

Jammu & Kashmir Digest

A Review of Developments in J&K



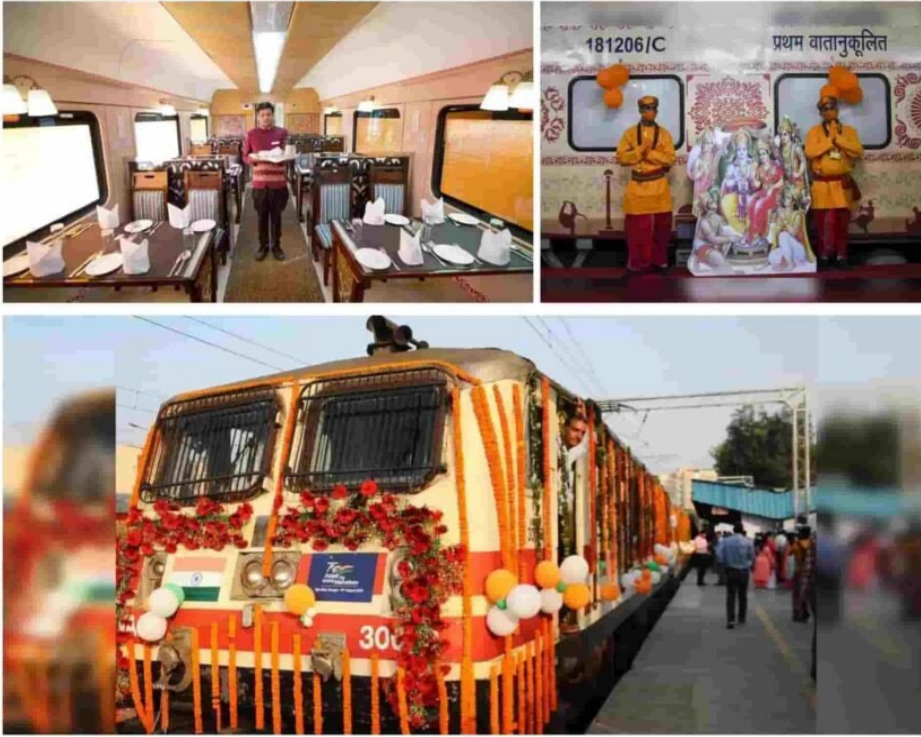
MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES
मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Volume 3, Issue 2

February 2024

- 200 Aastha Trains from Jammu to Ayodhya
- Kashmir's Curious Glass Igloo Café
- Para-Cricketer Uses Neck, Shoulder to Bat

More News and Analyses



The launch of 200 ‘Special Aastha Trains’ to Ayodhya. These special trains offer top-notch facilities on the round-trip tickets from various regions to culturally significant destinations. — *Ayodhya*

On 6 February 2024, the first Aastha train from Jammu Railway Station to Ram Temple Ayodhya was flagged off by Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), BJP, Jammu & Kashmir, along with Yudhvir Sethi, party Vice President, who is also the Convenor of Ram Darshan Ayodhya, and Vikram Choudhary, former MLC and Reema Padha, Co-Convenors of Ram Darshan Ayodhya.

Over 1,300 devotees embarked on this ‘spiritual journey’ with great enthusiasm and fervour. They had set off from Jammu ahead of the Ram Temple’s consecration.

Mr. Koul referred to this train journey as ‘a journey of over 500 years of devotion and determination.

The construction of the Ram Temple is a testament to the enduring faith and reverence for the Maryada Purushottam and hailed this generation as being blessed for having witnessed the tapasya of millions of Sanatanis, who suffered ignominy but remained steadfast in their resolve to have the home for Ram Lalla – the embodiment of the ideals of righteousness and virtue – where the Lord was born.” Mr. Sethi expressed similar sentiments. — *State Times*

CONNECTIVITY SECTION

200 SPECIAL AASTHA TRAINS FROM JAMMU TO AYODHYA

AI DOCTORS ON WHEELS

Mobile Clinic Launched For Remote Regions



On 14 January 2024, Union Minister for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, inaugurated the Tele Medicine Mobile Clinic in Ramnagar. This Tele Clinic is known as Aarogya-Doctors on Wheels. It is equipped with Artificial Intelligence (AI) and aims to provide helathcare services to those residing in remote and far-flung areas.

