not achieve much. But at least they do not undertake actions which will pain their parents forever.

What about some sons of Kashmir who play in blood, embrace death and leave their parents with scars forever. These youth are emboldened by the radical ideologies pumped into Kashmir by Pakistan by the adversaries of the society and the state. These youths are unaware that they are part of a game. They start their career with stone pelting. Many of them move on to militancy. And then it is end of life. The shelf life of a fresh recruit in militant ranks is about 150 days only. Their parents cannot understand why their son left them.

Role Of Society In Radicalizing Innocents
Can we deny that some parents in Kashmir inject

toxicants of ideology in their children? Later if the children turn to militancy, they blame their young ones or others. We all teach our children by our actions. We curse the Indian state. We hold the state forces responsible for everything bad in Kashmir. No one among us dares to request Pakistan not to infiltrate arms and ammunitions into Kashmir. No one held the separatists responsible for the poison they injected into Kashmir.

Many parents receive perks and rewards from the state. Even then they curse the state for being brutal, for using power to control the emotions and feelings of people. Children absorb the hate they see in the society. They get emboldened thinking that the state is our enemy, so we must punish it. They make resistance their dream and death their destination.

What can be more destructive than a society which prepares the fuel in which its young shall die? What can be more tragic than a society where no one tries to extinguish this fire? We all are stakeholders of our society. We all are equally responsible to stop the bloodshed in Kashmir.

Meane Goubraa! Hataa naa! yee maa ker!

On December 26, four militants were killed in twin encounters that took place in Shopian and Bijbehara in South Kashmir. Two were killed in Shopian and two in Bijbehara.

At the Shopian encounter, a militant who had been a blossoming Kashmiri youth made a brief call to his parents before ending his life. Sources reveal that the call went like this:

Bei khoul wainne fire, mei ker zev maaf agar!

(I am going to open fire! Pardon me if I had ever hurt you.)

Father: Basit! Try to speak to them! May be you may get a chance to save yourself!

No No No! I am going to open fire. La Ilaha Illallah Muhammadur Rasulullah!

Mother: Meane goubraa! Meane goubraa! Please please don't do this! I want to see you again my son! I want to take you in my arms! Go and put down your arms. I am waiting goubraa!

No No! I will open fire

Mother: Goubraa! Goubraa! Hataa naa yee maa kar!

(My son! My son! Don't do this!)

Call disconnected



CHILDREN ABSORB THE HATE THEY SEE IN THE SOCIETY. THEY GET EMBOLDENED THINKING THAT THE STATE IS OUR ENEMY. THEY MAKE RESISTANCE THEIR DREAM AND DEATH THEIR DESTINATION

HOTEL ROOMS IN SRINAGAR AMONG THE MOST EXPENSIVE

Comparison reveals that room rent in Srinagar near five times the tariff in Delhi for similar hotel profile

by Sameer SHEIKH

Zafar Iqbal Manhas, a literary critic, recently returned from Turkey after two months. On landing at Indira Gandhi International Airport at New Delhi, he was asked to strictly adhere to Covid protocol as a new variant Omicron was spreading fast. Zafar was given a choice for the compulsory quarantine period. He could stay at a designated Covid center or in an isolated room at any hotel in Delhi for the specified number of days. Zafar stayed in a five star hotel in New Delhi. He said the tariff was affordable and the service provided by the hotel was good.

On his return to Srinagar after the quarantine period ended, Zafar had to arrange a room for a visitor in Srinagar. He enquired about the occupancy in The Lalit Grand Palace Srinagar at Gupkar Road. He was shocked to discover that the tariff at Grand Lalit was five times higher than what he paid in the five star hotel at New Delhi.

Zafar's, a frequent traveller abroad, said that the tariff at The Lalit Grand Palace Srinagar was much higher than five star hotels in European destinations.

The reviews posted on online platforms by the visitors to the hotel are a mixed bag. While some visitors were very happy, others complained of bad rooms, cracking paint and poor hospitality.

Here is the comparison of tariff levied by some leading hotels of Srinagar vis a vis some leading hotels of Delhi or Jammu.



The reviews posted on online platforms by the visitors to Grand Lalit are a mixed bag. While some visitors were very happy, others complained of bad rooms, cracking paint and poor hospitality.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Takes Note Of High Hotel Tariff

Taking into view the hefty sums charged from tourists and others by the hotels in Kashmir, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir chaired a meeting on December 9, 2021 for fixation of rates of hotels, pony rides, cabs, sledges etc. The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioners of Baramulla and Anantnag; ADC Ganderbal; Managing director JKTDC; Director Tourism; Chief Executive Officers of Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonamarg Development Authorities and Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir.

