

JUL 2025

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THE NORTH KASHMIR CONNECTION

**FACE OF THE
MONTH**

Mudhet Majed

Amarnath Yatra: Faith Traversing Snow Clad Mountains

The annual holy pilgrimage of Amarnath Yatra in the Himalayas began this year on 3rd July and would conclude with the Raksha Bandhan Purnima on 9th July 2025. The devotees trek through the mountains in the upper reaches of Anantnag district, approximately at a height of 13,000 feet above sea level to reach the holy shrine that nestles the naturally formed ice Shivalinga – symbolising Lord Shiva. In the Hindu month of Shraavan, this ice-pillar reaches its largest size annually. There are two main routes to reach the Amarnath Caves; the traditional Pahalgam route (48 km) and the shorter Baltal route (14 km). The journey, open to individuals aged 13 to 70 with a mandatory medical certificate, is described by the pilgrims as spiritually transformative and rewarding experience. Local communities offer warm hospitality to the travellers in this period. This year, the Yatra is being conducted over 38 days to enhance logistical efficiency and to support environmental sustainability.

**EMPOWERING TOMORROW:
INAUGURATION OF REVITAL-
ISED YUVA CENTER**
**SOPORE APPLE SEASON
DEMANDS FARMER-FO-
CUSED SUPPORT**
**Bronze Glory for Sana
Jan at National Wushu
Event**

Josh-e-Watan Volleyball Championship Pays Tribute to Shaheed DySP Humayun Bhat

The Youth Civil Society Kashmir, in collaboration with Handwara Police and the J&K Sports Council, successfully hosted the Josh-e-Watan Volleyball Championship under the theme 'My Youth, My Pride' at the Indoor Sports Stadium, Handwara. The tournament was dedicated to the memory of Shaheed DySP Humayun Muzammil Bhat, whose sacrifice continues to inspire Kashmir's youth. Eight teams from various districts of the Valley participated, displaying discipline, sportsmanship and unity. The event was inaugurated by DIG North Kashmir Range Maqsood-ul-Zaman, who commended the organisers for creating a platform that blends tribute with youth empowerment. The closing ceremony was led by SSP Handwara Mushtaq Ahmad Choudhary, who presented trophies, medals and cash rewards to the winning and runner-up teams. He praised the contributions of local youth and civil society in promoting peace, sports and social harmony. SSP Handwara emphasized the importance of such events in guiding youth towards positive avenues and honouring the sacrifices of fallen heroes. He reaffirmed the police's commitment to nurturing young talent and fostering community engagement. Locals and civil society members lauded the initiative and expressed hope that similar events would be organised frequently to strengthen youth development and police-public relations.



Empowering Tomorrow: Inauguration of Revitalised YUVA Center

On 25 July 2025, the revitalised YUVA Centre at Dangiwachha was inaugurated, marking a significant milestone in the journey of youth and women empowerment in North Kashmir. Spearheaded by the Indian Army in collaboration with the civil administration, NGOs, and the local community, this initiative signals a transformative step toward self-reliance and digital empowerment in

the region. The event was graced by Maj Gen Vivek Narang, GOC CIF (K), along with dignitaries including Smt Zarina Akhtar (Veer Nari), Shri Minga Sherpa (DC Baramulla), and representatives from the NAAM and ASEEM Foundations. The centre, originally established in 2009, has trained over 1,225 youth including 1,025 women in vocational skills. The revitalised YUVA Centre has been transformed into a modern training hub aligning with national missions like Digital India and Skill India. Upgrades include redesigned classrooms, a secure campus, and modern equipment for fashion designing and entrepreneurship units. A dedicated Computer Training Lab, inaugurated by Smt Zarina Akhtar, has also been established through the support of the NAAM Foundation. The ASEEM Foundation contributed to the creation of two production-based units focused on soap/lip balm manufacturing and dry apple processing, opening new avenues for women-led self-help groups. This rejuvenation initiative is a beacon of hope, fostering confidence, employment, and renewed aspirations among the youth. It stands as a replicable model for inclusive growth and national integration in other parts of Kashmir.



