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## PM Erased Art 370 & Terror From J&K: Shah



KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on the Congress, accusing it of "protecting" Article 370 for seven decades and allowing terrorism to thrive in Jammu and Kashmir, while asserting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi "erased both Article 370 and terrorism" from the region.

Addressing election rallies in Darbhanga, Samastipur, and Begusarai, Shah said the abrogation of Article 370 marked a decisive shift in India's response to terrorism. "Earlier, terrorists used to bleed India and go unpunished. Now, under Prime Minister Modi, India enters terrorist hideouts and eliminates them," he said, adding that Modi "has ended the era of appeasement and weakness."

Shah said the Modi government had mounted strong responses to cross-border terrorism, citing surgical strikes,

air strikes, and the recent Operation Sindoor. "Earlier, terrorists would attack India and escape. Today, under PM Modi's rule, India conducts surgical strikes and air strikes to eliminate threats inside Pakistan," he said.

Referring to the Popular Front of India (PFI), Shah said it was the Modi government that banned the outfit in one night. "The Congress had allowed PFI to spread its tentacles. But PM Modi banned it, conducted raids at over 100 locations, and put its entire network behind bars," he said, vowing that "as long as there is even one BJP MP, not a single PFI member will be released."

Shah also raised the issue of illegal migration in Bihar, urging voters to back BJP candidates to "remove infiltrators." "Should Bangladeshi infiltrators be in Bihar's ration lists?" he asked the crowd.

Listing BJP's key achievements, Shah said the construction of the **| More on P6**

J&amp;K Assembly Session

## Uproar Over BJP MLA's Remarks; CM Confirms Law University

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Pandemonium broke out in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Wednesday after BJP MLA Shagun Parihar alleged that the government was neglecting some areas of Kishtwar because "nationalist Hindus" reside there.

The remarks, made during the Zero Hour, drew strong objections from the treasury benches, with Minister Javid Ahmad Dar terming them "communal" and demanding that they be expunged from the records.

NC MLA Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi said thousands of Muslims have given their lives for the nation and should not be insulted. Amid the din, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary stated that Muslims, Sikhs, and Christians in Jammu and Kashmir were as nationalist



as Hindus. "I will request that the hurtful words should be expunged," the Gurez MLA requested the Speaker.

However, Parihar said PDP leaders had also made such remarks during the house proceedings on Tuesday. "PDP members stated that Hindus play divide and rule," she alleged.

Parihar and Deputy CM Surinder Kumar Choudhary requested the Speaker that the recordings of the house proceedings should be checked to ascertain the facts. Congress MLAs also objected to Parihar's remarks. Minister Javid Ahmad Dar said the Government does not work from **| More on P6**

### 3 Govt Bills Introduced

The Jammu & Kashmir Government on Wednesday introduced three bills—two proposing amendments to existing laws and one seeking the enactment of a new law. After the question hour concluded, the government introduced The Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill-2025, Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2025 and Jammu and Kashmir Shops and Establishments (Licensing, Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Bill-2025.

### J&K Govt Allots Land To 511 Landless Families

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has allotted five marlas of land each to 511 landless families across the Union Territory to help them build houses under a government housing initiative.

In a written reply tabled in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday, the government said that 234 beneficiaries in the Kashmir division and 277 in the Jammu division were provided land free of cost.

Bandipora district recorded the highest number of beneficiaries with 109 allotments, followed by Baramulla with 61 and Anantnag with 30. In the Jammu division, Doda topped the list with 68 allotments, followed by Kishtwar (55) and Rajouri (48). The government clarified that no beneficiaries were recorded in Shopian, Budgam, or Ramban districts.

The reply also revealed that 2,568 applications were rejected for not meeting eligibility criteria. Rajouri district reported the highest number of rejections at 1,245, followed by Anantnag (286), Ramban (162) and Udhampur (146).

"The applications were rejected on grounds such as ineligibility, existing ownership of residential land, residence in forest or Rakhs and Farms areas, or possession of more than five marlas of land," the government **| More on P6**

### Foreign Fat Found: J&K Bans Loose Paneer

KO Web Desk

Jammu: In a decisive move to curb food adulteration and safeguard public health, the Jammu and Kashmir Government imposed an immediate ban on the manufacture, sale, distribution, import and transportation of loose paneer found to contain foreign fat.

The order, issued by Commissioner of Food Safety, Smita Sethi, comes in response to laboratory tests confirming the presence of beta-sitosterol—an indicator of vegetable or foreign fat—in paneer sourced from neighbouring states. The contamination renders the product unsafe under the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSAI).

Authorities reported that multiple consignments of loose paneer were seized in recent **| More on P6**

BUDGAM BY-POLLS

## BJP Files Complaint Against CM For MCC Violation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday filed a formal complaint with the Election Commission of India (ECI) against Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, accusing him of violating the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) by announcing the commencement of academic work for the proposed National Law University (NLU) at Ompura in Budgam district.

BJP candidate for the

Budgam Assembly bypoll, Syed Mohsin, lodged the complaint, alleging that the Chief Minister's remarks made during the ongoing Assembly session were "clearly intended to influence voters" in the Budgam constituency.

A BJP spokesperson said the Chief Minister, while responding to a private member resolution on establishing the NLU in Jammu and Kashmir, announced that the university would begin academic work in **| More on P6**

### Govt Spent ₹6.49 Cr On Upkeep of Properties Outside J&K

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government informed the legislative Assembly that Rs 6.49 crore have been spent on the maintenance and renovation of properties owned by the Union Territory outside J&K during the 2024–25 fiscal year.

The expenditure covered repair, renovation and upkeep of J&K Houses and other assets in Delhi, Mumbai, Chandigarh, Amritsar and Haryana.

The government, while responding to a query by a legislator, informed that these properties include prime assets such as J&K House on Prithviraj Road, J&K House at Chanakyapuri, and Kashmir House on King George Avenue in New Delhi.

Other properties include land at Dwarka, Shalimar Bagh, and a showroom on Baba Kharak Singh Marg housing the Kashmir Government Arts Emporium and J&K Industries Ltd offices.

In Amritsar, the government owns J&K House on Court Road spread over **| More on P6**

Constituency Development Fund

## CM Removes Spending Limits For MLAs

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday announced major amendments to the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) scheme, expanding the scope of works that legislators can recommend and removing several financial ceilings that had earlier restricted developmental activities.

Speaking in the Legislative Assembly, Omar said the government had been reviewing the scheme for the past two months and approved a set of reforms aimed at giving elected representatives greater flexibility to address local needs.

"We want to inform the House about the changes that have been approved by the government," the Chief Minister said.

### Key Changes in Power, PHE and Health Sectors

Omar Abdullah announced that the ceiling under the Power Development Infrastructure category has



been withdrawn, allowing MLAs to recommend works in this sector without any upper limit. Similarly, the 10 lakh cap on solar light installations has been removed.

Under the Public Health Engineering (PHE) sector, MLAs can now recommend the purchase of mobile water tankers and individual household connectivity projects. In education, the purchase of school vans and buses—both three- and four-wheelers—has been made permissible.

In the health sector, the revised guidelines will also

allow the purchase of wheelchairs, tricycles, and manual or motorized scooters.

### Special Provisions for Calamity Relief

Referring to recent floods in the region, the Chief Minister announced a one-time relaxation allowing MLAs to use up to 50 lakh from their CDF allocation for rehabilitation of calamity-affected families. The relaxation will apply to the current financial year and 2026–27.

MLAs from **| More on P6**

## Kashmir To Get Direct Rail Soon: Official

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: After starting the twin Vande Bharat trains on Srinagar-Katra route, marking the completion of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link in June, the northern railways is now eyeing to provide direct connectivity between Kashmir and the rest of country, an official said.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager of Jammu division Uchit Singhal said the work is underway to address the operational and security hassles to achieve another milestone in Jammu and Kashmir.

Talking to PTI after introducing a two-minute stoppage for semi-high speed Vande Bharat trains running between Katra and Srinagar at Reasi station this morning, he said it was a dream project to bring Kashmir on the railway map.

"The Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 6, marked a historic



milestone as the first rail service connecting Kashmir with Kanyakumari. The beginning has been made with the launch of rail service between Katra to Srinagar.

"The work is progressing smoothly to address operational and security hassles to provide a direct train service between Kashmir and other parts of the country soon," Singhal said.

Starting Thursday, the Srinagar-Katra Vande Bharat Express, train number 26401

and 26402, will have a two-minute stop at Reasi railway station. The train will depart from Katra railway station at 8.10 am and arrive at Reasi railway station at 8.28 am. It will then continue its journey towards Srinagar. Similarly, train number 26402 will return to Reasi railway station at 4:34 pm.

"The stoppage at Reasi station was introduced on experimental basis (for one month) after getting **| More on P6**

## J&K Police Registers 1,342 NDPS Cases Till Sept

Properties Worth ₹16.64 Crore Attached in Anti-Drug Drive

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Police has intensified its crackdown on drug smuggling and peddling, registering 1,342 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act till September this year. Of these, 1,305 cases have been challaned, leading to 142 convictions and 197 acquittals, officials said.

Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Crime, Sujit K Singh, said 339 trials were completed during this period, including 12 high-conviction cases. "A total of 215 detentions were invoked under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in

NDPS Act (PITNDPS). Besides, 222 drug hotspots were identified — 44 of which have been demolished — while 1,350 individuals are under active surveillance," he added.

Singh said that 67 financial investigations led to the attachment of 81 properties valued at ₹16.64 crore. "Nearly 99 per cent of retail pharmacies across J&K have implemented computerised billing and CCTV surveillance systems to curb illegal sales," the ADGP informed.

On the operational front, 983 CCTV cameras have been installed across both divisions of the Union Territory, and only 71 Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) cases were pending as of October 6. "A total of 103 backward and forward linkages were established, leading to the arrest of 113 accused persons," he said. **| More on P6**

'Stale Grounds'

## HC Quashes PSA Detention Of Pulwama Youth

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Wednesday quashed detention order under Public Safety Act against a youth from Pulwama and ordered his release forthwith in case he was not required in any other case.

