

**"Success is getting what you want; happiness is wanting what you get."**

—W. P. Kinsella

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# Amarnath Ji Yatra a living symbol of aspirational JK: LG; reviews arrangements for pilgrims at Baltal

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday visited the Baltal base camp and reviewed the arrangements for the pilgrims of Baba Amarnath.

The Lieutenant Governor inspected Base Camp Hospital, on-spot registration counters, tents and other facilities, along with the senior officials and directed all line departments to ensure seamless inter-departmental synergy for a hassle-free and memorable pilgrimage experience.

"The comfort of Shri Amarnathji's devotees must remain the highest priority. From registration to accommodation, from smooth movement to darshan, every step of the journey should be seamless and free of any obstacles. The Shrine Board and every department involved are united in their dedication to making this spiritual journey a safe, seamless, and deeply memorable experience for all," the Lieutenant Governor said.



nor said. The Lieutenant Governor said that Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is not only transforming the spiritual lives of devotees but also uplifting the lives of the people of Jammu Kashmir. He interacted with service providers, sanitation workers, doctors, and the volunteers who tirelessly run the langars.

"Their spirit of selfless service is truly inspiring. This year's larger crowds are also bringing new opportunities and positive economic change for local traders and service providers," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also stated that Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is a living symbol of aspirational Jammu Kashmir.

"It is woven into the very soul of this land, and preserving its sanctity and cleanliness is our collective duty," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the authorities to take strict legal action against anyone involved in overcharging pilgrims or executing fraudulent

## Amarnath Yatra crosses 2-lakh mark in 8 days

**SRINAGAR:** The annual Amarnath Yatra crossed the two-lakh mark on Friday, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said. He said that with the pilgrimage running smoothly on both routes, the spiritual celebration is set to welcome a steady arrival of devotees in the coming weeks. "In a remarkable testament to faith, the



**100-DAY NASHA MUKT JK ABHIYAAN**

**DAY 91**

The EARTH NEWS joins the campaign launched by Honourable Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Ji to eradicate drug menace from union territory of J&K.

## Police intensify anti-drug campaign in Kashmir

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Continuing its sustained efforts under the ongoing anti-drug campaign, Baramulla Police today carried out a wild cannabis (bhanga) destruction drive at Wanigam.

During the operation, wild cannabis spread over approximately 3 kanals of land was identified and destroyed on the spot, thereby prevent-

ing its possible misuse for the production and circulation of narcotic substances. The drive was conducted as part of the proactive measures being undertaken by Baramulla Police to curb the menace of drugs and eliminate the sources of illicit narcotics.

Baramulla Police remains committed to making the district drug-free through sustained enforcement, preventive measures, and active public

participation. Members of the public are urged to share information regarding the illegal cultivation, production, or trafficking of narcotic substances. The identity of informants will be kept strictly confidential.

Continuing its sustained campaign under the ongoing Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan, police in Pulwama carried out wild cannabis destruction drives at different

## Modi's final leg of 3-nation tour kicks off with Luxon Talks & Diaspora Meet

**AUCKLAND:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday arrived in New Zealand on the final leg of his three-nation visit, during which he will hold talks with his counterpart Christopher Luxon and address the Indian diaspora.

This is the first visit to New Zealand by an Indian prime minister in 40 years.

Modi was received by Luxon at the airport, where the two leaders exchanged a warm hug.

"Reached Auckland a short while ago. Thankful to Prime Minister Luxon for the welcome at the airport," Modi said in a post on X.

"This visit is historic, being the first Prime Ministerial visit to New Zealand in four decades. I look forward to



holding talks with Prime Minister Luxon and discussing the complete range of the India-NZ friendship. I will also be addressing a community programme tomorrow in Auckland," he said.

In a post on X, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, "This historic visit is set

to strengthen bilateral ties and unlock new avenues of cooperation across several areas especially trade, defence, sports, culture, education, and people-to-people exchanges."

