

Post-snowfall restoration work underway in Kashmir :CM

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said post-snowfall restoration work in the valley was underway in full swing and being closely monitored.

The Kashmir valley and some areas in the Jammu division recorded moderate to heavy snowfall on Sunday, leading to road closures and snapping of electricity supply in many areas.

"Following the snowfall in Jammu and Kashmir yesterday (Sunday), particularly in the valley, restoration work is in full swing and being closely monitored," Abdullah said



in a post on X.

"The current electricity load being drawn in the valley is 1,200 MW and this will rise as the day progresses. Snow clearance work is proceeding, with priority roads receiving immediate atten-

tion," the chief minister said.

He added that ministers Sakina Itoo and Javid Dar, and Nasir Aslam Wani -- the advisor to the chief minister -- would travel around the districts to review the situation on the ground.

Shah pays obeisance at Gurudwara Rakab Ganj on 'Prakash Parv' of Guru Gobind Singh

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday visited Gurudwara Rakab Ganj Sahib here to pay obeisance to Guru Gobind Singh on his birth anniversary and said he sacrificed everything to protect culture, religion and humanity and remained firm on his principles in the face of fanatic invaders.

Shah visited the gurdwara located in central Delhi and prayed for everyone's well-being, officials said.

"On the occasion of the 'Prakash Parv' of the 10th Guru, Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, I remember him and pay my obeisance to him. Guru Gobind Singh Ji, who sacri-



ficed everything to protect culture, religion and humanity, remained firm on his principles in the face of fanatic invaders. His life, a symbol of sacrifice, bravery and dedication, will continue to guide everyone till eternity," he wrote on X in Hindi.

The home minister also said the life of Guru Gobind Singh, who steadfastly fought against injustice and tyranny, is a unique example of sacrifice, bravery and service.

The birth anniversary of the 10th Sikh guru is observed as 'Prakash Parv' or 'Prakash Utsav'.

Guru Gobind Singh, who established the Khalsa Panth, was born in Patna Sahib in 1666.

Govt mulls mandatory hallmarking for silver jewellery; BIS to assess feasibility

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi on Monday asked the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to consider implementing mandatory hall-marking for silver and silver artefacts following consumer demands.

"There is a demand from consumers for mandatory hall-marking of silver. You (BIS) can deliberate and take a call," Joshi said at the 78th BIS Foundation Day event.

The work in this direction has already begun and the government will take a decision after completion of stakeholder consultations and feasi-



bility assessment by BIS, the minister told reporters on the sidelines of the event.

"I have asked BIS to work out feasibility and take reactions from consumers and ornament dealers. We will con-

PTI that the Bureau could be ready to implement mandatory silver hall-marking within 3-6 months, adding that the stakeholder discussions were underway.

"Several rounds of discussions were held with stakeholders and they are in favour of it. The discussion on printing a unique six-digit alphanumeric code is going on," Tiwari said.

The move follows successful implementation of mandatory gold hall-marking introduced in June 2021, which now covers 361 districts.

The existing system includes a unique six-digit alphanumeric code (HUID) certifying

gold purity.

According to the minister, about 90 per cent of jewellery being purchased is now hall-marked. More than 44.28 crore gold jewellery items have been hallmarked with unique IDs since the launch.

Stakeholders from Gujarat, Karnataka and other states have requested the extension of mandatory hall-marking to silver, the minister added.

BIS, established under the BIS Act in 1986, is an autonomous national body responsible for setting quality standards for products and services.

Listing out upcoming focus areas, the minister said the BIS is also developing standards for Artificial Intelligence (AI) and is at the forefront of shaping the future of innovation and technology.

"As we look to the future, let us remember that our journey is not just about meeting international standards, it is about setting them. We are not just participants in the global market; we are leaders in the global world of quality," he added.

The minister launched BIS comic books, library and pensioners portals at the event, which was also attended by Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare and other senior BIS officials.

all stakeholders and start the process," he added.

Silver hall-marking, which certifies the purity of the white metal, is currently voluntary.

BIS Director General Pramod Kumar Tiwari told

Over 33 lakh users from 183 countries visit Maha Kumbh website: UP Govt

STATE TIMES NEWS
MAHAKUMBH NAGAR: People from 183 countries across the world are actively seeking information about the Maha Kumbh through various websites and portals, the Uttar Pradesh government said on Monday.

The official website of Maha Kumbh, <https://kumbh.gov.in/>, has emerged as the primary source for reliable information, witnessing significant traffic from millions of users worldwide, it said in a statement.

"According to the data of the website, as of January 4, over 33 lakh visitors from 183 countries accessed the portal to gather details about Maha Kumbh. This includes visitors from across continents, such as Europe, America, and Africa, showcasing the event's global appeal," it said.

A representative from the technical team managing the



website confirmed that, as of January 4, a total of 33,05,667 users have visited the official Maha Kumbh portal. These users belong to 183 countries, with visits recorded from as many as 6,206 cities worldwide, it added.

India remains the top country for website visits, followed closely by significant traffic from the United States, Britain, Canada, and Germany.

Visitors have not only accessed the website but have

Among these is the official website of Maha Kumbh, which was launched by CM Yogi Adityanath in Prayagraj on October 6, 2024.

The website provides detailed information about the Maha Kumbh, ensuring devotees have easy access to details about the traditions associated with Kumbh, its spiritual significance, and the studies conducted on Kumbh.

Additionally, the website covers major attractions, key bathing festivals, and guidelines on what to do and avoid during the event.

Furthermore, the website offers insights into travel and accommodation options, a media gallery, and highlights what's new in Prayagraj.

This digital initiative aims to enhance the experience of devotees while preserving the rich cultural and spiritual heritage of Maha Kumbh, it added.

