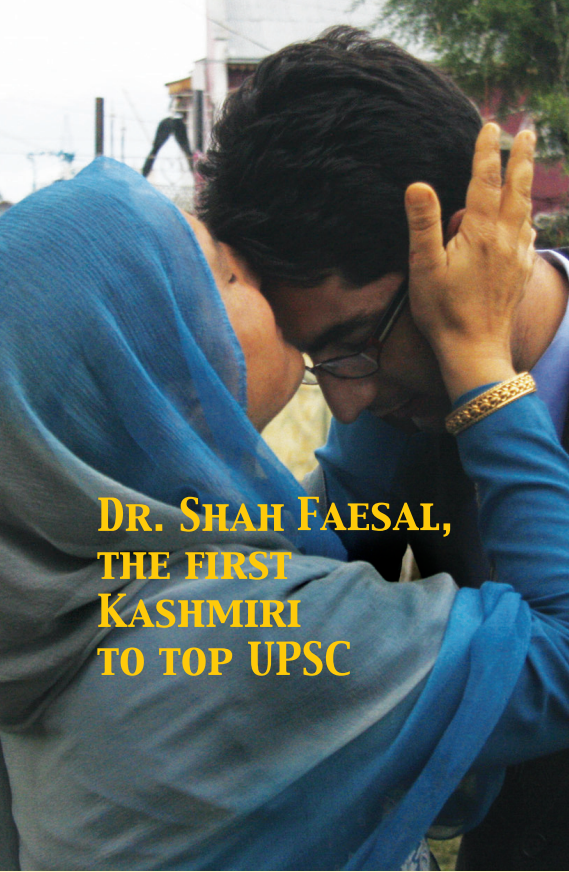


# Jammu & Kashmir Update



## *In this Issue...*

- *Dr. Shah Faesal, the first Kashmiri to top UPSC*
- *Kashmir University sets up a new campus in Baramulla*
- *Jammu promotes border tourism*
- *Dachigam bears get satellite collars*
- *Now, a Kashmiri brand set to go national*
- *T20 Jammu Kashmir Premier League*
- *Chinar Bagh gets a makeover*
- *Facelift for heritage site 'Nager Nagar'*
- *Lukhil Monastery, a repository of Buddhist culture*



**DR. SHAH FAESAL,  
THE FIRST  
KASHMIRI  
TO TOP UPSC**

Twenty-six-year-old Dr. Shah Faesal comes from a remote village in Kupwara District and studied in a government school.

In 2002, militants gunned down his father Ghulam Rasool Shah, a schoolteacher. The family, gripped by a sense of insecurity, fled to Srinagar the next day.

Faesal, however, turned that tragedy into his strength and passed the MBBS from the Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences Medical College. He has now become the first Kashmiri to top the annual Union Public Service Commission examinations.

His mother Mubeena Begum, said, “Faesal has made every Kashmiri proud with his hard work and dedication.”

Faesal said he was confident of qualifying, but never imagined he would be right at the top. He said that his mission now is to serve the people in Kashmir to reduce the communication gap between the people and the administration, and to bring a change, especially for women and the youth.

“There are many myths circulating in Kashmir. One of the myths is that we are getting discriminated; one of the myths is that we don’t have exposure; we don’t have talent; I think we will have to deal with the inferiority complex that is inside us,” said Shah Faesal.

“I have proven that a Kashmiri can do it in the first attempt and do it without coaching, and, he can do it from Srinagar only,” he added.

People in the state have lauded his success, and, said it was a source of pride for Kashmir.





## KASHMIR UNIVERSITY SETS UP A NEW CAMPUS IN BARAMULLA

Education is a priority sector for the Jammu and Kashmir Government and, it has taken various initiatives to expand and upgrade the educational infrastructure across the state.

As part of the project, Kashmir University has opened up a new campus in Baramulla District to cater to the growing number of students in the region.

The campus is located beneath scenic mountain ranges and has come as a boon for students from far-flung areas like Kupwara, Sopore and Uri. In the recent past, most of them had to travel hundreds of kilometers to reach the main university campus in Srinagar.

“The advantage of it (the new campus) is that there were only two engineering colleges in the region. There are many students and aspirants who want to become engineers. All of them couldn’t be accommodated in these two colleges. The outcome was that everybody started going outside the state to study,” said Jan Mohammad, a student.

The university has administrative, science and art blocks and provides several professional, technical and arts courses, including a Diploma in Tourism Management, Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in business administration, a Bachelor’s in technology and a Masters in English.

“The most important contribution of this university would be that every campus would have its own specialization. This campus has technological specialization; this university branch is a full-fledged engineering branch,” said Farooq Ahmed, Director of Kashmir University.

