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## J&K Rajya Sabha Polls Ignite Accusations



**Observer News Service**

Srinagar: The political storm over the Rajya Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir intensified a day after the polls, with party leaders trading allegations of betrayals, cross-voting and "fixed deals."

The ruling National Conference (NC) won three of the four seats, while the BJP secured one, with Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Sat Sharma defeating NC candidate Imran Nabi Dar by securing 32 votes to Dar's 22. NC candidate Gurwinder Singh Oberoi also won under the same notification, securing 31 votes.

**Omar Questions 'Secret' Support for BJP**

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah acknowledged his party's 3-1 victory over the BJP but said the

outcome was marred by "betrayal" from some quarters during polling on Friday. Speaking after inaugurating a chrysanthemum garden, Omar said, "We tried our best to make it 4-0, but we faced betrayal from some quarters at the last moment... Almost everyone now knows the names of those who betrayed us."

He stressed that all NC votes remained intact and went to party candidates, thanking Congress, PDP, and other supporting colleagues. Omar also urged non-BJP MLAs who backed the saffron party to openly acknowledge their choice, criticizing some for secretly aiding BJP while publicly attending NC meetings.

"The way the Handwara MLA (Sajad Lone) abstained to avoid harming the BJP... But those who secretly helped | **More on P6**

## For 70 Years, No One Dared Touch Art 370: Shah

Says PM Modi Ended Terror; India Rose From 11th To 4th Largest Economy

**KO Web Desk**

Srinagar: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for ending Article 370 in 2019, saying no government had dared touch it for 70 years. Speaking at rallies across Bihar, Shah said Modi not only revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir but also fully integrated the region into India.

Shah highlighted the government's decisive actions against terrorism, stating that terror hideouts were neutralised like never before. "For seven decades, no government attempted to amend Article 370. In 2019, PM Modi ended it and crushed terrorism from hideouts like no one had before," he said.



Shah also underscored India's economic progress under Modi, noting that the country rose from the 11th to the fourth-largest economy in the world, with ambitions to become the third-largest by 2027. "PM Modi has made our country safe and prosperous," he added.

On security matters, the

**6**

**UNDER MODI, INDIA STRENGTHENED NATIONAL SECURITY** through surgical strikes in 2016, air strikes in 2019, and Operation Sindoor in 2025.

Home Minister listed key attacks after Modi assumed office, including the Uri, Pulwama, and Pahalgam incidents. He said the government responded decisively through surgical strikes, air strikes, and, most recently, Operation Sindoor following the Pahalgam attack, neutralising terrorists at their hideouts.

Turning to electoral matters, Shah spoke about the special intensive revision of voter rolls in Bihar, accusing opposition parties of obstructing the process. He urged voters to support the NDA government, promising action against infiltrators. "Tell me, should the names of infiltrators be removed from the voter list or not? Form the NDA government again... I promise you that we will remove every single infiltrator from Bihar," he said.

Shah also criticised Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, and Manmohan Singh, as well as Lalu Prasad Yadav, for remaining silent on security issues. He specifically called out Rahul Gandhi | **More on P6**

Class 11, 12 Exam Forms

## JKBOSE Grants Final 3-Day Window

**Observer News Service**

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE), has issued extension- notification for online submission of Annual examination Forms for class 11th and 12th, Regular, 2025 for a period of 3 days beginning on October 27.

As per the notification(s) issued by the Joint Secretary, Examinations JD/ KD, the on-roll eligible students of Kashmir Division including winter zone areas of Jammu Division besides district Kargil can submit their examination forms in online mode from October 27 to 29 on payment of applicable fee of Rs 4230 excluding practical fee.

The Board has directed all concerned institutions to ensure timely | **More on P6**

## Online Terror Recruitment Case

### CIK Charges Key Operative

**Agencies**

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Police's counter-intelligence wing on Saturday filed a chargesheet against a terrorist associate from Anantnag district in a terror recruitment case.

A spokesperson of Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) termed it a major breakthrough against Pakistan-backed terror propaganda and recruitment networks operating through social media.

The CIK produced the chargesheet before the court of a | **More on P6**

## Tourism & Trade: LG Meets KCCI Delegation

**Observer News Service**

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday met several delegations and individuals at Raj Bhavan to discuss key issues concerning tourism, trade, industry, and district-level development in Jammu and Kashmir.



A delegation from the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), led by its President Javid Ahmad Tenga and comprising newly elected

office bearers and executive committee members, called on the LG for an introductory meeting.

The members highlighted issues affecting trade, commerce, and industry, including the suspension of cargo services by Air India from Srinagar Airport to Gulf | **More on P6**

## Kashmir's First Chrysanthemum Theme Garden CM Omar Inaugurates Bagh-e-Gul-e-Dawood

**Observer News Service**

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Saturday inaugurated Bagh-e-Gul-e-Dawood (Chrysanthemum Theme Garden) at the picturesque Botanical Garden in Srinagar, marking a new milestone in the Valley's tourism and floriculture landscape.

Developed at a cost of 1.869 crore, the Chrysanthemum Theme Garden spans over 100 kanals and is envisioned as a major autumn attraction in Kashmir. With its vibrant blooms in shades of yellow, red, pink, and purple, the garden promises to infuse new color and charm into the Valley's tourism calendar during the autumn months.

The Chief Minister cut the ceremonial ribbon and declared the garden open to the public, describing it as "a floral celebration that adds a new chapter to



Kashmir's tourism story."

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister commended the efforts of the Department of Floriculture, Parks and Gardens for its role in establishing the theme garden.

He noted that the initiative would "address the off-season gap in tourism and enhance the autumn experience for visitors."

Omar Abdullah recalled that he had laid the foundation stone of | **More on P6**

## Design Your degree Can Be A Game Changer: CM

**Observer News Service**

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday said the time to focus solely on bookish education has gone, calling upon the students to upgrade skills for a better future.

'Design your degree' can be a game changer, the Chief Minister said while speaking to the media persons after addressing the National Education Policy (NEP) Conclave at Amar Singh College.

The CM said they have started seeing benefits of the 'Design Your Degree' policy, which allows the students | **More on P6**

## CBK Crackdown on Land Mafia Intensifies

Corrupt Patwari Nabbed After Three Months On The Run

**Observer News Service**

Srinagar- The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Crime Branch Kashmir on Friday arrested a former Patwari who had been absconding for more than three months in connection with a major land fraud racket involving tampering of revenue records and illegal transfer of prime land in Srinagar and Budgam.

The accused, Ashiq

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**Tehsildar Still Missing, Multiple Cases Pending**

Ali, originally from Panner Jagir and currently residing in Hawal, Srinagar, was wanted in FIR No. 14/2025 registered under Sections 167, 420, 120-B RPC and Section 5(2) of the

J&K Prevention of Corruption Act, relating to corruption, cheating, false mutations and wrongful insertions in land records.

Despite multiple attempts to trace him after the registration of the case on July 9, 2025, Ali had managed to evade the law until a special EOW team-acting on specific inputs—finally apprehended | **More on P6**

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## Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir

### Scholarship Name 1: Mahindra Big Boss Nayi Pehchan Scholarship 2025-26

Description: The Mahindra Big Boss Nayi Pehchan Scholarship 2025-26 is designed to empower children of freelance tractor mechanics by offering a scholarship of INR 6,000 annually to support their educational journey

Eligibility: Children of freelance tractor mechanics.

Aged 7 to 21 years, enrolled in school, college, or vocational courses.

50% marks (or equivalent) in the previous class/semester.

Open to students across India.

SC/ST/OBC reservations available.

Children of Buddy4Study or Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. employees are not eligible.

Prizes & Rewards: Students will receive a scholarship amount of INR 6000/-.

Last Date to Apply: 15-11-2025

Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: [www.b4s.in/observer/MAMF1](http://www.b4s.in/observer/MAMF1)

### Scholarship Name 2: BYPL SASHAKT Scholarship 2025-26

QR Code: <https://d1e9eg0t055i3.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/mahindra-big-boss-nayi-pehchan-scholarship-2025-261760593208.png>

### Scholarship Name 3: L'Oréal For Young Women in Science Program 2025-26

Description: The BYPL SASHAKT Scholarship Program 2025-26 is an initiative by BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) dedicated to supporting the higher education of students from economically weaker sections of society. It offers financial assistance of up to INR 30,000 to final-year undergraduate students enrolled in any stream at government institutes across Delhi.

Eligibility: Must be Indian nationals with permanent residence in Delhi.

Must be in the final year of a regular or distance UG course at a government institute in Delhi.

Minimum 55% marks in the last qualifying examination are required.

Annual family income must be up to INR 6,00,000.

Priority will be given to candidates pursuing Nursing, Para-Medical, B.Ed, Engineering, or CA courses, students from Central and East Delhi, and those willing to take up employment after graduation.

Prizes & Rewards: Selected students will receive a Scholarship amount up to INR 30,000

Last Date to Apply: 21-11-2025



Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: [www.b4s.in/observer/BYPL6](http://www.b4s.in/observer/BYPL6)

QR Code: <https://d1e9eg0t055i3.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/bypl-sashakt-scholarship-2025-261759212211.png>

### Scholarship Name 4: Muskaan Scholarship Program 2.0 (2025-26)

Description: An initiative by Valvoline Cummins Private Ltd. (VCPL) to offer financial assistance and mentorship support to children of commercial drivers (LMV/HMV), mechanics and children belonging to the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) category, ensuring continuity in their education.

Eligibility: Students in Classes 9 to 12 from the southern, eastern, and northeastern states of India are eligible to apply for the scholarship. The scholarship is available to children of commercial drivers (LMV/HMV), children of mechanics, and students belonging to the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) category. To be eligible, applicants must have scored above 60% in their previous class. Additionally, the total family income from all sources should not exceed INR 8 lakh per annum. However, children of employees of Valvoline Cummins Private Ltd. (VCPL) and its implementation partner organisations are not eligible for this scholarship.

Prizes & Rewards: Scholarship of up to INR 12,000 and mentorship support

Last Date to Apply: 05-11-2025

Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: [www.b4s.in/observer/MKSP2](http://www.b4s.in/observer/MKSP2)

QR Code: <https://d2w711p59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/muskaan-scholarship-program-2-0-2025-261757751738.png>

Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: [www.b4s.in/observer/LIS6](http://www.b4s.in/observer/LIS6)

QR Code: <https://d1e9eg0t055i3.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/l-oreal-for-young-women-in-science-program-2025-261759212114.png>

### Scholarship Name 5: L'Oréal India offers the L'Oréal For Young Women in Science Program 2025-26 for young women who have passed Class 12 and wish to pursue higher education in scientific fields.

