

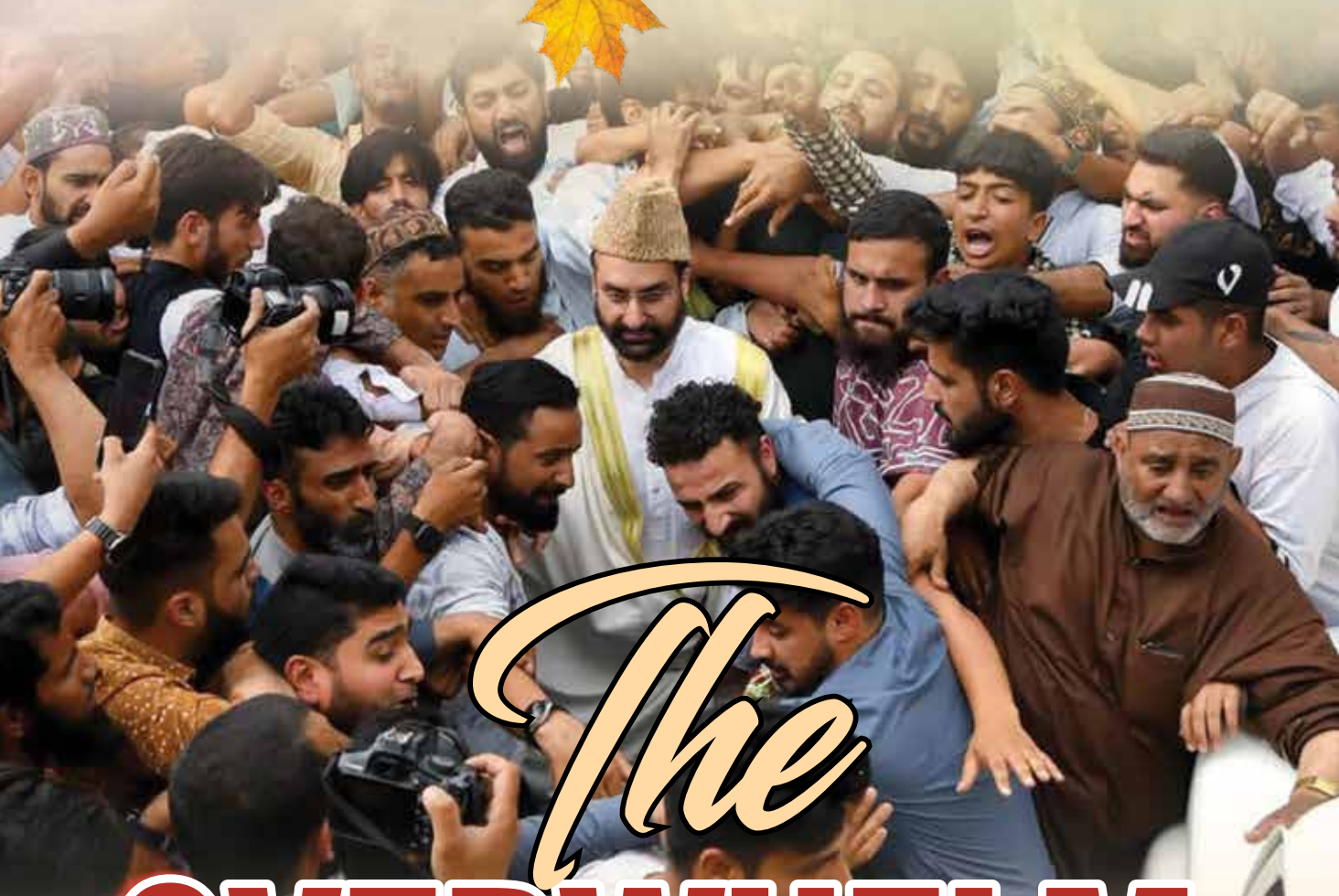
MIRWAIZ, WHILE UPHOLDING MORALISTIC LIVING, URGED THE YOUTH TO EMPOWER THEMSELVES WITH PATIENCE AND RESILIENCE.

RNI No: JKENG/2022/81439

VOLUME 3 | EDITION 39 | 24 SEPTEMBER 2023 | ₹60

kashmircentral.in

# KASHMIR CENTRAL



## The OVERWHELM

Friday saw the historical Jamia Masjid overflowing with people who shed tears of love and respect for their beloved Mirwaiz Umer Farooq, who returned after four years of house arrest. We bring you glimpses of the ecstasy as Mirwaiz addressed his beloved people.

