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## J&K Assembly Session Adjourned Sine Die

### 5 Govt Bills Passed, Over 700 Questions Addressed



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on Friday adjourned the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly sine die, marking the end of the nine-day session that saw largely smooth proceedings, barring a few noisy moments.

The session witnessed elections to four Rajya Sabha seats

5 government bills passed  
2 private members' resolutions discussed; one passed.  
41 private members' bills listed, only eight taken up — all withdrawn or defeated.  
732 questions submitted, 682 admitted, 29 discussed  
97 issues raised during Zero Hour  
10 calling attention motions and seven resolutions discussed.  
Elections held for 4 Rajya Sabha seats

and the passage of five government bills. Two private members' resolutions were also discussed, with one being passed. Of the 41 private members' bills listed, only eight were taken up — all either withdrawn following government assurances or defeated by voice vote at the introduction stage.

According to | [More on P6](#)

## GST (Amendment) Bill Passed; Defection Rules Laid

Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Friday passed "The Jammu and Kashmir Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025". The Bill, seeking to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017, was moved in the House by Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah.

"A Bill to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Goods | [More on P6](#)

## Nehru Blocked Full Integration Of J&K: PM Says Strong Governance, Unity Crushed Terrorism In Kashmir

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday launched a strong attack on India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, alleging that he prevented Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel from fully integrating Jammu and Kashmir into the Indian Union — a decision that, according to Modi, led to decades of turmoil and bloodshed in the region.

Addressing the national event marking Sardar Patel's 150th birth anniversary at



the Statue of Unity in Ekta Nagar, Modi said Patel had wanted complete integration of Kashmir, just as he had accomplished with other princely states, but | [More on P6](#)

Aug 2019 Ended Decades Of Separation: Amit Shah

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi fulfilled Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's vision of a unified India by abrogating Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir, completing the | [More on P6](#)

## Jammu Gets 72% Of Category Certificates, Kashmir 28%: Govt

### Asset Criteria Behind High Certificate Rejections in Kashmir, Says Itoo

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In yet another revelation pointing to deep regional disparity, the Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday informed the Legislative Assembly that Jammu region accounted for nearly 72 percent of all category certificates issued this year, while Kashmir received just 28 percent.

Responding to a question by MLA Handwara and Peoples Conference

president Sajad Gani Lone, Minister in-charge Social Welfare, Sakina Itoo, said that a total of 2,15,863 certificates under different categories — including Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC), Actual Line of Control (ALC), and International Border (IB) — were issued between January 1 and September 30, 2025.

Of these, Jammu division accounted for 71.8 percent, while Kashmir's share stood at 28.2 percent, the

J&K UT Foundation Day

## LG Sinha Dismisses 'Unnecessary Speculation' On Statehood

### Says Some Trying to Mislead People Despite Centre's Clear Stand

### UT Govt Has Enough Powers, Use Them for Welfare: LG

Sameer Hussain

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday dismissed what he called "unnecessary speculation" over the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, reiterating that the Union Home Minister has already clarified the sequence of steps ahead — "first delimitation, then assembly elections, and statehood at an appropriate time."

Speaking at the UT Foundation Day celebrations in Srinagar, Sinha said some people were trying to mislead the public despite the Centre's clear stance. "The Union Territory government already has sufficient powers, and those powers must be used for public welfare instead of spreading confusion," he asserted. | [More on P6](#)



## Rashtriya Ekta Diwas: LG Administers Unity Pledge

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday administered the Unity Pledge to officers and staff of Raj Bhawan on the occasion of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas and paid rich tributes to the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, on his 150th birth anniversary.

The Lieutenant Governor urged everyone to work with dedication towards building an Aatmanirbhar and developed India. "Administered the Unity Pledge to Raj Bhawan officers and staff and paid tributes to the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai | [More on P6](#)

## Calls For AI-Powered, High-Value Agriculture

Observer News Service

"We must sprint ahead in agriculture and allied sectors to fuel India's growth story," the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Friday. He said to build a developed India, our prime objective should be to achieve a consistent 5%

annual growth rate. The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the need for cultivating change in agriculture education to ensure sustainable practices in future.

"Educational institutions like SKUAST should focus on AI-powered farming and diversification into high-value crops with strategic planning to boost productivity | [More on P6](#)

## MLA Objects To Viral 'Reels' Video In Assembly

### Speaker Assures Appropriate Action

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Friday witnessed discussions after a video showing a National Conference (NC) legislator scrolling through his mobile phone during the proceedings went viral on social media.

As soon as Question Hour began, MLA Karnah Javid Mirchal raised the issue in the House, saying a news portal had shared a misleading video clip suggesting that he | [More on P6](#)

## India, US Ink 10-Year Defence Framework Pact

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: India and the US on Friday inked a 10-year defence framework agreement, with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh describing it as a "signal" of growing strategic convergence between the two nations.

The pact was sealed at a meeting in Kuala Lumpur between Singh and his American counterpart Peter Hegseth.

The firming up of the pact came amid efforts by the two sides to repair ties that came under severe strain following Washington's slapping | [More on P6](#)

## Timings Revised For Kashmir Schools

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Authorities in Kashmir on Friday revised the timings for government, government-aided, and recognised private schools across the valley from November 1.

According to an order issued by the Directorate of School Education, Kashmir, the revised timings for schools within the Srinagar municipality limits would be from 10 am to 3 pm from Saturday.

For schools located outside Srinagar municipal limits, the new timings would be from 10:30 am to 3:30 am, the | [More on P6](#)

## Durbar Move: Offices Close In Srinagar

### To Reopen In Jammu In Nov 3

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: As part of the recently restored biannual practice known as the Darbar Move, government offices in Srinagar closed on Friday and will reopen in the winter capital, Jammu, on November 3, officials said.

The century-old administrative tradition—under which the civil secretariat and other offices function in Srinagar during summer and shift to Jammu | [More on P6](#)



## Rehabilitation Package 2025 FOR BORROWERS HIT BY DISTURBANCES

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**Moratorium benefit:** Moratorium available from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

**Additional support:** Additional working capital up to 15% of existing limits through Working Capital Term Loan (WCTL) to revive business.

**Flexible repayment:** FITL and WCTL repayable over 36 months after moratorium.

**Lowest interest rate:** Both facilities offered at 8.45% p.a. (Fixed).

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2

# M2.5 Caused 17 Lakh Deaths in India in 2022: Lancet

Press Trust of India

Human-caused PM2.5 pollution was responsible for more than 17 lakh deaths in India in 2022 -- up by 38 per cent since 2010 -- with use of fossil fuels contributing to 44 per cent of the deaths, according to a global report published by The Lancet journal. Use of petrol for road transport contributed to 2.69 lakh deaths, the '2025 Report of The Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change' said. Estimates also suggest that premature mortality in 2022 due to outdoor air pollution in India translated into a financial loss of USD 339.4 billion -- about 9.5 per cent of the country's GDP.

An international team of 128 experts from 71 academic institutions and UN agencies, led by University College London, was involved in producing the ninth edition of the report. Published ahead of the 30th UN Conference of the Parties (COP30), the report provides the most comprehensive assessment to date of the connections between climate change and health, the authors said. The findings assume significance against a backdrop of Delhi seeing consistently high levels of air pollution, with air quality shifting between "poor" and "very poor" over the past few days.



“There were over 1,718,000 deaths attributable to anthropogenic air pollution (PM2.5) in 2022 in India, an increase of 38 per cent since 2010. Fossil fuels (coal and liquid gas) contributed to 752,000 (44 per cent) of these deaths in 2022

Cloud-seeding trials were conducted in parts of the national capital, such as Buzari, Karol Bagh, and Mayur Vihar, over the past week in an attempt to address pollution. However, environmentalists describe it as a "short-term measure" that fails to tackle the root causes of the

city's degrading air quality.

"There were over 1,718,000 deaths attributable to anthropogenic air pollution (PM2.5) in 2022 in India, an increase of 38 per cent since 2010. Fossil fuels (coal and liquid gas) contributed to 752,000 (44 per cent) of these

deaths in 2022," the authors wrote in a country-related data sheet, accompanying the Lancet report.

They found fossil fuels continued to account for nearly all of road transport energy in India (96 per cent), and electricity accounted for only 0.3 per cent. As of 2022, coal still made up nearly half of the total energy supply (46 per cent) and three-fourths of total electricity in India, while renewables made up two per cent and 10 per cent, respectively, the report said.

The authors added that a continued over-reliance on fossil fuels and failure to adapt to climate change is costing people's lives, health, and livelihoods. An analysis of national policies also reveals that India's preparedness for a low-carbon transition reduced by two per cent from 2023.

An average of 10,200 deaths every year during 2020-2024 in India could be traced to PM2.5 pollution from forest fires -- an increase of 28 per cent from rates during 2003-2012, according to the findings.

Further, 18 per cent of household energy came from electricity in 2022, while 58 per cent came from "highly polluting" solid biofuels.

Household air pollution due to the use of polluting fuels was associated with an estimated 113 deaths per one lakh population, with death rates seen to be higher in rural, compared to urban areas.

## PGIMER Flags Rise in Rare Chest Infections in North India

Press Trust Of India

A team at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, has reported a significant rise in infections caused by a lesser-known bacterium that mimics whooping cough in north India, officials said on Thursday. Pertussis, commonly known as whooping cough, is a highly contagious respiratory illness that has historically been a major cause of childhood mortality, with fatality rates reaching 10 per cent in the early 20th century, a PGIMER statement noted. The study, titled 'Emergence of Bordetella holmesii-Associated Pertussis-Like Illness, Northern India, 2019-2023', was published in the Emerging Infectious Diseases journal (of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USA) and analysed 935 suspected pertussis cases. Researchers discovered that nearly 37 per cent of infections were caused by Bordetella holmesii (bacterium), surpassing the number of infections from Bordetella pertussis, which used to be relatively more common. The most significant increase was recorded in

2023, predominantly among children aged 5-10 years in northern India, the statement said. According to the data obtained under the ongoing surveillance programme at the PGIMER since 2015, the prevalence of B pertussis declined from 15-20 per cent to just 2-5 per cent, while infections from B holmesii rose markedly. This shift signals an evolving pattern in the etiology of pertussis-like respiratory illness in the region, the statement said. This long-term research was spearheaded by Dr Vikas Gautam's laboratory at PGIMER, in collaboration with Dr Prabhu Patil of the CSIR-IMTECH, Chandigarh, it said. In Asia, pertussis continues to pose a significant public health burden, particularly in India and China, primarily affecting young infants and children, the PGIMER statement noted. After a brief decline during the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of cases has sharply rebounded. India recently reported approximately 13.6 million cases, while China's incidence rose from 0.13 per 1,00,000 in 2013 to 2.15 per 1,00,000 in 2019, exceeding 58,990 reported cases by early 2024, it said.