Eligibility: Open to female students only.

Annual family income should not exceed INR 6,00,000.

UG students: Must have secured at least 85% marks in Class 12 (Science Stream) and be pursuing an undergraduate degree in a science-related field (except final-year students).

PG/PhD students: Must have secured at least 60% marks in their undergraduate course and be pursuing post-graduation (any year) in fields such as Technology, Science, Pharma, Life Sciences, Biotechnology, etc. (except final-year students).

Students from PAN India are eligible.

Children of L'Oréal India and Buddy4Study employees are not eligible.

Note: Criteria may be modified at the discretion of the scholarship provider. Final selection for PG/PhD students is contingent upon the submission of an admission letter from a recognised college/university in India.

Prizes & Rewards: UG students: Fixed scholarship of INR 62,500

PG and PhD students: Upto scholarship of INR 1,00,000

Last Date to Apply: 03-11-2025

Application mode: Online applica-

Vigilance Awareness Week is an annual observance led by India's Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) to promote ethics and transparency and combat corruption in governance. Held during the week of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birthday (October 31st), it involves public campaigns, community participation, and organizational initiatives to foster integrity and accountability, ultimately aiming for a corruption-free nation.

The Jammu & Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau is observing Vigilance Awareness Week 2025 across UT of J&K. The week aims to promote integrity, transparency, and accountability in public life and to encourage citizens to actively participate in building a corruption-free society.



Scan the QR code for your vigilance-related queries.

Toll Free: 1800 180 7152, Whatsapp: 9419678060, Website:<https://acb.jk.gov.in/>, Mobile App: Satark Nagrik

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my daughter is wrongly written in her adhaar card as Khaifah Jan while her correct name is Kaifa Tariq as per school records. Now I have applied for the correction of the same.if anyone has any objection in this regard he/she my file them in the concerned adhaar centre Jammu/Srinagar within 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained

Rukhsana Akhter  
W/o Tariq Ahmad Ganie  
R/o Tukroo Tehsil Keegam District Shopian

fko

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My name and dob has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Aadil Ahmad Jeelani S/o Mohammad Yaseen Jeelani , dob 01-02-2000 while my correct name is Syed Mohammad Adil Jeelani S/o Syed Mohammad Yaseen Jeelani, dob : 12-05-2006. Now I have applied for the correction of the same.if anyone has any objection in this regard he/she my file them in the concerned adhaar centre Jammu/Srinagar within 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained

Syed Mohammad Adil Jeelani  
S/o Syed Mohammad Yaseen Jeelani  
R/o Dragger Kachwari Budgam

fko

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My wards name mentioned in School records as Mohammad Eyaad Bhat. Now I want to change the name of my ward as Mohammad Anas Bhat instead of name mentioned above. If any person having any objection in this regard he may convey to the office of the Principal Vision School of Education, Kanitar Lalbazar Srinagar within one week. No objection will be entertained after expiry of given stipulated period.

Reyaz Ahmad Bhat  
Father of Mohammad Eyaad Bhat  
Class: 2  
R/o Check-i-Wangund  
Tehsil, Dooru,  
District, Anantnag  
Ph. 7889323922

inf

### THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION SUB OFFICE PAMPORE.

The candidate whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost his original 10th class marks sheet issued by the Board of School Education with following particulars : Name: Furkan Showkat S/O : Showkat Ahmad Mothers Name:Zareena Class 10th. Roll No: 6134264 Session Annual Regular 2018 Registration No:N17381380012 DOB:09-03-2003

Now the candidate has applied for the duplicate certificate of the same.Anybody having any objection in this regard may file the same before undersigned within seven days of period from the date of publication of this notice .After due date no objection will or shall be accepted or entertained.

Assistant Secretary  
Sub office ,Pampore

fko

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Ruby Jan while my correct name is Rubeena Begum. Now I have applied for the correction of the same.if anyone has any objection in this regard he/she my file them in the concerned adhaar centre Jammu/Srinagar within 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained

Rubeena Begum  
W/o Nazir Ah Khan  
R/o Zaina Bato Shopian

fko

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the RC of my motorcycle bearing regd no: jk05J1678. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same. If anyone has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the RTO office Sopore within 7days after that no objection shall be entertained

Mohammad Ashraf Sheikh  
S/o Mohammad Ibrahim Sheikh  
R/o Ahmadpora Pattan

bmj

### OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in Name in data to the Registration Certificate No.JK04E 7495 issued in favour of TARIQ NAZIR BITH Parentage NAZIR AHMAD BITH

Whereas an application has been recieved by one TARIQ NAZIR BITH Parentage NAZIR AHMAD BITH wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Registration Certificate as TARIQ NAZIR Parentage NAZIR AHMAD Which needs to be changed as TARIQ NAZIR BITH Parentage NAZIR AHMAD BITH

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shal reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained.

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

### Government of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION TANGMARG.

#### FRESH NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

Fresh NIT No: 91/R&B/ Tangmarg of 2025-26

DATED: 24-10-2025

E-tenders (In single cover system) from qualified contractors registered with the J&K UT Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments are invited for Snow Clearance (Stage-wise) on a **Percentage Rate basis** for a contract period of one year that may be extended to three years depending on the performance of the successful bidder.

S. No	Stage Name	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Tender Call
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
1.	<b>Snow clearance Stage No. 7, 9, 10, 12, 13,14 &amp; 19, as per Annexure "A" enclosed</b>	200/- per Stage	5000/- per stage	3054 Snow	A,B,C & DEE	3 <sup>rd</sup>

- The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, (if any), Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:-

Table :I

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	24-10-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	24-10-2025 10:00 AM
3	Bid submission Start Date	24-10-2025 10:00 AM
4	Bid Submission End Date	30-10-2025 upto 4:00
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	31-10-2025 11:00 AM Office Of the Executive Engineer R&B Division <b>Tangmarg</b>

**The Department shall be at liberty to add or delete a road or a stretch there off from the listed stage contract scope.**

- Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division **Tangmarg** (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.
- All bidders are required to submit bid security or earnest money for an amount of Rs.5000/= at the time of tendering in the form of CDRs, FDRs, or BGs pledged to the authority responsible for receiving bids, in this case Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg. In strict accordance with the Government's circular and other instructions as required, the successful bidder will be required to provide performance security in the amount of Rs.10,000/= at the time of contract award. Following the fixing of the contract in favour of the successful bidder, the unsuccessful bidders will receive the earnest money/bid security. The successful bidder's performance security will be released only **after completed successfully performance of the Contract.**
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **bids of Responsive bidders** shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of **Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg** (tender receiving authority).

- All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25(Double agreement Form), NIT, GFR 2017 & JK PWD Engineering Manual 2020.

- As per the Circular No. 01 (Adm) FD of 2025 Dated: 08-07-2025 issued by Finance Department of UT J&K "Every participating supplier/contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder".

No. R&B /Tang/D/5484-94  
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## LG Lauds Young Athletes Of DPS Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday met the outstanding sportspersons of Delhi Public School Srinagar at Raj Bhawan.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the students for their exceptional achievements in both national and international



sports competitions. He also conveyed his best wishes for their upcoming games and

future endeavours.

The delegation of students includes Hurriyah Showkat, Samma and Mysha Bilal Kanth (Silver medalists at 3rd Junior Asian Pencak Silat Championship), Zaid Ali (69th National School Games -Football), and winning team of Inter-DPS Football Tournament (Boys Open, Zone 1). They were accompanied by Monisa Khursheed,

Vice-Principal and Mudasir Bashir, Sports Secretary, Delhi Public School Srinagar.

## Kashmir Literature Festival 2025 Concludes

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The second edition of the Kashmir Literature Festival (KLF) concluded today at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), bringing together leading literary voices, cultural ambassadors, and young talent to celebrate Kashmir's rich intellectual heritage.

Organized by the Srikula Foundation, the two-day festival aimed to further its vision of positioning Kashmir as "The Powerhouse of Wisdom."

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the festival and emphasized the role of literature in restoring authentic historical narratives of the region while fostering

social growth.

KLF 2025 featured more than 50 sessions, book launches, keynote addresses, cultural performances, and open mic engagements. Notable participants included Lt. Gen. D.P. Pandey (Retd.), Rami Desai, Kanchan Gupta, Prof. Khurshid Andrabi, Abhijeet Iyer-Mitra, Manu Khajuria, Aarti Tikoo, Roubie Nagi, Aadya Das, and several distinguished experts from diverse fields.

Discussions spanned geopolitics, education, media, environment, culture, and storytelling. The festival also showcased young authors and performers, strengthening youth engagement in Kashmir's cultural renaissance, organisers said.

## VC JKLCMA Inspects Dal-Nigeen Lake

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Vice Chairman J&K Lake Conservation and Management Authority (JKLCMA), Manzoor Ahmad Qadri conducted an extensive inspection of Dal-Nigeen Lake, its navigational channels, and the internal hamlets to evaluate the various conservation measures being implemented by the Authority.

He was accompanied by Superintending Engineer, Executive Engineer, Technical

Officer to VC and other senior officers of the Authority.

During the visit, the Vice Chairman inspected the dewatering operations and other conservation efforts, including houseboat connectivity enhancements, ensuring that these interventions uphold both quality standards and the site's modern-day usability.

The Vice Chairman also directed that the acquired land be clearly demarcated and developed into eco-friendly recreational spots.



Gardeners tending to vibrant blooms at Bagh-e-Gul-e-Dawood, Srinagar's new Chrysanthemum Theme Garden. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

## 'Big Prizes, Scenic Routes & Tourism Boost'

## Kashmir Marathon Set To Attract Runners From Across India & Abroad

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The 2nd edition of the Kashmir Marathon, scheduled for November 2, 2025, is all set to attract runners from across India and abroad, officials said. Organized by the Tourism Department, the marathon aims to promote sports culture, showcase Kashmir's natural beauty, and boost tourism in the Union Territory.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo chaired a high-level meeting to review the arrangements, emphasizing seamless coordination among departments for accommodation, transportation, medical care, security, traffic management, and event logistics. "The marathon is a valuable opportunity to promote fitness, tourism, and Kashmir's hospitality," he said.

The event features a Full Marathon (42 km) and Half Marathon (21 km), with routes passing through Srinagar's most iconic locations including Dal Lake, Mughal Gardens, and Chinar-lined boulevards. National and



The event features a Full Marathon (42 km) and Half Marathon (21 km), with routes passing through Srinagar's most iconic locations including Dal Lake, Mughal Gardens, and Chinar-lined boulevards.

international athletes are expected to participate, highlighting the event's growing profile.

