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BRIEF

Cop found dead near home in Jammu

Jammu : A cop was found dead under mysterious circumstances on Sunday in Jammu, reports said. The police constable, identified as Vivek Dogra, resident of Ward-08 of Jammu, was posted in Srinagar and had returned home some two days back. His brother, Sahil Dogra said that after Vivek returned from Srinagar, he went out unusually late at night with a local resident. When Sahil didn't see his brother the next morning, he contacted the resident with whom his brother had went. He told me that he had dropped Vivek back home at 11:30pm, and that he might have left again," he said. As he searched for his brother, he heard that his body was lying near an electric transformer in the neighbourhood. He said that the police have also conducted post-mortem, but nothing has been revealed to the family as of now. While requesting the security agencies to probe his brother's death adequately, Sahil said that his brother would never go out from the locality to roam around. "We don't know what happened to him," he lamented.

Rescue ops continues in Kedarnath, 373 people to be Airlifted from Lincholi

New Delhi : Over 370 people, including devotees and locals stranded on the rain-ravaged trek route to Kedarnath, have been evacuated and sent to Lincholi to be airlifted as the rescue operation entered its fourth day. Chief Executive Officer of Shri Badrinath Kedarnath Temple Committee Yogendra Singh said that these 373 people who left from Kedarnath with rescuers, including teams of SDRF and NDRF, for Lincholi from where they will be airlifted to safer places via helicopter. Meanwhile, 570 passengers are also waiting for the helicopter at Kedarnath helipad. Singh said the district administration, temple committee and Tirtha Purohit Samaj are providing food packets, water bottles and fruits to all the people stranded in Kedarnath. According to officials, 110 pilgrims stranded on the Rambada-Chaumasi track have also been evacuated and taken to Chaumasi. More than 534 pilgrims and locals have been evacuated from this route so far. The trek route to Kedarnath suffered extensive damage as a result of a cloudburst in Junglechatti near Lincholi on Wednesday night.

Holy Chhari Mubarak taken to Shankaracharya Temple in Srinagar

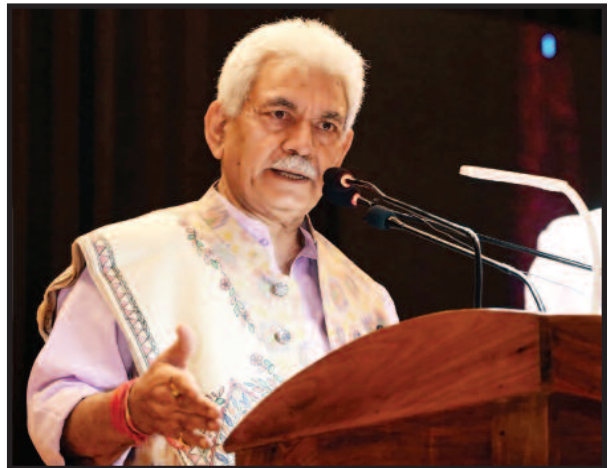
Srinagar, Aug 04 : The Holy Mubarak, the holy mace of Swami Amarnathji, was taken to historic Shankaracharya Temple in Srinagar for prayers on the occasion of 'Haryali Amavasya' on Sunday. In connection with Swami Amarnath Ji Yatra-2024, Chhari-Mubarak Swami Amarnath Ji led by Mahant Deependra Giri ji was taken to Historic Shankaracharya Temple, (Cont. on Page-11)

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LG dedicates 500 Kisan Khidmat Ghars to farmers of Jammu Kashmir

TT Correspondent Srinagar, Aug 04 : Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday addressed Kisan Unnati Sammelan at Shalimar Campus of SKUAST Kashmir and launched 500 Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) across J&K. Dedicating the Kisan Khidmat Ghars to the farmers of Jammu Kashmir, the Lt Governor said the inauguration of 500 KKGs across J&K UT today under the Phase-I, is a significant milestone in J&K's journey under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program.

