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### Amarnath Yatra: 6...

in south Kashmir's Anantnag district and 14-km shorter Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

A total of 5,838 pilgrims left Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas here in a convoy of 223 vehicles amid heavy CRPF security, the officials said.

They said that 2,547 pilgrims heading for Baltal were the first to leave the Bhagwati Nagar camp in 97 vehicles around 3.20 am followed by the second convoy of 126 vehicles carrying 3,291 pilgrims for Pahalgam at 4.20 am.

With this, a total of 99,825 pilgrims have left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp for the Valley since June 29, the day the first batch of pilgrims was flagged off by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha.

So far, over 1.65 lakh pilgrims have offered prayers at the cave shrine, the officials said.

The pilgrimage is scheduled to end on August 11 on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan. A total of 25 people mostly pilgrims have died during the Amarnath yatra till now excluding 15, who died in the flash floods at the cave shrine.

### WB Governor Jagdeep...

parliamentary board in a meeting, attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior leaders, picked the 71-year-old Dhankhar after deliberating over several names, Nadda said.

After the announcement, Modi tweeted, "Jagdeep Dhankhar Ji has excellent knowledge of our Constitution. He is also well-versed with legislative affairs. I am sure that he will be an outstanding Chair in the Rajya Sabha & guide the proceedings of the House with the aim of furthering national progress."

Soon after his name was announced, Dhankhar tweeted, "Thank you Narendra Modi ji for nominating me as the Vice President candidate for the vice presidential election."

Since taking over as the West Bengal Governor in July 2019, Dhankhar has had several run-ins with the Mamata Banerjee government.

While his proactive conduct has drawn criticism from the state's ruling Trinamool Congress, the BJP has backed him.

Being a Jat, a backward community in Rajasthan, his elevation as vice president is likely to send helpful political message for the BJP as not many Jats besides former prime minister Charan Singh and former deputy prime minister Devi Lal have occupied high positions at the national level.

The BJP has had uneasy relations with Jats, a powerful agrarian community in Haryana, Rajasthan and western Uttar Pradesh, though the party has received their support in good numbers in the recent two Lok Sabha polls compared to assembly elections in these states.

BJP leaders noted that Dhankhar has been in public life for more than three decades, and his life story reflects the spirit of new India: "overcoming innumerable social and economic hurdles and achieving one's goals".

Nadda said Dhankhar established himself as a respected lawyer in the Rajasthan High Court and later in the Supreme Court before making a mark in politics. He was elected to Lok Sabha from Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan in 1989 and had served briefly as a Union minister in the government led by Chandra Shekhar. He joined the BJP later.

His election as vice president is almost a certainty as the BJP has a majority in the electoral college comprising members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Out of Parliament's current strength of 780, the BJP alone has 394 MPs, more than the majority mark of 390.

The last date for filing of nomination papers for the poll is July 19 and the election is scheduled for August 6. Dhankhar has been a keen cricketer enthusiast and is follower of spirituality and meditation, those familiar with him said. He was also involved with the grant of OBC status for Jats in Rajasthan.

### J&K sees 224...

uncontrollably. He asked them to monitor the situation constantly and take measures simultaneously.

He also showed confidence that last time our performance was efficient as we didn't let the situation to take an ugly turn. He exuded hope that this time we together would better that record by playing our respective roles by being responsible and careful.

### First batch of J&K Haj pilgrims returns

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The first batch of 145 pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir returned from the Haj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia on Saturday, officials said.

The batch was received at the Srinagar international airport by Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, P K Pole and other senior officials from police and civil administration, they said.

The 145 pilgrims -- 80 males and 65 females -- returned in a flight that landed at the airport here at 7.50 am.

Over 6,000 pilgrims from J-K have gone on the annual pilgrimage this year. The Haj was resumed this year after a gap of two years due to COVID-19.

The last return flight carrying pilgrims from J-K will arrive here on August 2.

### Absconder in theft cases arrested, two warrants executed

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Continuing drive against absconders launched by District Police Reasi on the directions of Amit Gupta, Senior Superintendent of Police, Reasi Police on Saturday arrested one absconder from Khawas area of Budhal Rajouri.