An impressive prize pool has been announced, with Rs 25 lakh for the Full Marathon winner and Rs 15 lakh for the Half Marathon winner. Age-group winners will also receive substantial rewards, ensuring participation across categories.

The marathon will also provide a platform to promote local handicrafts and handloom products, with dedicated stalls set up along the routes. Officials said the event will enhance Kashmir's image as a premier destination for leisure, adventure, and sports tourism.

With scenic routes, big prizes, and vibrant community involvement, the Kashmir Marathon 2025 is poised to become a flagship sporting and tourism event in the Valley.

## 'Know Your Artisan'

## Clock Tower Buzzes With Crafts & Culture

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The iconic Clock Tower (Ghanta Ghar) at Lal Chowk came alive on Saturday as the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir hosted the "Know Your Artisan" programme, drawing hundreds of visitors and turning the city centre into a lively cultural hub.


Senior officials from the administration graced the event, which celebrated the rich craftsmanship and

creativity of Kashmir's traditional artisans. Stalls showcasing papier-mâché, copperware, wood carving, sozni embroidery, and pashmina weaving lined the open square, while vibrant drapes and cultural displays added to the festive atmosphere.

"It feels like Lal Chowk has come alive again," said Nusrat Ahmed, a local visitor from Rajbagh. "Seeing artisans work live and explain their craft connects us to our roots. It is a beautiful experience."

A college student, another visitor, expressed amazement at the diversity of art forms on display. "Usually we see these products in shops, but here you meet the actual hands behind them, the real artists," he said.

Artisans too welcomed the platform. A papier-mâché artisan from Srinagar said, "People are appreciating our work and asking questions about how we make these designs. It motivates us to keep the craft alive."


- 
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  - BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
  - BUIBHARA: 01932-228243
  - PAMPORE: 01933-294132
  - PATTAN: 01954-293507
  - QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

### HIGHWAY STATUS

- 
  - Sgr-Jammu highway - ( Open )
  - Mughal Road - ( Open )
  - Srinagar- Leh- (Open)

<div><h2>HIJRI CALENDAR</h2><p>03 Jumada al-Awwal 1447</p></div>	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	5: 21
	ZUHR	12:15
	ASR	4: 07
	Magrib	5:48
	ISHA	7: 09

## This Day In History

- 740 - An earthquake strikes Constantinople, causing damage to city walls and buildings
- 1366 - Comet 55P/1366 UI (Tempel-Tuttle) approaches 0.0229 AU of Earth
- 1524 - Spanish troops give Milan to France
- 1905 - Union of Sweden & Norway ends
- 1917 - World War I: Brazil declared in state of war with Central Powers.
- 1918 - Germany's supreme commander General Eric Ludendorff resigns, protesting the terms to which the German Government has agreed in negotiating an armistice
- 1922 - Italian government resigns under pressure from fascists & Benito Mussolini
- 1942 - Battle of Santa Cruz: Japanese naval offensive against US forces near Solomon Islands
- 1950 - Mother Teresa founds Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, India
- 1955 - British troops occupy Saudi Arabian oil field at Boeraimi
- 1962 - Nikita Khrushchev sends note to JFK offering to withdraw his missiles from Cuba if US closed its bases in Turkey: offer is rejected
- 1962 - US performs atmospheric nuclear test at Johnston Island
- 1967 - Shah of Iran crowns himself after 26 years on Peacock Throne
- 1968 - Soviet Union launches spacecraft Soyuz 3
- 1971 - UN votes to replace Taiwan with China
- 1973 - Israeli forces reach Suez, trapping Egyptian army
- 1973 - President Nixon releases first White House tapes on Watergate scandal
- 1975 - Anwar Sadat becomes the 1st Egyptian president to officially visit the United States
- 1975 - China performs nuclear test at Lop Nor, PRC
- 1976 - Trinidad & Tobago becomes a republic
- 1977 - 5th & final test of space shuttle Enterprise
- 1977 - Last natural case of smallpox discovered in Merca district, Somalia. Considered the anniversary of the eradication of smallpox, the most spectacular success of vaccination

## From KO Archives

## J&K Team For Tibet To Find Truth Of 'Shahtoosh Threat'

Observer News Service

Srinagar- Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah today said the Centre would be approached to seek China's permission for facilitating the visit of a team to Tibet to find if continuing Shahtoosh trade threatens antelope.

Speaking at a function held in observance of the millennium's first wildlife week here this afternoon, the chief minister said the team will comprise wildlife officials and representatives of Shahtoosh traders whose trip would be sponsored by the government. "If the team feels threat to antelope as genuine, the Shahtoosh traders will have nothing to do with it", he said, adding that with this the controversy over the issue would end once for all.

The chief minister said that as a result of measures taken to preserve wildlife, their population is on increase in the state. He stressed for creating awareness among the people especially students about the need for protecting wildlife and said that two zoos would be set up at Manda in Jammu and Dachigam in Srinagar for people to see nature's fauna. He asked for preparing comprehensive plans for conservation of various sanctuaries like Hokersar, Hygam and Mirgund.

Abdullah called for evolving a mechanism and adopting an integrated programme for making use of dead wood as fuel by those living near forest while stringent measures would be taken for preserving the green trees. Steps have to be taken for bridging the gap between energy-need and energy source. This has become imperative in view of growing pressure of forest resource since other sources of energy like electricity and LPG have become costlier and scarce. He made a fervent appeal to the people for making judicious use of electricity, generation of which is affected during winter due to lesser water flow.

(Kashmir Observer, October 26, 2000)

# DEMISE

## إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

*"Indeed, to Allah we belong and to Him we shall return."*

(Al-Baqarah 2:156)

With profound sorrow and grief that **Haji Mohammad Shaban Tantary** R/o Sharepora Wanabal, Rawalpura Srinagar, the guiding light of our family and the pillar of our strength, left for his heavenly abode on **Friday 24th October 2025, 01, Jumada Al-Awwal 1447** (Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un). May Allah (SWT) grant him *Jannat-ul-Firdous (Aameen)*.

Fateh Khawani will be held *InshaAllah* on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2025, 9:30 AM at our ancestral graveyard near Masjid Shareef Sharepora Wanabal, Rawalpura, Srinagar.

LADIES ARE REQUESTED NOT TO BRING ANY FRUIT ETC.


Bereaved

### TANTARY FAMILY & OTHERS

**Abdul Rashid Tantray (Son)**  
**Bashir Ahmad Tantray (Son)**  
**Abdul Hamid Tantray (Son)**

**(7006763418)**  
**(9419021776)**  
**(7006603155)**

# SAD DEMISE



Abbas Ads.

With deep sorrow and heavy hearts, we inform the sad demise of **Zawaar Mohammad Maqbool Wani** resident of Gazi Doori near Imamia Park, who departed from this world on 24th October 2025 at AIIMS, New Delhi, where he was under treatment.

Fateh Khuwani will be observed on Monday the 27th October 2025 at our graveyard at 7:00 AM followed by a condolence meet at our residence for the Whole day.

Zawar Sahib was known for his humility, gentleness, and unwavering love for the Ahlulbayt ؑ .His life was a reflection of sincerity, service, and devotion — qualities that endeared him to all who knew him.

He served as Assistant Secretary at JKBOSE and dedicated himself selflessly to the noble cause of Tanzeem-ul-Makatib, Education Trust Kashmir and Idhara Falah-i-Aam Waqf, leaving behind a legacy of faith and compassion.

With Regards,  
Bereaved Family



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## Budgam At The Ballot

As elections approach, Budgam faces a choice that goes beyond slogans and dynasties. Its citizens have the power to demand development, fairness, and dignity through informed, conscious voting.

Aubaid Akhoon

Budgam hums with political chatter these days. Every street corner, WhatsApp group, and news channel seems alive with debates. But much of this public engagement is carefully curated, often shaped by paid promotions, party propaganda, and digital spin.

A video that goes viral can shape perception more than any real-life achievement. In an age where influence is often mistaken for truth, Budgam's voters face a responsibility heavier than any ballot: to see through the noise and choose wisely.

Budgam is a cradle of Kashmir's cultural and spiritual life. Sufi saints, poets, and scholars have left indelible marks on the valley, creating a legacy of tolerance, reflection, and dialogue. Its streets, mosques, shrines, and public spaces carry centuries of Kashmiri, Persian, and Central Asian influence, blending into a unique social fabric.

Generations have lived with respect for difference, celebrating diversity while nurturing community bonds. These cultural foundations should guide political choices today.

Despite its proximity to Srinagar, the district has long been sidelined in governance. Roads in many villages collapse with seasonal rains. Water supply in towns is intermittent. Public hospitals remain under-resourced, and electricity of ten fails when it is needed most.

Urban expansion adds new layers to this challenge. Private colonies mushroom across fertile farmland, often semi-legal, but equipped with better roads, drainage, and street-lights than government-planned settlements.

Meanwhile, Ompora Housing Colony, developed by the Jammu and Kashmir Housing Board, illustrates the paradox. Systematically planned, ecologically safe, and flood-resistant, Ompora suffers from pothole-strewn streets, unreliable electricity, deficient water supply, and absent civic infrastructure.

There is no local hospital, police station, and fire or emergency service. Residents battle these deficiencies daily, forced to depend on makeshift arrangements while watching unplanned colonies flourish.

Authorities must treat government colonies as models of urban planning and civic responsibility. Infrastructure improvements should include roads, drainage, waste management, street lighting, and public safety. Schools, healthcare centers, and emergency services must become standard.

Reviving planned settlements can restore citizen trust in public institutions and reinforce the principles of fairness and accountability.

Elections in Budgam are tests of civic maturity. Voting is a tool of accountability. It rewards competence, integrity, and vision over dynasties, emotion, or patronage.

Every voter must ask hard questions: Who consistently works for the people after cameras leave? Which candidate prioritizes education, development, and ethics above rhetoric? Who addresses local problems rather than chasing headlines?

Past patterns of selective attention and favouritism show that personality or lineage alone cannot drive lasting change.

Budgam's future rests in the hands of those who cast their votes thoughtfully. Conscious choices can transform years of neglect into tangible development, restore civic dignity, and nurture social harmony.

The people of Budgam are aware, capable, and ready for change. Real progress will not come from slogans or sympathy speeches but through decisive participation at the ballot box. Voting is a responsibility, a voice, and a test of foresight.

The next MLA should be chosen for merit, sincerity, and a record of service. Accountability must replace arrogance, planning must replace populism, and action must replace empty promises.

By moving beyond inherited loyalties, citizens can establish a new political culture, one that values development, inclusivity, and integrity.

Budgam has the potential to become a model for development in Kashmir. Its destiny depends on the collective judgment of its people.