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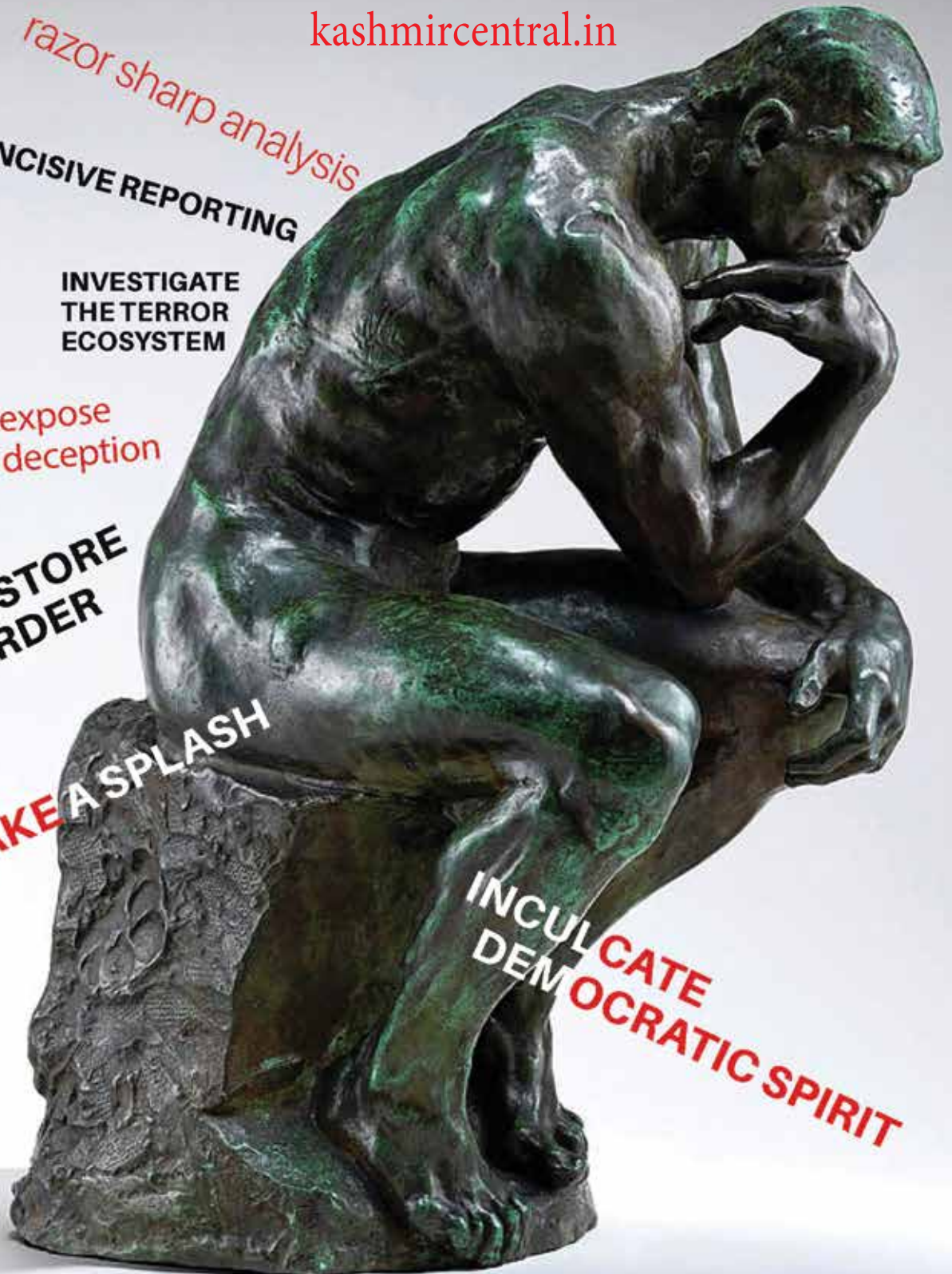
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**KASHMIR CENTRAL**



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**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

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**POSTAL REGISTRATION NO.**

L/SK/Kashmir Central 2023-26

**PRINTED AT**

Access Publications HMT,  
Srinagar  
Mobile 6005737819

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kashmircentral997@gmail.com

Periodicity: **Weekly**

Language: **English**

Price: ₹60

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# THE CORRUPTION COMBAT



**N**OTWITHSTANDING the claims of digitisation and e-governance, corruption is rampant in Jammu and Kashmir at almost all levels. Money may or may not be changing hands at the secretariat level but the fact remains that the resolution of common issues pertaining to the general public has a cost. Petty corruption is not only there, it is flourishing. There are wild allegations of corruption at the lower levels. Digitisation or e-governance has little bearings there.

This is actually a culture deep-rooted in the society. It has been promoted, preserved and protected all through these years. It is a given that a poor guy has to pay, whatever he can, to achieve what otherwise is due to him legally and Constitutionally. He has to beg for it. This culture is so entrenched that government servants at lower levels notwithstanding the digitisation and e-governance, could find their way of looting people.

Some startling revelations have come to the fore in digitisation of records in the key departments of Revenue and Rural Development. Records are being initially fudged to extract money from the aggrieved persons. After receiving kickbacks, corrections are made as per the original records.

On the other hand, there are allegations that not much has changed at the secretariat level. The officers and officials are very much into corruption which seems unstoppable. Digitisation of records and online mode of disposal could not eradicate corrupt practices. It would be inappropriate to claim that there is no corruption. It is still there in one or the other form.

People are willing to report incidents of corruption and corrupt practices; however, they want to be sure that action would be taken where warranted.

