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# Amarnathji Yatra giving new wings to local aspirations: LG

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
GANDERBAL: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday said the sacred journey to Shri Amarnathji cave shrine is bringing happiness in people's lives and giving new wings to local aspirations.

"The Yatra is making significant contribution to tourism, employment generation and revenue", the Lieutenant Governor said while interacting with the pilgrims, service providers and officials during his visit to the Baltal base camp, adding that human spirit is soaring to great heights, cultural diversity and communal harmony is being strengthened and J&K is emerging as modern and eternal symbol.

During review meeting with the senior officers of the Administration, stakeholder departments, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB), police and security forces, he directed for main-



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha during visit to Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Base Camp at Baltal on Sunday.  
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taining enthusiasm for excellent service, seamless coordination, effective communication, prompt response to concerns and encourage feedback from pilgrims during the remaining period of Yatra.

"Make sure every possible

comfort is provided to pilgrims", he added.

The Lt Governor took appraisal of the security arrangements, Holi operations, and facilities like accommodation, food, connectivity, transportation, power and water supply, san-

itation, health, availability of fire tenders, parking facilities, awareness and IBC programmes for the yatriis.

The meeting also discussed the installation of fences and CCTV cameras enroute and on critical points; regular checking of food quality

through mobile testing vans and the preparedness of departments, police, security forces, health and disaster response teams in view of the weather exigencies.

Dr Raghav Langar, Secretary, Planning Development & Monitoring Department and Shyambir, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal apprised the Lt Governor on the yatra arrangements at Baltal axis.

During his visit, the Lt Governor interacted with the delegations comprising representatives of ponywalas, shop owners, tent providers, Langar organizations and NGOs.

He appreciated the dedication and commitment of service providers, NGOs, volunteers and lauded their invaluable contribution in enriching the spiritual tradition of the holy yatra and bringing indescribable joy to pilgrims.

He also invited

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## Fresh batch of pilgrims leaves for Amarnath Yatra

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Amid tight security, a fresh batch of over 3,000 pilgrims left here early Sunday for the Amarnath shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said.

Over 3.20 lakh pilgrims have so far paid obeisance at the cave shrine since the commencement of the pilgrimage from the twin tracks of Pahalgam in Anantnag and Baltal

in Ganderbal districts on July 1.

"The 21st batch of 3,691 pilgrims left Bhagwati Nagar base camp Jammu for the valley in a convoy of 141 vehicles this morning," an official said.

He said while 2,203 pilgrims are heading for Pahalgam for their onward journey to the cave, 1,488 pilgrims are heading for Baltal base camp.

## Another Punjab resident arrested for firing in Samba

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: An alleged interstate heroin smuggler, wanted in connection with a firing incident, was arrested in Punjab and handed over to the Jammu and Kashmir Police for interrogation, police said on Sunday.

Neeraj Jaswal alias "Romi", a resident of Amritsar in Punjab, was the fourth accused arrested in connection with a firing incident at Rangoor near the International Border in Samba district during the intervening night of June 11 and 12, a police spokesman said.

He said Jaswal was work-

ing as a guide of his associates at the time of the mid-night firing and had fled the scene on a motorcycle, taking advantage of darkness.

However, he was arrested by the Punjab Police on the request of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, the spokesman said, adding a police team from Samba was deputed to Punjab and has taken custody of Jaswal for interrogation.

Earlier, three alleged heroin smugglers, all from Punjab, were arrested at Radian in Ranghar sector of Samba while they were fleeing after firing on

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## Boy found wandering street with chained hands in Rajouri Distt; locals alert police

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

RAJOURI: An 11-year-old boy wandering the streets with his hands chained in this district on Sunday caught the attention of people, prompting intervention by police and the child protection wing.

The hapless boy told police that he had escaped from a Madrassa in Palullian village where he was tied with iron chains and beaten up mercilessly by his teacher, officials said.

They said the boy is a resident of Androoth village of Rajouri.

The locals informed the police and the child protec-

tion committee after spotting the minor.

A case under relevant sections of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act was registered and further investigation is on to bring the culprits to book, a senior official said.

Shivanghi Kant, legal officer, Child Protection Committee said the matter is of grave concern and necessary action is being taken.

"This is a serious matter. The child has been beaten up mercilessly. Police have started an investigation, while we are also initiating legal proceedings," he said.

## Cong to hold mega convention on Aug 6 in Kashmir

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Congress unit held a meeting here Sunday to discuss its strategy for the forthcoming elections in Jammu and Kashmir and prepare for a mega-convention of the party's grassroots level representatives in August.

"We are having an extended Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) meeting to discuss the upcoming elections, be it local bodies, Lok Sabha or assembly polls. Two to three senior leaders from all districts will be speaking at the meeting," J-K PCC president Vikar Rasool told reporters.