As per the details, a team of Police Station Pouni led by Insp. Vijay Sharma SHO Pouni under the supervision of DySP Headquarters Iftikhar Ahmed arrested an absconder namely Mohd Shakeel, son of Bagh Hussain, resident of Keri Tehsil Khawas who was involved in the theft case FIR No 48/2018 under section 379/RPC and 49/2018 under sections 379 RPC of Police Station Pouni. Cases were proved during investigation and charged sheeted against the accused. To avoid conviction accused evaded trial proceedings and couldn't be apprehended. In both cases two General Warrants Of Arrest under section 512 CrPC were issued against him, by Court of JMIC Reasi. Today after developing specific information about presence of accused in Khawas Police team was sent to Khawas Budhal and absconder got arrested with the help of local Police. Accused produced by Court of JMIC Reasi and both the Warrants got executed.

### Two notorious criminals booked under PSA

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Saturday booked two

Covid: 13 new cases in Ladakh

According to report from Leh, Ladakh has reported 13 fresh Covid cases that pushed the infection tally to 28,615, officials said.

All the new cases were recorded in Leh, they said.

So far, 228 people have succumbed to COVID-19 in Ladakh. Of these, 168 deaths were reported from Leh and 60 from Kargil, according to officials.

The number of active cases stands at 61 -- all in Leh, they said.

A total of 639 sample reports were tested in Ladakh of which 579 in Leh and 46 in Kargil were found to be negative, officials said.

Eleven people were discharged from hospital in Leh, taking the overall recoveries to 28,326, officials said.

As many as 2,326 passengers were screened at the Leh airport, 489 passengers, including drivers and helpers of trucks and light motor vehicles, were screened at Khaltse, and 278 were screened at Upshi check post on highway, they added.

### Why did it...

secularists, who otherwise miss no opportunity to deliberate over (non)issues. But it didn't happen. Rightly so because such a discourse does not fit well in the scheme of things revolving the ecosystem that is so strong where even kin get abandoned. Imagine a most powerful father and a sister looking towards the other side when it comes to upholding the pride and dignity of their own. They could have set an example by seeking expeditious justice to a hapless woman by urging the CBI to expedite investigations and setting up a Fast Track court but they chose differently. Instead, they eulogized the radicalised terrorists and their mentor rogue country for 'maintaining the conducive atmosphere' to facilitate their rehabilitation in the cradle of power. After taking oath as Chief Minister on March 1, 2015, Mufti Sayeed stated that the Hurriyat Conference, terrorist outfits and the people from across the border, an oblique reference to Pakistan, allowed a conducive atmosphere for assembly polls. This is how the eco-system has been working in the Valley. This has not been the case with Muftis only. The Abdullahs did not lag behind. Farooq Abdullah is on record having stated many times that hundreds of National Conference workers were killed by 'terrorists'. This is a matter of fact. Terrorists did assassinate NC workers including sitting ministers in nineties onwards. In normal course, Farooq Abdullah should have nurtured venom against the enemies of peace in the Valley because his own people had fallen victim to their tentacles. But he too chose differently by saying on July 12, 2018 that "These boys (terrorists) have left (for the path of terrorism). Everyone loves life, nobody wants to die. They have made a promise to God that you decide the matters of life and death but we will sacrifice our life for the freedom of this nation...the new generation of Kashmiris was fearless and were not scared of guns...a new generation has taken birth which does not fear guns. It is striving to achieve freedom for this nation".

The so-called Kashmir mainstream is a classic case of opportunism, which can sacrifice anything for power as also the cause being espoused by enemies of the country in the form of Jihad. This duplicity has cost the nation dearly. Rubaiya's release was sought after setting free five dreaded terrorists in full public gaze on December 13, 2019, which is deemed as turning point in the Kashmir terror, as thousands of youth took them in a procession as a mark of triumph.

Identifying Yasin Malik in the Court, Rubaiya, according to Advocate Monica Kohli, said 'Mini Bus Seay Jaab Utarna Tha Tou Isse (Malik) Nay Kaha, Chup Chap Utro Nahin Tou Ghaseetkar Utaray Gay (When I was brought down from the mini bus, he was the one who said 'get down otherwise you will be dragged out'). Ironically, Rubaiya's sister, Mehbooba Mufti had said hours ahead of the conviction of Malik in the money laundering case, "'Jammu and Kashmir is a political issue. Many people here have been hanged, many were sentenced to life imprisonment. This did not help resolve the Kashmir issue but complicate it further. I feel that the consequences of the muscular policy of India won't be good. The situation is deteriorating day by day. The issue is getting complicated instead of being resolved."

This is how the eco-system in Kashmir works in favour of terrorists.

### Medico's complaint against...

and Dean that she was undergoing mental harassment being caused by Dr. Dharmendra Kumar, Head of Unit -II Cardiology intentionally and willfully on one pretext or the other.

