

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

Amarnath Yatra: Unfazed..

Lauding the authorities for the best possible arrangements, Kumar said, We have full faith in Lord Shiva and our security forces.

The group members have completed their registration and got tokens from Vaishnavi Dham near railway station for their journey to cave shrine in the first batch.

"Facilities are very good and the registration process is also smooth. We are very happy with the arrangements," Kumar said. A Bengaluru resident, Upmita, who is here with seven other members of her family, said their fear disappeared soon after reaching the base camp.

Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) is pulling out all the stops to ensure smooth pilgrimage, scheduled to begin on June 30 from Kashmir; to the holy cave shrine housing the naturally formed ice-lingam in south Kashmir Himalayas.

Over 3,000 pilgrims have arrived in Jammu and have been housed in base camp and various lodges centres, the officials said, adding that about 400 sadhus have also arrived in Ram Mandir camp for the yatra.

The first batch of pilgrims, including sadhus, will leave for the twin base camps of Kashmir a day ahead of the official commencement of the yatra which will culminate, according to tradition, on the day of Raksha Bandhan' festival on August 11.

The yatra will commence on June 30 from twin routes - traditional 48-km Nunwan in south Kashmir's Pahalgam and 14-km shorter Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal.

The scene in and around the base camp, lodges centres, registration and token counters was upbeat on Tuesday.

Around three lakh pilgrims have registered so far for the annual Amarnath Yatra, the officials said. The government, this year, has introduced a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system for pilgrims to track their movement en-route to ensure their well-being.

"Adequate security has been put in place for the base camps and lodges places in the Jammu city. Security is a major challenge," Jammu Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Chandan Kohli said.

As many as 5,000 security personnel have been deployed in the Jammu city as part of the multi-tier security arrangement for the Amarnath Yatra, he said.

He said that security measures have also been put in place around five registration centres, three token centres, and 32 lodges.

Pointing to major challenges, he said there are new security threats of sticky bombs, hybrid terrorists and IEDs dropped by drones.

LG e-inaugurates SASB...

the fastest projects completed in the UT. Immediately after the site was finalized, the work on execution of the project was entrusted to CPWD in the month of April 2021 and has been completed in 14 months record time.

The Yatri Niwas has a cluster of 17 dormitories in G+2 dimensions with all modern facilities and features including barrier free environment, modern toilets, fire extinguisher equipments, signages, LED down lighters etc. in all dormitories.

Acknowledging the commitment of all those engaged with the construction of Yatri Niwas, tackling various constraints owing to geography and terrain, the Lt Governor congratulated the engineers, workers, and officials for their tremendous efforts.

The Lt Governor also expressed his gratitude to IIT Roorkee for making a significant contribution in the completion of this project.

"I have been personally monitoring all the arrangements. This year, facilities have been developed for accommodation of passengers at 8 places in the Yatra Holding Area", he said.

The Lt Governor said improvements have been made across the board to enhance the holding capacities, provide best-in-class medical, sanitation, and lodges facilities, and in many firsts, offering pilgrims the convenience of performing Yatra in a single day by starting helicopter services on new routes.

For the convenience of the Yatris reaching Jammu, camps have been set up at the airport, railway station and bus stand, which will issue RFID tags on the basis of travel slip and identity card. Further, new shelter sheds have been built on Baltal and Pahalgam Axis. Enhanced medical facilities have been made operational to cater emergency needs of Yatris.

The facility of battery car will be provided to the passengers for the distance of 2.3 kms of Baltal and Domel and optical fiber cable has been laid on the entire route of the Yatra to provide dedicated telecom connectivity to the pilgrims.

The Lt Governor said that the Amarnathji Shrine Board Android mobile app has been revamped and launched in 5 languages- Hindi, English, Punjabi, Gujarati and Telugu to facilitate Yatris with up to date information, advisories etc.

It was informed that the duty officers deputed have been given training about the SoPs of all services related to covid, health, cleanliness, waste management, monitoring of travel, food and prasad. Further, disaster related facilities have also been duly planned and mock drills have also been conducted regularly to tackle any eventuality.

Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member Parliament; Chander Mohan Gupta, Mayor Jammu; DDC Chairpersons of Jammu, Ramban, prominent personalities and religious leaders, former legislators, representatives of Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI), Traders Federation, besides senior administrative officers and other concerned were present on the occasion.

Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Mukesh Singh, ADGP; Jammu; Ramesh Kumar; Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Musarat Islam, Deputy Commissioner; Ramban; Avny Lavasa, Deputy Commissioner; Jammu were also present.