SOPORE APPLE SEASON DEMANDS FARMER-FOCUSED SUPPORT

Sopore, which hosts Asia's largest fruit mandi is welcoming the arrival of much-awaited apple season with a steady harvest of fresh apples, pears and plums. Early season apple varieties like Hazratbali and Sarampuri are already hitting the markets and the pricing trends appear favourable for growers this year. This is a crucial time for farmers, therefore, ensuring smooth logistics is the key to minimizing post-harvest losses and maximizing profits. The government must ensure close coordination between the Horticulture Department and Traffic Headquarters to facilitate the hassle-free movement of fruit-laden trucks to the markets across India and abroad. Horticulture and agriculture are the backbone of Jammu and Kashmir's economy, offering livelihood to more people than even the growing tourism sector. While tourism continues to receive policy focus and media attention, it is equally vital to address the core issues faced by the farming community. These include providing irrigation facilities for rain-fed crops, launching lift irrigation schemes, and ensuring the availability of genuine and effective pesticides and fertilizers. Timely intervention in these areas can uplift the entire horticulture sector and promote sustainable, farmer-led growth. With the right support systems in place, J&K's farmers can become more self-reliant, ensuring the region's overall economic stability and long-term development.



Baramulla's Lifeline: The Shimmering Jhelum

The River Jhelum, like a silver ribbon, winds its way gracefully through the heart of Baramulla, bringing with it the stories of time, tranquillity, and the eternal bond between water and land. As sunlight dances upon its gentle waves, the river sparkles with divine brilliance where each shimmer is a reflection of

Kashmir's timeless beauty. Baramulla, nestled amidst verdant hills and lush orchards, listens quietly as the Jhelum murmurs along its path, whispering tales of snow-fed origins and ancient civilizations. The banks of the river brim with life, children's playful holler, elders offering prayers, birds soaring above - and in that harmony, one feels nature's quiet blessings. Willows lean in, as if to touch the sacred flow, while the breeze carries the river's song across fields and homes. The Jhelum isn't just a body of water, it is Baramulla's soul - flowing gently yet purposefully, connecting generations in its timeless life. In every ripple and reflection, the Jhelum speaks a language understood not just by the ears, but by the heart. It is nature's grace, whispering through the heart of Baramulla.



A New Dawn for Kashmir's Youth: Education Fest Lights the Way

To shape a brighter future for the youth of North Kashmir, the Indian Army, in partnership with the District Administration of Kupwara and Baramulla organised the North Kashmir Education Fest 2025 at Shubhana Stadium, Sopore on 26 July 2025. Designed to provide students of North Kashmir with effective career guidance including new and emerging careers and insights into higher education opportunities, the event brought together many esteemed colleges and universities from all over the country. These institutions offered a platform to students for availing personalised counselling and helping them choose academic paths aligned with their interests and goals. The fest was a huge success in serving as a key platform for knowledge exchange, particularly benefiting the aspiring students of North Kashmir. Students explored options in engineering, business, science, humanities, arts, psychology and social sciences. To boost financial incentives, scholarships worth Rupees 3 crore were announced for deserving students from underprivileged backgrounds. This initiative reflects the joint commitment of the Indian Army, local administration and police to foster peace and development through education. With approximately 2,600 students in attendance, the event saw strong engagement and marked a significant step toward educational empowerment. The Indian Army remains steadfast in its belief that education is vital for lasting peace and prosperity. The Indian Army extends its sincere gratitude to all the stakeholders whose invaluable contributions made this event a resounding success.



Ecological Revival: Lotuses return to Wular Lake

Abdul Rashid Dar sits at the edge of Wular Lake in Kashmir's Bandipora, gazing across the still waters shimmering with pink lotuses. "I can't believe my eyes," he whispers, gently touching a flower. "When I was a child, I would accompany my father to harvest lotus stems. It feels like a memory reborn. I thought these blooms were gone forever." Wular Lake - India's largest freshwater lake is once again witnessing the quiet magic of lotuses, 30 years after a devastating flood wiped them out completely. Located around 67 km from Srinagar and surrounded by the majestic Harmukh mountains, the lake had suffered years of ecological decline due to silt accumulation and neglect. However, thanks to the Wular Conservation and Management Authority, the nature got another chance to thrive. Through dedicated desilting and restoration efforts over the years, the lakebed has been cleared, allowing native vegetation like lotuses to return. The revival isn't just environmental; it is deeply emotional and also cultural. For locals like Abdul, the return of the lotuses is profoundly personal. It symbolizes the healing of a lost heritage, the return of his childhood memories and a hope that with care and commitment, even what seems lost forever can be restored. Wular Lake now blooms with new life and old stories.



