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## Amarnath Yatra: 6 pilgrims, 1 Ponywalla die in last 36 hours; death toll climbs to 49

### Over 5,800 pilgrims leave Jammu camp for pilgrimage

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Six pilgrims and one pony driver died of natural causes during the Amarnath Yatra in the last 36 hours, taking the overall death toll in the ongoing pilgrimage to 49, officials said on Saturday.

The death toll includes 15 yatrīs who lost their life in the July 8 flash flood.

So far, 47 yatrīs and two pony drivers have lost their life during the pilgrimage which started on June 30.

One pony driver had died after he fell from his horse into a deep gorge in Pahalgam.



In the July 8 flash flood near the cave shrine, 15 yatrīs had lost their life while about 55 persons were injured.

Over 1.5 lakh pilgrims have

so far visited the cave shrine. Meanwhile, amid tight security, the 17th batch of over 5,800 Amarnath pilgrims left Jammu city this morning for the twin base

camp of Pahalgam and Baltal in Kashmir, officials said.

The annual pilgrimage, which was suspended from Jammu last Sunday due to bad weather resumed on Monday. A flash flood triggered by heavy rains near the cave shrine on Friday last week led to the death of at least 15 people.

The 43-day-long pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas commenced on June 30 from the twin tracks -- the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route

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## WB Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar is NDA's vice presidential candidate

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: The BJP on Saturday named West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar, a Jat leader from Rajasthan with socialist background, as the ruling National Democratic Alliance's vice presidential candidate.

Making the announcement, BJP president J P Nadda lauded Dhankhar as a "kisan-putra" (son of farmer) who, he said, established himself as a "people's governor". The BJP



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## J&K sees 224 fresh COVID cases

### CS urges people to take precautions

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday reported 224 fresh COVID-19 cases that pushed its infection tally to 4,56,829, officials said.

Of the new cases, 112 each were reported from the Jammu division and the Kashmir valley, they said.

The death toll remained unchanged at 4,758. There are 967 active COVID-19 cases in Jammu and Kashmir. So far, 4,51,104 people have recovered from the viral disease, the officials said.

Meanwhile, in the wake of the rising cases of covid-19, Chief Secretary Dr Arun

Kumar Mehta has appealed the people of Jammu and Kashmir to take the necessary precautions and be safe. He observed that it is better to take preventive measures than taking risk of getting affected by the disease.

Dr Mehta impressed that it is time to renew our efforts to contain this contagious virus from spreading again. He stated that there is a little surge in covid positive cases but the mortality fortunately very low.

Under these circumstances he enjoined upon all to enforce mandatory SoPs like wearing of face masks, use of hand sanitisers etc. He advised them to take precau-

tions and be careful in public places for the general good of all of them.

The Chief Secretary also encouraged the people to take the precautionary dose whoever is eligible. He made out that it is the mass vaccination that has saved human lives last time and this time again people should show prudence by taking the free booster doses for their safety and well being.

Dr Mehta also directed the concerned to commence an IEC campaign and create awareness among masses. He asked them to be vigilant and ensure that the virus do not spread

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## Medico's complaint against Prof; GMC Principal makes 'accused' a 'victim'

**■ VIVEK SHARMA**

JAMMU: In a strange turn of events, Principal, Government Medical College Jammu has ordered an enquiry by a 3-member panel of senior doctors into an 'unspecified' incident, not mentioned in the order issued on Thursday.

The order comes in the wake of a report carried by STATE TIMES five days ago, reporting that a female medico had leveled very serious charges against a senior professor of the college in her complaint to the Principal.

Instead of taking cognizance of the complaint, Dr Shashi Sudhan Sharma

Principal and Dean is alleged to have obtained a complaint from the senior faculty to dilute the issue, flagged by the female medico. Interestingly, the female doctor's complaint dated July 9, 20022 was kept in record and on July 14 the Principal issued an order, reading, "A Committee of the following Senior faculty Members/officers is hereby constituted to enquire into the issues of Cardiology Unit-II which have been brought into the notice of the undersigned by Dr. Dharminder Kumar, Professor & HOU Cardiology Unit-II & Dr Shakti Sharma, DNB Cardiology student.

1. Dr. Meena Sidhu, HoD Blood Bank Member; 2. Dr. Vishal Tandon, Professor, Pharmacology Member Secretary, 3. Dr. Manoj Chalotra, Medical Superintendent, SSH."

"The committee shall conduct the enquiry and submit its recommendations within a period of 05 days to the office of the undersigned, it added."

On July 9, Dr. Shakti Sharma, working as DNB-SS resident in Unit-II Cardiology Department of the Super Specialty, Jammu complained to the Principal

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## Why did it take Rubaiya 32 years to identify her abductors despite father-sister being CMs?



JAMMU: Finally, Rubaiya Sayeed has identified her kidnapers, including the abductor-in-chief Yaseen Malik after 32 years, seven months and seven days of her abduction on December 8, 1989, about 500 meters from her Nawgam home in Srinagar when she was returning from the Lal Ded Memorial Women's Hospital in a local mini bus-six days after her father was sworn-in on December 2, 1989 as

Home Minister of India, first Muslim and the first Kashmiri to don the mantle once bedecking legendary Sardar Patel.

In between all these years, months and days, Rubaiya's father remained the Union Home Minister till November 10, 1990, Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir twice from November 2, 2002 to November 2, 2005 and March 1, 2015 till his death on January 7, 2016. Her elder sister, Mehbooba Mufti too remained the Chief Minister of the then state from April 4, 2016 to June 19, 2018.

Why it took over three decades to a terror victim to see the wheels of justice moving despite her kin occupying the highest political offices of Jammu and Kashmir? Why should it be only in the gubernatorial government that she gets the opportunity to come face to face with her abductors? Why did justice remain so elusive for so long for such an influential person?

These are the questions, which should have normally hogged headlines, warned up the television chat rooms and invoked the attention of liberal lefts and pseudo

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## ITBP Jawan shoots 3 colleagues before killing self at camp in Udhampur

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: An Indo-Tibetan Border Police jawan Saturday fired at his three colleagues before shooting himself dead at a camp in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The incident took place around 3:30 pm at the Devika Ghat community centre in the district. Constable Bhupendra

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## J&K Bank bags 2 awards for robust information-security

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: In a strong recognition of its robust information security framework, J&K Bank received CSO 100 Award - 2022 at CSO100 Awards & Symposium - 2022 from Foundry India, an Indian chapter of Foundry - an IDG Inc., during a gala event held in Bangalore on

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## Army opens fire as drone spotted near LoC in Poonch

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A drone was spotted flying along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district and it was forced to retreat after Army personnel opened fire, official sources said on Saturday. The drone was seen flying along

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**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 35.8°C Min: 24.4°C

Humidity

Max: 84 Min: 47

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 23.8°C Min: 18.1°C

Humidity

Max: 93 Min: 78

Sunset: 19:40 Hours

Sunrise: 05:37 Hours

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