The Uttar Pradesh government is presenting the Maha Kumbh as a 'Digital Maha Kumbh'. Several digital platforms have been developed to ensure the convenience of devotees.

also spent considerable time exploring its content, according to the statement.

"The technical team noted a substantial surge in traffic since the website's launch, with the number of daily users now reaching millions as the event draws closer," it added.

Need financial reforms to boost rural women entrepreneurs: Official

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Sweeping reforms in rural financial services, geography-specific banking products and streamlined loan processes are needed to support women entrepreneurs, said senior Rural Development Ministry official Smriti Sharan on Monday.

These reforms are essential as the government plans to transform 3 crore rural women into "lakshpati didis" (women earning Rs 1 lakh annually) in the next 2-3 years, she said.

"We are committed to making 3 crore lakshpati didis in the next 2-3 years. Therefore, it is important to diversify traditional agriculture into other activities which are entrepreneurial in nature," Sharan said in a panel discussion organised as part of Grameen Bharat Mahotsav 2025 held here.

Sharan said Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have demonstrated rural women's financial responsibility with a low non-performing asset rate of 1.64 per cent. However, women entrepreneurs continue facing challenges in accessing bank loans, skills training, and market linkages. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana has opened 52.81 crore accounts, with women holding 56 per cent of accounts. This figure rises to 66.7 per cent in rural and semi-urban areas.

The official called for joint efforts to address these challenges while emphasising the need for customised financial products

based on geography and business type. "A simple plain vanilla financial product will not be useful to rural women," she said and also stressed simplifying loan application processes, development of care economy enterprises, advanced skilling beyond traditional sectors and better ground-level policy implementation.

Rename India Gate as 'Bharat Mata Dwar': BJP's minority morcha chief

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: BJP's minority morcha president Jamal Siddiqui has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to rename India Gate as "Bharat Mata Dwar".

Siddiqui in his letter claimed that the government under Modi has worked to heal the wounds inflicted by "Mughal invaders" and "British robbers", saying it has made the country happy by erasing the taints of slavery.

"Renaming India Gate as Bharat Mata Dwar will be a true tribute to thousands of patriots, who made the supreme sacrifice and whose names are inscribed on its structure," he said. He noted that the Modi government has rechristened the road named after Aurangzeb as A P J Kalam Road and installed the statue of Subhas Chandra Bose in the canopy which housed King George V's statue. The British king's statue was removed in 1968 and the canopy at India Gate had remained vacant. Raj Path was renamed as Kartavya Path, lining it with the Indian culture, he said, adding the name Bharat Mata Dwar can be given to India Gate in a similar vein.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE			
Tender Notice No:- 285, 286-2024-25-ADEN-LDH & 287, 288-2024-25-ADEN-JRC Date: 03.01.2025			
Sr.DEN/IFZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.irops.gov.in with closing date- 27.01.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. In place of Earnest money deposit, "Bid Security Declaration" is to be submitted on prescribed format as available in document section on the portal.			
Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System	
Open	Works	Two Bid System	
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time	
02.01.2025	13.01.2025	27.01.2025/ 15:00 Hrs	
S. No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender	
1.	285-2024-25-ADEN-LDH-FZR	Providing and erecting Metal beam crash barrier & RCC Boundary wall along the track to prevent CRO on SNL-JRC section in the jurisdiction of SSE/WLDH.	
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer
	20,62,09,318.72/-	11,81,100.00/-	90 Days
	Period of Completion	06 Months	
Similar Nature of work:- "Any civil work other than track work".			
2.	286-2024-25-ADEN-LDH-FZR	Providing and erecting Metal beam crash barrier & RCC Boundary wall along the track to prevent CRO on SNL-JRC section in the jurisdiction of SSE/WJPGW.	
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer
	21,94,81,565.86/-	12,47,400.00/-	90 Days
	Period of Completion	06 Months	
Similar Nature of work:- "Any civil work other than track work".			
3.	287-2024-25-ADEN-JRC-FZR	Providing and erecting Metal beam crash barrier & RCC Boundary wall along the track to prevent CRO on SNL-JRC section in the jurisdiction of SSE/WJRC.	
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer
	18,12,03,682.70/-	10,56,000.00/-	90 Days
	Period of Completion	06 Months	
Similar Nature of work:- "Any civil work other than track work".			
4.	288-2024-25-ADEN-JRC-FZR	Providing and erecting Metal beam crash barrier & RCC Boundary wall along the track to prevent CRO on SNL-JRC section in the jurisdiction of SSE/WJMX.	
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer
	19,89,47,319.19/-	11,44,700.00/-	90 Days
	Period of Completion	06 Months	
Similar Nature of work:- "Any civil work other than track work".			
Note. 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.			
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 57/25			

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE						
Sr. DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.irops.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.						
Tender No.	Name of Work	App. Cost (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Completion Period	Opening of Tender	Website Particulars
251-Elect-T-51-2024-25	Electrical work in c/w Resurfacing of PF 1 and PF 2 & 3 at Pathankot Railway Station.	Rs. 23,03,309.56	Rs. 46,100.00	6 Months	27.01.2025 after 15:00 Hrs.	www.irops.gov.in
251-Elect-T-52-2024-25	Electrical work in c/w Platform surfacing at Dhariwal and Gurdaspur & Replacement of 02 Nos. at BNL, 06 nos. at UCB TYPE-II pway gang qualters under SSE/P/PTK Jurisdiction.	Rs. 32,33,779.29	Rs. 64,700.00	6 Months	27.01.2025 after 15:00 Hrs.	www.irops.gov.in
No.: 251-Elect/T/Notice No. 43-Elect/2024-25 Dated: 06.01.2025 60/2025						

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