

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!
LG to flag...

according to the officials. Jammu has been put under a security blanket with enhanced security measures, including a multi-layer security grid and the use of technology for surveillance. Jammu and Kashmir Police's Security Wing has taken charge of the Bhagwati Nagar base camp while the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is managing security around the base camp. The Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu serves as the primary base camp for pilgrims from across the country before they proceed to the cave shrine of Amarnath nestled in the majestic Himalayas of south Kashmir.



Visits Yatri Niwas...

success," the Lieutenant Governor said. The 38-day long Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra will commence on 3rd July from the base camp on both the routes and it will culminate on 9th August 2025. The Yatra will be flagged off by the Lieutenant Governor on July 02 from Yatri Niwas, Bhagwati Nagar. The Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by DGP Nalin Prabhat; ADG CRPF, Rajesh Kumar; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Shri Ramesh Kumar; IGP Jammu Bhim Sen Tuti; Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya and senior officials from civil administration, police and security forces.

Reviews final preparations...

should work in close coordination to ensure movement of pilgrims in designated convoys and smooth implementation of the traffic plan, he said. He further directed the Deputy Commissioners to ensure that Lodgement centres and sanitation units are in good condition.

Special cell, toll...

Lieutenant Governor told the officials. The Lieutenant Governor said a Special Cell will be established in LG Secretariat to address concerns of terror victim families. He further asked the Chief Secretary to set up a similar cell in his office. A Toll-free number should also be notified for the assistance of Terror victim families, he said.

"Every possible assistance would be provided to terror victim families and culprits roaming free for many decades will be brought to justice," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo; Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department Shaleen Kabra; DGP Nalin Prabhat; Special Director General (Coordination), PIHQ, S.J.M Gillani; Principal Secretary Home Chandraker Bharti; Principal Secretary, Finance Santosh D Vaidya; ADGP CID Nitish Kumar; Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and CEO SASB Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari; IGP Kashmir, VK Birdi; IGP Jammu Bhim Sen Tuti; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Vijay Bidhuri; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar; MD & CEO J&K Bank, Amitava Chatterjee; DIGs, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, and senior officials of Police and Civil Administration.

HIGHLIGHTS...

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ACB investigates irregularities...

examination of their bank transaction history to trace the money trail. This step is crucial to establishing their involvement and linkage in the scam.

Another important aspect of the probe is the identification of touts and middlemen through whom money may have been routed. Investigators are also reviewing the financial transactions of these individuals to trace the forward money trail that could help uncover higher-level beneficiaries in the recruitment fraud.

The recruitment process under scrutiny was large-scale, involving the selection of around 700 candidates, and hence requires the scrutiny of a vast amount of records. Each document and transaction is being carefully examined to identify the modus operandi, the extent of the malpractice, and the individuals responsible.

Despite the challenges and volume of work involved, the Anti-Corruption Bureau is vigorously pursuing the investigation. Authorities have assured the public, especially the aggrieved aspirants, that they are fully committed to ensuring justice and will leave no stone unturned in exposing the irregularities and punishing those involved.

The ACB has called for patience and cooperation, emphasizing that the ongoing efforts are directed at a transparent and fair conclusion to one of the most significant recruitment-related corruption cases in the union territory.

CB books J&K...

dealer, in connection with serious frauds and criminal conspiracies. According to Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Crime Jammu, Benam Tosh, the cases-FIR Nos. 29/2025, 30/2025, 31/2025, and 32/2025 have been registered at Police Station Crime Branch (EOW) Jammu following multiple complaints and directions from the courts and government departments and in-depth investigations started.

