

Vol. 29 Issue 178 • Jammu • Friday • June 28, 2024 • Pages 10+2=12 • ₹ 5.00

On-spot registration of pilgrims begins in Jammu

JAMMU: The administration on Thursday began the

process for on-the-spot regstration of devotees arriving here for the pilgrimage to

the Amarnath cave shrine in

south Kashmir Himalayas.

Amid tight security

arrangements, 1600 pil

grims have arrived at the

Bhagwati-Nagar base camp

here for their onward jour ney to Kashmir, officials

said. Rush to throng base

camp is going on, they said.

Over 800 Sadhus, includ

ing women, have arrived at

the traditional Ram Mandir

and Geeta Bhawan and are

apbeat to pay their

10 Dr Jitendra addresses IAS trainees <mark>ປປ</mark> 2022 batch, underlines Vision 2047

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24

J&K Bank commissions new ATM at Chandak

Website: www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

Properties of 5 Pakistan-based terror handlers attached

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

LG calls for greater synergy to ensure best arrangements for hassle-free Shri Amarnathji Yatra



LG Manoj Sinha during visit to Nunwan Base camp at Pahalgam on Thursday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: Describing Shri Amarnathji pilgrims as the brand ambassadors of Jammu and Kashmir,

greater synergy between all stakeholder departments, police, security forces and service providers will ensure best arrangements for the

Sinha on Thursday called for

hassle-free pilgrimage. Reviewing the prepara-

tions of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra at a high level meeting at Pahalgam, he directed for deputing dedicated officers

who will look-after the effective functioning of the facilities developed by their respective departments.

First batch of Shri Amarnath

Yatra to leave Jammu today

JAMMU: Amid multi-tier security escort, the first batch of Amarnath pilgrims will depart for

twin base camps in Kashmir from Jammu on Friday, marking the beginning of this year's pil-

The comprehensive arrangements, including three-tier security, area dominations, elaborate

The 52-day pilgrimage will commence from the twin tracks -- the traditional 48-km Nunwan-

Pahalgam route in Anantnag and the 14-km shorter but steep Baltal route in Ganderbal -- on

"The first batch of the yatra will leave Jammu base camp at Bhagwati Nagar for Kashmir

He said the yatra will be flagged off by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj

"Traffic restrictions will be imposed on various routes from June 28 to August 19, with daily advisories issued to minimise inconvenience," he said, adding that cut-off timings have been

For this, over 3,000 tokens have been handed over to the devotees travelling in the first batch

Over 2,000 pilgrims have arrived at the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu, from where

they will leave in escorted convoys for the base camps in north Kashmir's Baltal and south

Kashmir's Anantnag, the officials said. There is a huge rush of devotees CONTD ON PAGE 9

ixed for each sector on the highway, which is monitored through CCTV surveillance

for twin base camps of Pahalgam and Baltal in the Kashmir valley, the officials said.

oute deployment and checkpoints have been put in place for a smooth yatra.

at 0400 hours in the morning of Friday," a senior officer told PTI.

Sinha from Yatri Niwas amid high security arrangements.

June 29. The vatra will conclude on August 19.

The Lt Governor empha-

arrangements on the route of Yatra, adequate stock of oxygen cylinders and deployment of ambulances and helicopters for any medical

LG visits Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas, inspects arrangements



LG Manoj Sinha being honoured by pilgrims at Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas during his visit.

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, on Thursday risited Yatri Niwas at Bhagwati Nagar CONTD ON PAGE 9

He also took appraisal of track, lodging, electricity, communication, health, fire and emergency

services. The Lt Governor discussed the deployment of police and security personnel, doctors and nursing staff, duty officers, relief and rescue teams, and sanitation staff on the

The meeting was informed that substantial improvements have been made in terms of facilities for the safe and smooth pilgrimage.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Farooq Abdullah seeks robust security measures for Amarnath pilgrims

SRINAGAR: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Thursday asked the government to implement robust measures to ensure the safety and security of Amarnath Yatra pil-

The first batch of pilgrims will depart for Kashmir from Jammu on Friday, marking the beginning of this year's pilgrimage.

Abdullah said efforts must be made to prevent a repeat of the tragic incident in 2022 when several pilgrims lost their lives due to flash floods caused by a cloudburst near the Amarnath Cave shrine.

