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Amarnathji Yatra is...

Lieutenant Governor said.

He said the peaceful conduct of this holy yatra will send a strong message that we the people of Jammu Kashmir stand united.

"Spiritual leaders, civil society members, public representatives, trade & business fraternity are respected members of J&K Family and are carrying forward this thousands-of-years-old spiritual tradition with complete devotion. This year too, maintaining social harmony and social unity and ensuring peaceful and successful conduct of the holy pilgrimage is your responsibility," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted the key initiatives by Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, Administration, J&K Police, Security forces and other stakeholders for enhancing the pilgrim-centric facilities and making the yatra more secure and safer for the pilgrims. He also urged the pilgrims to travel in the designated convoys.

"I have made an on-ground assessment of the facilities on the yatra tracks which were recently developed for the convenience of pilgrims. The number of pilgrims' registration have been increasing continuously and I am confident that the large number of devotees will visit the holy cave to pay their obeisance to Baba Barfani," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said Jammu Kashmir and its people have always rejected distinctions between sects and religions, consistently extending respect and acceptance to every faith and its unique forms of worship.

"With this very spirit, let us welcome the lakhs of devotees arriving for the Shri Amarnathji Yatra and, through our collective efforts, ensure a successful, peaceful and hassle-free pilgrimage for all the devotees," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

Chairperson, J&K Waqf Board; DDC Chairpersons, Members of Legislative Assembly, civil society members, representatives of various organizations, religious heads, community leaders, members of trade and business fraternity shared their valuable suggestions and pledged their support for the smooth conduct of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

Addressing the demands and issues projected during the interaction, the Lieutenant Governor assured that the appropriate steps will be taken to meet the aspirations of all the stakeholders.

Parliamentary panel visits...

by Member of Parliament Brj Lal, is currently on a three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir:

"I came here to have the darshan of Mata Ji. The main purpose of my visit was to talk to the chief executive officer and other officials here regarding the facilities and grievance setup. After this visit, we will submit a report to Parliament, but its details cannot be made public," Lal told reporters at Katra.

Lauding the efforts of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, he said, "I have a very good experience here. Since my last visit in 2023, I have observed significant changes."

Lal said that during their visit to the shrine, they elaborately discussed various aspects related to it.

He added that they would have meetings with the officials of Punjab & Sind Bank, Power Grid and other public sector undertakings in Jammu.

"After our Jammu visit, we will go to Srinagar and there, we will meet with the chief secretary and government officials. After that, we will submit a report to Parliament," Lal said.

He said that the major issue here was related to public grievances - understanding what problems people face and how the board and officials resolve them.

"This was the main objective of our visit," Lal said.

CM promises empowerment...

Rana and Satish Sharma; Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani; Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo; Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Deveraj Gupta; Managing Director and CEO J&K Bank Amitabh Chatterjee; several MLAs; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Secretary Labour & Employment Kumar Rajiv Ranjan; Mission Director Mission Yuva Shehzad Alam; and a host of other dignitaries. The venue also saw an enthusiastic presence of young entrepreneurs from across Jammu and Kashmir:

Congratulating the people on the launch of Mission Yuva, the Chief Minister said that it's not that previous governments didn't attempt to address this issue; various schemes have been implemented in the past. "I will not stand here and claim that none of them worked. But every scheme can be improved, and each offers lessons to learn from. By engaging with you all, we can better understand how to strengthen such efforts," he said.

Reflecting on past initiatives, he recalled that during his last tenure, his government also developed a scheme focused on youth entrepreneurship. "We worked diligently with the Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI) and successfully created many entrepreneurs. Of course, not all of them succeeded, but whenever I visit different places, I often meet someone who tells me they started their business under our Sher-e-Kashmir Employment and Welfare Programme for Youth (SKEWPY) scheme-and that many others are now employed under them," the CM recalled.

Speaking on the discontinuation of earlier schemes, he stated, "Unfortunately, the government that followed ours was more concerned with changing the name of the program than continuing its vision. Let me say clearly: the name Mission Yuva should not be a matter of contention. It should not represent any party, any leader-not my name, nor anyone else's. It should belong to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir."

