

# **EDITORIAL**

#### BHARATPOL PORTAL

The Bharatpol portal is a significant initiative aimed at improving policing and law enforcement across India, providing a comprehensive platform to streamline and modernize police services. As part of the Indian government's ongoing efforts to enhance public safety and strengthen law enforcement. Bharatpol is designed to integrate technology into policing, making it more transparent, accessible, and efficient. This portal is expected to be a key tool for citizens, law enforcement agencies, and government officials to access police-related services, monitor activities, and promote community policing. The primary objective of Bharatpol is to bridge the communication gap between citizens and police forces, facilitating easier access to police services and ensuring better management of police resources. The portal is built with a vision of effective law enforcement, enhanced public safety, and improved citizen-police interaction. It aims to be a one-stop solution for various police-related services and functions, such as lodging complaints, tracking case progress, obtaining police clearance certificates, and accessing crime reports. The portal also serves as a repository of police records, enabling officers to retrieve and update data in real-time. This enhances the operational efficiency of police stations, ensuring that they can respond faster to emergencies, investigate crimes more thoroughly, and maintain accurate records. The Bharatpol portal is designed to be user-friendly, allowing citizens to easily report crimes, lodge complaints, or request services like character verification, police clearance certificates, and background checks. The portal also provides a tracking system for cases, so citizens can monitor the status of their complaints or investigations. The portal features a comprehensive crime data system that allows citizens to access real-time data on local crime rates, helping them stay informed about the security situation in their area. It also includes crime mapping tools, which enable authorities to identify crime hotspots and allocate resources more effectively. Bharatpol allows for seamless information sharing between various police departments and law enforcement agencies. It ensures that data on crimes, criminals, and investigations is updated instantly across the system, facilitating faster coordination and action. One of the portal's standout features is the ability to file an FIR (First Information Report) online. Citizens can lodge complaints through the portal, reducing the need for physical visits to police stations, saving time, and reducing the workload on police officers. The portal also serves as a police station management tool, allowing officers to update records, monitor ongoing cases, manage personnel, and ensure that all operations are running smoothly. This improves accountability and reduces inefficiencies in policing operations. Bharatpol will include sections dedicated to raising public awareness about safety measures, crime prevention, and legal rights. It will also run awareness campaigns to promote better interaction between the police and communities. By digitizing records and ensuring that all transactions and complaints are logged and tracked online, the Bharatpol portal increases accountability in law enforcement. Citizens can view the progress of their complaints, reducing the chances of corruption.

## Value Addition in Temples Floral Waste

DR. BANARSI LAL

India is a religious country and temples are found in every state/UT. Worsening of environmental quality, climate change, disposal and management of waste and sustainable development are the main concerns of society.

One of the main causes of environmental pollution is mis-management of organic waste. Worship is the way of life in India and we all offer various offerings to the deities which mainly consist of flowers, leaves, fruits etc. out of which floral offerings are found in large quantity. Temples waste has a unique share of floral waste. After fulfilling the purpose, flowers are thrown in the garbage or discarded in the water bodies or left up on the open places causing various hazardous environmental problems. The waste flowers can be utilized in different ways to produce valuable products which can lead to a healthier and waste free environment. Every day we go in temples, churches, Gurudwaras and mosques as they possess a characteristic of attracting positive and divine vibrations from the surroundings, they are believed to charge the atmosphere with heavenly vibes. We offer flowers, garlands, coconut and milk to the deities in the temples as they are considered as symbol of devotion and reverence.

Every day flowers are offered in temples and are left unexploited and their become solidwaste. But every year, 80, 00,000 tons of temple waste are dumped into the rivers thus killing living creatures and thus cause enormous water pollution. Water pollution also affects the lives of human beings. So there is dire need to work on the waste flowers so that the water pollution can be minimized in the water bodies and faith towards the flowers can be preserved. The bulk of flowers, leaves of plants, coconut shells, milk and curd do not have a suitable means of disposal in many of the religious places and they are disposed randomly at several public places. In 2005, WHO deemed 36% of the chemicals used in the flower plantations as highly toxic, having an adverse effect of health leading to respiratory problems, skin rashes and eye problems. We hardly think for the floral waste after offerings. Instead of showing the ignorance to the damage caused to the environment, it is necessary to synthesize a solution applicable to all the religious centers in India.

