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## Big push given to improve facilities for Amarnathji pilgrims: LG

First batch leaves for Holy Cave from Baltal, Nunwan Base camps



LG Manoj Sinha chairing a review meeting on Control Room operations set up at Raj Bhawan for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra on Saturday.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday said that a big push has been made to improve the facilities for Shri Amarnathji pilgrims and to provide best of comfort to make the spiritual journey a pleasurable experience.

Sinha was chairing a review meeting on Control Room operations set up at Raj

### Amarnath Yatra a divine, magnificent manifestation of our heritage: PM

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has described the annual Amarnath Yatra, which began on Saturday, as a divine and magnificent manifestation of our heritage. In a tweet, he wished new enthusiasm and energy to devotees from divine blessings and that the country move ahead quickly in 'amrit kaal' to realise its resolve.

Bhawan for Shri Amarnathji Yatra. He reviewed the queue

management, deployment of security personnel, women

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### Second batch of over 4,400 pilgrims leaves Jammu for Kashmir



Second batch of pilgrims leaving from Base camp, Jammu.

JAMMU: A second batch of more than 4,400 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here on Saturday in a secured convoy on a pilgrimage to the 3,888-metre-high Amarnath cave shrine.

The pilgrims left the base camp in the morning in a cavalcade of 188 vehicles. With this, the number of pilgrims who left for the Amarnath cave shrine from the Jammu base camp has reached 7,904, officials said.

They said 2,733 devotees left in 94 vehicles for Pahalgam around 4.50 am, while 1,683 pilgrims left in a fleet of 92 vehicles for the Baltal base camp nearly an hour earlier. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha

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## If anyone tries to cast evil eye on India, befitting reply will be given: Rajnath warns 'neighbour'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

K A N K E R (CHHATTISGARH): Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday warned India's "neighbor" that if anyone tried to harm the country, a befitting reply will be given.

Speaking at a rally in Chhattisgarh's Naxal-affected Kanker district, he also claimed that the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) would have been wiped out from the country had the Congress government in Chhattisgarh "cooperated fully."

He also alleged that forced religious conversions were on rise in the state.

The public meeting at the Narhardev High School ground was held to highlight the achievements of the Narendra Modi government at the Centre in the last nine

years. Referring to India's response after terrorist attacks in Uri (2016) and Pulwama (2019), Singh said



India has emerged as a powerful country under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and it is not weak anymore.

"Some terrorists from Pakistan intruded into India and attacked our jawans leaving many of them martyred. I was home minister then....Prime Minister held a meeting in Delhi and made a

decision within ten minutes. Our army jawans successfully neutralized terrorists on Pakistan's land," he said.

"I want to tell my neighbour that do not try to mess with India and do not try to provoke us. We will not only kill from this side, if required we can enter and kill on that side (across the border) too. Now India has changed," Singh added.

"Chhattisgarh has been struggling with the menace of Left Wing Extremism for a long time. Due to effective action under the leadership of PM Modi in nine years, its influence declined. Left Wing Extremism has now been restricted to only 10-12 districts. Some of these

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## Robust, dynamic security grid in place for Amarnath Yatra: Army

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
SRINAGAR: A robust and dynamic security grid complete with the deployment of snipers, anti-drone systems, bomb disposal and dog squads has been put in place to ensure a safe and secure Amarnath Yatra, the army said here on Saturday.

The yatra began from the twin routes of Baltal and Pahalgam. Baltal is in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district and Pahalgam in Anantnag district in the south.

"The Indian Army has traditionally been involved in ensuring safe and secure yatra for the pilgrims. This

year too, the army has worked with all other stakeholders to put in place a robust and dynamic security grid for the Shri Amarnathji Yatra," the army's 3 Sector Rashtriya Rifles commander Brigadier Atul Rajput told reporters here.

He said the army has ensured multi-tier security arrangements that include domination of the mountains, sanitisation of the yatra route and round-the-clock domination of the area using the latest night vision devices. The army's Special Forces are keeping a watch over the yatra route

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## Amarnath Yatra: Journey of faith begins amid high security, enthusiasm; drizzle no dampener

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
SRINAGAR/JAMMU/BALTAL: The breeze blew gently, borrowing the cool from the drizzle and energy from the first rays of the dawn, as chants in the praise of Lord Shiva rent the base camps for Amarnath Yatis as they began their journey to the cave shrine nestled at 3,880 metres in the Himalayas.

Most pilgrims spent the night awake in excitement and anticipation -- and some because they were sold fake registration slips by agents.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi wished new enthusiasm and energy to devotees who



Enthusiastic Amarnath Yatra pilgrims standing in queue to enter the Bhagwati Nagar-base camp in Jammu on Saturday.

knew the journey ahead was going to be hectic, but felt assured by the security arrangements.

The weather also played

hide and seek, but nothing dampened their spirit as the echoes of 'Bam Bam Bhole' and 'Har Har Mahadev' lent warmth to the cold rain

droplets. "Even though it is raining," said a yatri from Mumbai, "Bhole Baba has gifted us with enthusiasm. There is tremendous enthusiasm all around, notwithstanding the bad weather."

"I came last year also," added a pilgrim from Amritsar. "The arrangements are very good, they are managing everything, including cards, properly. The weather should remain good."

The yatra began from the twin routes of Baltal and Pahalgam. Baltal is in

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## 11 unexploded shells defused in Ladakh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
KARGIL: Eleven unexploded shells were defused by the army's bomb disposal squad in a forward village in Kargil district of Ladakh, officials said on Saturday.