Calling it as a "special welcome in Auckland!", the MEA in another post on X said the iconic Sky Tower

## More than a marathon: CM unveils Kashmir 2026 Merch, puts J&K on Global sports map

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday launched the official merchandise for the Kashmir Marathon 2026, organised by the Jammu & Kashmir Tourism Department, at the Royal Springs Golf Course (RSGC), Srinagar.

The official merchandise, comprising the marathon cap, finisher's medal and racing kit specially designed for participants, was unveiled at a brief function attended by representatives of the media and senior officers of the Tourism Department. The Chief Minister also launched the promotional video for the event.

The initiative is aimed at promoting sports tourism, encouraging fitness and



healthy lifestyles, and showcasing Jammu and Kashmir as a premier destination for national and international sporting events.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that the marathon is much more than a sporting competition and forms an important part of the government's

broader strategy to diversify tourism in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Marathon is an event in itself. We are trying to increase tourism in Jammu and Kashmir. Tourism is not limited to destination weddings or conferences. We want to give recognition to the many unique experiences

that Jammu and Kashmir offers, including skiing, the gondola, white-water rafting, fishing and other adventure activities," he said.

The Chief Minister said the government is striving to establish the Kashmir Marathon as one of the country's flagship sporting events on the lines of renowned marathons held in Delhi, Mumbai, Ladakh and other parts of the country.

"I have seen marathons in Delhi, Mumbai and several other states and Union Territories. Today, runners from across the country and the world participate in the Ladakh Marathon. We want the Kashmir Marathon and the Jammu Half Marathon to attain the same stature and recognition," he said.

Highlighting the

## Israel shares intel with US on Iranian plans to kill Trump

**JERUSALEM:** Israel has reportedly shared intelligence with the US about alleged Iranian plans to kill US President Donald Trump, according to Channel 12.

Individuals familiar with the matter told the Wall Street Journal that Israeli intelligence indicated a new plot was in development to assassinate the US president, though it was unclear from the report when the intelligence was relayed, or how.

According to the WSJ, the Islamic Republic, amid former Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei's funeral, saw multiple public statements by senior officials and clerics calling for Trump's assassination as

## Vehicle carrying Amarnath pilgrims overturns, six hurt

**JAMMU:** Six Amarnath pilgrims were injured, one of them critically, when a vehicle carrying them overturned on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in Udhampur district on Friday, officials said.

The accident took place near Toldi Nallah on the Udhampur-Chenani stretch of the highway when the vehicle carrying the pilgrims to the Pahalgam base camp skidded off the road and overturned, they said.

The injured pilgrims, all residents of Baikunthpur in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district, were rescued by

## JKB convenes Mega Financial Inclusion Saturation Campaign 2026 in Srinagar

CGM-in-Charge (FIDD) RBI urges people to become enlightened banking citizens

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Reinforcing its commitment as the Convener of the Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory Level Bankers' Committee (UTLBC), J&K Bank today organised a Mega Financial Inclusion Saturation Campaign - 2026 at the Auditorium Hall of Government College of Education, Srinagar, in collaboration with the Reserve Bank of India under the theme "Together Towards Financial Empowerment." The programme was attended by Chief



## J&K Govt issue strict circulars on library books & teaching material

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** In view of recent concerns regarding books available in institutional libraries and the procurement of educational material, the School Education Department and Higher Education Department of Jammu and Kashmir have issued comprehensive circulars. The action has been taken in pursuance of the directions of the government.

The circulars prescribe a structured institutional framework for the academic evaluation, content verification and periodic review of books and other academic

resources across all schools, colleges and universities in the Union Territory.

The framework is aimed at strengthening the institutional mechanisms governing the evaluation, recommendation, circulation, retention and periodic review of educational material. It seeks to ensure that the academic resources available in educational institutions possess established academic merit, factual authenticity, pedagogical relevance and educational value, while remaining consistent with the Constitution of India, the laws in force, the National Education Policy, the appli-

cable regulatory framework and the curricular standards prescribed by the competent authorities.

