

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

LG camps at...



death of least 16 people. Around 40 people are still missing. "Amarnath Yatra has been suspended from Jammu to twin base camps in Kashmir due to inclement weather. No fresh batch was allowed to move towards Amarnath" an official told PTI.

The annual 43-day pilgrimage commenced from the twin base camps -- Nunwan-Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag and Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal -- on June 30.

Over one lakh pilgrims have offered prayers at the cave shrine, housing the naturally formed ice 'shivling', the officials said.

A total of 69,535 pilgrims have left in 10 batches from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu for the Valley since June 29, the day the first batch of pilgrims was flagged off by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha.

The yatra is scheduled to end on August 11 on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

Goddess Kali's unlimited...

Kali, Modi said Ramakrishna Paramhansa was one saint who had a clear vision of her and his disciple Swami Vivekananda had also felt the spiritual vision about the goddess, which infused into him extraordinary energy and strength.

Noting his association with Atmasthananda, the prime minister said the saint would often mention Maa Kali and that it was natural for him to feel an association with the goddess while looking at her temple at Dakshineswar during his visit to Belur Math.

"When faith is sacred, then shakti shows us the way herself. Maa Kali's unlimited blessings are always with India. With the spiritual energy, India is moving ahead with the spirit of world's welfare," he said.

His comments came amid a row over the controversial depiction of the goddess in a poster by a Canadian film-maker of Indian origin, which has drawn angry reaction from BJP leaders and Hindu groups. TMC MP Mahua Moitra's remarks that she had every right to imagine Goddess Kali as a meat-eating and alcohol-accepting" deity has added to the row.

Modi made no reference to the topic in his speech.

Everything is pervaded by the consciousness of the mother, and this consciousness is seen in the Kali Puja of Bengal, he said.

Modi noted that Swami Vivekananda, who founded the organisation, lived for making India great.

His influence was seen in all parts of the country and his travels awakened a national consciousness in that era of slavery and infused new confidence in it, Modi said, adding this tradition was carried forward by Atmasthananand throughout his life.

"Be it Adi Shankaracharya from hundreds of years ago or Swami Vivekananda in modern times, the saint tradition of India has always been proclaiming 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'. The establishment of Ramakrishna Mission is also associated with the idea of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat,'" a PMO statement quoted him saying.

Paying tributes to Atmasthananda, the prime minister recalled his time spent with him and said it was his good fortune that he was in touch with him till his demise.

The prime minister also expressed happiness over the release of a photo biography and documentary to take his mission to the masses.

Noting that Atmasthananand received initiation from Swami Vijnanand, a disciple of Ramakrishna Paramhansa, Modi said the awakened state and spiritual energy of Ramakrishna Paramhansa was clearly visible in him.

He also spoke on the tradition of renunciation in the country.

Modi said the meaning of 'sanyas' is to work for the society by rising above oneself, and to live for the sake of society.

Vivekananda moulded the great tradition of sanyas into a modern form and Atmasthananand also retired to this form and lived and implemented it in life, he said.

Modi also highlighted the tremendous relief and rescue operations carried out not just in India but also in Nepal and Bangladesh under his directive by the Belur Math and Ramakrishna Mission.

He considered the service of the poor and the spread of knowledge and its work as worship, Modi said.

"Everyone knows the saints of Ramakrishna Mission as the conductors of national unity in the country. And, when he goes abroad, he represents Indianess there," he added.

Sages have shown us that when thoughts are broad, people are never alone in their endeavours, he said, adding there is no goal that cannot be accomplished by the collective resolve of 130 crore citizens.

Giving the example of "digital India", Modi said India has emerged as a world leader in the field of digital payments.

The prime minister also highlighted the achievements of giving 200 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses to the people of India, the statement said.

While addressing the gathering of saints, he said 75 'Amrit Sarovars' are being made in every district as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and urged everyone to inspire people and also join in the noble work of human service.

Inter-state drug mafia...



Drugs peddlers in police custody at Miran Sahib Police Station on Sunday.

one of its kind (Methaqualone) in Jammu district and its market value is pegged to be running in millions.

Moreover, he said that relentless efforts were put in by Jammu Police in arresting such notorious peddlers and for recovery of such huge amount of drugs. Further investigation of the case is going on to unearth the linkages that from whom contraband was received and where it was supposed to be delivered.

Meanwhile, in another case, 23 grams heroin was also recovered by Jammu Police at two other naka.

SSP Jammu further informed that at two Nakas, Jammu Police

recovered 23 gm heroin at two different naka that is 8 gm Heroin at Sehora bridge Naka in jurisdictions of Police Station Gangyal and 15 gm at another naka in jurisdiction of Police Station Miran Sahib respectively.