In order to combat corruption, it is important that authorities devise a clear and transparent mechanism to deal with the complaints of corruption. Though the grievance cell system has provided some sort of deterrent, however, it does not encompass the gravity of the corrupt practices. As mentioned earlier, corruption is a culture, an accepted norm in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. Something unconventional and an out-of-the-box mechanism need to be put in place to address the issue.

**Bashir Assad**

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# THE GRAND RETURN

by **Faisal Akhoon**

ON Friday, the September 22, 2023, the news of Mirwaiz Umer Farooq's return to lead Jumah prayers at the historical Jamia Masjid, Srinagar after four long years of house arrest, went viral. And then what followed was a sight that won't go away in a hurry, from the memory of those who witnessed it.

The historical Jamia Masjid,

Friday, September 22, witnessed an overwhelming attendance at the historical Jamia Masjid in Srinagar. The reason was Mirwaiz Umer Farooq's return after four years of house arrest. We bring you glimpses of the ecstasy and love that overflowed while Mirwaiz addressed his beloved people.

Srinagar, which has played a significant role in the history of Kashmir, used to be Mirwaiz's epicentre from where he would address the people of Kashmir before the abrogation of Article 370 & 35A, and post 370, Mirwaiz remained in complete detention, till Friday.

Needless to say that Jamia Masjid, on Friday, was all set for Mirwaiz's arrival to lead the Jumah congregations. There was a soothing aroma of peaceful fragrance scattered all over the mosque. After coming to know of Mirwaiz's return, people from different districts and regions gathered inside the historical masjid. Their profuse attendance looked like a sea of moving heads, all waiting for Mirwaiz's visit for the Friday conglomeration. All four parts of the masjid were brimming with people besides the inner courtyard. Elderly women, hailing his presence with raised hands and tears of compassion, seemed to have forgotten that they were standing in the lower end of the men's section, just for a glimpse of Mirwaiz.

The outer premises of Jamia Masjid were totally sealed as high ranked security men were spread all around along with their team members. The deployment in the 1.5 km - 2 km radius of Jamia Masjid by different security agencies was heavily armed in view of Mirwaiz's arrival. Every corner and entrance was keenly watched and policemen were placed at the nearby buildings, keeping a check on everything.

He entered the main



premises along with his companions and followers and when the people gathered inside came to know of his arrival, the masjid reverberated with loud synchronised chants of 'Allah-hu-Akbar'. All the cameramen and media-persons geared up and were on alert at this. The entire gathering of people stood up and recited even more loudly, waiting for Mirwaiz to enter the mosque. Men, women, children and the old – all tried to move towards the pulpit and the small entrance near it. That was the moment when Mirwaiz entered along with his followers. The





staircase of the pulpit. People, seeing him, seemed to re-live their pain and emotions for this special individual. Soon, he took hold of his emotions and people too followed him while they found the littlest of space on windows and near pillars, since there was almost no room in the biggest mosque of Jammu and Kashmir.

Soon enough, Mirwaiz respectfully urged people to sit down and control their emotions. He recited a few verses from Al Quran and greeted everyone, and the people greeted him back. Starting with the mention of Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) and Hazrat Younis (AS) and how these prophets remained calm and patient in the most trying situations, he said: “Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) was all set to be thrown into intense fire, by Namrood and his forces, but he had a firm belief in Allah, knowing He is the King of kings, the all Knowing and Merciful and that He won't let anyone be subjugated to oppression and barbarism. So he put all His trust in the Almighty Allah, and when He was thrown into the fire, the fire turned into a pond of flowers. Similarly Hazrat Younis (AS) was caught into a whale's stomach. But His firm belief in Allah and the knowledge that He is the planner and whatever He wills, happens, saved Him. The whale vomited Him out on the shore, resulting in His freedom. And our beloved Prophet Muhammad (SAW) who faced what not in human

scene that followed was no less than ecstatic and overwhelming. The people who were reciting the sacred chant began to cry, eyes brimming with tears seeing Mirwaiz after such a long time. Every person under the roof was overcome with emotion, love and empathy for Mirwaiz. Almonds and dry fruits were thrown into his direction. Such a welcome has been rarely seen for any celebrity, leader or achiever – so full of love, joy and respect.

Mirwaiz too melted to this scenario and was seen breaking into tears while climbing up the

history, but after every pain and battle, became victorious in His mission and Islam became a reality”.

Mirwaiz addressed the youth, asking them to empower themselves with patience and having a control on emotions. With everyone listening to him carefully and emotionally, he talked of living morally and with resilience.

After Mirwaiz ended his cleric address over the pulpit, it was time everyone was waiting for eagerly, to know Mirwaiz Umer Farooq's stand. Beginning with 'Allah-Hu-Akbar', he explained that when we expel the Sacred Name, it's the expulsion of every trouble, pain,

oppression, and negativity from our hearts and lives, leaving us with a sense of profound peace and divine protection. To this, the people chanted: 'Takbeer-Allah-Hu-Akbar'. And Mirwaiz shared: "Yesterday, a high-ranked policeman came to my home and said my detention was over and I was free to move out now. It has been more than four years that I have been caged in my house and was not allowed to meet or visit anyone. It was on August 4, 2019 that my house arrest started, and during this period, many of my colleagues and friends passed away and I was not allowed to pay my final tributes to them". Mirwaiz added: "On







August 5, a unilateral and one-sided decision by the Indian administration was made to vacate 370, which was unconstitutional. On August 14, 1947, it was prioritised that the Jammu and Kashmir issue would be resolved but nothing but lives and economy were lost. Our land was divided into pieces - one with Pakistan, one with India and one with China. We always wanted a peaceful resolution to our issue but we were always labelled separatists, enemies and what not. We have always requested only to resolve our issue so that the people who are being divided from each other by the lines should live as one as earlier”.