The Chief Minister emphasized the grassroots foundation of the flagship programme, stating,

"This initiative is not the result of decisions made behind closed doors-it is built on extensive fieldwork, baseline survey, ample thought & time, and collective effort. The data compiled, as showcased in the publication released today, will provide a valuable basis for departments to shape their future policies and programmes. It will have far-reaching benefits across sectors like social welfare, youth development, education, and healthcare. "As revealed that more than one crore people were surveyed in what can be called an exercise on the scale of a census. The findings indicate that Mission Yuva could potentially create over 1.5 lakh entrepreneurs and more than 4 lakh jobs, with over 30% participation from women.

Highlighting funding as a major hurdle for youth, the CM said, "Whenever we speak to aspiring entrepreneurs, the most common concern is lack of funding. Access to finance remains the biggest barrier: Under Mission Yuva, we are committed to removing this obstacle. Getting a loan from a bank typically requires a Detailed Project Report (DPR), which many young people don't know how to prepare. That responsibility too has been taken up by this mission-through the use of Artificial Intelligence."

He added that Artificial Intelligence (AI) will also be used to prepare bank-ready DPRs to eliminate delays and rejections in loan approvals.

"No matter how good your idea is, unless it reaches the market, your business will struggle. That's why Mission Yuva is also focused on market linkage and ecosystem support."

The Chief Minister praised the humility of the team that conceptualized the mission.

Search operation to...

area. He said that out of the four terrorists, one -- the commander of the group -- has been killed. The group had been tracked for over a year: Two terrorists affiliated with JeM from this group were eliminated in Basantgarh in September last year.

On Thursday, the four terrorists were found hiding near Karoor Nallah in the Bihali high-altitude belt and were engaged by the joint search party led by the Army's Para Commandos, resulting in an encounter.

One of the terrorists killed in the encounter has been identified as Haider alias Jabbar, code-named Maulvi, from Pakistan.

Supported by overground workers (OGWs), the terrorists had been moving from one area to another using forests and natural caves to hide, officials said. Five OGWs have been arrested over the past several months in the belt for providing food and shelter to the terrorists.

Clampdown on terror...

searches at the residences of 32 terror associates on Saturday, he added.

The searches were conducted in accordance with proper legal procedures in the presence of executive magistrates and independent witnesses under the supervision of Jammu and Kashmir Police officers, the spokesman said.

The searches were carried out to seize arms, documents, digital devices etc. with the objective of evidence collection and intelligence gathering to detect and deter any conspiratorial or terrorist activity against the security of the nation, he added.

Shukla's space sojourn...

and that he was absorbing these "new experiences like a sponge".

"Everything is different here," the astronaut said, sharing his experience in micro-gravity conditions on the space station.

"We trained for a year and I learnt about different systems... but after coming here, everything changed...Here, even small things are different because there is no gravity in space... Sleeping here is a big challenge... It takes some time to get used to this environment," he told the prime minister:

The astronaut said that the space station orbits the Earth 16 times a day and that he was privileged to witness 16 sunrises and 16 sunsets every day.

"Right now, we are travelling at a speed of 28,000 kilometres per hour: This speed reflects how fast our nation is progressing and now, we must go even beyond this," Shukla said.

Shukla reached the International Space Station on Thursday along with three other astronauts as part of the commercial Axiom-4 mission for a 14-day stay during which the crew will be part of a series of science experiments.

"When I saw India for the first time from space it appeared much larger and grander than on the map," Shukla said in the interaction with the Prime Minister:

"You can truly feel the sense of oneness -- there are no borders, no lines. It feels as if this entire Earth is our home and we are all its citizens," Shukla said.

Modi told the Lucknow-born astronaut that his historic journey was not just limited to space, but would add fresh momentum to the march towards Viksit Bharat (developed India).

