

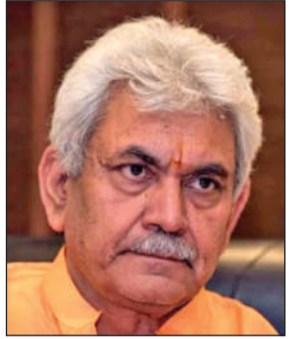
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Unified Command Meet: LG reviews security arrangements for Shri Amarnath Yatra



STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday reviewed the security arrangements and preparations for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra at Unified Command Meeting in Srinagar today. The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary and senior security officers from the Home Department, J&K Police, Army, Intelligence Agencies, CRPF, BSF and others.

The officers apprised the Lieutenant Governor about the overall security situation while threadbare discussions



- ▶ Improvements have been made in the arrangements as compared to previous years: LG
- ▶ All necessary facilities including traffic management, health, communication, water sanitation are in place: LG
- ▶ Adequate number of oxygen cylinders, medical beds, emergency responders, doctors and nursing staff has been deployed to deal with any emergency situation

were held on various arrangements related to Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. Detailed plans for telecom

connectivity, health care, fire safety, electricity and water supply, weather forecasting, langar management, sanita-

tion, lodging and disaster management were reviewed by the Lt Governor.

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5000 personnel to be deployed in Jammu City

JAMMU: As many as 5,000 security personnel will be deployed in the Jammu city as part of the multi-tier security arrangement for the Amarnath Yatra which begins later this month.

The journey will begin from both the routes -- the traditional 48-km route from Nunwan in Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag, and 14-km shorter but steep Baltal route in Ganderbal district of central Kashmir.

"Adequate security has been put in place for the base camps and lodging places in the Jammu city. Security is a major challenge," Jammu Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Chandan Kohli told reporters in an interaction at an event organised by the Press Club Jammu here.

The SSP said adequate security measures have been put in place also around

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STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: As India elects its next president on July 18, the Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir will not be a part of the exercise for the second time in the history of the election to the top constitutional post.

There have been precedents of legislative assemblies of states not being part of the presidential polls on account of their dissolution, the first such instance being of Gujarat in 1974.

The assemblies of Assam, Nagaland and Jammu and Kashmir too could not participate in subsequent elections on account of dissolution.

The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act provides for a Legislative Assembly for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, but the election is yet to be held due to various reasons.

In 1974, Gujarat was in the throes of the Navnirman movement, which led to the dissolution of the state government headed by Chimanbhai Patel.

Against the backdrop of demands to postpone the presidential polls, a reference was made to the Supreme Court to get its opinion and nip any controversy in the bud. The apex court had opined that the presidential polls had to be held and completed in such time as may enable the president-elect to enter the office on the expiry of the term of office of the outgoing president and therefore, the election should be held even if the Gujarat Legislative Assembly was not in existence then.

The Supreme Court had noted that Article 54 of the Constitution mentioned the houses of Parliament and legislative assemblies only for the purpose of showing the qualifications of the members of the electoral college.

"The elected members of a dissolved legislative assembly of a state are no longer members of the electoral college consisting of the elected members of both houses of Parliament and elected members of the legislative assemblies of the states and are, therefore, not entitled to cast votes at the presidential elections," the top court had opined.

In 1992, the legislative assemblies of Jammu and Kashmir and Nagaland were dissolved and thus, could not be part of the 10th presidential polls that elected Shankar Dayal Sharma to the top constitutional post.

In 1992, Jammu and Kashmir had gone

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Horse-trading not new to politics, BJP repeating Cong mistakes: Omar

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Thursday said horse-trading is not new in Indian politics and the Congress' mistakes while in power at the Centre is being repeated by the BJP.

"This is nothing new. Misuse of Rajbhawan, turncoats, horsetrading of MLAs. Were we not victims of this in 1984? The mistakes made by Congress are being repeated by the BJP. This has been going on for years now," Omar told reporters here.