### Form No 3 [See Regulation -13(1)(a)] DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT I) 2nd Floor SCO 33-34-35 Sector-17 A, Chandigarh Case No. OA/1696/2023

Summons under Sub Section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, read with sub rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993

Exh. No: 30912

**JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LIMITED  
VS  
M/S GHULAM MOHAMMAD RESHI**

To.  
(1) Mohammad Ashraf Mir  
S/o: Mohammad Jamal Mir R/o: Zangeer Sopore  
Jammu and Kashmir-193201  
Now Presented by his legal representatives and Legal Heirs

Legal Heirs 1  
Mubeen (Wife)  
W/o: Late Mohammad Ashraf Mir R/o: Kouth Mohalla  
Zangeer Bomi Baramulla Kmr

Legal Heirs 2  
Saima (Alias Fancy) (Wife)  
W/o: Late Mohammad Ashraf Mir R/o: Kouth Mohalla  
Zangeer Bomi Baramulla Kmr

Legal Heirs 3  
Rifat Ashraf (Daughter)  
D/o: Late Mohammad Ashraf Mir R/o: Kouth Mohalla  
Zangeer Bomi Baramulla Kmr

Legal Heirs 4  
Zainab Ashraf (Daughter)  
D/o: Late Mohammad Ashraf Mir R/o: Kouth Mohalla  
Zangeer Bomi Baramulla Kmr

Legal Heirs 5  
Umar Ashraf (Son)  
S/o: Late Mohammad Ashraf Mir R/o: Kouth Mohalla  
Zangeer Bomi Baramulla Kmr

#### SUMMONS

Whereas , OA/1696/2023 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/ Registrar on 17.09.2025

Whereas this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons / notice on the said application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs 5712048.93(application along with copies of documents etc, annexed).

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-

- to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
- to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3 A of the original application;
- you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;
- you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;
- you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 17.11.2025 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 24.09.2025

**Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons**

Note: Strike out whichever is not applicable

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is an information for general public that the Aadhaar Card of my Son bearing Registration No: 2865 5664 2217, his name has been Mistakenly Mentioned as Menam Altaf, while as his Actual and correct name as per his school records is Jasim Altaf. Now I want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Concern Authorities within a period of seven days, from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Altaf Hussain Jan.  
F/O Jasim Altaf.  
R/O Aloosa, District Bandipora, Jammu and Kashmir, India, Pin code:193502. fko

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my wards name from (old name) Ahmad Bin Muzaffar to (new name) Mir Ahmad Bin Muzafar. In future he will be known as (new name) Mir Ahmad Bin Muzafar.

If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned department, within & 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

Media line advt

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mir Syed Aijaz ul Nabi, S/o Late Mir Syed Ghulam Nabi Bazaz, R/o Syed Abad Lane 1, Umer Hair, Buchpora, intend to change the name on the electricity bill bearing consumer ID 0204040027949 from Late Mir Syed Ghulam Nabi Bazaz to Mir Syed Aijaz ul Nabi due to his demise.

Any person having objection may contact the concerned electricity office within 7 days of this notice.

Media line advt

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card as Insha Jan, whereas my correct name is INSHA ASHRAF. Now I have applied for the correction of the same. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same in the concerned Aadhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within a period of seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

**Name: INSHA ASHRAF  
D/O: Mohammad Ashraf Bhat  
R/O: Kanigam, Shopian** FKO

#### پرمت کی گشدگی

میری گاڑی (TATA SUMO) زیر نمبر 4320 JK01W کا (PERMIT) کہیں گم ہو گیا ہے۔ بہت دھونڈنے پر نہیں ملا۔ اگر کسی نے اٹھائی ہوئی گاڑی کے ساتھ ساتھ اپنے دے ہوئے نمبر پر فون کرے۔ بصورت دیگر اس کی ذمہ داری کا مطالبہ ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتے کے اندر اندر RTO حشمیر سنگر کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ بعد ازاں میعاد کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

شوکت احمد کھتری ولد غلام قادر کھتری

ساکن عرکا کوٹی بند سرنگر فون۔ 9419034043

mcb

#### اطلاع عام

برخاستہ دعام کو برسر اختیار مطلع کی جاتا ہے کہ مجھے اپنے بھائی ایگر سینٹ زیر کنٹرول نمبر 0206010001712 کے نام پر جو کہ گاڑی (غلام محمد خان) کے نام پر ہے جو کہ بہت پہلے فوت ہو چکا ہے۔ اب اسکو میرے نام ساجہ بانو کے نام پر کر دانا مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر بذریعہ خط یا تحریر پی ڈی ڈی یا ڈگام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

ساجہ بانو وچرم محمد خان (غلام محمد خان)

ساکن آریگام غاضب بانو ڈگام۔

فون 8491999411 MBC۔

mcb

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION PULWAMA

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS  
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

E-TENDERING/NIT No: 91 /EEP/RNB/2025-26/6570-80 DATED: - 30-10-2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of J&K Expression of Interest (EOI) are invited from approved and eligible Bidders as per Instruction to Bidder (ITB) and Terms of Reference at Annexure-I. The Bidder (Firm/Consultant/Agency/Company) should have the eligibility as per Annexure-II under Eligibility Criteria for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost of the Project (Rs in Lacs) for which Consultancy is Required as Adv. cost	Estimated Cost of the Architectural Engg. & Consultancy (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (in Rs)	Time of completion	Type of Consultancy
1.	Providing Consultancy and other allied services with all working drawings Digital Layout Plan, Detailed Project Report along with Estimate and BOQ, Architectural and Structural design as per requirement, Conducting of all required soil investigations for Reconstruction of High school Sangerwani..	241.08	1.20 lacs	200/-	15 Days	Architectural/ Structural Consultancy with Soil Testing

AAA Accorded Through Order No.286 DSEK of 2025 Dated:23-10-2025

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

S. No.	Particulars	Dated		
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice		30 -10-2025	
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From	30 -10-2025	(10:00AM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From	30 -10-2025	(10:00AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To	11 -11-2025	(04:00PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)		12 -11-2025	(11:00 AM)
		In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Pulwama		

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt(Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama [Tender Inviting Authority]Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan and Emd should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and Outsider UT of J&K bidders can submit DD of any nationalized bank in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama the cost of tender document fee is non refundable.

If MSME firm is registered with NSIC (National Small Industries Corporation) agencies for tendered item then they are exempted for submission of EMD & Tender Cost. If MSME's who are interested in availing these benefits will have to enclosed with their offer the proof of their beings MSME's registered with any of the above mentioned agencies.

2. The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.

All other terms and conditions shall be available in website www.jktenders.gov.in

Head Draftsman DIPK-7648/25 DATED: 31-10-2025 Technical Officer Executive Engineer, R&B Division Pulwama

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

### OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER DISTRICT INDUSTRIES CENTRE, SRINAGAR

Near Petrol Pump Baghi Ali Mardan Khan, Srinagar - 190011

Email ID: gmdic-srinagar@jk.gov.in

TEL/FAX: 0194-2427478

Public Notice

M/s Vaadi Polymers, I/E Shalteng Srinagar stands registered this office under No. 01/003/09589 dated 20.01.2024 for the activity of "Cold Storage" as a proprietorship concern of Mr. Umer Yaqoob Khan S/o Mohammad Yaqoob Khan R/o Khayam, Srinagar.

Now, the promoter of the unit has approached this office for change in name and style of the unit from existing to M/s Vaadi Industries I/E Shalteng, Srinagar.

Any person having any objection with regard to the above mentioned changes in favour of the unit, shall report to the Office of General Manager, District Industries Centre, Srinagar within a period of 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/- General Manager District Industries Centre Srinagar  
DIPK-7659/25  
DATED: 31-10-2025



## Kashmir World Film Festival To Be Held From Nov 1-7

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The fifth edition of the Kashmir World Film Festival will be held at Tagore Hall here from November 1 to 7.

Addressing a press conference, KWFF director Mushtaq Ali said that 60 films are scheduled to be screened during the seven-day event.

He said the organising committee had received 123 films.

"Only 60 films have been shortlisted, out of which 55 are in the competition section and five in the non-competition section," he said.



Within the country, the organisers have received Kashmiri, Dogri, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Ladakhi, Malayalam, Marathi, Odiya, Paha-

di, Punjabi, Tamil, Tibetan and Urdu films for the event.

"The films we received from other countries include those from Bangladesh, Egypt, Germany, Iran, Nepal, Palestine, Sri Lanka and UAE," he added.

Awards would be given in different categories including for feature films, feature-length documentaries, short films, short documentaries, animation films, experimental films and films made by students.

Referring to participation of eminent film personalities, Ali said the organisers have already got confirmation from popular



## CM Omar Inaugurates Noor Jahan Bridge At Qamarwari

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today inaugurated the 3x43 metre PSC Girder Double Lane Noor Jahan Bridge at Qamarwari, constructed over the River Jhelum to significantly ease traffic congestion and improve connectivity between the two sides of Srinagar city connecting Qamarwari with Noorbagh and serve as a vital link leading to Nallahmar road.

Built at a cost of Rs. 12.77 crore, the project marks a major step toward strengthening the city's road infrastructure and ensuring smooth vehicular movement, particularly in the densely populated Qamarwari and adjoining areas.

Addressing a public gathering after inaugurating the bridge, the CM said, "This bridge's foundation was laid by me and after 11 years our government comes back to complete it and today dedicate it to the people."

He added, "Despite the hurdles we face in governance, my government prioritises development, dignity and peace in the region. We are committed to fulfil our commitments and bring Jammu & Kashmir on the path of progress and prosperity."

Reiterating his stand on statehood, the Chief Minister renewed his call for its restoration, noting that it had been promised by the Central Government leadership on several occasions. "People took part enthusiastically in

### Unveils Kashmir Marathon Exposition At Polo View

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday inaugurated the exposition of Kashmir Marathon-2025 at Polo View, Srinagar.

The exposition marks the final leg of preparations for the much-anticipated second edition of the Kashmir Marathon, scheduled to be held on November 2 in the picturesque city.

The Chief Minister inspected various stalls and counters set up by different government departments, private sports firms and

event partners. The exhibition showcases a wide range of sports gear, equipment and accessories aimed at promoting fitness and outdoor activities.

It also includes dedicated bib collection centres and on-spot registration counters for participants of the upcoming marathon. On the occasion, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Director Tourism Kashmir Raja Yaqoob, event organisers and other senior officers were present.

last year's elections as statehood was promised to them after polls. There is no political party which didn't talk about its restoration," he said.




The Chief Minister also reaffirmed his government's resolve to develop sustainable and efficient transport infrastructure to meet the growing needs of Srinagar's expanding urban population. He assured the people that all promises made by the government would be fulfilled, adding that the administration remains dedicated to addressing the genuine issues of citizens. "After completing our term, we will present ourselves before the people to judge our govern-


ment's performance," he remarked.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Eidgah Mubarak Gul, MLA Central Shalteng Tariq Hameed Karra, besides several senior officers and officials from the concerned departments, were present on the occasion.