When voters prioritize competence and accountability over habit and pressure, Budgam can emerge as an example of civic pride, social unity, and sustainable growth.

The author is an educator and coaching consultant in Kashmir. He can be reached at akhoon.aubaid@gmail.com

The people of Budgam are aware, capable, and ready for change. Real progress will not come from slogans or sympathy speeches but through decisive participation at the ballot box. Voting is a responsibility, a voice, and a test of foresight.

## Kashmir's Prescription Problem

Prescription painkillers are becoming the latest threat to young people in Kashmir, exposing gaps in mental health support, awareness, and regulation.



Shahid Shafi Rather

☞

Pregabalin's rise signals a shift in Kashmir's drug landscape. Addiction is no longer limited to illegal narcotics; legal prescription medications have become part of the cycle. Without swift, comprehensive action, the health, productivity, and social stability of the region's youth remain at risk.

Kashmiri youth are facing a new kind of danger.

Pregabalin, a prescription medication meant to treat neuropathic pain, epilepsy, and anxiety, is increasingly being misused across the region.

What begins as a legitimate treatment for discomfort or anxiety can quickly spiral into dependence when the drug is taken in higher doses, often without medical supervision.

Its sedative and euphoric effects make it an appealing choice for recreational use, adding another layer to the region's longstanding battle with substance abuse.

Recent reports from regional de-addiction centers reveal a troubling reality. Nearly 44% of patients seeking help cite Pregabalin as their primary drug of misuse, and over half combine it with opioids, tramadol, or codeine.

Most users are young men, between 18 and 35, facing unemployment, academic pressure, and limited access to mental health care. Many start with a legitimate prescription, unaware that dependence can creep in silently, sometimes hidden from families and doctors.

Several forces fuel this rise.

Pregabalin remains easily available in local pharmacies and shops, often without strict prescription checks. Its legal status and perception as a "safe" drug give it a deceptive appeal for those

seeking relief from stress, emotional pain, or boredom.

Families and users frequently underestimate the risks of prolonged use, withdrawal symptoms, and long-term health consequences.

Health experts warn of serious dangers. Dependence can develop quickly, and withdrawal may trigger anxiety, insomnia, tremors, nausea, or even suicidal thoughts.

Cognitive difficulties, sedation, and respiratory issues grow more serious when Pregabalin is combined with other substances. The drug's impact often reaches beyond the individual, subtly eroding family life, education, and social stability before intervention occurs.

The social cost is heavy. Parents and siblings notice changes in behaviour but rarely recognize drug misuse until severe problems emerge. Affected youth face interruptions in schooling, work, and relationships, while families bear emotional and financial burdens.

Healthcare systems, already stretched thin dealing with traditional substance abuse, face new pressure as the epidemic spreads.

Authorities are responding. The Drugs and Food Control Organisation has suspended licenses of several pharmaceutical dealers and seized stock worth over 13.5 lakh, including Pregabalin-based medications.

These actions are a start, but

easy access in local shops continues to fuel misuse. Experts emphasize a multi-pronged response: strict regulation of sales, public awareness campaigns, early screening, counseling, more rehabilitation centers, and training for pharmacists and healthcare providers to detect and prevent misuse.

Pregabalin's rise signals a shift in Kashmir's drug landscape.

Addiction is no longer limited to illegal narcotics. Legal prescription medications have become part of the cycle. Without swift, comprehensive action, the health, productivity, and social stability of the region's youth remain at risk.

The Health Department must enforce prescription-only sales, conduct routine pharmacy inspections, and penalize unauthorized vendors.

Coupled with community awareness and accessible mental health interventions, these steps can help curb an emerging epidemic and safeguard Kashmir's next generation.

The author is a social activist and scholar based in Chakoor, Pulwama. He can be reached at shahishafi724@gmail.com.

## Bollywood or Ballot Box?

As history and fiction blur, cinema risks becoming a conveyor belt for curated narratives.

Shahid Ahmed Hakla Poonchi

☞

Filmmakers must prioritize truth over convenience. Audiences must engage critically. Critics and institutions must hold creators accountable. Cinema thrives when it embraces complexity, reflects reality, and provokes conversation. It falters when it reduces itself to flattery for power.

Indian cinema has long told the stories of a nation, carrying its triumphs, tragedies, and tensions to audiences across decades.

Films have offered a window into the soul of the valley that has experienced rage, and raging identities.

From socially charged films of the 1970s to contemporary dramas, cinema has challenged audiences to reflect on society.

But recent years have revealed a troubling shift.

A growing number of mainstream films appear to favour narratives that align with the establishment, often simplifying events and glorifying dispensation at the expense of authenticity.

This alignment is not accidental.

Films hold immense power over public perception. Filmmakers and producers in the mainland who echo the perspectives of those in power often gain easier funding, smoother clearances, wider distribution, and positive publicity.

The impact can be profound in Kashmir, where political narratives carry intense weight. Films are shaping cultural understanding and influencing perceptions of governance and identity in ways that extend far beyond the screen.

Characters in these films are elevated to heroic heights, historical events are reframed, and complex social realities are flattened into stories of moral certainty.

Patriotism and governance are often celebrated without critique, replacing nuanced discourse with idealized portrayals. The choice of subjects, dialogues, and visual imagery increasingly mirrors official rhetoric, suggesting that alignment with power can become a strategic path to success.

Cinema is evolving from a platform for questioning society to a vehicle for approval.

Films persuade through emotion. Music, visuals, and character arcs create immersive experiences that bypass analytical thinking and speak directly to feelings.

A patriotic song, a leader's rousing speech, or an image of a flag behind a protagonist can evoke pride, loyalty, and identification.

These repeated portrayals shape collective memory, linking morality, nationalism, and identity to specific ideas or figures.

Such portrayals can subtly redefine public understanding of history and current affairs.

The influence extends to politics. Films reach millions of viewers in days, shaping opinions that campaigns alone might not reach. Stories that glorify or portray leaders as heroic are celebrated and widely discussed, creating a cultural environment that can reinforce political loyalty.

Cinema is a soft power instrument, shaping sentiment and subtly guiding voter perception.

The cost of this convenience is evident. When political alignment takes precedence over inves-

tigative storytelling, cinema risks losing its role as a platform for critical engagement. Authentic voices and marginalized perspectives are overshadowed, replaced by sanitized narratives.

Audiences may sense this shift, and trust in cinema as a reflection of society diminishes. Artistic freedom, including the ability to challenge, disturb, and question, is compromised when filmmakers prioritize alignment with power.

Independent cinema remains a vital counterbalance. Regional films and socially conscious projects tackle issues such as caste inequality, gender discrimination, environmental crises, and corruption. Operating under limited budgets and political pressure, these creators continue to preserve cinema's original mission: to reflect society honestly, provoke thought, and tell stories that might otherwise remain untold. Their defiance demonstrates that cinema retains its transformative power when it remains fearless.

A recent example of cinema intersecting with political narratives is The Taj Story, featuring Paresh Rawal, which claims the Taj Mahal was originally Tejo Mahalaya. Critics argue the film promotes false history and risks communal polarization, while supporters defend it as an exercise in creative and academic freedom.

Rawal emphasized the film presents a historical perspective rather than a religious narrative. The debate around the film reflects a broader question about Indian cinema today: whether films serve truth and dialogue or influence and persuasion.

Filmmakers must prioritize truth over convenience. Audiences must engage critically. Critics and institutions must hold creators accountable.

Cinema thrives when it embraces complexity, reflects reality, and provokes conversation. It falters when it reduces itself to flattery for power.

The author is an independent researcher. He can be reached at shahidhakla360@gmail.com



# The Enduring Story of a Kashmiri Marriage

A daughter reflects on her parents' 27-year journey, a love built on endurance, respect, and the strength that sustains families and societies in Kashmir.

Muskan Shafi Malik

As I hold the wedding card of my parents, dated October 26, 1998, I feel a strange stillness. It is hard to believe that twenty-seven years have passed between that autumn and this one.

Time has slipped by like the leaves that fall on Srinagar's chinars: steady, inevitable, and deeply beautiful.

To many, it might be just another anniversary, but for me, it means everything: patience, love, respect, endurance, and a partnership that stood against the noise of the world.

My parents' marriage was never about pomp or performance. It was built on simplicity, understanding, and silent support.

My mother, the cornerstone of our home, or as we call her in Kashmiri, braand kean, turned our house into a living soul. She gave it warmth, aroma, and meaning. My father, the backbone of our family, worked as a medical representative, a man in formal dress who laboured like a craftsman, turning sweat into comfort.

Together, they built not just a home, but a world.

Every civilization rests on families. A family begins with two people and grows into a garden when children are born.

In their story, I see a reflection of how societies thrive, through companionship, sacrifice, and faith.

My mother often tells me how her life changed in her early twenties, a sudden shift from books to responsibilities.

In the 1990s, a young woman in Kashmir faced the constant pressure of social judgment. The whispers of "lukh garich koor", a stranger's daughter, carried both curiosity and prejudice.

But she handled it all with grace, becoming a mother of three and a symbol of strength.

My father, on the other hand, is a man of few words and infinite effort. For nearly three decades, he has woken before dawn when most of Kashmir is still asleep. His evenings end in prayer. He may not hold official titles, but his worth rests on honesty and hard work.

Their love has never been the one you find in poems. It is practical, steady, and sacred.

My father's life taught me that masculinity is about endurance, humility, and respect. He treats my mother with admiration.

Together, they remind me that equality in marriage isn't a Western concept. It is, in fact, a human truth, born from compassion and balance.

When I once asked my father what marriage means to him, he smiled and said, "Marriage is a union of two unknown souls written by fate. A great marriage is not when 'I' and 'She' become 'We,' but when they remain 'I' and 'She,' yet still grow into 'We' after years."



My mother's answer was simpler. "When we got married, we were nothing," she said, "but being together, we are everything now."

Their words stay in me like a prayer. They remind me that a good marriage shapes not only the couple but the children who grow within that atmosphere. It teaches values that extend beyond walls: patience, empathy, and the art of listening.

In Islam, marriage is a divine bond, a source of sukoon, peace and companionship. The Quran says that Allah created pairs so they may find comfort in each other.

This union fosters ethical growth, social stability, and continuity of love through generations.

Psychology too confirms what faith teaches.

John Bowlby and Mary Ainsworth's attachment theory shows that when parents share a strong, respectful bond, their children develop trust, confidence,

and empathy.

A nurturing home builds secure individuals. When that bond weakens, children often mirror the hostility they see, carrying emotional scars into adulthood.

These bonds can be tested in unique ways in Kashmir, where extended families often live together.

I have spoken to women who say they were told to remain silent "for the sake of family honour." Many husbands, caught between parents and partners, struggle to balance loyalty and love.