Administration's resolve for the welfare of farmers of J&K, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Lt Governor informed that 1500 KKGs will be established in the second phase and works will be completed by end of this year. At the heart of this initiative is our commitment to empower 13 lakh farmer families, our farmers' doorsteps and taking extension network to the farthest corner of the UT, he observed. The Lt Governor said the Kisan Khidmat Ghars equipped with modern IT systems will ensure efficient delivery of critical services such as input booking, soil health monitoring, plant diagnostics, market intelligence, and capacity building. He said the Centres will also enable farmers access to custom hiring services, Artificial Insemination, horticulture and institutional data ensuring that farmers have access to necessary and timely services. At Kisan Unnati Sammelan, the Lt Governor also launched Kisan Khidmat Ghar mobile application, designed to provide comprehensive support to the farmers. (Cont. on Page-11)



including nearly 3 lakh vulnerable and marginal farmers. Kisan Khidmat Ghars will bridge the gap in agriculture extension worker and farmer ratio and bring essential services directly to

Be ready to sit in Opposition again : Amit Shah

New Delhi, Aug 04 : Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday while launching the Nyay Setu water project and the smart city initiative in Chandigarh, took a swipe at the INDIA bloc, suggesting they gear up for another term in the opposition come 2029. He praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi, predicting a win for the NDA in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. "The INDIA bloc might as well get comfortable in the opposition seats for 2029 too. No matter what the opposition attempts, the NDA, led by Modi ji, will prevail. The opposition fails to see that the

highlighting the essential nature of water and its impact on health. He assured that the project would provide round-the-clock access to purified water for the local population, ensuring its longevity. "The Nyay Setu spans roughly 125 acres. With Modi ji as Prime Minister, there's been a concentrated effort on developing smart cities, with Chandigarh leading the charge. Approximately one lakh crore rupees have been invested. We've managed to supply clean drinking water to 74% of households nationwide, significantly reducing water-borne diseases," he added.

"Those who aim to destabilize keep claiming the government won't last. I'm here to tell them not only will it last, but the NDA will also form the next government. They better prepare to be in the opposition and learn to function effectively in that role," he stated. Shah also emphasized the significance of the Nyay Setu initiative,

Over 4.90 Lakh Perform Amarnath Yatra In 36 Days

JAMMU, Aug 4 : Over 4.90 lakh devotees had 'darshan' during the last 36 days of the ongoing Amarnath Yatra as a fresh batch of 1,112 pilgrims left Jammu for Kashmir on Sunday, said the officials of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (ASAB).

Yatris left for North Kashmir Baltal base camp while the second convoy of 39 vehicles carrying 908 pilgrims left for south Kashmir Nunwan (Pahalgam) base camp", officials said.

Jammu And Kashmir Government Updates Land Delineation Procedures

JAMMU, Aug 4 : The Jammu & Kashmir Government has introduced a new procedure for delegating powers to delineate and demarcate lands categorized as Gair Mumkin Khad, Gair Mumkin Dariya, and Gair Mumkin Nallah in revenue records. This initiative aims to differentiate between water course khads and non-water course lands. The procedure involves committees at the UT, Divisional, and District levels, with delineation authority varying based on land size. The guidelines mandate a scientific approach

using ground truthing, satellite imagery, and advanced methods like drones or LIDAR. "Water Flowing Khads" will be classified as Prohibited Zones, while adjacent Non-Water Flowing Areas will be designated as Regulated Zones, with usage decisions made by the Competent Authority. The recommended changes will be submitted to the respective Deputy Commissioner, Divisional Commissioner, or the Government, in line with the Jammu and Kashmir Land Revenue Act, 1996.

Post-Art 370 J&K to be torchbearer of India's growth story: Union Mins

New Delhi, August 4 : "Post-Article 370 Jammu & Kashmir to emerge as the torchbearer of India's future growth story", said Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said on the eve of the 5th Anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370. Jitendra Singh said, for the first time, the unexplored natural resources and dormant human resources within J&K have emerged on the surface, the latest example being that of the "Purple Revolution" originating from Bhaderwah which has given India a new genre of Agri-StartUps and holds the promise of contributing significant value addition to India's economy as it rises to number 3 in next few years and then to the top. The Minister

said "As we celebrate the 5th Anniversary, some significant developments are highly notable. In the last 5 years, transformation has happened broadly at four levels... democratic, governance, development and security situation." Historic decision of abrogation of Article 370 brought citizenship rights to a vast population in J&K who were deprived of it for the last seven decades", said Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.