ADVANCING AGRI-TECH: KVK KUPWARA DEMONSTRATES MECHANISED RICE TRANSPLANTING

In a forward-looking initiative aimed at modernizing traditional farming methods, Kriishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kupwara organized a live demonstration on 'Mechanised Rice Transplanting' method. This significant



event showcased how technology can enhance both productivity and efficiency in paddy cultivation. Held under actual field conditions, the demonstration attracted

enthusiastic participation from local farmers and agri-entrepreneurs. The event featured prominent agricultural experts, including Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth (Director Extension, SKUAST-K), Prof. Kaiser M. Malik (Head, KVK Kupwara), and Dr. Lal Singh (Professor, Division of Agronomy, SKUAST-K), who shared valuable insights and practical guidance with the attendees. Using advanced paddy transplanters, the experts demonstrated the advantages of mechanised transplanting, emphasizing uniform planting, significant labour cost reduction, and faster field operations. This modern technique has the potential to address labour shortages and increase yield consistency across the region. KVK Kupwara's initiative highlights its dedication to promoting agricultural innovation and empowering the farming community with sustainable solutions. By introducing and

encouraging the use of farm machinery, the Center is paving the way for a more resilient and profitable agricultural future in Kupwara and beyond. The event served as a model for how technology and

tradition can coexist to benefit local livelihoods in agriculture.



FROM KUPWARA TO THE WORLD: MUDHET MAJED BRINGS KASHMIRI LITERATURE TO LIFE

In the scenic district of Jammu & Kashmir's Kupwara, a remarkable young girl named Mudhet Majed is emerging as a beacon of inspiration. At a time when digital screens have overtaken traditional forms of entertainment and education, Mudhet is bringing renewed attention to the dying habit of book reading. With maturity beyond her years, she has authored her own book - an impressive feat that not only marks a personal achievement but also serves as a source of motivation for youngsters across the Kashmir Valley. Mudhet's literary journey reflects her love for words, creativity and cultural identity. In a region rich with oral traditions and poetic heritage, her initiative stands as a modern revival of storytelling in written form. Her work is sparking conversations in schools and among young readers, inspiring others to pen down their own thoughts and explore the world of books and literature. Mudhet's contribution as a young author goes beyond authorship and is sending a strong message to her peers that literature is still relevant, powerful, and capable of shaping minds. Her bold decision to write play a vital role in re-establishing the reading habit among Kashmir's young generation, proving that the written word still holds the power to influence, heal and transform.



Empowering Kupwara Women: FLWOK's First Annual Meet

Indian Army upholds the belief that women's development is the prime source of a region's upliftment. Towards this, the Indian Army organized the 1st Annual Meet of Flag Women of Kupwara (FLWOK) at Pathahirri Village, uniting 125 women from different parts of the district. These women have been actively contributing to the community's upliftment in their regions through skill development and self-help initiatives. The day-long event celebrated resilience, growth and unity. Women participated in interactive sessions, motivational talks and shared success stories that reflected their journey from a quiet, home-bound life to leadership. Army officials and local dignitaries praised their efforts and encouraged them to keep striving for self-reliance and education. The event also showcased local products, crafts and cultural performances. Skill-building workshops in tailoring, beauty care, computer literacy and financial awareness were conducted as part of the Meet. FLWOK aims to continue inspiring change in remote areas, helping women dream bigger and act boldly to self-sustain. The Meet concluded with a collective pledge to empower more women and strengthen the social fabric of Kupwara.



Bronze Glory for Sana Jan at National Wushu Event

Sana Jan from Bandipora, North Kashmir, made her mark on the national sports stage by winning a bronze medal at the 24th Junior National Wushu Championship held in Hyderabad from July 1 to 6, 2025. Her victory is a proud moment for Jammu and Kashmir, showcasing her dedication, talent and resilience. Wushu is a Chinese martial art form derived from the broader martial art of Kung-Fu, and has gained wide popularity in the past decade inviting very tough competition both within India and internationally. Competing at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium among hundreds of participants from across India, Sana stood out with her sharp technique and mental strength. Despite limited access to advanced sports facilities in her hometown, she overcame tough challenges and emerged as one of the top young Wushu athletes in the country. Organized by the Wushu Association of Telangana and backed by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the event highlighted Sana's exceptional potential. Her performance was widely applauded by coaches, officials and spectators. Back home, celebrations erupted as local clubs, mentors and the sports council hailed her success. Sana credited her family, coaches and community support for her journey, expressing hope that her story would inspire other young girls in Jammu and Kashmir to pursue sports and dream big.



