

# Jammu & Kashmir Digest

A Review of Developments in J&K



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**August 2023**

- 'Changed Kashmir' at Independence Day
- Muharram Celebrated after Decades
- Govt Granting Land to Landless Families

**More News and Analyses**



Girls in traditional Kashmiri costumes dance during Independence Day celebrations at the Bakshi stadium in Srinagar. — NDTV

The Bakshi stadium in Srinagar witnessed a huge rush for celebrations held there on Independence Day. Long lines of people queued outside the stadium, even as massive crowds waved the national tricolor at the city’s iconic Lal Chowk.

This was a changed Kashmir for most people, as there were no restrictions on them, unlike earlier years, to come and celebrate the big event. There were also no curbs on the Internet this year, unlike earlier years when security measures were tightened during Independence Day festivities in Kashmir.

In fact, Bakshi stadium hosted the Independence Day function after a gap of five years, following its closure for renovations in 2018. According to reports, the function saw the largest gathering of civilians for an Independence Day function since 2003, with an estimated 20,000 people witnessing the parade at the stadium.

In the run-up to the Independence Day celebrations, ‘Tiranga’ rallies were taken out in various parts of the Union Territory, in which people turned out in large numbers.

All government offices and important buildings were lit up in tricolor theme, including Srinagar’s famous Lal Chowk. —

**NDTV, The Telegraph**

## INDEPENDENCE DAY SECTION

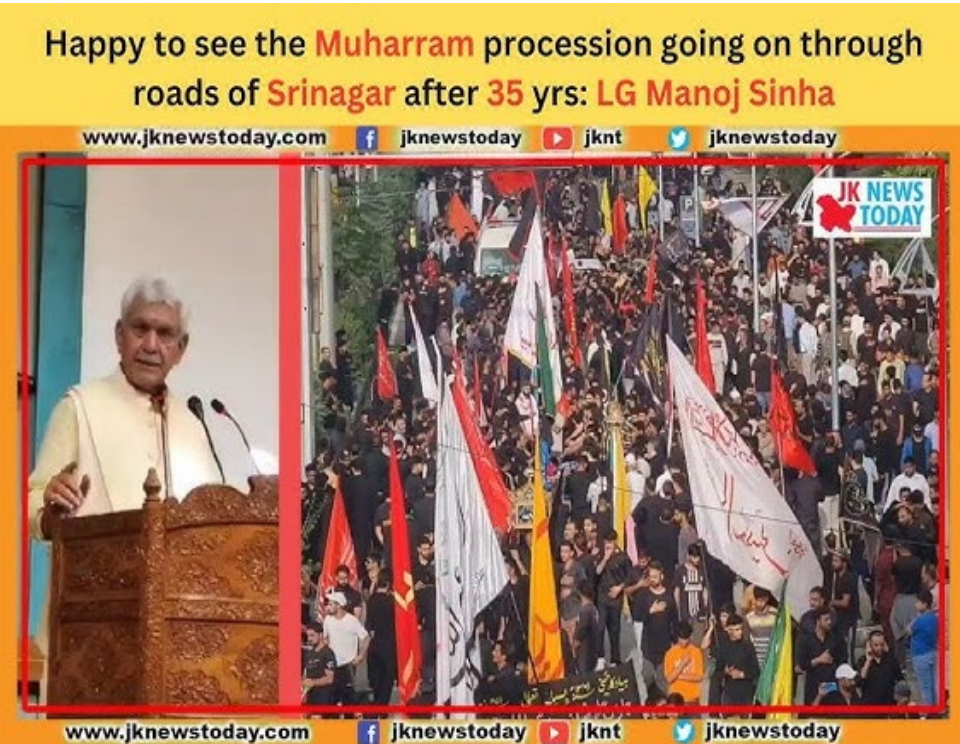
# CELEBRATIONS SHOWCASE ‘CHANGED KASHMIR’

### FESTIVITY SNAPSHOTS



Above: Locals participating in a ‘Tiranga’ rally, on banks of Dal Lake ahead of the 77<sup>th</sup> Independence Day on 13 August 2023. — PTI. Below: Historical Clock Tower illuminated in colours of National Flag in Srinagar on the eve of Independence Day. — PTI





CULTURE SECTION

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MUHARRAM CELEBRATED AFTER DECADES

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On 29 July 2023, Jammu and Kashmir’s Lieutenant Governor, Mr. Manoj Sinha, joined the Muharram procession taken out on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the Islamic month of Muharram in Srinagar.