"We have to take Mission Gaganyaan forward. We must build our own space station. And we must ensure that an Indian astronaut lands on the Moon.

"Your experiences will play a crucial role in all these future missions. I am confident that you are diligently recording every bit of your experience," the prime minister said.

Shukla said his travel to the space station was not just his personal feat but a collective achievement of the entire nation.

The prime minister told Shukla that his space sojourn would become a source of great inspiration to the youth of the country.

"I am confident that this will become a source of great inspiration. It has been a true pleasure speaking with you today," PM Modi said.

Shukla told the prime minister that he had brought with him gajar ka halwa, moong dal halwa and aam ras (mango nectar) which was relished by fellow astronauts on the space station.

J&K tops in...

ecologically sensitive Jammu and Kashmir: He referred the accomplishment as a benchmark to be emulated in other protected areas in J&K.

This achievement showcases the exceptional management skills and dedication towards conservation of protected areas in ecologically fragile J&K, he said.

Dachigam National Park has emerged as the highest-scoring individual Protected Area among 438 protected areas assessed across the country: He highlighted its excellence in bio-diversity protection, ecological management, staff efficiency and community engagement.

The Minister emphasized that the protected areas are crucial components of global conservation efforts, essential for preserving the biodiversity and maintaining the ecological balance.

He highlighted the importance of community awareness, anti-poaching efforts and reiterated the Government's commitment towards strengthening the eco-tourism, biodiversity monitoring and habitat restoration across Jammu & Kashmir:

Rana thanked the Ministry of Environment and Forests for undertaking this ambitious exercise and acknowledged their invaluable technical guidance and financial assistance. He asked the officers to continue their commitment and dedication towards conservation of natural resources and ensuring the survival of India's diverse flora and fauna for generations to come.

The achievement of Dachigam National Park sets a precedent for other protected areas in Jammu and Kashmir, demonstrating the potential for effective conservation and management practices to thrive in J&K.

Shri Amarnath Yatra...

The DGP during the meeting issued directions for implementing the SOPs and emphasized the importance of proactive measures in mitigating risks and ensuring the safety and security of the participants.

He also directed field officers to intensify their efforts to dismantle the terror ecosystem, ensuring robust security arrangements for the upcoming yatra.

The DGP instructed officers to bolster security measures and mitigate potential risks by deploying anti-sabotage teams along the yatra routes.

He further directed officers to enhance surveillance and threat detection capabilities through the use of advanced technologies and real-time monitoring.

At the onset of the meeting, officers briefed the chair on the proposed security arrangements for the yatra, emphasizing the significance of effective coordination among various forces.

Jammu Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Joginder Singh gave a detailed presentation and briefed on various aspects of security deployments and facilitation of the yatris within the Jammu district for the upcoming yatra, including arrangements at various lodgement centres, registration centres and token centres across the district.

He also briefed on innovative initiatives, including anti-drone measures, taken to further strengthen the security grid and ensure a safe, secure and smooth yatra, the spokesperson said.

Senior officers from other sister organisations also briefed on the arrangements in place for the yatra.

During the meeting, the DGP also held discussions with all the nodal officers concerned with the yatra.

Traffic advisory for...

towards Jammu is 1000hrs. From Mir Bazar to NAVYUG Tunnel (other than Main Convoy leaving at 0600 hrs from Pahalgam and at 0630 hrs from Nunwan), the cut off timing for last vehicle to cross Mir Bazar towards NAVYUG Tunnel is 1700hrs and last vehicle to cross Walnut Factory Qazigund towards NAVYUG Tunnel is 1730hrs.

Up vehicles (other than convoy) from Jammu towards Kashmir Valley, the cut off timing at Nagrota (Jammu) is 1200hrs; Cut of timing at Jakheni (Udhampur) is 1300hrs and Cut of timing at Chanderkote is 1400hrs and Cut of timing at Lamber; Banihal is 1500hrs.