Jammu is said to be the city of temples where numerous temples are situated. A number of temples and other religious spots reflect the spiritual value of Jammu region of J&K and the presence of numerous temples has yielded Jammu as the 'City of Temples'. Bulk of flowers are available in these temples where they are used on daily basis and thus making them a regular source. After offering they are left as unused and become waste. Millions of devotees come from outside as well as from within the UT of J&K and offer flowers to Gods and Goddesses. After this tones of floral offerings generated daily is disposed in open dumps or released in water bodies generating foul odour as well as act as the breeding centres for disease causing organisms. Looking into the hazardous impact of the improper disposal of floral wastes on the environment, proper utilization is a demand of present time. These waste flowers can be used in different ways and we can get wealth from the waste flowers. Floral waste generation occur largely during worships, functions, ceremonies and festivals. Attractive floral products can be easily made from the waste flowers through a process. In Jammu mainly marigold (Tegetus erecta) flower is used in the offerings and its petals mainly consists of carotenoids-litein and flavonoid-patuletin and can be used in making different types of daily use products. Biological process such as composting followed by the vermicomposting to convert floral waste into organic manure can

also be a benefit for the people.

Flowers are considered as the holy entities and hence are offered by the pilgrims to their idols. Every year tonnes of flowers are used to offer which are thrown in the rivers after their use. There is dire need to create awareness among the people on the management of waste flowers so as reduce the water pollution. KVK, Reasi has taken an initiative to management the waste flowers. KVK, Reasi is creating awareness-cum-trainings on waste flowers management and imparting skill to

make different products from waste flowers. Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Reasi has taken the initiative to recycle of waste flowers by imparting skill on floral waste management to the rural women. In Jammu region huge amount of flowers are wasted after worship and these sacred flowers are thrown in water bodies such as the rivers and ponds which ultimately affect water quality as well as living organisms present in the water. Waste flowers can be utilized to make diversified floral products such as herbal incense sticks, idols of Gods and Goddesses, havankunds, organic lamps etc. which can attract the buyers and rural women can gain income and employment. We offer fresh flowers to Gods daily or on festivals, but we hardly know what to do with them when they dryup next day. KVK, Reasi is stressing on capacity building among the rural women on making the different types of products from floral waste by selling of which they can enhance their income. There is need to impart skill among the rural women to boost the recycling of waste flowers so as to avoid the water pollution caused by the waste flowers and empower the rural women by creating income and employment opportunities for them. By using the waste flowers women Self Help Groups (SHGs) can make attractive products and can create entrepreneurship among them. There is need to focus on value addition in floriculture which can enable the farmers to earn more profit as compared to other crops. Waste flowers are thoroughly washed, dried and mixed with natural raisins to make dough which can be utilized to make herbal incense sticks, organic lamps, organic dhoop etc. There is also need to work on marketing, branding and packaging of floral products. In Reasi district of J&K there are many potential marigold growers who produce quintals of marigold flowers. During lockdown period many farmers faced problem to sale their marigold produce and their flowers were wasted. Reasi district of J&K is the hub of religious spots and flowers from temples, gurudwaras, mosques and fields can be recycled to

make useful products. There is ample scope for

the recycling of waste flowers products as large

quantity of waste flowers are available to make the products. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine is visited by the millions of devotees every year and waste flowers products such as Gods/Goddesses idols, agarbatis, organic doop, organic flower lamps etc. can be easily marketed at Katra town. This innovative step of KVK can empower the rural women of the region and faith on flowers can also be preserved.

Flowers can be collected from the temples and are brought at a common place. Then they are segregated by hand and plastics and papers are weeded out. Petals of the flowers are broken, dried and grinded. After that they are used in making the different types of valuable products. They powdered flowers are mixed with natural raisins to make dough which leads to the generation of handmade roll-out herbal incense sticks, idols of Gods and Goddesses. Vermicomposting is an excellent and eco-friendly process for floral waste management. Floral waste can also serve as a sustainable source of raw material in handmade paper production. These papers are 100% free from wood and other harmful chemicals thereby contributing to reduce, reuse and recycle concept. Marigold flower extract can be used as an additive in food industries and in veterinary feeds. Floral oils possess medicinal values. Many successful results on floral waste management have been obtained at many places across the nation where the flowers generated regularly are recycled with the technical assistance. As the initiatives taken by the KVK, Reasi can be very effective. Such kinds of baby steps can help to generate more income and employment in the region. This novel approach can additionally generate revenue and empower the rural women. The environment friendly units on recycling of waste flowers can prove a boon to the rural women. The waste flowers products making, packing, branding and marketing can create new avenues for the people of J&K. This innovative technology is simple, cheap, environmental and socially beneficial. More research and policies are needed on the waste flowers management.

