

Symbol of human will and vision

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the Chenab rail bridge on Friday (June 6) in Jammu and Kashmir. He will also flag off two specially designed Vande Bharat trains between Srinagar and Katra. Touted as the world's highest railway arch bridge, the Chenab rail bridge is a part of the 272-km Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project. It could be a game-changer for India. Built at a cost of about Rs 1,400 crore between Bakhal and Kauri in J&K's Reasi district, the Chenab bridge stands 359 metres above the river bed level. It is 35 metres taller than the Paris' Eiffel Tower and roughly five times the height of Qutub Minar. The Vande Bharat Express is set to glide swiftly between Katra and Srinagar, cutting down travel time and setting a new benchmark in comfort for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. This development is more than just a new train service. It stands as a symbol of how far the region's railway network has come over the last 11 years. Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, connecting Kashmir to Kanyakumari, is a historic step that will usher in a new era of development, prosperity, and national integration for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The world is admiring engineering marvel — the world's highest Chenab Railway Bridge — along with a network of 36 tunnels and 943 bridges that enable year-round connectivity to the region. This transformative infrastructure reflects the rising aspirations of Kashmir and the unwavering commitment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in scripting a new chapter for Jammu and Kashmir. The rail map of Jammu and Kashmir has been redrawn with precision and purpose. Projects once seen as distant dreams have become functional links connecting lives, livelihoods and landscapes. With full electrification, a dedicated railway division, and station modernisation underway, the region is now firmly on track for faster, cleaner, and more inclusive growth. A key impact of the bridge will be in enhancing connectivity between Jammu and Srinagar. With the Vande Bharat Express running over it, travel time between Katra and Srinagar will come down to just about three hours, reducing the existing journey by two to three hours. Built to endure tremors, strong winds and shifting geology, the Anji Khad Bridge is more than an engineering feat. It is a symbol of human will and vision. As part of the Udhampur Srinagar Baramulla Rail Link, it promises to bring smoother travel, faster transit and greater economic opportunities to the region.

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Reel to Real: The rise of cinematic wedding storytelling



VIJAY GARG

In the past decade, the wedding industry in India has seen a massive evolution from traditional to cinematic storytelling in film with elaborate sets, drone cinematography and destination films. Today, the industry is valued at over \$50 billion and continues to grow. The market is expanding beyond the metros like Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru but also includes Tier-2 cities, which continue to expand. Tier-2 India is arguably becoming the next big market for upscale wedding film services as aspirational consumption and disposable income rise in these cities. The economic growth narrative in India is shifting spatially, with the rise of consumer expenditure from Tier-2 cities, including Jaipur, Lucknow, Indore, Coimbatore, Bhubaneswar and Dehradun. According to Knight Frank, Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities accounted for more than 40 per cent of luxury consumption growth in India in 2023. Tier-2 economic growth isn't happening just among industrialists or now — thriving real estate moguls, but rather among new second-

generation business families, energetic professionals, and sometimes civil service job holders in Government bureaucracies, who have become drawn to the aspirational premium lifestyle experience.

The wedding business is undoubtedly a part of this trend. Families from these cities now have large budgets, ranging from ₹20 lakh to more than ₹1 crore, for not just the day itself but also the documentary — style storytelling they want undertaken to commemorate that day. This drastically contrasts the more utilitarian booking of a typical videographer. The emergence of platforms like Instagram and YouTube has forever changed the expectations for wedding content. Young aspirational couples in Tier-2 cities now think of their weddings not through the lens of past experiences but in comparison to the curated imagery and videos they see from producers in big cities or, increasingly, abroad.

Although the influence of wedding influencers and viral reels is massive, couples want a visual record of their big day that is also a cinematic experience. The increasing exposure to OTT content further fuels this aspiration. With platforms like Netflix and Amazon Prime introducing cinematic language and aesthetics to a broader audience, the visual vocabulary of the average consumer is more refined than ever. In such an environment, a wedding film is no longer considered a

luxury; it has become a social necessity, particularly for those who want their wedding to reflect their status, taste, and creativity. Technological advancement has made high-end production more accessible. Tools such as drones, gimbals, mirrorless cameras, and editing software



like DaVinci Resolve or Adobe Premiere Pro are now popular and cost-effective. Skilled wedding filmmakers from metropolitan areas or even regional hubs can now offer premium services at a fraction of the earlier costs, thanks to scalable operations and modular pricing. This has allowed boutique film studios and even freelancers to tap into Tier-2 markets. Some studios have already begun establishing regional branches or forming partnerships with local talent to meet these growing demands. Importantly, they also bring a professional work ethic, aesthetic sensibility, and project management discipline that

