RNI No: JKENG/2022/81439

VOLUME 3 I EDITION 12 | 19 MARCH 2023 I ₹60

kashmircentral.in



SMART SUPERVISION

Senior Superintendent of Police Rakesh Balwal talks about how, owing to the newfound peace and security, Srinagar is transitioning from being under fat policing to smart policing. A Kashmir Central exclusive.



LOG INTO KASHMIR @



KUSHWIK CENTRUL

KUSHWIK CENTRUL

VOLUME 3 | EDITION 12 19 MARCH 2023

Editor -in -Chief

Bashir Ahmad Bhat (Bashir Assad)

Editor

Ms. Balpreet

Managing Editor

Bisma Nazir

Roving Editor

Ms. Mareaya

Legal Advisor

Advocate G M Wani

OWNED, PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY

Bashir Ahmad Bhat

Registered with the Registrar of Newspapers of India under RNI No: JKENG/2022/81439

PUBLISHED FROM

J-24, Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar, 190008

ADDRESS FOR ALL CORRESPONDENCE

J-24, Jawahar Nagar Srinagar, 190008

Email: editor@kashmircentraLin

PRINTED AT

Access Publications HMT, Srinagar Mobile: 6005737819

All Rights Reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited

All Advertising enquiries, comments and feedback are welcome at kashmircentral997@gmail.com

Periodicity: Weekly

Language: English

Price: ₹60

The information contained in this magazine has been reviewed for accuracy and is deemed reliable but is not necessarily complete or guaranteed by the Editor. The views expressed in this digest are solely that of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of KASHMIR CENTRAL

GOOD SHOT

The Valley is declaring 'lights, camera, action' as film shoots find a revival, thanks to the prevailing peace situation here. Some 150 filmmakers have already got the permission to shoot in J&K and the action's just begun!

ITH the approval of the new film policy by the Jammu & Kashmir government, 150 filmmakers have been granted permission to shoot in the Union Territory. It is interesting to watch that this time, Tollywood has taken a lead in seeking permission for shooting in the Kashmir Valley. Many filmmakers, with their cast and crew, have already arrived in



Kashmir and the shooting of their respective projects is underway.

Kashmir has been a film shoot destination for long, long years now. However, thanks to the violent turbulence of the last three decades, not many films have been shot in Kashmir during this period. Though some films like Mission Kashmir, Hyder, Kashmir Files and a few others were filmed here but that was because the central theme of these films was the Valley. Kashmir, otherwise, has been a film shoot destination for its beautiful landscapes.

Now that the shooting of films in Kashmir is being revived, one can only hope that it emerges as the most sought-after destination for this purpose. Kashmir is already emerging as an all-weather tourist destination and since the last couple of years, there has been no let up in tourist influx - be it during summers or winters. Kashmir could now pull film crews too in a similar way since Nature has bestowed this beautiful valley with everything that heals, soothes the eyes, gives restfulness to the body and quietens the mind. Meanwhile Asia's largest tulip garden which has been thrown open to tourists on March 19, could also provide the perfect backdrop for film & song shoots. The infrastructural development taking place across the world famous tourist destinations in Kashmir could further facilitate such activity.

Also, there are efforts to provide world-class facilities to the film industry. This would help filmmakers to cut costs of travelling abroad. Even low-budget films could make comfortable profits by shooting in Kashmir.

As is popularly said - well begun is half done - film shoots have kick-started and some good cinema is being filmed here.

It is a win-win situation for all stakeholders.

Bashir Assad

CONTENTS



05 a gift of smart policing

by Bashir Assad



10 GOOD JOB by Mian Tufail



15 END CRIME, WITH A CAPITAL P





KASHMIR CENTRAL | 19 MARCH 2023 | 9

by **Bisma Nazir**

hanks to the improvement in the overall security scenario in Srinagar, the City's district administration has removed many bunkers from the congested interiors and many more are set to be removed in the near future.

