

Jammu & Kashmir Digest

A Review of Developments in J&K



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- Glass-Top Trains Coming to Kashmir Soon
- Visitors in Doves Wend Their Ways Through Valleys of Baderwah
- J&K Gets First Space Lab for School Children

More News and Analyses



Representative picture of a Vistadome train coming soon to Kashmir

DEVELOPMENT SECTION

GLASS-TOP TRAINS COMING TO KASHMIR SOON

VISTADOME VIEWS

The Jammu and Kashmir Railways has announced that it will soon launch its first-ever glass-top train, covering a breathtaking 110-kilometre journey from Banihal to Budgam. Some of the other destinations this train will cover include Anantnag, Srinagar, Qazigund, and Awantipora.

A trial run was reportedly carried out by Northern Railways from Budgam to Baramulla recently.

This service will be offered to locals and tourists, who will be able to take great delight in their 90-minute journey, taking in an enthralling travel experience.

Besides this, the passengers will be able to access an air-conditioned coach featuring an observation lounge, rotatable seats, large glass windows, and a glass roof.

Trays attached to passengers' seats and the option to avail light meals through the course of their train journey while enjoying an experience similar to what is available on-board airplanes. A 'GPS-based information system' has also been installed.

An official further pointed out that the train's 'ambient LED lighting adapts to the changing scenery, creating an enchanting atmosphere on board.' – [Greater Kashmir, The Dispatch](#)



Vistadome to offer a panoramic viewing experience of the dramatic landscape from Banihar to Budgam to locals and tourists.





The scenic view of a valley in Bhaderwah. — File Picture

Mr. Dilmir Chowdhary, Additional Deputy Commissioner, has touted how the Jaie Valley, 30 kilometres from the picturesque Bhaderwah (Doda District, Jammu and Kashmir), is now the favored spot for picnickers. Bhaderwah is home to several aesthetically-pleasing locales.

He explained, 'Over 1.20 lakh students from 385 schools, colleges, other educational institutions came to Jaie Valley for picnics from May 1 to September 9, making it the most visited high-altitude destination by students in the Jammu region.' Moreover, over 3 lakh tourists from and outside the Union Territory visited the Valley this year, unlike ever before. The visitors have been in awe of their surroundings, expressing their desire to return. Mohd. Hussain Chechi, the village headman of the local tribal population, expressed his delight at the influx of people visiting the area.

Furthermore, he explained what it meant for the tribal community – 'The massive footfall has turned the fortunes of locals, especially the tribal migrant Gujjar community that traditionally resides in these grasslands with their cattle during the summers. This is no less than magic...for the first time in my life, we are selling our produce (milk and dairy products) from the meadows itself, and that too at a very good price, without incurring extra costs on transportation to the towns.' — *Hindustan Times*

TOURISM SECTION

VISITORS IN DROVES WEND THEIR WAYS THROUGH VALLEYS OF BHADERWAH

INCREASING FOOTFALLS

NO NEW HOTELS IN ECO-SENSITIVE ZONES

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has asked the Jammu and Kashmir government to formulate a new Tourism Master Plan. It focuses on the conservation of the environment.

MoEFCC has recently issued a notification in which they have suggested the UT government take several measures.

The list of measures includes formulating a Zonal Master Plan and Tourism Master Plan.

As per the notification, new construction of hotels and resorts shall not be allowed within one kilometer of the boundary of the protected area or up to the extent of the eco-sensitive zone.

Most tourism players welcomed the decision, as they said they have always focused on sustainable tourism. — *The Kashmir Monitor*



Students from classes VI to XII will get the opportunity to receive skill development training sessions

The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has inaugurated its maiden space lab designed for those studying in government schools from grades 6 to 12 in the Kishtwar District. The inaugural ceremony was held at Government Higher Secondary School Boys Kishtwar.

This initiative has been financed by the Directorate of Education Jammu and crafted by Vyomika Space Academy, Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Space Tutor Programme.

A spokesperson for ISRO laid out some of the most critical features of this lab – 'Students from classes VI to XII will have the opportunity to receive skill development training sessions from these cutting-edge labs.'" Furthermore, it was added that access to ISRO's satellite and demonstration models, drones, rockets, satellites, and high-tech telescopes 'will enable students to explore the wonders of the cosmos and notable space missions from ISRO.'

Mr. Devansh Yadav, Deputy Commissioner of the District, hailed the space lab initiative by emphasising that it 'is expected to ignite interest in astronomy-related activities at the school level, potentially guiding students towards careers in this fascinating field.' – *Education Times*

EDUCATION SECTION

J&K GETS FIRST SPACE LAB FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

ENGENDERING GENIUSES

GEO-SCIENCE MUSEUM INAUGURATED

On 2nd October 2023, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar inaugurated the Geology and Mining Department's first of its kind Geo-science Museum and District Mineral Office Budgam at SIDCO Budgam. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary appreciated the Department of Geology and Mining.

He also explained that the museum would not only serve as a spot of geo-science tourism but also help in preserving the rich geo-heritage.

Dr. Arun Kumar emphasised that the museum is made a place of learning.

It spreads awareness regarding the rich geo-heritage of Jammu and Kashmir for the students.

— *Rising Kashmir*