

SEP 2025

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KONNECT

THE NORTH KASHMIR CONNECTION

FACE OF THE
MONTH



NASIR AJAZ

NORTH KASHMIR APPLE CULTIVATION REACHES GREATER HEIGHTS

Apple cultivation in North Kashmir remains a vital economic activity in 2025, with the region contributing nearly 70% of India's apple production. Sopore, Baramulla and Handwara are among the major hubs, renowned for producing premium varieties like Red Delicious, Kullu Delicious and Maharaji. Despite challenges such as unpredictable weather, farmers have adopted innovative practices like high-density planting and advanced irrigation techniques, leading to improved yields. This year, production is expected to surpass 2.2 million metric tons, reflecting steady growth. The apple industry provides livelihood for over 3 million people in North Kashmir, fueling the local economy. Increased exports, especially to markets in the Middle East, have further boosted growers' incomes. With these advancements, apple cultivation remains a cornerstone of prosperity and agricultural development in the region.

 Nasir Ajaz Sofi from Baramulla Secures Spot in India Volleyball Camp

 CHC Magam Begins ENT Surgeries, Boosting Rural Healthcare in J&K

 Langate Hosts Sericulture Demo: Farmers Trained in Modern Silk Practices

Nasir Ajaz Sofi from Baramulla Secures Spot in India Volleyball Camp



Nasir Ajaz Sofi, a rising volleyball star from Baramulla, has achieved a remarkable milestone by securing a place in the prestigious India Volleyball Camp, bringing immense pride to Jammu and Kashmir. Competing against 192 talented players from across the nation, Nasir stood out with his skill, passion, and determination, establishing himself as one of India's most promising young athletes. Known for his powerful spikes, sharp reflexes and agility, Nasir impressed selectors throughout the rigorous trials with consistent, high-level performances. His achievement reflects his personal discipline and relentless hard work while also highlighting the emerging sporting potential of Kashmir, where facilities and opportunities are still evolving. For Baramulla and the Valley, this accomplishment carries deep meaning, proving that dedication and perseverance can overcome barriers. Nasir's journey is a source of inspiration for aspiring athletes, as he proudly carries the name of his homeland to the national stage, embodying hope and regional pride.

Ishrat Akhtar Rolls Forward, Breaking All Barriers

From Baramulla to Gwalior, Ishrat Akhtar's journey is a story of resilience, courage, and inspiration. At the 9th National Wheelchair Basketball Championship, she emerged as the lone representative from Kashmir, proudly donning Delhi's colors and proving that determination knows no limits. Ishrat's path to the national stage has been marked by immense challenges, yet she has transformed every obstacle into an opportunity to rise stronger. Her participation is not only a personal milestone but also a moment of pride for Kashmir, showcasing that talent and grit can overcome every barrier. On the court, her energy, discipline and unwavering passion reflect the spirit of an athlete who refuses to be defined by limitations. Beyond sports, Ishrat symbolizes empowerment, motivating others to believe in their dreams despite adversities. Her remarkable achievement resonates far beyond the championship, standing as a beacon of hope and inspiration for youth across the Valley and the nation.



CHC Magam Begins ENT Surgeries, Boosting Rural Healthcare in J&K



Community Health Centre (CHC) Magam in Budgam has created history by becoming Jammu and Kashmir's second CHC level hospital to introduce ENT surgeries, a major step forward in strengthening rural healthcare. Previously, patients from Budgam and neighboring areas were compelled to travel to Srinagar for specialized ENT care, often facing delays, overcrowding and extra expenses. With ENT services now available at CHC Magam, the pressure on Srinagar's tertiary care hospitals will significantly reduce, while patients will benefit from timely treatment closer to home. Importantly, the centre has already performed successful major ENT surgeries, showcasing its medical capability and readiness. This development highlights the government's commitment to upgrading peripheral health facilities, improving accessibility and bridging the rural urban divide in healthcare across Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring quality treatment reaches people at their doorstep.



Auqib Nabi Scripts History with Duleep Trophy Hat-Trick



From the village lanes of Sheri in Baramulla to the Duleep Trophy, Auqib Nabi has risen as a shining star of Kashmiri cricket. His remarkable feat of taking a hat-trick and four wickets in four balls has etched his name into domestic cricket history. This achievement reflects his natural talent, discipline and relentless determination. Auqib's journey is not just about wickets, it is about resilience, dreams, and belief.

Coming from a region with limited cricketing infrastructure, he overcame hurdles with focus and hard work. His success proves that Kashmiri talent, when nurtured, can make a mark on the national stage. For the youth of Kashmir, Auqib Nabi is more than a cricketer he is a symbol of hope and courage. His achievement brings pride to Baramulla and inspires countless young athletes to dream big.