Under the framework, all the government and recognised private schools and universities functioning under the administrative jurisdiction of the respective departments and public libraries have been directed to undertake a comprehensive Academic and Content Audit of books, reference material, journals, research publications, dissertations, theses, digital repositories and other educational resources available in their libraries and academic units, irrespective of the

## India, Oman focus on trade, defence, AI

**NEW DELHI:** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar (EAM) held key bilateral talks with Oman's Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Albusaidi in Muscat today, during which the two leaders reviewed the full spectrum of the strategic partnership between the two countries and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

The two Ministers, during the

# SHRI Amarnath Ji; A Call to Reawaken the Eternal Civilisation of "DEVON KE DEV MAHADEV"

■ SHIVANG SATYA GUPTA

- God of Gods the Almighty Shiv ji
- The Amarnath Yatra is not merely a pilgrimage. It is the living heartbeat of Sanatan Dharma.
- There are sacred places that people visit.
- Then there are sacred places that define a civilisation.
- Amarnath belongs to the second category.

For millions of Hindus across the world, the Holy Cave of Shri Amarnath is not simply a destination hidden amidst the Himalayas. It is one of the holiest manifestations of Lord Shiva—the Mahadev who is revered in Sanatan Dharma as Anadi (without beginning), Ananta (without end) and Sanatana (eternal).

According to the sacred tradition narrated in the Amar Katha, it was in this cave that Bhagwan Shiva revealed the secret of immortality to Mata Parvati. Before entering the cave, He is believed to have renounced every worldly attachment—Nandi at Pahalgam, the Moon at Chandanwari, the serpents at

Sheshnag, His son Ganesha at Mahaganas and the five elements before revealing the supreme truth. Every halt along the Yatra is therefore not merely a geographical location but a spiritual lesson in detachment and self-realisation.

This is why Amarnath is not merely a trek. It is a journey from the material to the eternal.

Sanatan Dharma has always

regarded the Himalayas as Devabhumi, the abode of the Gods. The Vedas, Puranas, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata repeatedly glorify these mountains as the land where rishis performed tapasya, where divine wisdom descended and where Lord Shiva resides as Kailashpati. The Himalayas are not simply mountains; they are the spiritual axis of Sanatan civilisation.

Flowing from these moun-

tains is the sacred Sindhu, the river that gave our civilisation its identity. The very name "Hindu" is historically linked to the Sindhu. Thus, the Himalayas, the Sindhu and Lord Shiva together form one continuous sacred landscape that has inspired seekers for thousands of years.

The worship of Shiva has endured through every age. The Sri Rudram of the Yajurveda invokes Rudra as the Lord present

in every element of creation. The Shiva Purana, Linga Purana and Skanda Purana celebrate Him as the Supreme Consciousness from whom creation emerges and into whom it finally dissolves. Unlike many traditions that are centred on a single historical period, Shaivism speaks of an eternal truth that transcends time itself.

Even archaeology invites reflection. Discoveries from the ancient Sindhu-Saraswati civilisation, particularly the famous "Pashupati" seal from Mohenjodaro, have led some scholars to suggest possible links with later Shaivite symbolism, although this interpretation remains debated. Regardless of academic differences, there is no dispute that reverence for asceticism, meditation and sacred symbol-

ism has deep roots in the Indian subcontinent.

Amarnath stands today as one of the most powerful living expressions of that ancient spiritual continuity.

Every year, devotees wait for a brief pilgrimage season to have darshan of the naturally formed ice Shivling. For many elderly devotees, this becomes their only opportunity in an entire year. Some spend decades longing for a single pilgrimage. Others are unable to undertake the journey because the available window is too short or because weather disruptions reduce the number of days available.

This naturally raises a question for our times.

Should the darshan of Baba Barfani remain confined to only a few weeks if science, engineer-

ing and careful environmental management can safely enable access over a longer period?

This is not a demand to commercialise faith.

It is a humble appeal to honour faith.

If India can build tunnels beneath mountains, railways across the Himalayas and modern rescue systems at high altitudes, should these achievements not also serve one of the holiest shrines of Sanatan Dharma?

A longer pilgrimage season—wherever environmental conditions safely permit—would allow devotees to undertake the Yatra with greater peace, less crowding and deeper spiritual reflection. It would reduce pressure on pilgrims, improve safety and enable families, senior citizens