The administration is working on a comprehensive plan of relocation of the CRPF manpower. The decision to remove the bunkers and relocate the CRPF and the Jammu & Kashmir police personnel has been taken in the wake of considerable improvement in the security environment in the capital city.

With the city of Srinagar feeling more secure and safe, the district administration has begun to transition from heavy monitoring to smart policing. But cyber crime and narcotics are still big challenges, informs Srinagar SSP Rakesh Balwal. A KC exclusive.



Managing Editor Bisma Nazir with SSP Srinagar Mr Rakesh Balwal, IPS

PEACE PREVAILS: SSP

In an exclusive interview with Kashmir Central, the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Srinagar, Rakesh Balwal (IPS), informed that the focus was now on smart policing rather than thickness of jackboots. Rakesh said the situation had improved a lot. Not a single new recruitment had been reported in the Srinagar district in the recent past, he added. He said the police and paramilitary CRPF were acting swiftly on tipoffs. And on an average, 15-20 cordon and search operations were taking place on a daily basis. "We have just one active terrorist - Momin Gulzar - in the district. And his movement has been restricted," said he.

SMART POLICING IS THE WAY

The SSP further added that several over ground worker (OGW) modules had been busted and arrests had been made under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act (UAPA). The Srinagar district has reported not a single incident over the last couple of months that may have disturbed the law and order situation here. He added that since the overall security scenario in the area had seen improvement, people deserved respite from too much monitoring. "We have removed many bunkers in the busy and congested areas of the Srinagar city, like Jahangir Chowk, Dal Gate and a few other places.



There is a transition from manual policing to smart policing. CCTV cameras have been installed all across the city, drones are being used to keep a vigil and tenant verification is almost complete", the SSP informed. He added that a record of minority community members and non-locals was being maintained and that Google mapping was being done to stay alert and updated.

Ahead of the G-20 diplomatic summit, scheduled towards the end of May in Srinagar, every step is being taken for its peaceful culmination. The SSP said the administration was fully prepared to host the summit. "Security and the developmental

scenario are being improved at a rapid pace and there are no hiccups whatsoever. Vigil has been enhanced at the City's outskirts along Nowgam, Pohru, the new bypass of Lasjan, Khrew, Khanmoh, Shalteng, Bemina bypass and the 90-feet Ahmed Nagar bypass. Mobile naakaas are being installed in the City interiors', said the SSP.

CYBER CRIME, A CHALLENGE

The Srinagr SSP, however, admitted that cyber crime and narcotics were the major challenges for the Srinagar District Administration. Cyber crimes particularly sextortion, stocking, duping were on the rise and that a lot of awareness was required to contain cyber crimes, he added. "A wellequipped cyber police station is working day and night under the direct supervision of the Kashmir ADGP Vijay Kumar," said the SSP, adding that since the public was not fully aware of the cyber crimes, the criminals indulged in duping, sextortion, extortion and blackmail very frequently. He further informed that cyber awareness camps were being organised at every police station for mass awareness. According to him, women, in particular, needed to be more careful while using smart phones and social media applications. He said the





new-age crime was sharper and precise, thanks to the internet. "There is hardly any 'scene of crime' because everything is done online," said he.

The SSP advised that people should avoid taking unidentified calls, especially video calls from unknown callers. He further said that bank details, credit and debit card details should never be shared with anyone, particularly those who ask for the same from anonymous numbers.

DOWN WITH DRUGS

The Srinagar SSP also informed that the use of narcotics was also on the rise in Srinagar city, thus leading to crimes like theft, snatching and loot. In fact, he added, that 95% of the thefts in the City were committed by those using narcotics. "The rate of organised theft in Srinagar is very, very low. The thefts that happen are mostly carried out by narcotic users who desperately need money for buying drugs," said he. Since the use of

narcotics has consequential stigmatisation, there are parents who are hesitant to report the same to the police. Also, he pointed, that the facilities available for rehabilitation and de-addiction were insufficient. "We have just one de- addiction centre in the City and then there are two or three private centres with very little facilities, which, in no way, match the demand for such centres," the SSP said, adding that rehabilitation and de-addiction had to be prioritised to save young lives



from death and destruction. Let it be mentioned that awareness camps are being organised under the Nasha Mukti Abhiyaan and a special ward has been designated for the treatment of drug abusers.