appeals to the upwardly mobile clientele in these cities. Interestingly, Tier-2 India is not just a consumer but also a host of premium wedding experiences. Cities like Udaipur, Jaipur, Bhopal, and Kochi have become popular destination wedding hubs, attracting families from across the country. This naturally creates a need for wedding film and services that can handle large-scale logistics and provide end-to-end cinematic coverage. The presence of scenic locales, heritage architecture, and better hotel infrastructure in these cities has made them ideal for luxury wedding shoots.

Consequently, the demand for services that can blend storytelling with local cultural richness is high. Cinematic wedding films shot in these locations often serve dual purposes — as personal memorabilia and as aspirational content that attracts future clients. The industry is increasingly for

tailor-made content-pre-wedding teasers, behind-the-scenes reels, and Instagram story edits, and after-movies with voiceovers and cinematic scores. While the potential is high, there are challenges to overcome. Logistics in Tier-2 cities can be inconsistent — venue lighting, power supply, or coordination with other vendors may not meet the standards of metro cities. Moreover, clients may still negotiate aggressively, often undervaluing the creative value of filmmaking. However, these challenges are balanced by the opportunities. The relatively untapped market offers a first-mover advantage to studios and professionals willing to invest in client education, local collaborations, and storytelling that resonates culturally. Importantly, Tier-2 clients are more loyal — if satisfied, they tend to refer the filmmaker within their extended family and social circle, driving organic growth. No longer a niche reserved for the elite, cinematic wedding storytelling is becoming an emotional, cultural, and aspirational staple across India's growing middle class. For wedding filmmakers and production studios, this represents not only an expansion of the customer base but also an opportunity to build a brand rooted in regional authenticity and national excellence. The wedding boom is no longer confined to the metros — it is blooming in the smaller towns giving this industry a larger base.

Eid al-Adha in J& K: A Celebration of Faith and Tradition



VINOD CHANDRASHEKHAR DIXIT

Eid-ul-Adha festival is deeply ingrained in the J & K region's cultural heritage, with families and communities coming together to celebrate. It is a significant festival in Jammu and Kashmir as it reflects the region's rich cultural and religious heritage. It is an occasion for people to reunite with loved ones and exchange gifts. Eid al-Adha holds significant cultural and religious importance for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The region has a majority Muslim population, making Eid al-

Adha a vital part of their spiritual and cultural identity. This festival has been celebrated in the region for centuries, with unique customs and traditions that are passed down through generations. Why? Because Eid al-Adha brings people together, fostering a sense of community and social cohesion among the residents of Jammu and Kashmir. The festival is a time for spiritual reflection, prayer, and devotion, allowing people to reconnect with their faith and values. Eid Al-Adha, also known as the Greater Eid, is an important Muslim festival which lasts for four days. It's worth mentioning that there are two Eids in the Hijri (Islamic) calendar and they shouldn't be confused. The first one is Eid Al-Fitr, which is celebrated at the end of Ramadan. Eid Al-Adha is the second one and it's known as the greater of the two Eids. Eid al-Adha, the 'Feast of Sacrifice', is a major Islamic festival celebrated worldwide,

particularly in Muslim communities. It commemorates the willingness of Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) to sacrifice his son, Ishmael (Ibrahim's son) as a test of his faith. During Eid al-Adha, Muslims perform a communal prayer, visit with family and friends, and some families sacrifice an animal (sheep, goat, etc.) to share with family, friends, and the poor. The sacrifice is a reminder of Ibrahim's obedience and a way to show gratitude to Allah. The story of Prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his beloved son as commanded by Allah exemplifies the importance of complete submission and obedience to God's will. The act of sacrifice on Eid-ul-Adha serves as a reminder for Muslims to practice faith and trust in Allah above all else. Although Eid-ul-Adha has no direct relation to the Hajj Pilgrimage, it is but a day after the completion of Hajj and therefore has significance in time. Eid Al-Adha marks the