The inauguration of the Noor Jahan Bridge is expected to not only decongest existing traffic bottlenecks but also enhance accessibility for commuters, traders, and residents in the area and help people in commuting and going about their business in this busy area of Srinagar city.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD:18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

<b>AIRPORTS</b>	
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311	
<b>RAILWAYS</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259</li> <li>ANANTNAG: 01932-228243</li> <li>BARAMULLA: 0194-102029</li> <li>BIJBHERA: 01932-228243</li> <li>PAMPORE: 01933-294132</li> <li>PATTAN: 01954-293507</li> <li>QAZIGUND: 01951-296153</li> </ul>	
	
<b>HIGHWAY STATUS</b>	
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sgr-Jammu highway - ( Open )</li> <li>Mughal Road - (Open )</li> <li>Srinagar- Leh- (Open)</li> </ul>	

 <b>HIJRI</b> <b>CALENDAR</b> 09 Jumada al-Awwal 1447	<b>PRAYERS</b>	
	FAJR	5: 25
	ZUHR	12:14
	ASR	4: 01
	Magrib	5:42
	ISHA	7: 03

### This Day In History

- 835 - All Saints Day made compulsory by Pope Gregory IV throughout Frankish Kingdom
- 996 - First recorded use of modern name for Austria in the 'Ostarrichi Document'
- 1570 - All Saints Flood, tidal wave in the North Sea devastates the coast from Holland to Jutland; killing more than 1,000 people.
- 1721 - Prince Eugenius of Savoye unveils statue of himself
- 1755 - Lisbon earthquake kills more than 50,000 in Portugal
- 1834 First published reference to poker (as Mississippi riverboat game)
- 1894 - Vaccine for diphtheria announced by Dr Roux of Paris
- 1894 - Nicholas II becomes the new Tsar of Russia after his father, Alexander III, dies.
- 1897 - Italian football club Juventus F.C. is founded by students in Turin as Sport-Club Juventus
- 1902 - France and Italy sign an Entente under which Italy agrees to remain neutral if France is attacked; this is France's attempt to neutralize the Triple Entente
- 1911 - The first aerial bomb is dropped by an Italian pilot on Turkish troops in Libya during the Italo-Turkish War
- 1913 - Less than a week after the US non-intervention promise, President Woodrow Wilson demands that Mexican dictator Huerta resigns
- 1917 - In WW I, the 1st US soldiers are killed in combat
- 1928 - Graf Zeppelin sets airship distance record of 6384 km
- 1942 - 10th day of battle at El Alamein
- 1944 - World War II: Units of the British Army land at Walcheren in the Netherlands.
- 1947 - UN trusteeship for Nauru granted to Australia, NZ & UK
- 1951 - First atomic explosion witnessed by troops, New Mexico
- 1956 - Delhi becomes a territory of Indian union
- 1956 - Nobel for physics awarded to Shockley, Brattain & Bardeen
- 1962 - Greece enters European Common Market
- 1962 - USSR launches Mars 1; radio contact lost before arrival at Mars
- 1974 - UN affirms independence of Cyprus
- 1985 - Netherlands decides definitive sites for cruise missiles
- 1990 - Last of Margaret Thatcher's original government resigns, Deputy PM Howe
- 1990 - Rhetoric escalates as Bush likens Saddam to Hitler
- 1991 - Three faculty, and one staff member of the department of physics and astronomy, were killed, along with one administrator, when physics graduate student Gang Lu went on a shooting rampage at the University of Iowa.
- 1993 - The Maastricht Treaty, the Treaty on European Union comes into effect
- 1998 - The European Court of Human Rights is instituted.
- 2012 - Scientists detect evidence of light from the universe's first stars, predicted to have formed 500 million years after the big bang
- 2012 - 2 Iranian fighter jets fire on a US General Atomics MQ-1 Predator drone in international air space
- 2015 - Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet's Davutoglus Justice and Development Party regains its parliamentary majority in a surprise result
- 2017- Boiler explosion at a NTPC government-run coal-fired power plant in Rae Bareilly, India, kills 29
- 2017 - UK Defense Secretary Michael Fallon resigns due to his behavior towards women, part of wider scandal of sexual harassment by UK politicians
- 2018- Google employees stage mass walkout to protest the company's handling of sexual harassment
- 2018- Ground assault mounted on Yemeni port city of Hudaydah by Saudi-backed government forces
- 2020 - Gunmen kill at least 32 people, set fire to homes in Oromia state, Ethiopia, in attack blamed on rebel Oromo Liberation Army
- 2021- Global death toll from COVID-19 passes 5 million according to Johns Hopkins, with estimates the true toll is at least twice as high [1]



## آہ! محمد یونس بنگرونہ رہے

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ اور افسوس کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ محمد یونس بنگر و ولد غلام نبی بنگر و ساکنہ دھوبی محلہ بٹہ مالمختصر علالت کے بعد مورخہ 31 اکتوبر 2025ء بروز جمعۃ المبارک کو انتقال کر گئے۔ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحوم کو جنت الفردوس نصیب کرے۔ اس سلسلے میں مرحوم کے گھر پر تعزیتی پُرسی تین دن یعنی اتوار تک رہے گی۔

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DIPK-NB-2348/25                      dated: 31-10-2025

**BABA GHULAM SHAH BADSHAH UNIVERSITY RAJOURI (J&K)**  
Result Notification No. 485 of 2025  
Date: - 29-10-2025

It is notified for the information of all concerned that the Scholar whose details are given below has been declared qualified for the award of Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Zoology of this University.

Name/Parentage	Inayat Ullah Lone S/o Gulam Hassan Lone
Registration No.	BGSBU/19/Ph.D./98-Zol
Date of Registration	01-04-2019
ORCID	0000-0003-1336-1254
Date of Submission of Ph. Thesis	D29-08-2024
I. Date of Ph. D Viva-Voce	19-08-2025
Subject	Zoology
Title of the Thesis	"Study of Diversity and Entomological Investigations of Insect Pests Damaging the Vegetable Crops in District Rajouri (Jammu and Kashmir)".
Name of the Supervisor	Dr. Sajad Ahmad Khan Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, BGSB University Rajouri.

Sd/-  
Controller of Examinations

Errors & Omissions accepted.  
Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University Rajouri -185234  
No. BGSBU/Ph.D/CoE/25/ 5165-5139  
Date: 29-10-2025

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## KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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### KO VIEW

## Can Kashmir Save Its Oldest Story?

Just outside Pampore, lies a place that could re-write how the world sees Kashmir.

The Guryul Ravine is just grey rocks, narrow paths, and dust. But beneath that rough surface lies a record of the planet's biggest extinction, a moment 252 million years ago when nearly all life disappeared.

Earlier this month, the government finally declared Guryul a national geo-heritage site. Scientists have been waiting for this for decades. The ravine is one of only a handful of sites in the world that show how life collapsed and began again.

For years, experts from Europe, Japan, and India studied its rocks to trace how Earth survived that catastrophe. Then the visits stopped. Turmoil, quarrying, and neglect buried the story deeper than any fossil could.

This new recognition gives us a second chance. A heritage tag can bring researchers, students, and even tourists back to the valley for the right reasons. It can show a side of Kashmir where life itself once rebooted. But that will happen only if the government acts fast to fence, restore, and interpret the site.

Local residents say trucks still cut through the ravine for construction. The fossils that could teach children about evolution and climate change lie under heaps of gravel. Unless there's real protection on the ground, a heritage tag will become another forgotten file.

Kashmir has more than a dozen fossil-bearing sites, but almost all remain ignored. Each one tells a story older than any civilization that walked this land. Losing them means losing proof that Kashmir's history begins long before human conflict.

The Guryul Ravine can become a place where Kashmir's past and planet's future meet. Saving it would show that we finally understand what heritage really means: caring for what time gave us, before time takes it away.

Peerzada Mohsin Shafi

“As the government prepares to submit the revised report next month, people are watching closely. For them, this tunnel is an emotional project than an engineering one. It represents relief from the anxiety of isolation and a step toward stability.”

# Light at the End of the Tunnel

After years of delay and uncertainty, the long-awaited Singhpora-Vailoo Tunnel project is finally showing signs of movement. Its completion could change how Kashmir connects, trades, and survives winter.

For years, the Singhpora-Vailoo Tunnel has lived more in conversations than in construction.

People spoke of it at tea stalls, in buses winding through the Banihal pass, and in homes that shivered through long winters.

It symbolized hope, a promise that one day, the people of Kashmir and the Chenab Valley would no longer be cut off from each other every time the snow blocked the roads.

That hope flickered back to life this week when the government informed the Legislative Assembly that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Singhpora-Vailoo Tunnel is being revised to address technical requirements.

Once done, the revised report will be sent to the Public Investment Board (PIB) next month for approval.

The update came after MLA Payare Lal sought clarity on the tunnel's status. His question triggered a rare moment of optimism inside the House. Officials confirmed that the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) is handling the revisions to ensure smoother execution once the project moves forward.

Adding to the momentum, newly elected Rajya Sabha member Sajad Kichloo expressed confidence that the long-stalled tunnel would finally see tangible progress. He called it a project “of lifeline importance” for both Chenab and Kashmir, regions that remain vulnerable to unpredictable weather and fragile connectivity.

The idea of this tunnel is not new. It was first approved on July 18, 2022, under the Bharatmata Pariyojna Phase One and assigned to NHIDCL for execution. The plan was ambitious: a seamless, all-weather corridor along the NH-244 route, linking Singhpora in Baramulla with Vailoo in Anantnag through the Pir Panjal range.



Once operational, the tunnel would shorten travel time, reduce road accidents, and keep supplies and people moving throughout the year, something the existing Srinagar-Jammu highway often fails to ensure.

The current highway, though lifeline-like, is fair-weather. Every winter, landslides and heavy snow turn it into a dangerous passage. Truck drivers, patients, and students are often stranded for hours or days. Economic losses rise as perishable goods rot and businesses stall. In such moments, the tunnel seems like a necessity.

However, progress has been uneven. The initial excitement in 2022 faded when the tendering process was cancelled in 2024 over pending security clearances. The delay disheartened many who had pinned hopes on the project's early start. It also deepened the frustration of residents who see infrastructure as the key to unlocking economic potential across both regions.

Still, the renewed push offers reason to believe that things might finally change. Once cleared by the PIB, the project will move to the next stage of funding and implementation. For regions like Chenab, that could mean easier access to markets, hospitals, and educational institutions in the valley. And for Kashmir, it could mean a stronger logistical link that supports tourism and trade even in harsh weather.

Infrastructure in the Himala-

yas is never simple. It demands patience, political will, and precision. Yet every tunnel built here reshapes lives. Think of the Zojila tunnel or Banihal-Qazigund stretch, projects that transformed travel and trade once considered impossible.

The Singhpora-Vailoo Tunnel holds a similar promise: a route that connects places as well as possibilities.

For Kashmir, where geography often defines destiny, connectivity equals opportunity. A tunnel through the mountains could help farmers reach distant markets faster, students travel safely in winter, and ambulances cross without fear of blockades.

It could mean a more integrated economy, consistent tourism, and greater resilience against climate disruptions.

As the government prepares to submit the revised report next month, people are watching closely. For them, this tunnel is an emotional project than an engineering one. It represents relief from the anxiety of isolation and a step toward stability.

The hope now is that it won't take another season of snow to see the first signs of progress underground.

The author is a researcher and infrastructure columnist who also writes on societal issues, critically highlighting systemic flaws.

## The Silence in Our Bazaars

An afternoon in a Srinagar bazaar reveals how far Kashmir has drifted from the grace that once defined its people.

Aaqyb Ashraf

There was a time when Kashmir was called Peer Vear, the land of saints. People believed goodness was part of the air here, flowing through its markets and homes like the Jhelum through the valley. Courtesy shaped every interaction. Profit came after respect. That sense of moral grace once gave Kashmir its strength.

Today, that soul feels worn out. The change has not come overnight. It has crept into daily life, visible in how we speak, buy, sell, and treat one another. You can sense it in a simple exchange that should have been ordinary.