MATRIMONIAL DISPUTES RISING

SSP Balwal said that the crime against women was thankfully not high in Srinagar city but added that the cases of domestic violence showed a steep rise over a period of time. "Matrimonial disputes are being reported on daily basis," he added.

So overall, even though the city of Srinagar may have become much safer, narcotics and cyber crimes still need attention. But yes, the public can heave a sigh of relief because the overall scenario calls for release in strict monitoring. Smart policing is the keyword now.

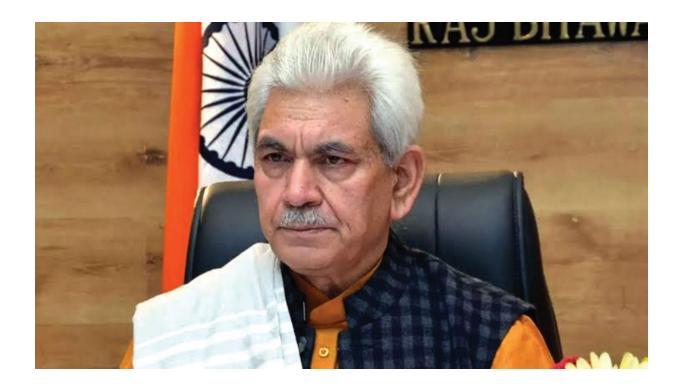






by Mian Tufail

It is a fact that the previous governments in J&K, in order to keep their vote banks heavy, showed alignment with terrorists by offering their kin important jobs. **But the present** LG administration has gone ahead and taken steps to destroy that kind of buttress.



TERRORISM in India has been mostly synonymous with the terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir. The erstwhile state of J&K has, for a long time, remained infamous for directly or indirectly favouring terrorists. After the abrogation of Article 370 and 35(A), J&K was downgraded to the status of Union Territory, brought under direct control of the Home Ministry to handle the security apparatus better. And since then, a major leap has been achieved in containing armed terrorism and the infamous street dogfights.

Most political parties in the erstwhile State had reached the zenith of power by remaining soft towards terrorism.

Although, their workers on ground faced terrorist attacks and brutalities, the parties ignored their sacrifices to safeguard their berths to rule the State.

Recently, Lieutenant
Governor Manoj Sinha,
commenting on the JKSSBAPTECH controversy, shut up
opposition parties in a veiled
dig, stating that those who
provided 'jobs to terrorists'
in Jammu & Kashmir, should
not lecture on the present
dispensation about fairness and
transparency in the government
examinations.

A SAD REALITY

•

The LG's statement has, yet again, raked up the issue as to how the former rulers in Jammu & Kashmir favoured terrorists and their kin, over the common people, when it came to providing jobs. Politicians, by showing allegiance to terrorists in the past – just to



gain a handful of votes - made a mockery of the merit system in J&K. There are political parties that emerged under the garb of green posters to prove their allegiance to Pakistan and fooled the innocent Kashmiris just to enjoy political power and chief-ministerships.

But the times have changed now. Mainstream parties have been side-lined to clear the security mess in J&K. Today, terrorist activities have reached their fag end. People have heaved a sigh of relief to witness the bloom and tulips of the new Jammu & Kashmir.