Director Tourism was given directions to fix the rates for hotels, ponies, vehicles etc., which should be notified within a week's time. The Divisional Commissioner instructed the Director of Tourism to ensure that the tariffs that are finally agreed and determined are strictly applied beginning January 1, 2022, so that tourists are not inconvenienced or exploited.

It was also decided that the Director of Tourism would fix the tariffs quarterly for the entire year, with maximum and minimum slabs. The Divisional Commissioner said that rates will be fixed for a period of 3 years with a fixed percentage of annual increase as per the market. It was further added that the rates for hotels should be fixed according to the categorization of hotels so that the tourists will not be forced to bargain.



The Lalit Grand Palace Srinagar



Taj Vivanta Srinagar



Taj Vivanta Srinagar

The Lalit Grand Palace Srinagar

| No. | Rooms | Charges |
|-----|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Deluxe First Floor | 25000 + 18% tax |
| 2. | Super Deluxe First Floor | 25500 + 18% tax |
| 3. | Deluxe Ground Floor | 26000+ 18% tax |
| 4. | Super Deluxe Ground Floor | 26500 + 18% tax |
| 5. | Maharani Suite | 50000+ 18% tax |
| 6. | Luxury Suite | 65000+ 18% tax |



Taj Vivanta Srinagar, Taj Vivanta Delhi

| No. | Rooms Taj Vivanta Srinagar | Charges | Rooms Taj Vivanta Delhi | Charges |
|-----|---|----------|------------------------------|---------|
| 1. | Superior charm Room with Lake View, Twin Bed | 24,780 | Superior Room | 7,125 |
| 2. | Superior Charm Room With Lake View | 28,320 | Deluxe Room Pool View | 8,438 |
| 3. | Superior Double Room with Lake View | 24,780 | Premium Room | 9,750 |
| 4. | Superior Double Room with Lake View | 28,320 | Deluxe Room Courtyard View | 11,063 |
| 5. | Premium Indulgence Room with Lake view, King Bed | 32,450 | Premium View Courtyard View | 12,375 |
| 6. | Premium Indulgence Room with Lake View, King Bed | 35,990 | Deluxe Suite | 15,750 |
| 7. | Premium Temptation Suite 1 Bedroom With Lake View, King Bed | 1,78,770 | Premium Suite Courtyard View | 21,000 |
| 8. | Premium Temptation Suite1, Bedroom with Lake View, King Bed | 1,82,310 | Bliss Suite | 47,250 |

The Lalit, New Delhi

| No. | Rooms | Charges |
|-----|---------------------|------------|
| 1. | Deluxe King Room | Rs. 5,763 |
| 2. | Deluxe Twin Room | Rs. 6,041 |
| 3. | Premier King Room | Rs. 6,227 |
| 4. | Premier Twin Room | Rs. 6,227 |
| 5. | Executive Club King | Rs. 8,030 |
| 6. | Executive Club Twin | Rs. 8,030 |
| 7. | Luxury room | Rs. 9,989 |
| 8. | Business Suite | Rs. 16,845 |
| 9. | Corner Suite | Rs. 17,824 |



The Lalit New Delhi



Taj Vivanta Srinagar



Taj Vivanta Delhi

Radisson Srinagar



Radisson Jammu



Radisson Delhi

The Jammu and Kashmir Registration of Tourist Trade Act specifies that the Government shall by a notification fix the rate and service charged by the hotels for boarding and lodging or both

Radisson Srinagar, Radisson Jammu, Radisson Delhi

| No. | Radisson Srinagar | | Radisson Jammu | | Radisson Delhi | |
|-----|------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------|-------|------------------------|--------|
| 1. | Standard Room 2 Guests | 15,340 | Superior Double or Twin Room | 4,143 | Superior Room | 6,135 |
| 2. | Standard Room 3 Guests | 18,290 | Superior Double or Twin Room | 5,263 | Superior Room 3 Guests | 7, 143 |
| 3. | Business Class Room 2 Guests | 17,700 | Superior Double or Twin Room 3 Guests | 5,823 | Deluxe Room | 7,143 |
| 4. | Business Class Room 3 Guests | 20,650 | Superior Double or Twin Room 3 Guests | 6,943 | Deluxe Room 3 Guests | 8,151 |
| 5. | Junior Suite 2 Guests | 20,650 | Deluxe Double or Twin Room | 4,703 | | |
| 6. | Junior Suite 3 Guests | 23,600 | Deluxe Double or Twin Room | 5,823 | | |