One September afternoon, I went to Maharaja Bazar in Srinagar to buy vegetables. The place was crowded, the air thick with the smell of coriander and chatter. Beside me stood an elderly man in a worn pheran, his face lined but calm. He pointed to a pile of beans and said to the vendor with politeness, “Please give me from that side, the vegetables look fresher there.”

The vendor didn't look up. He kept arranging his baskets and said coldly, “You will not get it even with money in your hand. If you want to take, take it, otherwise, don't buy.”

The old man paused for a few seconds. His eyes showed no anger, only the sadness of someone who had seen better times. He stepped back, sighed, and said, “We will eat dal.” Then he walked away.

That moment stayed with me long after I left the market. It was a small exchange, yet it revealed something larger about who we have become.

“If Kashmir wants to heal, the revival must begin in small acts. A fair deal, a gentle word, and a shared meal. The land of saints cannot be rebuilt through speeches or sermons. It will rise again when decency returns to our daily life.”

The old man's words carried defiance. He was choosing dignity over humiliation, a rare gesture in a time when self-respect often bows before arrogance.

In old Kashmir, trade rested on two principles: imaan (faith) and aakhlaq (ethics). A shopkeeper greeted every customer like a guest. A neighbour's child could eat at any home. People trusted words more than receipts.

Today, we count every rupee and lose count of kindness. The markets that

once echoed with warmth now carry the tone of impatience. Shopkeepers rarely smile. Customers rarely say thank you. Everyone seems in a hurry to win a bargain, even if it costs them grace.

The change goes beyond bazaars. It has entered our homes and hearts. Doors that once stayed open now remain locked. We perform rituals but forget their meaning. The call to prayer fills the air, but we fail to hear the pain next door.

The phrases that once defined Kashmiri manners are fading from daily talk. We have become loud in religion and faint in compassion.

The saints who shaped this land taught us that faith without humanity is hollow. Sheikh-ul-Alam spoke of kindness as the highest form of worship. Lal Ded lived in simplicity. Habba Khatoon sang of love and patience. Their teachings were the moral compass of Kashmir. Today, they survive in books, rarely in behaviour.

Some may call this a symptom of modern life, where pressure, inflation, and technology make people harder. But moral decay cannot be explained by economics alone. It comes from indifference, from choosing comfort over conscience. When respect turns optional, a society begins to lose its meaning.

That old man's refusal to argue was a reminder of who we once were. “We will eat dal” was not about food. It was about choosing values over vanity. It was a lesson that kindness, once lost, costs more than we can afford.

The author can be reached at aaqibashraf27@gmail.com

## Artisans at the Clock Tower

When the urban artisans took over Lal Chowk, Srinagar rediscovered the beauty shaped by its own hands.

Mohammad Hanief

Srinagar's Clock Tower, the Ghanta Ghar, has seen the city through centuries of change.

But on a recent crisp autumn day, it saw something different: colour, music, and craft spilling into its square as the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, hosted “Know Your Artisan.”

The city centre turned into a vibrant studio where art, culture, and heritage came alive in full public view.

Hundreds gathered at Lal Chowk to watch artisans at work. The looms, chisels, and brushes moved with a skill that seemed older than the tower itself. Each sound, like the clack of the loom, the scrape of the carving tool, and the swish of a paintbrush, carried echoes of a Kashmir that still breathes through its crafts.

The event was part exhibition, part revival. It offered an intimate look into crafts that have defined Kashmir's identity for generations, from pashmina weaving and papier-mâché painting to copper engraving, wood carving, and carpet making.

Each artisan turned their stall into a small stage of creation, where stories were woven in silk and wool. Visitors leaned in close, mesmerized by the intricate movements that transform raw material into beauty.

For many locals, it was a reminder of how much craftsmanship shapes Kashmiri life. For tourists, it was an experience that went beyond shopping for souvenirs. They could finally meet the people behind the shawls and carpets they had admired in stores, and understand the endurance that sustains these crafts through political upheaval and economic change.

In an era when most things come from machines, “Know Your Artisan” was a re-

turn to the human touch. It bridged the gap between creators and consumers, showing that heritage is what we continue to make visible.

Lal Chowk, once a symbol of political speech, became a place of cultural dialogue, where the hands that create met the eyes that appreciate.

The timing could not have been more fitting. With the square recently redesigned into a pedestrian-friendly zone, it has transformed from a commercial hub into a space of shared belonging. The Department's decision to host the event here was both symbolic and strategic. By bringing artisans into the heart of the city, they placed heritage back at the centre of public life.

Throughout the day, the Clock Tower stood amid a swirl of colour and sound. Sunlight caught the sheen of copperware, pashmina threads fluttered in the breeze, and folk music filled the air. Each display told a story of continuity, of families that have passed down their craft through generations, despite changing tastes and markets.

For the artisans, it was recognition. Many have long felt invisible, hidden behind the glamour of the products they make. Seeing people engage with their work, ask questions, and watch them create was deeply validating. It restored dignity to professions that often go unnoticed, even as they represent the very essence of Kashmiri identity.

There was also a clear tourism connection. Cultural experiences like this make Srinagar a living gallery of human creativity. Visitors carried home stories of artisans they met, workshops they watched, and the feeling of being part of something real.

The author is a senior analyst and can be reached at m.hanief@gmail.com



# Kashmir's Long Tryst with the Silver Screen

From Barsaat to Haider and Songs of Paradise, Kashmir's story on screen mirrors its search for identity beyond serenity and strife.

Seema Sangra

Long before cameras rolled, stories were told by firelight, passed from one voice to another. Then cinema was born, and the same old magic moved to a new stage: the screen.

From early black-and-white films to today's virtual experiences, cinema has been harnessed as a tool for storytelling, one that shapes perception, reinforces or challenges prejudices, asserts cultural supremacy, and wages ideological wars.

Ultimately, every story forges its heroes, and in doing so, it must also create its villains.

Before the late 80's disruptions, Kashmir was the beating heart of the Indian film industry, a muse woven into the very fabric of Bollywood's dreams.

For decades, its snow-capped peaks stood as silent custodians to epic romances, its pristine lakes mirrored stolen glances, and its flower-carpeted meadows set the stage for countless promises of love.

This legendary on-screen affair was ignited by classics like Raj Kapoor's Barsaat and Shakti Samanta's Kashmir Ki Kali and Aradhana, but it was Yash Chopra who truly immortalized the valley in the modern Indian cinema.

In films like Kabhi Kabhie and Silsila, he painted with the colours of Pahalgam, Gulmarg, and the Dal Lake, convinced that true romance could only breathe in this "Paradise on earth".

It was a golden era that lasted until a shifting political landscape gently nudged Bollywood's gaze from the valleys of Kashmir to the Alps of Switzerland.

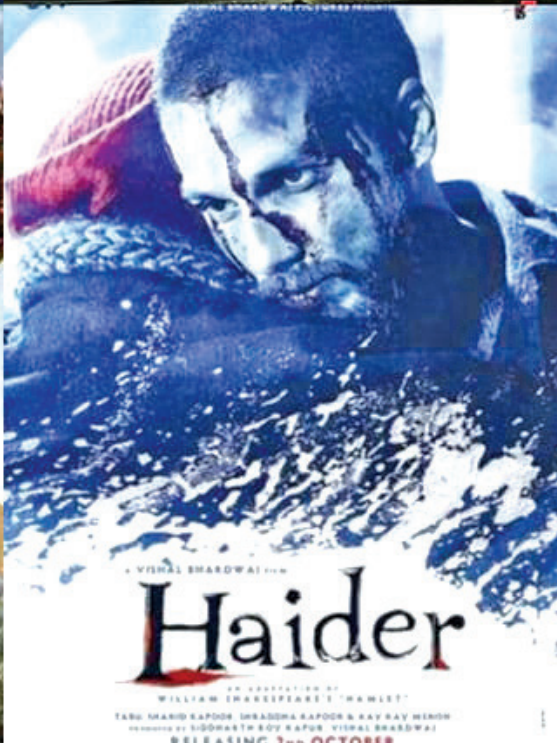
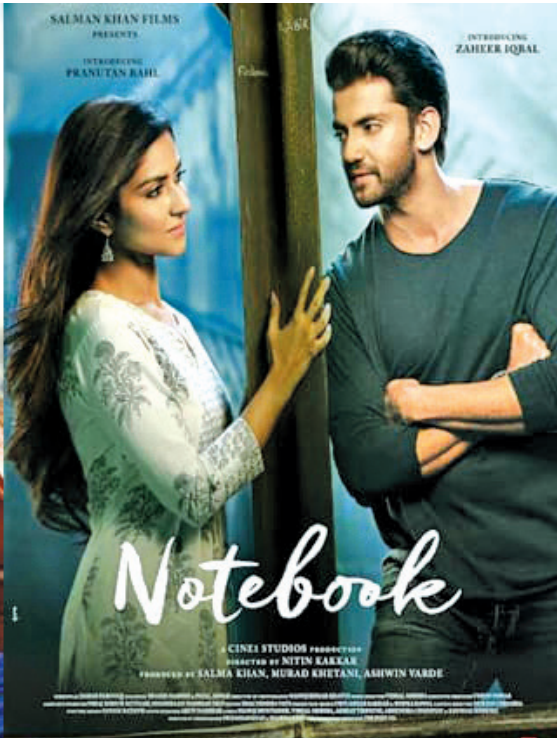
Meanwhile, along with early films shot in Kashmir, 1964 saw the release of Mainz Raat, a landmark first film in the Kashmiri language.

Directed by Ali Mohammed Lone, a man with a strong literary background, the film was deeply enriched with local culture. It boasted a simple storyline, authentic music, Kashmiri nuances, and powerful performances.

Particularly remembered for its use of traditional folk songs, the film was an absolute delight for



Kashmiri audiences and was honoured with the President's Silver



Medal. Over six decades later, Songs of

Paradise was launched on Amazon Prime, as another profound cel-

bration of Kashmiri identity.

The film is a long-overdue tribute to the legendary Raj Begum and makes one wonder why her inspiring story took so long to reach the screen. For years, Bollywood has returned to Kashmir, using its mountains, lakes, old town streets, shikarawalas, and nomadic Bakarwals with their flocks as part of its stories, but it overlooked the woman whose voice once gave the valley its song.

In Vishal Bhardwaj's stark cinematic adaptation of Hamlet, Haider, the setting is not a misty Danish castle but the fractured, snow-blanketed valleys of Kashmir.

The film, which weaves Shake-

intense role in Ground Zero.

This new kind of character came with its own layers. In Songs of Paradise, Noor Begum's husband, Azaad Maqbool, stands out as a rare example. He challenges social expectations to support his wife's dreams, showing a version of Kashmiri masculinity that is both strong and compassionate. His character reflects the changing and complex identities taking shape within Kashmir's society today.