He further added: “Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the present era is not the era of war but the era

of unity and peace. Our lives have been subjugated to this issue for so long and we want it resolved. Not only 370, Jammu and Kashmir’s status has been scrapped from being a state to becoming a UT which is extremely detrimental for a sensitive region like ours. The issue needs to be resolved by the nations involved so that we and our generations could live and prosper, since a lot has already been consumed by the issue”. Mirwaiz again emphasised that the youth need to control their sentiments, emotions and to have more patience. “The Creator is always very close to His Creation and what aches His Creation He knows very well,” he said, concluding his speech again with ‘Allah-hu-Akbar’ all praises to Allah.

The historical Jamia Masjid has witnessed every rise and fall of Jammu and Kashmir, especially the Kashmir Valley. Friday again saw something significant - silent yet so

powerful. The respect and love for Mirwaiz Umer Farooq was clearly visible. It seemed that both the grand mosque and Mirwaiz had felt the pangs of separation for four long years with thousands of people as witness.

After the Jumah prayers, Mirwaiz, accompanied and surrounded by his people, left the mosque from the same small entrance and with him hundreds of people chanting the slogan ‘Choice Choice - Mirwaiz’, exited too.

Late Dr Israr Ahmed had famously said – “*Zindagi Bina Bandagi Shermandgi. Zindagi Ba Bandagi Shadmani*” ,meaning everything happens as He wishes, His Mightiness, Sovereignty and Lordship being the only existing reality that has and will always remain. Mirwaiz’s speech showed his immense trust and belief that our hands rise only for truth which is inside us somewhere and we are already aware of it.





# THE CRUCIAL ARMS OF TIME & ACTION

KASHMIR CENTRAL | 17 SEP 2023 | 10

The seven-day Gadole Kokernag encounter ended with the killing of militant Uzair Khan. But the details that need to be looked into are about how the hiding militants, anticipating action, had detonated mines and opened fire upon the forces, killing two Indian Army officers, a J&K police DSP and a jawan. The need is to pay even more attention to critical information about terrorist movement and timely and well-planned actions.

by **Bashir Assad**

THE Gadole Kokernag encounter which continued for seven days, finally came to an end with the killing of the second militant Uzair Khan on September 19. However, the kind of fatalities the security forces received during the encounter is a reality that needs to be analysed honestly with complete transparency, and lessons need to be drawn to avoid recurrence of such unsolicited human loss.

Reports of foreign terrorists spotted in the area had been doing the rounds for a couple of months now. There were even specific inputs that a group of foreign terrorists accompanied by a local terrorist from the Shopian area, was present in the Kokernag forests. It has also come to the fore that the nomads grazing their livestock in the upper reaches of the Kokernag area had noticed movement of terrorists in the dense forests on many occasions during the last few months and the message of presence of terrorists in the forests was passed on through locals to the police and the security establishment. However, the message was ignored as a mere hearsay.

There were some other indicators that could have been used as a lead by the security establishment to launch multiple operations by generating specific human and technical inputs. The notorious local militant Asif Rashid hailing



from Tral in Pulwama district was killed in an encounter in Sagam Kokernag. Tral has a vast and dense forest area which always poses a greater challenge to the security forces during operations. In fact there are some senior police officers of operational background who have said it on record that the Tral forest area is the most challenging one in the entire Kashmir valley and that is precisely why the shelf life of terrorists operating in Tral area is on the higher side than others. Still Asif Rashid was reportedly roaming in the Kokernag area for a while. Even he and Uzair gave a flip to the security forces on many occasions in the area. For me, Asif Rashid's presence in Kokernag area cannot be seen in isolation. It was the first indicator suggesting that terrorists were consolidating in the area.

Last year, on specific inputs of the Jammu and Kashmir

Police about the presence of Uzair Khan and Asif Rashid in the Famar valley, the Core Commander, 15 Core, Lt. Gen. Ujla had dispatched a special team of paragliders from Awantipora for a special operation. The terrorists, however, escaped unhurt from the scene deep into the forests. Soon after the operation, Uzair and Asif had moved towards the plains and on their way, picked up a policeman Umar Mukhtar from Gawran Police post and released him after 15 hours near Village Sof Sagam. Finally, Asif was gunned down in the same area by the security forces.

There are reports that foreign terrorists reaching the Tral area are quickly dispatched to Anantnag district using Tral-Pahalgam-Chatargul-Kashwan route.

As per the locals in Gadol village, Uzair was accompanied by at least 3 FTs at the encounter site viz the Gadol Gorinad



forests.

