

**!! Continuations from Page 1 !!**

**LG calls for...**

The meeting was attended by Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, CEO, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board; Vidhi Kumar Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Bhupinder Kumar, Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Syeed Pakhrudin Hamid, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag and senior officers of SASB, Security Forces, Civil and Police Administration.

Later, the Lt Governor took stock of the facilities in place for the pilgrims at Nunwan base camp at Pahalgam.

The annual pilgrimage to the cave shrine believed to be the abode of Lord Shiva in south Kashmir will begin on June 29 and end on August 19.

**First batch of...**

arriving at the base camp, they added.

According to reports, over 3.50 lakh yatrins have registered for this year's yatra. There are 125 community kitchens (langars) set up along the two routes to the cave shrine and supported by over 6,000 volunteers.

**LG visits Bhagwati...**

and inspected the arrangements for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

The Lt Governor also met and interacted with the pilgrims. Subsequently, he chaired a meeting with officials and reviewed the measures taken to facilitate the comfortable stay of the pilgrims. The chair was briefed on the extensive arrangements made for the smooth pilgrimage of the devotees.

The Lt Governor directed the stakeholder departments to deploy adequate manpower to cater to the heavy rush of the pilgrims.

He also interacted with the service providers and took appraisal of the facilities including logistics, lodging, food, health, transportation, RFID counters and other amenities.

The holy annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra will commence from June 29.

RR Swain DGP; M.K Sinha, ADGP Headquarters; Anand Jain, ADGP Jammu; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner Jammu and other senior officials accompanied the Lt Governor.

**On-spot registration...**

obeisance at the 3,880-metre high holy cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas, housing the naturally formed ice-Shivling.

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. The first batch of pilgrims will leave Jammu's Bhagwati Nagar base camp and Ram Mandir for the valley on Friday.

While an on-the-spot registration centre has been set up for unregistered pilgrims in the Shalimar area of the city, a special camp for registration of sadhus has been set up at Purani Mandi-based Ram temple complex, officials said.

"On-the-spot registration has been started today for the unregistered pilgrims coming from different parts of the country", Sub-divisional Magistrate (SDM) and In Charge of Mahajan Hall registration centre, Seema Parihar told PTL.

She said a quota has been fixed for the registration centres in Jammu and so far her centre has registered 358 unregistered pilgrims for the journey out of a total quota of 600 for the day.

She said all facilities for smooth registration have been put in place.

Amid chants of 'Bam Bam Bhole and Jai Jai Baba Barfani', the Sadhus and Sadhvis are eagerly waiting for the yatra to commence.

"The registration of sadhus has begun in Jammu today. All arrangements have been put in place for the best possible facilities for the sadhus", another officer said.

As many as 170 sadhus and Sadhvis have been registered for the yatra, for their onward journey to Kashmir tomorrow. The enthusiasm among pilgrims and Sadhus arriving here for the pilgrimage was palpable.

**Congress holds strategy...**

topics today," the Congress chief said in a post in Hindi on X.

"The recent terrorist attacks have completely exposed the BJP's tall talk and empty claims about the return of peace and normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

Kharge claimed that the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government had got the panchayat polls conducted in Jammu and Kashmir. "We laid railway lines and ran trains there for the first time. We built big dams. We started schemes called 'Himayat' and 'Udaan' for skill development of youngsters. Thousands of youngsters got employment due to these schemes," he said.

The Congress president had convened the meeting of all leaders from Jammu and Kashmir to assess the party's preparedness for the Assembly polls and to evolve a strategy to strengthen the organisation in the Union Territory.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi and AICC general secretary K C Venugopal were present during the deliberations.

The Congress leadership has been holding meetings with state leaders well in advance after being buoyed by the party's performance in the recently-held Lok Sabha polls.

Assembly polls in Maharashtra, Haryana and Jharkhand are slated later this year.

