

# Jammu & Kashmir Digest

A Review of Developments in J&K



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR  
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES  
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- Srinagar Records its Highest Voter Turnout In Decades
- 40,000 Dairy Farm Units in Valley Boost Employment
- Sonmarg, Pahalgam Top Tourist Spots This Summer

More News and Analyses



Long queues of enthusiastic voters in Shopian under Srinagar Lok Sabha seat voting in phase 4 polling. (Election Commission of India)

The voting process during 2024 Lok Sabha elections in Srinagar is momentous for several reasons besides witnessing the highest turnout the Union Territory has ever recorded since 1996, reaching 38 per cent.

At the same time, the election officials sought to create a festive atmosphere by setting up thirty-two theme-based polling booths across the Union Territory, with a unique message attached to each of them.

The Srinagar District Administration had even tweeted – ‘Equipped with all amenities, 8 Pink Polling Stations staffed specially by women; 8 Red for PwD; 8 Blue for youth; 8 Green & environment friendly...Idea is to convey message to half of the population about their role & responsibility in democratic setup, facilitate voters on Poll day to experience a festive-environment, promote inclusivity in democratic process: DEO Srinagar.’

Furthermore, Mohammad Rather, who is a visually impaired, became the first person to cast his vote under the new home voting facility. - [India TV News](#), [NDTV](#), [Live Mint](#)

## ELECTION SECTION

### SRINAGAR RECORDS ITS HIGHEST VOTER TURNOUT IN DECADES

#### 8 PINK BOOTHS FOR WOMEN

#### OTHER VALLEY SEATS TO GENERATE MORE INTEREST

After Srinagar recorded highest voter turnout in three decades (of 37.9 percent), all eyes are now on the poll percentage on other Valley seats.

It is heartening to witness political parties and candidates holding poll rallies, roadshows and corner meetings in Baramulla parliamentary seat in north Kashmir, which is spread over four districts (Baramulla, Bandipora and Kashmir of north Kashmir and Budgam in central Kashmir).

A political observer noted there is more enthusiasm in north Kashmir districts and Bandipora as compared to Srinagar seat. “There is intense poll noise and every contestant and party is busy campaigning.” [Indian Express](#)



## DAIRY FARMING SECTION

OVER 40,000 SUCCESSFUL UNITS BOOST INDUSTRY IN THE VALLEY

**A CAREER CHOICE!**

### FROM HOUSEWIFE TO DAIRY ENTREPRENEUR



Masrat Jan

**In 2017, when Masrat Jan bought her first cow, little did she realise her life will change. Today, the 40-year-old resident of Sheipora Larkipora village in Anantnag district owns a dairy farm of 10 cows, with a monthly income of Rs 100,000. She also sells 50 tractor loads of cow dung per year at a cost of Rs 3000 per tractor. Agriculture contributes over 16 percent to J&K's GDP, of which 35 percent is contributed by the dairy sector.**

**[gaonconnection.com](http://gaonconnection.com)**

**Kashmir's dairy farming industry is witnessing a rejuvenation, and reforming its agricultural industry and empowering the youth at the same time.**

The Kashmir's dairy farming industry is witnessing a rejuvenation, and reforming its agricultural industry and empowering the youth at the same time.

Analysts have noted that several of the Union Territory's educated youth have adopted a career path in this domain, breathing new life into a traditional career choice.

This transformation has become prominently visible over the last two decades. It is fundamental to the Valley's dedication to ensuring self-sufficiency and agricultural development.

As per the data collected, milk production has surged by more than 250 per cent during the last twenty years, mainly due to the support provided by the government's policies, aimed towards nurturing this industry and the sustained efforts of local farmers.

Furthermore, by adopting the contemporary dairy farming strategies, introducing high-yielding cattle breeds into the mix, and improved livestock management techniques have contributed to the resurgence of the dairy farming industry in the Valley. Today, there are more than 40,000 successful dairy farming units in the Valley. – Greater Kashmir



May is a particularly important month while visiting Sonmarg as wildflowers and shining glaciers stand ready to mesmerise the travellers.

Sonmarg and Pahalgam are being touted as two primary tourist destinations this holiday season. On the one hand, Sonmarg, with its aesthetics, meandering rivers, and snow-covered peaks, has come alive yet again with colours and its inviting atmosphere, attracting several tourists.

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Amid this, Four Points by Sheraton has decided to establish its presence in Sonmarg by setting up a resort, Four Points by Sheraton Sonmarg Resort recently. It is located near the Zoji La Pass, linking Srinagar to Leh, and just 22 kilometers from the renowned Amarnath Cave. To add to that, Four Points by Sheraton Sonmarg Resort is easily accessible from the Srinagar International Airport.

On the other hand, Pahalgam is experiencing an increase in visitors, going up to three lakhs (including 7,000 travellers coming in from abroad), for the past four months. This has brought great joy to hoteliers, shopkeepers, and ponywalas in Pahalgam. – *India Blooms, TOI, BT*

# TOURISM SECTION

## SONMARG & PAHALGAM, TOP BEAUTIES TO BEHOLD THIS SUMMER

### ENSNARING SIGHTS, A JOY FOREVER!



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