A bench of Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi quashed detention order against Sajad Ahmad Bhat alias Baaber, a resident of Rajpora, Pulwama, observing that the same has been issued in 2025 against the 27-year-old for his involvement in a case registered in 2020.

"The same (order) therefore, is based on the stale grounds as the impugned order of detention has been passed five

years later the date of the registration of the FIR," the court said, adding, "This fact goes on to suggest that there is no proximate link to the alleged actions of the detainee (Sajad) that were deemed to be prejudicial to the maintenance of security of the State."

The Apex Court in various pronouncements, the Bench said, has held that the detention order cannot sustain if there is no proximate link between the detainee and his alleged subversive actions.

District Magistrate Pulwama had passed the order on April 30 after having been found involved in case FIR No. 119 of 2020 of Police Station, Rajpora.

"The respondents (authorities) have failed **| More on P6**







## Baghwanpora Residents Hail Start Of Sports Ground Work

Observer News Service

Srinagar- The long-awaited demand of residents from Baghwanpora Nawabagh and nearby areas has finally been fulfilled as work begins on the Nawabagh Baghwanpora Sports Ground.

The community, represented by Syed Muzamil Rizvi, has expressed heartfelt gratitude to the District Administration Srinagar, particularly Deputy Commissioner Akshay Labroo, Secretary J&K Sports Council Nuzhat Gull, and Chief Plan-

lacked a proper space to develop their sporting talents and engage in healthy recreation. The commencement of this facility marks a significant milestone for youth empowerment, community well-being, and the promotion of sports culture in the region.

Rizvi thanked the authorities for their responsiveness to public needs, noting that the project will benefit not only Baghwanpora and Nawabagh but also adjoining localities by offering a safe and well-equipped venue for sports, fitness, and community events.

Residents have also appreciated the proactive support from the Sports Council in moving the project forward. The community has pledged to fully cooperate in ensuring the smooth completion and proper upkeep of the facility.

With construction now underway, excitement among the youth is at an all-time high as they look forward to a vibrant hub of sporting activities in the near future. The residents once again extended their gratitude to the administration for acknowledging their aspirations and taking meaningful steps toward youth development.



ning Officer Srinagar Fayaz Hussain, for ensuring this project becomes a reality.

For years, local youth

## DC Srinagar Reviews Traffic, Parking Plans Around City Hospitals

Directs First-Phase Plan to Improve Access and Connectivity



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Wednesday conducted a visit to Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) Hospital, Super Specialty Hospital and Dental Hospital at Shreen Bagh to assess parking facilities, explore modalities for alternate vehicular route and implement sustainable parking solutions along the corridor of main City Hospitals.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner took an onsite assessment for dedicated and designated parking facility and alternate vehicular route in and around the main City hospitals to prevent roadside congestion and facilitate smooth access for patients, attendants and emergency vehicles.

The DC took stock of the comprehensive plan project worked out to decongest the Nawab Bazar-Kak Saraie Corridor through the Suner Kul route, aimed at ensuring smooth ambulance and vehicular movement.

On the occasion, the DC directed the concerned departments to work out the modalities & plan of the first phase focusing on providing an alternate route & connectivity, traffic regulation, parking management and improved pedestrian movement to enhance convenience for the hospital staff, patients and attendants alike.

Emphasizing inter-departmental coordination, the DC urged the Hospital Administration, Traffic Police, and R&B department to work in synergy to streamline traffic flow in the hospital zone and ensure hassle-free access for patients and emergency vehicles.

During the visit, DC also interacted with local Residents and Traders and assured them that the District Administration is committed to improving facilities and easing traffic congestion along the heavy load hospital junction particularly from Nawab Bazar-Kak Saraie corridor.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer, R&B Circle North, Shabir Ahmad, DSP Traffic Police, Suhail Ahmad, Medical Superintendent, SMHS Hospital, Dr Andleeb, Medical Superintendent, Super Specialty Hospital, Dr Rubina, Executive Engineer R&B, Abdul Qayoom, Tehsildar South, Sajad Rasool, and other Officers & Engineers.

## SDA Land Holdings Drop by 1,779 Kanals No Allotments Made Since 2019

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government has revealed that the Srinagar Development Authority (SDA) has witnessed a reduction of 1,779 kanals of land in its possession since 2002, while no land has been allotted to needy people since 2019.

According to a reply tabled in the Legislative

Assembly by an unstarred question by MLA Shamim Firdous, the Housing and Urban Development Department stated that the SDA possessed 4,815 kanals of land in 2002, which has now come down to 3,036 kanals.

The government further clarified that no allotment of land to needy people has been made by the SDA from 2019 till date.



Tourists Enjoy Blooming Chrysanthemums at Srinagar's Botanical Garden.

KO PHOTO BY ABID BHAT

## 18 Projects Approved To Boost Srinagar's Water Supply: Govt

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Wednesday said that 18 projects under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0, including four in Shalteng constituency, have been approved to strengthen the water supply system in Srinagar city.

Minister for Social Welfare, Sakina Itoo, informed the Legislative Assembly about the development while replying on behalf of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to a question raised by legislator Tariq Hameed Karra.

The Minister said that several measures are underway to improve Srinagar's water infrastructure, including the construction

of overhead tanks at multiple locations, laying new pipelines, and extending the existing network. "Old and damaged pipelines are being replaced as and when required, and efforts are being made to improve the efficiency of water treatment plants," she said.

A supplementary question was also raised by legislator Mubarak Gul during the session.

## Govt Steps Up Measures To Curb Wild Boar Intrusion Near Dachigam

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government has initiated multiple measures to tackle the increasing incidents of wild boar intrusion and crop damage in Theed area of Khanyar Constituency, located near Dachigam National Park.

In a written reply to a question by Ali Mohammad Sagar, the Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment said that the Wildlife Protection Department has completed about 2 kilometres of toe

walling along the existing chain-link fencing around the Dachigam National Park to control the movement of wild boars.

The reply further states that a 24x7 Human-Animal Conflict Control Room has been set up at Theed Village near Dachigam Gate to monitor wildlife movement and ensure regular patrolling in the area.

"To reduce straying of wild boars into agriculture and horticulture fields, field staff are using

firecrackers and noise guns, while regular cleanliness drives are being carried out in and around the park to ensure proper garbage and food-waste disposal," the department said.

The government added that the Srinagar Municipal Corporation provides one load carrier on alternate days for waste clearance, while community awareness programmes are being conducted to educate locals on preventive measures and safe garbage management.(KNO)

### CONDOLENCE MESSAGE

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

قَالَ اللَّهُ سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى

"كُلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَائِقَةُ الْمَوْتِ" وَتَلَوُكُمْ بِالْحَقِّ وَالْخَيْرِ فَتَنَةً وَإِلَيْنَا تُرْجَعُونَ

(Surah Al-Anbiya, Verse 35)

"Every soul shall taste death, and We test you with both good and evil as a trial; and to Us you shall be returned."

Death is an inevitable and eternal reality for every human being. It is not annihilation but a transition—from the transient world to the eternal realm. It is the doorway through which every living being must pass. The character, service, and devotion to the love of Ahl al-Bayt (peace be upon them) that a person leaves behind become their eternal treasure.

Imam Ali ibn Abi Talib (peace be upon him) said: "Death cannot be escaped by the one who flees from it, nor can it be hastened by the one who seeks it. Indeed, for every human being there is a fixed term that neither advances nor delays."

The Intizamia of Masjid Imam Mahdi A.S Syed Merak Shah Colony, Habak, expresses its deep sorrow on the demise of Zakir-e-Ahl al-Bayt Janab Syed Khadim Hussain Kazmi Sahib, resident of Chundpora, Budgam.



انا لله وانا اليه راجعون

(Surely, we belong to Allah and to Him we shall return.)

The late Syed Khadim Hussain Kazmi Sahib was not only a sincere Zakir of Ahl al-Bayt but also a shining member of the noble Kazmi family — a family that has rendered invaluable services in preserving and promoting the traditions of Marsiya Khawani, Zakiri, and Majalis-e-Hussain A.S in the valley of Kashmir.

In Kashmiri elegiac literature, the scholarly, religious, and literary heritage of the Kazmi family has long represented the love and devotion of this region toward the Ahl al-Bayt pbuh. This noble family has propagated the message of Imam al-Hussain A.S not only through words but through exemplary conduct. Their works have kindled the flame of the love of the oppressed Imam in the hearts of generations.

The late Kazmi Sahib led a life filled with sincerity, faith, and love for Muhammad and his pure progeny (peace be upon them). His Marsiya Khawani, religious devotion, and active contribution to the promotion of mourning for Imam Hussain (peace be upon him) are a legacy that will always be remembered.

We pray that the Almighty Lord forgives the departed soul, pardons his shortcomings, and grants him the highest rank in the proximity of Ahl al-Bayt (peace be upon them).

May Allah elevate his status, accept his righteous deeds, and illuminate his record of deeds with the light of faith.

We extend our heartfelt condolences and sympathies to all members of the bereaved family, especially to his sons and Zakir-e-Ahl al-Bayt Janab Syed Ruhullah Kazmi Sahib.

May Allah grant patience, strength, and immense reward to the entire family during this great loss.