Regarding general cut off timing, Advisory says that no Yatri/tourist vehicle shall be allowed to cross NAVYUG Tunnel towards Kashmir after 1500hrs; No Yatri/tourist vehicle shall be allowed from Pahlagam towards Jammu/Srinagar after 1530hrs; No Yatri/tourist vehicle shall be allowed from Sonamarg towards Srinagar after 1600hrs; No tourist vehicle shall be allowed from Gulmarg towards Srinagar after 1700hrs and No tourist vehicle shall be allowed from Srinagar towards Gulmarg after 1700hrs.

Yatris/tourists have been advised to travel in Kashmir Valley only between 0700 hrs to 1800 hrs and should plan their travel accordingly, so that they reach their destination within this time period.

After withdrawal of ROP, i.e 1800 hrs, no vehicle of Yatri/tourist shall be allowed further movement. Concerned Police/Traffic/SFs have been instructed to bring such vehicles to the nearest Yatri/SF's camp.

It is informed that this advisory is valid only for Yatris/Yatra Convoy/Tourists. For other HMVs/LMVS/SFs's Convoys, people have been asked to refer to the Daily Traffic Advisory issued by Traffic Police.

Moreover, for any clarification/assistance, the numbers to be contacted are TCU Jammu: 0191-2459048, 9419147732, 7298515191; TCU Srinagar: 0194-2450022, 0194-2485396, TCU NHW Ramban: 6005820617 and TCU Udhampur: 9419993745.

Parag Jain appointed...

officially begins on July 1. He takes over from Ravi Sinha, who retires on June 30.

"The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Shri Parag Jain, IPS to the post of Secretary, Research & Analysis Wing (R&AW) under Cabinet Secretariat for a tenure of two years from the date of assumption of the charge of the post until further orders, whichever is earlier..." the order read.

The decision to appoint Jain as chief of the external intelligence agency was made by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet earlier this week, officials said.

Before this, Jain was the head of the Aviation Research Centre, an organisation that deals with aerial surveillance, SIGINT operations, photo reconnaissance flights (PHOTINT), monitoring of borders and imagery intelligence (IMINT).

Jain is known for his exceptional expertise in integrating both human intelligence (HUMINT) and technical intelligence (TECHINT) and is widely credited as the mastermind behind the planning of 'Operation Sindoor', providing intelligence support that enabled the armed forces to execute precise strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

India hit nine terror camps across the border and Line of Control, including the headquarters of banned terror outfits Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba on May 7.

The missile strikes were guided by pinpointed intelligence gathered by a team led by Jain, officials said.

With extensive ground experience in Kashmir, Jain is well-positioned to counter Pakistan's ongoing efforts to rebuild terror infrastructure in PoK.

Jain also brings extensive experience in addressing neighbourhood challenges and issues related to Khalistan terror groups. He played a crucial role in Jammu and Kashmir during the 2019 reorganisation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Throughout his career, Jain has held several significant positions. He was promoted to the rank of Director General of Police (DGP) in Punjab on January 1, 2021, though he was on central deputation at the time.

His career includes significant operational contributions during the height of terrorism in Punjab, where he served as SSP and Deputy Inspector General of Police in various districts.

Jain has also served in Indian Missions in Sri Lanka and Canada. During his tenure in Canada, he monitored Khalistan terror modules operating from the soil of that country.

2 die as...

Both the truck driver and the helper died on the spot, an official said. Their bodies have been shifted to the Sub-district hospital Banihal for medico-legal formalities, a police official said

The driver has been identified as Raju of Udhampur. The police are investigating the cause of the incident.

Four dumpers seized for illegal mining

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Continuing its drive against illegal mining, Samba Police has seized four dumpers in the jurisdiction of Police Stations Ghagval and Samba which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material. As per report, Police teams headed by Incharge Police Post Rajpura of PS Ghagval and Incharge Police Post Mansar of PS Samba while performing patrolling duty in their jurisdictional areas, have seized four dumpers bearing registration Nos. JK21H-9222, JK21G-3737, JK08P-7535 and JK21J-6799 which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material in the area. The above mentioned vehicles have been seized by Samba Police and handed over to the Geology & Mining Department, Samba for further legal action.

