

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 2, Issue 6

June 2023

- G20 Delegates enthralled by J&K
- Woman IAS Officer receives PM Award
- Revival of Musical Storytelling Ladishah

More News and Analyses



Foreign delegates being welcomed at the Srinagar Airport, while on the way to the G-20 meeting. – The Hindu

The G-20 Working Group on Tourism hosted its third meeting in Kashmir from 22 to 24 May 2023. More than 60 delegates from various countries participated in the first globally significant event being organised in J&K after the August 2019 constitutional reforms. They witnessed some of Srinagar's most spectacular sightseeing locales, such as the Mughal Gardens, Dal Lake, and Pari Mahal.

They also visited the historic Polo View Market, a pedestrian-oriented shopping zone in the city, and were enamoured by Srinagar's scenic beauty. There were various side events, including one focused on ecotourism and panel discussions on digitalization, green tourism, and MSMEs. Cultural extravaganzas were organised at the end of each day.

The 'National Strategy on Film Tourism' underlined a coherent roadmap to use movies to highlight tourism destinations more vividly. Mr. Apurva Chandra, Secretary Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, added that India's heritage and culture have been enabling factors, creating an appropriate environment for some of the most acclaimed movies to be shot on its soil.

Simon Wong, Singapore's High Commissioner, also explained to reporters how his country's \$140 billion investment continues to expand in India with each passing day. – [PIB](#), [Hindustan Times](#), [Deccan Herald](#), [The Hindu](#)

G20 SUMMIT SECTION

DELEGATES
ENTHRALLED
BY SCENIC
BEAUTY AND
PEACE IN J&K

Arab Influencer Praises J&K Composite Culture



UK-Bahraini Celebrity Amjad Taha

Before the G-20 meeting commenced in Srinagar, Amjad Taha, an Arab influencer, shared a video on Twitter hailing J&K. He described the UT as 'a place that has preserved the Earth and can be the solution for climate change.' He added: "In Kashmir, we see Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, and Christians all living in peace and enjoying diverse land while contributing to innovation and development." – [Hindustan Times](#)



WOMEN'S SECTION

IAS OFFICER, DR. SAHRISH ASGHAR, RECEIVES PM AWARD

MORE POWER TO WOMEN

Ms. Syed Sehrish Asghar, Baramulla district's Deputy Commissioner, was bestowed with the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration on 21 April 2023.

21 April, or Civil Services Day, is a vital date in the calendar year, honouring the work of every officer involved in various public service departments throughout the country.

Ms. Asghar successfully ached the Aspirational District Programme in her district. Moreover, she was conferred with the award during the annual celebrations held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

As per reports, she also contributed to establishing birth waiting wards in primary health centres, and community health centres, ensuring all Anganwadi workers could access Poshan Tracker Tabs, and upgrading diagnostic services at all delivery points.

Additionally, she aided farmers by enacting measures such as nursery strengthening, plant protection, and robust rootstocks.

Finally, the Deputy Commissioner ensured that farmers could procure quality planning material. – *Greater Kashmir, India Blooms*

JAMMU'S SHILPA HANDOO WINS MRS INDIA UNIVERSAL '23



Mrs. Shilpa Chaku Handoo, a resident of Jammu, has emerged as the winner of the 9th season of the Mrs. India Universal Pageant. She won the title of Mrs. India Universal 2023.

Mrs. Handoo, after securing her victory, said, "I wish to thank my well-wishers, supporters, and family for being so supportive and giving me the strength, courage, belief, and determination to succeed even after many hardships." – *Dailyexcelsior.com*



CULTURE SECTION

ADDING MODERN RAP TO 18TH CENTURY MUSICAL STORYTELLING 'LADISHAH'

The youth are at the forefront of reinventing and rejuvenating Ladishah, an 18th-century musical storytelling genre native to Jammu and Kashmir. It was previously one of the most vital artistic entertainment mediums in the absence of social media and the internet, confined to radio and television.

Ladishah refers to a group of storytellers dressed in white trousers, pheran, and a white turban, using satirical songs to express their happiness or anguish. An iron tong and small rings attached to it supported their artistic display. They were inspired by folklore or songs that European minstrels (medieval entertainers) would sing.

Umar Nazir, a Kashmiri singer, has tapped into developments in the music industry to reignite interest in this art form. He introduced a fusion of Ladishah and modern rap through one of his most recent releases.

He explained, “People were getting bored of listening to Ladishah traditionally. But I tried to give it a new twist by rapping it with modern style. Although my sole purpose of singing the Ladishah was to convey a message to the people of Kashmir that we need to preserve and continue the legacy, so far more than two lakh people have liked my Ladishah song on YouTube.” – *Hindustan Times*



Thespian Dr M.L. Dogra Conferred Prestigious Awards

Renowned member of the Indian theatre fraternity and scholar of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. M. L. Dogra has been conferred with Global Education Excellence Award and Global Star Excellence Award 2023. Dr. Dogra’s contributions encompass promotion of creative Hindi and Dogri theatre. Furthermore, his work promotes musical and computer education. His laurels also include creation of over 2000 songs in Punjabi, Dogri, and Hindi and authorship of more than 50 books, scripts, and musical plays. – *Daily Excelsior.com*