This tension silently erodes relationships. What begins as a misunderstanding can grow into a lifetime of silence or, worse, abuse.

Breaking this cycle requires the courage to set boundaries, talk openly, and listen without judgment.

Love thrives when both partners act as a shield against external pressures. A healthy marriage is essentially about partnership that pro-

TECTS rather than punishes.

The challenge for my generation is to preserve this essence. Will we be able to hold marriages together in a world driven by speed, stress, and social comparison?

Relationships today face economic struggles to digital distractions. Many unions fall apart because of unspoken expectations and inherited prejudices.

Family disputes are now one of the leading causes of youth distress in India. Studies show that 50% of youth suicides are linked to family or relationship issues. Globally, one in four women has faced intimate partner violence. Nearly a third of suicides in India are tied to family problems, and marriage-related conflicts contribute significantly.

These numbers reflect a deeper social wound: the weakening of our emotional foundations.

A family is more than a roof and four walls. It is where hearts unite in care and trust. The patience and



**AS I LOOK AGAIN AT MY PARENTS' WEDDING CARD, NOW SLIGHTLY YELLOWED WITH AGE,** I realize it carries a story of two hearts that found strength in togetherness. Their journey tells me that when bonds at home are strong, the nation too stands strong.

love shared at home become the building blocks of society. Strong families nurture strong communities, and together they form the moral spine of a nation.

As I look again at my parents' wedding card, now slightly yellowed with age, I realize it carries a story of two hearts that found strength in togetherness.

Their journey tells me that when bonds at home are strong, the nation too stands strong.

For in the strength of a family, lies the soul of a country. And in the endurance of two hearts, lies the hope of a nation.

— The author is a postgraduate student in History at A liqarh Muslim University. She can be reached at muskanshafimalik@gmail.com.

**A FAMILY IS MORE THAN A ROOF AND FOUR WALLS.** It is where hearts unite in care and trust. The patience and love shared at home become the building blocks of society. Strong families nurture strong communities, and together they form the moral spine of a nation.

## A Homecoming in Lal Chowk

When Bestseller reopened in Lal Chowk, it reminded me that endings in Kashmir often carry the promise of a beginning.

Sadiya Handoo

Bestseller Bookstore has always been a comforting corner of Lal Chowk where time slowed and the world outside softened.

When I first heard it had closed, I felt the weight of something lost. The reasons were familiar: online convenience, dwindling reading habits, and a culture leaning ever more toward screens.

Still, it felt like a personal loss, as if a small pulse of the city had stopped beating. Walking past its shuttered windows, the echo of pages flipping in my memory haunted me.

Then came September, and with it, a whisper of hope: Bestseller was reopening.

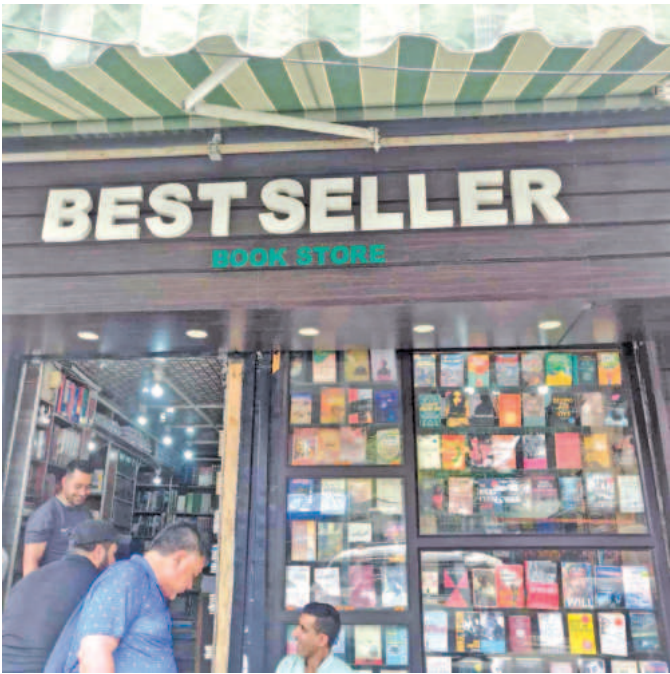
I remember the morning I stepped inside again. The air smelled of paper and polish, the shelves full, welcoming. People moved slowly between aisles, fingers tracing spines, eyes lighting up over old favourites and new discoveries.

In that moment, I felt a city reclaiming a fragment of its soul. It was a subtle kind of triumph, the proof that passion, voices, and collective care could bring back what seemed gone forever.

The bookstore's return became a reflection of Kashmir's own pulse, ever-shifting yet persistent.

At around the same time, autumn arrived in Kashmir with its familiar splendour. Chinar leaves turned molten gold and deep crimson, drifting lazily through Lal Chowk, falling into streams of sunlight that fractured the streets.

The mountains carried the first frost of the season, sharp against the amber haze of morning mist. People wrapped themselves in shawls, cameras in hand, trekking to Mughal gardens and hill stations like Pahalgam and Gulmarg. Locals and



**THIS YEAR, AUTUMN TAUGHT ME THAT JOY, BEAUTY, AND CONNECTION HAVE A STUBBORN WAY OF RETURNING.** Whether in the golden streets of Lal Chowk or in a bookstore once thought gone, the city showed me that even in transition, there is continuity.

tourists alike sought the ephemeral perfection of autumn: the meeting of crisp air, fiery leaves, and the hush of a landscape in transition.

Autumn in Kashmir carries a lesson I feel more keenly every year. It is a season of letting go, of endings vivid in colour, but also of preparation, and beginnings hidden in the folds of change.

This year, autumn taught me that joy, beauty, and connection have a stubborn way of re-

turning. Whether in the golden streets of Lal Chowk or in a bookstore once thought gone, the city showed me that even in transition, there is continuity.

The falling leaves, the chill in the air, the warmth of community, and the hum of pages turning whispered the same message: endings are often beginnings in disguise.

— The author is a digital marketing enthusiast and a writer from Kashmir.

## Standing Firm in the Shadows

Exclusion can hurt, but it can also teach. One Kashmiri shares how being unseen became a source of strength.

Dr. Imran Khan

I still remember the day I realized how it feels to be invisible.

It was in a university classroom in Srinagar. I had spent hours preparing an answer, and when I raised my hand, the professor's eyes drifted past me to someone else.

A wave of embarrassment passed, but what stayed was a deeper, gnawing sensation: I was present, yet unseen.

That feeling followed me into meetings, workshops, and even casual gatherings. Ideas I shared were ignored until someone else voiced them. Invitations went to others. Recognition bypassed me. I wasn't incompetent or rude. I was simply overlooked.

Psychologists call this "othering", a process where someone is subtly assigned lesser value, consciously or unconsciously.

It is a social sorting mechanism, where the world silently signals, you matter less here.

Exclusion carries weight far beyond the moment in Kashmir, where social networks shape opportunity. It shapes confidence, self-worth, and the belief in one's own potential.

Othering is not always deliberate. Sometimes it is fuelled by jealousy. Sometimes it grows from habit, hierarchy, or outdated assumptions. And sometimes, it emerges from us.

I had to admit that arrogance, impatience, or rigidity can make people hold back. Social life is a dance, and our steps, whether graceful or clumsy, shape the rhythm of inclusion.

At first, I let exclusion define me. I questioned myself constantly: Did I speak too softly? Did I overstep? Am I



**OTHERING MAY AIM TO DIMINISH US. I have learned that it often fails when we refuse to internalize it. Exclusion, though painful, can become a teacher. It can strengthen empathy, sharpen self-awareness, and ignite purpose.**

the problem?

Our minds are quick to turn silence into verdicts. Psychologists call this an attribution error: we excuse our own be-

haviour as situational but read others' actions as personal. I realized the pain was compounded by how I interpreted it. The sting was real, but my mind made it sharper.

Change came when I decided to stop shrinking. I began showing up fully, even where I felt unrecognized. I listened more, responded with empathy, and focused on building genuine connections.

Each slight became a test of strength rather than a judgment. I reminded myself: a smooth sea never made a skilled sailor.

Carl Jung spoke of "compassionate immunity", the inner strength to transform exclusion into growth. I learned to turn anger into solutions, fear into clarity, and sadness into compassion.

I didn't detach, I fortified. I held my dignity even when others' behaviour was dismissive. This approach is vital in the valley.

Here, workplaces, classrooms, and marketplaces

are tightly woven networks. Titles and expertise matter, but empathy, communication, adaptability, and patience shape inclusion. They are the skills that keep you visible when the world would rather ignore you.

Othering may aim to diminish us. I have learned that it often fails when we refuse to internalize it. Exclusion, though painful, can become a teacher. It can strengthen empathy, sharpen self-awareness, and ignite purpose.

And if the lesson is ignored, if the world insists on undervaluing you, there is still power in stepping back with grace, holding on to self-respect, and moving forward without apology.

In the end, the invisible moments define us only if we let them.

— The author is Ph.D. in Psychology, and writes about human behaviour, and the challenges of steering social life in Kashmir.



## Jammu Rail Division Fines Ticketless Passengers ₹32 Lakh In 10 Days



Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Jammu Railway Division has fined at least 2500 passengers for travelling without tickets in the past 10 days during the festive season, collecting Rs 32 lakh, a senior official said on Saturday.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Uchit Singhal said ticket checking drives were conducted daily in the division during the festive season to provide better passenger convenience and prevent illegal travel.

On October 24 alone, penalties amounting to more than Rs 7 lakh were collected from 1200 people for travelling

without tickets, he said.

Data from the last ten days show that under the intensive ticket checking drive during the festive season, more than Rs 32 lakh were collected from 2,500 passengers for travelling without tickets, the official added.

"Our efforts to strengthen ticket checking during the festivals have yielded positive results. This has led to increased revenue and significantly improved travel experience for valid passengers," he said.

Singhal said the newly formed Jammu Division, despite facing shortage of ticketing staff, has performed remarkably well.

## Law Enforcement & Emerging Security Challenges Zonal Police Headquarters Kashmir Hosts One-Day Conference



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Zonal Police Headquarters Kashmir Saturday hosted a one-day zonal-level conference at the Police Control Room, Kashmir, in pursuance of the recommendations of the DGSP/IGSP Conference-2024. The event aimed to institutionalize these recommendations and provide a platform for young officers to share innovative ideas and field perspectives on contemporary policing challenges.

The conference was chaired by the DGP J&K and attended by DGP Coordination PHQ, ADGP CID J&K, IGP Kashmir, IGP Security J&K, IGP Railway J&K, Range DIGs, DIG CID Kashmir, DIG Armed Kashmir,

DIG Crime J&K, SSP PCR Kashmir, all district SSSP, DPT J&K, and other senior officers.