From:

Intiz mmia Committee of Masjid Imam Mahdi A.S  
Syed Merak Shah Colony, Habak

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#### HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI  
CALENDAR

07 Jumada al-Awwal

1447

#### PRAYERS

FAJR 5: 25

ZUHR 12:15

ASR 4: 03

Magrib 5:44

ISHA 7: 05

## This Day In History

- 637 - Antioch surrenders to the Muslim forces under Rashidun Caliphate after the Battle of Iron bridge
- 1137 - Battle of Rignano between Ranulf of Apulia and Roger II of Sicily.
- 1470 - Wars of the Roses: Henry VI of England returns to the English throne after Earl of Warwick defeats Yorkists in battle
- 1502 - Vasco da Gama returns to Calicut, India for the second time.
- 1697 - Germany signs French/English/Spanish/Dutch/Brandenburgs peace treaty ending Nine Year War.
- 1739 - Great Britain declares war on Spain: War of Jenkin's Ear [NS=Oct 19]
- 1883 - Austria-Hungary, Germany and Romania sign military treaty
- 1886 - Great Britain and Germany agree boundaries in East Africa
- 1899 - Battle of Ladysmith, Natal: Boers defeat the British, leading to the Siege of Ladysmith
- 1918 - Slovakia asks for creation of Czechoslovakian state
- 1918 - WWI: Turkey signs an armistice with the Allies, agreeing to end hostilities at noon on 31 October.
- 1922 - Benito Mussolini forms government in Italy
- 1930 - Turkey & Greece sign a treaty of friendship
- 1939 - USSR & Germany agree on partitioning Poland, Adolf Hitler deports Jews
- 1944 - Sweden announces intention to stay neutral & refuse sanctuary in WW II
- 1944 - Tholen Island (Netherlands) freed during WWII

From KO Archives

## IAS Officer, Others Face Prosecution For Fraud

Observer News Service

Srinagar - Kashmiri officialdom was never very particular about how contemptibly low it stoops to plunder public funds, but it must have required an unusual degree of meanness to cheat backward Gujjars and Bakarwaals of their paltry government compensation for losses suffered due to hailstorms and heavy rain . In this 7-year-old case, the then deputy commissioner Pulwama -incidentally, a senior IAS officer - S. D. Lone; another deputy commissioner, Muhammed Akram Hajam; the then assistant commissioner, revenue, and presently director, land records, Srinagar, Muhammed Afzal Bhat and the then tehsildar Pulwama, Habibullah Mir, along with nearly half-a-dozen petty officials of the district DCs office have been challanged by the vigilance) organisation misappropriating Rs 15 lakh which the state had sanctioned as relief to the nomads for livestock losses during natural calamities in the hilly areas of Shopyan and Pulwama. The entire amount had been placed at the disposal of the then DC, who had been charged with the responsibility of disbursing it to the deserving members of the community after proper verification.

Vigilance investigations revealed that the officers named in the case, in collusion with four private persons (who have asked been charge sheeted had manipulated records to show that Rs 14,80,940 had been distributed among 652 members of the Gujjar and bakarwaal community.

Sixty-two persons among the supposed beneficiaries selected at random by the VO, denied having recieved any relief, and the finger impressions on acquaintance rolls did not tally with the fingerprints. Expert established that thumb impressions supposed to be the marks of 181 different recipients were in fact the thumbprints of only a few people repeated over and over on the rolls. The VO also found that recipients who were shown belonging to the Udhampur and Rajoun districts were only fictitious names and that Rs 3,75,090 were deposited with Reshi Gas Agency lather than going to a sufferer.

Having prima-facie established the officers' involvement in the fraud; the VO has pressed charges against them under relevant laws before the special anti -corruption court in Srinagar.

(Kashmir Observer, October 30, 2000)



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**Legal Counsel:** Tasaduq Khwaja  
**Switchboard:** (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705  
**Editorial:** (0194) 2502327  
**Email:** editor@kashmirobserver.net

KO VIEW

Hope In The  
Himalayas

In today’s Kashmir, it often feels like everyone wants to leave. Young people line up outside passport offices, scrolling through study visas and job offers abroad. Leaving seems like the only way to move forward. But scattered across the valley are a few who made a different choice: they stayed. Their stories don’t trend online, but they carry a silent strength that may define Kashmir’s real future.

At the agricultural university in Srinagar, young scientists are growing new apple and saffron varieties that can survive changing weather. In Baramulla, a teacher teaches physics to students in faraway villages through her phone. In Pulwama, two brothers are building solar dryers that help farmers save their produce. Each of them chose to build rather than leave.

Kashmir’s youth unemployment rate is among the highest in India. Many graduates see migration as their only escape. Each year, thousands leave for the Gulf or Western countries, carrying their hopes and talents with them. Those who remain often face slow systems, few opportunities, and little recognition. But staying also means something powerful: the chance to rebuild home from within.

A young woman from Kupwara, runs a small coding club for local girls. A doctor in Anantnag has set up a tele-medicine network linking rural clinics with specialists in Srinagar. Their work is not flashy, but it changes lives. These are the people turning small ideas into lasting hope.

For too long, progress in Kashmir has been measured by distance, by how far one could go. That idea needs to change. True progress comes when people choose to stay and work for their own communities.

Staying back in Kashmir takes courage. It means facing delays, uncertainty, and limited support. But it also means planting seeds for a future rooted in belonging.

Kashmir’s story has often been told through pain and departure. It’s time to tell it through those who stayed, those who teach, heal, build, and grow where they were born. Their patience and persistence deserve investment and faith.

If the state and society support them with resources and trust, they can shape a future where staying home feels like success, not sacrifice.

Real progress, after all, isn’t about how far you go. It’s about what you choose to build where you are.

CASH COURSE  
Read This Before You Buy Anything

Mind Before Money

In Kashmir’s changing economy, success in business or investment depends as much on mental readiness as on skill.

Irshad Mushtaq

In a world driven by ideas and innovation, skill alone is no longer enough. To succeed in business or investment, one must also train the mind to think with clarity and act with purpose. This holds especially true in places like Kashmir, where a new generation is exploring entrepreneurship and financial markets while learning to battle uncertainty.

Skill development lays the groundwork for this transformation. Whether it’s mastering digital tools, understanding finance, or building leadership qualities, skills help young professionals move beyond dependence on government jobs. In recent years, Kashmir has seen a surge in startups and small ventures—from tech services in Srinagar to eco-tourism projects in Shopian. Their success stories share a common thread: strong skills matched with resilient minds.

The psychological side of business often goes unnoticed. Entrepreneurs face self-doubt, investors confront risk, and both must make decisions amid volatility. This is where mental preparedness becomes as vital as any professional training. A clear, calm, and strategic mind can turn challenges into opportunities and prevent hasty choices that lead to loss.

Education systems and training institutes in Kashmir need to adapt to this reality. Courses that blend business knowledge with psychological insight can prepare youth for the modern economy.

Success, in the end, is less about luck and more about learning. Those who sharpen their skills and strengthen their mindset create value that lasts.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.



The Highway Problem  
Year after year, the valley survives a seasonal isolation policy written by geography.



Madhat Bin Hashmat

“When the road sleeps, Kashmir adapts. Neighbours share food, shopkeepers lend supplies, and stranded drivers become guests. The valley has learned that silence can also be strength. And when the road wakes, it reconnects an entire people to the idea of endurance. In the land of snow and stone, even the longest pause ends in movement. The highway rests, then breathes again, like the valley it serves: patient, steady, unbroken.

Every winter, as snow tightens its grip on the mountains, the Srinagar-Jammu highway disappears beneath ice and rock.

The trucks line up for miles, engines go off, and drivers wait for road clearance. Each closure cuts Kashmir off from the rest of the country.

Fuel runs low, markets slow down, and for a moment, it feels as if the valley has stopped breathing.

The 270-kilometer highway carries Kashmir’s economy, food, medicine, and spirit. Apples from Sopore, petrol bound for Srinagar, oxygen cylinders, and letters of hope all move along this road.

When it closes, the valley feels the pause in homes, markets, and waiting hands across the land.

In the months of sunlight, the highway lives in constant motion. Trucks roll in convoys, dhabas thrum with laughter, and the hills echo with engines and honking horns.

From dawn to midnight, it feels like a living river, one that keeps the valley fed and the markets awake.

Then comes December. Snow begins its slow descent, turning the road into a test of endurance. One rockfall near Ramban or an avalanche at Banihal can freeze life for days.

The drivers know this dance well. They line up their trucks, boil tea on small stoves, and wait with the patience of men who understand that nature decides the pace.

“When the highway sleeps, we also sleep,” a driver from Anantnag says. “We wait for it to breathe again.”

That wait travels down the mountains into homes and bazaars. Within days, fuel stations limit supply. Vegetable crates in Bata-maloo grow fewer. Bakers shorten their batches.

Families stretch rations with calculation. Mothers check medicine stocks, children study under dimmer lamps, and markets learn to hold their breath.

This cycle has repeated for decades. The valley’s economy, worth over 2.2 lakh crore, leans heavily on this one fragile road. Each closure costs millions in trade delays and fuel losses. But the tone in Kashmir remains calm.

People adapt, share, and show a collective choreography of courage.

Small lives hinge entirely on traffic along the route. Mechanics in Ramban hammer frozen axles, chai sellers in Qazigund serve steaming cups to stranded drivers, and roadside shopkeepers survive on the uncertain movement.

When the highway sleeps, they too wait, patiently.

The struggle is immense for the men who reopen it. The Border Roads Organization works through snowstorms and landslides, often risking their lives to restore the route. They stand knee-deep in frost, clearing debris while machines groan behind them.

Their work rarely get noticed, but their effort keeps two regions alive.

When the road finally re-opens, it feels like dawn. Engines roar awake, horns echo through tunnels, and convoys crawl forward like a great procession of persistence. The dhabas fill again with the smell of fresh bread and hot tea. Markets in Srinagar revive, prices settle, and life resumes.

The NH-44 teaches patience in delay, faith in uncertainty, and strength in stillness. It reminds Kashmir that progress here moves at the pace of mountains.

When the road sleeps, Kashmir adapts. Neighbours share food, shopkeepers lend supplies, and stranded drivers become guests. The valley has learned that silence can also be strength.

And when the road wakes, it reconnects an entire people to the idea of endurance. In the land of snow and stone, even the longest pause ends in movement.

The highway rests, then breathes again, like the valley it serves: patient, steady, unbroken.

The author is pursuing a Bachelor’s in Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry. He can be reached at mmadhat88@gmail.com. Views expressed are personal.

Letter to Editor

A Culture of Connections Is Killing Kashmir’s Campus Merit

One of the most troubling realities inside our universities today is the rise of student favouritism. In institutions built to celebrate equality and learning, it’s painful to see some students enjoy special treatment for their closeness to teachers or administrators. This growing habit of rewarding connections over competence eats away at the very foundation of education: fairness.

The signs are easy to spot in Kashmiri campuses. Certain students receive relaxed attendance rules, extra attention, or higher marks. They are chosen to represent their universities at conferences and competitions. Meanwhile, others with equal or greater talent are sidelined, their efforts ignored.