Div Control Room...

number 0191-2478993 of the Control Room.

The pilgrims can also contact Ashish Singh Manhas, Incharge Divisional Control Room on Mob No 7006457521; Ajay Sharma on Mob No 7006114365; Rohit Khajuria on Mob No 7780974761; Ashish Raina on Mob No 9797410374; Ashwani Kumar on Mob No 7006673804; Shubham Sharma on Mob No 7889368004; Rahul Mehta on Mob No 9622290544; Abhinav Khajuria on Mob No 7006518034; Varun Sathia on Mob No 7006181898 and Davinder Kumar on Mob No 9086132714.

NIA arrests two...

They have been identified as Tanveer Ahmad Wani, son of Ghulam Ahmad Wani, resident of Achagoza, PS Rajpora, Distt. Pulwama and Peer Arshad Iqbal alias Ashu, son of Peer Gayasuddin, resident of Khwaja Bagh, Baramulla in case RC-17/2016/NLA/DLL.

The cross LoC trade was started in 2008 via two Trade Facilitation Centres (TFCs) located at Salamabad, Uri in Baramulla District and Chakan-da-Bagh in Poonch District. As per the SOP of the trade mechanism, 21 articles were allowed to be traded between POK and J&K and was based on barter system. During investigation, it has been revealed that extra profit was generated by over-invoicing of export articles and under-invoicing of import articles by the traders.

The arrested accused are cross-border LoC traders and were handling several cross-LoC trade firms registered in their own names or in the names of their friends, family members, relatives etc. They used to provide funds to the members of various terrorist organisations, OGWs, Stone-pelters etc.

Further investigation in the case continues, NIA handout stated.

Centre treating Udaipur...

thoroughly investigate the case and carry out a background check of the two accused arrested.

"Prima facie it seems to be a terror case and needs a thorough investigation which includes browsing through their social media profiles," a senior official said on condition of anonymity.

The case is likely to be handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for probe after registration of a case under the stringent Unlawful Activities Prevention Act.

Two men slit the throat of the tailor, Kanhaiya Lal, and posted a video on social media where they claimed that they are avenging an insult to Islam. This triggered communal tension in the Rajasthan city with curfew being imposed.

In a video clip, one of the purported assailants declared that they had "beheaded" the man and then threatened Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying their knife will get him as well. Indirectly, the assailants referred to Nupur Sharma, the BJP leader suspended from the party over a remark on Prophet Mohammad.

The men who allegedly carried out the daylight murder posted videos online admitting to the crime and were taken into custody by police. One of them identified himself as Riaz Akhtari. Akhtari's links have been traced to the Pakistan-based Dawaat-e-Islami which has its branches in India as well.

Pak-based LeT...

making efforts to revive militancy in Pir Panjal districts of Rajori and Poonch.

This is a big achievement for police and security forces as the blasts had triggered panic in the area and these accused were also planning more such incidents to target security forces. The arrest of two associates of Shah is a big blow to the terror outfit (LeT), the ADGP said.

During preliminary questioning, he said, the arrested accused disclosed that they had hidden some explosive materials at Draaj forest and subsequently a joint search operation was carried out by police and 60 Rashtriya Rifles, which led to the recovery of five IEDs, five remote controls, 10 fuses and 19 battery cells.

The accused are also suspected to be involved in some more criminal and subversive activities for which they are being subjected to sustained interrogation. Arrest of Shah is very crucial in solving many militancy and criminal cases that have occurred during the past few years in the Pir Panjal area, Singh said.

"Reward anyone sharing credible information leading to arrest, apprehension, ops of Talib shall be suitably rewarded", a police spokesperson said.

SIA books SIM...

to prepare multiple SIM cards with different names and identities. It is being investigated if this is the only method or other ways and means have been adopted for forging required documents for obtaining SIM cards.

Investigation have been initiated to find out who all have used these fraudulently prepared SIM cards and how many of them have been used by terrorists, their associates, drug smugglers, arms and ammunition smugglers and also those who have been dealing with terror funding especially dumping the proceeds of sale of narcotics in different bank accounts.

During searches conducted today, incriminating materials such as digital devices, SIM cards, SD cards, Compact disks, bank transaction slips and documents having a bearing on the investigation have been recovered and seized.

