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Where truth prevails

Indian Army's Surya command successfully completes "Surya quest 2025"

Wari La holds huge tourism potential : LG Kavinder

DC, SSP Ramban inspect NH-44; Review traffic regulation...



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BRIEF

Vaishno Devi Yatra to resume from Sunday

Katra : Following a temporary suspension necessitated by inclement weather conditions and essential maintenance of the track leading to the Holy Shrine, the Yatra to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji shall resume from September 14 (Sunday), subject to favourable weather conditions. Pilgrims are advised to carry valid identification, follow designated pathways and cooperate with on-ground staff. For live updates, booking services and helpline support, devotees can visit the Shrine Board's official website "www.maavaishnodevi.org". The Shrine Board expresses its gratitude to all devotees for their patience and understanding during the temporary suspension. The resumption of the Yatra marks a reaffirmation of our collective faith and resilience and the Board remains committed to upholding the sanctity, safety and dignity of this revered pilgrimage.

DGP orders monitoring of social media to curb misinformation

Srinagar : Jammu and Kashmir Police chief Nalin Prabhat directed district police heads in the Union Territory to closely monitor social media platforms to prevent the spread of misinformation that could jeopardise public safety and order. The J&K Director General of Police (DGP) chaired a security review meeting at the Police Control Room Kashmir here on Thursday to assess the prevailing security situation and to discuss measures to further strengthen the security framework, a police spokesperson said. At the outset, the zonal inspector generals and heads of various wings briefed the DGP on the current security situation in the Union Territory, he said. The spokesperson said the DGP was also briefed about the recent developments regarding anti-terrorist operations and actions taken in response. The discussion further focused on recent security issues, ongoing challenges, and strategies to address them.

Suspected drug peddler's property attached in Jammu and Kashmir

Srinagar, Sep 12 : Residential property of a suspected drug peddler has been attached under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar on Friday, police said here. "In yet another significant move to combat the drug menace and dismantle the infrastructure supporting narcotics trafficking, Srinagar Police has attached a residential property worth approximately Rs 50 lakhs under the NDPS Act," a police spokesman said. The attached property comprises a house, constructed on land measuring over five marlas belonging to Waseem Ahmad Bafanda, resident of Lachmanpora, Dandrkha area of the Batamaloo locality of the city here. The action pertains to a case registered under NDPS Act in which Bafanda has been found to be involved as the accused person, the spokesman said.

Miscellaneous	: Page - 2
Local News	: page - 3
World news	: page - 4
Round-Up	: page - 5
Outlook	: page - 6
Health	: page - 7
Entertainment	: page - 8
Business News	: page - 9
Sports News	: page - 10
National News	: page - 11
State News	: page - 12

CP Radhakrishnan sworn in as new Vice President of India

New Delhi, Sep 12 : Vice President CP Radhakrishnan was administered the oath of office by

the oath in English in the name of God. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit

attended the ceremony in his first public appearance since his resignation as the Vice President.



President Droupadi Murmu on Friday. The ceremony was held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, where Radhakrishnan was sworn in as the 15th Vice President of India. Dressed in a red kurta, Radhakrishnan took

Shah, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, former Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar and several other top political leaders including Cabinet ministers and Opposition leaders attended the ceremony. Dhankhar, who received 300 votes. The election was necessitated due to the sudden resignation of the then incumbent, Jagdeep Dhankhar, on July 21. Hours after taking the oath, Radhakrishnan assumed charge as the chairperson of the Rajya Sabha. Radhakrishnan offered floral tributes at the Prerna Sthal at Parliament House complex where he was welcomed by Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairperson Harivansh, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju and his deputy Arjun Ram Meghwal. Prerna Sthal houses the statues of India's eminent leaders, freedom fighters and social reformers. Later, he went to the office of Rajya Sabha chairperson and signed documents assuming charge of the presiding officer of the (Cont. on Page-11)

Earlier on September 9, NDA nominee Radhakrishnan was elected as the 15th Vice President of India, securing 452 votes against Opposition candidate and former Supreme Court judge B Sudershan

LMD imposes 1.5 Lakh penalty on erring traders

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 12 : The Legal Metrology Department has intensified its enforcement drive against violations of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009, and the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 across the Union Territory. In recent actions, the Legal Metrology Unit Samba imposed penalties of 50,000 on four violators for non-compliance with provisions of the Act. The Deputy Controller Enforcement Jammu levied a penalty of

50,000 on a manufacturer of packed beverages for failing to provide mandatory declarations. Similarly, the LMD Unit Kupwara recovered 50,000 from a company for not disclosing statutory information and for non-registration under Rule 27 of the Packaged Commodities Rules, 2011. The Department cautioned all manufacturers, packers, and traders to strictly comply with mandatory labeling requirements such as Maximum Retail Price (MRP), net quantity

and Unit Sale Price (USP). It stressed that violations mislead consumers, constitute unfair trade practices and will be dealt with firmly under the law. Legal Metrology J&K, Rajinder Singh Tara, reaffirmed the Department's commitment to safeguarding consumer rights, stating that the Department remains resolute in protecting the consumer's right to be informed and will continue to take stringent enforcement measures against violators.