**Marked by autocracy...**

Sangh (RSS) was banned, and its volunteers were tortured by the police. The police had been harsh with the organization. Thousands of its workers were thrown into jail. Hundreds of thousands of volunteers participated in the movement peacefully and democratically against the ban and the violation of fundamental rights.

The Congress government's tyranny was such that after arresting opposition party leaders and government critics and sending them behind bars, the whole country was stunned. Leaders like Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan, Morarji Desai, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Lal Krishna Advani, Jananayak Karpuri Thakur, along with other opposition leaders were arrested. After the announcement of the Emergency, there was a strong opposition in Punjab. Sikh leadership also opposed Congress' misdeeds. Meetings were organized in Amritsar, where they vowed to oppose the "fascist tendencies" of the Congress. Thus, there was an agitation against the Congress government's dictatorship in all states of the country. Opposition lawmakers began resigning from the state legislatures.

Since the challenge posed to Indira Gandhi's victory in the 1971 Lok Sabha elections in the Allahabad High Court, political turmoil had begun in the country. The Allahabad High Court admitted in its decision that Indira Gandhi had misused government machinery and resources. Thus, her election as a Member of Parliament was declared invalid under the Representation of the People Act, banning her from contesting any elections for six years. In such a situation, Indira Gandhi had no choice but to resign from the Prime Minister's post except for the three weeks given by the court to the Congress Party to make a new Prime Minister. In such an environment, how could anyone else be made Prime Minister? Indira Gandhi did not trust anyone in her own party. She decided to take advantage of the three weeks' time instead of resigning and challenged the decision in the Supreme Court. The atmosphere was created with slogans like 'India is Indira, Indira is India'. The opposition to the undemocratic activities of the government was growing across the country. Jayaprakash Narayan's 'call for disobedience' movement against the Emergency was the biggest pretext for declaring an emergency. In this way, Indira Gandhi declared an emergency post agitation of Jayaprakash Narayan. In her message to the nation on the morning of June 26, 1975, Indira Gandhi said that the kind of atmosphere created in the country by a person like Jayaprakash Narayan, it has become necessary to declare an emergency in the country. Along with this, under Article 352 of the then Indian Constitution, an emergency was declared.

With the imposition of emergency, the wave of opposition continued to intensify. Eventually, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi dissolved the Lok Sabha and recommended holding elections. The public was shocked by the decision to impose an emergency during the elections. Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan, who led the opposition to this atrocity, called it the 'darkest period in Indian history'.

In the 1977 Lok Sabha elections, Indira Gandhi herself lost from her stronghold Rae Bareilly. The Janata Party came to power with a huge majority, and Morarji Desai became the Prime Minister. After 30 years of independence, a non-Congress government was formed at the Centre. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, as Foreign Minister, presented India's image to the world, which people still remember. Atalji explained the importance of India's language by giving his first speech in Hindi at the United Nations. As Information and Broadcasting Minister, Lal Krishna Advani provided autonomy to government communication media and strengthened democracy.

The emergency imposed in the country is remembered as a dark story in India's political history.

The situation during the imprisonment of Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee is reflected in his poems:

अनुशासन के नाम पर, अनुशासन का खून  
 भंग कर दिया संघ को, कैसा चढ़ा जुनून  
 कैसा चढ़ा जुनून, मातृपूजा प्रतिबंधित  
 कुलदा करली केरा-कुल की कीर्ति कलंकित  
 यह कैदी कविचय तोड़ कानूनी कारा  
 गुंजेगा भारत माता की जय का नारा।  
 (The author is National General Secretary, BJP).

**Farooq Abdullah seeks...**

not affected. "There is a pressing need to strike a balance so that security measures

don't throw a wrench in normal public transportation and the emergency services.

"The issue of restrictions on civilian vehicles along the Anarnath Yatra routes should be addressed as it's impacting tourism in the Kashmir Valley, especially during the underway peak season. Let's make sure both the pilgrims and the local businesses can thrive during this sacred time," he said.