Three major bovine smuggling attempts foiled, five smugglers arrested, 48 bovines rescued

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: In a major success against bovine smugglers and their propagators, Samba Police has successfully foiled three bovines smuggling attempts in the jurisdiction of Police Station Samba, arrested five bovine smugglers and rescued forty eight bovines from the clutches of bovine smugglers. The vehicles used in the illegal transportation of bovines were also seized. As per report, a police team of Police Station Samba acting on reliable information, intercepted two trucks bearing registration No. JK13J-0978 and JK03H-8282 near Mansar Morh Samba for its checking. During checking of the vehicles, twenty two bovines were found inside both the trucks which were tied in a cruel manner and were being transported illegally without any valid permission. The bovine smugglers identified as Feroz Ahmed Lone, son of Abdul Majeed Lone, resident of Village Bogham tehsil and district Kulgam and Mohd Asif Mir, son of Mohd Shaban Mir, resident of Village Buehroo, district Anantnag have been arrested. A case FIR No. 171/2025 under Section 223 BNS, 11 PCA Act has been registered at Police Station Samba and investigation started.

Meanwhile, a police team of Police Station Samba acting on reliable information, intercepted two trucks bearing registration No. JK18D-9930 and JK03H-8780 near Mansar Morh Samba for its checking. During checking of the vehicles, twenty four bovines were found inside both the trucks which were tied in a cruel manner and were being transported illegally without any valid permission. The bovine smugglers identified as Shahid Ahmad Malik, son of Ashiq Hussain Malik, resident of Bumpora tehsil & district Kulgam and Shokat Ali Sheikh, son of Ali Mohd Sheikh, resident of Village Wampora district Anantnag have been arrested. A case FIR No. 172/2025 u/s 223 BNS, 11 PCA Act has been registered at Police Station Samba and investigation started. Later, a Police team of Police Station Samba acting on reliable information, intercepted one Auto Load Carrier bearing registration No. JK21H-8503 near Mansar Morh Samba for its checking. During checking of the vehicle, two bovines were found inside the vehicle which were tied in a cruel manner and were being transported illegally without any valid permission. The bovine smuggler identified as Harpal Singh, son of Hakam Singh, resident of Ramgarh District Samba has been arrested. A case FIR No. 174/2025 under Section 223 BNS, 11 PCA Act has been registered at Police Station Samba and investigation started.

Illegal transportation of Khair Wood foiled

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant joint operation carried out during late night hours, police and forest department officials intercepted a vehicle involved in the illegal transportation of Khair wood at Agore Chowk. As per report, a Maruti 800 car bearing registration number JK08-9794, coming from the Showa side, was signaled to stop at a naka point. However, the driver attempted to flee the scene. Acting swiftly, the joint team managed to chase down and intercept the vehicle. The driver was identified as Mohd Israt, son of Ashiq Ali, a resident of Showa, Tehsil Bhalval, District Jammu. During inspection, the vehicle was found to be loaded with approximately three quintals of Khair wood, being transported without a valid permit allegedly for illegal sale and undue profit. The vehicle, along with the illegally transported Khair wood, was seized on the spot. A formal report has been lodged at the concerned police station. After the completion of all legal formalities, the seized vehicle and material will be handed over to the Forest Department for further legal action under the Forest Act.

9.80 gms heroin like substance recovered, vehicle seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a major breakthrough against narcotics smuggling, Police Station Bishnah has successfully recovered 9.80 grams of heroin like substance from a narcotic smuggler/addict. As per report, on Saturday a Case FIR 61.2025 under Section 8.21.22.25 NDPS Act was registered at Police Station Bishnah. During investigation of aforesaid case at Chak Avtara Bishnah person namely Marid, son of Saif Ali, resident of Jinder Khurd, Bishnah was apprehended and during his search 9.80 grams heroin like substance recovered. Further investigation is underway to trace the source and the intended recipients of the consignment, police report added.

