

Ensure robust security arrangements during Amarnath Yatra: Bhalla

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, JUN 23:

Senior Congress leader and Working President Raman Bhalla has appealed to the Lieutenant Governor's administration to ensure comprehensive and foolproof security arrangements for the upcoming Amarnath Yatra. He stressed that the safety and well-being of lakhs of devotees visiting Jammu and Kashmir for the holy pilgrimage must remain the administration's top priority.



Bhalla accompanied with Latish Sharma Block president, Gagan Bral, Paras Ram, Sahil Mathi, Harvinder Kour, Kala Ram, Gorav Kumar, Rakesh Kumar, Vimla Devi, Arjun Kumar, Ajay Kumar, Zahid Bhat, Kishore Kumar, Sahil Singh visited Rajiv Nagar, today and met with the people of cross sections of the society and highlighted congress party's message of communal harmony and support for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, commencing from July 2nd 2026. Bhalla said that the Amarnath Yatra is one of the most significant religious pilgrimages in the country and attracts devotees from every corner of India. Therefore, all necessary measures related to security, healthcare, transportation, accommodation, and emergency response

should be strengthened to ensure a smooth and hassle-free pilgrimage experience.

He urged the administration to deploy adequate security personnel along the pilgrimage routes and enhance surveillance in sensitive areas. He also emphasized the need for efficient coordination among various departments to handle any unforeseen situations and guarantee the safety of pilgrims throughout the Yatra.

Highlighting the tourism potential of Jammu, Bhalla said that while ensuring security remains the foremost responsibility, efforts should also be made to encourage Amarnath pilgrims to spend some time exploring the major tourist and religious destinations of Jammu. He noted that most pilgrims trav-

el directly to the shrine and return without getting an opportunity to experience the rich cultural, historical, and religious heritage of the Jammu region.

Bhalla suggested that the government and tourism department should create a structured plan to connect Amarnath pilgrims with Jammu's prominent tourist attractions. Such an initiative, he said, would not only enhance the overall experience of visitors but also provide a significant boost to the local tourism industry and economy.

He pointed out that Jammu is home to several renowned destinations, including Mansar Lake, Surinsar Lake, Bagh-e-Bahu, Bahu Fort, Suchetgarh Border in R.S. Pura, Baba Chamliyal

Shrine, Babe Wali Mata Temple, and many other places of religious and tourist interest. However, due to inadequate promotion and lack of convenient transportation facilities, many visitors are unable to explore these attractions.

According to Bhalla, if proper tourism packages and transportation arrangements are introduced during the Amarnath Yatra, a large number of pilgrims can be encouraged to visit these destinations. This would help generate economic activity across the Jammu region and benefit hoteliers, transport operators, shopkeepers, local businesses, and thousands of people dependent on tourism for their livelihood.

He further stated that tourism-related activities in

Jammu have witnessed challenges in recent times, affecting the income and employment opportunities of many local residents. Linking the Amarnath Yatra with the promotion of Jammu tourism, he said, can play a crucial role in revitalizing the local economy and creating new opportunities for growth.

Earlier, Raman Bhalla also met several saints and sadhus preparing for the Amarnath Yatra. During the interaction, he listened to their concerns and suggestions regarding various arrangements associated with the pilgrimage. He assured them that their issues and demands would be conveyed to the government and the concerned authorities for appropriate action.

Bhalla described the Amarnath Yatra as a symbol of faith, unity, and India's rich cultural heritage. Reiterating his appeal, he said that while ensuring the security of pilgrims is the primary responsibility of the administration, equal attention should be given to enabling devotees to explore Jammu's religious and tourist destinations. Such a balanced approach, he added, would not only enrich the pilgrimage experience but also provide a much-needed boost to tourism and economic activity in the Jammu region.