It was technically and strategically wrong on part of the security forces to approach the site from right under the nose of the hiding terrorists. The terrorists were clearly watching the movement of the security forces from the height and had laid an ambush to target the approaching security personnel. According to locals, it was self-inflicting to cross the stream and ascend the hill in order to launch an attack on the hiding militants when they were watching the movement from the top. They had planted powerful mines and on seeing the security forces led by three gallant officers ascending after crossing the river stream, the terrorists detonated mines triggering deadly blasts resulting in huge

casualties among the security forces. The forces later used improvised explosive devices (IEDs) to target those areas in the forest where they suspected the militants were hiding, but the damage was already done. According to locals, the security forces could have used the alternate route: safer and easy-to-approach. Though long, there is a designated route to reach the top of the Gorinad peak-Dooru-Kapran-Dard Desa. If adopted, the security forces could have easily reached the Gorinad top and from there the hiding terrorists could have been easily targeted. It was the safest route for the security forces. If approached from the top, the terrorists could have been neutralised in the shortest possible time with the least chance of casualties from the

security side. “It was not the Kargil War of 1998 where you had no chance of reaching the top, the forces would have used the Kapran-Dardesa route and sat on the head of the hiding terrorists,” said a local on



condition of anonymity. “I am sorry to say, the operation was ill-planned, thus the damage,” he said, adding, “the hiding militants anticipated the action, detonated the mines, opened fire upon the forces, killing two Indian Army officers and a DSP of Jammu and Kashmir Police instantly whereas another jawan was critically wounded who later succumbed to the injuries”.

By approaching from the foot of the hiding militants, the operation became not only fatal, it continued for seven days during which security forces fired hundreds of mortar shells and rockets and targeted suspected militant hideouts with hi-tech equipment. They even dropped explosives using advanced drones, making it a war-like-situation, a senior police officer of operational background told Kashmir Central. He said one terrorist is believed to have escaped unhurt from the scene despite such a huge bandobast.

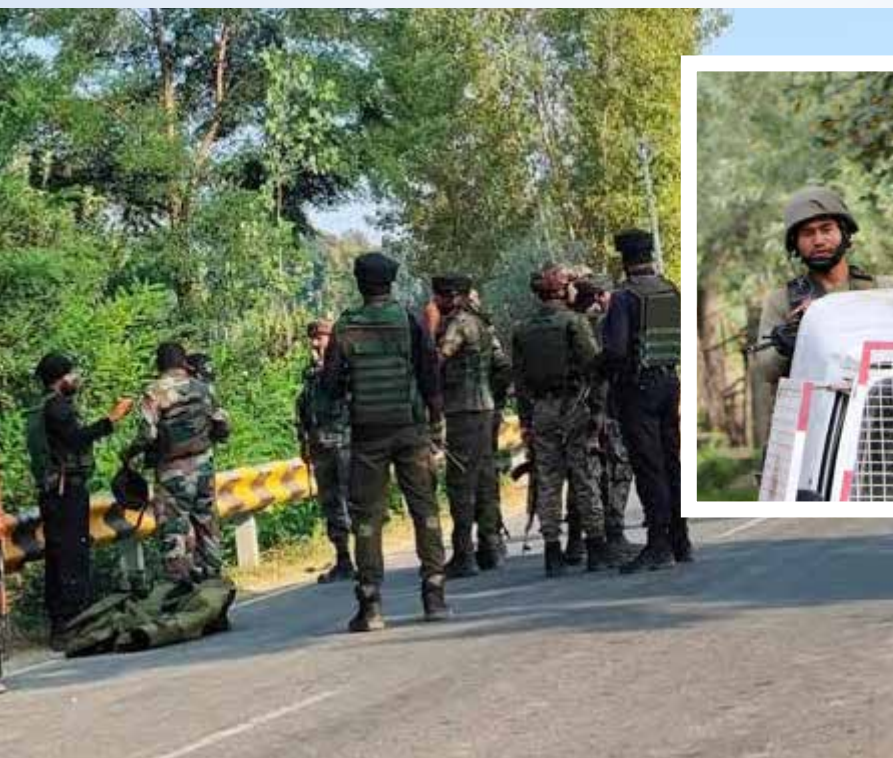


The J&K police initially claimed that the militants had been spotted and cornered. At least two to three militants, including Uzair Khan of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, were killed and their bodies retrieved. Earlier, sources said, the body of a soldier, who was reported to be missing earlier, was spotted but couldn't be retrieved yet, as it was near a cave where the militants were hiding.

On Monday, two bodies, including that of a missing

soldier, were recovered from the Gorinad forest.

That said, there is a pattern in insurgency activities. South Kashmir districts of Kulgam, Pulwama and Anantnag are vulnerable owing to the fact that there are many foreign terrorists that have been roaming in the upper reaches of these districts for quite some time. And they follow a definite pattern in carrying out lethal attacks on security forces.



# ACCENTUATING EDUCATION

An exclusive meeting with Principal Secretary of School and Higher Education (J&K) Alok Kumar lets us into the promise that is set to shape the future of education in the Valley. It's evident that Kumar is leading the change in preparing our students for the challenges and opportunities of the upcoming centuries.

by **Dr. Shafia and Mian Tufail**

**W**e, at Kashmir Central, always endeavour to get into the deeper aspects of varied platforms of development in the Jammu & Kashmir. And one of the pivotal aspects is education.

