

# Jammu & Kashmir Digest

A Review of Developments in J&K



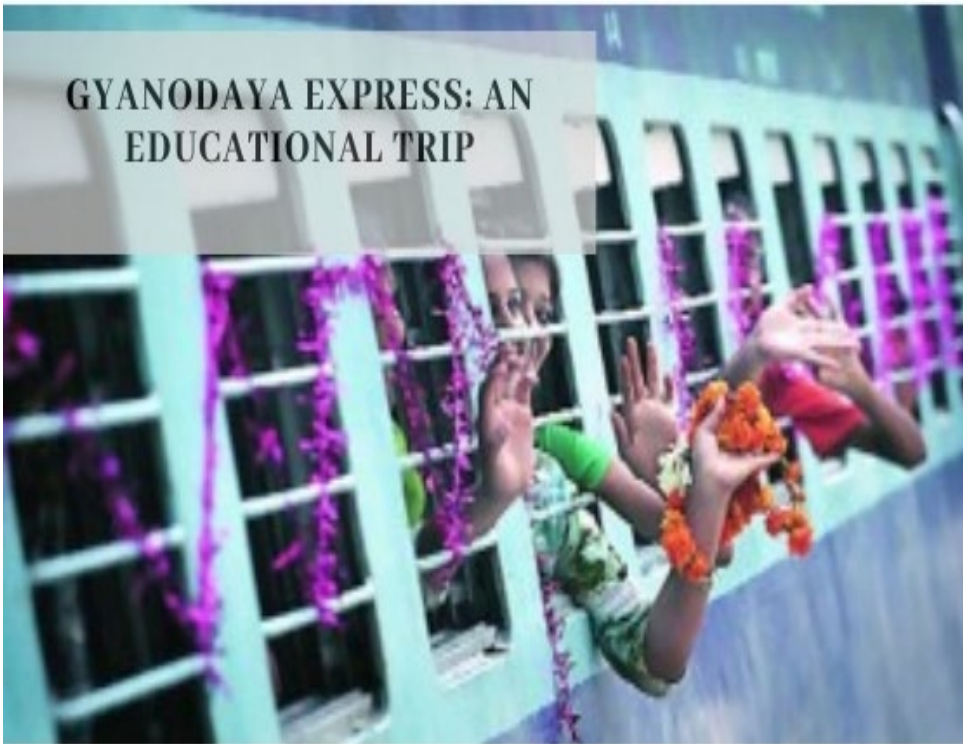
MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR  
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES  
मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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- 700 Female Students on Education Train Tip
- Documentary on Dardi Tribe in Gurez
- J&K Tourism, Red FM Hold Musical Concert

More News and Analyses



## EDUCATION SECTION

J&K FLAGS OFF 'COLLEGE ON WHEELS' FOR 700 FEMALE STUDENTS

'EDUCATIONAL PILGRIMAGE'

On 19 November 2023, Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, flagged off the Gyanodaya Express, also called College on Wheels, from Katra Railway Station in Reasi District (Jammu).

With at least 700 female college-level students from across the Union Territory on board the train, the journey will take them across various states for an educational journey that draws inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi's life. Gandhiji once undertook a nationwide train journey and interacted with individuals from all walks of life and enlightened Indians about values such as 'satya' (truth) and 'ahimsa' (non-violence).

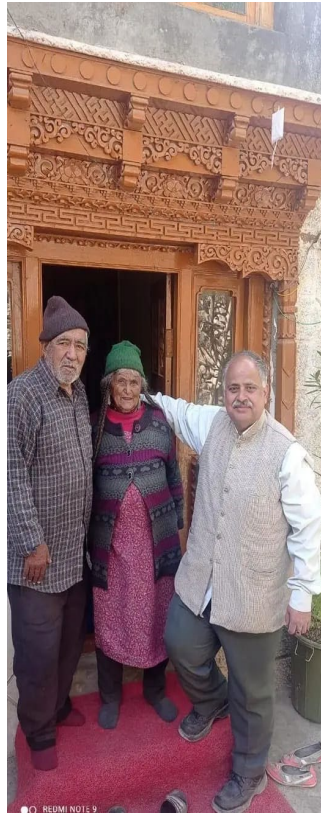
Lt-Gov. informed that the goal behind the initiative was to break down the barriers of traditional classrooms and promote immersive, collaborative and project-based learning experiences. The students travelling with their mentors will visit places and institutions deemed 'centres of excellence,' including the Indian Navy, Sabarmati Ashram, and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