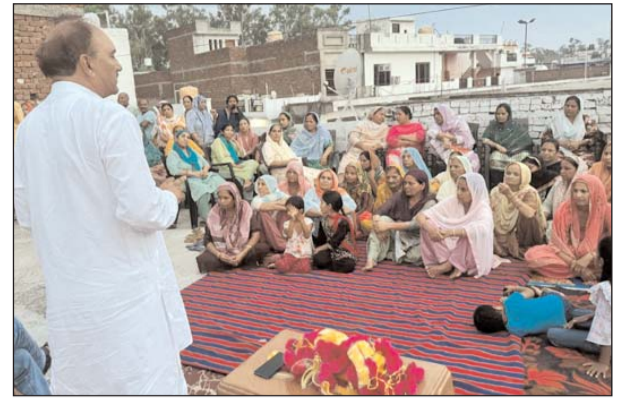
Amrit Bali hears public grievances in RS Pura, assures strong voice for people's issues

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
RS PURA, JUN 23:

Continuing his grassroots outreach programme, Amrit Bali, General Secretary, JKPC and In-Charge R.S. Pura-Jammu South Constituency, today held a public grievance meeting in Ward No. 9, R.S. Pura, where residents highlighted a host of pressing issues affecting their day-to-day lives. On this occasion, several prominent women leaders and local ladies joined the Congress Party, expressing their faith in the leadership of JKPC President Tariq Hameed Karra and JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla. They stated that they were inspired by the party's grassroots approach and commitment to public issues.

The meeting was organized by Smt. Veera Mehra under the supervision of Yash Pal Bhagat, Block President R.S. Pura. Pawan Bhagat, Secretary JKPC and Vice Chairman, SC Department, also accompanied Amrit Bali during the interaction. Prominent among those present were Lakhwant Singh, Ward President, Roop Lal Mehra, Kuldeep Chopra, and several local residents.

The gathering witnessed active participation from people who raised concerns regarding rising inflation, soaring prices of LPG cylinders, petrol and diesel, and the increasing cost of essential commodities. Residents said that the relentless rise in prices has placed an unbearable burden on common families, particularly the poor, labourers, pensioners and middle-class households.



Locals also expressed concern over growing unemployment among educated youth and demanded effective measures to generate employment opportunities. The issue of frequent unscheduled power cuts and high electricity bills despite erratic power supply was strongly raised, with residents alleging that consumers are being made to pay more while receiving inadequate services.

The participants further highlighted the lack of adequate facilities at the Sub-District Hospital, R.S. Pura, including shortages of medical staff, diagnostic services and essential healthcare infrastructure. They urged the authorities to strengthen the healthcare system to meet the needs of the growing population. Civic issues such as damaged lanes and drains, poor sanitation, water-related problems and delays in the release of old-age, widow and disability pensions also figured prominently during the discussion. Addressing the gathering, Amrit Bali said that the concerns raised by the people reflect the genuine hardships being faced by citi-

zens across Jammu and Kashmir. He criticized the government's failure to address basic public issues and said that rising prices, unemployment and inadequate public services have adversely affected the lives of ordinary people. He assured the residents that all genuine demands and grievances would be vigorously taken up with the concerned authorities and that the Congress Party would continue to stand with the people in their struggle for better governance, affordable living and improved public services. Reiterating his commitment to the constituency, Bali said that regular interactions with the public are essential to understand ground realities and ensure that people's voices are heard. He emphasized that the welfare of citizens, especially the poor, youth, senior citizens and marginalized sections, must remain at the centre of governance and development policies. The meeting concluded with residents appreciating the initiative and expressing hope that their long-pending issues would receive the attention they deserve.

Vedic wisdom and Yajna promote health, longevity and well-being: Swami Ram Swarup

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
YOL, JUN 23:

On the 73rd day of the ongoing 78-day Yajna dedicated to the study and recitation of all four Vedas at Ved Mandir, Yol, Yoga Acharya Swami Ram Swarup Ji delivered a discourse based on Atharvaveda, Kanda 20, Sukta 96, highlighting the importance of Vedic knowledge, Yajna, and righteous living. Addressing devotees, Swami Ji said that God administers severe consequences to those who indulge in a life of excessive luxury and materialism. He emphasized that even those blessed with wealth should continue to acquire and practice Vedic knowledge, following the examples of Lord Rama and Lord Krishna, who upheld the principles of dharma and spiritual wisdom. Referring to the Vedic mantras, Swami Ji explained that offerings made into the sacred fire during Yajna while chanting Vedic mantras help protect individuals from various ailments, including unknown diseases and serious illnesses. He stated that the practice of



Agnihotra and Yajna also helps relieve bodily pain, stiffness, and other physical discomforts.

