

Jammu & Kashmir Digest

A Review of Developments in J&K



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THE HERITAGE SECTION

The Martand Temple:
Reviving Pristine
'Kashmiriyat'

TOP STORY

'TRULY DIVINE EXPERIENCE: LG SINHA'

The 8th century Martand Surya (Sun) Temple, constructed during the reign of Lalitaditya Muktapida, signifies a previously forgotten aspect of Kashmiriyat. Kashmir, the paradise on earth, is an amalgamation of cultures, visible in the temple near Anantnag.

The Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Manoj Sinha, breathed life back into this historically and spiritually significant site with his visit and Navgrah Ashtamanglam Pooja on the 8th of May 2022.

Referring to his visit and the 'Pooja' ceremony as a "truly divine experience, LG Sinha said, "We (the government) are making dedicated efforts to transform historical, spiritual places of J&K into vibrant centres that will guide us on the path of righteousness and bless this beautiful land with peace, happiness, and prosperity."

Built by King Lalitaditya of the Karkota dynasty, the Martanda temple is located atop a plateau from where the entire Kashmir valley can be viewed. The oldest solar temple in the country, it is an amalgamation of Gupta, Chinese, and Gandhara styles of architecture. According to 15th century Kashmiri historian Jonaraja, the temple was destroyed by Sikander Shah. - *Deccan Herald*, *The Print*, *Kashmir Reader*, *Times Now*, *The Citizen*



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It has been reported that the ceremony was held as part of a multi-pronged strategy to tap into the region's tourism potential.



MISAAL KASHMIR: *Rouble Nagi* with Kashmiri girls who have taken to her 'Misaal Kashmir' women's empowerment initiatives with great enthusiasm. – Pic from Rouble Nagi Art Foundation

THE WOMEN'S SECTION

EMPOWERING THE
'BETTER HALF' OF
THE POPULATION

TERRORISTS KILL ACTRESS



AMREEN BHATT

On 27 May 2022, Jammu and Kashmir police gunned down two Lashkar-e-Taiba gunmen, who had killed Kashmiri actress and singer Amreen Bhatt outside her home in Budgam's Chadoora area in Jammu and Kashmir on 25 May.

Radical Islamists had been posting abusive comments against the actress, some called the 'Tick Tok' girl for her reels and music videos, which they considered indecent and un-Islamic.

The killing has drawn criticism from various quarters, including from former J&K chief minister Umar Abdullah. — India TV News, OplIndia

"We would brush away the dull for brighter mornings and wider smiles," says noted artist and activist for women's empowerment **ROUBLE NAGI**.

A Jammu local, she has travelled across Kashmir, including to some of its most remote areas such as Sangrama, Langate, Handwara, and Pulwama's rural interiors to advocate women's empowerment and use children's artistic talents, through arts and crafts, to channelise their energy towards creative pursuits.

Under her Misaal (example) Kashmir programme, part of the broader Missal India initiative set up in 2018, she hopes to introduce gradual change in a "land of infinite possibilities and talent."

Nighat Ramzan, head of Watlab's (North Kashmir) Misaal centre, says that Misaal Kashmir has been very well received in the valley.

"Girls come from far-off places and learn tailoring. Sometimes we give them work, and sometimes they pick it up from outside the centre. At the end of the month, there is a sense of economic independence, and that is a must," she asserts. — [JK Newslines](#), [The Print](#), [ANI](#), [Free Press Journals](#)



'Jammu Express' Umran Malik impressed legendary speedsters like Brett Lee and Dale Steyn with his sizzling pace bowling in IPL of 2022. After securing a place for himself in Team India T20 squad for upcoming South Africa series, he inaugurated Under-19 cricket tournament in Jammu and Kashmir on 25th of May.

It was not surprising that as the only pacer to bowl at 157 kmph, the Jammu speedster Umran Malik has now been selected to be a part of the 18-member Indian cricket team squad. He will be a part of the team facing off against South Africa for a five-match T20 series.

Having grabbed more than 20 wickets during the Indian Premier League, he became the youngest bowler to do so while playing for Sunrisers Hyderabad.

With a knack for bowling in middle overs and reportedly the only Indian cricketer to repeatedly bowl at this extraordinary pace, veteran cricketers had predicted his entry into international cricket sooner than later.

He has received praises from cricketing giants like Sunil Gavaskar and Brett Lee and support for his endeavours in the foreseeable future.

Meanwhile, Umran Malik inaugurated the JKCA Under-19 men's one-day tournament at GGM Science Hostel Ground, Jammu.

Umran Malik also interacted with both teams, met the ground staff, and won the hearts with his humility. - **Zee News, Hindustan Times, Greater Kashmir News**

CULTURE & SPORTS SECTION

'Meteoric' Umran Speeds His Way Into Team India

ARMY PROMOTES 'ROUF'



Kashmiri girls performing the Kashmiri folk dance Rouf at the Indian military promoted cultural programme.

The Indian Army Chinar Corps, in collaboration with a local entertainment group, recently organised a musical event at Zabarwan park, situated on Dal Lake's banks.

The cultural programmes highlighted Rouf – a Kashmiri folk dance.

The primary purposes behind the organisational strategy of this programme were to provide youth avenues to highlight their artistic talents. – **The Print,**

NDTV