TARIFFS IMPOSED BY OTHER FIVE STAR HOTELS IN SRINAGAR

The Orchard Retreat and Spa, Srinagar

| No. | Rooms | Charges |
|-----|--|---------|
| 1. | Luxury Cottage With Balcony and Club Lounge access, 3 Guests | 13,142 |
| 2. | Luxury Cottage With Balcony and Club Lounge access, One double bed | 13,275 |
| 3. | Luxury Cottage with Balcony and Club Lounge Access One double bed and 3 Guests | 15,399 |

The Mascot Houseboats

| No. | Rooms | Charges |
|-----|---|---------|
| 1. | Premium Double Room, 1 double bed, 2 guests | 16,402 |
| 2. | Kohinoor Suite, 2 guests | 20,545 |
| 3. | Theme Room, 1 double bed, 2 guests | 23,812 |
| 4. | Shamah Suite, 2 guests | 29,542 |
| 5. | Emperor Suite, 2 guest | 43,962 |



The Orchard Retreat and Spa, Srinagar

Jammu and Kashmir Registration of Tourist Trade Act, 1978

The Jammu and Kashmir Registration of Tourist Trade Act, 1978; Part III, Section 15; Fixation of Rate

This section specifies that the Government shall by a notification fix the rate and service charged by the hotels for boarding and lodging or both. While fixing the charges, the recommendations are to be made by a committee the composition of which is prescribed. While recommending the rate and service charges, the committee shall take into account the standard of the hotel, accommodation and services provided by and the quality of food served by it to the customers.

A notification to this effect under the J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011 read with SRO 198 dated 08.06.2012, Director Tourism, Kashmir. The rates have been noted for the year 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 according to the notification which has been issued in pursuance to the approval conveyed by the Government vide endorsement No. TSM/Estt-117/2021 dated 09.12.2021. (Notification no. 01/TDK of 2021, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Tourism Department, TRC, Srinagar. Dated 15.12.2021)

It can be observed that the notification only contains the details of fixed charges on services like Tourist Guides, Ski Guides, Mountain/Trekking Guides, Sledges, Ski equipment, Ice Skating, Ice Skating equipment, rafting, cycling, Zorbing, Hydro Zorbing, Snow Mobile, ATV, Motorbiking, Paragliding, Motor Boats, Bathing Boats, Labour/Helper/Mazdoor/Porter for trekking at high altitude, Flat water rafting boating, Paddle Boat Riding, Bungee Trampoline, Mechanical Mad-bull, Golf Cart ride, Zip Line, Hot Air Balloon, Battery Operated Vehicles at Sonmarg, Shikara rides at Dal, Nigeen and Manasbal lakes for various durations, pony rides for various durations and various tracks including Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonmarg, Yousmarg, Doodpathri and Ahrabal, photography of various kinds and other related services. There are no slabs or upper limit provided for room tariff that can be charged from hotels.



The Mascot Houseboats

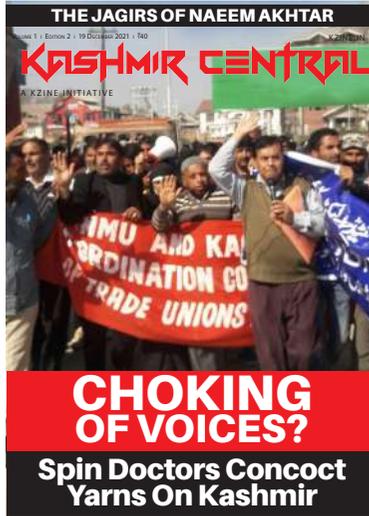
The comparison of the charges levied by Lalit Grand Palace in Srinagar versus The Lalit at New Delhi reveals that the tariff in Srinagar is much higher. When asked about the high charges, the hotel staff said that the hotel is constructed over 835 acres approximately. A lot of the money is spent on the maintenance of the gardens. In keeping with the overall regular expenditure of the hotel, their charges are adequate.

Room tariff for each hotel has been taken from online sources. KASHMIR CENTRAL does not claim the veracity of these figures

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