Citing Atharvaveda Mantra 20/96/7, Swami Ji said that God assures humanity that even a person suffering from severe illness and nearing death can be restored to health, strength, and a full lifespan through divine grace. He noted that this Vedic teaching underscores the spiritual and physical benefits of performing Yajna and Agnihotra in accordance with Vedic principles. Elaborating on Atharvaveda Mantra 20/96/8, he said that God declares the power of Vedic Agnihotra and Yajna to free a person from disease and bless

them with a healthy life of up to one hundred years. He further stressed that the offerings made during Yajna benefit not only the performer but also contribute to the welfare of countless living beings. Swami Ram Swarup expressed concern that society's gradual departure from the divine knowledge of the Vedas has led to growing sorrow, anxiety, diseases, and moral degradation in human life. He urged people to reconnect with Vedic teachings and adopt a disciplined, spiritual lifestyle to attain peace, health, and prosperity. The discourse concluded with prayers for universal well-being and the continued spread of Vedic knowledge among society.

Operation Sherawali enters 32nd day in Rajouri; multi-agency search operation continues

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
RAJOURI, JUN 23:

The ongoing anti-terror operation Operation Sherawali in the Dorimal-Gambhir Mughlan area of Manjakote sector in Rajouri district entered its 32nd day on Monday, with security forces continuing extensive search operations in the forested belt. Launched in late May, the large-scale counter-terrorism and area domination operation aims to locate and neutralise suspected armed infiltrators believed to be hiding in the rugged terrain of the region. Officials said that all security agencies involved remain on high alert, with intensified search and surveillance operations being carried out in dense forest areas to track any suspicious movement and ensure civilian safety. The operation, they said, is progressing in a coordinated manner, with additional checkpoints and area domination patrols being conducted regularly.

Multi-agency mock drill conducted at Bhagwati Nagar Base Camp ahead of Amarnath Yatra

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, JUN 23:

A multi-agency mock drill was conducted at the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas base camp in Jammu as part of preparations for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, scheduled to commence on July 3, 2026. The 57-day annual pilgrimage will see devotees travel via the twin routes—the traditional Pahalgam track in Anantnag district and the shorter Baltal route in Ganderbal district. The exercise began at 8 am and involved participation from the National Security Guard (NSG), Special Operations Group (SOG) of J&K Police, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). Officials said the mock drill simulated multiple emergency scenarios to test preparedness, coordination and response mechanisms of various agencies. Advanced surveillance systems, including drones, were deployed, while dog squads conducted anti-sabotage and area sanitisation checks. The exercise focused on inter-agency coordination, crowd management, emergency evacuation procedures and counter-terror response preparedness to ensure safe conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Yatra crosses 50 lakh pilgrim mark

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
KATRA, JUN 23:

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Yatra has achieved a significant milestone during the current calendar year, with the number of pilgrims paying obeisance at the Holy Cave Shrine crossing the landmark figure of 50 lakh on June 22, 2026. As on this date, a total of 50.70 lakh devotees have undertaken the sacred pilgrimage to seek the blessings of Mata Vaishno Devi Ji. The achievement assumes greater significance when compared with the corresponding period of the preceding year. During the same period in 2025, approximately 39.84 lakh pilgrims had visited the Holy Shrine, whereas the Yatra during the current year has recorded 50.70 lakh pilgrims, reflecting a substantial increase of 10.86 lakh devotees. The remarkable growth in pilgrim footfall is a testimony to the unwavering faith and devotion of pilgrims from across the country and abroad towards the revered Shrine. The sustained increase in the number of pilgrims also reflects the confidence reposed by devotees in the arrangements made by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and the coordinated efforts of all stakeholders associated with the management of the Yatra. Under the Chairmanship of Shri Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble Lt. Governor, JK-UT, the Shrine Board has undertaken extensive measures to facilitate a smooth, safe and comfortable pilgrimage experience for devotees.