Deliberations focused on key issues including crowd management, cyber patrolling, NDPS investigations, dark web crimes, prison radicalization, and emerging cyber threats. Officers discussed strategies to strengthen operational frameworks, enhance inter-agency coordination, and adopt proactive measures to counter evolving security challenges.

In his inaugural address, the DGP J&K emphasized that such conferences aim to empower young field officers to share their experiences and practical insights on policing challenges.

IGP Kashmir V.K. Birdi

highlighted the need for adaptive, technology-driven, and community-oriented policing, stressing innovation, collaboration, and capacity-building as key to sustaining public trust and ensuring effective law enforcement.

Officers also shared best practices and perspectives on modern investigative and operational methodologies. Directions were issued for the observance of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas across all police stations in the Kashmir Zone to promote unity and national integration.

The conference concluded with a collective resolve to strengthen coordination, expand capacity-building initiatives, and integrate advanced technologies into core policing functions.

## SC To Hear Sua Motu Case Pertaining To Stray Dogs On Oct 27

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear a suo motu case relating to stray dogs on October 27.

The apex court had on August 22 expanded the scope of the stray dogs case beyond the confines of Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) and directed that all states and Union Territories be made parties in the matter.

As per the cause list of October 27 uploaded on the top court's website, the matter will be heard by a three-judge special bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and N V Anjaria.

Besides the suo motu case, four separate pleas related to the issue are also listed for hearing.

In its order passed on August 22, the apex court had modified its earlier direction prohibiting the release of vaccinated stray dogs from pounds in Delhi-NCR, calling it "too harsh" and ordered the canines to be released post sterilisation and deworming.

While pronouncing the order, the bench had said that all similar matters pending in high courts across the country would come to the top court for a "final national policy or decision" on the issue.

The bench had said municipal authorities would continue to comply with the August 11 directions to pick up stray dogs from all localities of Delhi, Ghaziabad, Noida, Faridabad and Gurugram and immediately create dog shelters or pounds.

It had said the August 11 direction prohibiting the release of the picked up stray dogs shall be kept in abeyance for the time being.

"The dogs that are picked up shall be sterilised, dewormed,



vaccinated, and released back to the same area from which they were picked up," the three-judge bench had said.

It had clarified the relocation should not apply to dogs infected with rabies or suspected to be infected with rabies and those displaying aggression.

It had directed the municipal authorities to file an affidavit of compliance with complete statistics of resources like dog pounds, veterinarians, dog-catching personnel, specially modified vehicles and cages available as on date for the purpose of compliance of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules.

The bench had impleaded all states and Union Territories in the matter while observing that application of ABC Rules was uniform all over India.

A two-judge bench of the apex court had on August 11 passed a slew of directions, including ordering the authorities in Delhi-NCR to start picking up stray dogs from all localities "at the earliest" and relocate the canines to dog shelters.

The bench had passed the order in a suo motu case initiated on July 28 over a media report on stray dog bites leading to rabies, particularly among children, in the national capital.

Widespread protests were reported across the country following the August 11 order.

Later, the matter came up for hearing before a three-judge special bench.

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### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### J&K Rajya Sabha

the BJP should have the courage to openly state that either they voted in favour of the BJP or invalidated their vote to help the party," he said.

Omar further highlighted that NC MPs would raise key issues, including the restoration of statehood, special status, and constitutional guarantees, in the Rajya Sabha.

#### Sajad Lone Accuses NC of Gifting Votes

People's Conference chief and Handwara MLA Sajad Gani Lone alleged that the NC "gifted" seven votes to the BJP to ensure its victory on one seat, calling the elections a "fixed match." He claimed all cross-voting was done by the NC, asserting the BJP's real tally was inflated due to an "understanding" between the parties.

"The NC had a pact with Delhi. The BJP's real tally is 70, including 42 from the NC, and not just 32," Lone alleged. He also defended incarcerated AAP MLA Mehraj Malik, saying it was unfair to question his vote while he remained in jail under the Public Safety Act.

Lone criticized the J&K government's reservation policies, promising to campaign on the ground against "anti-merit" measures.

#### BJP Offered Deal: Farooq Abdullah

NC president Farooq Abdullah rejected Lone's claims, asserting that his party had refused an offer from BJP to leave the fourth seat and had preferred a contest.

"Had we gifted it, then how did our fourth candidate secure 21 votes? We did not give any gift. They had come to us... we said no, we will contest and it will be decided on the ground," he said.

He claimed the party turned down the Bharatiya Janata Party's offer for a deal on the fourth seat of Rajya Sabha elections, held on Friday.

The NC chief, speaking to the media persons at the party headquarters, Nawa-e-Subah here, said, "The BJP approached us and asked to leave the fourth (Rajya Sabha) seat for them and contest only three seats."

However, the offer was rejected as the NC decided to contest all four seats, he added.

#### BJP's Calls Victory Historic, Rejected Allegations

J&K BJP president Sat Sharma termed his victory historic, saying he won despite attempts by Omar Abdullah to "create a division on the basis of Jammu versus Kashmir."

He rejected Lone's allegations, saying, "Why did he not vote? Staying away from voting is undemocratic." Sharma dedicated his win to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and party workers and expressed confidence of winning upcoming bypolls in Nagrota and Budgam Assembly segments.

Leader of Opposition in J&K Assembly Sunil Sharma welcomed the support of seven legislators who backed the BJP, rejecting claims of a "fixed match." He asserted that BJP made no contact with legislators but merely requested

them to vote for the party to oppose the government's "anti-people" policies.

Meanwhile, BJP leader Jahanzaib Sirwal slammed "shameful horse-trading" in the elections, criticizing the normalization of cross-voting and political opportunism.

#### Name MLAs Who Cross-voted: Ruhullah

Adding a new dimension to the controversy, NC Lok Sabha MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi asked the Chief Minister to name the MLAs who allegedly voted against the party. Ruhullah said, "If there has been a betrayal of the people's trust and mandate, and representatives have voted in favour of wrong powers, then the chief minister should name them. Until then, all MLAs will be under the shadow of doubt."

Ruhullah expressed disappointment with the NC's performance over the past year, questioning what achievements the party could present to voters ahead of upcoming bypolls. "There is no consistency — whether at the political level or governance level — in the last one year that I can take to people and seek votes. So, I am keeping away from this election," he said.

He also urged the NC to show intention on pressing issues such as reservation and governance, stating that leadership in a democracy is measured by responsiveness to the people, not by pride or independence from public pressure.

#### For 70 Years

for allegedly shielding infiltrators through his "Ghuspetiya Bachao Yatra."

The Home Minister stressed that the Bihar Assembly elections would determine whether the state continues on the path of development or returns to misgovernance. "Under Modi, India strengthened national security through surgical strikes in 2016, air strikes in 2019, and Operation Sindoor in 2025," he said, urging voters to back the NDA.

#### JKBOSE Grants

submission of forms, advising students to carefully verify their particulars during punching of information on the designated portal in observance of timeline.

The notification(s) indicating fee structure are available on the official J&K BOSE website. [www.jkbose.nic.in](http://www.jkbose.nic.in).

The Board has urged parents and students to complete the process of submission of forms within the stipulated time frame to avail the final chance following which no form will be entertained, whatsoever.

Relevantly, the extension in notification has been granted following declaration of the results of classes 10 and 11.

#### Tourism & Trade:

countries, which is affecting exporters' delivery commitments and causing significant losses.

During the meeting, the KCCI delegation also discussed upcoming initiatives aimed at promoting Kashmir as a preferred tourist destination, including a proposed roadshow in Mumbai and meetings with ambassadors in Delhi to address travel advisories issued by certain countries. The members expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor for his continued

support of the handicrafts sector, noting that recognition and awards for artisans and weavers are boosting the morale of local industries.

The LG congratulated the newly elected KCCI office bearers and assured them of his full support in addressing trade and tourism-related challenges. "Tourism and industry are key drivers of economic growth in Jammu and Kashmir," Sinha said. "We are committed to facilitating initiatives that promote business growth, enhance trade, and strengthen the local tourism ecosystem."

In separate meetings, former Minister G. M. Saroori discussed ongoing public welfare programs and development initiatives with the Lt Governor, while Irfan Manhas, Vice Chairman of District Development Council (DDC) Shopian, highlighted developmental challenges and ongoing projects in the district, emphasizing the need for improved infrastructure, road connectivity, and support for local entrepreneurship.

The LG assured all delegations that the administration remains focused on holistic development, emphasizing that regular consultations with stakeholders are crucial to ensure that initiatives are inclusive and impactful.

#### CIK Charges Key

special judge designated under the NIA Act here, he said.

The chargesheet was filed in a case -- FIR No. 07/2023 -- registered under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act against Aadil Ahmad Khan alias Gull Khan, a resident of Drien Qazigund area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

The case pertains to a terror recruitment module being clandestinely operated through social media platforms, to radicalise and recruit impressionable youths of Jammu and Kashmir into the ranks of proscribed terrorist organisations, particularly those sponsored and controlled from across the border in Pakistan, the spokesperson said.

He said the investigation was initiated based on credible information that unscrupulous individuals and entities based in Pakistan, in connivance with terrorist handlers of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and other banned outfits, were using social media to lure Kashmiri youth and instigate them to wage war against the sovereignty and integrity of India.

During the investigation, three accused were earlier found involved and chargesheeted before the court, he said. They were identified as Waseem Ahmad Sheikh, a resident of Kandoor Budgam, Junaid Ahmad Mir from Tikkipora Lolab, and Shabir Ahmad Gojri from Darbagh Harwan area of the city.

Further investigation uncovered the active role of accused Khan, who had been operating a dedicated online recruitment network through Facebook and Twitter, "disseminating secessionist, anti-national, and pro-terror content", the spokesperson said.

"His online activities were aimed at glorifying terrorism, promoting violent extremism, and motivating youth to join proscribed terrorist organisations," the spokesperson added.

The investigation established that Khan was "actively aiding and abetting" terrorist

propaganda by sharing and amplifying digital content aligned with the agenda of Pakistan-based terror groups and their offshoot organisations.

His online radicalisation efforts were coupled with ground-level facilitation of terror recruitment, the spokesperson said.

He said the case is being investigated by the CIK with a focus on identifying and dismantling the wider online terror ecosystem, including handlers, sympathisers, and digital facilitators operating from within and outside the Union territory.

The spokesperson said more arrests and disclosures are expected as the investigation progresses.