CID is also coordinating similar investigations by various police stations across J&K pertaining to as many as 14000 SIM cards that have been fraudulently issued by stealing identities and forging records. Out of about 28 thousand SIM card vendors, more than a thousand vendors are under scanner for issuing these fraud SIM cards to fictitious persons. While the SIM cards have been deactivated, their subscribers on papers are being identified on the basis of available truncated particulars. They would be questioned to reach to the actual users, revealed sources within SIA. Technology and call records would also be used to pinpoint the actual users. Competent courts of law are being approached with prayers to summon records that would facilitate in finding out if a SIM card was ever used by a listed terrorist or a known OGW or a drug smuggler or inside a jail. Those SIM card sellers and subscribers who would voluntarily cooperate would be entitled to benefits available under law.

PoS vendors selling SIM cards, said a senior officer in SIA, have no option but to tighten their belts and cannot escape liability especially when it's proved that the SIM card they have prepared against forged documents has been used by terrorists and cross border criminals. Similarly subscribers also would come under legal liability of aiding and abetting crime especially if their cards have been used inside jails or used to communicate to terrorist handlers sitting across in Pakistan, said a senior SIA investigator.

CID is also planning to request Department of telecommunication to extend the facility (TAFCOP) to J&K that has been made available by DoT to many states wherein a subscriber can check online through a special portal if SIM cards are being used by unknown persons against his name and without his knowledge.

Modern Agri strategies...

training young men and women in modern agriculture, science and technology, who will shape the destiny of the farming sector.

Congratulating the graduating students, the Lt Governor said convocation is a stage in life when students step out into the real world from the academic comfort of University with special knowledge and skills.

Noting the steps of the UT Government for more effective implementation of schemes of Agriculture and allied sector, he said our scientists, institutions and government machinery are making constant endeavours to modernise the agriculture sector to transform the lives of the farmers and make the villages self-sufficient.

"Our focus is on enhancing the capacity of the farmers so they can earn better prices and act as facilitators of economic growth," he added.

The Lt Governor observed that J&K UT has made impressive progress in production, value addition and marketing in the last two years for ensuring sustainable income for the farmers.

The UT administration has taken consistent steps to gradually convert rural areas into economic units and bridge the gap between villages and cities, Simha noted.

"We have succeeded in expanding local product branding, mechanisation, high-density plantation, quality seed, capacity building, GI tagging, banking facility, and micro-irrigation to provide maximum benefits to our farming community," he added.

He also said promotion of inclusive growth, ensuring food security and increasing the rural income of J&K are three important goals that we need to focus on priority.

He impressed upon the young agriculture scholars and scientists to dedicate their energies, and experiences gained from this university, towards the national goal of achieving inclusive growth and sustained progress.

"I assure all young students and Agri-entrepreneurs that the UT administration will ensure all institutional support to realise your dreams. At present, we are providing handholding support to around 500 entrepreneur farmers, and next year it will be doubled," the Lt Governor said. He also conferred degrees to graduates and medals to the students.

Prof. J P Sharma, Vice-Chancellor SKUAST, read the Vice Chancellor's report and briefed about salient achievements of the University in the field of education, research, and extension. He said that the University is mandated to serve farmers of the Jammu and Kashmir.

Three Vice-Chancellor gold medals were awarded to Master and doctorate scholars. Dr Prem Lal Gautam, Pro-Chancellor; Career Point University Hamirpur; HP and Advisor Graphic Era Hill University, Dehradun, was awarded degree of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa). Dr. A.K Mondal, Dean Faculty of Agriculture, Dr. M.S. Bhadwal, Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and A.H. and Dr. SEH Rizvi, Dean, Faculty of Basic Sciences received degrees on the behalf of Agriculture, Veterinary &A.H. and Basic Sciences post students.

Prominent personalities including Dr. Nirmal Singh, Former Deputy Chief Minister of erstwhile J&K; Dullo, Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Agriculture Production Department; Dr. Hina Bhat, Vice-Chairperson KVIB; Dr. S.P. Tiwari, Vice-Chancellor; Nanaji Deshmukh Veterinary Sciences University, Jabalpur; Dr. R. K. Sinha, Vice-Chancellor SMVDU; Dr. Sanjeev Jain, Vice-Chancellor, CUJ; Dr. Raghav Langer, Administrative Secretary, Planning and Development Department; Dr. Jyansard Singh, Former Dean, Faculty of Agriculture and former Director, UGC Academic Staff College, Department of Entomology, Institute of Agricultural Sciences Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi; Dr. S. K. Gupta, Registrar SKUAST-Jammu; former Vice-Chancellors; former Ministers, ex-Legislators; Director Agriculture, statutory officers of the university, Head of Divisions, KVKS, Research stations, faculty, and students attended the convocation.

