

# Jammu & Kashmir Update

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*No legacy is as rich as honesty –William Shakespeare.*

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### Thought of the month:

Do you want to know who you are?  
Don't ask.

Act; Action will delineate and define  
you.

Thomas Jefferson

### From Editors desk

Jammu and Kashmir update is a unique initiative of Ministry of Home Affairs to showcase the positive developments taking place in the state. The ambit of the magazine covers all the three regions of the state with focus on achievements of the people.

To make it participatory, the magazine invites success stories, unique achievements, along with photographs in the field of sports, adventure sports, studies, business, art, culture, positive welfare initiatives, social change, religious harmony, education, including pieces of art like drawings, cartoons, poems, short stories (not more than 150 words) or jokes on post Box No 30, GPO, New Delhi-110001. Selected ones will be published in J&K update.

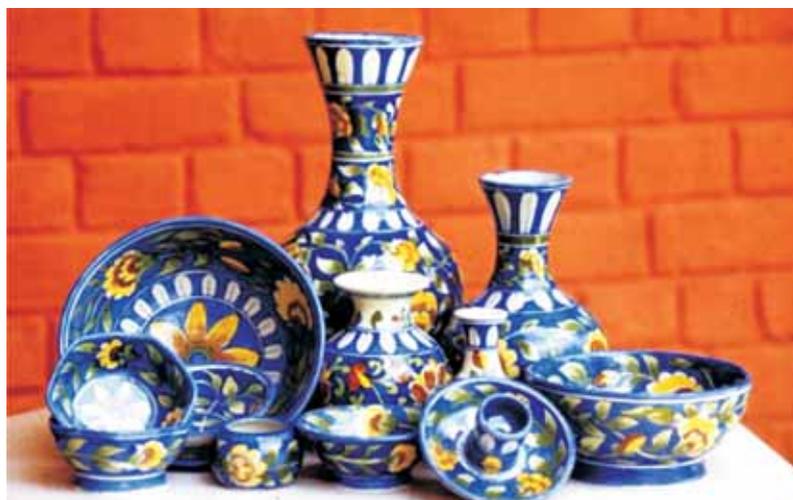
### Smile



- A : My pocket got picked today in the bus  
But my wife saved my money.  
B : Did she manage to catch pickpocket?  
A : No she was not in the bus.  
B : Then how did she save your money?  
A : She had removed most of my money  
from the wallet in the morning.

### Culture

## Kashmir's ancient culture of making earthen pottery



The culture of Jammu and Kashmir is distinct and diverse, reflecting the various habits and lifestyles of people inhabiting the regions of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

For generations, the people of Jammu and Kashmir are engaged in making hand-crafted utensils, clothes and decorative items. The fine craftsmanship reflects the rich cultural heritage of the state. Pottery is one such art, which is very popular from ages in the valley.

Glazed pottery, known as Dalgate pottery, has a unique place in Kashmiri art culture. Artefacts like oil lamps, tea kettles and kitchen stoves are a fine depiction of the skill and talent of the potters. Various pottery products are now used as decorative items in cities.

Kashmiri pottery has its ancient roots. The archaeological sites of Burzhama in Srinagar and Gufkral in Pulwama, which dated back 5,000 years, also revealed the evidences of ancient Kashmiri pottery. The medieval sites of Avantipura, Devsar and Martand exposed the fragments of earthen vessels such as jars, gharas, haandis, jugs and bowls.

To promote and improve the art of pottery making, several workshops and fairs are being organised in parts of Kashmir. These workshops include talks about the genesis of pottery designing and demonstrations by potters from different parts of the state.

Efforts are on to popularize pottery among the young generation who are not so well informed about the traditional art forms of the state.

# DEVELOPMENT

## UDDAN'S FLIGHT AND FEEDBACK

The two-day recruitment drive under Udaan from 17th to 19th November, 2014 evoked good response with over 5500 youth from Kashmir appearing for selection. During the drive at SKICC, as many as 18 corporates representing a wide range of sectors like IT, ITES, Consulting, Banking and Security Services conducted interviews in Srinagar.

Initial estimates suggest that over 2,000 training offers were made from this recruitment drive. Some of India's largest corporates participated in this massive recruitment drive including Genpact, IL&FS, CMC, Reliance HR Services, Accenture, Safe Express, Ratnakar Bank and others.

Post selection, the recruits will be trained by the respective corporates over three to six months after which job offers will be made for placements across the country.

Khalid Bhatt who had come from Pahalgam to attend the event said that he was looking for such an opportunity and, "Today I, found opportunity to participate".

## Construction of 8 MW power project in Uri at full swing

The Kashmir valley is blessed with immense water resources to produce electricity in large capacity.

A micro power project is under construction in Maidanan village that exists between Uri and Baramulla. It is being constructed by a private company with the help of local residents and will generate 8 MW of electricity after completion.