Monsoon withdrawal likely to begin around September 15: IMD

New Delhi, Sep 12: The southwest monsoon is likely to start withdrawing from northwest India around September 15, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Friday.

The primary rain-bearing system usually makes its onset over Kerala by June 1 and covers the entire country by July 8. It starts retreating from northwest India around September 17 and withdraws completely by October 15. "Conditions are becoming favourable for the withdrawal of the Southwest Monsoon from some parts of west Rajasthan around September 15," the IMD said in a statement. This year, the monsoon covered the entire country nine days before the usual date of July 8. This was the earliest the monsoon has covered the entire country since 2020 when it did so by June 26. It had reached Kerala on May 24, its earliest onset over the Indian mainland since 2009, when it arrived on May 23. The country has received 836.2 mm of rainfall in the monsoon season so far against a normal of 778.6

mm, a surplus of 7 per cent. Northwest India has received 720.4 mm, 34 per cent more than the normal of 538.1 mm. The unusually high rainfall coincided with a series of extreme weather events. Punjab suffered its worst flooding in decades, with swollen rivers and breached canals inundating thousands of hectares of farmland and displacing lakhs of people. In the Himalayan states, cloudbursts and flash floods triggered landslides and caused widespread damage. Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand reported washed-out bridges and roads, while Jammu and Kashmir witnessed repeated cloudbursts and landslides. The IMD attributed the surplus rain to active monsoon conditions supported by frequent western disturbances that enhanced rainfall over the region. Central India has recorded 978.3 mm of rainfall so far, 11 per cent higher than the normal of 882 mm, while the southern peninsula has gauged 7 per cent more rainfall than the normal of 611 mm.

The Minister also visits affected families in Paharpur village near Zero Line on the Indo-Pak Border

TT Correspondent Hiranagar/Ramnagar, September 12 : Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh today visited the flood-affected areas along the International Border in Hiranagar in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir. He also visited Paharpur village along the Zero Line of the Indo-Pak International Border, which was badly affected by floods.

Dr Jitendra Singh met the victims and assured them of all possible help in their rehabilitation. On the occasion, He distributed relief material among the victims. The Minister also visited the dilapidated house of one the affected Roop Lal and spent some time with the family, and had tea served by the family. He interacted with locals who narrated the loss to their standing crops due to inundation. Singh directed the District administration to expedite the crop damage assessment so that compensation can be provided to the affected farmers at the earliest. He further informed that the District

Administration has already submitted the list of houses fully or partially damaged for relief under the SDRF norms. Highlighting the government's measures for relief in border areas, Dr. Singh said that 50 lakh rupees worth of nano-tech-



nology-based vehicles have been deployed to ensure the well-being of border residents.

Earlier, Singh visited a relief camp organised for the flood affected. On the occasion, He inspected mobile and domestic water filter and purifying units of and handed them over to the district administration for installation in the affected areas so that the victims can have access to safe drinking

water in this difficult time. Dr Singh said these units will serve the sanitation needs of the flood-affected people and help prevent spread of water-borne diseases in the calamity-struck areas. The domestic water purifier units are designed

for household use and can purify drinking water without the need for electricity, while the mobile water purifying unit, with a capacity of 3000-4000 litres per hour, can draw water from any source and runs on power from the vehicle on which it is installed. The launch of these units is expected to strengthen safe drinking water access in vulnerable areas. (Cont. on Page-11)

CM Omar pledges early action on recommendations for protection of Hangul and habitat conservation

TT Correspondent Srinagar, Sep 12 : Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today pledged that his government will act promptly on the recommendations of the Second International Conference on Hangul protection and other threatened Ungulates conservation (2IHUC-25), so that measurable progress is achieved in the population of Hangul and Markhor before the next such conference is held.

The Chief Minister, who is also Pro-Chancellor of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), was speaking at the valedictory session of the three-day international conference at SKUAST-K's Shalimar campus.

Addressing a distinguished gathering of conservation experts, scientists, policymakers, and delegates from India and abroad, the Chief Minister assured that the State Government would treat the outcomes of the conference with utmost seriousness. "On behalf of my colleagues in government, I assure you that the recommendations emerging from this conference will be implemented at the earliest. My hope is that when we meet here next time, the population of Hangul and Markhor will have grown significantly," the Chief Minister said. Recalling the words of eminent conservationist MK Ranjitsinh, he stressed that conservation is deeply tied to human well-being.