SRS expresses condolences over Lucknow tragedy

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, JUN 23:

Shri Ram Sena (J&K) has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the tragic incident in Lucknow that resulted in the loss of precious lives. The organization conveyed its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for strength and courage for them to bear this irreparable loss. Shri Ram Sena (SRS) President Rajiv Mahajan stated that the entire nation stands with the affected families during this difficult time. He also prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured in the incident and urged the authorities to provide all possible assistance to the victims and their families. The organization observed that such tragedies leave a deep impact on society and emphasized the need for collective support and compassion towards those affected. "May the departed souls rest in peace, and may the bereaved families find strength in this hour of grief," the statement said.

JMC Commissioner conducts inspection in old city, directs action against footpath encroachments



JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, JUN 23:

In a firm step towards reclaiming public spaces and ensuring pedestrian safety, Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Dr. Devansh Yadav, today conducted an extensive inspection of several areas in the Old City to review encroachments on footpaths by shopkeepers, vendors and unauthorized occupants.

During the visit, Dr. Yadav interacted with traders and street vendors and apprised them of the recent judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, which has reiterated that the right of citizens to walk safely and freely on footpaths forms an essential part of the right to life and personal liberty. He emphasized that footpaths are exclusively meant for pedes-

trians and cannot be used for commercial activity, storage of goods, unauthorized parking or any form of encroachment. The Commissioner observed that in several parts of the Old City, footpaths have been heavily encroached upon through shop extensions, display of merchandise, carts, parked vehicles and temporary structures, forcing pedestrians—including school children, senior citizens and women—to walk on main roads and face avoidable risks.

Dr. Yadav stated that the Jammu Municipal Corporation is committed to restoring footpaths to their intended purpose and ensuring safe, accessible and obstruction-free public spaces. He said that, in line with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and

municipal regulations, a sustained and city-wide anti-encroachment drive will be carried out. He further warned that strict action, including removal of encroachments, seizure of goods and imposition of penalties, will be taken against violators occupying public spaces illegally.

Appealing for public cooperation, the Commissioner urged shopkeepers and vendors to voluntarily clear encroachments and support the administration's efforts to develop a cleaner, safer and more pedestrian-friendly Jammu. He said the objective of the drive is not only enforcement but also restoration of civic rights, improved urban mobility and orderly city development.

Reiterating the vision of a planned and citizen-centric urban environment, Dr. Yadav said that unobstructed footpaths are essential for improving the quality of urban life and assured that the JMC will continue to take all necessary steps to protect public spaces from encroachment. Deputy Commissioner (North), Jammu Municipal Corporation, along with other officers and field staff, accompanied the Commissioner during the inspection.

Sadhotra hails CM Omar, Sakeena for ReT service benefit decision

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, JUN 23:

National Conference Additional General Secretary and former Minister Ajay Kumar Sadhotra today hailed the decision of the Jammu and Kashmir Government under the leadership of Chief Minister Jenab Omar Abdullah to reckon the five years of service rendered by Rehbar-e-Taleem (ReT) teachers before their regularization for the purpose of seniority, pensionary benefits and other retirement entitlements. In a statement, Sadhotra congratulated Chief Minister Jenab Omar Abdullah and Education Minister Ms. Sakeena Itoo for taking this landmark decision.

Describing the Government decision as historic and long-awaited, Mr. Sadhotra said that the move has brought immense relief to thousands of ReT teachers and their families who had been seeking justice for many years. He said that the decision to count the five years of service rendered prior to regularization for pensionary and retirement benefits wherever appli-

cable recognizes the valuable contribution made by ReT teachers in strengthening the education sector in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in far-flung and rural areas. Sadhotra also welcomed the decision that, after regularization, the services of Rehbar-e-Taleem teachers shall be transferable within their respective districts, saying that this would help address genuine personal and administrative concerns of teachers while ensuring better functioning of educational institutions.

