

## Online booking opens for Raahi: Hop Jammu bus service

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JULY 09

District Administration Jammu, in collaboration with Jammu Smart City Limited, today announced that online booking for the Raahi: Hop Jammu bus service has gone live. Visitors can book tickets through the official portal: <https://jammu-bus-ticketing-system.streamlit.app/>

The Hop-On Hop-Off service will operate on four dedicated routes Tirath Line, Chenab Line, Sarhad Line and Fun Line — to explore religious, heritage and cultural landmarks.

Tirath Line (?200 per person per day) connects Tawi River Front to religious sites including Bahu Fort, Bawe Wali Mata Temple, Bagh-e-Bahu, Moh Maya Temple, Tirupati Temple, Amar Mahal, Ranbireswar Temple and Raghunath Temple.

Chenab Line (?250 per person per day) travels along the Chenab belt, covering Akhnoor Fort, Jia Pota Ghat, Pandav Gufa, Gurudwara Tapo Asthan Sant Baba Sunder Singh Ji, Kameshwar Temple and Ambaran.

Sarhad Line (?250 per person per day) covers



Suchetgarh Border, Octroi Post, Ranbir Singh Pura Heritage Railway Station and Gharana Wetland.

Fun Line (?200 per person per day) links Bahu Fort, Bagh-e-Bahu, Aquarium, Bawe Wali Mata Temple, Amar Mahal and Jambu Zoo.

Buses will ply at scheduled intervals throughout the day from Tawi River Front, which serves as the central boarding and dispatch point for all four lines.

Passengers must book tickets online through the official portal and present their confirmation at the Tawi River Front counter on the day of travel to collect a boarding ticket. Boarding is available exclusively from Tawi River Front and will not be permitted without a valid ticket. Travellers must arrive at least 30 minutes prior to departure, carry a valid photo ID, cooperate with staff and use designated waste bins.

Entry tickets for Amar Mahal Museum and Jambu Zoo are not included in the bus fare and must be purchased separately. Amar Mahal Museum remains open from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm (closed on Mondays), while Jambu Zoo operates from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (closed on Tuesdays). For the Sarhad Line, the Beating Retreat Ceremony at Suchetgarh Border is held only on Saturdays and Sundays from 5:00 pm onwards.

## NHPC CMD Reviews CVPPL Hydropower Projects in Kishtwar, Focuses on Timely Commissioning

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JAMMU, JULY 09

NHPC CMD Bhupender Gupta and Director (Projects) Sanjay Kumar Singh reviewed the progress of CVPPL's Pakal Dul, Kwar and Kiru hydropower projects in Kishtwar, Jammu & Kashmir, emphasizing timely commissioning.

NHPC Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) along with Director (Projects) conducted a three-day visit to the ongoing hydropower projects of Chenab Valley Power Projects Limited (CVPPL) in Kishtwar, Jammu & Kashmir, from July 5 to July 7, 2026. The visit focused on reviewing construction progress and ensuring the timely execution of key hydroelectric projects.

On their arrival in Kishtwar, the NHPC leadership was welcomed by CVPPL Managing Director Ramesh Mukhiya and senior project officials.

The review began on July 6 with an inspection of the Pakal Dul Dam site at Dangduru. The senior officials assessed the progress of ongoing



civil works and reviewed the overall status of the project.

The delegation then visited the Kwar Hydroelectric Project, where CMD Bhupender Gupta inaugurated the Tail Race Tunnel (TRT) Outlet Bridge. Another important milestone was achieved with the inauguration of the Draft Tube Elbow erection works for Unit 4, officially marking the start of electro-mechanical (E&M) equipment installation at the project.

The NHPC team later inspected the Kiru Hydroelectric Project, where they reviewed the construction

progress of the dam and powerhouse. During the visit, the dignitaries witnessed the successful lowering of the 38-ton runner for Unit # 2, a major milestone in the project's execution.

On July 7, Bhupender Gupta chaired a series of review meetings with project stakeholders to assess overall progress and address key implementation issues. He stressed the importance of close coordination among all agencies involved to ensure the timely commissioning of the CVPPL hydropower projects.

CVPPL Managing Director Ramesh Mukhiya

thanked the NHPC leadership for their continued guidance, support and encouragement in advancing the company's hydropower developments in Jammu & Kashmir.

The Pakal Dul, Kwar and Kiru hydropower projects are among the most significant hydroelectric developments in the Chenab basin. Once completed, these projects are expected to boost India's renewable energy capacity, strengthen power supply, and contribute to the sustainable development of Jammu & Kashmir while supporting the country's clean energy goals.

