

Div Com reviews Amarnathji Yatra arrangements in Samba, Kathua

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA / KATHUA : Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar on Saturday conducted an extensive tour of Samba and Kathua districts to inspect and review the arrangements being put in place for the smooth conduct of the upcoming Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025.

He was accompanied by the Deputy Commissioners of Kathua and Samba, along with senior officers from police and civil administration.

At Samba, the Div Com assessed civic amenities at key lodgement centres, including Baba Ambedkar Hall, Mount Litera School, Government HSS Jakh, Government GHSS



Div Com Jammu Ramesh Kumar conducting tour of Samba and Kathua districts on Saturday.

Vijaypur, Municipal Hall Samba, and prominent spiritual stops such as Chichi Mata Temple and Narsingh Temple.

The Div Com emphasized on 24x7 power supply,

clean drinking water, sanitation and toilet facilities, proper illumination, and CCTV surveillance to ensure the safety and comfort of the pilgrims.

Later, the Div Com visit-

ed Kathua, where he conducted a detailed inspection of the Lakhampur Corridor and the Yatri Facilitation Centre. The Div Com directed the Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Lakhampur, to intensify cleanliness drives, maintain public sanitation, and install informational signage for the convenience of pilgrims. He also called for timely completion of repair and beautification works at Lakhampur by June 25, in view of it being the first entry point for pilgrims arriving via road.

It was informed that the district administration has established Six RFID counters, Five-bedded medical Room, Cold drink-

ing water stations, Langar (community kitchen) facilities, Clean toilet blocks and designated rest areas for Yatris along the Lakhampur Corridor.

The Div Com also reviewed security arrangements, directing the Police Department to devise a comprehensive security plan. ASP Kathua was instructed to ensure adequate deployment of security personnel at all strategic locations.

Additionally, the Div Com inspected Government Polytechnic College and Town Hall, identified as lodgement centres in case of a Yatra halt, to assess the availability of essential services. He directed the concerned departments to work in close coordination, maintain round-the-clock readiness, and prioritize cleanliness, safety, and timely delivery of services. He also visited the Kathua Waterfront to explore options for beautification and enhancement of public amenities at the site.

Transport Com visits Pahalgam ahead of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra



Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan during visit to Pahalgam.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PAHALGAM: In view of the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan, on Saturday visited Pahalgam to review the transport arrangements besides interacting with the drivers and stakeholders at various taxi stands. He was accompanied by the Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Kashmir besides others.

During the interaction with the local taxi operators and union representatives, the Transport Commissioner emphasised the crucial role of transport community in ensuring a safe, smooth and welcoming experience for the pilgrims and tourists. "Drivers are the first point of contact for the visitors and serve as our true ambassadors. In the current scenario, their role becomes even more vital in building confidence and trust among the yatris and tourists alike," stated the

Transport Commissioner. The Transport Commissioner urged the drivers to drive responsibly, strictly follow the traffic and safety regulations and adhere to the fares prescribed by the department. He informed that the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) along with his team shall be stationed at Pahalgam throughout the Yatra period to ensure that these directions are followed in letter and spirit.

The RTO Kashmir exhorted upon the drivers to remain alert, courteous and fully compliant with the safety protocols throughout the Yatra period. He also appreciated their cooperation in maintaining discipline and order on the roads.

The officials assured that the Transport Department stands in full support of the transport fraternity and will extend all necessary assistance to facilitate seamless operations during the Yatra.

Yudhvir starts blacktopping work from Amar Singh Club to Bhagwati Nagar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and MLA East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi, on Saturday started the much-awaited road development work from Amar Singh Club to Bhagwati Nagar, in the vicinity of the Amarnath Yatra Base Camp.