despite two of them going on to become the Prime Minister of India, naming Sh I.K Gujral and Dr. Man Mohan Singh. Jitendra Singh also criticised previous governments for posing to be protagonists of Art 370 but during the Emergency, the term of all the State Assemblies was increased from 5 to 6 years. Later on after 3 years the Morarji government restored it back to 5 years, but the then government in J&K immediately adopted the first central legislation but conveniently ignored the second one using the alibi of Art 370 and allowed the J&K Assembly term to continue to be six years till Aug 5-6, 2019. This reflects how some people misused article 370 for their own vested interests. Speaking about hardliners and sympathisers Dr. Jitendra Singh said, PM Modi has taken a strict decisive stance and those who were hosted as guests by Pak Embassy in New Delhi are now being

Cloudburst in Kashmir, Srinagar-Leh highway closed

Srinagar, Aug 04 : A cloudburst in Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir has caused significant damage to a road, leading to the suspension of traffic on the Srinagar-Leh national highway on Sunday. The road was damaged during the intervening night. The traffic on Srinagar-Leh road has been suspended till further notice due to road damage at Kacherwan in Ganderbal district," an official of the traffic control room said. A police official mentioned that some buildings, including residential houses, have been damaged as well due to the flash floods triggered by the cloudburst. Authorities are on the ground to provide help and assistance to those in need. The closure of the highway has cut off Kashmir valley from Ladakh union territory while Baltal base camp for Amarnath yatra has also been rendered inaccessible. National Conference president Dr. Farooq

Abdullah and vice-president Omar Abdullah Sunday expressed anguish over Kangan cloudburst incident. They stressed upon local administration to act swiftly to restore roads and provide relief & compensation to the affected people. Taking to micro-blogging site X the JKNC said: "Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Omar Abdullah are anguished over the cloudburst in Cherwan, Kangan, Ganderbal". "In their message, the duo said the damage to crops and homes is heart-wrenching. They stressed that it is imperative for the local administration to act swiftly to restore roads and provide necessary relief and compensation to those affected," the post added. Traffic movement partially restored on Srinagar-Leh highway, restoration work underway

Srinagar -Leh National Highway was partially restored on Sunday afternoon, officials said. They said stranded vehicles between Kangan and Sonamarg side are being cleared on priority basis and advised commuters to follow lane discipline to avoid any congestion on the highway. Kangan, Aug 04: Traffic movement on Srinagar-Leh National Highway was partially restored on Sunday afternoon, officials said. They said stranded vehicles between Kangan and Sonamarg side are being cleared on priority basis and advised commuters to follow lane discipline to avoid any congestion on the highway. After which the men and machinery of BRO and other agencies were pressed into service for road restoration work. An official told that the road has been partially restored to allow stranded traffic while further restoration work is underway.

Couples enter wedlock under VDG protection in terror-hit Doda

Jammu, Aug 4 : As Zail Singh and Ravita Devi entered a wedlock in a remote village in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda, Village Defence Guards (VDGs) stood guard to ward off any threat from terrorists who have infiltrated from across the border and are believed to be hiding in the higher reaches of the hilly district. Hailing from Gadan village of Bhagwah Panchayat, Singh in his mid-20's performed the marriage rituals with Devi as per already decided dates last week despite his area witnessing a fierce gunfight between terrorists and security forces for several hours on July 9. Doda in Jammu region was rocked by several terror incidents

since June 12, which was seen as an attempt by Pakistan-based terror handlers to revive terrorism in the district after remaining peaceful for over 18 years. On July 27, the police released sketches of three terrorists responsible for several attacks, including the one on an army search party in Dessa forest that left four soldiers including a captain dead on July 15. "The back-to-back terror attacks have sparked panic among the people. This is the marriage season, so we are coming forward to ensure that people celebrate their important occasions without the shadow of terror. Besides the deadly encounter in Dessa forest, the terrorists also injured at least 10 security personnel in separate

attacks at Chattergalla pass, Gandoh, Kastigarh and Ghadi Bagwah forest between June 12 and July 18. Three terrorists were killed in a day-long operation in the Gandoh area of the district on June 26, while the search is on to neutralize other splinter groups hiding in the dense forests. Recalling past terror attacks on villagers in the district between 1995 and 2006 which claimed a number of lives, Bharat Singh said the VDGs who were earlier known as village defence committees (VDCs) are protecting their villages round-the-clock and had voluntarily come forward to provide protection to families celebrating marriage of their chil-

dren. In 2022, the policy of VDCs was revamped by the home ministry and Village Defence Groups were introduced, members of whom are called Village Defence Guards. It was not only the name, the structure of the committees was also changed. Unlike VDCs where only SPOs were paid, all VDGs are now paid. According to the annual report of the Ministry of Home Affairs for 2022-23, 4,153 Village Defence Groups (VDG) and 32,355 SPOs were engaged in Jammu and Kashmir in different responsibilities for the protection of civilians and anti-terrorists operations under the direct supervision of district superintendents of police or senior superintendents of police.