Abdullah also advocated the implementation of well-coordinated strategies to effectively handle the anticipated surge in pilgrims, including traffic control, parking arrangements, emergency response protocols, sufficient medical facilities, and disaster management plans to address any health-related issues or emergencies that may arise during the pilgrimage.

**Emergency darkest chapter...**

transparency and probity."

In her 50-minute address, the President highlighted the government's measures in a range of sectors, from economy, defence and farming to the empowerment of different sections of society, and laid down its priorities in its third term, amid sporadic protests from opposition benches when she referred to issues such as paper leaks and matters related to the North East region.

Though she touched upon some of the things promised in the BJP's manifesto like bullet trains and health insurance for senior citizens, there was no mention of a few of the major highlights of the party's promises such as the Uniform Civil Code and one-nation-one-election.

The President's speech to Parliament is essentially a government-approved document which outlines its agenda.

Modi said on X that her address to both Houses of Parliament was comprehensive and presented a roadmap of progress and good governance. "It covered the strides India has been making and also the potential that lies ahead. Her address also mentioned some of the major challenges we have to collectively overcome to ensure a qualitative change in the lives of our citizens."

Her address kept the heat on the Congress, which is buoyed by its best tally in the last three polls, over the issue of Emergency imposed by the then prime minister Indira Gandhi. Its imposition on June 25, 1975 was the biggest and darkest chapter of direct attack on the Constitution, Murmu said.

"My government does not consider the Constitution of India as just a medium of governance; rather we are making efforts to ensure that our Constitution becomes a part of public consciousness," she added.

The opposition INDIA bloc had made the alleged threat to Constitution from the ruling BJP as the centrepiece of its campaign, an issue which found some traction as it lost majority even though the National Democratic Alliance led by it comfortably passed the halfway mark.

India's first tribal President asserted that people have elected a stable government with clear majority, consecutively for the third term, noting that it has happened after six decades. "People of India have full faith that only my government can fulfil their aspirations. It is a mandate that the work of making India a developed nation continues uninterrupted," she said.

In an apparent message to opposition parties, who are numerically much stronger than the previous two Lok Sabha, she pitched for healthy deliberations, saying opposition to policies and obstruction of parliamentary functioning are two different things.

**SWD describes JKESL...**

is an NGO/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. The individual shall be personally responsible for any commercial transaction or deal with the JKESL and the Jammu and Kashmir Government shall have no liability in any of the land deals/other projects undertaken by the JKESL."

**Comprehensive security in...**

convoy security are all in place". He said that by implementing these measures, we aim to ensure that the yatra is safe. "We have also considered non-security contingencies along with security contingencies", he added.

DGP further said that they have discussed the convoy plan for the yatra and established a cut-off time. "Every aspect has a capacity limit. The yatra will proceed according to the track and destination capacity standards".

DGP urged the pilgrims to follow advisory in letter and spirit.

"We urge pilgrims to maintain discipline and adhere to cut-off timings. Although it may cause some inconvenience, following these measures is crucial for the safety of everyone involved", he said.

"The first batch of the yatra will leave Jammu base camp at Bhagwati Nagar for Kashmir at 0400 hours in the morning of Friday," a senior officer told PTL.

**2-day Tourism...**

on Investment Attraction, Entrepreneurship Opportunities and Sustainable Tourism Practices by Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjeet Singh.

The conclave also spotlighted niche tourism segments such as adventure tourism, pilgrimage circuits and eco-tourism with presentations from Saleem Beg, former DG Tourism and discussions on sustainability led by the Tourism Department J&K.

Participants included prominent figures such as Padma Shri Ajeet Bajaj of Snow Leopard Adventure, Rajiv Mehra, President of IATO, and Anuradha Goyal, Travel Blogger and Writer, underscoring a commitment towards promoting Kashmir as a diverse and enriching tourist destination.

In his concluding remarks, Amitabh Kant urged upon the tourism department to collaborate with travel writers and operators to showcase Kashmir's unique offerings and transform global perceptions of the region.