The message is clear: it’s not

always what you do, but who you know. And that is dangerous for any academic community.

This kind of bias breeds frustration. Students begin to feel that hard work has little value if influence speaks louder. It damages morale and makes learning feel transactional rather than transformative. Those favoured by teachers may not even realize how this privilege harms their growth.

Over time, they learn to rely on proximity instead of performance. For those left out, disappointment turns into distrust toward teachers, peers, and sometimes the entire idea of education itself.

Inside classrooms, this behaviour reshapes the dynamics. Instead of curiosity and dialogue, there’s a sense of competition for approval.

Teachers, often without realizing it, let personal preference guide decisions. Sometimes it’s about personality, social background, or a student’s ability to flatter authority. Whatever the reason, the result is the same: it poisons the trust that keeps a classroom healthy.

The impact goes deeper than marks or opportunities. Many students facing bias experience anxiety and self-doubt. When effort doesn’t translate into fairness, they stop participating in class, trying, and even believing. This mental toll is often invisible, but it’s real. And once such a culture takes root, it spreads fast, making fairness feel like a forgotten word.

Kashmir universities need to reclaim that fairness. Transparent evaluation, objective grading, and open access to academic opportuni-

ties must be non-negotiable. Teachers should undergo regular ethics and sensitivity training to ensure that personal bias never clouds professional judgment. Students should have the confidence to speak up without fear.

Every student arrives with a dream, to learn, build, and rise. When those dreams are dimmed by favouritism, education loses its meaning. It’s time our universities restore the value of integrity, equality, and effort.

After all, learning grows only in the light of fairness, and when that light fades, everyone loses.

Sincerely,

Suhail Bashir  
suhilb466@gmail.com



# ‘The Fertility Clock Is Ticking For Kashmir’

As families shrink and youth migrate, Kashmir faces a slow-burning demographic crisis.

Aashiq Hussain Andrabi

Kashmir's newest population data has set off alarm bells. The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) reports the region's fertility rate has plummeted to 1.4, one of the lowest in the country and far below the replacement level of 2.1.

The number signals a dramatic social shift for a place once defined by large, close-knit families.

"I didn't believe it at first," says Dr. Sabahat Rasool, one of Kashmir's top fertility specialists. "It's deeply worrying."

The change is visible in living rooms and wedding halls across the valley. Fewer marriages, delayed parenthood, and shrinking families are becoming the new normal.

"We've turned marriage into a burden," Dr. Sabahat says. "Big weddings, job demands, and unhealthy competition have made it inaccessible for many."

Couples marrying later, struggle to conceive, and enter parenthood when their best reproductive years are already behind them.

Experts say this shift could alter Kashmir's social and economic fabric in the years ahead.

With young people moving out, elderly care rising, and family ties thinning, the region faces a future that feels both modern and uncertain.

"We are slowly becoming a society that's old before it's ready," warns Dr. Sabahat. "The fertility clock is ticking, not just for women, but for Kashmir as a whole."

In a candid chat with *Kashmir Observer*, Dr. Sabahat Rasool, Senior IVF Consultant and Associate Professor at LD Hospital, breaks down what's driving the fertility fall, how modern lifestyles are re-

shaping family choices, and what the numbers really mean for Kashmir's future.

**When you first saw that NFHS report showing J&K's fertility rate at 1.4, what was your first reaction?**

Honestly, my first thought was, this can't be right! And if it is, then yes, it's worrying. We all know fertility rates are dropping around the world, but I didn't think we'd come this close to those numbers. It's a big deal because fertility rate says a lot about where a society is headed.

**So, what does this number really tell us about how Kashmiri families are living today?**

It says a lot, actually. It shows how marriage has become such a heavy burden, something that was supposed to be simple and blessed has turned into a competition. We've turned weddings into shows of extravagance, and that's made marriage inaccessible for many.

Then there's this obsession with government jobs. People literally treat it like a marriage eligibility test. If you're in the private sector or doing a startup, you're somehow less "marriage material." It's ridiculous.

**Some people say smaller families are a choice. Others think it's about stress, money, health, or migration. What do you think is really going on?**

I think it's a mix of everything. First, women today are more independent. They're studying, building careers, and want to be financially stable before they think of marriage or children. Then there's this constant stress, the pressure to



earn more, do better, and live up to social expectations. It's exhausting.

And because people are marrying later, often in their 30s, the biological window gets smaller. That brings fertility issues, high-risk pregnancies, and dependence on treatments like IVF when people are already in their 40s.

**So women's education and jobs, would you say they've completely reshaped how people plan families now?**

Oh, absolutely. Women are used to earning and managing their own lives now. They don't want to marry early and put their dreams on hold. They're also changing gender roles. They expect equal partnerships, husbands who share housework and childcare.

And when it comes to family size, women now plan consciously, based on their lifestyle, career goals, and financial comfort.

**Do you think there are things we don't openly talk about, like stress, infertility, and late marriages that silently shape all this?**

Definitely. These things are shaping everything from behind the scenes.

**and family bonds over the next couple of decades?**

Oh, things are already shifting. Gender roles are changing fast. You'll see more men sharing childcare and housework.

But on the flip side, young people are leaving Kashmir for better jobs, and their parents are left behind, lonely and aging. Grandkids are growing up abroad, detached from their roots.

Slowly, the cultural identity we're so proud of starts fading.

**Could this really lead to brain drain or cultural loss?**

It already is. The local workforce is shrinking because so many young people are moving out. That's why we're depending more on outside labour.

And as our next generations grow up abroad, they lose their language, and sense of "home."

Over time, the idea of being Kashmiri becomes more symbolic than lived.

**How strong are religion, culture, and family traditions in all this? Are they still guiding people's choices, or are they fading?**

They're fading, no doubt about it. Religion never taught us to show off, but look at how weddings are now: pure Bollywood!

Families are under pressure to outdo each other. That's not culture, that's competition.

And somewhere in all this glitter, we're losing respect for parents, forgetting values, and letting the family bond fray.

There's a deep disconnect between what faith teaches and how we actually live.

**And are our systems, including health, education and everything, ready for an older population and fewer kids?**

Honestly, no. We're not ready at all. The elderly population is growing fast, and with that come new health needs: loneliness, chronic diseases, and dependency.

We don't even have proper old-age homes or care facilities. Access and affordability of care are huge problems. Old age, in itself, becomes like a disease when society doesn't know how to handle it.



**FERTILITY SHAPES THE VERY BACKBONE OF SOCIETY.** We need to find that balance between youth and age, or we'll face serious social and economic strain in the years to come.

**Should this be left to families to figure out, or do you think the government and media should step in?**

Government and media have to step in. This is a social issue. The government should plan policies for senior citizens, and media should start conversations about it. We can't pretend it's a "family problem." It affects the structure of our society.

**If a young Kashmiri couple asked for your advice on family size, what would you tell them?**

I'd tell them, marry young if you can. Have kids while you're still young and energetic. Enjoy their childhoods instead of being too tired or too sick to keep up.

In the end, those moments are what truly stay with you.

Finally, if you had to send one message to the public about this fertility decline, what would it be?

Fertility shapes the very backbone of society. We need to find that balance between youth and age, or we'll face serious social and economic strain in the years to come.

— The author is a senior scribe from Kashmir.



**GOVERNMENT AND MEDIA HAVE TO STEP IN. THIS IS A SOCIAL ISSUE.** The government should plan policies for senior citizens, and media should start conversations about it. We can't pretend it's a "family problem." It affects the structure of our society.

## The Shovel and the Soul

In Shareefo Ka Mohalla, Hussain Zafar turns the ordinary into the profound, using a village boy's story to reflect Kashmir's enduring struggle between tradition, modernity, and moral strength.



Bashir Ahmad Dar

Hussain Zafar's *Shareefo Ka Mohalla* (The Clan of Decents) is a book that feels both deeply personal and universally resonant.

Rooted in Kashmir's soil and shaped by its layered society, it captures what it means to live, strive, and stay grounded in one's values while moving through a changing world.

Zafar writes with the calm assurance of someone who has seen both the simplicity of village life and the complexities of city living.

Born in Rantipora, Pulwama, and later moving to Srinagar, he uses this dual perspective to draw a picture that is vivid, layered, and hauntingly familiar to anyone from Kashmir.

The book opens with an unexpected grace. In his dedication, Zafar writes to "all those whom he may have hurt — intentionally or unintentionally."

This small act of humility sets the tone for what follows: a work that invites introspection, forgiveness, and the courage to see oneself truthfully.

Even in his introduction, where he dismantles the superstition around the

**AT ITS HEART, SHAREEFO KA MOHALLA IS A MIRROR HELD UP TO OUR SOCIETY.** It honours the virtues of humility and obedience while questioning the structures that contain them.

number three, by calling himself the third child who always came third in class, Zafar weaves a defiance against fear and fatalism.

It's the first of many subtle sparks in the book.

One of the most compelling chapters, "Phavda" (Shovel), shows Zafar at his finest. The story follows Salman, a boy from Baramulla who rises to become an IAS officer, but carries through life the humble shovel his father once made him repair at an ironsmith's shop.

The shovel, in Zafar's world, becomes a symbol, first of obedience, then of burden, and finally of gratitude.

Through Salman's journey, Zafar builds a moving parable about moral inheritance: success without character, he reminds us, is hollow. The moment when the grown Salman holds the shovel with tears in his eyes feels like an emotional homecoming, where love, humility, and memory converge.

Zafar's power lies in his ability to see the moral lesson inside an everyday act.

The story of Salman's father, a man deeply concerned for his son's moral grounding, is both tender and unsettling. It reflects how parental love in Kashmir, and in much of South Asia, often takes the form of discipline and restraint.

But, by showing the mother and sister lowering their gaze in helplessness, Zafar also critiques the patriarchal order that silences women even within affection. Their silence speaks volumes about the limits of their power in shaping the lives of the men they love.

At its heart, *Shareefo Ka Mohalla* is a mirror held up to our society. It honours the virtues of humility and obedience while questioning the structures that contain them.

Zafar writes to remind that success is incomplete if it forgets its beginnings, and that true strength comes from remembering who shaped us.