The former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir was reacting to a question on the

rebellion in Shiv Sena that is threatening to end the three-year-old Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government headed by Uddhav Thackeray in Maharashtra.

Asked if Shiv Sena was being dealt a row hand, Omar said it was not for him to comment.

"Who am I to judge? Shiv Sena can say whether what is happening is right or wrong. If 35 MLAs are willing to leave the party, the Shiv Sena will have to think why it has happened and if there is a remedy to it or not," he said. The National Conference vice

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No successful infiltration in Keran sector in over a year: Army

STATE TIMES NEWS
KERAN: No infiltration attempt was successful along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Keran sector in over a year as there is multi-tier deployment of troops and surveillance equipment to maintain vigil, a senior Army officer said here.

Troops deployed along the LoC in the sector have intercepted terrorists twice in over a year, Brigadier Tapas Misra of the 268 Infantry Brigade said during an interaction with the media here. The 268 Infantry Brigade



is headquartered at Pharkian. It is responsible for manning the 55-km-long LoC in the sector in north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

"We have intercepted twice. There has been no successful infiltration in our area," Misra said. Brigadier Misra said a

multi-tier deployment was in place to stop infiltration.

"Some of it is physical, some is electronic. It is a great combination of man, machine and surveillance, due to which we are able to ensure that no infiltration happens," he added.

The Army officer said the ceasefire agreement reiterated in February last year was holding up well and no incident of violation has taken place so far.

He, however, added that ceasefire or not, troops would guard the border.

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'Aadhaar linked birth registration to be fully implemented in J&K'

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary, Health & Medical Education, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi and Deputy Director General, Unique Identification Authority India (UIDAI), Bhawna Garg on Thursday jointly chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to discuss the Issues of Aadhaar linked Birth Registration (ALBR) in Hospitals through Civil Registration System (CRS) in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary Information Technology, Principal GMC Srinagar, Additional Secretary, Health

& Medical Education, Project Manager, UIDAI, Srinagar; Director, Health Services, Kashmir, OSD, Health & Medical Education Department. Director, Census Operations, J&K, Director General, Economics & Statistics, J&K, Director General, Family Welfare, MCH & Immunization, Principal GMC Jammu/Anantnag/Baramulla/Rajouri/Doda/Kathua, Director Health Services Jammu and other officers attended the meeting through video conferencing.

While speaking on the occasion, Principal

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HC sets aside impugned order granting interim bail

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Justice M.A Choudhary, Judge High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Srinagar has set aside the impugned order of interim bail of Irfan Ahmad Gazi granted by Additional Session Judge Sopore in his judgment on June 17, 2022 in the case titled 'Irfan Ahmad Gazi vs UT of J&K' arising out of FIR 276/2021 of PS Sopore for the commission of offence punishable under Sec 8/21/22/29 of NDPS Act.

The UT of J&K, represented by Dy AG Sheikh Faroz vice Ilyas Nazir Laway GA, sought cancellation of bail granted to the respondent

vide impugned order dated 18-2-2022. The impugned order was assailed mainly on the ground that the commercial quantity of drugs including brown sugar had been recovered from the possession of the respondent on November 18, 2021 and that the respondent was a habitual offender already involved in the case of drugs.

Learned counsel for the UT argued that interim bail granted to the respondent on the pretext of some pregnancy related complacency which he was not entitled in view of commercial quantity of drugs was recovered from his possession.

The Learned counsel for

the respondent ex-adverse, Advocate Hussain Rashid argued that the respondent had been granted interim bail in view of the reason that the respondent's wife who had been carrying pregnancy of 29 weeks had developed some serious complacency including 'Retro Placental Hematoma' and that there was no male except the respondent to look after her and submitted that the application for cancellation of bail be rejected.

Justice M. A Choudhary, after hearing both sides, held that the court had exceeded its jurisdiction to grant interim bail for the period of

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ED asks Sonia to depose late July

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Accepting a request for postponing questioning in the National Herald money-laundering case, the Enforcement Directorate has asked Congress president Sonia Gandhi to record her statement with the agency in the last week of July, officials said on Thursday.