He also visited the Bota Kadal area and distributed refreshments to the mourners present. This followed the decision to lift the ban on this procession after over three decades. It was initially banned in 1990.

Kashmir’s Shia community expressed their gratitude for allowing this procession to take place and for L.G. Sinha for his participation. This historic moment reflected ‘the changing Kashmir.’

One of the mourners present remarked, “It is a matter of great pleasure as we have been demanding this for decades. The previous governments had made many excuses, but this time the government has shown that if they want to allow it, they can. We have got full cooperation from the administration. LG has himself joined us today, we are very happy that he came to be a part of the procession.”

The decision to remove the ban came on heels of another major decision where on 8<sup>th</sup> day, the administration granted permission to take out a procession from Guru Bazar to MA Road and then Dalgate. – *WION News, The Indian Express*

SHOWCASING ‘BONE ART’

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*Azizul Rahman exhibiting bone art.*

The Art Emporium in Srinagar played host to a two-day carving exhibition, providing the Valley’s budding artists with a platform to display their creative talents. Department of Handicrafts and Handloom organised this event as part of the ‘Know Your Artisan’ initiative.

A Srinagar local, Aziz-ul-Rahman’s craftsmanship was termed as exhibition’s ‘highlight,’ having showcased wood-crafted jewellery using animal bones.

Aziz explained that he puts together ‘items using animal bones, such as jewellery, keychains, knives, and decorative pieces.’ – *India Blooms*



Government scheme seeks to ensure that nomadic herders in Jammu and Kashmir not only own a piece of land and have a house, but are also provided means of livelihood. — Representative picture

The Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) government, in what has been termed as a ‘landmark decision’ by observers, announced that it has approved a proposal to allot 5 marlas of land each to landless individuals who are beneficiaries of the PMAY (G) scheme.

This decision has been taken to promote ‘inclusive development’ in J&K and to acknowledge the underprivileged citizens’ contribution to ‘nation-building.’

J&K’s Lieutenant Governor, Mr. Manoj Sinha, spoke about his administration’s intent behind this decision – “It is a historic day for Jammu and Kashmir and a new beginning for thousands of landless families. This path-breaking decision will not only entitle the landless poor to own a piece of land and have a house, but it will also provide them means of livelihood, raise their living standards and realise their dreams and aspirations.”

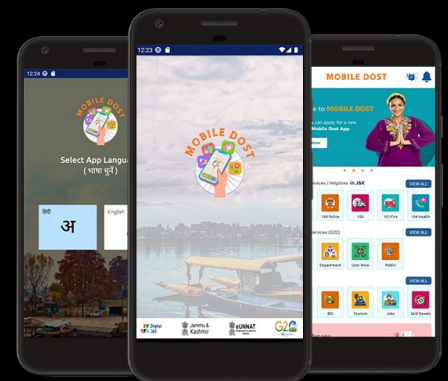
Furthermore, he remarked that this decision would ensure that destitute members of society would have access to those essential rights and facilities which they had been deprived of for more than seven decades, even after India gained independence. At the same time, such families will now be a part of the ‘mainstream of development.’ – *Greater Kashmir*

## DEVELOPMENT SECTION

# J&K GOVT TO GRANTING LAND TO LANDLESS FAMILIES

EMPOWERING PEOPLE

## GOVT LAUNCHES ‘MOBILE DOST APP’



J&K government has recently launched its ‘Mobile-Dost App’ to provide ‘citizen-centric’ services through mobile-based deliveries. This initiative is aligned with the government’s vision of promoting greater accessibility, transparency, and mobility within the realm of governance.

J&K’s Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar has said: ‘This revolutionary App signifies a significant step towards a digitally-empowered Jammu and Kashmir.’ – *News on Air, Current Affairs, Kashmir Life*