Unlike the often flat portrayals seen in films, television has offered a more balanced view of Kashmir. The classic series Gul Gulshan Gulfaam builds empathy for a family of houseboat owners struggling to

**FILMS AND NEW MEDIA WILL ALWAYS SEE KASHMIR AS A PERFECT BACKDROP FOR THEIR STORIES,** but the real story of Kashmir runs much deeper. It is a civilizational tale shaped by centuries of art, thought, and resilience. Reducing it only to its beauty or its conflict does injustice to both the people and the place. It is time for Kashmir to move from being a setting to becoming the storyteller of its own narrative.

spear's tragic prince into the region's complex political fabric, finds its soul in the haunting ruins of Par-i-haspura in Pattan. It is here, amid the echoes of ancient kingdoms, that the movie's most powerful sequences and the song 'Bismil' were shot.

Some films reduced Kashmir's intricate social tapestry to a single, gigantic narrative, threatening to unravel the threads that bound its community together, to set a new narrative, unfamiliar to many Kashmiris.

With films like Mission Kashmir, Article 370, Shikara, and others, the image of the Kashmiri protagonist has changed sharply over the years.

In the 1965 romantic film Jab Jab Phool Khile, Raja was a simple and sentimental boatman who fell in love with a wealthy tourist. Decades later, that innocence gave way to darker portrayals, like Hrithik Roshan's vengeful character in Mission Kashmir or Narendra Dubey's

survive as political unrest affects their livelihood.

In a different way, The Family Man also touches on Kashmir with scenes that explore its complex realities and resist the temptation to paint all Kashmiris with the same brush.

Films and new media will always see Kashmir as a perfect backdrop for their stories, but the real story of Kashmir runs much deeper.

It is a civilizational tale shaped by centuries of art, thought, and resilience. Reducing it only to its beauty or its conflict does injustice to both the people and the place.

It is time for Kashmir to move from being a setting to becoming the storyteller of its own narrative.

— Seema Sangra, from Jammu and Kashmir, is the Program Leader for Media Studies at Amity University, Dubai. She is also the Media Advisor to the Kashmir World Film Festival.

## The Queen Who Saved Kashmir's Soul

A new book on Sultana Kota Rani revives the legend of a woman who led with faith, intellect, and an unshakable belief in the power of Tasawuf.

Syed Sammar Mehdi

In Kashmir's long and layered history, few figures shine as luminously as Sultana Kota Rani.

Her story, often confined to folklore and fragmented chronicles, returns to the center of public imagination through Sultana Kota Rani: The Great Reshi Queen of Kashmir by Dr. Khawaja Farooq Renzushah.

The book has sparked rare excitement in academic and literary circles for its bold attempt to restore a queen's place in Kashmir's collective memory, and in doing so, rekindle the idea of leadership rooted in spirituality and compassion.

Dr. Renzushah's research-driven narrative takes the reader to 14th-century Kashmir, a valley under siege and on the verge of collapse.

The Mongol warlord Zulqader Khan's invasion in 1321 A.D. brought fear and devastation, and as the ruling elite fled, it was Kota Rani, a woman surrounded by chaos and betrayal, who chose to stay. Her courage is portrayed as moral clarity.

In the defiant queen, Dr. Renzushah sees a monarch who fought with strategy as much as with soul.

The book's most vivid passages describe her alliance with Prince Rinchen Shah of Tibet, a union that would transform both Kashmir's politics and its faith.

Guided by Hazrat Bulbulshah, the Sufi sage from Khurasan, Rinchen Shah would later embrace Islam, blending its spiritual core with the valley's native Reshi traditions.

Through this synthesis, Dr. Renzushah traces the roots of Kashmir's Tasawuf culture, a gentle philosophy of love, humility, and human connection that shaped its identity for centuries.

One of the book's most striking episodes recounts how Kota Rani ordered the strategic blasting of glaciers in the Pir Panjal to destroy the Mongol army.

The image is almost cinematic: a queen standing at the edge of a frozen frontier, turning nature itself into her ally.



**CRITICS HAVE PRAISED THE WORK FOR ITS AMBITIOUS SCOPE AND METICULOUS RESEARCH,** calling it a major contribution to Kashmiri historiography. It gives Kota Rani what history long denied her, a rightful place among the architects of Kashmir's spiritual identity.

The author's telling of this moment is less about warfare and more about wisdom, the intelligence and courage of a woman who protected her people through both wit and will.

Beyond the battles, the book explores how Kota Rani's reign helped plant the seeds of a cultural and spiritual renaissance in Kashmir.

Under the guidance of Hazrat Bulbulshah and later Reshi saints, the

valley emerged as a place where devotion replaced division.

Dr. Renzushah uses historical evidence and oral traditions to argue that this was the period when the soul of Kashmir, its ethic of tolerance and hospitality, began to take shape.

What makes The Great Reshi Queen of Kashmir stand out is its fusion of scholarship and spiritual reflection.

Dr. Renzushah's tone is reverent yet analytical. He examines texts and chronicles with care, while also inviting readers to feel the moral and emotional power of the Queen's journey. His writing celebrates her as a woman who led with intellect, governed with heart, and defended her land with faith.

Critics have praised the work for its ambitious scope and meticulous research, calling it a major contribution to Kashmiri historiography.

It gives Kota Rani what history long denied her, a rightful place among the architects of Kashmir's spiritual identity.

— The reviewer is a trainee reporter at Kashmir Observer.

## Reading Under Shadows

As syllabi shrink and shelves thin out, Kashmiri readers still reach for stories that make them feel free.

Falak Fayaz

I grew up believing that between the covers of a book, one could find what the outside world often denied: the courage to question.

But, over the past few years, that belief feels like it's slipping away.

Something subtle is changing in how we read and what we are allowed to read. Some books have been silently dropped from syllabi and shelves.

A teacher I spoke with in Srinagar told me that she skips readings that might invite "unnecessary questions." In her words, I felt that the space for intellectual freedom is shrinking.

And yet, something remarkable is also happening. Even as institutions grow more cautious, young Kashmiris are finding their own ways to keep reading alive.

On an autumn evening at Fountain Book Café in Lal Chowk, I watched a small group of students debate Rumi and Orwell over cups of kehwa. The café buzzed with conversations about novels and poetry, Bisma, a literature student, told me, "Reading is my refuge. Books give me space to breathe." Her words carried both fatigue and defiance.

Small reading clubs and digital book circles have emerged across the valley. Students exchange PDFs over WhatsApp. Some post anonymous reviews online, while others gather in homes to discuss novels away from the public eye.

It's a culture of silent persistence. They read to connect, question, and imagine beyond the narrow walls closing in.

But at the same time, many schools in Kashmir still lack proper libraries. Where they exist, shelves are half-empty, and budgets for new books are almost nonexistent.

One librarian in South Kashmir laughed softly when I asked about new arrivals. "The world is discussing Artificial Intelligence," he said. "We are still debating whether Animal Farm is safe to teach."

In Srinagar's old Residency Road, I met Farooq Ahmad, who runs Rehmat



**BETWEEN BOOKS AND BANS LIES THE STORY OF A GENERATION** that still turns pages, still seeks knowledge, and still believes that words matter.

Book House, one of the city's oldest bookshops. He has watched generations of Kashmiris grow up with books, and grow wary of them.

"There were times when political books were hidden under poetry covers," he recalled. "Poetry was our

camouflage for creative freedom."

But, he still sees hope in young readers who come asking for out-of-print books. "You cannot silence curiosity," he smiled.

That curiosity is what sustains Kashmir's youth today.

Reading has turned from an act of learning into an act of creative expression. It is their way of saying that thought cannot be curbed.

A society's relationship with books reflects its relationship with life. When books vanish from hands, ideas vanish from hearts.

To rebuild that space for thought, Kashmir needs trust.

Schools must nurture libraries, communities must open reading spaces, and local authors must be encouraged to tell their stories.

When young people are trusted with diverse ideas, they learn to think critically, not contrarily.

— The author can be reached at falakfayaz.bhat69@gmail.com





Rashtriya Ekta Diwas: Students Participate in Run For Unity Event in Srinagar.KO Photo By Abid Bhat

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Assembly

details, the bills passed include the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2025, the Jammu and Kashmir Shops and Establishments (Licensing, Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Bill, 2025, the Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2025, the Jammu and Kashmir Tenancy Bill, 2025, and the Jammu and Kashmir Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

Opposition BJP members staged a walkout on Thursday after the Speaker rejected an adjournment motion moved by Udhampur MLA Pawan Gupta seeking discussion on the plight of flood victims in the Union Territory.

Thanking members for their cooperation, the Speaker said MLAs submitted 732 questions, of which 682 were admitted, three deleted, and none withdrawn. "Twenty-nine questions were discussed and members asked 73 supplementaries," Rather said, adding that members raised 97 issues during Zero Hour — "an unprecedented number."

He said five government bills were tabled and passed, while 13 fresh private members' bills were received this session and 33 were carried forward from previous ones. "As many as 41 bills were listed but only eight could be taken up. The remaining will move to the next session," he added.

The House also took up 10 calling attention motions and discussed seven resolutions before being adjourned sine die.

GST (Amendment)

and Services Tax Act, 2017 (Act No. V of 2017) (L.A. Bill No. 8 of 2025)," reads the Bill passed in the House.

The Bill was passed unanimously through a voice vote

Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandita on Friday laid on the Table of the House a copy of "The Members of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly (Disqualification on Grounds of Defection) Rules, 2025."

The rules outline the procedures and conditions under which a legislator may be disqualified on grounds of defection, in accordance with the provisions of the anti-defection law.

LG Sinha Dismisses

Sinha said that both the Prime Minister and the Union Home Minister have assured statehood will be restored at an appropriate time, following delimitation and assembly polls.

"But some people have some problems. When the assembly elections were held, it was clear that the elections were taking place for the UT assembly. They (elected government) cannot make the excuse that work cannot be done till statehood is restored," the LG said.

Sinha said the elected government has all the powers, and asserted that people should not be misled under the pretext of the absence of statehood.

He added that the government should use its powers for the betterment of the people of J&K.

"An aspirational J&K UT was born on 31st October 2019," Sinha said, adding that the day marked the end of an era of fear, separatism, and discrimination, and the beginning of peace, development, and democratic participation. He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, "historic milestones" had been achieved in infrastructure, governance, and social justice.

"Six years ago, history was made when laws framed by the Indian Parliament became applicable in J&K," the LG said.

He credited Sardar Patel for laying the foundation of national integration and Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee for his vision of a united India.

He asserted that all forms of discrimination had been eliminated, paving the way for equality and social justice. "Even the President of India once had no authority over an inch of land here," he remarked, recalling how past regimes had built "artificial walls" that deprived women and marginalized groups of their rights.

He also reiterated that the administration would continue to act against government employees involved in terror-related activities.

"This process will continue until the terror ecosystem is completely wiped out from governance," he said.

Sinha lauded the security forces for "breaking the backbone of terrorism", noting that the new generation has rejected violence. "Stone pelting has become history. People are now coming out spontaneously in support of peace and progress," he said.

The LG urged people to stand united against elements trying to derail the ongoing development process. "Since 2019, the aspirations of Jammu and Kashmir are linked with those of the nation. We must turn our unity into widespread prosperity, guided by the 4 Ps- Peace, Progress, Prosperity, and People First," he added.

To mark the occasion, Sinha led the 'Run for Unity', inaugurated a photo exhibition titled 'An Era of Transformative Governance in Jammu and Kashmir', and launched a documentary, 'Viksit Jammu Kashmir', produced by the Department of Information and Public Relations.