The language is simple, the imagery profound, and the moral unmistakable. *Shareefo Ka Mohalla* is a return to the values that once held our communities together.

— The author is a teacher by profession and an avid reader of Kashmiri literature. He can be reached at [darbashir1234321@gmail.com](mailto:darbashir1234321@gmail.com).

## A Blessing on the Road

A short ride through Srinagar became a lesson in kindness and connection, a reminder that small acts can leave the deepest marks.



Syed Sammer Mehdi

That morning, the city of Srinagar felt its usual mix of motion and mist. I was heading to college, trying to catch up with time and thoughts, when I waved down a rickshaw.

The driver, an elderly man with silver hair and kind eyes, turned around as I said, "Uncle, I have to go to XYZ College."

"Hundred rupees," he replied. I searched my pockets and said, "Uncle, I don't have cash. Can I pay through Google Pay or Mpay?" He hesitated for a second, then nodded. "Okay, come."

His tone was soft, neither impatient nor cold. I stepped in, feeling a little guilty. I knew cash would have helped him more.

As we moved through the narrow lanes, I watched people rush to work, shopkeepers pull up their shutters, and students like me hurry to classes. Somewhere in that moment, I slipped my hand into my bag and found a 100-rupee note tucked in my wallet. Relief washed over me. "Uncle, I found cash," I said. "You can take this."



**THAT MORNING IN SRINAGAR, AN OLD MAN'S blessing taught me what no classroom could. That the truest measure of humanity lies in these fleeting exchanges of warmth.**

He smiled, and in Kashmiri said, "Sehat dinaie Khuda." May Allah give you good health.

Those words landed softly but deeply. For a moment, the city's noise faded. From the gate of the college till my classroom, his voice stayed with me.

In our days filled with deadlines, worries, and silent battles, a sincere blessing can feel like sunlight

breaking through fog. We pray for ourselves often, but when a stranger prays for us, it feels different, as if the universe pauses to listen.

That old driver reminded me of something I've often seen in Kashmir: kindness wrapped in simplicity.

I am from Poonch, in Jammu, yet that moment made me feel at home here. His words carried the spirit of this land: generous, soft-spoken, and full of grace.

Such encounters shape hearts. A smile to a passerby, a kind word to someone who seems weary, or a simple act of understanding can stay longer than we imagine. The world keeps telling us to do big things, but life often changes in the smallest ones.

That morning in Srinagar, an old man's blessing taught me what no classroom could. That the truest measure of humanity lies in these fleeting exchanges of warmth.

A hundred rupees and three simple words became a memory I will carry for years.

— The author is a trainee reporter at *Kashmir Observer*.



# US Doing A Trade Deal With India: Trump

Press Trust Of India

Seoul: US President Donald Trump on Wednesday said that the US is “doing a trade deal with India” as the two sides continue to hold talks on the proposed trade pact.

While speaking at the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) CEO Summit in Gyeongju, South Korea, Trump added that he had great “re-spect and love” for Prime

Minister Narendra Modi.

“If you look at India and Pakistan ... so, I’m doing a trade deal with India and I have great respect and love, as you know, for Prime Minister Modi, we have a great relationship,” Trump said.

However, without elaborat-ing further on the subject of the trade deal, Trump once again shifted to his claims of resolv-ing the conflict between India and Pakistan in early May.

Trump’s comment came at a time when the rela-tions between New Delhi and Washington have been reeling under severe strain after Trump imposed 50 per cent tariffs on India, including an additional 25 per cent levies for its pro-curement of Russian crude oil.

India described the US ac-tion as “unfair, unjustified and unreasonable”.

It is understood that Minister of External Affairs Jaishankar

and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio broadly delved into the proposed trade pact between the two sides during their meeting in Kuala Lumpur on Monday on the sidelines of the annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

However, there was no indi-cation that the US side assured India of removing the 25 per cent tariff slapped for its en-ergy ties with Russia.

In the last couple of weeks, US President Donald Trump claimed Prime Minister Narendra Modi told him that India would stop buying Russian crude oil. Following Trump’s first claim, India sug-gested that there was no such conversation.

The Ministry of External Affairs said on October 16 that energy sourcing is being broad-based and diversified, including an expansion in procurement

from the US.

It said India’s energy pur-chases are guided solely by the objective of safeguarding the interests of the Indian consum-er in a volatile energy scenario, and the twin goals of India’s energy policy are ensuring stable energy prices and secure supplies.

However, according to an of-ficial, a proposed bilateral trade deal between India and the US is “very near” to concluding.

“We are very near as far as the deal is concerned,” the of-ficial said last week.

In the Berlin Global Dialogue, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal last week said India will not do any deal in a hurry or with a “gun to our head”.

Five rounds of talks have been completed so far for the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement between the US and India.

# Srinagar-Katra Vande Bharat Express To Stop at Reasi Station from October 29

Observer News Service

Srinagar:In a significant mile-stone for the people of Reasi dis-trict, the Srinagar-Katra Vande Bharat Express stopped for the first time at Reasi Railway Station on Wednesday, marking a new chapter in rail connectiv-ity in the Valley.

On this special occasion, the train was flagged off by the MLA, Reasi, Kuldeep Raj Dubey, dur-ing a ceremony. DDC Chairman Reasi, Saraf Singh Nag, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Uchit Singhal, and other senior railway officials were present on the occasion, and an enthusias-tic crowd of over 500 local resi-dents gathered to witness this historic moment.

Starting tomorrow, the Srinagar-Katra Vande Bharat Express, train number



26401/26402, will have a two-minute stop at Reasi railway station.

The train will depart from Katra railway station at 08:10 am and arrive at Reasi railway station at 08:28 am. It will then continue its journey towards Srinagar. Similarly, train number

26402 will return to Reasi rail-way station at 16:34 pm.

This semi-high-speed Vande Bharat Express had only one in-termediate stop – Banihal – be-tween Katra and Srinagar.

Sr. DCM, Jammu Division, Uchit Singhal, said, “The introduction of the stop at Reasi is a direct result

of persistent public demand and aims to enhance travel conven-ience for passengers from Reasi and surrounding areas.”

The Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express, inaugurated by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, on June 6, 2025, has marked a milestone in the his-tory of Indian Railways. It has become the first rail service to connect the Kashmir Valley with the Jammu region via the world’s highest railway bridge – the Chenab Bridge.

Since its inception, the train has received immense praise for its speed, comfort, and reliability. Adding Reasi as a stopover will further strengthen the region’s connectivity, benefiting pilgrims visiting the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine and tourists visiting the Chenab Bridge and surrounding tourist destinations.

# Shaheen Syndicate Social Trust Distributes Laptop Bags, Stationery Among Students

Observer News Service

Bandipora:Shaheen Syndicate Social Trust distributed lap-top bags and stationery items among students of Government Primary School Chontwari Alooosa Bandipora.

For the past 12 years, the trust founded and managed by Showkat Ahmad Khanyari, a retired J&K Bank Executive, has been working for social welfare in the region.

The programme was at-tended by the school staff of Government Primary School Chontwari Alooosa along with Ashiq Ellahi, Branch Head J&K Bank Alooosa, and Haroon Hafeez, Senior Bank Official. From the local community leadership of Bandipora, Kifayatullah Malik (President Awardee), Amjad Cheche, and Zubair Lone were also present.



Locals and community members of Alooosa Bandipora appreciated the efforts of the downtown-based social trust for providing necessary kits to students to help them pursue their education.

Chairman Showkat Ahmad Khanyari, speaking to media persons, said that he received numerous requests from

parents who were concerned that their children did not have proper school bags.

“Out of our own pockets, we procured customised school bags from China. These are multipurpose bags with USB ports and laptop space. Our purpose is to see students go-ing to school with pride and a sense of quest,” he said.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### PM Erased

Ram Temple, the abrogation of Article 370, and various welfare schemes for the poor re- flect the party’s “nationalist and development- oriented vision.”

“This work done by the Modi government is the identity of the BJP,” Shah said, asking the crowd, “Is Kashmir not part of India? Should Article 370 not have been revoked?” (inputs from KNO)

### Uproar Over BJP

a religious perspective. “We work equally for all people,” he added.

Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather asked the BJP MLA to choose her words carefully. “You have come to this house for the first time. Please choose your words carefully. You should not use controversial words. You have a long way to go, we want you to progress,” Rather said.

Meanwhile, during the same sitting, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah announced that the long-awaited National Law University (NLU) will begin functioning in the Valley from April next year.

The announcement came after the House unanimously passed a private member’s res- olution moved by Congress MLA Nizam-Ud-Din Bhat, urging the government to expedite the establishment of the NLU in Srinagar.

Omar said the university is likely to start operations from Ompora in Budgam district, adding that a permanent campus would be de- veloped later. “If everything goes well, by April next fiscal we should be able to start classes in rented accommodation,” he said.

The Chief Minister said that the Chief Justice of the J&K High Court and the Chief Secretary will be taken on board while finalizing the lo- cation of the university.

He said that the government will not make any discrimination as far as the establishment of the National Law University is concerned. However, he said that “at present, we have a space available in Ompura, Budgam, which is lying vacant.

We have an option to come up with the var- sity there as well.”

Earlier, Bhat brought the resolution in the House to seek establishment of Jammu and Kashmir National Law University.

MLA Sonawari Hilal Akbar Lone moved an amendment proposing that the varsity be es- tablished in his constituency. However, later he withdrew his proposal.MLA Bandipora’s res- olution was passed through a voice vote in the House.

### J&K Govt Allots

statement said.

Meanwhile, the Revenue Department in- formed the House that over 21,000 kanals of land have been delineated in the Jammu di- vision under the Jammu and Kashmir Water Resources (Regulation and Management) Act, 2010. However, no such delineation has been carried out yet in the Kashmir division.

Responding to a query by MLA Rajiv Jasrotia, the department said the delineation and de- marcation process began after the issuance of SRO-456 on October 25, 2017, aimed at preventing disputes over water sources and watercourses.

The Administrative Council, through its de- cision dated January 29, 2022, also constituted three-tier committees to oversee the deline- ation and demarcation of lands recorded as Gair Mumkin Khad, Gair Mumkin Darya, or Gair Mumkin Nallah in revenue records but not forming part of any water source.

