

AUG 2025

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THE NORTH KASHMIR CONNECTION

FACE OF THE
MONTH



HILAL RASOOL



CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM BUILDING INDIA'S FUTURE

The 79th Independence Day was celebrated with patriotic zeal and vibrant cultural programs across Jammu & Kashmir. From Srinagar to Kupwara, the tri-colour waved proudly over schools, colleges and government buildings, symbolizing unity and pride. Flag hoisting ceremonies were conducted in villages, towns and cities, where people gathered to honor the sacrifices of freedom fighters and reaffirm their commitment to the nation. Students actively participated in parades, patriotic performances such as songs, dance and skits, bringing energy and colour to the occasion. Teachers, officials and community leaders addressed and reminded citizens of India's hard earned independence and the importance of safeguarding freedom through unity and responsibility. In Kashmir's villages, women and youth groups organized special cultural events, adding inclusivity and a spirit of togetherness. The celebrations reflected not only joy but also a resolve to strengthen harmony and development. Independence Day this year reminded everyone that freedom is both a legacy to cherish and a duty to uphold.

Glory for Sopore XI as Kilo T20
Wraps Up

Khelo India Festival: Dragon
Boats Thrill Dal Lake

Gurez Glows with Culture:
LG Manoj Sinha Inaugurates
National Tribal Festival

Glory for Sopore XI as Kilo T20 Wraps Up

The North Kashmir Kilo T20 Cricket League (Phase-I) concluded with great zeal in the first week of this month at Mazbug Ground, Sopore, where Sopore XI lifted the championship trophy after a gripping final against Shatgund Cricket Club. The tournament, held under the aegis of the Indian Army, provided an excellent platform for the region's youth to display their cricketing skills and passion. The final match kept spectators thoroughly engaged as both teams showcased discipline, determination and competitive spirit. In the crucial moments, Sopore XI held their nerve to secure the prestigious title. With this win, both Sopore XI and Shatgund Cricket Club advanced to Phase-II, where they will represent Sopore and Qaziabad zones. A large crowd of cricket fans, community members and local leaders gathered to witness the exciting finale, which reflected enthusiasm, sportsmanship and unity. The prize distribution ceremony was attended by dignitaries who applauded the discipline and team spirit of the players while commending the Army's initiative to channel youth energy through sport. Officials noted that the successful conduct of Phase-I highlights the resilience of Kashmiri youth and underlined sports as a powerful tool for unity.



Breaking Barriers: Training Girls in the Art of Self-Defense

The Sopore Yuva Centre successfully concluded a five-day Martial Arts Training Programme aimed at empowering young girls with vital self-defence skills, confidence and discipline. The programme saw enthusiastic participation and was widely appreciated by trainees and their families. Conducted under the guidance of a certified martial arts trainer, the sessions provided a balanced mix of practical training and theoretical awareness. Participants were taught basic self-defence techniques, improving their ability to respond in challenging situations. Alongside skill building, exercises focused on stamina, flexibility and endurance, helping the girls improve their physical fitness and strength. The training also emphasised mental resilience. Motivational talks and interactive activities encouraged participants to develop self-belief, determination and discipline. The trainer highlighted that martial arts are not limited to defence but also nurture respect, focus and perseverance qualities essential in everyday life. Parents and community members welcomed the initiative, calling it a meaningful step towards equipping girls with confidence and independence.

They praised the Yuva Centre for providing a platform where girls could learn, grow and break social barriers. The programme concluded with a closing ceremony, where participants showcased their newly learned techniques. Parents of students expressed that such initiatives would continue to inspire and empower the youth.



From Needle to New Beginnings: Women Crafting Self-Reliance

The Skill Development Workshop for Women, which successfully concluded on 12 August 2025 at Dangiwacha Rafiabad, proved to be a remarkable step towards building confidence, creativity and self-reliance among local women and youth. The workshop primarily focused on training participants in knitting and embroidery machine skills, providing them with both technical knowledge and practical exposure. Throughout the programme, women were introduced to modern techniques of operating embroidery and knitting machines, learning design patterns, finishing styles and product development methods. For many participants, this was their very first opportunity to handle professional machines, and their enthusiasm reflected the excitement of gaining a productive, in-come-generating skill. The training not only enhanced technical ability but also encouraged teamwork, innovation and problem-solving. Women who once hesitated to engage in public learning spaces gradually came forward with confidence, exploring ideas of turning their craft into entrepreneurship. Youth participants also displayed equal zeal, recognising this platform as a pathway to employment, economic independence and creative growth. By the end of the workshop, participants walked away with more than just skills they gained renewed self-belief and a vision for future opportunities. This initiative stands as a meaningful contribution to women's empowerment, rural development and sustainable livelihoods, paving the way for stronger, self-reliant communities.