#### CM Omar Inaugurates

Bagh-e-Gul-e-Dawood in November last year, drawing parallels with the success of the Tulip Garden. "Just as the Tulip Garden transformed the spring tourist season, the Chrysanthemum Garden will redefine autumn tourism in Kashmir," he remarked.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister also inaugurated an exhibition featuring a wide range of ornamental, lavender, and other floral varieties cultivated by local growers with departmental support. He interacted with the floriculturists and appreciated the dedication and craftsmanship of the gardeners and field staff whose efforts brought the blooms to life.

The event was attended by MLA Zadibal Tanveer Sadiq, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary Floriculture Zubair Ahmed, Secretary Culture, Director Floriculture Kashmir and other senior officials.

#### Design Your degree

to design their own degrees and courses. "We are now seeing innovative degrees emerging, skill upgradation and other related things that will help students when they enter the job market," he said.

Omar added, "It will be a game changer. There was a time when we focused solely on bookish education. Now, a major change has come along with bookish education; the children are being given practical experiences and are being asked to solve problems. Their skills are being upgraded."

He said this kind of education will be very beneficial for students in the future, when they have to enter the job market. Otherwise, we often say, 'you have educated, but unemployed people'. We are trying to eliminate that unemployment," he said.

Asked about the cabinet expansion, the Chief Minister said, "I don't know where you are hearing this from. Let the Budgam elections be held, then we will talk."

Replying to a query on students' interest in the fourth-year degree programme, Abdullah said the fourth year is for those who want to pursue research and get an honours degree. "Otherwise, you are free to finish your degree in the third year," he said.(KNO)

#### CBK Crackdown

him. His bail plea had already been rejected by court.

Scam Spanned Districts, Involved Organised

Network

The FIR names seven accused, including two revenue officials, who allegedly used forged entries and manipulated Khasra numbers to fraudulently transfer valuable land.

Earlier arrests in the case include:

Riyaz Ahmad Bhat (Nowgam, Srinagar), Mohammad Shafi Lone alias Shafi Cheeni (Peerbagh, Srinagar), Shahnawaz Ahmad Rather (Padshahi Bagh, Srinagar), Shabir Ahmad Wani (Bagandar, Lasjan)

Investigators say the racket caused both significant financial loss and public distress as legitimate landowners were displaced through forged documentation.

Tehsildar Still Missing, Multiple Cases Pending

Three accused had been on the run: Nusrat Aziz, then Tehsildar Balhama; Ashiq Ali, then Patwari Balhama (now arrested); Shamima Akhter, wife of accused Shafi Lone

Officials confirmed that Tehsildar Aziz is also implicated in four other corruption cases, including two each with Crime Branch and ACB.

The syndicate is said to be part of a systemic corruption pattern, as several accused are also booked earlier under FIR No. 08/2021, which is nearing completion.

Complaint That Blew Open the Racket

The fraud came to light after a woman reported she had purchased over 5 kanals of land for ₹88.4 lakh and exchanged two more kanals at Gooripora. However, the mutated Khasra numbers were tampered with, enabling accused Riyaz Bhat to falsely claim ownership and resell part of the property.

Preliminary findings show false entries were inserted by Tehsildar Nusrat Aziz and Patwari Ashiq Ali to illegally benefit Bhat, who had no lawful rights to the land.

EOW Vows to Dig Deeper into Revenue Corruption

The Crime Branch stated that aggressive efforts are underway to track down the remaining absconders and dismantle the network.

"We remain committed to transparency and accountability in public administration and will continue our drive against corruption and economic offences in J&K," — Crime Branch Kashmir spokesperson

With the latest arrest, officials believe the probe has entered a decisive phase, marking one of the sternest crackdowns on revenue-related corruption in recent years.

Last week, in a major breakthrough, the CBK filed a chargesheet against eight individuals, including a senior BJP leader and four revenue officials, in connection with a multi-crore land scam in Srinagar.

The chargesheet, submitted before the Court of the Special Judge Anti-Corruption, pertains to the alleged illegal encroachment and manipulation of records for over 52 kanals of land in Ahel Danihama. The investigation, conducted under FIR No. 23/2019, exposed extensive irregularities in land record management, including fraudulent mutation entries and illegal occupation of state land. Those booked included Nadeem Ahmad Mayer, alias Nadeem Qasba, of Iqbal Colony, Shalteng and several former and serving revenue officers who face multiple FIRs in fraudulent land deals



# Ruhullah Blasts NC Over Cross-Voting, Refuses To Campaign In Budgam

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Senior National Conference (NC) leader and Member of Parliament from Srinagar, Aga Ruhullah Mehdi, on Saturday announced that he will not campaign for his party in the upcoming Budgam by-polls, citing the NC's political and administrative failures in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking to reporters, Mehdi targeted the party leadership, accusing Chief Minister Omar Abdullah of hiding the names of MLAs involved in alleged cross-voting during the recent Rajya Sabha elections.

"I have no knowledge of who voted for whom, but the Chief Minister seems to know and is deliberately not revealing the names," Mehdi said. "This is not a private matter; it is public property. Credibility is built on people's trust and their votes. If wrongdoing occurred, citizens have a right to know who is innocent and who betrayed them."



Mehdi criticised the NC for failing to honour the "strong and clear mandate" given by the people in the Assembly elections. "It has been a year, yet the party has failed to act independently and decisively. If it was not ready to fight this existential battle, why make promises during the elections?" he said, warning that citizens will eventually seek alternatives.

The MP also condemned internal misinformation and de-

cisions attributed to him on social media. "Sometimes I feel there must be another Ruhullah out there making decisions for me. I have neither made such statements nor taken such decisions. My position remains unchanged," he clarified.

On governance issues, Mehdi highlighted unresolved local concerns, particularly the long-pending student reservation issue. He said he had urged the party to address the matter

before the by-polls, but the administration instead threatened protesting students. "We were elected to be under the pressure of the people, not to suppress them. A leader who listens grows stronger; one who ignores public demands mirrors dictatorship," he said.

He also criticized inconsistencies in government policy, citing the shift in stance on electricity meters: "A year ago, meters were considered oppression. Now, they are being promoted. How can we justify such inconsistencies before the public?"

Referring to his decision to abstain from the Budgam by-polls, Mehdi said, "People are the real judges of their votes. I cannot mislead them under such circumstances."

Responding to speculation about potentially forming his own political outfit, Mehdi dismissed the idea, stating, "We must recognise and celebrate honest, trustworthy individu-

**SOMETIMES I FEEL THERE MUST BE ANOTHER RUHULLAH OUT THERE MAKING DECISIONS FOR ME. I have neither made such statements nor taken such decisions. My position remains unchanged,"**

als who still have public confidence. Our focus should be on bringing such people into the public sphere, not on personal ambitions."

## Sajad Lone Alleges 'Fixed Match' Between NC And BJP

Launches Anti-Reservation Campaign



KO Web Desk

**SRINAGAR:** Peoples Conference (JKPC) President and MLA from Handwara, Sajad Gani Lone, on Saturday launched a sharp critique of the National Conference (NC) over the recent Rajya Sabha elections, alleging that the outcome revealed a pre-arranged understanding between the NC and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He further announced that his party will campaign against the current reservation policy in the Union Territory.

Speaking at a press conference in Srinagar, Lone accused the NC of deliberately aiding the BJP to secure one of the four Rajya Sabha seats. "The extra votes that went to the BJP came from NC members themselves. Seven of their MLAs supported BJP—this was not cross-voting from others; they did it themselves," he said. He described the elections as a "fixed match" and said that the arithmetic of the vote clearly exposed the manipulation.

Lone elaborated on the vote calculations, stating that candidate number three needed just 29 votes to win, yet NC members cast 31 votes, including a deliberately rejected vote, which ensured that the fourth seat went to the BJP. "Two plus two always equals four. This is simple mathematics. NC orchestrated the outcome to favor BJP. History shows that such hidden arrangements repeat, and yesterday, the truth became clear," he added.

He also criticised the treatment of the Congress party during the elections, alleging that the NC

denied it a fair opportunity. "Officially, seat number four was offered to Congress as a pretence, but it was impossible for them to win. Congress could have mustered only around 21 votes. If they were given seat number three, we would have supported them—not out of preference, but because they are a national party capable of advocating Kashmiri interests," Lone said.

On the issue of cross-voting, he asserted that NC members had effectively gifted votes to the BJP, while the rejected votes were deliberate, coordinated manoeuvres with Delhi to manipulate the results. He described this as a continuation of a pattern, warning that newly elected Rajya Sabha members are likely to prioritise private access to Delhi leaders over the interests of Kashmiris. "They will appease the Centre and advocate harsher measures, while showing crocodile tears locally," he said.

Turning to governance issues, Lone criticized the ongoing reservation policy, asserting that it undermines merit in recruitment and education. "Open merit has been set aside. We are launching a public registration drive against this system. If protests or hunger strikes are required, we are prepared," he said, signalling a forthcoming campaign against the policy.

Recalling history, Lone drew parallels with the abrogation of Article 370, claiming that backroom deals and hidden arrangements in Delhi were responsible. "People must awaken and see where their votes truly go. Manipulations like these cannot be allowed to decide the future of Jammu and Kashmir," he warned.

On his own conduct during the Rajya Sabha elections, Lone said he abstained from voting, adding, "I am grateful I stayed away. Otherwise, fingers would have been pointed at me. The truth is unambiguous: NC orchestrated the results themselves to aid BJP,"



## Mufti Moves HC Seeking Return Of Undertrials To Local Jails

KO Web Desk

**SRINAGAR:** PDP president and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti has filed a petition in the Jammu and Kashmir High Court, seeking the immediate transfer of all undertrial prisoners from the Union Territory who are currently lodged in jails outside J&K.

In her plea, Mufti urged that these prisoners be brought back to local jails unless authorities provide case-specific, written reasons showing compelling necessity for keeping them outside the UT. She also demanded that such cases undergo quarterly judicial review.

Mufti highlighted that many undertrials are forced to stay far from their families and legal counsel, making court access, family visits, and consultations difficult, while imposing heavy travel costs. She argued that the practice violates basic rights under Article 21 and international and national standards for humane treatment of prisoners.

The petition also seeks protocols to ensure minimum weekly family visits, unrestricted lawyer-client interviews, priority production in court, and a two-member oversight committee to monitor compliance. Additionally, Mufti requested reimbursement of travel and accommodation costs for one family member per month until repatriation is complete.

According to the PDP president, the plea is filed in public interest to address long-standing concerns of undertrial prisoners and their families in J&K.

## LG Gupta Addresses Ladakh Police's First Passing Out Parade

Over 450 Recruits, Including 200+ Women, Complete Training

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, today addressed the first-ever Passing Out Parade of Ladakh Police at the Police Training Centre, Stong-Sar, marking a historic milestone in the journey of India's youngest police force.