The event was attended by Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma, Rajya Sabha MP Ghulam Ali Khatana, Waqf Board Chairperson Dr Darakhshan Andrabi, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, senior civil and police officers, and several prominent citizens.

Rashtriya Ekta

Patel, on his 150th birth anniversary. Urged all to work with dedication for an Aatmanirbhar and developed India," LG Sinha wrote in a post on X.

The Lieutenant Governor also addressed the Union Territory Foundation Day celebration and paid homage to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the unifier of India.

"An aspirational Jammu and Kashmir UT was born on 31st October 2019, and the people's dream of peace and progress was fulfilled within a short span of time. Historic milestones were achieved in infrastructure and other sectors. All forms of discrimination were eliminated, and social justice and equality were established," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He emphasised that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the dreams of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee are being realised through the all-round development of Jammu and Kashmir.

Calling for unity with the singular objective of inclusive development, LG Sinha said, "We must follow the vision and ideals of Sardar Patel and work as a unified force for the shared goal of Aatm-Nirbhar J&K and Viksit Bharat. We have made history in terms of all-round progress and must continue this journey as an unbreakable entity."

**Calls For AI-Powered,** and income of farmers," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He was speaking at the SKUAST-Kashmir's 'Deeksharambh', a Student Induction Programme, titled as "Aneka Mein Ekta Diwas" held to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. In his address, he also lauded the academic achievements of SKUAST-Kashmir and expressed his happiness over its overall ranking and attracting students from across states and UTs.

"Today, it is 150th birth anniversary of Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and I am extremely happy that the presence of youth from every state from Arunachal to Andhra Pradesh, Kashmir to Kanyakumari, Madhya Pradesh to Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu to Telangana and Kerala to Karnataka in this campus has transformed it into a "Mini India". The transformation at SKUAST-Kashmir in the last 3-4 years has brought about such a revolutionary change that a "mini-India" is visible in this campus today," the Lieutenant Governor said.

"You are the inheritors of Sardar Patel's vision. You are the ambassadors of unity. As we honour the memory of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel today, let us also reaffirm our duty to continue strengthening our country. Let your education be not just about degrees but about making a difference in the lives of people," the Lieutenant Governor told the students.

The Lieutenant Governor felicitated social workers and prominent citizens for their contribution to the society. He also visited the

Chrysanthemum Garden in the campus. The cultural performances by the students received special appreciation from the Lieutenant Governor.

Aftab Malik, Chairman, District Development Council Srinagar; Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir; Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary Culture; Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; senior officials; Head of Departments, faculty members, staff and students were present.

Timings Revised

order said. Earlier, the timings for schools within Srinagar municipal limits were from 9 am to 3 pm, while it was 10 am to 4 pm for the schools located outside.

Durbar Move:

for the winter—was reinstated by the Omar Abdullah government on October 16, after being abolished by the lieutenant governor's administration in 2021.

According to officials, offices in Srinagar observing a five-day work week closed after regular hours on Friday, while those following a six-day schedule will close on Saturday. All departments are set to resume operations in Jammu on Monday, November 3.

Authorities said necessary arrangements have been made for transportation, accommodation, and security of the employees relocating to Jammu to ensure smooth continuation of administrative work.

Meanwhile, the Traffic Department has announced that no movement of goods carriers from Jammu toward Srinagar will be allowed from Saturday and Sunday to facilitate the transition.

The revival of the Darbar Move marks a return to a long-standing tradition that has symbolized administrative unity between the two regions of Jammu and Kashmir for over a century. As part of the recently restored biannual practice known as the Darbar Move, government offices in Srinagar closed on Friday and will reopen in the winter capital, Jammu, on November 3, officials said.

The century-old administrative tradition—under which the civil secretariat and other offices function in Srinagar during summer and shift to Jammu for the winter—was reinstated by the Omar Abdullah government on October 16, after being abolished by the lieutenant governor's administration in 2021.

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MLA Objects To

was watching reels during the session. "When I was asking a question about doctors, I opened Facebook for a few seconds. A video of that moment was captured and circulated on social media," Mirchal said, adding that the video caused embarrassment and distress. "My constituents have been calling me since last night; I couldn't sleep the entire night. Action should be taken against such practices," he said.

Supporting him, NC MLA from Gurez, Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi, clarified that Mirchal had been checking documents sent by the Assembly Secretariat and urged the government to take note of the matter. He said the party was considering moving a privilege motion against the news portal concerned.

Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather assured the

CAG Team Commends PMTC's Innovative Approach To Training & Development

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The CAG team during the week-long tour visited several centres of PMTC KVIC Pampore at Ganderbal and Anantnag to assess their functioning.

During the tour, the team commended the PMTC's Innovative Approach to Training and Development. They appreciated the efforts of the KVIC team and said that such efforts must continue in the future also for giving opportunities to women folk for giving their life a right direction.

Principal PMTC, Anil Kumar Sharma briefed the team about the functioning of these centres. He informed that PMEGP (Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme) has been making waves in empowering entrepreneurs like Tawheeda. He added that PMEGP has emerged as a flagship initiative supporting entrepreneurship and self-reliance.

In the meantime the Principal of PMTC, KVIC Pampore, Anil Kumar Sharma along with officials from the CAG Audit Team today, visited Shining



Star, a successful beneficiary under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMGP). During the visit, the team interacted with trainees and obtained their feedback on the ongoing skill development initiatives.

The Principal PMTC lauded the organization for its exemplary contribution in empowering women through skill development and gainful employment. The initiative stands as an inspiring example of women's empowerment and self-reliance under the PMGP.

PMTC KVIC Pampore is organizing various trainings across J&K viz cutting and Tailoring,

shawl embroidery etc for the women folk. This visit today in the training centre namely Shining Start was also applauded by CAG Team.

Giving glimpses of her entrepreneurial journey Tawheeda started her journey in the year 2021 by taking loan of Rs. 25 Lacs under PMEGP. Not only making herself self-employed, she is also having around 20 employees and giving wages Employment to hundreds of people mostly women folk thus giving surge to Women Empowerment.

On the occasion Principal PMTC Pampore assured her full support in her entrepreneurial journey.

members that the matter would be examined and "appropriate action" taken.

During the discussion, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary also expressed concern over social media clips circulating from within the Assembly. He referred to a video featuring him and Education Minister Sakina Ittoo, saying it had been used out of context.

"Sakina Ittoo was sitting with me. We were discussing something. They captured a clip and made reels. This is an insult. We are respectable people. She tied a Rakhi on my wrist. They made vulgar reels," Choudhary said, urging for responsible media conduct.

He called for stricter guidelines for media coverage of the House proceedings, suggesting that accounts misusing Assembly content should face restrictions.

The Speaker assured the House that necessary measures would be taken to maintain decorum and prevent such incidents in the future.

India, US Ink

of 50 percent tariffs on Indian goods. "We signed the 10 years 'Framework for the US-India Major Defence Partnership'. This will usher in a new era in our already strong defence partnership," Singh said on X after talks with Hegseth.

The defence minister said the pact will provide policy direction in the entire spectrum of the India-US defence relationship.

"It is a signal of our growing strategic convergence and will herald a new decade of partnership," he said.

"Defence will remain as a major pillar of our bilateral relations. Our partnership is critical for ensuring a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific region," Singh added.

Hegseth said the agreement "advances our defence partnership, a cornerstone for regional stability and deterrence."

"We're enhancing our coordination, info sharing, and tech cooperation. Our defense ties have never been stronger," he said.

Hegseth and Singh are in Kuala Lumpur to attend a meeting of a grouping of nations comprising ASEAN member states and some of its dialogue partners.

Nehru Blocked Full

was restrained by Nehru's decision. "The subsequent mistake on Kashmir, resulting from the wish of the then Prime Minister not being fulfilled, engulfed the nation in turmoil for decades," Modi said.

The Prime Minister lauded Patel's "steely resolve" and credited him with uniting over 550 princely states after independence. "Today, Kashmir has broken free from the shackles of Article 370 and is fully integrated into the mainstream," he said, asserting that the move has made "Pakistan and the masterminds of terrorism realise the true strength of India."

Modi said that strong governance and national unity had crushed the roots of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Without naming the Congress, Modi accused post-independence governments of adopting "weak and spineless" policies that compromised India's unity and security. "Due to Congress's weak policies, a part of Kashmir went under the illegal occupation of Pakistan. Kashmir and the country paid a heavy price, yet the Congress always bowed down to terrorism," he said.

Modi also raised the issue of infiltration, calling it a "grave threat" to the country's demographic balance. He accused previous governments of ignoring the issue for "vote-bank politics" and claimed that his government was committed to removing all illegal immigrants from Indian soil.

"Some people are prioritising their own interests over the national interest by fighting for the rights of infiltrators. They think the country can be broken again and again. But if the nation's identity is threatened, every citizen will be at risk," he said, reaffirming his government's resolve to expel illegal immigrants.

Modi further accused the Congress of displaying a "colonial mindset" by removing a portion of the national song Vande Mataram on religious grounds, alleging that the move "laid the foundation for India's partition."

He also criticised the practice of "political untouchability," saying leaders like Patel, B.R. Ambedkar, and Jayaprakash Narayan were sidelined because of differing ideologies.

Highlighting his government's efforts to honour national figures, Modi cited the construction of the Statue of Unity, the Panchteerth dedicated to Ambedkar, and the Prime Ministers' Museum in Delhi.

Touching on the issue of language, the Prime Minister said every Indian language is a national language and no attempt has ever been made to impose one over another. "Language is an important pillar of our unity. India's hundreds of languages and dialects are symbols of our creative thinking," he said.

Concluding his address, Modi called upon citizens to strengthen national unity and work together for a developed and self-reliant India.

Aug 2019 Ended

mission that Patel had begun after Independence.

Speaking at the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations in Gujarat's Ekta Nagar, Shah said that Sardar Patel had shown unparalleled determination in integrating more than 560 princely states into the Indian Union after 1947, a task many at the time thought was impossible.

"At that time, the entire world thought that it would be impossible to unite these 562 princely states into one nation. However, within a short span of time, Sardar Patel accomplished the monumental task of integrating all 562 princely states, and the map of modern India that we see today is the result of his vision and efforts," Shah said.

The Home Minister said Patel's diplomacy, courage, and administrative acumen transformed the fragmented political landscape into a unified country. "Some provinces were reluctant to integrate, but Sardar Patel addressed every issue with determination and foresight," he said.

The HM said that Patel's mission of complete integration remained unfinished because Jammu and Kashmir continued to have a separate Constitution and flag under Article 370. "Because of Article 370, Jammu and Kashmir was not fully integrated into India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi accomplished the work of Sardar Patel by abrogating the Article, and now we have an 'Akhand Bharat' with us," he said.

Shah said the decision to revoke Article 370 in August 2019 marked a historic milestone that realised Patel's dream of one nation, one Constitution, and one flag. He said the integration of Jammu and Kashmir into the national mainstream has ensured equal rights and opportunities for all citizens in the region.

The Home Minister said the government's policies in Jammu and Kashmir have brought stability and development that reflect the unity Patel envisioned. The people of the region are now equal participants in India's democratic and constitutional framework, he said.

"Today, under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, the entire country stands united, from Kutch to Kamrup and from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. This unity is the true tribute to Sardar Patel," Shah said.