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Railways came to Srinagar by air .On

#### JRD-Modi Sarkar's New Year Bonanza to Jammu

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

They say first deserve ,then desire and it has universal application and this phrase aptly fits so for as the granting and creation of Railway Division Jammu (JRD) is concerned.

The creation of the Railway Division in Jammu was the long and genuine demand of the Jammuties and Modi government has now fulfilled this demand, need and necessity of having a Railway Division in Jammu and there is a rationale behind having a Railway Division .Under the minister-ship of Ashwani Vaishnav the government of India through railway ministry has granted approval to Jammu railway division .It is in fact the new year gift/bonanza and boon to Jammuties and it will lead to much needed job creation and it will cater to the needs and rush of the people and pilgrim tourists to Mata Vaishno Devi shrine as well as boost to economic ,social and cultural development of J&K and there is no exaggeration in this observation.

It will also result in national and societal integration. Jammu Railway station is one of the oldest railway stations of northern railway and now with the creation of Jammu railway division, the people of Jammu and Kashmir are jubilant and they are welcoming this boon of Modi Sarkar to Jammu and in the days to come it will prove its usefulness and utility to Jammu and Kashmir.

utility to Jammu and Kashmir.

The newly carved out Railway Division

will include five sections -Bhogpur Sriwal-Pathankot, Batala-Pathankot, Pathankot-Joginder-Martyr Capitan Tushar Mahajan Udhampur Railway Station and Srinagar -Baramulla.

J&K gets ready for Railway Boost as PM Modi to inaugurate New Railway Division on January 6. This will end the dependence of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Pathankot area of Punjab on the Firozpur division. As the direct train from Delhi to

Kashmir becomes a reality the government of India is preparing to grant Jammu a new railway division when PM Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the office of Divisional Railway Manager -DRM on January 6.

In this connection a function was held outside the platform area of Jammu railway station in which Minister of State MoS in prime minister's office-PMO Dr Jitendra Singh, Member Parliament Jammu Jugal Kishore Sharma, and others attended the event. Around 4000 to 5000 people participated the path-breaking function."

All the decisions are taken at a divisional level regarding railways, and earlier people of J&K, HP, and Pathankot had to go to Firozpur for that purpose. But now all work of the division will be taken from here ,"said ADRM .Jammu will be the sixth railway division of the northern railways zone after Delhi ,Ambala ,Lucknow ,Moradabad ,and Firozpur. The Railway division works

under railway zone, and there are 19 zones across India. The divisions are the subcategories of Zones and each division is run by a Divisional Manager -DRM .The DRM is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the division band has to report to general manager of his zone. Now after the inauguration, Jammu railway station will also get a new look ,and already work is underway to extend the platform capacities of Jammu Railway Station from three to seven .For undergoing overhaul and extension, Jammu railway station is being closed for seven days from 8th of January."All the existing buildings will be dismantled and new infrastructure will come up here ,"Rajiv Kumar Singh said .Railway minister Ashwani Vaishnu inaugurated Jammu railway division 6thphysically on January 2025.Meanwhile ,northern railways have issued a train operation plan for the Kashmir valley for the winter periods in which they have included three new trains from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra -SMVDK to Srinagar ,which will include a Vande Bharat train and two Mail Express trains that will be running daily .As per the chart issued by the northern railways ,the Vande Bharat train will be leaving from Katra at 8.10 am and will be reaching Srinagar at 11.20 am ,the Mail Express train will be leaving Katra at 9.50 am and will reach Srinagar at 1.10 pm ,and another Mail Express train will leave Katra at 3pm

and will be reaching Srinagar at 6.20  $\rm pm$ .The newly carved out Railway Division will includes five sections was inaugurated virtually by PM Modi on January 6,2025. Ahead of it ,railway authorities ran a special inspection train between Jammu and Srinagar on Sunday, marking a historic milestone for Jammu and Kashmir .The section will span to a combined distance of 742.1kms Presently Jammu falls under the Ferozpur division of Northern Railways zone .In 2014, the Railway Ministry had decided to establish three additional divisions. Along with Jammu ,the other two were Gulberga in Karnataka and Silchar in Assam. It however ,took railways authorities a good five years to form a committee to assess its feasibility and financial implications .Union Minister railways Ashwani Vaishnaw did inspection of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link-USBRL section ."Special inspection train Iammu and Kashmir was nut out from Udhampur on January 5,"The Commissioner of Railway Safety -CRS also carried out the safety inspection of the Katra-Reasi section on January 7 and 8.The 272-kilometre long USBRL was sanctioned in 1994-1995 decades ago with an anticipated cost of Rs 37,012 crore. .However ,the region's uncertainty and topographical conditions hindered the expected progress of the project .The USBRL Project includes 38 tunnels with T-39 tunnel

