

Jammu & Kashmir Digest

A Review of Developments in J&K



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- Political parties anticipate, prepare for elections
- Major spike in number of tourists in 2022
- J&K cricketers grab national spotlight

More News and Analyses



Women voters queuing up to cast votes in an earlier election held in Jammu and Kashmir. — PTI file picture

Union Home Minister, Mr. Amit Shah, announced during his two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) that the Union Territory would go to polls after the declaration of the final electoral lists.

He also assured the public at a rally in Baramulla that the elections would be wholly transparent. He further drew a parallel between the growth achieved under PM Modi and the destabilising model of governance operational under previous governments.

Meanwhile, BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh said late last month has said that Assembly elections in “Jammu and Kashmir are likely to be held in May 2023”, although he clarified that it is the entirely the Election Commission’s prerogative to announce elections.

The upcoming elections would be the first since the August 2019 constitutional reforms. Local leadership across the political spectrum has swung in action in preparation to contest seats.

Reports have also emerged about how the party officials have begun conducting frequent meetings and rallies, even in some of the remote areas, to garner support. – *Indian Express, Hindustan Times, India TV*

DEMOCRACY SECTION

POLITICAL PARTIES ANTICIPATE, GET READY FOR POLLS

HOME MINISTER HOLDS RALLY

RAPID GROWTH IN THREE YEARS: LT-GOVERNOR

J&K’s Lieutenant Governor, Mr. Manoj Sinha, attended the ‘Badalta Jammu Kashmir’ Conference organised in Mumbai on 18 December 2022.

There he spoke about the Union Territory’s growth and prosperity over the past three years, emphasising how such developments have instilled a new-found hope and confidence within the locals.

He added that Article 370 was the root cause of the problems plaguing J&K and three years down the line, it has broken free of the past and moved towards development.

A surge in tourism, progress in key sectors, and infrastructural development in J&K are a testament to growth visible to everyone.

Youth empowerment, removing barriers faced by people in setting up businesses, and providing opportunities for all have been key to the administration’s agenda. –

Brighter Kashmir



Representative picture of J&K's famed scenic views

TOURISM SECTION

HOTSPOT OF TERRORISM TURNS INTO HOTSPOT OF TOURISM: REPORT

22 LAKH TOURISTS IN 2022: MHA

NEW DESTINATIONS IN WINTER MONTHS

As per the 'Year End 2022' report released by the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), earlier, a 'terrorist hotspot' has transformed into a 'tourist hotspot.' Last year, approximately 22 lakh tourists visited J&K, four times more than the previous highest. Additionally, while the number of armed officers martyred reduced from 91 in 2018 to 42 in 2021, the terrorist events came down from 417 in 2018 to 229 in 2021.

Tourism continued to surge in 2023 as all the key tourist resorts based in Sonmarg, Gulmarg, and Pahalgam were at maximum capacity before the New Year celebrations even began.

As the total number of guests gradually increased, as Christmas and New Year drew closer, several hotel owners announced specially curated entertainment programmes and gala dinner packages were announced.

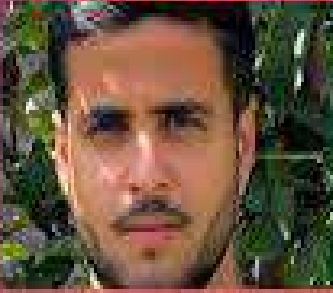
In a break from the previously terrorism-infested J&K, the government has restored normalcy in the region. As a result, the local economy has continued to prosper as direct and indirect means of generating revenue have been created. Today, houseboats, guesthouses, and hotels are occupied to the brim with an influx of guests. – *DailyExcelsior.Com, Rising Kashmir*

The J&K administration has started promoting new tourist spots during the winter months, particularly in the Chenab Valley of Jammu region and South Kashmir.

Doda, Bhaderwah and Kishtiwari from Jammu as well as Kokernag, Verinag and Pahalgam are now some tourist destinations for winter months, as authorities have been able to keep Sinthan Pass open which connects Chenab Valley of Jammu with South Kashmir and has huge tourist potential.

Brenji Valley has a web of snow-fed streams, trout angling spots and tourist lodges.

On the other side of the Sinthan Pass is Chatru Valley of Kishtiwari district in Jammu region, which has huge valleys and water streams to attract tourists. — *The Sunday Guardian*



**Proud Moment for Jammu.
Many Congratulations Vivrant
Sharma, Yudhvir Singh,
Avinash Singh**

SPORTS SECTION

**UMRAN'S
RISE OPENS
DOOR FOR
MORE J&K
CRICKETERS**

MORE J&K PLAYERS IN IPL AUCTION

**AYEERA WINS AT
WUSHU WORLD
CHAMPIONSHIP**

Following Umran Malik's rise to fame, fourteen new bowlers from J&K have been discovered by sports officials as emerging talent. They were registered to participate in the Indian Premier League's (IPL) mini-auction in Kochi. Notably, Malik initially played in IPL before his debut match for Team India. A significant number of players featured on the auction list had earlier played for local J&K cricket teams.

Among the featured players who were selected by various teams include Avinash Singh and Vivrant Sharma. On the one hand, Singh, a fast bowler, will play for Royal Challengers Bangalore, and he has been compared by his team's Head of Scouting to Malik. On the other hand, Sharma, an all-rounder, will join the Sunrisers Hyderabad as one of its biggest buys worth Rs. 2.6 crores. He was initially registered for a base price of Rs. 20 lakhs. Interestingly, his name stirred a bidding war between Kolkata Knightriders and Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Parvez Rasool, the first player from J&K to play in IPL and for Team India, believes that players from the region have more confidence in themselves today, and the number of local players featured in the auction signals the emergence of rising talent in the region. – *The Times of India*, *Kashmir Life*, *Royal Challenges Bangalore*, *Republic World*



Ayeera Chishti, referred to as J&K Wushu Martial Arts' 'Golden Girl' secured a bronze medal for India at the 8th Junior Wushu World Championship organised in Indonesia.

She made history after being the first female participant to be chosen from J&K for this event and winning the Mackenzie Medal in Banton. Leading up to the Indonesian event, she had won a gold medal at the International Wushu Championship held in Georgia. – *Greater Kashmir, News18*