Residents in the area welcome the project which would solve their problems of power outages to some extent. The benefits from the project were narrated by a resident Ab. Majid like this. "This power project, which is being constructed here, is a way of generating employment for the locals besides helping us in many other ways by utilising the available water". Another resident of the area, Ab Rashid, said that they were getting electricity only for

fifteen (15) days a month and utilisation of available water into such projects with the aim of providing more electricity would be really of much comfort to them.

India plans at least 25 hydroelectric projects to harness the Himalayan waters. An acute electricity shortage has hit businesses, common people and those connected with the tourism industry in the Kashmir valley, hard.



## TOURISM

### Autumn season draws tourists to Kashmir

Dotted with Chinar trees, the Kashmir Valley has a unique look during autumn months as Chinar tree leaves turn red before they fall. A large number of tourists are making a bee-line to the region again after recent floods to enjoy the beauty of this season in Kashmir. The tourism industry has again picked up.



The Director of the state government's Department of Floriculture, Sunil Mishra, said that tourists flock to Kashmir valley during this season to experience the sound of falling leaves while walking on or through them. "This is one such season which people love to experience, and during this season, people do not want us to clean the garden, which is covered with fallen leaves. They love to hear the sound of leaves when they walk over them", added Mishra.

Another tourist made an expression like this "we love autumn season. Earlier, we used to watch this season in movies which showed autumn in Switzerland etc. Today we and our friends are enjoying a lot and are feeling very good after having come here to experience the same ourselves. Kashmir is known as Switzerland of the East. It was a Mecca for climbers, skiers, honeymooners, and filmmakers were drawn to the state's soaring peaks, fruit orchards and timber houseboats on Dal Lake in Srinagar".



### Parapet walls around Dal Lake restored

As tourists have started flocking to the valley after the devastating floods, the civil authorities have intensified plans to complete renovation work at various tourist spots badly affected by the floods. Restoration work of the parapet walls surrounding the scenic Dal Lake has begun, because the broken walls did not only give an unpleasant look, but caused a feeling of insecurity among the tourists visiting the lake, as told by Engineer Nayeem Ahmad. Around 300 meters of wall was broken during floods.

## YOUTH CORNER

### Women participants get applause during Wrestling Championship in Katra

The 10th 'Rustam-e-Hind' Indian style wrestling championship was held at Multipurpose Sports Stadium in Katra recently. The special attraction of the event was women wrestling. Shiv Kumar, the organiser

of the competition, said that Female wrestlers from J&K and rest of the country participated in the event, including those from Uttar Pradesh, New Delhi, Punjab and Haryana, for the 2nd 'Women-Kesri' title, with a purpose to promote gender equality and prove that the fair sex is not inferior in any way to men. "Men are ahead in every sport and there is very little participation

by women. We want that women should participate equally as men, especially in wrestling”, added Shiv Kumar.

Kumar further said that wrestling competitions should be conducted at every level with camps and proper coaching facilities so that more women take up this game. Meanwhile, the women wrestlers were happy and wanted more of such competitions in future. One of the women wrestlers, Rachni Bhalla, said “It is good as we get a lot of freedom. We are international level players and go abroad and meet many people. We talk to them

and get to know the world and people outside,”



The event witnessed a large crowd of spectators at the stadium enjoying the fight and encouraging the women to perform their best. Katra Women Kesri title was won by Divya Sain of Delhi, while Preeti, Rajni and Gagandeep were declared 2nd, 3rd, and 4th respectively.

### Kashmiri youth develop web portal to monitor flood relief and rehabilitation

Though the flood situation in Jammu and Kashmir is returning back to normal gradually, but there are many people who still remain badly affected by the calamity. To reach out to such people, a group of Kashmiri youth in the valley has formed a web portal [www.athewaas.org](http://www.athewaas.org) to monitor the relief and rehabilitation work. A web portal page developed by them also helps track the flood aid provided by various NGOs for the victims. The aim is to help in the smooth and fair distribution of food and medicines to needy people.

The portal is an open platform available to all who are working on the ground.

Altaf Bashir, a member of portal, said, “We were getting complaints from victims about not getting the relief material. With the website under reference, we can maintain record of the individuals in the community or at shelter homes, their

needs, and can reach out to them. The exercise will help in building the record of assistance provided by way of distribution of relief material and will also be helpful in reaching to all those in the need of help and assistance.”

Many NGOs have enrolled on this portal to do relief work in a transparent manner. While number of civil societies are cooperating with this effort, software engineers and volunteers, associated with Revive Kashmir, have been responsible for building and maintaining the platform.

Seher Qazi, a student, felt like this about the web portal “I think this is very important. There has to be a specific place where one can send reports and get to know where relief has been provided so that we can make sure that every person who has been hit by floods can get relief,”

The Federation of Commerce & Industries Kashmir has helped these youths by providing them with an office and some infrastructure.



## OTHER ACTIVITIES

### Voter Awareness Camps held in Jammu & Kashmir

The assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir will be held between November 25 and December 20 this year. In the run up to the forthcoming Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, camps under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) were organised in the state.