In the first case, SSP Crime Jammu said, on the written complaint of Cluster Head, J&K Bank Ltd. Zonal Office, Doda, CB registered case against the then Associate Executive J&K Bank Branch Bebrota Ramban, Sanjeev Sharma (now terminated), son of Mool Raj Sharma, resident of Anbedkar Nagar Paloura Jammu, the then Branch Head J&K Bank Branch Bebrota Ramban, Bharat Bhagat, son of Girdhari Lal Bhagat, resident of old Janipur at present Bantalab Jammu and others for committing criminal breach of trust, criminal conspiracy and embezzlement of Rs 64.67 lakh from the FDs/term deposits, Saving accounts and KCC accounts of 42 innocent bank customers. In another case, SSP said, on the written communication received from GAD, CB has registered an FIR against Imran Nazir, son of Nazir Hussain, resident of Khabla Behrote Thannamandi, Rajouri, who was appointed as Junior Assistant in the J&K Secretariat (Subordinate) Service under ST Category vide Government Order No. 762-JK (GAD) of 2022 dated June 24, 2022 on the recommendation of the J&K Service Selection Board and joined in GAD on June 27, 2022, for producing fake/false certificate of Bachelor Degree in Information Technology, purported to be issued by Karnataka State Open University Muktha Gangotri, Mysore. In compliance with the Learned Court directions on the written complaint of Kewal Krishan Gupta, son of Rohlu Ram, resident of Nanak Nagar Jammu, SSP said, CB has registered a case against LIC agent Rahul Shakdar, son of Jawer Lal, resident of Anand Nagar, Bohri, Jammu for duping the complainant of Rs 23 lakh on the pretext of getting appointed his grandson as AAO in the Ministry of MSME, Delhi. In another significant case, SSP Crime Jammu said, on the complaint of Narinder Kour and Harminder Pal Singh both residents of Channi Himmat Jammu and in compliance with court directions, Crime Branch has registered an FIR against Property Dealer Muneer Hussain, son of Noor Hussain, resident of Rajpur Kholar, Tehsil Bari Brahmana, District Samba, Jeetinder Singh, son of Kulwant Singh, resident of Sopore, at present Sector-47, Chandigarh, Manmeet Singh, son of Kulwant Singh, resident of Sopore, at present Nanak Nagar Jammu, Dara Singh, resident of Nanak Nagar, Jammu and others for inducing hard earned money of the complainant by committing cheating, forgery and criminal conspiracy on the pretext of providing piece of land at Chak Ratno, Jammu.

DDC member arrested by ACB for taking bribe of Rs 50,000

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A District Development Council member was caught red-handed by the Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday while accepting a bribe of Rs 50,000, an official spokesperson said. The accused District Development Council (DDC) member was identified as Mohammad Shaban Chopan, a resident of Dara Harwan here.

The ACB spokesperson said the anti-graft body received a complaint from a man running a scholar boarding school along with a swimming pool and a guest house in Check Dara, Harwan here. He said an official inspection

was conducted at the site and the complainant came to know that it was arranged by Chopan.

"Thereafter, the DDC member, through his tout, namely Ghulam Mohammad Khathana, also a resident of Dara Harwan, Srinagar, demanded a bribe of Rs 5,00,000. The complainant was asked to pay Rs 50,000 as the first instalment and give a blank signed cheque," the ACB spokesperson said.

He said the complainant was further told that he should pay the remaining amount after getting the required clearances.

The complainant alleged that all this was done at the behest of Chopan to put pressure on him and find a reason to demand money from

him.

Acting on the complaint, the ACB conducted a discreet verification through a designated officer. The verification report confirmed the allegations, the ACB spokesperson said.

On the basis of the complaint and the verification report, a case was registered. Subsequently, a trap team was constituted and a successful trap was laid, he said.

"During the trap operation, the accused public servant and his tout were caught red-handed while demanding and accepting Rs 50,000 and a blank signed cheque from the complainant. They were immediately apprehended," the spokesperson said.

Further investigation is ongoing, he said.

Yatri Niwas at Baltal will be dedicated to pilgrims on July 4: LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the eve of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha on Tuesday attended the 'Tawi Aarti' at Tawi Riverfront Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor sought the blessings of Suryaputri River Tawi and Baba Barfani and prayed for a peaceful, blessed and a memorable pilgrimage for all the devotees.

"Entire J&K is experiencing spiritual bliss on the eve of holy pilgrimage of Shri Amarnath Ji. People of J&K are ready to welcome devotees of Baba Barfani coming from across the country. May Lord Shiva bless everyone with health, happiness and harmony," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor extended his felicitations to Jammu Municipal Corporation, Department of Tourism, Jammu Smart City Limited and Shri Raghunath Ji Corridor Vikas Council Jammu for organising the Tawi Aarti.

"There is the Song of God in the heartbeat of Jammu.

The truth of life shines in city's consciousness. The relationship between Jammu and spirituality is eternal. The city has always been in search of truth and it is blessed by the divine energy. This divine Tawi Aarti will connect the pilgrims of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra with the spiritual and historical significance of the Suryaputri River Tawi," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor, in his address, highlighted Jammu Kashmir's extraordinary journey towards peace, prosperity, and unprecedented development over the past few years.