The panel discussions at the Tourism Development Conclave 2024 were enriched by a diverse array of industry leaders and experts. Vivekanand Rai, Director Tourism Jammu, brought insights into regional tourism strategies, while Samir MC, Managing Director of Fortune Park Hotels, shared perspectives on hospitality innovation.

Asif Burza, Director of Ahad Resorts, emphasized sustainable tourism practices, echoed by Ram Maheshwari, Area Director Operations at IHCL, who highlighted operational excellence in the hospitality sector. Raja Yaqoob, Director Tourism Kashmir, provided a local perspective on overcoming challenges and enhancing visitor experiences amidst Kashmir's natural beauty.

The participation of renowned adventurers and tourism advocates was pivotal. Padma Shri Ajeet Bajaj, Managing Director of Snow Leopard Adventure, advocated for adventure tourism's role in promoting environmental stewardship and community engagement.

P P Khanna, President of the Association of Domestic Tour Operators of India, discussed policy frameworks to support domestic tourism initiatives, while Rajiv Mehra, President of IATO, underscored the importance of industry collaboration in shaping sustainable tourism practices. Anoop Kanuga, from TAAI, offered strategic insights as the Chairman of the Tourism Council, advocating for holistic approaches to tourism development.

The conclave also featured influential voices from media and governance.

Abbas Moiz, National General Secretary of TAFI, highlighted the media's role in shaping tourism perceptions, complemented by Ms. Gayatri Rathore, Principal Secretary of Rajasthan Tourism Department, who shared best practices in destination management.

Lopamudra Ghatak, Editor-in-Chief of Indiatimes, Times Internet Ltd., moderated discussions on digital storytelling in travel, with contributions from Salil Deshpande of Conde Nast Traveller; Garima Goel, a prominent social media influencer; and Anuradha Goyal, a respected travel blogger and writer, who advocated for authentic cultural narratives in tourism promotion. Together, these voices echoed a commitment towards fostering sustainable, inclusive, and memorable tourism experiences in Jammu & Kashmir.

The Tourism Development Conclave 2024 reaffirmed its role as a catalyst for Jammu & Kashmir's tourism sector, emphasizing innovation, sustainability and community engagement to ensure a prosperous future for tourism in the region.

**J&K tops in...**

skilled artisans of 18 different trades in preserving and enriching cultural heritage.

The scheme offers Recognition and Certification, Skill Development and Training, Credit Assistance and Marketing Support. The scheme paves the way for a brighter future for J&K's talented Viswakarmas. Their empowered presence will not only contribute to the economic growth of the Jammu & Kashmir but also preserve and enrich the unique cultural tapestry of Jammu and Kashmir.

MSME DFO Jammu J&K played a pivotal role in implementing the scheme. The DFO nominated district-wise officers and has been holding follow up and review meeting on a daily basis to address teething and other issues. The MSME DFO Jammu has been organizing Seminars in all to create awareness about the scheme in every nook and corner of Jammu and Kashmir.

State Level Screening Committee held timely meetings to clear the applications and extend benefits to the artisans.

MSME DFO Jammu is recommending all the applications received under PM Vishwakarma at Stage 3 on daily basis from 20 districts of Jammu & Kashmir. All the queries received by email are also pursued timely. This has been made possible with directions of G.Velladurai IEDS Joint Director.

**Properties of 5 Pakistan-based terror handlers attached**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

**BARAMULLA:** Police attached properties worth Rs 1 crore belonging to five Pakistan-based terror handlers in Baramulla.

Police after obtaining attachment order passed by Hon'ble Court Baramulla, attached properties (9 Kanals) land worth Rs 1 crore belonging to five Pakistan-based terror handlers. The terror handlers have been identified as Bashir Ahmad Ganie son of Gh Ahmad resident of Tilgam, Mehraj-ud-din Lone son of Fata Mohd resident of Khargam, Ghulam Mohd Yattoo son of Gh Ahmad resident of Tilgam, Ab Rehman Bhat son of Mohd Subhan resident of Wanigam Payeen & Ab Rashid Lone son of Gh Mohiuddin resident of Satsreeran.

