

JAMMU

@ShagunParihar

Attended an important organisational meeting at the BJP office in Kishtwar, chaired by Ashok Koul ji. The meeting focused on strengthening the party structure at the grassroots level, reviewing ongoing activities, and planning upcoming programs. Party workers and office bearers actively participated, sharing valuable feedback and discussing ways to enhance outreach and coordination across regions. The session strongly emphasized discipline, unity, and unwavering commitment toward organisational goals.



@NorthernComd_IA

Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, #ArmyCdrNC, visited units and formations deployed in the hinterland in #CounterTerrorism grid in #Kashmir valley to review the security situation. The commanders on ground briefed the Army Commander on the current operational dynamics, intelligence fusion and #Synergy with sister agencies. The Army Commander was also briefed at the Joint Control Centre, #Budgam on the coordinated efforts towards maintaining peace and security in the #Valley. The Army Commander complimented the troops for maintaining a high state of morale and preparedness.



BIRTH OF RAM MANOHAR LOHIA

A prominent socialist thinker and freedom fighter, Ram Manohar Lohia was born on this day in 1927. He played a key role in shaping post-Independence opposition politics.



257

PANCHAYATS: In entire Kathua district of Jammu division, 257 is the total number of Panchayats.



ONE WAY

This indicates that the traffic flow is allowed in only one direction. The way beyond this sign restricts entry of the traffic however, the oncoming traffic flow remains normal.



Hardcore criminal held with sharp-edged weapon

JAMMU: In a significant action against criminal elements, Police Station R.S Pura apprehended a hardcore criminal and recovered a sharp-edged weapon (toka) from his possession.

On 16 March 2026, during routine patrolling, a police team led by SHO R S Pura, Inspector Tribhawan Khajuria spotted a suspicious person near Agra Chak, close to Jamia Masjid. On noticing the police presence, the individual attempted to flee but was swiftly overpowered.

During questioning, he identified himself as Yudhvir Singh alias Bablu, resident of Old Agra Chak, R.S. Pura & during search a sharp-edged weapon (Toka) was recovered from his possession.

Accordingly, a case FIR number 57/2026 under Section 4/25 of the Arms Act has been registered at Police Station R.S. Pura and investigation is underway. Accused is history sheeter, notorious criminal & has remained involved in multiple criminal cases in the past also.

Jammu Police reiterates its firm resolve to act tough against hardcore criminals and elements involved in unlawful activities. Such proactive policing measures are part of sustained efforts to curb organised crime, ensure public safety, and maintain peace in the area.

Pakistan is 'Terroristan': Gaurav links Kabul carnage to global terror nexus

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: In a fierce and strongly worded statement, BJP spokesperson and Convener, International Affairs, Gaurav Gupta on Tuesday condemned the deadly terror air strike on a hospital at Kabul, terming it a "barbaric massacre and a stain on humanity."

Gupta said the attack, which targeted innocent civilians including women and children, exposes the brutality and cowardice of terror networks operating with impunity. He described the incident as a calculated act aimed at spreading fear, destabilising the region, and derailing peace efforts.

In a sharp escalation, Gupta lashed out at Pakistan, calling it "Terroristan" and accusing it of being the epicentre of terrorism and the biggest enabler of such inhumane acts. He alleged that for decades Pakistan has nurtured, sheltered and



exported terror, and that incidents like the Kabul attack are a direct consequence of this ecosystem.

"This is not an isolated attack—it is part of a well-entrenched terror machinery backed by Terroristan. The world can no longer ignore that such forces thrive because of state support," Gupta said.

He further stated that such attacks reflect a dangerous pattern where innocent lives are deliberately

targeted to create chaos and fear, with complete disregard for humanity and international norms.

Highlighting India's consistent stand, Gupta said the country has repeatedly exposed Pakistan before the global community as a "terror factory" through decades of evidence and repeated attacks on Indian soil.

He cited major terror incidents including the 2008 Mumbai attacks, the 2001 Indian Parliament attack, and the 2016 Pathankot airbase attack, stating that these attacks underline a clear and consistent pattern of cross-border terrorism.

others, as examples of continued attempts to destabilise the region.

He said these incidents clearly demonstrate how terror networks backed from across the border continue to target peace and normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir.

Calling for urgent global intervention, Gupta urged the international community to take firm and decisive action against countries that act as safe havens for terrorism.

"Enough is enough. The time has come for the global community to expose, isolate and act firmly against Terroristan and its terror infrastructure," he asserted.

Reaffirming India's stance, Gupta said the country follows a policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism and will continue to raise its voice globally against such atrocities. He stressed that silence or selective outrage only strengthens terrorists and their backers.

Secy Avny inspects ongoing construction of staff quarters



EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Secretary of the Hospitality and Protocol (H&P) Department, Avny Lavasa, inspected the ongoing construction of staff quarters adjacent to the Circuit House at Canal Road, Jammu, on Monday.