The blacktopping work with an estimated costs of Rs 50 lakhs, launched in the presence of Chief Engineer Rajesh Gupta, Executive Engineer Atul Gupta, and ABE Naveen Kumar, marks a significant step towards improving civic infrastructure in this crucial stretch of the city. Speaking on the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi said that the Amarnath Yatra holds immense religious and cultural significance, attracting lakhs of devotees from across the country every year. "Ensuring



MLA East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi starting blacktopping work from Amar Singh Club.

smooth and safe access to the Yatra Base Camp is our utmost priority. This road development project not only fulfills the long-pending demands of the local residents but also guarantees better connectivity and infrastructure for the devotees

of Baba Barfani," he said, adding that the Modi Government is working tirelessly to improve facilities linked with religious tourism and overall public convenience. The MLA further emphasized that under the dynamic leadership

of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Union Government has ensured that development reaches every corner of Jammu and Kashmir, especially in areas connected to religious tourism.

He added that the Modi Government is committed to the vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas', and this road development project is a testimony to the Centre's focus on providing top-notch facilities to both residents and yatris alike.

Prominent BJP leaders who were present on the occasion included Parmod Kapahi, Raman Sharma, Suresh Salgotra, Rajnath Bhat, Kumar Kant Sharma, Satish Nargotra, Janak Raj Verna, Subash Sharma, Rakesh Mahajan, Sanjay Gupta, Kuldeep Kapoor, Prasful Dhar, Anita Sharma, Tek Chand Thakur, Ramesh Saini, and Rajinder Tikri.

STD cracks down on defaulting taxpayers availing fake, ineligible input tax credit

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a major enforcement action against tax evasion, Jammu and Kashmir State Taxes Department (STD) conducted simultaneous search and seizure operations at multiple locations across Jammu division. During the enforcement actions, the department targeted malpractices like Invoice Trading Without Supply (issuance of invoices without the actual supply of goods or services, falsely inflating transactions to claim ITC), Fake E-Way Bills with No Toll Record Movement (Generation of fraudulent E-Way Bills showing no corresponding vehicle movement on toll records), Fake E-Way Bills Reflecting Movement Outside J&K (Creation of E-Way Bills indicating vehicle movement in other states,

despite no activity within the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir) and Availing Fake Input Tax Credit (Unlawful claims of ITC based on fabricated documents and transactions). This large-scale crackdown was carried out under the guidance of Commissioner State Taxes J&K, P. K. Bhat and supervised by Additional Commissioner Enforcement and Administration Jammu, Namrita Dogra. Earlier, 13 enforcement teams were deployed across the region to verify business records, scrutinise bill books, assess physical stock positions and detect any discrepancies in compliance with the Goods and Services Tax (GST) law. This initiative underscores the Department's commitment to fostering a transparent and equitable tax

ecosystem in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. During the drive on-site verifications, document scrutiny, and cross-referencing with toll and transaction records to detect discrepancies were held. Speaking on this drive, Commissioner PK Bhat said, "This inspection drive is a proactive step to protect public revenue and ensure fair practices among taxpayers. We are committed to taking stringent action against those found violating tax laws while supporting honest businesses." The State Taxes Department urges all taxpayers to maintain accurate records and comply with GST norms to avoid penalties and legal action. Citizens and businesses are encouraged to report any suspected tax evasion through the Department's official channels.

6th Srinagar District Rope Skipping Championship 2025 concludes



Winners posing for a photograph with official.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The 6th Srinagar District Rope Skipping Championship 2025 concluded with enthusiasm and high energy at Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Khanyar. The two-day event witnessed participation from over 200 athletes-both boys and girls-who displayed outstanding talent and sportsmanship. R.P. School, Lalaypora emerged overall champions in girls category while Woodland House School remained overall champions in boys category.

Organized by the Rope Skipping Association of Jammu & Kashmir (RSAJK) and hosted by

GHSS Khanyar, the championship was a vibrant celebration of athleticism. Muzamil Ahmad Dar (ZPEO Rainawari), along with several physical education teachers, presided over the medal distribution ceremony and congratulated the winners.