## DC Reasi reviews monsoon preparedness, directs departments to ensure prompt response

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JAMMU, JULY 09

Deputy Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek, who is also Chairman of the District Disaster Management Authority, today chaired a meeting to review preparedness and response measures for the monsoon season across the district.

The Deputy Commissioner assessed the preparedness of all departments in dealing with potential challenges arising from heavy rainfall, flash floods, landslides, waterlogging and disruption of essential services. Coordinated efforts among departments are required to ensure public safety and minimise inconvenience to residents during the monsoon season.

The DC instructed officers concerned to conduct field visits to all vulnerable locations and inspect drainage channels and watercourses. He directed that blocked channels



should be cleared immediately to ensure smooth flow of rainwater and prevent waterlogging, flooding and damage to public infrastructure.

All executing agencies were further directed to keep required machinery and equipment deployed in advance so that restoration and relief operations can be undertaken without delay in case of heavy rainfall or landslides.

The DC directed that preventive and mitigation works should be undertaken on priority, with all necessary measures completed before the peak

monsoon period. Road connectivity to Katra must remain uninterrupted under all circumstances to ensure the pilgrimage to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji continues smoothly without inconvenience to devotees.

Executive Engineer JPDC and Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department briefed the chair on preparedness measures being undertaken by their departments for the monsoon season, including availability of manpower, emergency response teams, equipment and contingency plans to address disruption in essential ser-

vices. SDMs and Tehsildars briefed the DC on vulnerable locations within their respective jurisdictions and preparedness measures undertaken to tackle any eventuality during the monsoon season.

The DC directed all departments to submit damage and relief assessment reports within the stipulated time to ensure prompt processing and disbursement of relief assistance to affected beneficiaries and to submit temporary restoration proposals without delay for timely release and utilisation of funds.

SDRF teams were directed to be deployed in Mahore to strengthen emergency response capabilities and provide immediate assistance in the event of any disaster. Officers concerned were further directed to identify houses located in vulnerable and high-risk areas and, wherever necessary, shift residents to safer locations to safeguard lives and property.

## Bhagat chaired review meeting on J&K SAMADHAN

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Commissioner Secretary, Department of Public Grievances, Saurabh Bhagat today chaired a review meeting to assess the functioning and performance of J&K SAMADHAN, the Union Territory's flagship grievance redressal and monitoring platform.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review of J&K SAMADHAN was undertaken covering grievance registration, disposal trends, departmental performance, citizen feedback mechanisms and overall system functionality.

Commissioner Secretary emphasized the importance of strengthening the grievance redressal ecosystem to ensure timely, transparent and effective resolution of public grievances and to further enhance citizen satisfaction.

The meeting was in-



formed that J&K SAMADHAN is proposed to be migrated to the MeghRaj Government Cloud infrastructure. The migration is expected to provide a secure, scalable and reliable hosting environment, improve system availability, strengthen disaster recovery capabilities and align the platform with the Government of India's cloud adoption framework.

Shri Saurabh Bhagat directed the concerned officers to take necessary steps for migration of the platform to MeghRaj Cloud in a time-bound manner to ensure enhanced performance, security and operational efficiency.

Commissioner Secretary also directed the concerned officers to initiate the development of J&K SAMADHAN 3.0, envisaged as a next-generation citizen engagement and governance platform for the Union Territory. He emphasized that the proposed platform should build upon the strengths of the existing J&K SAMADHAN system while incorporating advanced technologies and best practices from successful citizen gov-

ernance platforms implemented across the country.

Saurabh Bhagat observed that J&K SAMADHAN 3.0 should evolve beyond a conventional grievance redressal platform and serve as a comprehensive citizen-government interaction ecosystem. The proposed platform shall integrate citizen engagement, grievance redressal, service delivery monitoring, governance analytics, Artificial Intelligence, GIS-enabled monitoring and decision support systems into a unified digital framework.

## CM Omar calls for shift from volume-driven to value-based tourism

**SRINAGAR, JULY 09:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today called for a paradigm shift in Jammu and Kashmir's tourism strategy, urging policymakers, industry stakeholders and local communities to move beyond volume-driven tourism towards a value-based and sustainable tourism model that safeguards the region's fragile ecology while ensuring long-term economic prosperity.