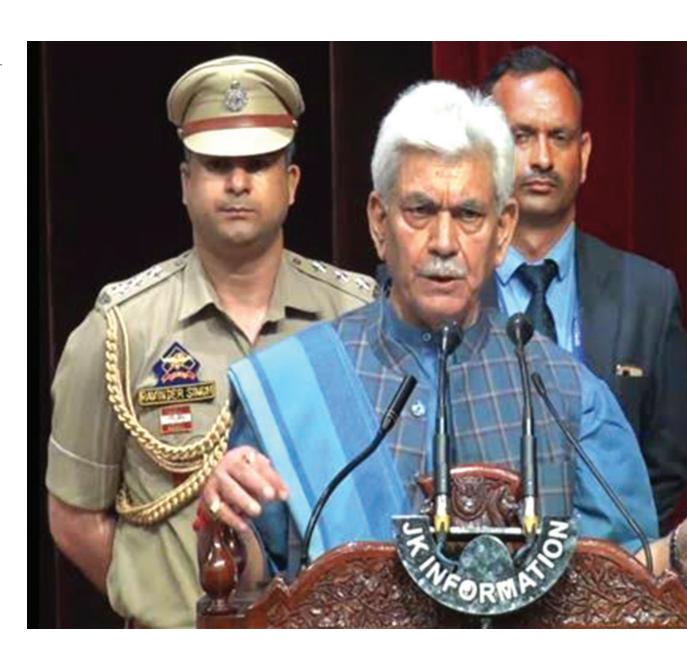
NOT A MERE ACCUSATION

LG Manoj Sinha's statement is based on facts. Every institution of J&K has had a background of recruiting the sympathisers and kin of terrorists to garner electoral mileage.

In July 2021, the government

of J&K terminated the services of 11 government employees, including two sons of the most wanted terrorist - Syed Salahuddin - for allegedly passing on information to terrorists and extending logistic support.

Syed Ahmad Shakeel and Shahid Yousuf, the sons of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen commander Syed Salahuddin, were dismissed from service for their involvement in terror-funding activities. The



Most political parties in the erstwhile State had reached the zenith of power by remaining soft towards terrorism.





National Investigation Agency (NIA), in its report, found that the two were involved in raising, receiving, collecting and transferring funds through hawala transactions to support the terror activities of Hizb.

So, in the same year, the services of 11 employees were terminated by the Manoj Sinha government under Article 311(2)(c) of the Constitution. The action was taken following a recommendation by a designated committee for looking into such cases. It is no news that the kin of terrorists who were provided jobs, have been working in different sectors like agriculture, public health, skill & power development and the education department.

During the BJP-PDP coalition government in Jammu & Kashmir, a new surrender policy for militants was announced, according to which, a terrorist who surrenders, will be rewarded with Rs Six Lakhs in the form

of an FDR (fixed deposit) that will have a lock-in period of ten years and would become encashable upon display of good behaviour. While the FD will have a lock-in period of ten years, a surrendered terrorist would be able to receive Rs 4,000 in interest per month, with immediate effect. Let it be mentioned that SPOs working in the J&K police were drawing a mere Rs. 3,000 per month to defend the Valley against assaults of terrorists. These figures are a testament to understand the credibility of the statement made by the LG that the previous governments offered jobs to terrorists and their kin on a platter.

ACTION SPEAKS LOUDER

_

Pertinently, the present administration headed by Manoj Sinha, has taken terrorists and their sympathisers to the head. Those who had entered government sectors under the umbrella of terrorism, have been shown the door.

A major example is
Assabah-ul-Arjamand Khan - a
senior officer with the Union
Territory's Rural Development
Department and wife of
Farooq Ahmad Dar, alias Bitta
Karate - who was sacked. Her
termination order, issued by
Lieutenant Governor Manoj
Sinha, states that "it is not
expedient to hold enquiry" in
her case and "in the interest of
the security of the State", she has
been dismissed from service

"with immediate effect".

A similar worded order was issued against the third son of Hizb chief - Abdul Mueed. The son was working as manager, Information Technology, at the Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute.

Similarly, two other employees dismissed from service were Dr Muheet Ahmad Bhat, a D-grade scientist in the Department of Computer Science, University of Kashmir, and Majid Hussain Qadri, a senior assistant professor from the Department of Management Studies, University of Kashmir. Both were accused of working against the sovereignty of the State at the behest of inimical forces.

It is indeed clear that the previous J&K governments made an effort to be in the good books of terrorists at the cost of their electoral workers, but the present administration is adamant about destroying that dangerous nexus.