Centre all set to overhaul Waqf Board powers on assets

New Delhi, Aug 04 : The Centre is likely to bring a bill soon in Parliament seeking several amendments to the Waqf Act, which may cut its unfettered powers to call any property its asset, and also ensure representation for women; Properties claimed by Waqf Boards will undergo fresh verification to resolve disputes; Magistrates may be involved in the monitoring of waqf properties. As per sources, the demand to change the existing laws

religious, or charitable. During the UPA-2, the Congress-led Centre gave additional powers under the Waqf Act making it virtually impossible to get the land back from the claws of the board. It is these amendments which



has come from Muslim intellectuals, women and various sects like Shia and Bohra. There are around 8.7 lakh properties under Waqf Boards across the country and the total land under these properties is around 9.4 lakh acres. The Waqf Act was enacted in 1995 and regulates assets donated and notified as waqf by a wakif- the person who dedicates a property for purposes recognised by Muslim law as pious,

have since been a point of contention. To address the Board's arbitrariness, the Centre is planning to introduce the bill in Parliament in the coming week. AIMIM President Asaduddin Owaisi today (August 3) alleged that the Modi government wants to snatch Waqf properties from Muslims and interfere with the freedom of religion through proposed amendments to the Waqf Act. (Cont. on Page-11)

Machail Mata Yatra crosses 50 thousand mark

Jammu, Aug 04 : The revered Shree Machail Mata Yatra 2024, which officially commenced on July 25, 2024, crossed the 50 thousand mark with today's darshan performed by 8,535 pilgrims at the Holy Shree Chandi Mata Mandir of Machail Paddar. This annual Yatra is one of the most significant pilgrimages in the Jammu Division, second only to the Katra Mata Vaishno Yatra. The popularity of Machail Yatra has soared in recent years, with over 2 lakh pilgrims visiting last year alone. Pilgrims along with the holy mace (Chhari) procession will proceed from Jammu on August 17 towards Darbar following traditional path and transits. The weather at Machail Bhawan remains clear, ensuring a smooth experience for the devotees. The Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar in collaboration with the district administration Kishtwar, spearheaded by Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar and local administration, is diligently working to ensure comprehensive arrangements for the Yatris this year. Langars by devotees near Bhawan Machail and enroute are offering meals to the pilgrims. Additionally, lodging facilities at the Yatri Bhawan Gulabgarh, Sapphire Guest House district administration Kishtwar, along with various tent accommodations and Yatri Sarai near Chandi Mata Bhawan, Machail, are available to ensure comfort for the visitors. With the footfall expected to exceed 300,000 this year, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr. Devansh Yadav has appealed Yatris to follow guidelines. These facilities provided to Yatris include enhancements to roads, water supply, footpaths, sanitation, security, chopper services, and online registration through the website to ensure a safe and pleasant journey for the pilgrims. The addition of a road up to Chashoti on the Gulabgarh to Machail axis has reduced the trekking distance to 3-4 hours. New bridges and repairs to existing infrastructure aim to

ensure comprehensive arrangements for the Yatris this year. Langars by devotees near Bhawan Machail and enroute are offering meals to the pilgrims. Additionally, lodging facilities at the Yatri Bhawan Gulabgarh, Sapphire Guest House district administration Kishtwar, along with various tent accommodations and Yatri Sarai near Chandi Mata Bhawan, Machail, are available to ensure comfort for the visitors. With the footfall expected to exceed 300,000 this year, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr. Devansh Yadav has appealed Yatris to follow guidelines. These facilities provided to Yatris include enhancements to roads, water supply, footpaths, sanitation, security, chopper services, and online registration through the website to ensure a safe and pleasant journey for the pilgrims. The addition of a road up to Chashoti on the Gulabgarh to Machail axis has reduced the trekking distance to 3-4 hours. New bridges and repairs to existing infrastructure aim to

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