

The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why

—Mark Twain

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Inking the Truth

VP, PM Modi, Amit Shah greet on commencement of pilgrimage

57-day Shri Amarnath Yatra set off for 3,880m holy cave shrine in J&K

Over 12,000 pilgrims have Darshan of 'Shivling' on day 1

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: More than 12,000 pilgrims had Darshan of the naturally formed ice 'Shivling' at the Shri Amarnath cave shrine on the opening day of the 57-day annual pilgrimage on Friday, officials said.

The Shri Amarnathji Yatra began early morning, simultaneously via the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in the Anantnag district and the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in the Ganderbal district.

Around 12,100 pilgrims paid obeisance at the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas. The pilgrims included about 9,350 men, 2,250 women, over 200 children, 70 sadhus, nine transgender devotees, and more than 260 security personnel, officials said.

The batches of pilgrims, including men, women and seers, left from the Nunwan base camp in Pahalgam, in south Kashmir's Anantnag, and Baltal base camp in Sonamarg area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal, at the first light of the day, they said.

Earlier, the Yatra began today with the first batch of pilgrims setting off for the holy cave shrine amidst chants of religious hymns following authorities announcing a cap on the number of devotees paying obeisance each day.

Vice President C P Radhakrishnan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and other dignitaries greeted devotees on the commencement of the 57-day Amarnathji Yatra.

The first batch of pilgrims left the twin base camps in Baltal and Nunwan to start their journey to the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas that houses a naturally formed ice 'lingam', officials said.

The yatra started early morning from the twin tracks -- the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route and the 14-km



PM's message reaches pilgrims at base camps

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Administration today handed over the pamphlets carrying the special message of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for pilgrims of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) from both Nunwan and Baltal base camps. In the message, the Prime



Admin calls for travel on allotted date

JAMMU: The administration in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday said no pilgrim would be permitted to undertake the Shri Amarnathji Yatra to the holy cave shrine before the registered date, and appealed people to wait for their turn and travel only on the date assigned to them.

In an advisory, it said that as directed by the Supreme Court, the maximum number of pilgrims permitted daily on the pilgrimage route has been fixed. "Compliance with this daily ceiling

100-DAY NASHA MUKT JK ABHIYAAN

DAY 84 The EARTH NEWS joins the campaign launched by Honourable Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Ji to eradicate drug menace from union territory of J&K.

2 booked under PSA, NDPS Act

PULWAMA: In a sustained drive against terrorism and drug trafficking, Police in Awantipora have booked one terror associate under the Public Safety Act (PSA) and one notorious drug peddler under the

JKST&IC organises Youth Parliament

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: A Youth Parliament on Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan was successfully organised on Friday at Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government College for Women (PSPS GCW), Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

The programme was jointly organized by Jammu & Kashmir Science, Technology and Innovation Council (JKST&IC), Department of Science and Technology, Government of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and PSPS Government College for

Peddler nabbed in Udhampur

JAMMU: An alleged drug peddler was detained under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT-NDPS) Act in Udhampur district.

The detained

'Whole of government' approach noises for convergence of diverse capacities: Dr Singh

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Friday said that the country's "whole of government" approach calls for convergence of diverse individual and institutional capacities, where institutions and professionals contribute their respective strengths and expertise towards common national goals.

Addressing an event here, he said capacity building is no longer confined to enhancing individual competencies but must also create synergy across institutions to prepare governance systems capable of meeting the aspirations of 'Viksit Bharat@2047'.

Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel, said the government's governance philosophy has evolved and



such an approach becomes meaningful only when diverse institutions contribute their respective capabilities and expertise instead of functioning in isolation.

India's whole of government approach calls for convergence of diverse individual and institutional capacities, where institutions and professionals contribute their respective strengths

and expertise towards common national goals, the minister said while inaugurating the third batch of DAKSH (Development of Aspiration, Knowledge, Succession and Harmony), a year-long leadership development programme for senior executives of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).

The programme was organised jointly by

6 CRPF jawans injured in G'bal road accident

SRINAGAR: Six CRPF personnel were injured after a vehicle they were travelling in met with an accident near the Sonamarg tunnel in Ganderbal district on Friday, officials said.

A CRPF vehicle skidded off the road near the Sonamarg tunnel on the Srinagar-Leh National Highway in the central Kashmir district, the officials said, adding that six CRPF personnel were injured in the accident.

The injured personnel were provided first aid on the spot and later shifted to a nearby CRPF camp at Gund for further treatment, the officials added.

CM reviews devp, growth roadmap with MLAs, trade & tourism bodies



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Several public representatives and delegations and various stakeholders

today called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at Raabita, during which a wide range of issues relating to development, public welfare, trade,

tourism and business were discussed.