The action was taken under sections of 83 CRPC & are linked with case FIR No.04/2008 under section 2/3 EIMCO Act, 7/25 Indian Arms Act, 13 UA (P) Act of PS Kreeeri. The properties were identified belonging to terror handlers during the course of investigation/enquiry conducted by Police. The operation reaffirms the commitment of Police to combat the terror activities.

**2 drug peddlers arrested**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

**BARAMULLA:** Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police have arrested two drug peddlers in Baramulla and recovered contraband substances from their possession. A police party of Police Post Kamalkote headed by In-charge PP Kamalkote at a checkpoint established at Hardu Kamalkote Uri, intercepted a person identified as Abdul Khaliq Khatana son of Sadir Din resident of Kamalkote Uri. During search, 02 Kgs of cannabis powder were recovered from his possession. Similarly, another drug peddler was intercepted by a Police party of Police Post Delina headed by In-charge Police Post Delina at a checkpoint established at Kralhar. He has been identified as Khalid Ayoub Najar @Khalid Heroini son of Mohd Ayoub resident of Mohalla Jadeed Baramulla. Thirty (30) grams of Brown Sugar was recovered from his possession. Both the drug peddlers have been arrested and shifted to police stations where they remain in custody. Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered against them and further investigation has been initiated.

**Forest Deptt seizes truck carrying illegal timber**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

**HIRANAGAR:** In a swift action forest department team led by Range Officer (RO) Rajesh Sharma has seized a Punjab bound truck carrying with illegal timber being smuggled out of state illegally. According to reports on tiff of information operation was successfully carried out by joint team led by RO Rakesh Sharma, Block officer PFP Shiv Kumar under overall supervision of DFO Kathua Dr.Rajan Singh laid a surprise Nakka at Kote Punnu check post in Heera Nagar on being of suspicious movement of timber smuggling. It was disclosed that forest team apprehended a truck bearing Reg. No. PB06BF-6730 which was transporting timber inconsistent with cover documents generated through NTPS portal on intervening night of 26-27 June worth Lakh rupees.Thusby forest department registered a case under Sec 52 of IFA, 1927 and launched the investigation. Sources added that the timber was unscrupulously being smuggled out of JKUT in flagrant violation of Honble Apex Court of India was apprehended and seized timely well behind the border of Punjab. Confiscation proceedings in respect of seized truck have been initiated in the court of Authorised Officer (DFO) Kathua under relevant sections of the Indian Forest Act, 1927.

**RCs of vehicles, Driving License suspended for violation of MV Act**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

**JAMMU:** Regional Transport Officer Jammu on Thursday suspended Registration Certificates of two vehicles and a driving license for violation of MV Act.

"Registration certificates bearing no. JK02CD4592 & JK02CU0673 and a Driving License bearing No. JK02 20180006018 were suspended after a video surfaced on the internet where the driver of the vehicles was seen performing a stunt and violating the Rules of M.V. Act 1989" the RTO said. In the video that went viral on the internet, the driver was seen driving the motorcycle without wearing head gears besides driving a motor car with open door on the road.

**MVD team suspends driving licenses, RCs for violation of Traffic rules**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

**REASI:** An enforcement drive was conducted by the Motor Vehicle Department Team here today on the directions of District Magistrate Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan. The team was led by ARTO Muddasir Iqbal.

During the enforcement operation, the ARTO suspended driving licenses of multiple offenders for a period of three months as they were found violating traffic regulations. Additionally, four RCs were also suspended for similar violations, contributing to enhanced road safety measures in the district.