Langate Hosts Sericulture Demo: Farmers Trained in Modern Silk Practices

A field demonstration under the theme “Mera Resham Mera Abhimaan” was held in Langate, Kupwara, to train seri-farmers in modern mulberry and silkworm practices. The program saw participation from more than 30 farmers, who received hands-on training designed to enhance productivity and sustainability in sericulture. Experts from the Central Sericultural Research & Training Institute (CSR&TI), Pampore, along with the J&K Sericulture Department, guided participants on scientific silkworm rearing, mulberry management and effective disease control. The sessions highlighted the importance of adopting technology to reduce losses, improve cocoon yield and increase farmer income. Beyond technical knowledge, the program aimed to revive pride in Kashmir’s silk tradition, encouraging farmers to merge heritage with modern practices. The event strengthened farmer-institution collaboration and inspired participants to embrace innovation for a stronger more sustainable sericulture sector in the Valley.



The Malang: Echoing Kashmir's Soul Through Music



The Malang Band, a rising Sufi-fusion group from Kashmir is redefining the Valley’s identity through powerful soul-stirring music. Formed in 2020 by friends Suhail Yousuf and Ubaid, the band now features Faizan Sofi (percussionist), Fardeen (keyboardist) and Nasir Najar (guitarist). Rooted in the spiritual essence of “Malang,” their music blends Sufi, Kashmiri folk and Bollywood influences to create performances that are emotional and immersive. From local stages to national festivals, they’ve performed in Mumbai, Delhi, Goa, and Kolkata, proudly carrying Kashmir’s cultural soul. Their biggest recognition came with the Newspaper Achievers Award in Mumbai, making them Kashmir’s only band to receive it. For Malang, music is memory, longing and love.

HEARTFELT TEACHERS' DAY CELEBRATIONS AT MS AGS SOPORE

Teachers' Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and heartfelt tributes at MS AGS Sopore, where students, staff and the Principal came together to honour the



invaluable role of teachers in shaping young minds. The programme was led primarily by students, who expressed their love, respect and gratitude through speeches, poems

and cultural performances dedicated to their mentors. The celebrations reflected the deep bond between teachers and students, highlighting the tireless efforts of educators who nurture talent, instill discipline and inspire confidence among learners. Teachers were felicitated for their dedication, while students showcased their creativity and leadership skills by managing the event with enthusiasm and responsibility. The Principal, along with staff members, appreciated the thoughtful participation of students and emphasized the importance of respecting teachers as guiding lights of society. The day concluded on a joyful note, leaving behind a message of gratitude, inspiration and unity within the school community.



ZUBAIR FIRDOUS: TREKKING KASHMIR BEYOND BOUNDARIES

From the meadows of Baramulla to over 160 alpine lakes across Kashmir, Zubair Firdous has emerged as one of the Valley's leading adventure trekkers. His journey, fueled by a deep love for mountains and nature, has now become a mission that blends exploration with community empowerment. As the founder of Alpine Hikers, Zubair is pioneering eco-tourism in Kashmir. His initiative goes beyond trekking creating local jobs, offering entrepreneurial opportunities and encouraging sustainable practices to safeguard the region's fragile ecosystems. By training and employing local youth as guides and support staff, he ensures that the benefits of tourism reach communities directly. Through his expeditions, Zubair showcases the pristine beauty of Kashmir's high-altitude meadows, glaciers and hidden lakes while raising awareness about environmental preservation. With Ladakh and new horizons ahead, he is redefining adventure tourism proving that trekking can build livelihoods, protect nature and inspire pride in Kashmir's heritage.

Name: Zubair Firdous

Background: MBA grad; trekker from Baramulla.

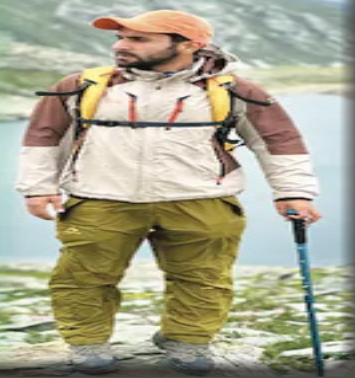
Adventure Club: Founder of Alpine Hikers.

Achievements: Explored over 160 alpine lakes; summited various peaks.

Notable Treks: Tarsar-Marsar, Kashmir Great Lakes.

Entrepreneurship: Promotes eco-tourism and sustainable adventure tourism.

Future Goals: Explore all alpine lakes in Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh; expand to Tibet.



