

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 4, Issue 5

June 2025

- PM Opens Kashmir Rail Link to Rest of India
- 16 Tourism Destinations Reopened
- J&K Start-ups Emerge National Winners

More News and Analyses

PM Inaugurates Kashmir's Rail Link to Rest of India

Prim Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 272-kilometre long Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL) project in Jammu & Kashmir on 6th of June. He also inaugurated the Chenab railway bridge, Anji Khad railway bridge and flagged off two new Vande Bharat train services as well.

With this inauguration, Kashmir now has an all-weather railway connectivity with the rest of India. The two Vande Bharat Express trains will run six days in a week.

In another major infrastructure milestone for Jammu and Kashmir, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also inaugurated the Chenab Rail Bridge, the world's highest railway arch bridge.

The engineering marvel is a key part of the USBRL project that seamlessly connects the Kashmir Valley to the rest of India via rail. The Prime Minister also unveiled India's first cable-stayed railway bridge, Anji Khad Bridge, and the first-ever train service directly linking Kashmir to the mainland.

Just weeks after the deadly Pahalgam terror attack, the inaugurations serve as a strong message from PM Modi, who is visiting the valley for the first time after Operation Sindoor, which his government remains committed to the development of the region.

The Vande Bharat Express being put to service on the Jammu-Srinagar route is specifically engineered to withstand severe winter condition in the Himalayan region. The train maintains efficient functionality at temperatures dropping to minus 20 degrees Celsius.

Moments after inaugurating the Chenab Bridge, the Prime Minister was seen waving the Tiranga and walking across it with a broad smile. — [The Times of India](#), [India Today](#)

16 Tourism Destinations Reopened

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha reopened 16 of the 48 destinations on 14 June that had been closed in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack . He also announced that this would be followed by the phased reopening of the remaining tourists spots.

“Tourists have started arriving in large numbers. The Central government is also facilitating official meetings and visits by parliamentary delegations here, which will further enhance confidence and contribute to an increase in tourist numbers,” he said.

Of the 16 spots, eight were from the Jammu region and eight from the Kashmir region. In the Jammu division, the spots selected were Sarthal, Baggar, Devi Pindi, Sehar Baba Waterfall, Sulha Park, Gul Danda, Jai Valley and Panchari.

“Following a detailed security assessment, we are now in a position to welcome visitors back, gradually and responsibly. The decision to restrict access to several tourist locations was purely precautionary,” Mr. Sinha said.

In an unprecedented security initiative, 580 companies of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) are being deployed across Jammu and Kashmir to ensure the safe and peaceful conduct of the Amarnath Yatra 2025.

The security forces will include personnel from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).

This year’s deployment marks one of the highest levels of security preparedness for the annual pilgrimage in recent years. Out of the total 580 companies, approximately 400 will be concentrated along the Kashmir Valley’s Pahalgam and Baltal routes, the twin pathways that lead to the holy Amarnath Cave situated at 3,888 meters in the Himalayas.

It is reported that the rest of companies would be deployed in Jammu division. The CRPF will play a lead role in route protection, camp security, and crowd management.

Drones, CCTV cameras, night-vision equipment, and bomb-detection squads will be extensively used. Specialized anti-sabotage teams and quick reaction teams (QRTs) are being placed along the high-risk segments. — [The Hindu](#), [Greater Kashmir](#)

J&K Start-ups Emerge National Winners

Two innovative start-ups from Jammu and Kashmir—Genetico Pvt Ltd and GR8 Sports Pvt Ltd—made waves at the prestigious Start-up Mahakumbh 2025, emerging as national winners in the highly competitive Start-up MahaRathi Challenge.

Out of 2,400 start-ups from across India, these ventures stood out, with Genetico securing Rs20 lakh in the HealthTech and BioTech category and GR8 Sports bagging Rs5 lakh in Gaming and Sports.

The event, hosted at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi and backed by the DPIIT, wasn't just about awards—it opened doors to mentorship, incubation, investor networks, and a whopping Rs 70 crore in funding opportunities.

Representing Jammu and Kashmir under the guidance of JKEDI (Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute), five start-ups showcased their innovation and ambition.

Alongside the winners were CLMRAT Sports, AL-Hamdaan Crafts, Studio Agama, and BISA Innovation Pvt Ltd, all mentored by Irtif Mehraj Lone and Zahid Ali Dar of JKEDI.

Founders Arjun Gupta (Genetico) and Fawz-ul-Kabir (GR8 Sports) celebrated the recognition as a testament to their team's dedication and JKEDI's unwavering support in nurturing the region's start-up ecosystem.

The achievements come at a pivotal time, as the Industries and Commerce Department of J&K has earmarked Rs50 crore for the financial year 2025–26 to implement the J&K Start-up Policy 2024–27.

This policy aims to supercharge the region's entrepreneurial landscape through seed funding, grants, incubator expansion, and innovation-driven programs.

It signals a strong governmental push to empower start-ups and make Jammu and Kashmir a significant player in India's innovation map.

With continued support and strategic investments, the region's entrepreneurial spirit is clearly on the rise, promising a future where start-ups from J&K aren't just participating—they're leading. - [*Kashmir Life*](#)