"After decades of darkness J&K in 2019 leaped towards regaining its dignity, its pride and its spiritual peak. It has got new wings in the last 5 years. The light of upliftment is dispelling darkness in every section. Citizens are full of self-confidence and the river of progress is flowing uninterrupted," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated his unwavering

commitment to the inclusive development of the Union Territory and revival of the region's rich cultural and spiritual legacy.

"For me responsibility of J&K is not just administrative assignment. For me this was an opportunity to restore the ancient glory of Jammu and Kashmir. For me it was an opportunity to rebuild Jammu and Kashmir.

I have tried to recreate the grandeur of Jammu and Kashmir like the sacred temple. I have tried to restore the lost image of this holy land," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor saluted the people of J&K for actively participating in the development journey. "I am proud about the rapid pace at which Jammu Division and Kashmir Division have developed in the last five years. The pace of progress is historic.

Common citizens and intellectuals of the society are engaged in the transformation of Jammu and Kashmir which is highly commend-

able, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also commended the entire team of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board for performing its duties with dedication and devotion for the pilgrims. He said the Yatri Niwas at Baltal will be dedicated to Pilgrims on July 04.

Since 2022 facilities for pilgrims are significantly improved. I pray to Lord Shiva to make the journey of devotees successful and all their wishes come true, he said.

"World's eyes are on this yatra. The devotees' resolve is unshakeable; no threats can deter their spirit. With the cooperation and support of everyone, this year's Yatra will be even more historic than previous years," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor urged all the civil society members, enlightened citizens to join the flag-off ceremony of the first batch of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025 at Yatri Niwas tomorrow morning. He asked the media persons to spread awareness among the pil-

grims to travel in designated convoys.

The Lieutenant Governor also sought the support from all sections of the society to make the Tawi Aarti a continuous event.

Bharat Bhushan, Chairman, District Development Council Jammu; Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Devansh Yadav, Municipal Commissioner Jammu and CEO of Jammu Smart City Limited; Rajesh Gupta, Chairman Raghunathji Corridor Vikas Council; heads of various religious and business associations, members of civil society groups, Acharyas and Archakas were present.

Members of Legislative Assembly; Administrative Secretaries; senior officials of Civil and Police Administration, people and pilgrims of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra in large number also took part in the Tawi Aarti.

Thakrakote climbs 407 places to secure 13th rank in NITI Aayog's Aspirational Blocks; DDC stresses sustained development

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: In a landmark achievement for Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, Aspirational Block Thakrakote has made an extraordinary leap of 407 positions in NITI Aayog's Aspirational Blocks Ranking, climbing from rank 420 in December 2024 to rank 13 in March 2025. This remarkable improvement reflects the block's focused progress across five core development sectors identified by NITI Aayog: Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Allied Activities, Basic Infrastructure and Social Development.

The significant improvement is the result of continuous monitoring, field visits, and collaborative governance. Repeated review meetings, intensified monitoring and on-ground assessments of Thakrakote by the DC Nidhi Malik, have driven focused developmental action and improved grievance redressal mechanisms.



Among the notable successes, Thakrakote achieved 100% performance in crucial Health & Nutrition indicators such as ANC registration of pregnant women, provision of supplementary nutrition under the ICDS scheme and regular screening for diabetes and hypertension. The district also ensured that 99% of Self-Help Groups received revolving funds under livelihood promotion initiatives. In the Agriculture sector, all targeted Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) were formed, every eligible farmer received soil health cards and PM-KISAN beneficiary coverage was fully linked with

Aadhaar and land records. Under the basic infrastructure theme, the block reported a 16% rise in completion of housing units under PMAY-G. To build on this success, DC Reasi Nidhi Malik chaired a high-level review meeting today with district officers to evaluate ongoing works and set a clear roadmap for pushing the block further up the rankings. Emphasis was placed on improving outcomes in Health, ICDS and Education sectors. The meeting was attended by ADDC Reasi Sukhdev Singh, CPO Narinder Kumar (virtually), CMO, CEO, DIO, CAHO, BDO and others.

Drug network busted; 7 peddlers nabbed, heroin, two sharp edged weapons recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant crackdown on drug trafficking, Miran Sahib Police apprehended 07 drug peddlers during routine patrolling and naka checking. The operation led to the recovery of 160 grams of heroin-like substance, 02 sharp-edged weapons (Tokas), 05 mobile phones, and ₹7,000 in cash. Besides Swift Dzire Vehicle was also seized.