Mohammad Sufiyan, General Secretary of RSAJK, extended heartfelt thanks to all participants, officials, and supporting institutions. He also announced that the Open Kashmir Rope Skipping Championship will be held in Pahalgam in July 2025, promising greater opportunities and exposure for athletes across the region.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu South District on Saturday organised a Sankalp Sabha at Trikuta Nagar Mandal to commemorate 11 years of Seva, Sushasan aur Garib Kalyan under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from party karyakartas and local citizens, reaffirming their commitment to building a Viksit Bharat.

On the occasion, Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma was the chief guest. The programme was organized by Nitish Mahajan, Mandal President, Trikuta Nagar, BJP, Jammu, and graced by the presence of Ajay Gupta (Ex-Corporator), senior BJP leader Shailja Gupta, Rajni Mangotra,



MP Jugal Kishore Sharma with others at a programme.

Pawan Khajuria, Magan Grover, Rama Jamwal, Naresh Chopra, Ajit Jamwal and Mandal Office bearers and prominent people of the area.

While addressing the gathering, Jugal Kishore Sharma spoke at length about the transformative journey of India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi

over the last 11 years. He said that these years have not only been about governance but about a vision to uplift every section of society, especially the poor, the marginalised, and those who were for decades left behind in the development process. The Member Parliament highlighted how the Modi government has worked tirelessly to ensure

last-mile delivery of benefits, empowering the common man through schemes that directly touch their lives. From basic amenities like tap water, toilets, and electricity to revolutionary reforms in health, housing, and digital services, India has undergone a massive transformation.

Jugal also spoke passionately about the spirit of nationalism and self-reliance that the Modi government has instilled in every Indian citizen. He emphasized that under the strong and visionary leadership of the Prime Minister, India is being recognized globally as a rising power, committed to peace, development, and inclusive growth. He praised the unwavering efforts of BJP karyakartas in taking these achievements to the grassroots and reaffirmed that

with collective will and determination, the vision of a Viksit Bharat will surely be fulfilled.

Nitish Mahajan underlined the Modi government's key welfare initiatives such as Har Ghar Jal Yojana, ensuring tap water to every household, Ujjwala Yojana providing free LPG connections to poor women, Ayushman Bharat delivering free healthcare to crores of citizens, PM Awas Yojana fulfilling the dream of owning a home for the underprivileged, and major drives under Digital India and Startup India which have ushered in a new era of innovation, empowerment, and digital inclusion.

On this occasion, all party members and attendees took a solemn pledge to dedicate themselves to the mission of building a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

J&K BJP pays heartfelt tribute to victims of Ahmedabad Air Tragedy

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu and Kashmir organized a Shradhanjali Sabha at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, to pay heartfelt tributes to the victims of the tragic air accident that occurred in Ahmedabad.

Led by J&K BJP President Sat Sharma, the event witnessed the presence of several senior party functionaries, including General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, General Secretary Adv. Vibodh Gupta, Headquarter Incharge Priya Sethi, along with other senior leaders, who gathered to express their solidarity with the bereaved families. BJP leaders also paid floral tributes on the portrait of Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani, who was amongst the persons who lost their lives in the tragedy.

A two-minute silence was observed as a mark of respect for the departed souls. Leaders and participants offered floral tributes, praying for peace to the departed and strength to the families affected by the tragedy.

Addressing the gathering, Sat Sharma expressed deep anguish over the tragic loss of lives, stating, "Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those who



J&K BJP leaders paying tributes to victims of the tragic AI plane accident.

lost their lives. The nation stands united in this moment of grief." He also praised the emergency response teams and authorities involved in rescue and relief efforts.

"We pray to Almighty that

all those who are injured and still receiving medical treatment, get well soon to join their near and dear ones", said Sharma.