END CRIME, WITHA CAPITAL P

The recent gruesome murder of a young woman from Budgam district has sent cold chills across the entire Valley. It's time to place a big boulder on such crimes by bringing on a quick capital punishment of the accused in the case.

by Mir Tanveer

HE Kashmir Valley has been lately witnessing a sharp rise in crime across different districts. Robberies to murders, it's all happening rapidly here.

In a recent case in central Kashmir's Budgam district, a young unmarried woman of around 30 was murdered mercilessly by a mason in the Mohanpora Ompora area. The woman was first kidnapped and later murdered at a home after kidnapping.

In this heinous case, the mason chopped off the woman's body in parts and buried them at



different locations of the area so as to hide the crime which has shaken up the very core of humanity and the Kashmiri society.

The woman's family had filed a missing report at the Police Post Soibugh, Budgam on March 8, 2023.

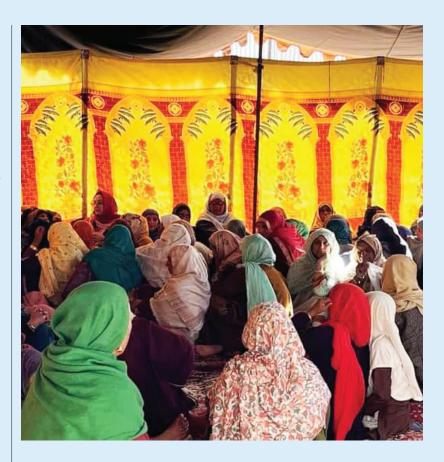
THE SHOCKING CASE

As per family sources, the woman left home in the morning hours of March 7, 2023 to attend a computer class in a nearby computer institute as per her daily routine. But when she did not return home way beyond her regular timings, the family tried to contact her on her phone which remained switched off.

Soon, the woman's family members, relatives and neighbours started searching for her in the vicinity but failed to find any trace of her.

Then, after the family filed a missing report at the police station concerned, the police personnel started a search operation on a fast track basis. During the search operation, certain suspicious persons were arrested by the police and were questioned regarding the missing woman.

Among the suspects, one Shabir Ahmed Wani, a mason from Mohanpora Ompora Budgam, confessed to the murder of Arifa Shafi of Soibugh Budgam following a rigorous grilling and police interrogation.



It may be mentioned here that the Budgam SHO Aftab Mir played a crucial role in the busting of the case. Also, as said the police officials, the case was solved quickly due to the active cooperation of the family during the investigation. Also, the call tracking and location tracking devices and apps helped reach the clues to the murder, informed the police.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: A QUICK MUST

During an interaction with the media, the woman's brother Tanveer Khan informed that the person involved in the crime was working as a mason in the nearby area of Soibugh Budgam. He said that a majority of the



people in the area know him due to his work. Khan said that the family knew the mason too but they had never expected that he was so dangerous as to commit such a heinous crime. "We are in deep shock at this a horrific killing. Our family is totally shattered," said he. On further questioning, Khan revealed that Shabir Wani, the accused, had actually asked the family for the woman's hand in marriage a year ago, but the family had turned down the proposal. "But does such a refusal give someone a reason to kill someone? Where is humanity? What has become of it?" he asked emotionally.

While talking to the media, SSP Budgam Syed Thair

Geelani said that the police were able to crack the case in a very short period of time after a missing report was filed. Multiple suspects were arrested in connection with the case but later, following a serious questioning session, the main culprit Shabir Ahmed Wani had confessed to his crime of murdering Aria Shafi of Soibugh Budgam. Further investigation had him confess that, using a sharp cutter, he had chopped off the woman's body into different parts and buried them at different locations so as to hide the heinous crime.

The police went on to search all these locations and collected the body parts and then, after performing all medico-legal formalities, had handed over the body to the family for burial.

The SSP assured that the police will do their level best in ensuring justice for the victim.

