

We must believe that we are gifted for something, and that this thing, at whatever cost, must be attained.

—Marie Curie

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Inking the Truth

Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026

Offline Registration initiates, devotees queue up ahead of pilgrimage; LG to flag off 1st Batch today



EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Off-line registration for the annual Amarnath Yatra commenced on Wednesday, with hundreds of devotees turning up at the designated centres a day before Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is scheduled to flag off the first batch of pil-



grims on July 2 from the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas base camp here. The 57-day pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre high Amarnath cave shrine is scheduled to begin on July 3 from the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag district, and the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in

Ganderbal district. Around four lakh pilgrims have already registered online for the Yatra. Overnight rain, which turned the weather pleasant in Jammu, did little to deter the enthusiasm of the pilgrims, who queued up outside the registration centres from the wee hours to get their passes for the **P11**

Sinha reviews arrangements at Yatri Niwas

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday visited the Yatri Niwas at Bhagwati Nagar in Jammu and reviewed arrangements in place for the pilgrims ahead of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026.

The Lieutenant Governor took appraisal of logistics, lodging, security arrangements, health facilities, help desks, sanitation, power and water supply, emergency and other essential services and **P11**



100-DAY NASHA MukT JK ABHIYAAN
The EARTH NEWS joins the campaign launched by Honourable Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Ji to eradicate drug menace from union territory of J&K.

War on Drugs intensified under Nasha MukT Campaign

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

PULWAMA: To review the implementation of the ongoing anti-drug campaign under the Nasha MukT Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, the status of NDPS cases and various enforcement and preventive measures being undertaken across the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, Wednesday chaired a meeting of the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) at the Administrative Complex, Pulwama.

At the outset, the concerned officers presented detailed progress reports on the activities being carried out under the 100-day intensive Nasha MukT Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan. The presentations highlighted awareness programmes organised across Panchayats, educational institutions and urban local bodies, besides initiatives aimed at prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and community participation. Reviewing the awareness activities being conducted in Panchayats, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Assistant Commissioner Panchayat to further intensify Information, Education

and Communication (IEC) activities and organise multiple awareness programmes at different locations within Panchayats to ensure maximum outreach and community participation. The Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Pulwama, briefed the meeting on the awareness programmes being organised in urban areas under the campaign. The Deputy Commissioner directed that awareness initiatives be conducted regularly in markets, public spaces and educational institutions to ensure wider public outreach.

The Chair was also apprised of the awareness programmes being organised in schools across the district. Stressing the importance of preventive education, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Education Department to organise regular awareness sessions, debates, seminars, counselling programmes and sports activities in educational institutions to raise awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse.

Furthermore, the functioning of the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF), Pulwama, and the Drug De-Addiction Centre, Tral, was

reviewed in detail. Dr. Qayoom sought details from the concerned officers regarding treatment facilities, patient admissions, counselling services and rehabilitation measures, and directed them to ensure effective counselling, timely treatment, proper follow-up of recovered individuals and their integration with skill development and livelihood opportunities.

Reviewing the measures taken against illicit poppy cultivation and wild cannabis, the Assistant Commissioner Revenue presented the action taken report on destruction drives being conducted across the district.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments to maintain strict surveillance, intensify field inspections and ensure the complete eradication of illicit cultivation and wild cannabis across the district.

Later, the meeting also reviewed the status of NDPS cases registered across the district. The Deputy Director Prosecution presented a detailed overview of cases under investigation, prosecution and trial.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasised the need for close coordination **P11**

Police register 345 NDPS Cases, arrest 372 drug peddlers during first 6 months

SRINAGAR: Continuing its sustained and aggressive campaign against drug trafficking and narcotics abuse, Police in Anantnag have recorded significant achievements during the first Six Months of year 2026.

Key Actions During the first 6 Months: FIRs & Arrests: 345 FIRs registered under various provisions of the NDPS Act. 372 drug peddlers arrested for narcotics trafficking and related activities.

