



STABILITY & STRENGTH

FEBRUARY 2025 EDITION



RAMADAN MUBARAK

During this blessed month, the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who continue to display resilience and strength in their pursuit of peace and prosperity. We make an unwavering pledge that, Insha'Allah, we will support their efforts to build a bright and prosperous future. Kashmir, with its rich culture, beauty, and traditions, holds a special place in the heart of our nation. The region's people continue to demonstrate courage and determination in overcoming challenges, and we remain committed to fostering unity and progress.

Kashmir's Heritage: Handicrafts & Dry Fruits

Kashmir, renowned for its natural beauty and rich cultural heritage, has witnessed significant growth in key industries, contributing to the region's economic prosperity. The dry fruits industry, handicrafts, and the iconic Shikara rides on Dal Lake have all experienced a remarkable boom, providing employment opportunities and boosting Kashmir's global reputation.

Kashmir's dry fruits, particularly almonds, walnuts, and saffron, have always been highly regarded for their superior quality. In recent years, the dry fruits industry in the region has seen tremendous growth. The government's



initiatives to support local farmers with better irrigation facilities, modern packaging, and direct access to international markets have enabled the industry to flourish. Kashmir's dry fruits are now not only popular within India but have also gained a global market. With increased demand, the industry has created numerous employment opportunities for farmers, traders, and labourers, contributing to the region's

overall economic development. Kashmir's handicrafts have long been famous for their intricate designs and high craftsmanship. From Pashmina shawls to papier-mâché products, wooden carvings, and carpets, Kashmir's artisans create world-renowned pieces that reflect the region's rich cultural traditions. The government has actively promoted



Kashmir's handicrafts through various initiatives, helping artisans access larger markets and showcase their work internationally. This support, along with growing global demand for authentic handmade crafts, has led to a resurgence in the industry. Many young people are being trained in these crafts, ensuring the preservation of Kashmir's cultural heritage while creating sustainable livelihoods for the local communities.

Dal Lake, one of Kashmir's most iconic landmarks, has become a thriving hub for tourism, largely due to the popularity of Shikara rides. These traditional wooden boats offer tourists a unique way to explore the scenic

Located in the Pir Panjal range, Gulmarg offers a picturesque setting of snow-capped mountains, lush meadows, and serene surroundings, making it a paradise for nature lovers and adventure seekers.



beauty of the lake and its surroundings. The government's focus on tourism infrastructure, including improved boat services, cleaning initiatives, and better facilities for tourists, has revitalized the Shikara industry. As a result, the livelihoods of hundreds of boatmen have been positively impacted, and the lake's status as a global tourist destination has been further solidified. The booming Shikara industry is now an essential part of Kashmir's tourism economy, drawing visitors from all over the world.

Gulmarg, often called the "Meadow of Flowers," is one of Kashmir's most beloved tourist spots, attracting visitors worldwide with its breathtaking landscapes and recreational opportunities.

"Kashmir's art and culture will always thrive, a timeless expression of its rich heritage, creativity, and enduring spirit"

With its unique combination of natural beauty, adventure, and cultural significance, Gulmarg continues to be one of Kashmir's most attractive destinations, offering a memorable experience for visitors and contributing to the region's tourism growth.

Civil, Cultural and Religious Activities in Kashmir

Idrees Ahmad Lone

Kashmir, often described as a land of immense beauty, is not only rich in natural resources but also in its cultural, civil, and religious traditions. The region's diversity has long been a cornerstone of its identity, with communities of various religious, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds living in harmony. Despite facing historical challenges, the people of Kashmir have managed to preserve their unique heritage while fostering a deep sense of unity and respect for each other. One of the most striking features of the region is the celebration of festivals, religious practices, and cultural events that bring people together, bridging divides and nurturing love and peace. These activities, coupled with the importance placed on education, play a vital role in strengthening the social fabric of Kashmir.



A testament to the region's spirit of unity and inclusivity. Festivals are not just occasions for religious observance but serve as opportunities to foster relationships, create bonds, and promote understanding between communities.

The festivals of Eid-ul-Fitr, Eid-ul-Adha, Baisakhi, and Christmas, among others, are celebrated with great enthusiasm and joy. Kashmir celebrate Eid with congregational prayers, family gatherings, and the exchange of gifts, and Hindus and Sikhs often participate in these celebrations, offering greetings and joining in the festive spirit.