Giving further details, he told that a team of Police Station Gangyal led by SHO Gangyal Inspector Joginder Singh Chib, assisted by ASI Vijay Kumar while on naka duty, rounded up a suspect in a vehicle (JK02BW-4527) moving towards Bishnah. On search, 8 gm heroin was recovered from the accused, who was identified as Mohd Shareef, son of Mohd Bulli, resident of Shergarh (Gidder Galiyan) Miran Sahib. He was arrested and FIR No 78/2022 under sections 8/21/22 of NDPS Act was registered against him at Police Station Gangyal. The entire operation was done under supervision of SDPO South Sachit Sharma and SP South Mamt Sharma.

Similarly, at another Naka laid by a team of Police Station Miran Sahib constituted under supervision of SDPO R S Purushottam Singh and led by SHO Miran Sahib Inspri Zaeer Mushtaq, two suspects moving in a vehicle (JK11A 5686) were stopped for checking. During search, 15 gm heroin was recovered from their possession. The accused, identified as Amandeep Singh, son of Harbans Singh and Kawaaljeet Singh, son of Karan Singh, both residents of Bhouri Camp were arrested and FIR No 72/2022 under sections 8/21/22/60 of NDPS Act was registered against them at Police Station Miran Sahib. Jammu police is working intensively to uproot chains of drug supply in the region and thorough questioning of all accused is going on to know origin of drug supply-chain.

37 pilgrims from...

Rajamahendravaram. "My colleague and some others went to Amarnath. I last spoke to her on Thursday but after that the contact has been lost. I have called the officials and police even in Jammu. Our Additional Resident Commissioner Himanshu Kaushik spoke to me and informed about the search operation," one Vasudha of Nellore said over phone.

According to data provided by government sources, of the 20-member team that went to Amarnath from Rajamahendravaram, only two women remained untraced.

"Their husbands returned to Srinagar but the women were still missing. They may have been injured or reached some other place. We are conducting the search operation to trace them," a senior official said.

The local Revenue Divisional Officer visited the kin of the two women in Rajamahendravaram on Sunday and discussed the situation.

A 38-member team from Guntur, a 17-member team from Tadepalligudem, a six-member team from Tirupati and another pilgrim from Vizianagaram were also reported safe.

A few pilgrims from Rajampet in Kadapa district were also reported safe but their number was not clear, according to government data.

State government authorities got in touch with many of the pilgrims, and also their families here, and confirmed that the tourists were safe after the cloudburst and flash flood near the holy cave shrine.

The state government dispatched AP Bhavan Additional Resident Commissioner Himanshu Kaushik to Srinagar to coordinate with the local authorities and ensure safety of the state's pilgrims, an official release here said.

The AP government also opened a dedicated helpline number 1902 to extend required help to pilgrims from the state.

Helplines were also set up in the AP Bhavan in New Delhi for any assistance to pilgrims and their relatives, the release added.

700 local youth...

personnel have lost their lives in terror incidents so far this year and 23 were injured. Twenty civilians have been killed in Jammu and Kashmir in terror incidents this year.

Jammu and Kashmir has seen eight grenade attack incidents this year.

According to the data, 146 terrorists, three security personnel and 41 civilians were killed in Jammu and Kashmir in terror incidents in 2021; 215 terrorists, 19 security personnel and 38 civilians were killed in 2020; 148 terrorists, 49 security personnel and 46 civilians were killed in 2019; and 185 terrorists, seven security personnel and 72 civilians were killed in 2018.

A total of 63 security personnel were injured in terror incidents in 2021, 165 in 2020, 376 in 2019 and 765 in 2018, the data showed.

Bodies of 2...

have been identified as Rifat (8) and Aliya (10), they said.

Azhar (9) was rescued by army on Saturday.

Uncertainty prevails in...

consensus name, he said there are several senior and young leaders in the party suited for the post and appointing the former MLA will further deteriorate the state of affairs.

"We want the party to be strengthened. Groupism should end. We want the party to face elections with a strong leadership in J&K. But what can he do in elections? He is not acceptable to us," Saroori said.

Amid the ongoing trouble, the Congress high command is believed to be in touch with the leadership in Jammu and Kashmir to iron out factional differences, before Assembly elections are announced.

BSF, Pak Rangers...

border while dominating the region effectively, the spokesperson said.

"Such gestures help build a peaceful atmosphere and cordial relationships between both the border-guarding forces," he added.

The army troops of both countries also exchanged sweets at various forward posts along the Line of Control (LoC) in Pooneh and Rajouri districts of the Jammu region on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha.

IAF evacuates 34...

the holy cave shrine of Amarnath in the south Kashmir Himalayas on Friday, leaving at least 15 people dead and more than 30 missing.

88 fresh COVID...

succumbed to COVID-19 in Ladakh. Of these, 168 deaths were reported from Leh and 60 from Kargil, according to the officials.

The officials said the number of active COVID-19 cases -- all in Leh -- has been recorded at 96 in Ladakh. While total of 154 sample reports were tested in Ladakh, 111 sample reports in Leh and 37 sample reports in Kargil were found to be negative, they said.