The Lt Governor inspected the parade and took salute of the marching contingents during the march past and Rashtriya salute. He also felicitated the All-Round Best Recruit Constables of Ladakh Police: R/Ct Sonam Yangchan (all-round best & indoor best), R/Ct Jigmet Palkit (outdoor best), and R/Ct Mohd Sharif (best marksman).



Speaking on the occasion, Kavinder Gupta said the day symbolizes the growing strength, discipline, and self-reliance of Ladakh Police. He noted that since the formation of the Union Territory, the force has faced numerous challenges—from modernizing infrastructure to building a self-sufficient training ecosystem and ensuring security across strategically significant areas. "It was through these challenges that the resilience and determination of Ladakh Police were forged," he said.

Highlighting the administration's commitment to strengthening the force, the Lt Governor said the UT government has undertaken major initiatives for modernization, infrastructure upgradation, training, housing, welfare, and digital transformation. Police presence and assistance have been enhanced in key tourist areas, with special focus on women's

participation, improved communication systems, and welfare of personnel and their families.

Gupta added that the establishment of the Police Training Centre at Stong-Sar, which began in 2022, represents a new era of training self-reliance for Ladakh. "This institution will not only train new police personnel locally to meet Ladakh's unique challenges but will also serve the training needs of other UT departments in the future," he said.

Reiterating the administration's commitment to youth empowerment, the Lt Governor announced that 453 recruits, including 209 women constables, have successfully completed their training—a



landmark achievement reflecting the government's efforts to create more employment opportunities for Ladakh youth. Recruitment for Sub-Inspectors will begin soon to further strengthen the force.

Congratulating the new constables, Gupta urged them to uphold the values of trust, sacrifice, and integrity represented by their uniform. "Law enforcement is not just about authority—it is about compassion, service, and earning the confidence of the people you protect," he said, reminding recruits to act with courage and kindness.

Calling the induction of over 200 women constables a "powerful symbol of gender equality," the Lt Governor said it will make Ladakh Police more inclusive, empathetic, and effective. He also paid homage to the brave personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty, saying their courage will continue to inspire future generations.

## Woman Among 6 Drug Peddlers Held in Doda, Reasi

Six drug peddlers, including a woman, were arrested along with narcotic substances in two separate incidents in the Doda and Reasi districts of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Saturday.

Five drug peddlers were arrested at a checkpoint near Thanala village of Bhaderwah after 282 grams of charas were seized from their car late Friday, Senior Superintendent of Police, Doda, Sandeep Mehta said.

He said the vehicle was coming from Himachal Pradesh when it was intercepted by police.

In another operation, police said a woman drug peddler was arrested along with 6.360 grams of heroin and Rs 7,900 in cash near Eidgah Nangal Road in the Katra area of Reasi district on Saturday.

Maya Mir, a resident of Katra, is a repeat offender and has been previously involved in drug trafficking and other criminal activities. She was named in five cases registered between 2021 and 2022 under various sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and the Indian Penal Code, police said.

Owing to her repeated involvement in drug-related offences, the accused was also detained under the Public Safety Act (PSA) in 2022 and lodged in Amphalla jail, Jammu, they said.

A fresh FIR under the NDPS Act has been registered against her at Katra Police Station. A probe is underway to identify her supply network and associated links, police said. (PTI)

## Police Arrest 5 Long-time Absconders

In a major success against absconding offenders, Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday said to have arrested five long time absconders in Kulgam and Sopore.

"In Kulgam, J&K Police arrested one absconder namely Manzoor Ahmad Mahu son of Sannahullah Mahu resident of Mander Bagh, Srinagar, who was involved in case FIR No. 89/2006 U/S 279, 304-A RPC of Police Station Qazigund. The said case was registered on 26-04-2006, and the accused had been evading arrest since long," a police spokesman said in a statement.

In Sopore, J&K Police said to have apprehended four absconders, including three wanted in a heinous crime case pending since 2014. "A special team from Police Station Panzalla arrested 03 accused namely Mohammad Sadiq Khan, son of Mohammad Yousuf Khan, Ajaz Ahmad Shah, son of Mohammad Mozim Shah & Mohsin Ali Shah, son of Mohammad Mozim Shah all residents of Paranpilan, Uri, wanted in case FIR No. 10/2014 U/S 363, 376, 109 RPC of Police Station Panzalla. The trio had been absconding for the last 11 years to evade the law," police said.

In another operation, Police Post Warpora Sopore apprehended Shahzad Ahmad Lone, son of Mohammad Ramzan Lone, resident of Bunkoot Bandipora, wanted in FIR No. 241/2019 U/S 366, 376D, 344, 109 RPC of Police Station Sopore. He had been evading arrest since 2019, police said.

After completing the necessary legal formalities, all the arrested absconders are being produced before the Courts of competent jurisdiction at Baramulla and Sopore, the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, J&K Police reiterated their commitment to bringing absconders and offenders to justice to uphold the rule of law in the district.(KNO)

## Neglect Leaves Pulwama Circular Road Choked With Waste

Residents of Pulwama town have voiced strong frustration over the administration's failure to clear large mounds of garbage along the Circular Road, months after the site was officially declared closed.

Once a busy commuter route, the area has now turned into a foul-smelling dumping ground, causing distress to residents, traders, and passersby. The waste, consisting of household garbage, plastic, and construction debris, continues to pile up, attracting stray dogs and insects. Locals accused the Municipal Committee Pulwama of negligence. "Officials promised to clear the site immediately after its closure, but months have passed and nothing has been done," said Abdul Hameed, a resident. "The air here is toxic, and it feels like no one cares."

Shopkeepers said the unhygienic conditions have affected their business. "Customers avoid this area because of the stench," said Younis Ahmad, a grocery store owner. "Even people passing by cover their faces. It's embarrassing for us."

Residents warned of health risks, especially to children and the elderly. "Flies and mosquitoes have made life miserable. We can't even open windows or dry clothes outside," said Haleema, a nearby resident.

They have urged the Deputy Commissioner and higher authorities to intervene and ensure the garbage is cleared promptly. "If the site could be closed after protests, it should also be cleaned. Half-hearted measures only add to our suffering," the residents said. (Observer News Service)

## Five-Year-Old Girl Dies After Falling Into Nallah in Shopian

A five-year-old girl died after she accidentally fell into a water channel in Narwar village of South Kashmir's Shopian district on Saturday.

Officials said the victim has been identified as Nazima, daughter of Rayaz Ahmad Khatana, a native of Kalakot who was presently residing in Narwar, Shopian. Preliminary reports suggest that the girl accidentally slipped into a nearby nallah while playing close to her home.

Soon after the incident, locals and family members launched a rescue operation and managed to pull her out of the water channel. She was immediately shifted to the District Hospital Shopian, where doctors declared her brought dead.

A police officer confirmed the incident and said that all necessary legal formalities have been completed. "The child had accidentally fallen into the nallah near her residence. She was evacuated to the hospital where doctors confirmed her death. Proceedings under relevant sections have been initiated," the officer said. Authorities said the matter is being treated as an accidental death, and further verification is underway. The body was later handed over to the family for completion of last rites. (KNT)

## Paras Hospital Srinagar Performs Region's First EUS-Guided Therapeutic Procedure

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Paras Hospital Srinagar has achieved a significant medical milestone by successfully performing the region's first Endoscopic Ultrasound (EUS)-guided therapeutic procedure, marking a breakthrough in the treatment of complex gastrointestinal conditions in the Paras.

The case involved a 60-year-old male patient with a history of chronic liver disease who had suffered multiple episodes of life-threatening gastrointestinal bleeding caused by oesophageal and fundal varices. Although the patient had previously undergone successful oesophageal variceal ligation and eradication elsewhere, he presented at Paras Hospital with severe bleeding from large fundal varices. Considering the complexity of the situation, the gastroenterology team planned an advanced EUS-guided coil and glue therapy, in which embolization coils and glue were delivered precisely into the bleeding varices under real-time ultrasound guidance.

The procedure was performed under the expertise of Dr Aadil Ashraf, Senior Consultant, Gastroenterology and GI Endoscopy, Paras Health Srinagar and was carried out seamlessly under minimal sedation. The bleeding was successfully controlled, the patient recovered well, and he was discharged the very next day. "This marks the first time such an advanced EUS-guided intervention has been carried out in the Paras," said Dr. Ashraf. "For years, patients with complex gastrointestinal problems had no choice but to travel to metropolitan cities for specialised treatments. With these techniques now available locally, Paras Hospital is not only saving lives but also easing the financial, emotional, and physical burden on patients and their families. This is a major step towards bringing world-class gastroenterology care to Kashmir and ensuring that our people have access to cutting-edge medical interventions right here at home."

The success of this case reflects



**This is a major step towards bringing world-class gastroenterology care to Kashmir and ensuring that our people have access to cutting-edge medical interventions right here at home.**

Paras Hospital's growing role as a pioneer in introducing advanced endoscopic and ultrasound-guided procedures in the region. The Department of Gastroenterology has also successfully performed several other complex interventions, including EUS-guided cystogastrostomy for draining abdominal fluid collections in severe pancreatitis cases, EUS-guided choledochoduodenostomy to create alternative pathways for bile drainage in obstructive jaundice, EUS-guided celiac plexus blockade for pain relief in advanced pancreatic malignancy, and EUS-guided gastrojejunostomy to create an internal bypass between the stomach and small intestine for patients suffering from gastric outlet obstruction caused by cancer. Notably, most of these advanced procedures have been performed in the Paras for the very first time, significantly improving treatment access for critically ill patients.

In addition to these therapeutic advancements, Paras Hospital has also become a centre of excel-

lence for diagnostic precision. The Department of Gastroenterology routinely performs Endoscopic Ultrasound for pancreato-biliary disorders, along with EUS-guided biopsies of mediastinal, biliary, pancreatic, gastric, and oesophageal tumours. These diagnostic techniques allow for early detection, accurate staging, and improved treatment planning, ultimately leading to better patient outcomes.

With these developments, Paras Hospital is bridging a critical gap in specialised healthcare in Kashmir. Patients who once had to bear the financial and emotional burden of travelling outside the Paras for advanced gastroenterology treatments can now access world-class care closer to home. By combining innovation, expertise, and cutting-edge technology, Paras Hospital continues to set new benchmarks in quality, accessibility, and patient-focused care, reaffirming its position as a leader in gastroenterology services in the region.





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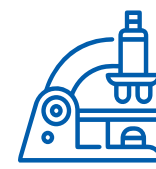
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