A recent exclusive meeting with the estimable Principal Secretary of School and Higher Education, Jammu and Kashmir Alok Kumar let us into the promise that is set to shape the future of education in the Valley. This exclusive interview offers insights into his vision for the education system, his commitment towards





innovation, and strategies for addressing the evolving needs of students and educators.

Alok Kumar begins the conversation by emphasising that the education sector builds the nations and any complacency in offering education to the masses has deep repercussions on any society.

Says he, “We all are stakeholders of the education system and to continue the process, we have to bear in mind that the youth and students are guardians of our future and in this regard, providing basic education to these future thinkers is the responsibility of every stakeholder in our society. As far as Jammu and Kashmir

is concerned, there have been many bottlenecks here in the past and despite all that, education has never taken a back seat”.

On being asked about the quantifiable data of education institutions and teachers in J&K, Kumar says, “We have nearly 23,000 schools in our Union Territory but since I assumed charge, I felt there was no need to establish huge number of schools; it was clearly a manifestation of political interference at that time. We merged nearly 4,500 schools, which meant we have 18,000 working schools at present in which 12 lakh students are pursuing education. Our teacher pupil ratio is above average. We have one teacher to 10 students

while the national average is 1:30”.

“The high teacher-student ratio compelled us to stop the further recruitment in education sector as it could lead to overburdening the sector where there is no need,” says Kumar when asked why the government had stopped recruitment in the education sector since 2018.

Pertinently, the erstwhile State Administrative Council in 2018 took a decision to promote teachers to the Master grades which would naturally freeze the future recruitments in the education sector. This led to a traumatic experience for thousands of students who would post-graduate every year from different universities.

Alok Kumar believes that the education system must evolve to prepare students for a rapidly changing world. One of the primary objectives is to foster creativity, critical thinking, and adaptability among learners. To achieve this, he envisions a multifaceted approach that combines traditional teaching methods with cutting-edge technology.

During the conversation, he states that rationalisation in school education is the need of the hour. He unravels wonderful aspects, like the salary budget that he disburses for the teaching faculty is around 12,300 crore!

Kumar says he has had to fight against all odds to ensure that school education is corruption-free, even though thousands of writ petitions are filed against him. But that couldn't stop him working towards a better future of students and J&K in particular.

On being asked about plum postings and transfers, Kumar reveals, "There was involvement of influence and money to grab convenient transfers. Although, transfer is a part and parcel of any government job, but here in the Union Territory, it is seen with a different notion. What this led to was that schools would be overburdened with teachers of the same subject. There were some subjects that had not a single teacher or just a few teachers despite the fact that the ratio of teachers was high, which paralysed the whole system and ultimately students would suffer. We have tried to curb the hegemonic behaviour



of such influential people and have tried to streamline the whole process with great transparency”.

The Principal Secretary reiterates that the feedback mechanism has been developed and through the Samiksha App, the feedback from students about their teachers and schools is recorded and necessary measures like capacity-building





of teachers and upgradation of the infrastructure is being taken as per feedback. He also informs that they have started marking attendance on the JK Attendance App so that regularity and punctuality of teachers is ensured.

Kumar recognises that teachers are the cornerstone of the education system. To support educators, he has proposed comprehensive professional development programmes and

initiatives to enhance their teaching skills. The aim of these initiatives is to create a vibrant and motivated teaching force which would be capable of inspiring the next generation of leaders and thinkers.

During the conversation, the Secretary's unwavering commitment towards equity and inclusion in education becomes even clearer. He speaks passionately about his goal to reduce educational disparities and create an inclusive environment where every student has an equal opportunity to succeed. To achieve this,

Kumar is championing policies that address systemic inequalities and promote diversity in the education sector.

Alok Kumar's visionary goals, commitment towards innovation and equity promise to shape a more inclusive and adaptable education system. As we move forward, it's evident that the Principal Secretary of School and Higher Education, Jammu and Kashmir is leading the change in preparing our students for the challenges and opportunities of the upcoming centuries.



THE FOOD RAGA

Ahdoo's, Srinagar

# OF TASTE *and* TALES

18  
KASHMIR CENTRAL | 17 SEP 2023

We explore the essence of Srinagar's culinary journey, this time with Ahdoo's, that began as a modest bakery and confectionery shop in the bustling Lal Chowk area and has now grown into an iconic restaurant where culture, tradition, and cuisine converge to create unforgettable experiences.

by

RESTAURANTS are more than mere places to dine; they are portals to a town's culture, art, cuisine, and hospitality. They embody the essence of a locale, preserving its history and traditions while embracing the aspirations of the present. In this context, Srinagar, with its rich cultural heritage and culinary traditions, stands as a testament to the seamless blend of old-world charm and contemporary allure. The restaurants in Srinagar are not just dining establishments; they are storytellers, narrating



tales of a region known for its captivating landscapes, artistic finesse, and legendary hospitality.