The 75-year-old Congress president, who was supposed to depose before the agency on Thursday, wrote a letter seeking more time on the grounds that the doctors had "strictly advised her to rest at home following her hospitalisation on account

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Traffic on Jammu-Srinagar NH to resume today

Boulders blocking NH blasted, stranded vehicles to be let first

STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR/RAMBAN/JAMMU: Explosives were used to blast boulders that were hampering the ongoing restoration work on the 270-km-long Jammu-Srinagar national highway, which remained closed due to multiple landslides triggered by incessant rains for the third consecutive day on Thursday, officials said.

With improvement in weather, the restoration work at over half-a-dozen places in Udhampur and Ramban districts was speeded up in the morning as over 700



JCBs engaged in road clearance work on NH near Deval Bridge Samroli, Udhampur.

Kashmir-bound stranded vehicles, mostly trucks carrying essential commodities, were cleared, the officials said.

They said efforts are on to clear the remaining 1,300 vehicles that are stranded on the highway -- the only

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Govt constitutes Advisory-cum-Regulatory Committee for regulating compliance by House Boats

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Government on Thursday constituted Advisory-cum-Regulatory Committee for regulating compliance by the House Boats.

"Sanction is accorded to constitution of Advisory cum Regulatory Committee for regulating and ensuring compliance with laid down norms and procedures adopted by the House Boats," reads an order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, General Administration Department.

As per order, the committee will be headed by Director, Tourism Kashmir as its Chairman and

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Nearly 25,000 devotees visit Baba Chamliyal shrine along IB in Samba

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The annual fair at the Baba Chamliyal shrine along the International Border in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir saw a huge rush of devotees on Thursday as it was being held after a gap of two years due to Covid, officials said.

According to a police official, nearly 25,000 devotees from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir and neighbouring states have visited the shrine till 2 pm.

The shrine of Baba Dalip Singh Manhas, known as the symbol of the Indo-Pakistan bonhomie in the past, did not see any visitors from the neighbouring country for the fifth straight year even as the ceasefire agreement was renewed in February last year.

Officials said there was no tradi-



DC Samba Anuradha Gupta and other Admn officials offering a Chadar at Shrine.

tional exchange of 'Chadar' and 'Shakkar/Sharbat', believed to have powers to heal various skin diseases, between the two sides at the shrine.

"The fair is being held with tra-

ditional fervour and enthusiasm... after a gap of two years," the BSF's Deputy Inspector General Surjit Singh Sekhon told reporters after offering a 'Chadar' on behalf of the force at the

shrine. The fair became popular in November 2003 following a ceasefire and parallel peace initiatives by both India and Pakistan. While it is held for three days on the Indian side, it is also held for a week in Saidanwali village in Pakistan's Sialkot district.

"Elaborate security and other arrangements have been put in place for the devotees who have been thronging the shrine since early this morning amid improved weather conditions," said Anuradha Gupta, the deputy commissioner of Samba.

"We have also offered a Chadar at the shrine on behalf of the district administration and the police, and prayed for peace and progress in Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of the country," she said.

Tourist guide drowns, trekker missing in Kashmir

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: A tourist guide drowned while a trekker from Uttarakhand is reported missing from the Tarsar Lake area in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, officials said on Thursday.

"Tourist guide Shakeel Ahmad, a resident of Ganderbal district, drowned in the Tarsar Lake on Wednesday. His body was fished out on Thursday," an official said here.

The officials said a trekker from Uttarakhand was also feared dead after he slipped into the waterbody during heavy rainfall on Wednesday.

A group of 11 trekkers from various states, accompanied by three local guides, had set on an

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 35.0°C Min: 25.8°C

Humidity

Max: 85 Min: 66

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 31.8°C Min: 16.6°C

Humidity

Max: 74 Min: 36

Sunset : 18:52 Hours

Sunrise : 06:10 Hours