“Now, we have introduced computer science engineering and later we will be introducing civil, electrical and the basic need base of the state. Further, job-oriented courses would also be introduced,” he added.



## JAMMU PROMOTES BORDER TOURISM

The Government of Jammu and Kashmir is sparing no effort to boost tourism in the state.

Recently, a three-day festival was organized with the aim of encouraging border tourism at the Octroi Post at Suchetgarh near the Indo-Pak international border.

People from across the region and from the neighbouring states of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh turned up for the festival that also featured cultural programs, local food and handicrafts.

Tourists said they attended the event to avail the opportunity of visiting the international border area and added that such efforts would make the region a sought after tourist destination.

“They should continue such activities throughout the year, as there is a good response from the people. Every person who visits this place is curious to know what does the border area look like,” said P.K. Sharma, a tourist.

Over the years, Jammu has emerged as a major tourist destination and, to advance this process, infrastructure worth Rs.5 crore is being created in Suchetgarh.

The project includes the development of a park over 150 kanals, an entry gate, a tourist facilitation centre, the landscaping and development of a terrace garden with fountains, the development of a walkway overlooking the international border, watch towers, a war memorial with a photo gallery of war heroes of the area, the construction of an amphitheatre and other tourism-related infrastructure.

Apart from the Suchetgarh model village and the octroi border outpost, the state government will also conduct circuital border trips to prominent shrines and temples close to the Zero Line and picnic spots.



## NOW, A KASHMIRI BRAND

The Kashmir Valley experiences cold weather for about six months in a year and, this, ensures a steady demand for hot water geysers.

Factoring this in, Muteeb Electrical Industries, which is owned by Manzoor Ahmad, launched the Jupiter brand in 2002, giving Kashmir its first hi-tech hot water geyser.

The brand has performed well over the years. The State Government gave it the best product award in 2007.

“The reason for the success is the hard work of my technical and my marketing team. That has made our brand famous in the valley,” claimed Manzoor Ahmad.

The brand has succeeded in attracting customers and is gaining popularity by the day, as for the first time, people have access to a quality brand in the valley. It also provides home service at reasonable rates.



## DACHIGAM BEARS GET SATELLITE COLLARS

A team of experts from the Wildlife Institute of India has put satellite collars on five black bears in collaboration with the Wildlife Department of Jammu and Kashmir to study their behaviour and save the endangered animals.

This project in the Dachigam National Park is being monitored by the Wildlife Institute of India.

This is the first time in India that black bears have been fitted with satellite collars.

“Wildlife Institute of India is running a project here and satellite-collaring is one of its inbuilt components. The main aim of this project is to study ecology and the behaviour of wild bears scientifically,” said Rashid Naqash Wildlife Warden, Central Division.

Once the bears are caught, their age, weight and sex are recorded and the tracking system is fitted before they are released back into the wild.

A transmitter in the collar sends a signal to a satellite, which relays the location of the animal to ground stations.

Samina Amin, a researcher, said: “Through satellite collaring, we came to know how much the animals travel, how it uses its area and if it leaves the area, then why it leaves the area, all this we want to observe through this.”

The satellite collars can also help prevent man-animal conflicts in the valley that have already killed more than 25 people in past four years and injured more than 150. The conflict has also resulted in the killing of seven black bears in the past few years.

“We can always monitor their movements and sound an alert once they start moving towards human habitation,” said Naqash.

The Dachigam National Park is a fairly high-density area for black bears. The density is two animals per square kilometer.

## ND SET TO GO NATIONAL

“This is the only brand from Kashmir. Earlier, people used to buy geysers from multinational companies. But when our product hit the market, people preferred buying the local brand as they were getting service at their doorsteps,” said Manzoor Ahmad.

The factory’s annual turnover is around Rupees 90 lakh and, it currently employs ten educated youths, each having degrees and diplomas in electronics.

Jupiton has the potential to corner markets in the state and, may even compete with national brands, believes Manzoor Ahmad.

“I am working to make Jupiton a national brand very soon. We are checking the markets of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand so that we can supply our brand in these markets”.



## T20 JAMMU KASHMIR PREMIER LEAGUE

In an attempt to popularise cricket, a T20 Jammu Kashmir Premier League was launched in the state recently.

The league is organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA), the top governing body of the game in the state.

Union New and Renewable Energy Minister and the President of JKCA, Farooq Abdullah, inaugurated the tournament.

He said: “With this tournament, the officials of JKCA will get a chance to evaluate budding players. We are trying to expand the JKCA for improving the game in the state.”

He said the IPL has given a new direction to cricket, and, events like this would be held every year for the cricket loving people in the valley.

He added that JKCA would try to host at least one IPL match next year in the state and efforts were being made to raise infrastructure for the mega event.