The unit led by the Sappers of Forever in Operations division detected the ordnance during a sanitising drive in Kurbathang area, officials said.

The drive was conducted in close coordination with Tehsildar, Kargil, and Sarpanch, Pashkum, and the unexploded ordnance was safely defused by the bomb disposal squad, they said.

Earlier in April, the Sappers of Forever in Operations division had destroyed seven explosives found near the new astro turf ground following the death of a 13-year-old boy in a landmine explosion. Two more boys were injured in the same incident.

Lt governor, Ladakh, Brig (Retd) B D Mishra had then gave his assurance to the people that the littered shells, which pose a threat

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**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 34.8°C Min: 24.1°C

Humidity  
Max: 55 Min: 50

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 31.4°C Min: 16.9°C

Humidity  
Max: 74 Min: 40

Sunset: 19:39 Hours  
Sunrise: 05:19 Hours

## Facilitate movement of civilians, tourists on NH as well: CS

Yatis also free to visit other tourist places by adhering to RoP

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
SRINAGAR: In view of the beginning of Shri Amarnathji Yatra, 2023 from today, a high-level meeting of both Civil and Police administration was on Saturday held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta to review the traffic scenario on NH-44 including that of the roads leading to Pahalgam and Baltal.

On the occasion, Dr Mehta maintained that J&K has moved much ahead and our approach towards the management of affairs should be

facilitative. He impressed upon the concerned to streamline both tourists and civilian traffic along with the Yatis for their movement on the National Highway.

He asked for maintaining a reasonable gap between LMVs and HMVs so that none face any difficulty in reaching their destinations. He observed that the highway today is in much better shape with four lanes and tunnels except for a few difficult stretches. He reflected that all this should have the desired impact on ground. He asked the concerned

authorities to perform their roles efficiently.

The Chief Secretary even directed the senior officers from the Traffic Department to closely monitor and supervise the performance of their subordinates through field inspections themselves on the ground. He advised them to completely take the affairs in their hands and decide for themselves about the effective use of the resources at hand.

He enquired about the use of traffic management paraphernalia like installation

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## Every farmer getting benefit of Rs 50k per year; that's 'Modi's guarantee', not just promise: PM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
NEW DELHI: The government is giving Rs 6.5 lakh crore to the agriculture sector every year with each farmer getting a benefit of Rs 50,000 annually in one form or the other, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday while asserting it's "Modi's guarantee" and not just a promise.

In what was seen as a veiled dig at the poll promises made by Congress and other opposition parties in recent times, Modi listed benefits provided to farmers mainly in form of fertiliser subsidy, foodgrains procurement and PM-KISAN and said: "This shows what a guarantee looks like and what massive efforts are needed to change the lives of farmers."

"The government is making sure that every farmer in the country receives around Rs 50,000 every year in some way or the other. This means, under the BJP government at the Centre, there is a guarantee that



every farmer gets Rs 50,000 in various forms," he said while addressing the 17th Indian Cooperative Congress here.

"Ye Modi ki guarantee hai. Aur maine jo kiya hai, woh bata raha hoon, vaade nahi bata raha hoon

(This is Modi's guarantee. I am only talking about what I have done and not the promises)," the prime minister said.

"On an average, the government is spending more than Rs 6.5 lakh crore yearly on agriculture and farmers,"

## 19th All India Legal Services Authorities Meet concludes



Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Executive Chairman NALSA and Judge Supreme Court of India with Chief Justices of High Courts, Executive Chairpersons SLASs, Chairpersons High Court Legal Services Committees and others during the meet.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
SRINAGAR: The two days 19th All India Legal Services Authorities meet organized by Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority concluded here on Saturday at SKICC here.

On the second day of the meet, five sessions were held under the chairmanship of Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Executive Chairman NALSA and Judge Supreme Court of India.

The first session dealt with confirmation of the Minutes of the 18th All India Meet of

State Legal Services Authority held at Jaipur, Rajasthan in July, 2022. The session also deliberated upon the subject area of technology in Legal Services with a discourse on strengthening National Legal Aid Helpline -15100 and NALSA's digital platform.

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## J&K registers record breaking GST revenue growth in June

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
SRINAGAR: "The GST revenue collected in the month of June 2023 in J&K has registered substantial growth of 58 percent compared to June of previous financial year", stated the Union Ministry of Finance here on Saturday.

This growth percentage is more than three times the National Average and the best in Country among medium and large jurisdictions. The gross GST revenue collected in June 2023 was 588.68 crore compared to 371.83 crore in June 2022.

Pertinently, India's gross GST revenue for the month of June 2023 stood at 1,61,497 crore, registering a 12 per cent year-on-year rise. It is for the fourth time since the inception of GST in 2017

that the monthly gross GST collection has crossed Rs. 1.60 lakh crore mark.

Commissioner State Taxes J&K, Dr. Rashmi Singh, applauded the performance of State Tax Officers for their unrelenting efforts in ensuring consistent growth in GST revenue month-on-month. Dr. Rashmi Singh said that this performance demonstrates the dedication and hard work of the State Taxes Officer in Jammu and Kashmir. She added that this impressive growth coincides with the sixth anniversary of the implementation of GST in J&K. The State Taxes Department is celebrating GST Week from 01 July to 07 July as part of its initiative to raise awareness of GST among all stakeholders concerned.