HUMANITY IN SHOCK

•

The case has shaken up whoever has heard of it. The woman's native village of Soibugh Budgam was shocked at the brutal murder. Men, women and children of the village took to the roads to protest against the culprit and seek justice for the victim and her family. The news spread to the other parts



of the district too and within hours, thousands of people assembled at Soibugh Budgam to attend the funeral prayers of the murdered woman.

There was hardly anyone who did not have a moist eye while bidding farewell to the woman whose life had ended on such a sad note and with such cruelty.

Some senior citizens assembled at the funeral said this murder was among the rarest crimes they had ever witnessed. This murder shows the lowest levels of barbaric violence our society has touched, they said. They also demanded that the murderer be not spared at any cost and be given capital punishment without wasting much time so that other such criminals learn a lesson.

The victim's sister said that she had lost her elder sister to a gruesome murder which questions humanity and human rights. "Our loss is irreparable and cannot be undone, but our serious demand is that the culprit be given capital punishment as soon as possible. Without strict punishment for such criminals, our society will lose to such beasts who fear nothing while carrying out such inhuman acts," she asserted.

Another woman present at the funeral said that the murder had sent shockwaves across Kashmir. She said women face so much in our society - from domestic violence to harassment in public transport or at work places and that they need to be given protection



against these crimes so that their dignity, respect and honour are safeguarded. This murder has only exposed the degradation of human values in our society, especially against women, she added.

Reacting to the case,
Inayat Malik, a senior lawyer
from Budgam District Court,
said: "The first and foremost
step is to constitute a special
Investigation team headed
by an SP, supervised by the
prosecution wing of the court
so to properly investigate the
case. This shall lay a strong
foundation for the conviction
of the accused. After the charge

sheet is filed, a speedy trial should be conducted so that there remain minimal chances of the accused influencing witnesses".

Dr Tanveer Hayat, a professor and researcher said, "We all need to raise our voice against this gruesome murder. Our women are suffering a lot in different ways across their personal lives and careers. So the role of a civil society, NGOs and other women rights movements is to highlight the suffering of women and provide them help and assistance in overcoming difficult situations prevailing in our societal setup".





Another woman right activist said that exemplary punishment was the need of the hour in response to such crimes in the society. She said that special and fast track trails should be held in courts with special sessions, in presence of the judiciary so that these cases don't remain pending for long. The judiciary needs to prioritise their dealing with incidents of violence against women, she added.

It is indeed crucial that we inculcate a collective responsibility and collective consciousness if we want positive changes in our society. Without that, nothing is possible. A certain code of ethics and personality development of every individual is the way.

This case has generated a widespread condemnation coming from different stakeholders ranging from the civil society to NGOs to political parties in Kashmir. Candle light marches were held in different parts of Kashmir as a protest against this horrific crime.

The woman who was done to death in such a brutal way cannot be brought back. But what we can try and bring is a change so that anyone who even considers committing such a crime will think many times before such an act. This will be possible only if a quick capital punishment is meted out to the culprit.

Screaming for Space

by Mareaya Fayaz

ITH the tourist season getting underway and with the opening of Asia's largest tulip garden in Srinagar, the number of tourists landing in Srinagar shows a steep rise with each passing day. At times, as many as 92 flights operate from the Srinagar International Airport in a single day.

However, with the increase in the number of tourists, the Srinagar International Airport seems to be in a mess for varied reasons. The Airports Authority of India which manages the Srinagar International Airport, Civil Enclave, cannot maintain and manage the rush of tourists. The space available is no match to the massive number of tourists landing here. The counters of different airlines operating from Srinagar present the look of an overcrowded market place. The check-in counters are always flooded with passengers and there is no space even to stand in the queue. The security-check counters are no different. The queues are always getting longer leaving passengers with no space to stand. And

While Jammu & Kashmir records a sharp rise in the influx of tourists, the Srinagar International Airport continues to be in a mess, owing to insufficient space. Time for the Airports Authority of India to look this way and give this airport more space.



once the security-check is complete and as passengers walk towards boarding gates, there is even more mess. The seating arrangement is insufficient to accommodate the huge rush. The gates remain overcrowded and the situation there is always chaotic. Also, there are not enough shopping stalls and food courts.