high point in Hajj. The Hajj is a pilgrimage (a spiritual journey) to Makkah (Mecca). It's also the Fifth Pillar of Islam, so all Muslims who are healthy and financially stable must make this trip at least once in their lives. At the same time that people celebrate Eid al-Adha by sacrificing animals, the pilgrims at Hajj are also commemorating Prophet Ibrahim's sacrifice. Muslim worshippers typically perform a communal prayer, or 'Salat', at dawn on the first day of the festival, attend Mosque, donate to charities and visit with family and friends, also exchanging gifts. The act of sacrifice is also seen as a means of seeking forgiveness and spiritual purification. By sacrificing an animal, Muslims acknowledge their own shortcomings and sins, seeking Allah's forgiveness and striving for a renewed sense of purity and righteousness. The importance of the Eid al-Adha sacrifice also lies in promoting unity and

solidarity among Muslims and is evident in its role in combating poverty. The distribution of the sacrificial meat to the poor and needy helps strengthen social bonds and enhances the sense of equality and justice. The traditions associated with Eid-ul-Adha hold deep meaning and significance, emphasising the values of faith, selflessness and gratitude. Through the act of sacrifice, Muslims seek to strengthen their relationship with Allah, demonstrate their devotion and foster a spirit of compassion and empathy towards all members of their community. The importance of the Eid al-Adha sacrifice is evident as it is a means for Muslims to draw closer to God. Many people in Jammu and Kashmir use this opportunity to donate to the needy, reflecting the festival's emphasis on compassion and generosity. May the spirit of Eid al-Adha bring peace, prosperity, and harmony to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The rise of aggression in children's behaviour.



SURINDERPAL SINGH

In recent years parents, teachers, and child psychologists have observed a publishing trend of an increase in aggressive behaviour amongst children. From verbal outbursts to physical confrontations the manifestations of this aggression are becoming increasingly common in schools, playgrounds, and homes. Experts are now seeking to understand the underlying causes of this phenomenon and how to address it effectively. The Current Landscape Reports from schools across the nation indicate a rise in

disciplinary actions related to aggressive behavior. A survey conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics found that nearly 20% of teachers reported an increase in student aggression over the past five years. This trend has raised alarms among educators and parents alike, prompting discussions about the factors contributing to this behavior. Factors Contributing to Aggression 1. Screen Time and Media Influence: One of the most cited reasons for the rise in aggression is the increased exposure to violent media. Studies show that children who consume high levels of violent video games and television shows are more likely to exhibit aggressive behavior. SP Singh from teaching department has recommended limiting screen time for children to mitigate these effects. 2. Social Media and Cyberbullying: The advent of social media has changed the way children interact with one another. Cyberbullying has become a prevalent issue, leading to emotional distress

and sometimes manifesting as aggressive behavior both online and offline. Children who are victims of cyberbullying may retaliate with aggression creating a vicious cycle. 3. Family Dynamics: The home environment plays a crucial role in shaping a child's behavior. Families experiencing high levels of stress, conflict, or instability may inadvertently contribute to their children's aggressive tendencies. 4. Mental Health Issues: An increasing number of children are being diagnosed with mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression, which can lead to frustration and aggression. 5. Lack of Emotional Regulation Skills: Many children lack the tools necessary to manage their emotions effectively. Without proper guidance on how to express feelings like anger or frustration appropriately, children may resort to aggressive outbursts as a means of communication. Addressing the Issue Experts emphasize the importance of early intervention and proactive

strategies to combat aggressive behavior in children. Here are some recommended approaches: • Open Communication: Parents and educators should foster an environment where children feel safe expressing their feelings. Regular conversations about emotions can help children develop better emotional regulation skills. • Limit Screen Time: Reducing exposure to violent media and encouraging alternative activities such as sports, reading, or art as hobby can positively influence children's behavior. • Teach Conflict Resolution: Schools should implement programs that teach children effective conflict resolution skills and promote empathy and understanding among peers. • Seek Professional Help: Families struggling with aggressive behavior should consider consulting mental health professionals who specialize in child psychology. Early intervention can make a significant difference in a child's behavioral trajectory.

• Community Support: Building a supportive community network can provide resources for families facing challenges related to aggression. Local organizations can offer workshops, counseling, and support groups. The rise of aggressive behavior in children is a multifaceted issue that requires attention from parents, educators, and mental health professionals alike. By understanding the underlying causes and implementing proactive measures, we can work together to create a healthier environment for our children one that fosters emotional well-being and constructive communication rather than aggression. As we navigate this complex landscape, it is crucial to remember that every child is unique, and addressing their needs with compassion and understanding can pave the way for a brighter future. Surinderpal Singh Faculty in Science Department Sri Amritsar Sahib.