

Jammu & Kashmir Digest

A Review of Developments in J&K



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- Documentary on Dardi Tribe in Gurez
- Facelift to J&K's Sole Private Museum

More News and Analyses



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacting with about 250 students representing almost every district of the UT as part of 'Watan Ko Jano' programme under which they have been touring the country. - ANI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted at his residence with a delegation of school students from Jammu and Kashmir comprising of around two hundred and fifty people visiting the capital as part of the 'Watan ko Jano – Youth Exchange Programme 2023.'

As per a statement released by the Prime Minister's Office, 'These students are visiting Jaipur, Ajmer, and New Delhi under Watan ko Jano- Youth Exchange Programme 2023 of Government of India. In the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat the visit is aimed at showcasing the cultural and social diversity of the country to the youths of Jammu and Kashmir.'

The statement added 'During the interaction, the Prime Minister asked the students about their travel experience and the iconic places they visited. The Prime Minister discussed the rich sporting culture in Jammu and Kashmir and enquired the students about their participation in sports like cricket, football, etc. The Prime Minister gave the example of Sheetal Devi, the young archer from Jammu and Kashmir, who won three medals at the Asian Para Games in Hangzhou. The PM also appreciated the talent of the youths of Jammu and Kashmir and added that they have potential to excel in any field.' – *The Indian Express*

EDUCATION SECTION

PM MEETS TRAVELLING J&K SCHOOL STUDENTS AT RESIDENCE

VISHWAKARMA YOJANA

J&K FIRST U.T. TO IMPLEMENT PM'S SKILL INITIATIVE

Jammu and Kashmir has become the first Union Territory to implement the Prime Minister's Vishwakarma Yojana initiative to enhance skills of the craftsman community, officials said.

The inauguration of the training programme for the first batch of 30 trainees in 'darzi' craft was virtually conducted by the Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor Rajeve Rai Bhatnagar and Secretary to the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Atul Kumar Tiwari at Shopian. — *The Hindu*



The 'Kalash' from Ayodhya's Ram Janmabhoomi being installed at the Martand Sun Temple in Anantnag district on 7 January 2024. – Kashmir Life

A 'Kalash' from Ayodhya's Ram Janmabhoomi was installed at the premises of the Martand Sun Temple at Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district on 7 January 2024.

The special 'Kalash' was brought to the Anantnag district by a special procession 'Kalash Yatra' and installed at the Martand Sun Temple, which is regarded as one of the holiest sites of pilgrimage by Kashmiri Pandits around the world.

After performing pooja, special prayers were held for peace and prosperity of the nation.

The 'Kalash', which were sent to select Ram temples around the country, were installed by local people and in the presence of Kalash yattris, who had come from Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

"We expressed our gratitude to the people of our country for the honour and pray that peace and harmony prevails in Kashmir," one of the local devotees said after participating in the Kalash installation ceremony at the Ram temple. — State Times

SPIRITUALITY SECTION

KALASH FROM AYODHYA INSTALLED AT MARTANDYA SUN TEMPLE

PILGRIMS' PROGRESS

AMARNATH YATRA TO BE LESS ARDUOUS

At 13,000 feet, the Amarnath shrine pilgrimage has for decades remained arduous. However, the access routes to the shrine are now witnessing a rare upscaling.

The UT government's 2023 approval to a Rs 5,300 crore roadway project promises to make the annual pilgrimage more accessible and convenient, perhaps all year long, as opposed to the current two-month duration.

The Border Roads Organization in 2023 created access to vehicles to drive up to the shrine.

The tracks will soon be widened and critical stretches will be upgraded with safety railings and retaining walls. — The Hindu



Meeras Mahal, a three-storey museum, boasts of a vast collection of about 7,000 artefacts ranging from pottery, relics of grass craftsmanship, jewellery, and rare and intricate woodwork which is native to Kashmir. – Greater Kashmir

HERITAGE SECTION

FACELIFT TO KASHMIR'S SOLE PRIVATE MUSEUM

MEERAS MAHAL

Meeras Mahal proudly stands tall as Jammu and Kashmir's sole private museum, showcasing the Union Territory's rich and diverse cultural heritage. It is situated inside a palatial building on the outskirts of Sopore.

Muzamil Bashir is the President of the Meeras Mahal Trust, which is responsible for looking after the museum. His aunt, Atiqa Bano, relentlessly collected the artefacts housed inside the building for more than two decades across Leh, Gurez, and Poonch.

Bano, before her death, served as J&K's Director of Libraries and Research. It was six years after her death that the doors of J&K's first major private museum were thrown open to the public in November 2023.

Meeras Mahal, a three-storey museum, boasts of a vast collection of about 7,000 artefacts ranging from pottery, relics of grass craftsmanship, jewellery, and rare and intricate woodwork which is native to Kashmir.

Bashir who accompanied his aunt on her expeditions explains that 'every piece of this museum is a relic, has a history behind it and how it got here.' – *The Indian Express*



"Every piece of this museum is a relic, has a history behind it and how it got here."