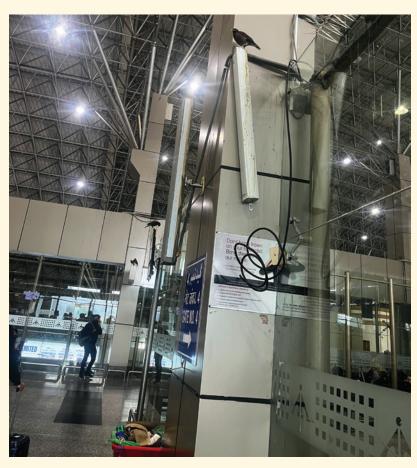
What makes matters worse is the unhygienic condition of the space at boarding gates. The entire space remains covered with bird droppings. Though the cleaning staff removes the excreta from the chairs in the mornings, but since birds keep flying around, they keep dropping excreta all over and sometimes on the passengers seated there. The mighty steel pillars and girders are covered with bird droppings. Mynas, sometimes in hundreds, can be seen pouncing upon dustbins. These birds pick food wraps and leftovers from the dustbin and drop them here and there and sometimes over passengers.

There have been instances when mynas have attempted to take away eatables from little children in the area.

It is a crucial thing to note that many tourists who visited Kashmir last year, wrote extensively on the mess they encountered at the Srinagar airport.

The tourist inflow is certainly rising. As per official figures, some 22,60,000 tourists visited Kashmir during the year 2022. This year, the government is expecting a record increase in the number. This is in addition to the regular commuting which too runs in thousands on a daily basis.

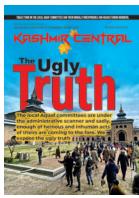
Taking into consideration the ever-increasing rush of tourists and the number of flights operating on a daily basis, the Srinagar International Airport is in dire need of expansion. The space available is no match to the need. The Airports Authority of India cannot afford to shuts its eyes to the gnawing needs of this airport.

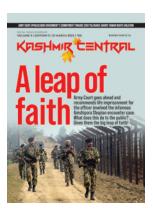


SUBSCRIBE

A KZINE INITIATIVE







YES! I wish to Subscribe to Kashmir Central

Period of subscription	Number of issues	Price	Amount	SELECT
6 MONTHS	24	₹60/ copy	₹1,440	
1 YEAR	48	₹60/copy	₹2,880	
2 YEARS	96	₹60/copy	₹5,760	
3 YEARS	144	₹60/copy	₹8,640	
Name:				
Mailing Address:				
Pin code:	Email: .			
Contact No.:				
Cash:	Cheque	No.:		
ACCOUNT DETAILS: Account Title: Kashmir Central				

Account No.: 50200066073788

IFSC: HDFC0002419

Branch: Aramwari Rajbagh, Srinagar-190008

Signature

PLEASE SIGN AND SEND THIS TO

Circulation Department, KASHMIR CENTRAAL

J24 Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar, J&K-190008

e-mail: kashmircentral997@gmail.com | Circulation Phone: 9858566134, 8899542276

LOGINTO KASHMIR @

kashmircentral.in



Your window to news, views, exposes, scoops and exclusive features that bring to you KASHMIR



HK GROUP OF INDUSTRIES

Hassan



Road Construction Co. Pvt. Ltd. CONTRACTORS, ENGINEERS & CONSULTANTS Head Office: National Highway Bye-Pass Crossing, Athwajan, Srinagar-191101 (Kashmir)







HK Cement Industries Pvt Ltd.

TOLL FREE: 18001230677

Corporate Office: NH Bye-Pass Crossing Athwajan, Srinagar. Factory: Bathen Village, Khrew, Pulwama (J&K).





















HK Automobiles Private Limited

National Highway Athwajan Bypass Srinagar - 191101

8899208777 (Sales) | 8899209777 (Services) | 0194-2466667 (Receiption) | contactus@hkhyundai.co.in