J&K tops in PM Vishwakarma training

STATE TIMES NEWS

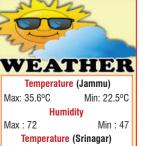
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as number two in PM Vishwakarma trainingahead of many bigger states. Two Districts of J&K comes under top 10 districts of the country and they are Budgam from Kashmir Division and Jammu from Jammu Division.

MSME DFO Jammu, Field office of Union Ministry of MSME implements various schemes and activities for the benefit of MSMEs of Jammu & Kashmir.

PM Vishwakarma scheme

is being implemented by the Union Ministry of MSME with the active support of Government of Jammu & Kashmir. The scheme was inaugurated on September 17, 2023 in the presence of Various Dignitaries and thousands of artisans who have been invited from various parts of the country including Jammu and Kashmir. This scheme is designed to uplift and recognize the crucial role of

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



Sunset: 19:42 Hours

Sunrise: 05:24 Hours

Min: 27

Max: 33.0°C

Max: 58

However, the security measures for the pilgrims should not come at the expense of the general public, he asserted.

"The stakes are high. The government must ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place for the Amarnath Yatra. While security for the yatris is crucial, it shouldn't be at the expense of inconveniencing the general public," the former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir

Abdullah called for striking a balance between security measures and ensuring that critical services are

CONTD ON PAGE 9

Marked by autocratic, unconstitutional, and oppressive atrocities of Congress regime

Tyrannical oppression of Indira Gandhi's emergency rule shakes every Indian ment permission. Four news agencies TARUN CHUGH



world's largest democracy. It was ironic that the nation had to endure authoritarian oppression centuries. During Mughal

rule, people were persecuted on religious grounds, and during British rule, the public suffered through exploitation. Upon gaining independence, it was hoped that India would be free from the clutches of oppression. However, nearly two decades after independence, from 1975 to $1977,\, {\rm the}$ people had to endure such oppression that reached its peak

during the Emergency. It was a dark chapter in the history of the world's largest democracy. India remained under oppression for 21 months from June 25, 1975, to March 21, 1977. This was the most undemocratic, unconstitutional, and politically abusive period in

EMERGENCY

independent India's history. All elections were suspended in the country, and civil rights were revoked. Human rights were trampled upon. Political opponents of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi were thrown into jail. Freedom of expression was curtailed, and press freedom was also banned. No newspaper could publish anything without governwere merged into one under government control. Nearly four thousand newspapers were confiscated, and 327 journalists arrested under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA). Advertisement for about 1,500 newspapers was banned, and seven foreign journalists were expelled from the country. Dozens of foreign journalists were banned from entering India, and several were deported. The Congress Party, which carried out such undemocratic actions, now talks about the constitution and freedom of expression, which seems ironic. To oppose the government's undemoc-

ratic activities, the nationalist Rashtriya ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Congress holds strategy meet on poll preparedness with J&K leaders

STATE TIMES NEWS

DELHI: Top Congress leaders discussed the party's preparedness for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls on Thursday, with party chief Mallikarjun Kharge urging the leaders from the Union Territory to raise the voice of people and stay among them.

During the meeting with Congress leaders from Jammu and Kashmir, Kharge said the tall claims of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at the Centre that peace and normalcy have returned in the Union Territory stand exposed with recent terror attacks and

asserted that the people in the region are once again looking at the Congress to return to power. "The people of Jammu and

Kashmir are again looking towards the Congress. They want a welfare government and a sensitive government, which will work to alleviate their suffering and look towards the future.

"I would like all of us to work hard to fulfil the aspirations of the people, constantly raise the voice of the people, stay among the people. We spoke with the leaders of the Jammu Kashmir Congress on these very

Comprehensive security in place for smooth Shri Amarnathji Yatra: DGP

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police R R Swain on Thursday said that comprehensive security measures for the annual Amarnath Yatra have been put in place. The 52-day pilgrimage will

commence from the twin tracks --the traditional 48 km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag and the 14 km shorter but steep Baltal route in Ganderbal -- on June 29. Yatra will conclude on August 19.

"We have made detailed arrangements for the Amarnath Yatra. Access con-



DGP R R Swain during visit to Ramban on Thursday.

trol and quick reaction teams have been deployed at all yatra locations to ensure a smooth and secure pilgrimage," Swain told reporters

Swain emphasized that preparations Amarnath Yatra are wellplanned and said "camp security, route security, and

private organisation

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Directorate of Sainik Welfare (DSW) on Thursday informed that Jammu Kashmir Ex-Services League (JKESL) is a private organization and any person entering into any type of transaction in connection with sale/purchase of plots/land or any other project undertaken by JKESL, shall be doing it as per his/her own will, convenience and in his/her personal

capacity In a public notice issued, the DSW said "It is for the information of all concerned that Jammu Kashmir Ex-Services League (JKESL)

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Emergency darkest chapter, poll results showed people's faith in government: Prez Murmu

NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday stressed the government's unwavering faith in the Constitution and efforts to make it a part of "public consciousness". while slamming the Emergency as "biggest and darkest chapter of direct attack" on the Constitution.