The project, valued at Rs. 3.43 crore, is being executed under the SASCI scheme and is slated for completion by the end of the current financial year.

The project, which is 95 percent complete, includes 12 two bedroom flats for the employees of H&P de-

partment.

The Secretary expressed satisfaction with the progress and directed the Executive Engineer and executing agency to ensure physical and financial completion of the project before closing of the current financial year.

The inspection was followed by a meeting with H&P department officers, where Lavasa discussed departmental issues, including reorganisation and human resource matters. She directed the officials to resolve these issues promptly.

ACB books meter reader for accepting bribe or Rs 30K

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI: J&K Anti-Corruption Bureau registered a case against Arif Iqbal, presently posted as Meter Reader in PDD Rajouri met complainant and asked him to give ₹50,000 so that he can take care of his electricity bill on this complainant told him that he will pay bill according to the meter reading. After this, he threatened the complainant that his electricity bill will be increased.

On 05.03.2026, Arif Iqbal came again and handed over an electricity bill for the period of

electricity bill for the period from 31.12.2025 to 31.01.2026 for an amount of ₹2497 in February 2026. In this connection, Arif Iqbal Meter Reader of PDD Rajouri met complainant and asked him to give ₹50,000 so that he can take care of his electricity bill on this complainant told him that he will pay bill according to the meter reading. After this, he threatened the complainant that his electricity bill will be increased.

On 05.03.2026, Arif Iqbal came again and handed over an electricity bill for the period of

31.01.2026 to 28.02.2026 for an amount of ₹1,53,890 with due date for payment as 27.03.2026 and when complainant asked him about such a high bill. Arif Iqbal (Meter Reader) demanded ₹50,000 as bribe to adjust the bill. Subsequently, the said demand was negotiated to ₹30,000.

Since the complainant did not want to give illegal gratification to the above named Meter Reader, he approached and lodged a written complaint in Police Station ACB Rajouri for taking legal action against the above named Arif Iqbal (Meter Reader).

Dharmarth Trust holds council meet



EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir Dharmarth Trust convened an important meeting of its trustees, members of the council, and senior office bearers in Jammu on Tuesday. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Karan Singh, Chairman Trustee, J&K Dharmarth Trust.

The meeting was attended by Trustees Vikramaditya Singh, Ajatshatru Singh, Martand Singh, and Ranvijay Singh.

During the session, Dr. P.S. Pathania, President of the Dharmarth Trust, presented a comprehensive overview of the major renovation and restoration works under-

taken by the Trust across various temples in Jammu and Kashmir. The progress and future plans for the development of Sri Raghunath Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Birpur, as well as the Ranbir Sanskrit Research Library at Raghunath Mandir, Jammu, were also discussed in detail.

The proposed budget for the financial year 2026-27 was presented by Dr. Pathania and deliberated upon by the Trustees and Members of the Council.

Ashok Sharma, Secretary of the Dharmarth Trust, briefed the gathering on ongoing employee welfare initiatives and key administrative reforms

being implemented at the organizational level.

Chairman Trustee Dr. Karan Singh appreciated the sustained efforts of the Trust, particularly in the restoration of temples damaged in regions such as Gulmarg, Pahalgam, and Srinagar. He also emphasized the need to further enhance facilities and improve the overall experience for devotees at Raghunath Ji Temple and Ranbireswar Temple in Jammu city.

Members of the Council present at the meeting included Pandit Vishwamurti Shastri, S.M Sahni, Vishal Abrol, and Sunil Trakru. Additional Secretaries of the Trust were also in attendance.

Valley markets witness shoppers' surge ahead of Eid

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: With just three days left for Eid-ul-Fitr, markets in Srinagar and other Valley towns are buzzing with activity, with people thronging shopping districts to buy new apparel and delectables for the festive occasion.

Readymade garment shops, bakeries, fruit stalls, and meat and dairy product vendors are witnessing a surge of shoppers.

Shop owners, however, rue that e-commerce platforms have dented their sale during the festive month.

"The ever-growing popularity of e-commerce platforms is something we have had put up with for some time now. However,

there are also these local businessmen who buy goods in large quantities and sell them at a minimal margin. Naturally, customer would buy from them, as they get things for cheaper," said Asif Ahmad Bhat, who owns a readymade garments shop in Srinagar.

He said these "seasonal businessmen" use social media to create a sensation by offering things at "throw away" prices.

"Before the onset of Ramzan, these businessmen bought dates in large quantities and marketed them using social media. Now, they have turned their attention to readymade garments. Store owners like me will not be able to compete with them," Bhat added.

Wali Mohammad Itoo: A Martyr Leader who gave his life for nation

A strong case for posthumous Padma Bhushan and institutional recognition



CH. RASHID AZAM INQLABI

The political history of Jammu and Kashmir has seen many leaders who dedicated their lives to public service and democratic values. Among them, Wali Mohammad Itoo stands out as a courageous and committed leader who remained closely connected with the people. His life is a powerful example of dedication, sacrifice, and service to society.