Addressing the inaugural session of the Conclave on Sustainable Tourism Planning—Designing Tourism for Tomorrow, organised by the Department of Tourism at SKICC, the Chief Minister said sustainable tourism is no longer a choice but an imperative for preserving Jammu and Kashmir's environment and securing the future of one of its most vital economic sectors.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Gulmarg Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta and Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism, Ashish Chandra Verma were present on the occasion.

Managing Director J&K Tourism Development Corporation Shreya Singhal, Director SKICC Mufti Mohammad Farid-ud-Din, Director Tourism Jammu Vikas Gupta, Secretary Royal Springs Golf Course Haris Ahmad Handoo, Director Tourism Kashmir Syed Qamar Sajad, senior officers of the Tourism Department, Chief Executive Officers of various Tourism Development Authorities,

tourism stakeholders and experts also participated in the conclave.

In his keynote address, the Chief Minister said that tourism devoid of sustainability inevitably leads to long-term decline.

"Tourism without sustainability is an unqualified disaster. It may survive for a few years, but it cannot endure in the long run unless sustainability is built into its very foundation," he said.

He said the conclave had been organised at a crucial juncture when Jammu and Kashmir was reassessing its tourism vision and determining whether its future lay in attracting ever-growing visitor numbers or creating greater value from a more sustainable tourism economy.

"We have to decide whether we wish to earn by charging one hundred tourists one rupee each or by creating an experience where one tourist is willing to pay one hundred rupees. The answer to that question must shape all our future tourism master plans," the Chief Minister remarked.

He said he welcomed surge in number of tourists visiting J&K but for future the tourist flow may need to be regulated so that not only the tourist resorts are protected but the tourists also enjoy in serene environment rather than having to go through harrowing experience of traffic jams, poor facilities and over-crowding at these tourist spots.

Reflecting on Jammu and Kashmir's tourism journey over the past three decades, Omar Abdullah ob-



served that the region had understandably pursued a volume-based approach to demonstrate normalcy after years of conflict. However, he said the recent fluctuations in tourist arrivals had once again exposed the vulnerability of the tourism ecosystem.

The Chief Minister remarked that last year before the Pahalgam incident, we were dealing with traffic congestion caused by huge tourist inflow. Soon afterwards, we were worried because hotels and destinations had become empty. This reminds us how fragile tourism can be in Jammu & Kashmir where a single incident can affect the whole season.

The Chief Minister underlined that sustainable tourism planning must comprehensively address critical issues including traffic regulation, parking infrastructure, waste management, water conservation, building regulations, carrying capacity and community participation.

efforts in Dal Lake, he observed that a significant portion of waste originates from local habitations, making community participation equally important.

He also stressed the need to eliminate single-use plastic and promote responsible civic behaviour.

"Government has a responsibility to manage waste, but citizens too have an equal responsibility. Unless we begin treating Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg and Dal Lake as we treat our own homes, sustainability will remain elusive," he said.

Highlighting the growing challenge of water scarcity, Omar Abdullah said sustainable tourism cannot be achieved without long-term water management strategies, particularly as visitor numbers continue to increase.

The Chief Minister also stressed the importance of strict enforcement of building regulations and tourism master plans.

"A master plan is only as good as its implementation. Selective enforcement breeds resentment and weakens public confidence. Tourism planning cannot be confined to offices; it must be prepared in consultation with local communities who have lived in these destinations for generations," he observed.

Calling for scientific assessment of the carrying capacity of individual tourist destinations, he said each location possesses unique ecological sensitivities that must determine future visitor management strategies.

"Srinagar may comfortably accommodate far more visitors than ecologically fragile destinations such as Gulmarg or Gurez. We cannot adopt a uniform approach for every destination," he said.

The Chief Minister said Jammu and Kashmir's greatest tourism asset is its unmatched natural beauty rather than artificial attractions.

"We are not selling Disneyland, Universal Studios or Las Vegas. What attracts people here is our rivers, lakes, mountains, glaciers and landscapes. Protecting these natural assets must remain the central objective of every tourism master plan," he asserted.

He also spoke about the increasing influx of tourist vehicles from outside Jammu and Kashmir. While acknowledging that their arrival had helped restore confidence about Kashmir's reopening as a tourism destination, he said such trends also placed additional pressure on local infrastructure and adversely affected the livelihoods of local transport operators.

"We have to ensure that tourism generates greater benefits for our own people. The objective should be to move steadily up the value chain rather than simply chasing higher tourist numbers," he said.

Advocating premium tourism experiences, the Chief Minister said value-based tourism enables destinations to earn more while reducing environmental stress and improving visitor experiences.