In the heart of Srinagar, amidst the enchanting landscapes and serene waters of the Dal Lake, stands a culinary institution that has woven itself into the very fabric of Kashmiri culture. Ahdoo's, a historic restaurant in Srinagar, is more than just a place to dine; it's a testament to the enduring love for food and tradition in the valley. With its roots tracing back to a bygone era, Ahdoo's has not only preserved the culinary heritage of Kashmir but continues to celebrate it with every dish it serves. Let's glance at the rich history, the delectable Kashmiri specialties, and the warm nostalgia that surrounds Ahdoo's.

---

## A LEAF FROM HISTORY

▼ Ahdoo's, established in the early 2000s, holds a cherished place in the hearts of Kashmiris. Its journey began as a modest bakery and confectionery shop in the bustling Lal Chowk area of Srinagar. Over the decades, it has grown into an iconic restaurant, evolving to meet the changing tastes of its patrons while staying true to its roots. Ahdoo's has been a silent witness to the historical tapestry of Kashmir.

Ahdoo's, with its roots dating back to the early 20th century, offers a fascinating journey into the history of Srinagar and



the broader Kashmir Valley. Its founders, with a passion for culinary artistry and a deep appreciation for the region's culture, embarked on a mission to create a culinary haven. Over the years, the restaurant has welcomed luminaries, artists, and political figures, becoming a melting pot of ideas and inspirations. It's a place where the pages of history blend seamlessly with the aromas and flavours that continue to tantalise the senses of patrons from around the world. Ahdoo's is a living testament to the enduring legacy of Kashmiri hospitality, where every meal is a step back in time and a taste of the timeless.

---

## CULINARY TIME TRAVEL

▼ The true essence of Ahdoo's lies in its culinary offerings. The restaurant's menu is a tantalising journey through the flavours of Kashmiri cuisine.

It's a place where traditional recipes, handed down through generations, come to life in every dish. Among the must-try specialties are:

---

## WAZWAN DELIGHTS

▼ Wazwan, the grand feast of Kashmiri cuisine, finds a splendid home at Ahdoo's. The restaurant serves up an array of Wazwan dishes, each a masterpiece in its own right. From the aromatic Rogan Josh, with its blend of spices, to the tender Gushtaba and Yakhni, every dish reflects the culinary artistry that defines Kashmiri cooking.

---

## THE UNMISSABLE SEEKH-KEBABS

▼ Ahdoo's is renowned for its delectable seekh kebabs. These succulent skewers of minced meat, marinated with a secret blend of spices, are cooked to perfection in the traditional



tandoor. Each bite is a burst of flavours that lingers on the palate, leaving a lasting impression.

## TANDOORI BREAD AND BAKERY TREASURES

While Ahdoo's is celebrated for its savoury dishes, it also boasts an extensive bakery section. The aroma of freshly baked bread and pastries wafts through the air, tempting passersby. From the iconic Sheermal, a saffron-infused bread, to delectable pastries, the bakery at Ahdoo's is a testament to the art of baking refined over decades.

## THE AMBIENCE EVOKING NOSTALGIA

While Ahdoo's is celebrated for its savoury dishes, it also boasts an extensive bakery section. The

aroma of freshly baked bread and pastries wafts through the air, tempting passersby. From the iconic Sheermal, a saffron-infused bread, to delectable pastries, the bakery at Ahdoo's is a testament to the art of baking refined over decades.

## A GATHERING PLACE

Ahdoo's has always been more than just a restaurant; it's a revered gathering place for the community. Over the years, it has established itself as a hub of social interaction and cultural exchange. It's where friends catch up over cups of aromatic kahwa, where families come together to celebrate special occasions, and where visitors are warmly welcomed into the heart of Kashmiri hospitality.

In a region where hospitality is a way of life, Ahdoo's has taken this tradition to heart.

The restaurant's staff, many of whom have been part of the Ahdoo's family for generations, go beyond serving meals; they create lasting memories. It's not uncommon for diners to be greeted by name, or for the chefs to accommodate special requests to ensure every meal is a personalised experience.

Ahdoo's has witnessed countless celebrations, from weddings to birthdays, becoming an integral part of the joyous occasions that mark life's milestones. Its private dining areas offer a sense of exclusivity, making it a preferred choice for intimate gatherings and important events. Here, amidst the elegant décor and the gentle hum of conversations, bonds are strengthened, and memories are etched into the annals of time.

The restaurant's role as a gathering place extends beyond its walls. It has been a venue for cultural events, literary gatherings, and discussions on

art and tradition. Ahdoo's has often served as a meeting point for artists, writers, and thinkers, fostering a sense of community and intellectual exchange.

But perhaps, most importantly, Ahdoo's has been a bridge between generations. It's where grandparents share tales of a bygone era with wide-eyed grandchildren, where elders pass on the love for Kashmiri cuisine to the younger generation. It's a place where traditions are upheld and passed down, ensuring that the cultural heritage of Kashmir continues to thrive.