As a senior leader of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference and former Speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir

Legislative Assembly, Itoo played an important role in shaping the political landscape during difficult times.

Early Life and Education
Wali Mohammad Itoo was born on 12 April 1942 in Allipora (D.H. Pora) in the district of Anantnag, Kashmir. He belonged to a respected family. His father, Ali Mohammad Itoo, was a landowner, and his mother was Khadija Begum.

He received his early education from Government Primary School D.H. Pora and completed his matriculation from High School Kulgam.

In 1962, he joined the Education Department as a teacher and served in various schools, including Kounsar Bal, Yarikha, and High School D.H. Pora. During this period, he continued his studies and completed his Bachelor of Arts degree.

However, he felt that government service limited his ability to serve the people, especially the poor. Therefore, in 1970, he resigned from his job and joined Aligarh Muslim University to study law. There, he had the opportunity to interact with Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah.

He completed his law degree in 1974 and started practicing as an advocate in courts at Anantnag, Shopian, and Kulgam.

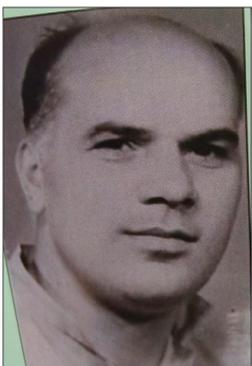
Entry into Politics
Wali Mohammad Itoo began his political journey under the guidance of late Sheikh Mohammad Mansoor of Shopian. His uncle, Haji Ghulam Rasool Itoo, played a key role in introducing him to politics.

With the support of senior leaders like Justice Ali Mohammad Mir and Mirza Mohammad Afzal Beg, he was given the opportunity to contest from Noorabad constituency as a candidate of the National Conference.

Known for his simplicity, honesty, and accessibility, Itoo quickly became popular among the masses, especially in rural areas. He strongly believed that politics should serve the poor, farmers, labourers, and marginalized communities.

Political Career and Leadership

Wali Mohammad Itoo was elected to the Legislative Assembly from Noorabad in 1977 with a margin of 6,818 votes. His political rise was marked by his strong organizational skills and dedication to public service.



CH. RASHID AZAM INQLABI

After the death of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah in 1982, Dr. Farooq Abdullah formed the government, and Itoo was inducted as Minister of State for Revenue, Relief, and Rehabilitation. He was again elected in 1983 with a large margin and later became the Speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

He resigned from the Speaker's post on 30 July 1984 when he refused to support the Gul Shah government. Throughout his life, he remained loyal to the National Conference. Even when offered high positions

and benefits, he chose loyalty over personal gain.

In 1987, when the National Conference entered into an alliance with the Congress and the Noorabad seat was allotted to Congress, he was denied the party ticket. Despite pressure from supporters to contest independently, he refused and respected the party's decision. This showed his strong commitment to party discipline and public interest.

Later, in recognition of his loyalty and service, he was nominated to the Legislative Council.

Work for the People

As a legislator, Itoo focused on development, especially in rural areas. He worked for improving infrastructure, education, and reducing poverty. He remained in close contact with the people and understood their problems.

As Speaker, he tried to maintain discipline, fairness, and dignity in the Assembly during a politically challenging time. Though he faced criticism from opposition members, his role remains significant in the legislative history of Jammu and Kashmir.

Courage During Difficult Times

The late 1980s and early 1990s were very difficult years in Jammu and Kashmir due to rising militancy. Many political leaders faced serious threats.

Wali Mohammad Itoo also became a target of militant groups. His house was attacked several times with grenades, forcing him to move to Jammu for safety.

Despite these dangers, he did not step back. He continued meeting people, attending public gatherings, and working for democracy. His courage earned him great respect among the people.

Assassination and Martyrdom

On 18 March 1994, Wali Mohammad Itoo was assassinated by militants after offering Friday prayers at a mosque in Talab Khatikan, Jammu. He was shot at close range.

His death shocked the entire region and was widely condemned. He was remembered as a brave leader who sacrificed his life for democracy and peace.

Family and Legacy

Wali Mohammad Itoo was married in 1969 to Satara Begum of Anantnag. He had five daughters: Shaida Akhter,

Fardosa Akhter, Rifat Rasool, Rabia Wali, and Sakina Itoo.

His daughter, Sakina Itoo, later entered politics and became a prominent leader. She left her medical studies after her father's death and went on to serve as a Cabinet Minister, carrying forward his legacy of public service.

Conclusion

Wali Mohammad Itoo remains one of the most respected leaders in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. His journey from a teacher to a senior political leader and Speaker reflects his dedication to democracy and the welfare of the people.

He is remembered for his honesty, courage, and commitment during one of the most difficult periods in the region's history. His sacrifice for democratic values makes him truly deserving of national recognition.

Awarding him the Padma Bhushan posthumously and naming an educational institution after him would be a fitting tribute to his contributions and legacy.

His life continues to inspire future generations to serve society with honesty, courage, and dedication.