Sadhotra said that the employees and teachers who had been continuously raising this issue through democratic means have finally received the relief they had been demanding for years. He termed the Government decision as a sensitive and people-centric measure that demonstrates the commitment of the Omar Abdullah-led government towards employees and working classes. Sadhotra recalled that the Rehbar-e-Taleem scheme was introduced during the

tenure of Dr. Farooq Abdullah as Chief Minister and Mr. Mohammad Shafi as Education Minister with the objective of providing educational facilities in remote areas and creating employment opportunities for educated youth. He said that the scheme played a transformative role in expanding educational access across Jammu and Kashmir and thousands of teachers joined the service under challenging conditions with commitment.

"National Conference has always stood by the interests of teachers, employees, youth, farmers, workers and all weaker sections of society. The party remains committed to safeguarding the rights and welfare of every segment of the population," Mr. Sadhotra said. He added that National Conference, being a party of the people, has always believed in inclusive governance and social justice. The party will continue to stand with the people irrespective of caste, creed, religion or region and will consistently raise issues concerning their welfare and dignity, he said.

Khajuria raises alarm over unsafe road dividers on RS Pura-Satwari Road

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, JUN 23:

Renowned human rights activist Om Parkash Khajuria has expressed serious concern over the lack of proper safety markings on road dividers along the busy RS Pura-Satwari road, particularly between Miran Sahib and Indira Nagar, warning that the negligence could lead to serious and even fatal accidents.



In a statement issued here, Khajuria said that several dividers on the stretch lack reflective blue-and-white paint, cat-eye reflectors, hazard indicators, warning signs and adequate illumination, making them difficult to spot during night hours and adverse weather conditions.

He noted that the road witnesses heavy traffic movement, including school buses, commercial vehicles, airport-bound traffic and daily commuters. The poor visibility of dividers, especially during fog, rain and low-light conditions, poses a significant threat to motorists and two-wheeler riders.

Khajuria emphasized that road accidents often occur due to inadequate safety infrastructure and poor visibility. He urged the authorities to install reflective paint, solar reflectors, warning boards and proper street lighting to enhance road safety and reduce accident risks.

Calling road safety a matter directly linked to the protection of human life, he urged the Public Works Department, Traffic Police and district administration to conduct an immediate safety audit of the RS Pura-Satwari road and identify vulnerable spots requiring urgent attention. He also stressed the need for regular maintenance and repainting of road dividers, stating that timely preventive measures can save precious lives and prevent avoidable tragedies. Khajuria appealed to the administration to launch a special drive to identify damaged, faded or unmarked dividers across Jammu district and ensure compliance with road safety norms. He expressed hope that the concerned authorities would act promptly in the larger public interest and make the road safer for thousands of daily commuters.

Red Ribbon Club GDC Ramban organizes special awareness programme on HIV/STI

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
RAMBAN, JUN 23:

Red Ribbon Club GDC Ramban conducted a special awareness programme regarding NACO'S Breakfree platform under its IT-enabled virtual strategies for HIV/STI prevention, risk assessment, testing, counselling and treatment support through digital Breakfree platform for confidential and accessible services to youth.

The main initiative of this programme is to encourage and galvanize the students for expanding awareness among the youth. The programme empowers the youth to get timely access to healthcare services in a confidential manner. It offers online risk assessment, virtual counseling and guidance for locating

nearly testing and treatment centers and providing a comprehensive information regarding HIV infection and sexually transmitted diseases. Prof. Sanjay Kumar Katal, Principal of the college, highlighted the importance of Breakfree HIV/SIT programme in creating awareness among the students.

Such initiative will help the youth break the myths and get proper guidance and counselling of this disease. Speaking on the occasion, the programme convener, Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Convener Red Ribbon Club & HOD Urdu emphasized on the early diagnosis and timely treatment in preventing the deadly disease like HIV. He also added that such information will be confidential and cost-free.