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, or National Unity Day, is observed every year on October 31 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who played a central role in integrating princely states into the Indian Union after Independence. (KNO)

Jammu Gets 72%

relax or amend the existing rules governing eligibility.

"As regards relaxation or amendment of the relevant provisions, it is submitted that no such proposal is under consideration at present," the minister noted.

Under the government's asset criteria, a family applying for an Economically Weaker Section (EWS) certificate must not own agricultural land exceeding five acres, a residential flat larger than 1,000 sq. ft., or residential plots bigger than 100 sq. yards in municipal areas and 200 sq. yards in non-notified areas.

The data presented in the Assembly is likely to renew debate over regional imbalances in policy implementation and access to welfare entitlements across Jammu and Kashmir.



## OPERATION MAHADEV

# 19 J&K Police Officers Awarded MHA Award For Avenging Pahalgam Attack

## KO Web Desk

**SRINAGAR:** Nineteen officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Police have been honoured with the Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for their exemplary role in Operation Mahadev — a major counter-terror operation launched following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

The awardees include Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Vidhi Kumar Birdi, DIG Central Kashmir Pande Rajiv Omprakash, SSP Srinagar G.V. Sundee Chakraborty, SP Cargo Tanweer Ahmed Dar, and SP Zohab Tanveer.

Other recipients are DSPs Vikram Nag, Mubashir Naiz, and Shakir Hassan; Inspector Taseer Hamid; SIs Anchal Singh and



Firoz Ahmad Dar; ASIs Basharat

Rasool Shah and Mohammad Shafi; HCs Javed Ahmed and Sandeep Khujuria; SGTs Varun Singh and Mehmood Khan; and constables Suhail Abbas and Basharat Qadir.

The officers played a key role in Operation Mahadev, a joint mission that neutralized three Pakistani militants — Suleiman alias Asif, Jibrán, and Hamza Afghani — identified as part of the

group responsible for the Pahalgam attack. Suleiman was the key planner of the assault, while Jibrán was also linked to the 2024 Sonamarg Tunnel strike.

Security forces recovered one M4 carbine, two AK rifles, and a large cache of ammunition during the operation, marking a major breakthrough against cross-border terror networks in the Valley

## CM Omar Declines To Comment on LG's Statehood Remark

Says Will Respond After Reading Statement

## Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday declined to engage in a verbal exchange with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha over his recent remarks on statehood, saying he would respond only after reviewing the LG's exact statement.

Earlier in the day, while speaking at an event at the SKICC, the LG had said that the absence of statehood should not be used as an excuse for "underperformance," asserting that the elected government already has all necessary powers.

When asked by reporters to respond to the comment, Omar said he preferred caution.

"First, I would like to see the words he has used, because if there is a difference in what he has stated and



what you are saying, then if I say something which is wrong, it will not be good," he said.

However, the Chief Minister added that if the LG's remarks were indeed as reported, he would "respond at the right time."

Omar made the comments while attending the inaugural ceremony of the Kashmir Marathon Expo in Srinagar.

He said events like the marathon and its accompanying expo were valuable

platforms to promote Jammu and Kashmir's cultural and tourism potential.

"When I participated in the half-marathon in Delhi, I saw that a similar event was organised there, and people liked it very much. It's good that apart from a run, an expo is also being organised," Omar said.

He added that the expo would showcase J&K's handicrafts and tourism attractions to visitors from across the country, helping boost tourism and local enterprise.

## Lays Foundation Stone Of Veterinary Hospital At Athwajan

## Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday laid the foundation stone of the Central Veterinary Hospital at Athwajan, Srinagar, marking a major step towards strengthening veterinary infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir.

The project, to be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 11.91 crore, will serve as a state-of-the-art centre for veterinary treatment, diagnostics, and animal welfare service. The project is being executed by the Public Works (R&B) Department and will cater to the growing needs of livestock owners and dairy farmers in the vicinity.

The Chief Minister said



the establishment of the hospital will greatly benefit livestock farmers by providing modern veterinary services, disease control measures, and emergency care under one roof.

He emphasized that the government is committed to supporting the livestock and dairy sectors as integral components of

the rural economy.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Nasir Aslam Wani, Advisor to the Chief Minister and Ahsan Pardesi, MLA Lal Chowk.

Officials from the Agriculture Production Department and PW(R&B) Department were also present on the occasion.

## Ladakh's UT Foundation Day

# LG Gupta Launches New Digital Governance Initiatives

## Observer News Service

**LEH:** Lieutenant Governor Kavin-der Gupta on Thursday led the 6th Foundation Day celebrations of the Union Territory of Ladakh at the LG Secretariat in Leh, marking six years since the region attained UT status following the abrogation of Article 370.

On the occasion, the LG launched several digital citizen-centric platforms, including the Grievance Redressal Portal, Raj Bhawan Website, Swagatam Portal, Online Building Permission & Occupancy System, and SIDCO



Loan Management Portal, aimed at enhancing transparency, accessibility, and efficiency in gov-

ernance. He also unveiled the Sindhu Darshan magazine, highlighting his first 100 days in office.

Extending greetings to the people of Ladakh, LG Gupta said the day marks "a proud milestone in Ladakh's journey of progress and transformation." He noted that the region has achieved "remarkable growth" in sectors like infrastructure, education, healthcare, power, and tourism despite its geographical challenges.

"These digital initiatives reflect our commitment to good governance built on efficiency, accountability, and service to citizens," he said, adding that Ladakh today stands as a model of transparent, technology-driven administration.

Highlighting the region's strides in sustainability, the LG said the vision of a Carbon-Neutral Ladakh, as outlined by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has evolved into a people's movement. "Our solar energy and eco-conscious efforts represent Ladakh's collective resolve for a greener future," he said.

He also praised Ladakh's youth for excelling in education, sports, and entrepreneurship, and called for continued unity among communities. "Unity in diversity is Ladakh's greatest strength — a value that must continue to guide our development," the LG said.

## Article 370, 35-A Will Never Return: BJP

## Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly and senior BJP leader Sunil Sharma on Friday said that the restoration of Article 370 and 35-A will remain a dream for those demanding it, urging Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to focus instead on ensuring good governance and pursuing the demand for statehood.

Speaking to reporters, Sharma, as quoted by Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) supports the demand for statehood, those hoping for the return of the revoked constitutional provisions are "chasing a mirage."

"Ask Omar sahib about his August 15 speech where he said they would go door to door to collect signatures. I was at that function. You keep talking about

statehood — we support it — but don't hide behind it," Sharma said. "Where is the UT setup stopping you from working? A major corruption scandal came out just yesterday. If the UT setup allows you to do corruption, what is stopping you from delivering good governance?" he added.

Responding to recent allegations by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary about a multi-crore scam, Sharma said the claims "lack logic."

"He alleges a 28-thousand-crore scam somewhere. You are in the government, your department is with you. Bring out the files and show them to the people if you have the courage. If you're a minister, allow investigations. One scandal surfaced yesterday — start by investigating your own department, the Industries Department," Sharma remarked.

## Issue Of Expired Leases

### No One, Irrespective Of Religion Or Region, Should Be Evicted: Para

## Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Peoples Democratic Party MLA Waheed Para on Friday said that nobody, irrespective of religion or region, should be evicted from their place in Jammu and Kashmir.

He was speaking during the Zero Hour in the Legislative Assembly, while taking part in a discussion on the issue of expired leases raised by National Conference MLA Tanvir Sadiq.

Sadiq said there was a "clear bias" in how the Land Grants Rules, 2022 were being implemented in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Leases have expired in Jammu as well, but evictions are taking place only in Kashmir. People who have invested their lifelong earnings in the Valley are being removed, but similar action is not being taken in

Jammu," the Zadibal MLA said.

Sadiq cited revenue department data in response to a question from his party colleague and Sopore MLA Irshad Rasool Kar.

Para, the MLA from south Kashmir's Pulwama, said the National Conference remembered that people were being evicted a day after it said the people of Kashmir are "land-grabbers".

"Yesterday you said Kashmiris are land-grabbers, now you remember them. Whether anyone is a Hindu or a Muslim, whether they are from Jammu or from Kashmir, nobody should be evicted from their place," Para said.

He also asked Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to move court over the termination of government employees by the Lieutenant Governor.

## J&K Police Celebrates Rashtriya Ekta Diwas

## Organises 'Run for Unity' Across Districts



## Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Rashtriya Ekta Diwas was celebrated with immense enthusiasm and patriotic spirit by J&K Police across the Union Territory. The main event was held at the Armed Police Complex (APC) Zewan. Shri S.J.M. Gillani, Special Director General of Police, Coordination administered the oath of unity. He also took the salute and led the officers and other ranks in paying floral tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Contingents of the BSF, CRPF, SSB, JKAP, IRP, Women's Battalion, SDRF, and Executive Police took part in the impressive march past.

Oath-taking ceremonies

were held at district, unit, and wing headquarters across the UT. Senior officers administered the unity pledge to their respective personnel.

As part of the celebrations, "Run for Unity" events were also held at all police stations across the Union Territory. Thousands of youth participated in these runs, spreading the powerful message of a united and strong India.

In Anantnag, the run from DPL to Wazir Bagh saw participation from youth, students, and civil society members. DIG South Kashmir Range Shri Javid Iqbal Mattoo (IPS) and SSP Anantnag Shri Amritpal Singh (IPS) led the event.

## Health Dept Admits Shortage of Specialists

The Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Department on Friday acknowledged a shortage of medical specialists across Jammu and Kashmir but assured that steps are being taken to address the gap through ongoing recruitment drives.

In a written reply to a question by MLA Sunil Kumar Sharma, Health Minister Sakeena Itoo said the department is facing a deficit of specialists, including Anaesthesiologists and Gynaecologists.

She informed that the posts at Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Paddar will be prioritised for filling as soon as qualified specialists become available.

"To ensure uninterrupted healthcare services, the Chief Medical Officer, Kishtwar, has been instructed to arrange specialist services at SDH Paddar on a rotational basis until suitable regular or academic arrangements are made," Itoo said.

The minister also informed the House that the department has referred 197 Gazetted cadre posts to the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JK-PSC), while 1,132 posts are being processed for referral as the revised Recruitment Rules near finalisation.

Additionally, 772 Non-Gazetted posts have already been referred to the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), and 804 more posts are currently under submission to the Finance Department for approval.

"The department is actively working to finalise the Recruitment Rules in consultation with all relevant departments and stakeholders," the Health Minister added. (Observer News Service)

## Govt Rules Out Any Proposal For KCC Loan Waiver

The government on Thursday informed the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly that there is currently no proposal to waive Kissan Credit Card (KCC) loans for farmers affected by recent floods and highway blockades.

In a written reply to questions raised by two legislators, the Agriculture Production Department said that although farmers suffered heavy losses due to floods, horticulture damage, livestock loss and infrastructure impact, the administration has not considered a loan waiver.

"There is no proposal with the government for Kisan Credit Card loan waiver," the reply stated.

The government, however, confirmed that an assessment of agricultural and allied sector losses amounting to Rs 209.21 crore has been submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs for consideration.

It added that Rs 643.93 lakh has already been disbursed as relief to affected farmers under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), including ₹465.74 lakh in Kashmir division and Rs 178.19 lakh in Jammu division.