So far, 21,697 kanals and 17 marlas of land have been delineated in the Jammu division, with Kathua district alone accounting for

15,057 kanals and one marla, including both state and private land.

“To address issues related to Gair Mumkin Khad and similar land categories, the govern- ment has set up a committee headed by the Deputy Chief Minister, which will submit its report within three months,” the department said, adding that the Jal Shakti Department will serve as the secretariat for the committee.

It further stated that since delineation re- quires technical expertise, the Jal Shakti Department, as the nodal agency for water resource management, has been entrusted with carrying out the process as per statutory provisions.

### Foreign Fat

weeks during enforcement drives, revealing serious violations. The products were trans- ported and stored in unhygienic, non-refriger- ated conditions, often without invoices, bills, or warranty declarations, making traceability and prosecution difficult.

Sethi said the prohibition has been enforced under Section 30(2)(a) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, citing ‘serious health risks’ posed by adulterated dairy products. She added that such practices also violate the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011, which strictly prohibit the use of non-dairy fats in paneer.

“This step is essential to protect consumers from unsafe food and ensure fair practices in the food trade. All Food Business Operators must comply with the Act and related regu- lations at every stage of the supply chain,” the order states.

Enforcement teams have been directed to maintain strict vigilance across Jammu and Kashmir to prevent the entry and sale of adul- terated paneer. The ban will remain in force until further orders, or until authorities con- clude that public health concerns have been suitably addressed.

### CM Removes Spending

non-affected areas can also recommend up to 10 lakh worth of works in disaster-hit con- stituencies or contribute to the Chief Minister’s Relief Fund for targeted use.

Spending Restrictions Removed, New Categories Introduced

The CM said the ear- lier rule requiring MLAs to spend 80% of their CDF al- location within a financial year has been scrapped.

Temporary sheds for peo- ple affected by natural ca- lamities will now be allowed under the CDF. Grants of up to 3 lakh will be permitted for old-age homes, shelters, and orphanages for pur- chasing essentials like bed- ding, utensils, books, and uniforms. Youth clubs and sports organizations can re- ceive similar grants for buy- ing sports equipment.

Housing Support for Marginalized Groups

Omar also announced that up to 20 lakh from the CDF can be directed to assist economically weaker families, including driv- ers and BPL households, for upgrading their housing units. The funds will follow the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) model and

will be subject to verification.

“These reforms are meant to make the CDF more responsive to people’s needs and to em- power MLAs to deliver targeted support where it is most required,” Omar said.

The revised CDF guidelines will take ef- fect immediately after formal government notification.

### Govt Spent

19 kanals and another 15 kanals of land at Tapai Road that remains under litigation. In Haryana, 1251 kanals and 4 marlas of land at Sirsa are also under dispute. The govern- ment also owns a property at Sector 17-A, Chandigarh, which is being developed as a guest house and several properties in Mumbai, including land and a duplex flat at Napen Sea Road and a state guest house in Navi Mumbai.

According to the data, Rs 6,49 crore expen- diture was incurred to improve the condition of these assets, many of which required ex- tensive repair work. However, the government clarified that no funds have been utilized so far during the ongoing financial year 2025–26 for the same purpose.

Allotment procedures for J&K’s guest houses outside the UT, the government said are han- dled transparently and in a non-discriminatory manner by the Manager (In-charge) and the Additional Resident Commissioner as per pre- scribed guidelines.(KNO)

### BJP Files Complaint

April next year from rented accommodation at Ompura, Budgam.

“The announcement made from the floor of the Assembly has been widely circulated across media platforms and social networks. It appears to project imminent developmental benefits in Budgam, thereby influencing the electorate,” the spokesperson said.

The BJP’s complaint to the ECI cites four grounds – violation of the MCC, un- due influence under Section 123(2) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, misuse of official platform, and immed- iate electoral impact due to the statement’s circulation.

The complaint argued that the Model Code

of Conduct explicitly prohibits announcements of new projects or promises during the elec- tion period. It further stated that making such an announcement from the Assembly – an official platform – compromised the neutrality of the electoral process.

While addressing the Assembly, Omar Abdullah had said that the government aims to start classes for the NLU by April next year, identifying a site at Ompura – originally ear- marked for a software technology park – as a potential temporary campus. The location, he said, had remained vacant following objections from the Indian Air Force over possible com- munication interference.

The BJP has urged the Election Commission to initiate an inquiry and take immediate ac- tion against the Chief Minister for allegedly breaching electoral norms.

### HC Quashes PSA

to indicate as to how the substantive law, pressed into service against the detainee (Sajad) by virtue of FIR No. 119/2020 of Police Station Rajpora, wherein, the detention have been granted bail also, was not sufficient to prevent the detainee from indulging in the ac- tivities alleged against his person,” the court said, and underlined while referring to a Apex court’s judgment holding if the authorities fail to justify as to how the substantive law was insufficient to prevent the detainee from indulging in the nefarious activities alleged against his person, the detention order cannot sustain.

Subsequently, the court quashed the deten- tion order and directed release of the detainee forthwith, if not required in any other case.

### J&K Police Registers

adding that 107 trials in absentia are near- ing conclusion, paving the way for declaring absconding offenders as proclaimed.

Officials further said that ongoing aware- ness and training programmes are being con- ducted for teachers, self-help group members and frontline workers as part of the anti-drug campaign.

Since January, more than 32,000 patients have availed OPD services, while 551 new

admissions were recorded at drug de-addic- tion centres across Jammu and Kashmir, they added.

### Kashmir To Get

approval from the railway board because Reasi station is located in the district head- quarters and is considered as a very important location.

“The continuation of the stoppage at Reasi station will depend on passenger feedback and commercial viability,” he said, adding earlier, there was only one stop on the route at Banihal which is a very important trans-shipment point.

The decision to introduce the second stop- page at Reasi was taken following persistent demand from the locals and the political rep- resentatives, the official said.

He said the railway is making all out efforts to maintain connectivity and provide best ser- vices to the commuters.

“When the road connectivity was disturbed by heavy rains (in August-September), rail- ways introduced a special train for one month to ensure hassle free travel between Katra and Banihal,” he said.

He said the train service between Katra and Srinagar has received immense praise for its speed, comfort, and reliability.

“Adding Reasi as a stopover will further strengthen the region’s connectivity, ben- efitting pilgrims visiting the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine and tourists visiting the Chenab Bridge and surrounding tourist destinations,” he said.

Senior BJP leader and MLA Reasi Kuldeep Raj Dubey, who boarded the train at the station for Srinagar after flagging in ceremony, thanked the Prime Minister and the Railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw for fulfilling the demand of the public.

Welcoming the step, BJP district president Rohit Dubey said they are hopeful of the rail- way ministry approving a special train be- tween Reasi to iconic structures -- the world’s tallest railway bridge over Chenab and the country’s first cable-stayed railway Anji bridge -- to boost tourism and create employ- ment opportunities.



28<sup>th</sup> year OF PUBLICATION

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# Speaker Urges Decorum As MLAs Raise Key Public Issues In J&K Assembly

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, on Wednesday called upon legislators to maintain decorum and use measured language during debates to uphold the sanctity of the House. He said elected representatives must exercise restraint and mutual respect while voicing public concerns.

During the Zero Hour, MLAs from across the Union Territory raised a wide range of constituency-related issues – from road connectivity and education to healthcare and flood relief.

Shagun Parihar, MLA Kishtwar, highlighted that remote areas such as Chatter to Oli still lack road connectivity, forcing residents to carry patients in palkis. She sought speedy completion of ongoing road projects in her constituency.

Itfikhah Ahmad, MLA Rajouri, urged immediate disbursal of flood relief, reconstruction of damaged infrastructure, and timely conduct of DPCs in the Education Department for Jammu division.

MLA Kulgam, Mohammad You-suf Tarigami, stressed that every citizen has the right to express concerns freely and demanded that detainees from J&K lodged in prisons outside the Union Ter-



AbdulBhat/KO

ritory be shifted back on humanitarian grounds.

Surjit Singh Slathia, MLA Samba, called for an inquiry into alleged irregularities in land allotments at Sainik Colony and re-fund of money to ex-servicemen yet to receive plots.

Mubarak Gul, MLA Eidgah, demanded the introduction of regional languages up to the university level and establishment of hostels for Kashmiri students in Jammu.

Ali Mohammad Sagar, MLA Khanyar, underlined the importance of strengthening democratic institutions, reminding members of their sacred duty as policymakers chosen by the people.

Randhir Singh, MLA Kalakote–Sunderbani, flagged shortage of

doctors, lack of SRTC bus services, and inadequate funding for PHE projects in his area.

Chaudhary Mohammad Akram, MLA Surankote, sought completion of the Buzliaz–Surankote road and compensation for land donors awaiting payment.

Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, MLA Gulmarg, raised alarm over increasing food adulteration in the Valley and called for strict enforcement.

Ali Mohammad Dar, MLA Chadoora, demanded rectification of land records to ensure rightful ownership.

Sunil Bhardwaj, MLA Ramnagar, pressed for rehabilitation of flood-hit families, additional land for cattle sheds, mobile tow-

ers in Dudu-Basantgarh, and appointment of permanent faculty at the Jammu University campus in his constituency.

Sajad Gani Lone, MLA Handwara, backed the call to shift J&K detainees from outside jails to local prisons.

Saifullah Mir, MLA Trehgam, expressed concern over the sale of frozen and rotten meat and sought action against negligent enforcement officers.

Prof. Gharu Ram Bhagat, MLA Suchetgarh, demanded upgrading Deblehar Higher Secondary School into a Degree College and constructing a sports stadium.

Dr. Bharat Bhushan, MLA Kathua, sought restoration of flood-damaged roads and pipelines and provision of potable drinking water through tankers.

Tanveer Sadiq, MLA Zadibal, called for timely release of government advertisements to local newspapers, while Salman Sagar, MLA Hazratbal, demanded augmentation of drinking water supply in his constituency.