All the 35 people were discharged from hospital in Leh after being cured. With this, the total number of recoveries stands at 28,237, the officials said. As many as 2,505 passengers were screened at the Leh airport while 764 passengers including the drivers and helpers of trucks and light motor vehicles were screened at Khatse, 203 were screened at Upshi check post on highway, they added.

Israeli ministers to run as partners in upcoming elections

■ AGENCY

JERUSALEM: The leaders of two parties in Israel's outgoing government coalition announced Sunday that they would run as political partners in the upcoming parliamentary elections.

The announcement by Gideon Saar and Benny Gantz was the first shift in Israel's political landscape since the Knesset voted to dissolve itself June 30 and send the country back to the polls to elect a new parliament.

Israel will hold its fifth elections in under four years in November after the government headed by Prime Minister Naftali Bennett collapsed last month. The previous four elections were largely referendums on longtime leader Benjamin Netanyahu's fitness to serve as prime minister while under indictment for corruption.

Gantz, a former army chief of staff, heads the centrist Blue and White party and serves as Israel's defense minister. Saar is a former member of the once-dominant Likud party who broke ranks and formed his hawkish New Hope party. He is currently justice minister.

Both were key members of the alliance of eight diverse parties that joined forces last year to oust Netanyahu after 12 years in office.

Gantz said that the two parties were joining forces in order to provide voters with a strong centrist option to help end the country's protracted political crisis.

Today, we are laying the foundation of the next government, he said.

Saar said the aim was to break the political deadlock and form a broad national unity government that is not dependent upon the fringes. He said that Gantz was best suited to lead as prime minister. (AP)

Russian rocket attack kills 15 in Ukraine; others trapped

■ AGENCY

CHASIV YAR (UKRAINE):

Dozens of Ukrainian emergency workers laboured Sunday to pull people out of the rubble after a Russian rocket attack smashed into apartment buildings in eastern Ukraine, killing at least 15 people. More than 20 people were believed still trapped.

The strike late Saturday destroyed three buildings in a residential quarter of the town of Chasiv Yar, inhabited mostly by people who work in nearby factories.

On Sunday evening, rescuers were able to remove enough of the bricks and concrete to retrieve a man who had been trapped for almost 24 hours. Rescuers laid him on a stretcher and he was quickly taken to hospital.

Ukraine's Emergency Services said the latest rescue brought to six the number of people dug out of the rubble. Earlier in the day, they made contact with three others still trapped alive beneath the ruins.

Pavlo Kyrylenko, governor of the Donetsk region that includes Chasiv Yar, said an estimated 24 people were believed still trapped, including a 9-year-old child.

Cranes and excavators worked alongside rescue teams to clear away the ruins of one building, its walls completely shorn off by the impact of the strike. The rescuers kept working in the rain despite the dangerous conditions. The thud of artillery on the nearby front line resonated just a few miles away, making some workers flinch and others run for cover.

Kyrylenko said the town of about 12,000 was hit by Uragan rockets that are fired from truck-borne systems. Chasiv Yar is 20 kilometers (12 miles) southeast of Kramatorsk, a city that is a major target of Russian forces as they grind westward.

However, later Sunday, Viacheslav Boitsov, deputy chief of emergency service in the Donetsk Region, told the Associated Press that four shells hit the neighborhood and

they were likely Iskander missiles.

Residents said they heard at least three explosions in the attack and that many people were badly wounded in the blasts. A group of neighbors sat Sunday in a courtyard quietly discussing who was wounded and who was still missing.

There was an explosion, all the windows blew out and I was thrown to the ground, said 45-year-old Oksana, who gave only her first name. She was in her third-floor apartment when the missiles struck.

My kitchen walls and balcony have completely vanished, she added, struggling to hold back tears. I called my children to tell them I was alive.

Irina Shulimova, a 59-year-old retiree, recalled the terror. We didn't hear any incoming sound, we just felt the impact. I ran to hide in the corridor with my dogs. Everyone I knew started calling me to find out what had happened. I was shaking like a leaf, she said.

Front doors and balconies

were torn apart in the blast, and heaps of twisted metal and bricks lay on the ground. Crushed summer cherries lay among shattered window panes.

A 30-year-old technology worker named Oleksandr said his mother was among those injured in the explosion.

Thank God I wasn't injured, it was a miracle, he said, touching the crucifix around his neck.

Although the home he shares with his mother is now shattered, he said he doesn't plan to leave the neighborhood.

I only have enough money to support myself for another month. Lots of people are fed up already of refugees coming from the east no one will feed or support us there. It's better to stay, said Oleksandr, who declined to give his surname.

Another resident who gave only his first name, Dima, had lived for more than 20 years on the ground floor of one of the buildings that was hollowed out in the attack. He walked back and forth across the rubble.

Gantz, a former army chief of staff, heads the cen-

Theft case solved, two arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Sunday solved a theft case by arresting two thieves and recovered stolen items on their disclosure.

As per details, while investigating a theft case, Bagh-e-Bahu Police rounded up two suspects, who during interrogation confessed their crime. They were arrested and a case