To address crop loss claims, the department said Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) are being carried out, after which compensation will be directly credited to farmers' bank accounts under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system. The government assured that necessary assistance is being extended to farmers in accordance with existing relief guidelines.(KNO)

## 'PoJK Refugees Granted Ownership Rights Over Allotted Land'

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday said that displaced persons from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), who settled in the region decades ago, have been granted ownership rights over the land allotted to them.

In a written reply to a question by a legislator, the Revenue Department informed that displaced persons of 1947, 1965, and 1971 have already been conferred ownership rights under various government orders and legislations.

According to the department, key decisions such as Cabinet Order No. 578-C of 1954, the Agrarian Reforms Act of 1976, and orders issued in 1966 and 2024 have paved the way for regularizing refugee colonies and granting proprietary rights.

It said that the displaced families were allotted evacuee land, state land, and residential quarters as per prescribed rules, and the ceiling limits were revised in later years to include more beneficiaries.

The government also noted that recent orders issued in 2024 provide for the transfer of evacuee land and full proprietary rights to displaced persons, including West Pakistan refugees, who have maintained continuous recorded possession of their allotted land.

"Awareness camps are being organized and case files of eligible beneficiaries are prepared on a fast-track basis. No eligible family is being denied such benefits," the department said. (Observer News Service)

## Meritorious MBBS Graduates Decry 'Unfair' Reservation Policy

Several MBBS graduates from Jammu and Kashmir have voiced strong resentment over what they termed an "unjust and discriminatory" seat allocation process in NEET-PG counselling conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of Professional Entrance Examinations (JKBOPEE). They allege that the existing reservation policy has sidelined meritorious candidates from securing postgraduate medical seats.

One of the aggrieved doctors said he remains without a PG seat despite a high rank, claiming the policy gives disproportionate advantage to candidates from reserved categories. "A general-category aspirant with an All India Rank (AIR) of 1,000 competes against a reserved-category candidate ranked around 10,000, while a general candidate ranked 2,000 equates to a reserved candidate ranked 20,000. This is completely unfair," he said.

He added that years of hard work and sacrifice are being undermined by a "skewed system that prioritizes category over merit."

Several other candidates echoed similar concerns, saying the policy discourages open merit students and contributes to a "brain drain" as many bright MBBS graduates either move abroad or give up postgraduate studies altogether. Officials, however, maintain that the reservation policy strictly adheres to constitutional provisions and existing government orders. (KNT)

## J&K Bank Gives Warm Send-off To GM Rajesh Gupta

## Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** J&K Bank Friday gave a warm send-off to General Manager Rajesh Gupta, who superannuated from the Bank after rendering 36 years of dedicated service. Joining the institution as a Probationary Officer in 1989, Rajesh Gupta rose through the ranks to become General Manager, serving in several key leadership roles

including Zonal Head, Divisional Head, and most recently as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) at the Bank's Corporate Headquarters.

Held at the Bank's corporate headquarters, Executive Director Sudhir Gupta presided over the farewell function that was attended by CGMs Sunit



friendly behaviour of the retiring officer. He said, "Mr. Rajesh Gupta's journey embodies dedication

and humility. His professional approach and personal touch left a positive impact on everyone he worked with. I urge our younger executives to emulate such qualities as they take on leadership roles within the Bank."

Extending best wishes for his post-retirement, MD & CEO said, "As you step into a new chapter after a fulfilling career spanning 36

years, we wish you and your loved ones good health, happiness, and peace in the years ahead."

In his remarks at the farewell meeting, ED Sudhir Gupta said, "I have seen Mr. Rajesh Gupta always leading by example as he embodied a deep sense of belonging to the institution. His contribution to the Bank's journey will be remembered with respect and admiration."



# BCCI May Raise Asia Cup Trophy Issue At ICC Meeting On November 4

Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** The BCCI is hopeful that the Asia Cup winners Trophy will reach its headquarters in Mumbai "within a day or two" but if the impasse continues, the Indian Board will take the matter to the ICC on November 4.

India defeated arch-rivals Pakistan by five wickets in the final in Dubai to win the Asia Cup, but declined to accept the trophy from Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, who also serves as ACC and PCB chairman.

This was after India skipper Suryakumar Yadav refused to shake hands with his Pakistan counterpart due to the conflict between the two nations.

Naqvi has already conveyed



that the trophy can be handed over to India but it will be presented by him.

More than a month after the triumph, the BCCI still awaits the official handover of the silverware.

"Yes, we are a little bit unhappy with the way the trophy has not been being given to us even after a month," BCCI joint secretary Devajit Saikia told PTI Video in an exclusive interaction.

"We are pursuing this matter, about 10 days ago also we wrote a letter to the chairman of ACC, but there is no change in their stand.

"They are still keeping the trophy under their custody but we hope that the trophy will reach us in a day or two at the BCCI office in Mumbai."

Saikia said if the trophy is not handed over soon, the BCCI will raise the issue at the upcoming ICC quarterly meeting in Dubai from November 4.

The Trophy presentation in Dubai had been delayed by over an hour before the silverware was taken off the field without explanation, leaving the Suryakumar Yadav-led Indian side celebrating their triumph

without the trophy in a first of its kind on a cricket field.

While the BCCI has officially requested its return, Naqvi has reportedly remained firm, suggesting that Indian players collect it in person at a future event as there has been no formal resolution yet.

"On behalf of BCCI we are fully prepared how to deal with the matter and I can assure the people of India that the trophy will come back to India, only the timeline is not fixed. One day it will come," Saikia said.

"We have won all matches against Pakistan and won the trophy. We have won the championship. Everything is on record. Only the trophy is missing. I hope good sense will prevail.

## CM Omar Abdullah Unveils Kashmir Marathon Expo At Polo View

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday inaugurated the exposition of Kashmir Marathon 2025 at Polo View, Srinagar. It marks the final leg of preparations for the much-anticipated second edition of the Kashmir Marathon, scheduled to be held on November 2.



The CM inspected various stalls and counters set up by different government departments, private sports firms and event partners. The exhibition showcases a wide range of sports gear, equipment and accessories aimed at promoting fitness and outdoor activities.

It also includes dedicated bib collection centres and on-spot registration counters for marathon participants.

On the occasion, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Director Tourism Kashmir Raja Yaqoob, event organisers and other senior officers were present. The CM interacted with stall owners, athletes and volunteers, appreciating their role in promoting sporting culture in J&K. (Observer News Service)

## Kupwara Tennis Ball Cricket C'ship Concludes At Galizoo Stadium



Adil Khan

**KUPWARA:** The District Kupwara Tennis Ball Cricket Championship 2025 concluded on Friday at the iconic Galizoo Stadium, wrapping up two days of electrifying cricketing action, roaring crowds, and unforgettable sporting moments. The event brought together the finest young talents from across Kupwara, setting the perfect stage for a festival of cricket.

The grand finale was nothing short of a nail-biter as Team Young Rising Stars locked horns with United Sports Kupwara in a clash that kept the audience on the edge of their seats till the last over. With nerves

of steel and team spirit shining through, Young Rising Stars clinched the Championship Trophy, while United Sports Kupwara put up a valiant fight to finish as runners-up.

At the closing ceremony Chief Guest Aadil Manzoor, Captain of Team India Ice Stock Sport, congratulated the winners and lauded the spirit of Kupwara's youth.

The event was further graced by Ms. Neelofar, Secretary General, District Kupwara Tennis Ball Cricket Association.

Adding a unique sporting flavor to the event, Zakir Hussain and Sozan Nazir, both National Medalists in Pencak Silat, were also present.

## 69th NSG: J&K Shines On Home Ground With Wushu Display

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The 69th National School Games in Wushu (Under-17 Category) concluded on Friday at Indoor Sports Complex, Wazirbagh here. The event, organised by the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports J&K, witnessed electrifying performances by young athletes from across the country.

J&K teams across categories showed their mettle and impressed spectators and fellow players alike.

In the Girls Section, under the 48 kg category, Jiya Manhas representing J&K bagged the Gold medal against Aditi Rana from Chandigarh.

In the 65 kg category, Almas Ali Khan from Rajasthan bagged the Gold, and

Rutba Shabir from J&K won the Silver.

In the Boys Section, under the 48 kg category, Nikhil from Delhi bagged the Gold, while J&K's Syed Mursaleen earned the Silver.

Under the 52 kg weight category, Shaurya from Uttar Pradesh emerged victorious with the Gold medal, while Kapish Bharat Rakwal from J&K took the Silver.

In the 65 kg category, Suryansh Singh representing J&K clinched the Gold. While in the 70 kg category, Mohd Arhaan Parry from J&K grabbed the Gold medal.

Finally, in the 80 kg weight category, Mohd Haseeb Sheikh from J&K secured the Gold medal.

A bronze medal was bagged by J&K's Sajad in the 75 kg category.



## 2nd Phase UT Level Rugby Competition Concludes In Srinagar



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The six-day Inter-District UT-Level Rugby Competitions for boys and girls across all age groups concluded Friday at Rugby Ground here, witnessing participation from over 400 athletes representing various districts of J&K. The event was organised by District Youth Services and Sports (DYSSO) Srinagar.

In both phases of the championship, Bandipora boys and girls exhibited exceptional sportsmanship, skills and teamwork, ultimately clinching the overall titles.

In the final match of the Under-19 Boys category, Bandipora triumphed over District Budgam, securing the championship trophy.

The competitions were organised under the "Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan" campaign, aimed at promoting a drug-free and active lifestyle among youth.

The award ceremony was graced by Nodal Officer Mohammad Shafi Wani, Convenor Meha Younis Raza, and Activity Incharge DYSSO Srinagar Mir Fayaz Ahmad, who commended the efforts of the participating athletes.

Mir Fayaz also applauded the technical officials, coaches, media personnel, and escort teachers for their invaluable contributions in making the championship a grand success.

The event concluded on a high note, celebrating teamwork, discipline, and the spirit of healthy competition that continues to

## YSS Budgam Celebrates 'National Unity Day' Across All 12 Zones

Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam organised a district-wide observance of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, celebrated as National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas).

The event was marked by enthusiastic participation from all 12 zones of the district, where various programmes including Run for Unity, National Unity Pledge, debates, essay writing, and awareness activities were held to highlight the life and legacy of the "Iron Man of India."

The observance aimed to promote national integrity, unity, and harmony among the youth. Students, teachers, and officials of the YSS Department actively took part in the events organised at both district and zonal levels.

The programme concluded with the National Unity Pledge, reaffirming the commitment to uphold the ideals of oneness and brotherhood across the nation. (Dabirah Hassan)

## Australia Beat India By 4 Wickets In 2nd T20I In Melbourne

Captain Mitchell Marsh led from the front with a blazing 26-ball 46 after Josh Hazlewood's excellent bowling as Australia beat India by four wickets in the second T20 International here on Friday.

Chasing 126, Australia completed the task with 40 balls to spare after the home team opted to bowl first.

Earlier, opener Abhishek Sharma struck a 37-ball 68 amid a top-order batting collapse to lift India to 125 all out.

All-rounder Harshit Rana batted smartly to contribute a 33-ball 35 while adding 56 runs for the sixth wicket with Abhishek after India were reeling at 49 for five in the eighth over. Senior pacer Josh Hazlewood was the best bowler for Australia, returning excellent figures of 3/13 in four overs after triggering the collapse in the Indian innings. (PTI)

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