Javid Riyaz Bedar, MLA Pattan, pointed to delays in completion of PHE projects due to fund shortages, as MLAs Shakti Raj Parihar (Doda West) and Altaf Ahmad Wani (Pahalgam) raised issues concerning damaged infrastructure, rehabilitation, and forest clearance hurdles.(KNO)

## Actor Mukesh Rishi Makes Rare Appearance In Assembly



The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly had a rare guest on Wednesday – a Bollywood actor. Mukesh Rishi was spotted in the Speaker's Gallery of the legislative assembly today.

Bollywood actor Mukesh Rishi was seen quietly observing the legislative session from the Speaker's Gallery – a space usually occupied by politicians.

Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather announced in the House that Rishi was present in the Speaker's Gallery, drawing applause from legislators across party lines.

Rishi, a native of Jammu made his Bollywood debut in 1993 with Gardish and has since become a familiar face in Indian cinema, appearing in films across multiple languages including Malayalam, Kannada, Punjabi, Marathi, and Tamil.

## Sept Floods Cost J&K ₹209 Cr In Farm Sector

The Jammu and Kashmir government has confirmed that recent flash floods in September 2025 caused widespread damage to standing crops, horticulture and livestock across several parts of the Union Territory, including Marh Constituency, with total losses assessed at Rs 209.214 crore.

In a written reply to a question by MLA Surinder Kumar, the Agriculture Production Department said that in Marh Constituency alone, 836 beneficiaries were affected due to the floods.

"Out of the total 728.79 hectares sown under paddy, around 449.93 hectares were reported as affected," the reply stated.

The department added that a Joint Survey was carried out under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) by officials of the Agriculture Department in coordination with the Revenue Department to assess the damage and process compensation.

"So far, a compensation amount of Rs 169.13 lakh has been disbursed among 1,436 farmers in District Jammu, including Marh Constituency," the reply said.

To expedite insurance settlements, Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) are currently being conducted in the affected fields. Once completed, compensation will be credited directly into farmers' bank accounts through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) guidelines. (Observer News Service)

## AAV Beneficiaries Getting Extra 10 Kg Free Ration Since April: Govt

The Jammu and Kashmir government has said that it is providing an additional 10 kg of free ration per beneficiary to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAV) households in the region since April 2025, while the proposal for providing 12 LPG cylinders to these families is still under consideration.

As per official documents, the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) stated that the additional ration is being distributed in light of Government Order No. 25-JK (FCS&CA) of 2025 dated April 2, 2025, with an aim to augment the monthly food requirements of AAV households having a family size of four or more members.

The department clarified that the distribution ensures the quantity "does not exceed 10 kg per beneficiary" under the Public Distribution System (PDS).

However, the provision of 12 LPG cylinders to AAV families "is a policy matter and is currently under consideration with the Government," the department added.

Regarding allocation of funds, the department informed that no separate funds have been allocated for the procurement of additional ration. The food grains are being distributed free of cost to bonafide rationees as per government directives, while the cost of procurement, loading, unloading and other components is being met from the department's revolving fund account. (KNO)

## No Land Delineation Carried Out in Kashmir: Govt

The Jammu and Kashmir Government has delineated over 21,000 kanal of land in the Jammu Division under the provisions of the J&K Water Resources (Regulation and Management) Act, 2010, while no such delineation has been carried out in the Kashmir Division so far, the Revenue Department has said.

In a written reply to a question by MLA Rajiv Jasrotia, the department said that the delineation and demarcation process is being conducted to avoid disputes in water sources and courses following the issuance of SRO-456 dated October 25, 2017.

The government said that the Administrative Council vide Decision No. 17/1/2022 dated January 29, 2022, had ordered the constitution of three-tier committees to oversee delineation or demarcation of lands not forming part of any water source but recorded as Gair Mumkin Khad, Gair Mumkin Darya or Gair Mumkin Nallah in revenue records.

It informed that a total area of 21,697 kanal and 17 marla has been delineated in Jammu Division, while in District Kathua, 15,057 kanal and 01 marla (including both state and private land) have been demarcated.

"To examine issues relating to Gair Mumkin Khad and similar categories, the Government has constituted a committee under the chairmanship of the Deputy Chief Minister, which shall submit its report within three months," it said, adding that the Jal Shakti Department will service the committee.(KNO)

### 'QUALIFICATION BAR'

## 113 Applicants Denied Marriage Aid In J&K

At least 113 applicants were denied financial aid under the Marriage Assistance Scheme in Jammu and Kashmir between April and October 2025 due to the qualification bar set in existing guidelines.

Minister In Charge Social Welfare department in a written response stated that these beneficiaries were found ineligible for assistance, as they did not meet the prescribed minimum educational qualification, reported news agency KNO.

However, the government has now moved to relax the qualification criteria. The minimum qualification of Class 8 pass has been relaxed up to March 31, 2028, making more applicants eligible for the scheme. The change will apply retrospectively from April 1, 2025. (Observer News Service)

## 4 boys Injured In 'Explosion' In Kupwara

Four boys were injured in a mysterious explosion in Kupwara district on Wednesday, officials said.

The explosion took place in Tutigund village of Handwara in the north Kashmir district, where some children were playing cricket, they said.

The injured were identified as Uzair Tahir, Sajid Rashid, Hazim Shabir, and Zeyan Tahir, all local villagers. They were taken to GMC Handwara for treatment, the officials added. (PTI)

## Untreated Industrial Waste Flowing Into Srinagar Flood Channel: Govt Admits

KO Web Desk

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government has admitted that untreated industrial waste from the Industrial Estate Rangreth, as well as from the Army Establishment (JAKLI), is being discharged directly into the flood channel that passes through Rawalpura to Peerbagh near Hill View Colony in Srinagar.

Responding to a question by MLA Mushtaq Guroo in the Legislative Assembly, the Industries and Commerce Department said that steps have been initiated to ensure proper treatment of industrial waste before disposal.

The department informed that the State Industrial Development Corporation (SIDCO) has constructed a Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) with a capacity of one million litres per day (1.0 MLD), using Moving Bed Bio-film Reactor (MBBR) technology to treat industrial waste. A dedicated sewerage and drainage pipeline has also been laid to carry treated water to the Urban Environmental



Engineering Department (UEED) drain and the city's main drainage network.

It added that the CETP structure has been completed and a power connection secured from the Power Development Department (PDD). The plant is currently under a trial run, while environmental clearance is being processed with the Pollution Control Board (PCB).

The department further stated that testing of inlet and outlet parameters will be carried out after the trial run concludes, ensuring that effluents are treated within permissible limits before being discharged into the nearest water body.

## Robotic Surgery On The Cards At GMC Srinagar

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday said it is examining the possibility of introducing a robotic surgery facility at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar.

Responding to a question raised by MLA Arwind Gupta in the Legislative Assembly, Health and Medical Education Minister Sakeena Itoo said the proposal is currently under review at GMC Srinagar's Super Speciality Hospital, Shireen Bagh.

"The advancement of the health sector involves the introduction of new equipment and technology only after thorough evaluation of their impact, financial viability, and space requirements," the minister said in a written reply.

She informed that GMC Jammu has already initiated formal procedures to procure robotic surgery equipment through the Jammu and Kashmir Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (JKMSCL), with an estimated



cost of ₹35 crore.

On diagnostic facilities, Itoo said several hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir are in the process of upgrading outdated CT scan machines. "The existing CT scan machine at the Super Speciality Hospital Jammu has outlived its operational life and is being replaced through JKMSCL," she said, adding that similar replacements are underway at SMGS Hospital and Chest Diseases Hospital, Srinagar.

The minister also informed that the government has taken up the proposal for implementing a 3-Tier Faculty Structure (Phase-II) in GMCs and Super

Speciality Hospitals of Srinagar and Jammu with the Finance Department. The proposal is currently under examination following observations raised by the department.

Itoo added that medical and paramedical staff are being rationally distributed across rural and remote areas as per sanctioned strength to ensure equitable healthcare delivery under the Integrated Primary Healthcare norms.

"The government remains committed to strengthening healthcare facilities across J&K by improving infrastructure, technology, and staffing," she said.

## CM Unveils Biography of Sakina Itoo's Father



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday released 'Durr-e-Naayab', a biography of Late Wali Mohammad Itoo, authored by his daughter and Minister in the Chief Minister's Council of Ministers, Sakina Itoo.

The book chronicles the life and contributions of Late Wali Mohammad Itoo, former Minister and Speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly – who was assassinated on March 18, 1994, in Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah paid rich tributes to the late leader, describing him as "a brave, capable, honest and hardworking person who sacrificed his life for the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

"I had met Late Itoo Sahib, though I never had the opportunity to work with him," the Chief Minister said. "His personality, his way of working and his relationship with the people are evident from the love and respect seen in this hall today."

The Chief Minister recalled how Late Itoo remained steadfast to his principles and his party

despite the turbulent times of militancy. "Many of our colleagues had to move to Jammu during those years, but even there, Itoo Sahib never sat idle. Being a lawyer, he used his legal knowledge to help those who were in distress. He continued serving the people till his last breath," Omar Abdullah said.

Paying heartfelt tribute, the Chief Minister said that while Wali Mohammad Itoo left an indelible mark through his selfless work, he also "did the community another great favour by giving us a brave daughter."

"A brave father gave a brave daughter to this community. If Itoo Sahib were alive today, he would be proud of Sakina ji. In Noorabad, Kulgam, and across Jammu and Kashmir, her service and commitment stand as a living tribute to her father's ideals," he said.

Lauding Minister Sakina Itoo's literary accomplishment, Omar Abdullah said, "I always knew Sakina Ji as a capable MLA and an able minister, but today I discovered another dimension to her – that of a writer. Through this book, she has ensured that future generations know about the

life and mission of a leader who dedicated himself to his people and his land."

The Chief Minister congratulated Minister Sakina Itoo and also on behalf of former Chief Minister and National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah, appreciating her effort to preserve the legacy of her father for posterity.

During the event, Speaker J&K Legislative Assembly Abdul Rahim Rather, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, former Minister and MLA Khanyar Ali Mohammad Sagar, former Speaker J&K Legislative Assembly and MLA Eidgah Mubarak Gul, MLA Kulgam M. Yousuf Tarigami and former legislator Rattan Lal Gupta also spoke about the life, legacy and deep connection of Late Wali Mohammad Itoo with the common people.