To ensure a larger participation in assembly election in border areas, the District Election Officer, Kathua, Shaheed Iqbal, organised the camp under the (SVEEP) at Marheen village to make people aware of the need to exercise their franchise. The people of Hiranagar town in Kathua District participated in the camp in large numbers to be aware of the electoral process in the coming assembly



elections in the state. The participants in the camp, bordering Pakistan, felt it important to strengthen Democracy in J&K. "Pakistan should learn from us how strong and effective the base of Democracy is in India. The system is working well here. There is hardly any Democracy in Pakistan," said border resident, Bharat Bhushan.

Shaheed Iqbal said that people from across the state were invited to participate in the camp and there was great enthusiasm among people, especially among the border people, who experienced hazards of cease fire violations by Pakistan Army regularly.

Due to unprovoked firing by Pakistan forces in the recent past, the border people were forced to migrate to safer places. But after the announcement of assembly elections in the state, the people have shown great enthusiasm to participate in the electoral process and also in a Voter Awareness Programme, launched by the Election commission of India.



The Leh administration also organized SVEEP camp for Army personnel, who vote through Postal Ballots in the elections. The District administration provided training to Army officers and jawans regarding the correct procedure of voting by postal ballots. Voter Awareness Camps were also held at various places in the valley

### Budding golfers of J&K eyeing Olympics

Fired with the ambition of carrying the flag in the games, Jammu and Kashmir is training its budding golfers for the 2020 Olympics.

A camp was organised in Srinagar under the guidance of expert trainers for budding golfers, who have a dream to make it to the international podium.

Organiser of the special golf training programme, Champa Shawl, said that Jammu and Kashmir, with its beautiful golf courses, is the ideal state to nurture golfers. "We are doing this with the hope that by 2020, when the next Olympics are there, somebody from Jammu and Kashmir will represent the game of golf, because this is a state which has got the most beautiful golf courses. The children, the future of Jammu and Kashmir, are here to hold and carry the flag in the games," added Shawl.



The game is attracting a large number of children in spite of the state having faced massive floods recently. "This is a game which is played at international level. This is just like cricket, football and other games. Golf is also a game which can be played at an international level. Even I have a dream to play at an international level," said a student, Sameer.

Golfing facilities in Srinagar and Gulmarg attracts golf enthusiasts from the world over. The available infrastructure will help the budding players from the state to nurture their talent.



## THE MONTH THAT WAS...

### Darbar move: J&K Government offices reopen in Jammu

The Jammu and Kashmir Government started functioning from Jammu for the next six months after shifting its offices from summer capital Srinagar as part of pre-independence biannual Darbar Move practice. Raj Bhavan, Civil Secretariat and other offices opened in Jammu on November 5. The Darbar move is a century-old practice under which the government functions six month each in the two capitals. Nearly 10,000 employees, working in Jammu and Kashmir Government departments, shift between the two capital cities every six months. It is estimated that the whole exercise of relocating offices costs the government over Rs. 3 crore every year.

### Bollywood film `Fitoor` being shot in valley

The shooting of Abhishek Kapoor's screen adaptation of `Great Expectations` `Fitoor` has begun in the Kashmir Valley. The film stars Aditya Roy Kapoor, Katrina Kaif and Rekha. According to Abhishek, Kashmir is integral part of `Fitoor` and the breathtaking beauty of the valley will help bring out the nuances in the story as it intertwines with the plot to form the perfect backdrop. Several Bollywood films were shot in the Kashmir Valley, the recent being `Haider`.

### Apple business booms after floods

Luckily, the recent floods in Jammu and Kashmir did not affect the apple production adversely and apple growers of the state witnessed a record sale of the fruit this season. Baramulla, Kupwara and Sopore are the

largest producers of apple. According to Assocham, apple is the mainstay of Kashmir's economy with a turnover of Rs. 1,200 crore a year and its production in the state has reached about 1.6 million metric tones annually. The horticulture sector employs nearly three lakh people, directly and indirectly.

### Bandipora to get new conference Hall

In an effort to make the administration more vibrant, the authorities started the construction of a double storey conference hall at District administrative complex in Bandipora. Situated 60 kms from Srinagar, it will hold high level meetings where in public related grievances would be addressed. The conference hall is being constructed in the vicinity of mini secretariat at an estimated cost of Rs. 4 crore. The facility will also be used to hold seminars, debates and cultural events.

### Residential school for tribal community in Kulgam

In an effort to promote education among the tribal population of Kashmir Valley, the authorities have started the construction work on a new residential-cum-school building in Kulgam District. It is situated some 80 kms from Srinagar city. The school will have all the facilities, including accommodation facilities for the Gujjar boys and girls separately. The school named `Eklavya` is being constructed at the cost of Rs. 14 crore by the state roads and building department with the financial aid from the centre. Kulgam has a large population of Gujjars and Bakarwals, who are mostly living below the poverty line.

### DO YOU KNOW

The Slogan for the Asian games held in Incheon in 2014 was 'Diversity shines here'.

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