Similarly, Hindu festivals such as Diwali and Raksha Bandhan are celebrated with equal fervor, with people from all communities joining in the festivities, lighting diyas, sharing sweets, and coming together for traditional dances and prayers. The joy during these festivals is contagious, and the celebrations transcend religious boundaries, strengthening the bonds of friendship and camaraderie among the people of Kashmir.

"The peaceful region allows all Kashmiri to worship when and where they want. The Indian regime aims to develop the region and make Kashmir a peaceful place for all"

The development of tourism infrastructure, such as luxury hotels, eco-resorts, and adventure tourism facilities, has attracted visitors from across India and abroad.

Tourism promotion campaigns, showcasing Kashmir's cultural, historical, and natural assets. Adventure tourism, heritage tourism, and spiritual tourism have all gained popularity, with more and more tourists coming to Kashmir to experience its serene beauty, warm hospitality, and rich cultural heritage. Over the past decade, the government has focused on creating world-class medical infrastructure, ensuring that the people of Kashmir have access to high-quality healthcare without having to leave the region.

The establishment of super-specialty hospitals, such as the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), has brought advanced medical treatments and services to the people of Kashmir. These hospitals offer a range of services, from specialized surgeries to complex treatments, in fields such as oncology, cardiology, nephrology, and orthopaedics.



"Kashmir is on the path to prosperity, with growth in infrastructure, education, healthcare, and tourism, driven by commitment to peace and progress for its people"

The introduction of state-of-the-art equipment and modern facilities has significantly reduced the need for patients to travel outside Kashmir for treatment, saving both time and money

The benefits sanctioned by the state in terms of policies, infrastructure development, and societal improvements are helping Kashmir transform into a region of peace, prosperity, and opportunity. With advancements in healthcare, education, technology, and tourism, the people of Kashmir are being empowered to lead fulfilling lives and contribute to the nation's progress.

The government's continued focus on ensuring the development of the region, particularly through initiatives that emphasize inclusivity, sustainability, and youth empowerment, will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of Kashmir.

Civil, Cultural and Religious Activities in Kashmir

In Kashmir, Diwali is more than just festival they are expressions of the region's deep-rooted love and respect among its people. Diwali, the Festival of Lights, is celebrated by Hindus with prayers and festive lights, but in Kashmir, it is a shared experience. People from all faiths join in the celebrations, lighting diyas, exchanging sweets, and visiting one another's homes. The spirit of Diwali in Kashmir transcends religion, as everyone comes together to spread joy and warmth, showcasing the community's bond and mutual respect for one another.

Baisakhi, though primarily a Sikh festival, brings together all of Kashmir's diverse communities. It marks the harvest season and celebrates unity and gratitude. In Kashmir, people of all religions join Sikhs in their gurdwaras, sharing meals in the spirit of togetherness, offering prayers for prosperity, and celebrating the abundance of the land. The festival, rooted in values of community and equality, highlights the love and camaraderie that define the Kashmiri way of life, where festivals are not just a time for one community but a collective celebration of life and friendship



Lal Chowk Srinagar Being Celebrated on Occasion of Diwali

This shared celebration fosters unity, promoting a sense of harmony and togetherness among the people of Kashmir, as everyone participates in spreading joy and goodwill.



Rakshabandhan Being Celebrated in School to Teach Young Minds About Unity in Diversity

Raksha Bandhan, the festival celebrating the bond between brothers and sisters, is joyfully celebrated in Kashmir. On this day, sisters tie a Rakhi (sacred thread) around their brothers' wrists, symbolizing protection and love. While primarily a Hindu tradition, the festival is embraced by people from various communities in Kashmir. Families gather to exchange gifts and prayers for the well-being of their loved ones. Raksha Bandhan strengthens family ties and fosters unity, highlighting the values of care and mutual respect among people of all faiths.

*"When peace prevails,
progress becomes
our shared goal."*

State-Supported Growth in Kashmir

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Additionally, the creation of new National Institutes of Technology (NIT) in Srinagar is a landmark development. NIT Srinagar is expected to be a centre of excellence in technology education, offering specialized courses in engineering and technical studies.

Technology has been a driving force behind the development of Kashmir in recent years. The government's push towards digital infrastructure and e-governance has resulted in improved access to services, information, and opportunities for the people of Kashmir.