In a world that moves at a relentless pace, Ahdoo's remains a sanctuary where time seems to slow down. It's a reminder that amidst the hustle and bustle of modern life, there are places where connections are made, and relationships are strengthened. Ahdoo's is more than a restaurant; it's a cherished gathering place that weaves the



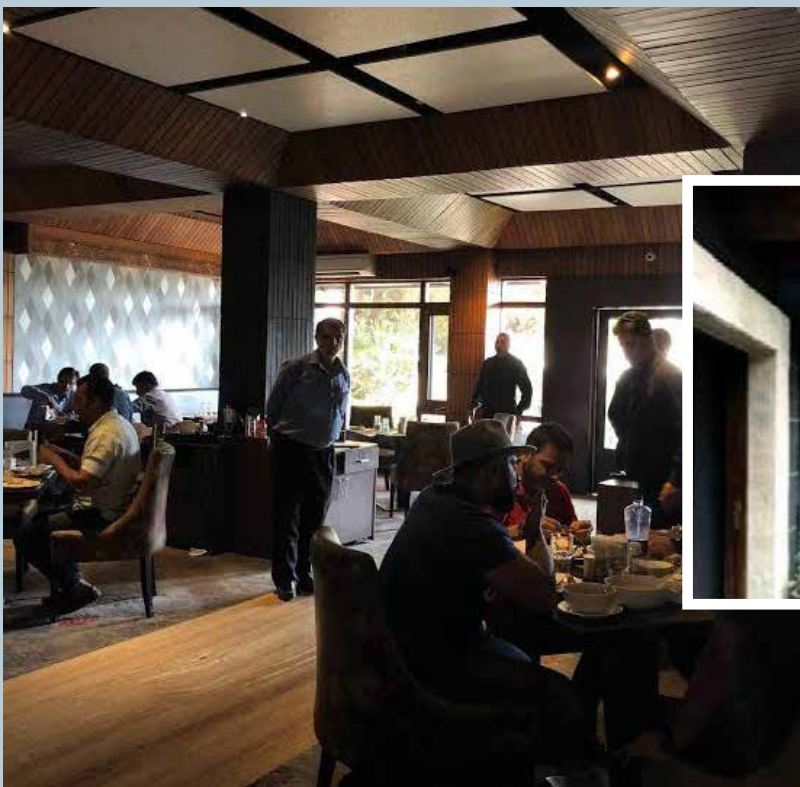
threads of culture, tradition, and community into the fabric of daily life in Srinagar.

## THE LEGACY CONTINUES

As Ahdoo's has expanded and modernised over the years, it has stayed true to its

commitment to preserving Kashmir's culinary heritage. Today, it stands as a bridge between tradition and modernity, offering an authentic taste of Kashmiri cuisine to both locals and visitors.

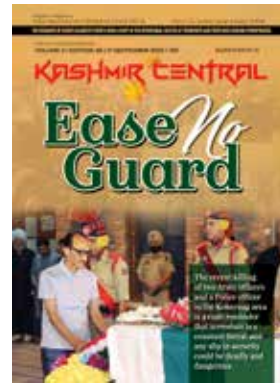
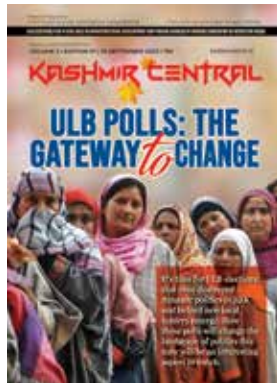
In an ever-changing world, Ahdoo's remains a constant, where the past and present harmoniously coexist, ensuring that the flavours and traditions of Kashmir continue to thrive for generations to come.



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**KASHMIR**

# KASHMIR CENTRAL



Here comes the super special *Kashmir Central Conclave 2023 on October 3, 2023*. The venue is Hotel Radisson Blu Rajbagh, Srinagar.

This follows the first edition of the conclave in 2022, which was a huge success and was widely appreciated by the academia and the intellectual alike.

The conclave this year features renowned journalists, authors, industrialists, security strategists and youth icons from across the country. Ambassadors and diplomats of many countries are also expected to participate in the Conclave.

The conclave shall be formally inaugurated at 10 am on October 3 and will conclude at 5 pm the same day.

• ***Themes for insightful dialogue:***

The heart of the conclave lies in its discussions, where ideas flourish, misconceptions dissolve, and alliances are formed. Our agenda boasts an array of compelling topics:

- 1) Challenges in making peace permanent
- 2) Innovative pedagogies to transform education
- 3) Kashmir Beyond 'PDG' (Pahalgam, Dal Lake & Gulmarg)
- 4) Criminal tendencies among youth – facets & factors

• ***Join the Journey***

The Kashmir Central Conclave 2023 is more than an event; it's a journey toward shared understanding, fruitful dialogue, and collective progress. Prepare to be immersed in insightful conversations, meaningful exchanges, and transformative experiences.

Mark your calendars for **October 3, 2023** and make your way to Radisson Blu, Srinagar, where ideas converge, and perspectives flourish. Together, we shall not only challenge stereotypes but also pave the way for a brighter, more harmonious future.

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We look forward for your support. Please feel free to contact us at +91 985-856-6134 or write to us at [Kashmircentral997@gmail.com](mailto:Kashmircentral997@gmail.com)

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