RAKHI MAKING COMPETITION CELEBRATES CREATIVITY, CULTURE UNITY

The Rakhi Making Competition, held on 8 August at MSAGS School Sopore, showcased the creativity, tradition and festive spirit of students. Organised to nurture artistic skills while reinforcing cultural values, the event saw enthusiastic participation from the Peace, Well-being, Eco and Wisdom Houses. Students designed and presented beautifully handcrafted rakhis, each reflecting imagination, individuality and a blend of tradition with innovation. From colourful threads and beads to eco-friendly materials, participants experimented with unique styles, making the competition hall vibrant with creativity and festive cheer. The atmosphere was filled with joy, excitement and healthy rivalry as students gave their best to produce striking designs. A highlight of the event was the active involvement of teachers, who encouraged and inspired participants throughout. Their presence added value, making the competition a platform for both learning and sharing. By the conclusion, the rakhis symbolised unity, creativity and cultural pride. The competition enriched students with confidence, teamwork and festive spirit, celebrating the enduring bond of Raksha Bandhan.



ARMY EXTENDS HEALTHCARE SUPPORT TO VEER NARIS AND ESM FAMILIES



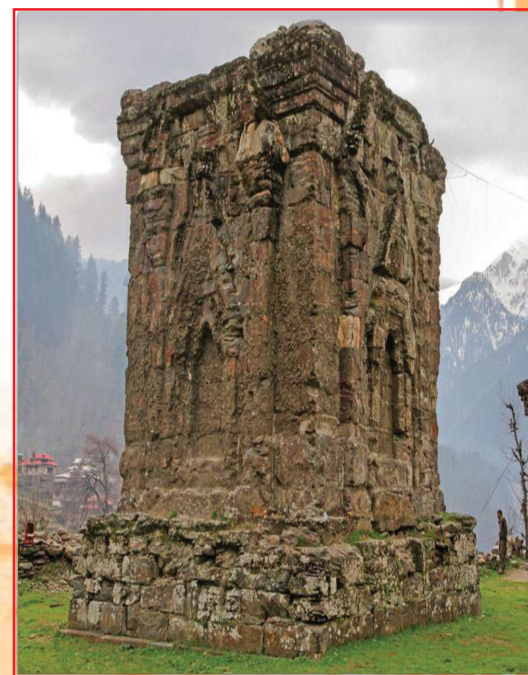
In line with the Indian Army's commitment to the welfare of its extended fraternity, a multi-speciality Medical Camp cum ESM Rally was organized at Dangiwachha Yuva Centre on 18 Aug 2025. Mrs. Priya Narang, FWO, HQ CIF (K), graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. She interacted with Veer Naris, Veer Matas and Ex-Servicemen (ESM) families, acknowledging their sacrifices and assuring them of the Army's continued support. Addressing the gathering, Mrs. Narang said, "It is our solemn duty to stand by the families of our bravehearts. Their strength and resilience inspire us and the Army remains committed to their welfare in every possible way". The camp catered to Veer Naris, Veer Matas, and ESM providing healthcare, emotional support

and wellness education. A team of five specialists, in coordination with the CMO Baramulla, offered consultations in Surgery, Medicine, Gynecology, Pediatrics, and Dental Care. Seven Veer Naris, two Veer Matas, 130 ESM families, and 40 local women benefitted from the initiative, which also included free medicine distribution and a health awareness lecture. The event fostered goodwill, trust and reinforced the Army's enduring respect for veterans and their families, especially in remote areas.



Sharda Peeth Revival Brings New Dawn to Teetwal

The revival of Sharda Peeth has ushered in a new era of cultural and spiritual resurgence in Teetwal, Kupwara. Once a revered seat of learning and worship for Kashmiri Pandits and scholars across South Asia, Sharda Peeth now symbolizes hope, heritage and unity. The restoration of this sacred site has not only reconnected people with their roots but also boosted the cultural identity of the region. Pilgrims, devotees, and visitors are once again drawn to the ancient Sharda Mata temple, fostering a sense of belonging and pride among locals. The initiative has also provided Teetwal with opportunities for tourism, cross-cultural dialogue and economic upliftment. With improved infrastructure and community participation, Teetwal is steadily emerging as a hub of heritage-based tourism. The Sharda Peeth revival stands as a testament to preserving Kashmir's pluralistic traditions while paving the way for a brighter, inclusive future.