emerging as longest tunnel in India stretching 12.75 kms .Prithvi Raj Gupta .former general secretary of CCI Jammu said that business community wholeheartedly welcomed the setting up of a Jammu railway division ."It had been a long -standing demand of Jammu .It will benefit the region, "he said .Gupta ,however said that the government must develop the region in a way "that encourage tourists to stay longer in Jammu .The inauguration of the newly -created Jammu Railway division, meeting a long-pending demand ,comes ahead of the lunch of the muchawaited and publicized direct train service to Kashmir by or before January 26 this year.PM Modi virtually inaugurated the new Jammu Railway Division from the national capital.PM inaugurated Jammu Railway Division through video-conferencing besides laying the foundation of the Rayagada Railway Division in Odisha and inaugurated Charlanalli New Terminal Station in Telangana by remote from New Delhi during same function at around 12.30 pm on 6th January .In Jammu the function was attended and graced by LG Manoj Sinha, CM Omar Abdullah and member parliament, Jammu, Jugal Kishore Sharma, MoS in PMO Dr Jitendra Singh besides the General Manager ,Northern Railways and other senior officers Ahead of the virtual inauguration of the Jammu Railway Division by the PM, the Union Minister

January 5,2024 ,the minister for Railways inspected USBRL section and Srinagar Railway Station .On the same date a special inspection train ran from Srinagar to Jammu. Meanwhile CRS visited on January 7 and 8,2025 for safety inspection of the Katra -Reasi section of the USBRL ,Project. Jammu Railway Division ,with its headquarters at Jammu has been created by restructuring Firozpur Division JCCI President Arun Gupta points out that Jammu Railway Division will not only streamline the running of trains but will also open new avenues of employment for the local youth, Jammu Railway Division is the 69th Division of the Indian Railways. The Jammu Railway Division will not only boost passenger movement but also will significantly enhance trade and logistics in the region The creation of a Divisional Headquarters in Jammu will bring administrative efficiency and strate oversight, which is essential given the expanding scope of railway operations. In brief granting of Railway Division to Jammu is really a boon for Jammu and Kashmir as it will lead to socio-economic and cultural development in near future. So we should thank Modi government for this historic milestone which has been given to us as a new year

(The author is a columnist, social and KP activist)

### Modi's New Year Gift to Kashmiris

O.N KOUL he Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has utmost L love for the people of J &K read Kashmir and the rail connectivity between Delhi and Srinagar Kashmir is in fact the new year gift of Modi sarkar to the people of Kashmir which is rightly called heaven on earth as per Urdu poet Firdusi .The new rail connection will be inaugurated and launched between Delhi and Srinagar by no less a man than the beloved prime minister Narendra Modi on 25th January and this connectivity is the landmark and groundbreaking step and decision of Modi government .It obviously shows how much is Modi serious and concerned about the people of Jammu and Kashmir especially Kashmiris .The train service between New Delhi and Srinagar Kashmir will definitely reduce the psychological divide and gap between rest of India and the people of Kashmir and it will also reduce the distance between Delhi and Kashmir and will also reduce the dil ki duri and Delhi Ke Douri .He the rail connectivity between Delhi and Kashmir is epoch making and historical and the people of Kashmir should welcome the rail connectivity with open arms and embrace it as it will become the life line of the Kashmiris and so this

new initiative of the Indian rail-

ways is worth appreciating ,commendable job of the Modi government .The rail connectivity will considerably reduce the distance and time taken to reach Srinagar as well as the national capital Delhi .The new rail connectivity between Delhi and Srinagar is the Vande Bharat Sleeper train which is scheduled to be inaugurated by PM Modi on 26th January 2025. The new rail connectivity between Delhi and Srinagar is the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link -USBRL .The long -awaited Srinagar -New Delhi rail link ,a monumental infrastructure project spanning over two decades, is set to become a reality in coming January 2025.PM Modi is expected to inaugurate the final 17-Km section of Udhampur -Srinagar Baramulla Rail Link ,project on January 26,2025. The Srinagar -New Delhi rail link ,over two decades in making is set to launch on January 26,2025 with the Vande Bharat train service .The historic project will revolutionize travel boost Kashmir's tourism and enhance connectivity to the valley's breathtaking landscape .The new section connecting Reasi to Katra will complete the 272 -Km railway line, bringing the much -anticipated Vande Bharat train service between New Delhi and Srinagar to life .Kashmiri communities have eager-