Initially, the AI software installed in the tele clinic will assess the difficulties faced by the patients. Later, they will be connected to a specialist and prescribed medicines. The entire process is free of cost. —

Global Kashmir



Long line for a ski lift in Gulmarg — File Picture

On the picturesque town of Gulmarg, famed for its breathtaking views, adventure seekers and nature enthusiasts turned out in large numbers after a recent snowfall ended over a two month dry spell.

The lack of snow during peak winter disappointed some tourists, particularly lovers of winter sports, until the locale slowly started turning white towards the end of January.

“It is a big pleasure to ski here. In my country, we have similar landscape but not such high mountains. However, here it is something new, something different like the culture, the view and higher peaks,” said Andrew a Russian tourist.

Hundreds of foreign tourists, like Andrew, have been visiting the famous ski resort to enjoy time with their families, which is around 50km away from the summer capital Srinagar.

The dry spell over the last two months, included Chilai-e-Kalan that is regarded the harshest 40-day winter period when chances of snowfall are higher.

Originally scheduled to take place in Gulmarg from February 2 to 6, fourth edition of the grassroots-level-sports competition was shifted from J&K to the Union Territory of Ladakh for the first time due to lack of snow. — [CNBC](#)

TOURISM SECTION

AS SNOW RETURNS, GULMARG WITNESSES SURGE IN TOURISTS

KASHMIR'S 1st GLASS IGLOO CAFE



Kolahoi Green Heights, a hotel in Gulmarg, is the developer of an unusual glass igloo restaurant. The hotel asserts that it is the valley's first glass igloo restaurant. It is worth noting that earlier they had built the valley's first snow-covered restaurant.

The main draw for visitors to the Kashmiri hill town of Gulmarg is the glass enclosed restaurant situated in the heart of the snow-capped mountains. — [Livemint](#)





Amir Hussain Lone, double-arm amputee cricketer from Waghama Bijbehara, Anantnag. — File Picture

Amir Hussain Lone is a 34-year-old para cricketer from Jammu and Kashmir. He has captained the Union Territory’s Para Team since 2013.

He uses his legs to bowl and shoulders and neck to bat since he lost his arms in an accident at his father’s mill when he was eight years old.

He began playing cricket after a teacher recognised his immense talent. He has gained recognition for his talent from cricket veterans like Sachin Tendulkar.

Mr. Tendulkar has tweeted, ‘Amir has made the impossible possible. I am so touched watching this! Shows how much love and dedication he has for the game.

Hope I get to meet him one day and get a jersey with his name. Well done for inspiring millions who are passionate about playing the sport.”

Amir was recently elated after industrialist Gautam Adani praised him for his spirit of never giving up even in adverse circumstances. The chairman of the Adani Group also assured Lone of providing “every possible support” in his daunting journey. — Hindustan Times, NDTV,

ACHIEVEMENTS SECTION

PARA-CRICKETER USES HIS LEGS FOR BOWLING AND HIS NECK AND SHOULDER FOR BATTING

PADMA AWARDS 2024

ROMALO RAM, GHULAM DAR GET PADMA SHRI



Romala Ram (left) and Ghulam Dar

The Union Government of India conferred Padmi Shri Awards on Romala Ram (a Dogri folk dancer from Jammu) and Ghulam Nabi Dar (a woodcarver from Srinagar) on 26 January 2024. Romalo Ram is a retired Zonal Educational Officer.

He said, “Our Dogri folk art of dance and song was being forgotten but this award has rekindled hopes of its revival.”

For his part, Ghulam Nabi Dar expressed his profound joy: “My hard work of decades has been acknowledged, so I can hardly hide my emotions.” — Hindustan Times