“This is a very good step taken by the president of JKCA to improve the game in the region. The tournament will provide a boost to all players,” said Abid Nabi, a cricketer.

Around 128 clubs from across the state, including far-flung areas of both Jammu and the Kashmir Valley, took part in the event.



## FACELIFT FOR HERITAGE

The Department of Tourism in Jammu and Kashmir has undertaken the restoration and renovation of a heritage site near Srinagar that was earlier known as Nager Nagar to attract tourists.

The historical mosque is built of stone and is regarded as one of the most beautiful in Kashmir. It is said that Prince Dara Shikoh, the eldest son of the Mughal Emperor Shahjahan, built it for his tutor Akhoon Mulla Shah in the 17th century.

The mosque is locally known as the Mulla Shah Masjid, and comprises of an enclosure set within an enclosure with a square courtyard. It is also surrounded by a series of cells on its northern side along the slope of the hill.

A public ‘Hamam’ (bathing spa) was constructed at a lower level, which is now in ruins. Extensive and meticulous renovation work of this Hamam is underway.

“Our efforts are to renovate the mosque that was built

## CHINAR BAGH GETS A MAKEOVER

The Department of Tourism in Jammu and Kashmir is renovating Chinar Bagh, famous for its majestic Chinar trees, situated near the Dal Lake in Srinagar, to attract more tourists.

“This place is famous for Chinars and work by the tourism department is in full swing. Tourists will come here, and, we expect good business from them. We are happy to see that the department is working on such projects,” said Javed, a local.

The garden will have musical fountains, food and handicraft kiosks.

“This is a tourist area and there was no place to sit here. With the help of experts, we will make Chinar Bagh an entertainment park, which will include musical fountains, food kiosks, and handicraft kiosks, so that tourists and residents of the city can have a good time here,” said Farooq Shah, Director of Kashmir Tourism.

The department has spent twenty million rupees on improving basic infrastructure and on removing encroachments. It plans to develop two more gardens near Chinar Bagh, which will be connected through footbridges.



## SITE ‘NAGER NAGAR’

by Dara Shikoh and open it to tourists as soon as possible. The restoration work is going on in the historical Hamam, so that tourists who come here, should see how the Hamams operated during that era,” said Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Director Farooq Shah.

“This building, according to our fathers and forefathers, was built during the Mughal era around 500-600 years back. Some restoration and renovation work is going on. We appeal to the government that if proper consideration is given to it, then it can be developed as a popular tourism spot,” said Farooq Rafiq.

The Department of Tourism and people of the region believe Nager Nagar will soon be among the most sought after tourist and heritage destinations.



# LUKHIL MONASTERY, A REPOSITORY OF BUDDHIST CULTURE

The monasteries of Ladakh, also called Gompas, are the fountainhead of Buddhist religion and culture. They are also repositories of the region's centuries-old artistic and cultural heritage.

One such monastery in the Ladakh region is Lukhil that has preserved the ancient practices of Buddhist culture.

The rituals of the three basic Pratimoksha or personal liberation disciplines, which are the basics of Buddhist teachings, are observed at the monastery even today.

“King Lhachen Gyalpo, the 5th King of Ladakh, converted his palace into a monastery in the 11th century. In the 15th century, Lama Nawang Chosje, a famous pupil of Tsongkhapa (founder of the Gelugpa order) converted the lamas to reformed doctrines of the Gelugpa order, and thus founded the monastery afresh as a Gelugpa establishment,” says Thupstan Stantar, the head monk of the Lukhil Monastery.

The monastery consists of several shrines. Presently, it serves as a residence for approximately 120 Buddhist monks and a school for almost 30 students.

The two assembly halls contain numerous statues of the Bodhisattva, Amitabha (Buddha of the West), Sakyamuni (the Historical Buddha), Maitreya (the Future Buddha or Buddha of Compassion) and Tsongkhapa (Founder of the yellow-hat sect).

Every year the monastery serves as the venue of Dosmoche, one of the most popular fairs and festivals of Leh. During the event, sacred dances are also performed at the monastery.



Printed by: Kalamantira at B 234, Naraina Industrial Area, Phase -1, New Delhi 110028

Editor in Chief: Dr. V. Candavelou, Editor: A.K. Dhyani

Request for free copy of Jammu & Kashmir Update newsletter indicating the language preferred (English / Urdu / Hindi) or suggestions / feedback, if any, may be emailed to: [jammuandkashmirupdate@gmail.com](mailto:jammuandkashmirupdate@gmail.com)

Jammu & Kashmir Update is also available on the web at [jammuandkashmirupdate.com](http://jammuandkashmirupdate.com) and [mha.nic.in](http://mha.nic.in)

Published by: Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India