No resignation letter...

did not yield any result as he neither answered his phone nor replied to WhatsApp messages.

Rath, who will be completing two years of his suspension next month, had announced his resignation through his social media accounts on June 25 hinting that he would join politics to contest elections from Kashmir.

"Politics is a noble profession," he had posted on Twitter as well as WhatsApp status and Instagram.

In his purported resignation letter addressed to Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta and marked to Director General of Police Dilbag Singh and Commandant General Home Guard H K Lohia, Rath said, "I wish to resign from the Indian Police Service in order to be able to participate in electoral politics.

"Please consider this letter as my request for resignation/voluntary retirement and process it accordingly..." he had said in his letter dated June 25.

Known for his controversial style of functioning, Rath was posted as Inspector General (Traffic) in 2018.

However, he ran into controversies and was often seen chasing offenders on the streets and indulging in heated arguments prompting the authorities to shift him to a nondescript post in Home Guards.

The action against the officer came a fortnight after he lodged a complaint with police against DGP Dilbag Singh citing "apprehensions about my life, liberty and bald head."

However, nearly two years after a court had restrained him from publishing defamatory material against six private individuals, known to the police chief, Rath tweeted on Tuesday, "Dear friends, if anything bad happens to my reputation and safety, Dilbag Singh (son of Balbir Singh), the IPS officer who has been the police chief in J and K since 31.10.2018 (Present Pay Scale - Level - 17), will be responsible."

Rath hints at fighting poll against Omar, Mehbooba

Meanwhile, Suspended IPS officer Basant Rath on Tuesday dropped another hint about joining the BJP and expressed his willingness to contest against Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, two former chief ministers of Jammu and Kashmir; but the saffron party feigned complete ignorance about his plans.

Rath, who had claimed to have resigned from the police service through a social media post on June 25, said in a fresh tweet, "If the BJP high-command allows me, I'll contest against Omar Abdullah who was my chief minister when I was the police chief in Jammu (SSP), and Mehbooba Mufti who was my chief minister when I was the chief of traffic police in Jammu and Kashmir."

Rath has been at the centre of controversies on multiple occasions in the past and has issued contentious tweets through his unverified handle, 'KangriCarrier'.

He had earlier tweeted, "If I ever join a political party, it will be BJP. If I ever contest an election, it will be from Kashmir. If I ever join politics, it will be before March 6, 2024."

When contacted, Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina said he has no knowledge about Rath planning to join the BJP.

"He is popular among the youth in the valley but he did not contact us (JK BJP unit) till date," Raina, who is currently on a tour of Kashmir, told PTI over phone.

He said it would be premature to make any comment on the subject at the moment. In July 2000, Rath was suspended by the Ministry of Home Affairs for "repeated instances of gross misconduct and misbehavior".

India committed to...

Goal 14: Stocktaking, Partnerships and Solutions", Dr Jitendra reiterated that India will take all possible measures to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal-14, which addresses some of the challenges faced by the life under water. He informed that the Government headed by PM Modi has taken up several initiatives, programmes and policy interventions through different Ministries and Departments to protect the marine and coastal ecosystems, mangroves and coral reefs.

Dr Jitendra said, India is committed to the "Coastal Clean Seas Campaign" and has declared that India will soon achieve a complete ban on single use plastics. One of the best examples is in phasing out of plastic/polyethylene bags and promoting the alternatives such as usage of cotton/jute cloth bags, he said. The research to gather scientific data and information on Marine Litter in different matrices viz., coastal waters, sediments, biota and beaches as a part of formulating a National Policy has already begun, the Minister added.

Dr Singh said, India has unveiled its vision for the next decade, listing thereby the ten most important dimensions of India's growth till 2030. He said, led by PM Narendra Modi, Govt of India is in the process of unveiling the "Blue Economic Policy of India". Deep Ocean Mission is being implemented by Ministry of Earth Sciences with six thematic areas, which includes development of Ocean Climate Change Advisory Services to address climate resilience, exploration and conservation of deep-sea biodiversity, development of technologies for harnessing ocean resources and capacity building.

Dr Jitendra told the member States that India has well established collaboration and partnerships with UN Agencies and Research Institutions for bridging the methodology and data gaps on SDG indicators and working towards UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, 2021-2030, for clean, healthy, productive, safe and accessible ocean.

GST Council removes....