KASHMIR'S CRAFT: BETWEEN TIMELESS BEAUTY AND FADING THREADS

Kashmir's craft economy, long regarded as a cornerstone of its cultural and economic identity, has now been mapped district-wise, providing a detailed insight into its strengths and challenges. As of 31 March 2025, the Valley is home to 3.81 lakh registered artisans, underscoring the sector's critical role in sustaining livelihoods. Srinagar leads with 81,878 artisans, reaffirming its position as the epicenter of Kashmiri craftsmanship, followed closely by Budgam and Baramulla districts celebrated for weaving, embroidery and other artisanal traditions. This mapping exercise not only highlights the geographic spread of skilled artisans but also captures the diversity of crafts flourishing across districts. While globally acclaimed traditions such as Sozni embroidery and hand-knotted carpets continue to thrive, others face an uncertain future. Silverware, willow bat making and several wood-based crafts are at risk of extinction due to falling demand, lack of innovation and competition from machine-made products. By identifying both flourishing and endangered crafts, the district-wise mapping is expected to guide policymakers and cultural organizations in preserving Kashmir's artisanal legacy while promoting pathways for sustainable growth.



SHAPING FUTURE WAR- RIORS THROUGH AGNIVEER TRAINING



Under the aegis of the Indian Army a comprehensive pre-recruitment training program was conducted to boost the confidence of aspiring Agniveer candidates. The initiative included a series of motivational lectures, online examinations and physical training sessions, designed to prepare the youth for the upcoming recruitment process. The training focused on enhancing mental strength, improving academic knowledge and building physical endurance, ensuring that the participants were well-prepared to meet the rigorous standards of the selection process. The programme adopted a structured approach with daily training sessions covering fitness drills, discipline-oriented activities, and guidance on exam techniques. In addition, weekly tests were held to assess the progress of candidates and to familiarise them with the real-time examination environment. This systematic evaluation not only identified areas for improvement but also helped boost the confidence of participants as they advanced in their preparation. Such initiatives played a vital role in strengthening the Soldier-Citizen connect, reinforcing the bond between the Armed Forces and society. By instilling a spirit of determination and patriotism, the training programme inspired the youth to pursue their dreams of serving the nation with pride and dedication.

Khelo India Festival: Dragon Boats Thrill Dal Lake

The scenic Dal Lake hosted the inaugural Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF) from 21 to 23 August. The event marked the lake's debut on the national water sports stage and gave a major boost to both tourism and sporting culture in Jammu and Kashmir. Organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and the J&K Sports Council, the festival brought together over 400 athletes from 36 states and Union Territories. They competed in rowing, canoeing, and kayaking, while additional attractions such as water skiing, dragon boat racing and the popular shikara sprint added colour for spectators. Earlier in August, the mascot a Himalayan Kingfisher symbolising youth and energy was unveiled in Srinagar alongside a logo depicting a shikara gliding across Dal Lake. Satish Sharma, Union Minister for Youth Services and Sports, called the launch a proud moment. Local houseboat owners, athletes and tourism operators hailed the festival as a milestone, with Olympic judge Bilquis Mir describing it as “the beginning of a new era for water sports in the country.

Srinagar Swayed as Benu Heritage Classic Music Fest Cast Its Spell

The event was organised by Benu Heritage in collaboration with SaMaPa (Sopori Academy of Music & Performing Arts) and Delhi Public School, with support from the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of Matrix Freight Systems Private Limited. It brought together students and artists, celebrating heritage, creativity and learning. The programme not only highlighted cultural values but also reflected the importance of institutions in fostering innovation and social responsibility among the youth. Meanwhile, a joint delegation of the Jammu & Kashmir Dairy Farmers Association and faculty members of SKUAST Kashmir, led by Sandeep Singh Chib, called on the Lieutenant Governor. They briefed him on the preparations for the upcoming Pashu Dhan Mela, which aimed to promote livestock awareness, farmer empowerment and sustainable development in the region. In another meeting, Dr. K. Gopalakrishnan, Project Director of the 75 Students' Satellites Mission, met the Lieutenant Governor to discuss the establishment of a Satellite Incubator Centre at IUST. He was accompanied by Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice-Chancellor of IUST. The proposed “Kashmir Satellite”, to be launched by ISRO, was regarded as a landmark initiative, inspiring research, entrepreneurship and space technology innovation among the youth of Jammu & Kashmir.