Echoes of Sacrifice: Muharram Marked with Devotion

In July 2025, the sacred month of Muharram was observed with deep devotion and solemnity across North Kashmir, particularly in Baramulla, Kupwara, Sopore, Handwara and Bandipora. The first ten days, marking the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (AS) and his companions at Karbala, witnessed widespread participation in Majlis-e-Aza, Matami Juloos and religious sermons. In Sopore and Baramulla, large processions peacefully passed through traditional routes amid tight security and community coordination. Scholars delivered insightful speeches highlighting the timeless message of Karbala - truth, justice and sacrifice. Youth and elders alike participated in the blood donation drives, Sabeels (refreshment stalls) and community langars, promoting humanitarian spirit. Handwara and Kupwara also saw disciplined commemorations with increased participation of younger generations. Local administration ensured medical assistance and law & order with the co-operation of religious committees. Notably, women played a key role in organizing peaceful gatherings and spiritual discourses. Despite regional challenges, Muharram 2025 became a symbol of unity and spiritual resilience. It reflected how North Kashmir continues to uphold its rich legacy of peaceful religious observance while fostering communal harmony and social responsibility proving again that the message of Karbala transcends time and borders.

DC Kupwara Launches Kuposhan Mukht Panchayat to Combat Child Malnutrition

In a significant move to combat child malnutrition, the District Administration Kupwara, in partnership with the Piramal Foundation, has launched the 'Kuposhan Mukht Panchayat' initiative. This ambitious program will cover over 2,320 Anganwadi Centres, aiming to improve nutrition and health outcomes for children across the district. The initiative encourages active involvement from Panchayats, Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers and local communities to identify and address malnutrition at the grassroots level. Key efforts include regular growth monitoring, nutrition education and timely care for undernourished children. By building awareness and empowering local institutions, the campaign sets the foundation for long-term, sustainable health improvements. Officials praised the dedication of frontline workers whose

efforts are vital to the program's success and emphasised the role of community in creating a malnutrition-free Kupwara where every child grows up healthy, strong and full of promises.



GUESS THE FAMOUS TOURIST PLACE

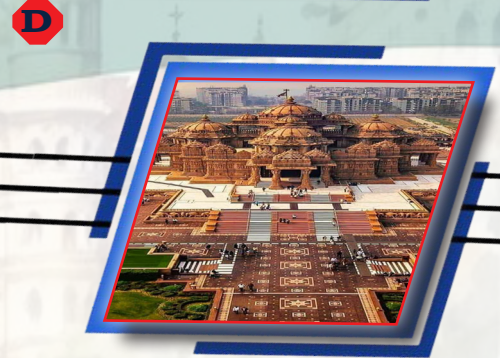


Answers of Aug
edition quiz are

- (A) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj
- (B) Peshwa Bajirao
- (C) Maharana Pratap
- (D) Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj

Winner

Tantray Rizwan
Resident
Rajwar Handwara



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

EMPLOYMENT UPDATES

- (a) BBWC - RM || Jammu, website: upsc.gov.in
- (b) SSC Junior Engineer Recruitment 2025 - Apply Online for 1340 Posts website: <https://www.freejobalert.com>
- (c) STP Operator, Electrician and Other - 10 Posts website: <https://www.freejobalert.com>
- (d) Assistant Engineer, Foreman and More - 31 Posts website: <https://www.freejobalert.com>



J&K Govt's Move to Boost Insurance Policy Cover

The Jammu and Kashmir Government has constituted a Union Territory Level Insurance Committee (UTLIC) aimed at enhancing the reach and effectiveness of both life and general insurance across the UT. This initiative is part of the broader effort to ensure financial security for citizens by promoting affordable insurance options, raising awareness, and increasing overall coverage in every district. The committee will play a vital role in identifying gaps, recommending policy improvements, and supporting the smooth implementation of various government-backed insurance schemes. The UTLIC will be chaired by the Finance Secretary and will include representatives from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), various insurance providers, and other key government departments. The committee's collective expertise would ensure a coordinated and impactful strategy to strengthen the insurance ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

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