North Kashmir's Cricket Face Off: Kilo Premier League 2025 Begins in Lolab



Lolab is all set to witness a historic sporting spectacle as the first-ever inter-district cricket tournament, the Kilo North Kashmir Premier League 2025 kicked off on September 8, at the picturesque Chandigam Cricket Ground. Organized by the Indian Army, the tournament has already created a wave of excitement across the valley. Out of 98 participating teams, only the top eight contenders have secured their spots in the final phase, where they will battle it out for the ultimate glory of becoming the North Kashmir Champions. The event has provided a platform for talented youngsters to showcase their cricketing prowess with rising stars like Ammir Lefty capturing the imagination and admiration of fans. With intense rivalries, electrifying performances and passionate crowds expected, the tournament promises to be a celebration of sport, unity and talent.



North Kashmir Principals Honoured in Jaipur for Excellence in Education

Masroor Ahmad Dar, Principal of AGS Kruzan in Lolab and Khalid Jalal, Principal of AAGS Budkoot in Handwara, have been honoured in Jaipur for their remarkable contributions to education. Their recognition stands as a proud moment not only for their institutions but for the entire Valley, showcasing how North Kashmir is emerging as a hub of educational excellence. From the remote hills and valleys where access to opportunities was once a challenge, both principals have demonstrated visionary leadership that is transforming lives. Their relentless efforts to inspire young minds, nurture talent and provide quality education are helping bridge the gap between rural Kashmir and the rest of India. This national honour reflects their dedication, resilience and belief in the power of knowledge to change communities. By placing North Kashmir firmly on India's educational map they embody hope, progress and the promise of a brighter future.



Baramulla's Asif Iqbal Shines on ICC Umpire Panel in Sharjah

From the historic town of Baramulla to the grand stage of the International Cricket Council (ICC), Asif Iqbal's inspiring journey stands as a shining example of hard work, determination and passion. Hailing from Khanpora, Baramulla, Asif has earned the honor of officiating in the ongoing T20 tri-series between Pakistan, Afghanistan and the UAE at the iconic Sharjah Cricket Stadium. His presence on the ICC umpire panel marks a proud moment not only for his family but for the entire valley, which sees in him a beacon of hope and ambition. Asif's rise from the narrow bylanes of Baramulla to the international spotlight reflects the growing light of the cricketing spirit of Kashmir. His achievement highlights the fact that talent, when nurtured with dedication, can break all barriers and reach global platforms. By making it to the ICC, Asif has opened doors of possibility for countless aspiring cricketers and umpires across North Kashmir.



Local Youth, Elders Inspired by Visit to Heritage Complex Boniyar

On 17th September 2025, local youth along with elders from surrounding villages visited the Heritage Complex, Boniyar, an iconic site dedicated to preserving and presenting the Indian Army's legacy in North Kashmir. The programme was part of a community outreach effort aimed at strengthening the bond between the Army and local people while inspiring the younger generation to value discipline, patriotism and the sacrifices of soldiers who have protected the nation. The Heritage Complex with its galleries, formation museum, and light and sound show provides a vivid account of the Army's historical role in defending the region and assisting its communities. During the visit, youth interacted with Army personnel, learning about service, courage and unity. Elders expressed pride in seeing history preserved, bridging generations and reinforcing shared national values.



GUESS THE FAMOUS ARTIST

Answers of Aug
edition quiz are

- (A) Lata Mangeshkar
- (B) Kishore Kumar
- (C) Arijit Singh
- (D) Shreya Ghosal

Winner

Aaliyah Khan

**Resident
Handwara**



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

Eurasian Moorhens Lead Bird Count at Dal Lake

Dal and Anchar Lakes in Kashmir welcomed nearly 15,000 migratory birds this winter, according to the Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) 2025. Dal Lake alone hosted 13,797 waterbirds with Eurasian Moorhens making up 78% of the total count, painting a vivid picture of biodiversity thriving in the Valley. The arrival of such large flocks underscores the ecological significance of Kashmir's wetlands as vital wintering grounds for migratory species. These ecosystems provide food, shelter and safe resting places, even as they struggle against pollution, encroachment and climate pressures. While the numbers are encouraging, they also serve as a wake-up call. Protecting Dal, Anchar and other wetlands is crucial to preserving this fragile balance and ensuring that Kashmir's skies continue to welcome migratory birds in the years ahead.

EMPLOYMENT UPDATES

1. Post Name: POWERGRID Apprentices
Posts - 1161
website: <https://www.apprenticeshipindia.gov.in>
2. Post Name: IOCL Apprentices
Posts - 523
website: <https://www.apprenticeshipindia.gov.in/>
3. Post Name : IB Security Assistant Motor Transport
Posts - 102
website: <https://jkpsc.nic.in/>

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