The arrested accused have been identified as Mohd Mansha S/O Mohd Mirza R/O Ghandhuk Chack Phallian Mandal; Mohd Saleem S/O Gulam Hussain R/O Hatli More Kathua; Mohd Kabir S/O Gulam Rasool R/O Kanskhashan Reasi; Lal Hussain S/O Abdul Hussain R/O Alwara Phallian Mandal; Mohd Mushtaq S/O Abdul Hamied R/O Kanskhashan, Anil Kumar S/O Ram

Dita R/O Thalwal Phallian Mandal, and Asif Ali S/O Sher Baz R/O Gujjar Nagar Tehsil Jammu. The successful operation was carried out during routine area domination duties, where suspicious activity led to the interception and subsequent recovery of the contraband items from the accused. Their questioning is expected to yield further leads on the supply chain and distribution network.

Cabinet approves Rs 1.07 lakh Cr ELI scheme to create 3.5 Cr jobs in 2 years

Gives nod to Khelo Bharat Niti

NEW DELHI: Calling it a "strategic roadmap" for India's elevation into the top five of world sports, the cabinet on Tuesday approved the Khelo Bharat Niti to create "world-class systems" of coaching and athlete support along with a robust administrative set-up to make the country a strong contender for the 2036 Olympics.

Previously called the National Sports Policy and introduced for the first time in 1984, the Khelo Bharat Niti 2025 will supersede the 2001 policy. It is a "guiding document" to formulate plans and schemes for betterment of the country's sporting ecosystem.

"We have used the experience of the last 10 years and the new policy will work towards improvement of sports. Major objective is to make India a top-five sporting nation by 2047. That's the overall objective," Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters while unveiling the policy and other cabinet decisions.

"The PM has given a different kind of emphasis to sports, especially in rural areas," he said.

announced in the Union Budget 2024-25 as part of the package of five schemes to facilitate employment, skilling and other opportunities for 4.1 crore youth with a total budget outlay of Rs 2 lakh crore.

The ELI scheme aims to incentivise the creation of more than 3.5 crore jobs in the country over two years, an official statement said.

The scheme will provide incentives to employees as well as employers to boost job creation. Under the scheme, while the first-time employees will get one month's wage (up to Rs 15,000), the employers will be given incentives for a period of two years for generating additional employment, with extended benefits for another two years for the manufacturing sector.

The ELI scheme was

The plan consists of two parts, with Part A focused on first timers (employees) and Part B focused on employers.

Targeting first-time employees registered with EPFO, this Part A will offer a one-month wage up to Rs 15,000 in two instalments. Employees with salaries up to Rs 1 lakh will be eligible. The first instalment will be payable after 6 months of service, and the second instalment will be payable after 12 months of service and completion of a financial literacy programme by the employee.

"To encourage the habit of

saving, a portion of the incentive will be kept in a savings instrument or deposit account for a fixed period and can be withdrawn by the employee at a later date. Part A will benefit around 1.92 crore first-time employees," the statement said.

Part B of the scheme will cover the generation of additional employment in all sectors, with a special focus on the manufacturing sector. The employers will get incentives with respect to employees with salaries up to Rs 1 lakh.

The government will incentivise employers, up to Rs 3,000 per month, for two years, for each additional employee with sustained employment for at least six months. For the manufacturing sector, incentives will be extended to the 3rd and 4th years as well.

Establishments, which are registered with EPFO, will be required to hire at least two additional employees (for employers with less than 50 employees) or five additional employees (for employers with 50 or more employees) on a sustained basis for at least six months.

The benefit to the employer (per additional employment per month) will be up to Rs 1,000 for employees with a

monthly wage of Rs 10,000, while this will be Rs 2,000 for employees with wages of more than Rs 10,000 and up to Rs 20,000.

Employees with wages up to Rs 10,000 will get a proportional incentive.

The benefit will be Rs 3,000 per month to the employers for employees with a wage of more than Rs 20,000 (up to a salary of Rs 1 lakh/month).

Part B (for employers) is expected to incentivise employers for the creation of additional employment for nearly 2.60 crore persons.

All payments to the first-time employees under part A of the scheme will be made through the DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) mode using the Aadhar Bridge Payment System (ABPS).

Payments to employers under Part B will be made directly into their PAN-linked Accounts.

With the ELI scheme, the government intends to catalyse job creation in all sectors, particularly in the manufacturing sector, besides incentivising youth joining the workforce for the first time.

An important outcome of the scheme will also be the formalisation of the country's workforce by extending social security coverage for crores of young men and women.