Seizures: More than 440 kilograms of contraband substances seized in multiple operations across the district. Cash amounting to ₹2752976 recovered from drug peddlers.

Action on Properties: Properties worth approximately ₹50 Crore attached in 30 cases under relevant provisions of law. 20 illegal properties worth ₹20 crores, linked to narcotics proceeds, demolished. Destruction Drives: 2000 **P11**

PM Modi: Digital India redefining Governance, Revolutionizing lives

Conveys greetings on CA & Doctors' Day, hails medics



NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday lauded the Digital India initiative of the government, and said it has redefined governance, empowered citizens and ac-

celerated all-round development by touching every aspect of life. Eleven years of Digital India has given India a new identity worldwide, he asserted. "Today, we mark 11

years since the Digital India initiative was launched. This initiative has redefined governance, empowered citizens and accelerated all-round development. It has touched every aspect of life," Modi said in a post on X. The prime minister said from seamless digital payments and direct benefit transfers reaching beneficiaries with transparency to the expanding digital public infrastructure, technology has become a powerful instrument for furthering 'Ease of Living.' "Digital India has taken the wave of innovation to all parts of India, especially villages, tier-2 and **P11**

VB-G RAM G Act comes into force

NEW DELHI: The Viksit Bharat -- Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act, 2025, came into force across the country on Wednesday, with the government saying the law will provide eligible rural households a statutory entitlement to 125 days of guaranteed wage employment.

In a statement, the Ministry of Rural Development said the Act aims to make rural employment more effective, transparent and outcome-oriented while focusing on the creation of durable rural assets, conservation of natural resources, improving **P11**

Army Chief unveils blueprint for a future-ready, all-domain force

NEW DELHI: The Indian Army is a combat-ready, battle-hardened force and the aim is to build a technology-enabled, future-ready army capable of operating in multiple domains, Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth said on Wednesday, as he coined the acronym 'VIJAY' to achieve that goal. The letters in the acronym stand for - 'V' for vigilance, 'I' for innovation, 'J' for jointness and integration, 'A' for Aatmanirbharta and 'Y' for 'Yodha first'.



chief on Tuesday, succeeding General Upendra Dwivedi, who retired on June 30 after an illustrious career spanning over 40 years. Speaking to reporters after receiving a guard of honour

on the lawns of the South Block on Wednesday, Gen Seth said the Indian Army is a combat-ready and battle-hardened force, which is "always ready to face all challenges in a battlefield." "To assume charge as the 31st Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) is a moment of pride and humility for me. I accept this responsibility with deep commitment to the ideals of duty, honour and nation first," he said. He also offered tribute to the brave soldiers who made the entire exercise with the supreme sacrifice for the nation. "Their courage, commitment to duty and selfless dedication will continue **P11**

Jammu Railway Station races to 2027 completion

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The redevelopment of Jammu railway station is progressing at a fast pace, with major track and platform works nearing completion and the overall project targeted for completion by December 2027, a senior railway official said.

The railway station is undergoing a Rs 450-crore modernisation project by Northern Railway aimed at enhancing passenger amenities, operational efficiency and connectivity for Jammu and Kashmir. "The work on the Jammu railway station redevelopment is progressing at a fast

pace. The entire station redevelopment project is scheduled to be completed by December 2027," Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu, Uchit Singhal told PTI in an interview here. He said the project aims to transform the station into a modern transport hub with improved platforms, foot overbridges, an air concourse, lifts, escalators, enhanced passenger amenities and better city connectivity. The official said the project has two major components — construction of new platforms and washing lines, and redevelopment of the station building, including a new entrance on **P11**

Powered by trust, tradition and transformation, JK Bank crosses business milestone of Rs 3 trillion

Bigger business brings greater responsibility: MD & CEO

SRINAGAR: Marking a defining milestone in its 88-year journey, J&K Bank has crossed the historic Rs 3 trillion total business mark at the close of the June quarter (Q1 FY2026-27), reaffirming its position among the country's strongest and fastest-transforming financial institutions.