In her first address to a joint sitting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha after Prime Minister Narendra Modi began his third term, she described the poll result as an endorsement of his gov-



ruing attempts to hurt people's faith in electoral process, including EVMs- an apparent swipe at opposition parties. It is like cutting the very branch on which "we all

deferment of some competitive exams due to suspicion of paper leaks, which have

drawn protests from students and the opposition's attack on the government, Murmu said her government is committed to a fair probe and ensuring punishment to culprits.

She said, "My government is working towards major reforms in examination related bodies. This process requires complete

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Khata Khat freebie politics will Fatafat reduce mighty India as non-entity



he three musketeers of the Indian political theatre, (not to be confused with Amir Khan's Three Idiots), gave a new dimension to electoral politics in the just concluded Lok Sabha elections by announcing 'Khata Khat' freebies, including

cash doles for voting the candidates of their respective parties. No sooner, the elections were ver, some women voters queued up outside the offices of various political parties to collect the first installment of promised 'Rs 8,500' assistance. The freebie culture has caught the imagination of the political parties after the landslide victory of Aam Aadmi Party in Delhi. This was followed in Karnataka, where too the promises garnered votes for the Congress and ousted the incumbent BJP government. It is different that the Karnataka Government is now requisitioning the services of private consultancies to generate revenues to meet the promises.

The freebie culture, unfortunately getting wider acceptance among the people, at a time when the nation is heading towards becoming third global economic power after reaching fifth in the ladder, is a bad omen for India, having potential to erode the fiscal discipline. Sustainable fiscal policies are bound to get a huge dent once populist measures get license to appease different segments of electors for winning elections. True, the freebies remain attractive allurements for the electorate, the long term implications on the country's economic structure and stability can be horrendous.

Though the Narendra Modi Government at the Centre has eschewed the tendencies of switching over to freebie culture, some of the state governments are currently grappling with the fallout of the promises that have started undermining their key areas like development, implementation of welfare programmes, health services and education in particular. Despite that, some of the major political parties, even the one that has ruled the country for over six decades since independence, keep promising freebies, as this has

emerged as an effective tool in electoral politics This has led to a sort of competition with the players in the electoral fray in the race to offer more and more. The trend is more prevalent among the parties that know they cannot come to power but to oust the incumbent dispensation 'unimaginable and impractical' offers are being made to woo the voters, without understanding the fallout. Having held constitutional positions the Indian politicians look to the other side from the fact that distribution of larger amounts or concessions without matching increase in productivity can lead to an increase in demand withou corresponding supply thus giving rise to inflation This scenario too is welcome for them as they get more power to pounce on the government on price rise. Consequently, this leads to anarchy and destabilization of the country's economy.

The freebie musketeers have played spoilsport during the Lok Sabha elections and the country is paying the price in terms of a huge dent to the international image as a powerful nation with equally powerful leader. Their mission appears to be accomplished, unfortunately.

2-day Tourism Development Conclave concludes

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The concluding day of two-day tourism development conclave 2024, held at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Center, on Thursday witnessed insightful discussions and strategic deliberations aimed at revitalizing tourism in Jammu and Kashmir.

G20 Sherpa, Amitabh Kant, chaired multiple panel sessions focusing on diverse aspects of tourism development.

He underscored the need for creating transformative experiences in Kashmir, highlighting its shift towards experiential tourism in domains such as adventure. cultural heritage, and ecotourism. He acknowledged the challenges faced by the industry but expressed opti-

mism about overcoming $_{
m them}$ through concerted efforts

Chief Secretary, Atal emphasized Dulloo. Kashmir's enduring strength in hospitality and the imper-

ative to address issues like overcharging and cheating to enhance visitor experiences encourage repeat Key presentations during

the conclave included sessions reflecting a comprehensive approach towards fostering economic growth and environmental responsibility in the region. Stakeholders from tourism, hospitality and media sectors, including personalities esteemed shared valuable insights and recommendations. The event featured presentations

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9