LG Sinha further explained that 'the journey endeavours to dissolve boundaries of classrooms and streams, and evolve education by providing immersive, collaborative, and project-based learning experiences.' – *Free Press Journal, ET Infra*



At the inauguration, Lt.-Gen. Manoj Sinha called the initiative an 'educational pilgrimage' and highlighted the transformative power of the train journey. He spoke of the need to strengthen transdisciplinary education and to provide opportunities for experiential learning, with visits to centres of excellence such as Indian Navy, ISRO and Sabarmati Ashram, as in this instance.





**DARDI SNAPSHOTS:** Girls wearing traditional Shina costumes at Shina Cultural Centre in Gurez (top left); Dardi tribespeople daintily clad in their sumptuously ornate costumes (bottom left); and film director Syed Mahmood Nawaz with chief of Darchik Village Tashi Dawa and wife (right). – Mustaqbil Media

# HERITAGE SECTION

DOCUMENTARY MOVIE FOCUSES ON DARD-SHINA TRIBE IN THE GUREZ VALLEY

A VISUAL ETHNOGRAPHY



A masked bride on a pony , with her groom in tow, leading the marriage procession (top pic).



Elderly couple in traditional attire

A recently released 17-minute documentary film titled *Dardi Tales* showcases the socio-cultural milieu of the rapidly dwindling Indo-Aryan tribe of Dardi. Made by film director Syed Mahmood Nawaz, the short film highlights the mores and customs of the Dard-Shina tribe in the Gurez Valley in Jammu and Kashmir in order to generate awareness about the fast disappearing Dard Shina-Brokpa legacy.

This ancient rible finds mention in the famous Sanskrit text *Rajatarangini* by the famous Kashmiri historian Pandit Kalhana and its remnants are still found in the Chitral and Indus regions of Gilgit, Chilas, Bunji and the Kishanganga valley in north of Kashmir. Additionally, Dards are also found in Drass, Darchik, Garkone and Da Hanu regions of Kargil in Kadakh.

The film highlights the sense of community and a common culture — with similarity oin traditions, folklore, rituals, rites, language, etc. among the Dard-Shina people of Gurez. The deep bond and harmony with serene nature that engulfs them is a lesson worth learning for the modern man from these tribesmen. (click at hyperlink ahead for film) — [\*The Chinar Corps\*](#)



# CULTURE SECTION

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## J&K TOURISM, RED FM HOLD MUSICAL CONCERT

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Maulana Azad Stadium at Jammu

## CRICKET VETERANS PLAY T20 AT JAMMU STADIUM

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Legends League Cricket, a Twenty20 cricket league featuring prominent retired players from across the globe, played host to its second season from 18 November to 9 December 2023, with at least four of its matches being organised at the Maulana Azad Stadium in Jammu. This cricket stadium, constructed in 1966, is one of the home grounds of the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Team. Three decades of militancy had halted any international matches after India played against New Zealand in December 1988. — *Hindustan Times*

Sponsored by the Jammu and Kashmir Tourism, Red FM organised ‘Reclaim the Saaz’ on 18 November 2023, possibly the largest musical event of the year, at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre in Srinagar.

Promoting Kashmir through local music and tourism was one of the driving forces behind holding this event. This is the first time the event is being conducted physically after the enormous success of its virtual launch. Ishfaq Kawa, Shazia Bashir, and Abdul Rashid Hafiz – local artists – graced the stage with ‘soul-stirring performances.’

Rayees Mohiuddin, much to the audience’s delight, had put together a memorable stand-up comedy performance. Moreover, a state-of-the-art set-up ensured the audience had an immersive experience at the event.

‘Reclaim the Saaz’ boasted a state-of-the-art setup, creating an immersive experience for the audience. For the first time in Kashmir live graphics were introduced, which elevated the visual appeal of the concert.

The audience was charmed by the host RJ Rafiq, who added infectious energy to the proceedings. His wit and ability to connect with the audience added to the success of the event. — **Greater Kashmir, IBW**