"I am not feeling comfortable in performing my duties under such unavoidable circumstances. It is also pertinent to mention here that abusive and harsh language is being used against me in front of patients and attendants which is causing intense

mental agony to me. Due to such circumstances I am feeling insecure and suffocated and not able to work efficiently", the complaint stated, requesting the Principal that she may be provided some other guide and her Ward and the Unit may be changed, enabling her to perform her duties properly and efficiently. She also sought 'strict action against the concerned so that no other student faces similar treatment'.

On July 14, 2022, the STATE TIMES exclusively reported that "A female medicos lodges complaint of harassment against senior GMC doctor".

### ITBP Jawan shoots...

Singh shot at his colleagues, leading to bullet injuries to a head constable and two constables, a senior ITBP officer said.

The injured have been admitted to a hospital, and are out of danger, he said.

Singh later shot himself from his INSAS service rifle and he died on the spot, the officer said.

The jawan belonged to the 8th battalion of the force and was presently deputed to the F' company of the 2nd ad-hoc battalion of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) deployed in Jammu and Kashmir for security duties.

Preliminary inputs suggest some altercation took place between the jawans, but the exact cause that led to the incident is still being probed, the official said.

A court of inquiry has been ordered by the border guarding force, he said.

The ITBP is primarily tasked to guard the 3,488 km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China apart from rendering a variety of roles in the internal security domain of the country.

The incident comes a day after an Army jawan shot himself fatally after killing another colleague and injuring two others in Poonch district of the Union territory.

### J&K Bank bags...

Friday. During the event themed as - Cyber-security 2022 : Business Risk at the Brink - the Bank was also conferred with Special Cyber Security Award 2022 on Access and Identity Management for its Privilege and Customer Authentication Framework.

Muneer Kongawani received both the awards at the function as the Bank's Chief Information Security Officer at the hands of Director, Foundry India (Content and Communities) Yogesh Gupta. Notably, the CSO100 Awards recognises top CSOs/CISOs for security projects and initiatives at their respective companies that demonstrate outstanding business value in today's constantly-evolving digital and threat landscape over the past 12 months.

While commending the Bank's Information Security Team led by the CISO on reception of award, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash said, "Every efficient effort brings acknowledgement in due course of time, and we humbly receive these tokens of recognition with a promise to provide our customers better, faster and more secure services in future."

"Besides testifying the Bank's commitment towards protection of customer trust on Banks digital assets, the recognition from such prestigious platform will provide further impetus to our technology teams to continually work on enhancing security for better customer experience", he added.

MD & CEO further said, "Keeping our digital promise on the eve of recent Eid festival, we have fairly demonstrated as a resilient organisation that we take challenges head-on to serve our customers well and meet the expectations of our stakeholders."

While sharing his experiences during the Fireside Chat session of the symposium on 'Safeguarding Your Customer Experience Amidst Complex Threat Landscape', J&K Bank CISO Muneer Kongawani addressed CISOs of different organisations and expressed his expert views on the subject.

Pertinently, CSO100 Awards by Foundry (formerly known as International Data Group (IDG)) is a high profile event that brings together top information-security leaders across all industry verticals in India to explore new ideas and adopt creative and game-changing ways of tackling cyber security in the modern enterprises.

### Army opens fire...

the LoC near Baloni in the Krishna Gahti sector on Friday night, they said.

The alert troops opened fire and the flying object returned back to the Pakistani-occupied Kashmir side, the sources said.

Following the incident, the Army and the police launched a search operation in the area, they said.

### Temple desecrations: Saints, Mahants urge LG to initiate stern action against culprits

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A meeting of saints and Mahants was held under the chairmanship of Mahamandleshwar Shri Mahant Rameshwar Dass, who is also President of Shri Vaishnav Bairagi Sadhu Dhamar Sathan Surakshani Samiti J&K at premises of Mandir Shri Raghunath Maharaj Puran Mandi. Sant Sahil Raghunath Maharaj, Puran Mandi, Sant Rameshwar Dass Maharaj, Shri Ganga Dhar Maharaj, Mahant Rajesh Bittu, Sant Sahil Maharaj, Sant Ram Sumrani Dass Maharaj, Raghunath Dass Maharaj were also present during the meeting.

He also took stock of arrangements for yatris and interacted with pilgrims and service providers (tent walas and langar walas). Officers briefed the DGP regarding the arrangements and security of the base camps, an official statement said.

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