The Bank has registered total business of Rs 3,04 trillion, (Rs 1.73 trillion in deposits and Rs 1.31 trillion in gross advances) with an impressive year-on-year growth of over 20% backed by healthy increase of over 16%



in deposits and over 25% in gross advances. The historic milestone was celebrated across the Bank, with the main function held at the Corporate Headquarters. Managing Director & CEO Amitava Chatterjee

chaired the event in the presence of Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, Chief General Managers, General Managers, Deputy General Managers and other senior officers. Divisional and Zonal Heads also joined **P11**

India condemns demolition of historic Gurdwara in Pakistan

NEW DELHI: India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has issued a sharp condemnation following reports that a historic, 125-year-old Sikh shrine was demolished in Ferozabad, Pakistan. Calling the incident, a "targeted act of vandalism," New Delhi has formally requested that Pakistani authorities immediately investigate the matter, rebuild the shrine, and protect its minority communities. The incident, according to social media reports and local Sikh representatives, portions of the historic Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha Sahib were allegedly torn down by unidentified indi-

viduals during the night between June 24 and June 25. The gurdwara holds immense cultural and historical weight. Established over a century ago, it was a central hub for the Singh Sabha Movement—a late 19th-century revival that fundamentally shaped modern Sikh religious and cultural identity. India's Official Response MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal expressed grave concern over the destruction, noting a troubling lack of action from Pakistan's local authorities and the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB), which is tasked with maintaining minority religious properties.

Census 2027 Phase 1 completed in J&K and Ladakh: Amit Sharma

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The first phase of Census 2027, comprising House Listing Operations (HLO), has been completed across the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The month-long field exercise was conducted from June 1 to June 30, 2026. Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO) and Director Census Operations (DCO), Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma, said the entire exercise was carried out through digital means, marking the implementation of end-to-end digital technology in the Census process. He said the opera-



tions were completed without any major technical disruption. Congratulating the officers and field functionaries associated with the exercise, Shri Sharma acknowledged

the role of Principal Census Officers, Charge Officers, Nodal Officers, Master Trainers, Field Trainers, Enumerators, Supervisors and other officials in completing the operations **P11**

Viaduct, Tunnel on NH-44 completed: Gadkari

LG expresses gratitude to PM, Union Min

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI/JAMMU: Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday announced the completion of two major infrastructure projects on National Highway-44 in Jammu and Kashmir, aimed at improving connectivity and ensuring safer travel to the Kashmir Valley. In a post on X, Gadkari said, "These engineering marvels bypass one of the most landslide-prone stretches of the Ramban-Banihal section, ensuring safer, faster, and all-weather connectivity to the Kashmir Valley. The projects are expected to significantly reduce travel time, improve road safety and facilitate the seamless movement of tourists, local commuters, defence vehicles, freight and essential supplies throughout the year."

The Union Minister said the newly completed infrastructure bypasses one of the most landslide-prone stretches of the Ramban-Banihal section on NH-44, providing safer, faster and all-weather connectivity to the Kashmir Valley. The projects are expected to significantly reduce travel time, improve road safety and facilitate the seamless movement of tourists, local commuters, defence vehicles, freight and essential supplies throughout the year. **P11**

Machail Mata, Mindhal yatras suspended

JAMMU: Pilgrimages to the Machail Mata and Mindhal Mata shrines in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district remained suspended on Wednesday due to adverse weather conditions triggered by heavy monsoon rain, officials said. The district administration said the decision was taken in view of incessant rainfall, slippery roads and the risk of shooting stones to ensure the safety of pilgrims. "In view of the adverse weather conditions prevailing across Kishtwar, including continuous rainfall, slippery road conditions and the risk of **P11**