Ashok Koul, while paying tribute, said, "Such incidents

remind us of the unpredictability of life and the importance of unity and compassion during testing times. This is not just a national tragedy but a personal loss to every Indian."

Adv. Vibodh Gupta prayed for peace, unity, and resilience in the face of sorrow, expressing hope for safety measures to be further strengthened to prevent such tragedies in the future.

Priya Sethi said that the tragedy is heartbreaking, which has shattered many families beyond imagination. She stressed that the whole nation stands with the bereaved. The proceedings of the Shradhanjali programme

were conducted by Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge of BJP J&K, who reiterated the party's resolve to always stand with the people during times of national tragedy and distress.

Anuradha Charak, Ayodhya Gupta, Rajiv Charak, Munish Sharma, Dr. Tahir Choudhary, Ranjodh Singh Nalwa, Prof. Kulbhushan Mohtra, Sunil Prajapati, Rekha Mahajan, Ajay Vaid, Shailja Gupta, Nand Kishore Sharma, Naresh Singh Jasrotia, Bawa Sharma, Munish Khajuria, Puneet Gupta, and other senior leaders of party also paid their warm tributes on the occasion.

10 J&K officials qualify AKFI Referee exam

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As many as ten senior Kabaddi players from J&K have become qualified officials by clearing the Amateur Kabaddi Association of India (AKFI) referee examination, which held at Jaipur in Rajasthan, recently.

"A proud moment for those associated with the fast growing game of Kabaddi in J&K. As many as ten officials from the UT have successfully qualified the Referee course examination, conducted by the Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India (AKFI) in Rajasthan last month," informed general secretary of J&K Amateur



Kabaddi Association, Kuldeep Gupta.

The successful candidates are Arshid Rather, Firdous Rather, Nahida Nabi, Ram Kumar, Gourav Dubai, Mir Alam, Majid Khan, Nuzarat Hussain, Tanveer Iqbal and Anita Sharma.

Their achievement represents a significant stride towards enhancing the standard of officiating and strengthening technical expertise in Kabaddi across J&K, added Kuldeep while congratulating the qualified individuals.

Samson Lions crowned champions at A7 Football Academy's Summer Exhibition Tournament

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An exhilarating "Summer Exhibition Football Tournament" hosted by A7 Football Academy, showcasing extraordinary skill, teamwork, and sportsmanship from four talented teams-Samson Lions, Hardik Champions, Shreshth Kings and Ballers Team. The event was a thrilling display of competitive energy, and it left football enthusiasts buzzing with excitement.

The tournament, organized by A7 Football Academy, was expertly managed by key members of the academy, including Abhay (Pounder); Meetu; Ansh; Vansh and Gourav.

The tournament kicked off with a captivating clash between Samson Lions and Hardik Champions. The Lions quickly took control, displaying superior attacking play and seamless teamwork. With a final score of 5-2, Samson Lions emerged as clear winners.



Himanshu from the Lions

was particularly outstanding,

showcasing remarkable individual skill and contributing significantly to the team's success.

The second match of the tournament was a fiercely contested battle between Shreshth Kings and Ballers Team.

After a tight and intense match, the score ended in a draw, leading to a penalty shootout that would decide the winner. In a tense shootout, the Ballers Team kept their cool and won, earning a well-deserved

spot in the final.

In the highly anticipated final, Samson Lions faced off against Ballers Team. The Lions continued their dominant form with exceptional coordination, precise passing, and clinical finishing. With a commanding scoreline of 6-2, Samson Lions secured the trophy and cemented their place as the champions of the tournament.

Players such as Akul, Wahin, Rehan, and Robi contributed greatly to the

victory, with Himanshu once again earning praise for his stellar performance throughout the competition. Himanshu, Akul, Wahin, Rehan, Hardik, and Robi all delivered standout performances, earning accolades from spectators and fellow players alike.

As the tournament concluded, it was clear that A7 Football Academy continues to be a vital force in promoting football and nurturing young talent.