From Streets of Srinagar to Japan: Hilal's Coaching Triumph

From the bustling streets of Srinagar to the professional coaching fields of Japan, Hilal Rasool Parray's journey is a story of passion, persistence and purpose. Once a promising young goalkeeper, he turned his love for the game into a remarkable coaching career, earning the distinction of being Kashmir's most decorated football coach. Growing up with limited resources in a region where football opportunities were scarce, Hilal's resolve never faltered. Starting out with local players and working with minimal facilities, he gradually built a reputation for discipline, tactical sharpness and innovative training methods. His relentless dedication eventually took him to Japan, where he trained under seasoned professionals, refining his techniques and gaining valuable international exposure. Returning to Kashmir, Hilal focused on nurturing young talent, building teams and inspiring countless players to dream bigger. His influence has elevated the standard of Kashmiri football while instilling confidence in a new generation. Today, his journey stands as proof that dreams born in narrow alleys can find recognition on global grounds, making him a true sporting icon of the Valley.



Gurez Glows with Culture: LG Manoj Sinha Inaugurates National Tribal Festival

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the National Tribal Festival at Gurez, a celebration of the vibrant culture and traditions of the Dard-Shina community. Addressing the gathering virtually, he praised the tribal community's immense role in enriching India's cultural mosaic and paid homage to Bhagwan Birsa Munda. Calling the Dard-Shina people the "precious treasure of India," the LG highlighted their sustainable lifestyle rooted in harmony with nature. He emphasized that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, significant efforts have been made since August 2019 to preserve tribal-store dignity through transformative initiatives. Recalling Gurez's historic connection to grid power in 2023, he reiterated the government's commitment to tribal empowerment. On the occasion, he dedicated the Shina Gilgit 88.8 FM Radio Station to the community. The festival featured vibrant performances under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat and honoured tribal achievers.



GUESS THE FAMOUS SINGER

Answers of Jul
edition quiz are

- (A) Lotus Temple
- (B) Mysore Palace
- (C) Gateway of India
- (D) Akshardham Temple

Winner

Ruqaya Bhat
Resident
Sopore

A



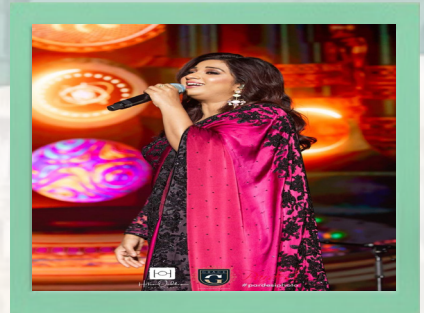
C



B



D



YOU CAN SEND THE CORRECT ANSWER AT : konnektkashmirconnection@gmail.com

Kupwara Emerging as a Fisheries Hub with Trout & Carp Development

EMPLOYMENT UPDATES

1. Post Name: Staff Nurse, Junior Pharmacist and More – 621 Posts
website: <https://jkssb.nic.in/>
2. Post Name: Driver, Junior Assistant and More – 377 Posts
website: <https://leh.nic.in/>
3. Post Name : Assistant Professor, Lecturer and More – 102 Posts
website: <https://jkpsc.nic.in/>

Kupwara District, blessed with abundant rivers, streams, springs and irrigation sars, offers immense scope for fisheries development in both trout and food fisheries. Since becoming a district in 1979, the Fisheries Department has undertaken several initiatives, including setting up a Carp Fish Farm at Kohru (Handwara), a Fish Seed Centre at Dewar Lolab and trout rearing units at Kutlari Handwara and Suliman Tangdar. To enhance fish production, carp seed has been stocked in Lolab, Kralpora, Handwara and Langate, while Brown and Rainbow Trout have been introduced in snow-fed streams such as Dringyari, Moori Kalaroos, Mawar and Hardkhi, promoting both fisheries and angling tourism. Encouragingly, private participation has expanded, with 83 carp ponds and 21 trout units established across the district, strengthening rural livelihoods. The department further supports Mahigeers through incentives like housing, nylon twine, scholarships and insurance schemes.

For any contribution or Opinion mail us at : konnektkashmirconnection@gmail.com