The function was attended by Minister Javid Dar, Satish Sharma, newly elected Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament G.S. Oberoi, several MLAs, and a large number of people from Kulgam, Noorabad, D.H. Pora and adjoining areas, reflecting the enduring affection and respect for the martyred leader.

## Ladakh UT Foundation Day, Rashtriya Ekta Diwas

## LG Gupta Reviews Preparations, Calls For Active Participation

Observer News Service

**LEH:** The Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavin-der Gupta, Wednesday reviewed the preparations for the upcoming celebrations of the 6th Union Territory Ladakh Foundation Day and Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, to be observed on 31st October.

In this regard, the LG has chaired a meeting which was attended by Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Chief Secretary; Dr. S.D. Singh Jamwal, DGP Ladakh; Administrative Secretaries; SSP Leh; Heads of Departments/Directors, and other senior officials.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary has apprised the LG of the series of programmes planned to mark these two significant occasions – the Foundation Day of the Union Territory



and the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India and architect of national unity.

As part of the celebrations, a 'Run for Unity' will be organised from Raj Niwas, which the LG will flag off. The event will see enthusiastic participation from students, NCC cadets, and government officials, symbolising collective commitment to the spirit of unity and integrity that Sardar Patel epitomised.

The DGP has apprised the LG that the Ladakh Police will

host a special event at the District Police Lines, where the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas pledge will be administered to participants, reaffirming dedication to national integration and harmony.

The LG reviewed the arrangements being made by various departments to ensure the smooth conduct of the events. He emphasised active participation from Administrative Secretaries, Heads of Departments, Directors, and other senior officers in the celebrations.

## Over 11,600 Kg Rotten Meat Seized, Destroyed Across J&K Since July: Govt

observer news service

**SRINAGAR-** The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday said that around 11,602 kilograms of suspected rotten and adulterated meat has been seized and destroyed since July 31, 2025, across several districts of the Union Territory. In a written reply, health minister said that to curb the import and sale of substandard, rotten, or illegal meat

consignments, the department listed several measures.

"It has conducted 1,430 inspections of food business operators dealing with meat and meat products since July 2025. Public notices were also issued to those handling frozen raw meat in August 2025, warning them to follow food safety norms," the minister said.

She further said that the department has also issued prohibition order, restricting

manufacture, storage, transportation and sale of frozen or chilled meat not conforming to FSSAI standards.

"Special inspection and sampling drives have been launched across the Union Territory to ensure compliance. 102 improvement notices were issued, and 14 licenses of defaulting operators were suspended for violating the Food Safety and Standards Act," she said.



# Rohit Sharma Becomes World's No. 1 Ranked ODI Batter For First Time

Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** Former India skipper Rohit Sharma on Wednesday claimed the top spot in the ICC Men's ODI batter rankings for the first time in his distinguished career.

The 38-year-old Rohit created history as he rose two spots on the back of his superb unbeaten century (121 not out) in the third and final ODI between India and Australia in Sydney where he led his side to an emphatic nine-wicket triumph in style.

The experienced right-hander was in a damaging mood alongside fellow India legend Virat Kohli (74 not out) as he smashed 13 fours and three massive sixes on his way to scoring his 33rd



ODI century for his country. Rohit's efforts see him overtake Afghanistan dasher Ibrahim Zadran and India teammate Shubman Gill and claim the top ranking for batters in ODI cricket

for the very first time, having always held a spot inside the top 10 for the majority of the last decade.

The former skipper wasn't the only India player to make some ground on the updated rankings this week, with spinner Axar Patel rewarded for a strong game in Sydney with gains in both the bowling and all-rounder category.

Axar jumped six places to 31st behind No.1 ranked Rashid Khan on the list for ODI bowlers and improves four spots to eighth overall behind Azmatullah Omarzai on the rankings for ODI all-rounders.

Inside the top 10 for ODI bowlers, there are gains for New Zealand spinner Mitchell Santner (up three rungs to fourth) and Aus-

tralia seamer Josh Hazlewood (up two spots to eighth), while England right-hander Harry Brook improves 23 spots to move to 25th overall on the list for ODI batters.

There was also some movement on the latest Test rankings following South Africa's impressive eight-wicket victory over Pakistan in Rawalpindi, with experienced spinner Keshav Maharaj the biggest beneficiary on the back of his Player of the Match heroics.

Maharaj gained nine places to obtain a new career-high rating in 13th place on the list for Test bowlers after nine wickets in the Test, while teammate Simon Harmer rises 26 spots to move to 45th following his six-wicket haul in the second innings of the same match.

## J&K Tennikoit Association To Hold Junior, Sub-Junior Trials

The J&K Tennikoit Association announced Wednesday that it will be organising selection trials to select players for participation in the Junior and Sub-Junior National Championships, to be held in Jammu and Kerala, respectively. "In this regard, all district associations and interested players are invited to take part in the selection trials, which will be conducted during the UT Tennikoit Championship on November 3 at Sports Stadium, Pahalgam," the association said in a statement. (Observer News Service)

## 6th J&K Yogasana Sports C'ship To Be Held In Srinagar



The J&K Yogasana Sports Association, under the aegis of Yogasana Bharat and sponsored by the J&K Sports Council, has announced the conduct of the 6th UT Yogasana Sports Championship 2025-26. The event is scheduled to take place at the Indoor Sports Hall, Polo Ground, Srinagar, from November 5 to 7. The championship has been rescheduled to the new dates due to ongoing final examinations across the Kashmir Division.

Alongside the UT Championship, selection trials for the Sub-Junior Boys and Girls categories will be held to select the team that will represent J&K in the Sub-Junior National Yogasana Sports Championship, slated at Sangamner, Maharashtra, from December 28 to January 2.

Athletes are advised to contact their respective District Yogasana Sports Associations for participation and coordination. (Observer News Service)

## J&K's Rutba Shabir & Arham Excel At 69th NSG Wushu Event



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The ongoing 69th National School Games in Wushu (Under-17 Category), organised by the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports J&K witnessed another action-packed day on Wednesday at Indoor Sports Complex, here. Young athletes from across the country continued to display outstanding skill, energy, and sportsmanship in different weight categories.

Among the notable performers, J&K's Rutba Shabir and Arham impressed everyone with their commanding victories and spirited performances.

In the girls' 65 kg cat-

egory, Rutba Shabir from J&K delivered a remarkable performance to defeat Khrishtina from Punjab. Meanwhile, in boys' under 70 kg weight group, Arham from J&K outplayed Vaibhav from Delhi, earning wide appreciation from spectators for his agility and focus.

In the girls' 45 kg category, J&K's Magiha scored a win. Jiya from J&K registered a win in the 48 kg.

In the boys' 48 kg category, Mursalen from J&K claimed a win. In the 52 kg category, Kapish from J&K displayed an exceptional performance to defeat Dhruv from West Bengal. Additionally, Ayaan won his matchup in the 56 kg category.

## England Umpire Hails Kashmiri Girls' Passion For Cricket

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** England umpire Mellissa Juniper, who officiates in the Indian Premier League (IPL), on Wednesday praised the growing passion of Kashmiri girls for cricket, calling it "refreshing and inspiring".

Juniper, who officiated the Kashmir Women's Premier League (KWPL) match in Baramulla, encouraged the girls to stay committed to both sports and academics, stressing the importance of balance and discipline.

"Keep going, keep trying hard, and if there's something you don't know, ask your coaches for guidance. Make sure you keep up with your studies. But most of all,

enjoy it," Juniper told players.

She said their energy reminded her of her own early days in the sport. "It's really nice to watch girls coming out and playing cricket with such passion. I can see real talent coming up, so watch out," the umpire said.

Mellissa said the increasing participation of women in cricket is a positive sign for the future of the sport. "If what's happening here is anything to go by, the women's IPL is going to be absolutely amazing," she added.

Highlighting the importance of learning from top performers, the England umpire said, "If you're playing with the best, then you're going to be the best." (KNO)



## J&K Girls Put Up Impressive Show At Junior Throwball National



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The J&K Junior Girls Throwball Team participated in the 33rd Junior National Throwball Championship 2025, held from October 24 to 26 in Viramgam, Gujarat.

The team comprised 12 talented players — Rizwana, Qamreen, Ahla, Adeena, Rehana Batool, Rehana Fatima, Farzana, Rafika, Nooriya Banoo, Naira Jan, Sugra, and Qalbi Sakeena — under the guidance of Team Coach Vilayat Hussain and Team Manager Sana.

The J&K girls displayed commendable sportsmanship, competing against strong teams from

Telangana, Haryana, and Tamil Nadu, and reached the quarterfinals of the championship.

Govind Raj, General Secretary of the Throwball Federation of India (TFI), along with other officials, congratulated the J&K team for their spirited performance and dedication.

Sahil Ali Beigh, Secretary of the J&K 7 Side Throwball Association, expressed pride in the team's efforts and stated that preparations are already underway for the upcoming Senior National Throwball Championship 2025-26, scheduled to be held at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, in January 2026.

## PAK v IND: Rain Plays Spoilsport In Opening T20

India skipper Suryakumar Yadav was back in his element with some spectacular hits but inclement weather proved to be a complete dampener as the first T20 International against Australia was called off after a steady spell of shower here on Wednesday.

With his deputy Shubman Gill (37 not out off 20 balls) also in good nick, Suryakumar showed controlled aggression before unleashing a flurry of attractive strokes en route his unbeaten 39 off 24 balls. The duo added 62 runs off 35 balls for the second wicket and both looked good for big scores which was not to be in the end.

Earlier, Abhishek Sharma (19 off 14 balls), who started the onslaught with three fours off Xavier Bartlett, couldn't gauge Ellis' back-of-the-hand slower delivery. There were two breaks across the 9.4 overs that India had to endure and after the first break, next 4.4 overs turned out to be very productive for the visitors with 54 runs coming during that phase. The rain also meant that the ball was getting wet and Australian bowlers found it difficult to grip. (PTI)

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