Notorious drug peddler booked under PIT-NDPS Act

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Acting tough against drug peddlers and to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Janipur Police on Saturday booked the wanted notorious drug peddler from the jurisdiction of Police Station Janipur Sub Division Bakshi Nagar under PIT-NDPS Act and lodged him in District Jail Rajouri.

As per report, the notorious drug peddler namely Vinod Kumar alias Kuda, son of Joginder Paul, resident of H.No. 55, Dogra Hall, Jammu has been booked under PIT NDPS Act after obtaining formal detention orders from the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu. After the issuance of his arrest warrant , the habitually addicted to crime Vinod Kumar alias Kuda was evading his arrest and is also wanted in one POSCO case by Pathankot police. Janipur police led by SHO Janipur and IC PP High Court made strenuous efforts and nabbed him. The booked drug smuggler has been subsequently lodged in District Jail Rajouri.It is pertinent to mention here that multiple FIRs under NDPS are already registered against the above mentioned drug peddler, who was involved in promoting drug trade by supplying drugs to local youths of the area.

Despite so many arrests in different cases after registration of multiple cases, he was not mending his ways and keep indulging in illegal and immoral trade of supplying drigs to innocent youth victims. Despite his arrest in NDPS cases, he did not mend his activities and was again involved in promoting drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to local youth, in order to achieve monetary gains by illegal, wrongful methods. The aforesaid notorious drug peddler, criminal has remained successful every time in securing the bails from the Courts and in order to refrain the subject from indulging in criminal activities, a dossier under stringent PIT NDPS Act was recommended against the subject, upon which, the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, after getting satisfied issued a PIT NDPS warrant against him. The arrest was made by a team of Police Station Janipur Insp Vikram Sharma and I/CPH High Court SI Manzoor Wani under the supervision of SDPO Bakshi Nagar & SP City North Jammu.The locals of the area have highly appreciated the efforts of the Jammu Police in curbing drug menace. This action reflects the commitment of District Police Jammu to eliminate the drug menace from the region. Drug trafficking poses a grave threat to society, particularly to the youth, and Jammu Police remains dedicated to safeguarding the community from such unlawful activities.

Drug peddler nabbed, heroin-like substance, cash Rs 40,400 recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Under the Supervision of SP City South Jammu & SDPO City East Jammu and SHO Police Station Bahu Fort Inspector Rajesh Jasrotia, Jammu Police achieved a breakthrough with the arrest of a suspected lady drug peddler and recovery of a hero-in-like substance, cash of Rs 40,400 and one electronic weighing scale under Operation Sanjeevani. As per report, Acting on routine patrolling duties, a police team from Police Post Narwal, led by IC Police Post Narwal and assisted by other officials, intercepted a suspicious lady individual Near Rajiv Nagar Chowk. The lady individual was identified as Ranjana alias Raehna, wife of Vishal, resident of Rajiv Nagar Narwal Distt Jammu. Upon conducting a search, the police recovered 11 gram heroin-like substance, cash of Rs 40,400 and one electronic weighing scale, from her possession. A case FIR No. 200/2025 under sections 8/21/22/22/27A of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Bahu Fort Jammu and the accused has been taken into custody for further investigation.

Drug peddler apprehended with heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Rajouri Police in its drive against drug trafficking , Police Station Rajouri has achieved a major success by apprehending a drug peddler and recovering narcotics from his possession. As per report, during routine patrolling duty on National Highway, a police party from Police Station Rajouri intercepted a suspicious person who was moving from Salani Bridge towards Tariq Bridge. On noticing the police presence the individual attempted to flee but was apprehended by the alert patrolling team. During questioning the accused disclosed his identity as Arun Kumar, son of Dina Nath, resident of Bhawani, Nowshera, District Rajouri. On his personal search approx 5.47 grams of heroin-like narcotic substance was recovered from his possession. In this regard a Case FIR No. 337/2025 under relevant sections of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Rajouri. Investigation has been initiated and further efforts are underway to trace the forward and backward linkages involved in this illicit trade.