**Punjab-based narco-smuggler nabbed with 2 Kg heroin**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

**JAMMU:** Police achieved major success by recovering 2 Kg (approx) of heroin(Chitta) worth crores from a drug peddler couple at bus stand jammu under the jd of bus stand police station. A Police team of Police Station Bus stand led by SHO P/S bus stand under the direct supervision of SDPO City North and close supervision of SP North while on naka duty at bus stand area in the jurisdiction of PS bus stand arrested a couple namely Showqat Ali and his wife Salima Biwi R/o Jand village Amritsar of Punjab & recovered 2 Kg (approx)of heroin(Chitta) from their possession. In this regard,a case FIR No. 33/2024 U/S 8/21/22/29 of NDPS Act stands registered at Police Station Bus Stand and the accused werer arrested .

**39 bovines rescued, 2 vehicles seized**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

**JAMMU:** Jammu police tightening noose against bovine smugglers under operation Kamdhenu Police team of PS Nagrota today in the wee hours has foiled one bovine smuggling bid in which 30 bovines rescued from vehicle Truck bearing registration number No. JK05L-6240 at Ban Toll plaza.The driver of the vehicle arrested on the spot and disclosed his name as Mohd Rayiz S/o Mohd Bashir R/o Dabriah Karimchi Distt. Udhampur. In this connection, FIR No. 187/2024 U/S 188/IPC 11 PCA 50/52/54/56 Transport of Animals Rules 1978 stands registered in PS Nagrota.

Moreover 02 more bovine smuggling bids have been foiled by Police Team of PP Manwal.In one case 07 bovines have been rescued from one vehicle Tata Mobile bearing registration number No.JK14H-9078 the driver of the Tata Mobile fled away from the spot after leaving behind his vehicle on road.And in other case 02 Bovines have been rescued from Jeda Naka of Manwal.In this connection two FIR 149& 150/2024 under relevant sections of Law stands registered at PS Jhajjar Kotli and further investigation of all the cases is in progress.

**Cyber Cell recovers one mobile handset, Rs 64,000**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

**JAMMU:** Cyber cell DPO Jammu, a dedicated unit to deal with cases of online frauds and cyber crime, has successfully recovered one mobile handset and hard earned money. Cyber cell DPO Jammu received two complaints in which both the complainants lost their hard earned money by sending money wrongly in bank accounts of other persons. During the investigation, the Cyber Cell DPO Jammu, acted swiftly and exhibited hectic efforts which ultimately led to recovery of Rs.64,000. The cyber cell also recovered one lost mobile handset through portal CEIR and the cyber cell team handed over the mobile handset to its owner.

**2 thieves held; 7 stolen motorcycles recovered**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

**RAJOURI:** Police in Darhal area of District Rajouri have solved multiple motorcycle theft cases and have arrested 02 accused persons involved in the commission of crime. Apprehended duo have been identified as Imran Choudhary, son of Rayaz-ul-Haq & Shahnavaz son of Mohd Iqbal residents of Tehsil Kotranka of District Rajouri. As many as seven motorcycles have been recovered by police team of Police Station Darhal so far. Divulging details police said that on 24/06/2024, Police Station Darhal received a complaint from Khalid Ahmed resident of Chokiyam, Tehsil Darhal, stating therein that in intervening night of 23rd & 24th, June 2024, his motorcycle, which he had parked at Ujhan, was stolen. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No 49/2024 under section 379 IPC was registered in Police Station Darhal and investigation was initiated. Pertinently the police investigation team under SHO PS Darhal made strenuous efforts and zeroed on 02 suspects who confessed their involvement in the commission of crime. The sincere efforts of Police team resulted in recovery of instant case besides also in FIR No.18/2024 u/s 379 IPC which has been under investigation since April of running calendar year. Mentionable that additional 05 motorcycles without registration numbers, 03 of Make-Pulsar and 02 of Make-Splendor, have also been recovered. With these recoveries few more similar theft cases of other Police Stations of District Rajouri and adjoining districts are expected to be worked out as investigations goes on.