He said the August 6 convention is aimed at preparing the party cadre for the upcoming elections in the Union territory.

"We will be having a convention on August 6 in which district development council and block development council members, and present and former panch and sarpanch of the party

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**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 35.6°C Min: 24.5°C

Humidity  
Max: 68 Min: 55

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 24.5°C Min: 19.3°C

Humidity  
Max: 94 Min: 77

Sunset : 19:32 Hours  
Sunrise : 05:31 Hours

## PM Modi pays tributes to freedom fighters Tilak, Azad

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to freedom fighters Chandra Shekhar Azad and Bal Gangadhar Tilak on their birth anniversaries on Sunday, saying their contribution to the freedom struggle will always inspire the people of the country.

"Salutations to the great son of the country, Chandrashekhar Azad, on his birth anniversary. The story of his sacrifice to protect the motherland will always inspire the people of the country," Modi said in a tweet in Hindi.

### Two injured as landslide hits gypsum mine

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

BANIHAL: Two people were seriously injured on Sunday when they came under a landslide while working at a gypsum mine in Ramban district, police officials said.

The landslide struck the mine at Haroog area of Dharankund, 26 km from Ramban district headquarters, trapping a JCB machine operator and a dumper driver, the officials said. They said police along with State Disaster Response Force and local volunteers immediately launched a rescue operation and pulled out driver of earthmover Ajaz Ahmed of Bhatthan-Ghandri Ramban and driver Anil Singh of Dhar Road Udhampur.

The two had suffered multiple injuries and were hospitalised, the officials said.

In another tweet in Hindi, he said, "Salutations to Lokmanya Tilak, the immortal fighter of the country who shook the foundations of foreign rule with the demand of 'purna swaraj', on his birth anniversary. The story of his courage, struggles and dedication in the freedom movement will always inspire the people of the country." Born in Uttar Pradesh in 1906, Azad ran a revolutionary network and had pledged to never get caught by the British. He took his own life during an encounter with the police in 1931, staying true to his resolve to remain

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## 40 times more talk of good things happening in India: Bhagwat

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

MUMBAI: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday said the discussion on good things happening in the country now is at least 40 times more than the talk on the bad things happening.

He was speaking after inaugurating Shrimati Dhankavren Babubhai Dhakan Hospital (Suvarna Hospital) in Kandivali suburb of north Mumbai in the presence of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis.

"Many times negative discussions are heard. But when we go around the country and see, then we come to know that there is 40 times more discussion about the good things that are happen-

## Anti-tank mine destroyed by BSF near IB

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

SAMBA: The Border Security Force (BSF) on Sunday destroyed a rusted anti-tank mine in a controlled explosion near the International Border in Samba district, officials said.

The anti-tank mine, which is believed to have drifted away by flood waters, was noticed lying on the banks of Basantar river near Border Outpost Bandh tip, about 400 metres from the International Border, around 8 am, the officials said. They said the powerful mine was later detonated by experts at the scene without causing any damage.



ing, than there is talk of the bad things happening in India," Bhagwat said.

"The reason for the utkarsh (rise) of the country today is due to government's policies and the work of responsible people in government. Things are also running

## Land grabbers eyeing disputed 20 kanal land Police foils land grabbing attempt in Sainik Colony; poles, barbed wire seized

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Police on Sunday foiled an attempt to grab over 20 kanals disputed prime land in the Sainik Colony locality in Jammu City outskirts.

According to officials, the police acted swiftly on receiving information about a dozen land grabbers trying to fence a portion of disputed land. However, on seeing police arriving on the spot they fled away leaving behind poles and bundles of barbed wire.

The locals urged the police to have the issue settled on immediate basis, lest the anti social elements and land grab-



Fencing by land grabbers on a portion of disputed land.

bers succeed in grabbing the prime land which is under dispute for the last over 15 years.

They complained that such tendency will encourage the

land grabbers to lay their hands on the forest and state land in the close vicinity also.

Incharge Police Post Sainik Colony Bhawani Singh said,

## PM should make statement on Manipur in Parliament: Farooq

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Sunday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi should speak on the Manipur situation in Parliament and the opposition should also be allowed to express its views on the matter.

"The whole world is talking about it (Manipur). He (PM) has commented on the issue and used very strong words but he should say it in Parliament. After he speaks, he should listen to us (opposition) also. We hope that we will be allowed to talk on this issue in Parliament. Our aim is not to criticise but express our feelings about the situation," Abdullah told reporters here.

Asked about his views on



the viral video of two Kuki women being paraded naked in Manipur, Abdullah said, "Manipur is a tragedy for all of us. It is doomsday for every Indian".

Abdullah said some people were spreading hate for power.

"I despise such power for which we have to divide the people. God is one and He belongs to everyone. What form you want to see

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