ly awaited this milestone, and the completion of the USBRL project has brought widespread joy to the vallev .Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw recently took to social media platform X to announce this historic milestone ,marking a momentous occasion for the region .The new rail link promises to be a game-changer for various stakeholders ,including local businessmen , students , tourists , government employees, and non-local workers ,as it opens doors to enhanced connectivity and economic growth .The Srinagar-Delhi rail link promises seamless connectivity and a boost to tourism in the valley .Kashmir ,one of India's most sought -after travel destinations, is poised to benefit immensely from the new rail service .The direct train link will make travel to the valley more convenient and cost effective for domestic and international tourists alike.

This development is expected to boost tourism, which is a key driver of the region's economy. The scenic landscapes, snow-capped mountains, and iconic attractions like Dal Lake and Gulmarg will now be more accessible than ever. In fact the USBRL Project is really an engineering marvel.

The USBRL project ,spanning 383 Km ,was first approved in 1994-95 and later declared a

National Project due to its strategic and economic significance. Despite facing numerous challenges ,including difficult terrain and extreme weather conditions, the project has achieved a series of engineering milestones-1-Tunnel T-33 Completion -On December 13,2024,the 3.2-Km -long Tunnel T-33 near the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine was completed.

This tunnel connects Katra to Reasi and features advanced ballast -less track installation ,underscoring the technological sophistication of the project. 2-Bridge Over Chengle Biven The USPBL else

This tunnel connects Katra to Reasi and features advanced ballast -less track installation ,underscoring the technological sophistication of the project. 2-Bridge Over Chenab River -The USBRL also features the world's tallest railway bridge over Chenab River ,a marvel of modern engineering and a symbol of India's infrastructure prowess .The benefits of the Srinagar-New Delhi Link are as under-1 Seamless Connectivity-The Vande Bharat train service will reduce travel time and improve access between the capital and the Kashmir valley.2-Economic Upliftment-Easier transportation will enhance trade opportunities benefitting local artisans, farmers and businesses. 3-Tourism Growth-Affordable travel options will attract more tourists ,driving economic activity in the hospitality and service sectors.4-Cultural Integration -Enhanced connectivity

fosters greater cultural exchange

bringing the Valley closer to the rest of India .As the countdown to January 26,2025 ,begins ,anticipation is building for the inauguration of this historical rail link .With the launch of the Vande Bharat train service, the dream of seamless picturesque connectivity to Kashmir valley is set to become a reality ,marking a new era of progress and prosperity for the region .With 38 tunnels totaling 119 Km ,including India's biggest transportation tunnel ,T-49 ,which is 12.75 Km long ,the USBRL , project is an engineering marvel The project also features 927 bridges ,including the famous Chenab Bridge ,the highest arch railway bridge in the world .Standing 359 m above the riverbed the bridge surpasses the Eiffel, Tower in height by 35m.Designed with cutting -edge materials to endure wind speeds of 260 Km/h and the strongest earthquakes, it highlights India's engineering prowess .The 63Km final stretch , connecting Sangaldan to Katra is undergoing final safety inspections .During a recent visit ,union Minister Raveet Singh Bittu expressed optimism that the railway would transform connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir ,promoting global competitiveness and economic prosperity .The project's preparedness is further advanced by

the Reasi-Katra phase ,which includes four stations along a 17 Km length which was completed in December 2024. This monumental project has achieved several milestones over the years, Baramulla -Qazigound section in 2009 ,Qazigund -Banihal in 2013 Udhampur-Katra in 2014 and the Banihal-Sangaldan service inaugurated in February 2024.USBRL project has been since completed with approximately 700Km, offering travelers a seamless journey through India's diverse landscapes , from the plains of Delhi to the snow -capped peaks of Kashmir .The significant innovations in the historic Jawahar Tunnel located in the Pir Panchal range along National Jammu-Srinagar

Highway has also been completed.
Managed by BRO, this INR 62.5 crore project aims to modernize the 2.5Km tunnel with the state -of the -art features ,including energy-efficient lighting and real time monitoring systems .Now travel to Jammu and Kashmir will further become much easier with the operationalization of the Jawahar Tunnal and USBRL ,Project .To conclude it can be opined that there are immense benefits accruing from the new rail service between New Delhi and Srinagar.

(The author is a columnist, social, KP activist)