MLA Jasrota Rajiv Jasrotia, MLA Habba Kadal Shamima Firdous and MLA Doda Mehraj Malik, called on the Chief Minister and apprised him of the developmental priorities and public welfare concerns of their respective constituencies.

The legislators highlighted various issues requiring the government's attention, including infrastructure development, delivery of public services, implementation of ongoing development projects and other

People worldwide seek RSS's help to train youth: Bhagwat

NAGPUR: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Friday said people from all over the world are seeing the work of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and asking whether it can teach them to train the youth in their countries.

Speaking at an event here, he also sought to debunk the perception that the Sangh remotely controls or runs every organisation where its volunteers are involved.

Bhagwat was addressing the gathering at the public broadcast of YouTube video 'Dr Hedgegar: Adhunik Yug ke Shaliwahan'. He also released 100 videos on the lives



of RSS pracharaks as part of the organisation's centenary celebrations.

'Pracharaks' are full-time volunteers of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh who

work for the organisation's expansion.

The foremost priority for the RSS and its workers is to create individuals capable of serving society in different spheres, Bhagwat said.

"How to make a human being...there is no such effective method available in the world. I used to speak about it, but now it is becoming visible to everyone, because people from the country and abroad come and see the RSS," he said.

"And one thing everyone says...people from all five continents came, and they all said this...Whoever comes, they say, will you people train us to give this kind of

MLA claims 'assault' by NC leader's aides

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Congress MLA from Bandipora, Nizamuddin Bhat, alleged that a National Conference MLA's brother and supporters attempted to assault him during an official meeting on Friday.

Jalal Akbar Lone, brother of Sonawari MLA Hilal Akbar Lone, and his aides disrupted the meeting held to review development works and use of funds in Bandipora, resorted to hooliganism, vandalised the hall and threatened officials, Bhat said.

The Bandipora MLA said that during the meeting, some participants objected to the discussions and walked out. They later returned with

Jalal Lone and others.

"Jalal Akbar Lone and his supporters stormed into the meeting hall, vandalised the premises and attempted to intimidate officials," Bhat told reporters, adding, "They damaged doors and window panes of the hall and created panic."

Police are aware of the issue, he said, calling for urgent action.

"This is not the first time he has done so. This has been happening," Bhat said.

Describing the incident as unfortunate, the Congress MLA urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to intervene, warning that such incidents could impact the NC-Congress alliance.

Army Cmdr reviews Ops preparedness along LoC

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma on Friday visited the forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Krishna Ghati and Poonch sectors to review operational preparedness and security measures.

During the visit, the Army Commander assessed the security situation and interacted with troops deployed along the forward areas.

"Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, Army Commander Northern Command, visited the forward areas of the Krishna Ghati and Poonch Sectors to review operational preparedness and

security measures," Northern Command said on X.

The Army Commander commended them for their alertness, untiring efforts to maintain operational readiness and resolve to safeguard the nation's frontiers under challenging conditions.

He urged all ranks to remain mission-focused and continue upholding the highest standards of operational excellence in the service of the nation, reaffirming the Army's commitment to maintaining a high level of vigilance along the border.

The visit comes amid sustained surveillance and counter-infiltration measures along the LoC.

Gujarat ATS nabs 8 JeM operatives

AHMEDABAD: Gujarat's Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) has arrested eight alleged members of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), who were conspiring to establish a network of the Pakistan-based banned terror outfit in the state, officials said on Friday.

The ATS nabbed the individuals, two of them aged 18 and 19, from various districts of the state as well as adjoining Madhya Pradesh, on Thursday, they said, adding Gujarati translation of a book written by JeM founder Masood Azhar was among the materials seized from them. Police said the accused were

HC notifies amended bail application rules

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has amended the Jammu & Kashmir High Court Rules, 1999, making detailed disclosure mandatory in all bail applications filed before it.

Under the newly inserted Rule 176-B, applicants must furnish complete details of the FIR, arrest, custody, stage of investigation or trial, criminal antecedents, previous bail applications and any non-bailable warrants or proclamation proceedings.

The amendment has been notified through Notification No. 1399 of 2026/RG dated July 2, 2026, issued by the Office of the

Registrar General, Srinagar, in exercise of powers under Article 225 of the Constitution of India, with the prior approval of the Lieutenant Governor.

As part of the amendment, the High Court has inserted Rule 176-B in Chapter XV (Procedure in Criminal Cases) of the Jammu & Kashmir High Court Rules, 1999. The newly introduced provision requires every bail applicant to make a complete and truthful disclosure of all material facts concerning the case and the accused.

Under the amended rules, every bail petition must now include complete particulars relating to the FIR, including the FIR number and date, Police Station, District, State, the

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