Conservation is not only about animals-it is about human survival itself. Protecting Hangul, Markhor, or any threatened species is



essentially about protecting life and the delicate ecological balance we depend upon. Sharing his personal regret, Omar Abdullah noted that despite living close to Dachigam National Park, he had never seen a Hangul with a naked eye. "I don't want a situation where our children

and grandchildren know these species only through photographs in books, like the dodo or woolly mammoth. That would be a



tragedy we must not allow," he warned. The Chief Minister underlined the need for synergy between academic institutions and government agencies to ensure practical outcomes. "Unless there is synergy between academic research and government

implementation, we risk losing magnificent animals like the Hangul. Every species exists for a reason. When they thrive, ecosystems



thrive-and when ecosystems thrive, humankind thrives as well," the Chief Minister said. Cautioning against complacency, he said that these species will not wait for files to move from one department to another. "We cannot afford bureaucratic delays. The findings of this conference

must translate into action with urgency," he said. The Chief Minister thanked international and national delegates for their participation and expressed hope that such conferences would be held more frequently.

The three-day event brought together more than 200 delegates, including eminent wildlife experts, conservationists, and biologists from the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, the Middle East, Central Asia, and South Asia. Participants shared research and strategies for conserving Hangul, Markhor, and other threatened ungulates of the Himalayan region.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister released a Vision Document titled 'Institute of

Mountain Wildlife Sciences' and distributed awards and appreciation certificates to participants. Others who addressed the gathering included Forest Minister Javed Ahmed Rana, Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir Prof. Nazir A. Ganie, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Suresh Gupta and international expert Dr. Gonzalez. Reiterating his commitment, Omar Abdullah concluded: "That is my hope, that is my belief, and I am sure that if we approach it the right way-as we saw success with Project Tiger and encouraging signs with Hangul and Markhor-that success will continue to grow."

Operation Sindoor served as a reality check on needs of N-warfare : Defence Secy

Pune, Sep 12: Stressing higher spending on research and development (R&D), Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh said on Friday that Operation Sindoor served as a reality check for the armed forces by pointing out the areas where we can do better, where we need to adapt to the changing needs of nuclear warfare. Speaking to media persons on the sidelines of the Defence Tech 2025 Seminar - STRIDE (Synergy of Technology, Research, Industry & Defence Ecosystem) at the RSAMI, Pune, Singh said that currently, just 0.66 per cent of the GDP is spent on R&D, and two-thirds of this is done through the public sector, like the Defence Research and Development Organisation. "We cannot move ahead in the defence sector without R&D. We need to change the current situation as the private sector has negligible contribution in this field," he said,

adding that the government has decided to share 25 per cent of the Technology Development Fund (TDF) of the DRDO with the private sector and also created a Rs 1 lakh crore research fund under department of



science and technology. "In the past three years, nearly Rs 1,500 crore has been shared with start-ups and private sector firms under TDF," he said.

Talking about indigenous efforts for defence equipment, he said, "At a broader level, as I mentioned, we have already decided that we will spend not less than 75 per cent of our defence spending domestically. Last year, we

actually spent 81 per cent entirely within the country." He did not favour raising the country's defence budget, saying, "Such a need may arise only when we manage to use the current budget optimally. There are



no financial constraints, the finance department is willing to increase our capex by 10-15 per cent every year, and this will be sufficient to meet the requirements of the armed forces." Shedding light on fighter jet engines, he said the country is close to developing a collaboration with an international engine house, along with the DRDO. "That's a long-drawn process that (Cont. on Page-11)

Crime Branch charge sheeted 12 accused for frauds involving over 2.00 CR & fake documents

Jammu, Sept 12 : Crime Branch has filed seven charge-sheets in seven separate cases against twelve accused including an Advocate, a Govt Teacher & a Cashier for different frauds involving huge amount of over ? 2.00 crore and fake documents.

CB has filed charge-sheet against Slocus Nar S/O Sh. David R/O 347, Old Rehari Jammu then posted as cashier in the office of Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division, Jammu for committing criminal breach of trust & misappropriating huge funds misusing official position.

CB has filed charge-sheet against Jatinder Sharma, S/o Krishan Lal, R/o Barnara, Sunderbani, Rajouri and Parveen Kumar, S/o Pathu Ram, R/o Thandi Choi, Kahra Bali, Jammu for duping Himachal Pradesh resident Dhian Chand of Rs. 70.20 lakh on the pretext of providing Kahirwood. Charge-sheet has also been presented against Ashok Kumar S/O Sh. Sant Ram R/o Udhaywala A/P Shiv Nagar Jammu, Ram Lal S/o Late Anant Ram P/ Shakti Magar Jammu, Kamal Kishore S/o Ram Lal Shakti Nagar

Jammu and Advocate Brij Mohan S/o Ram Lal Shakti Nagar Jammu for obtaining caste certificate & PRC by using fake and forged documents.

Charge-sheet has also been submitted against suspended Govt school teacher Jameel Anjum Mir, S/o Nasir Ahmed Mir R/o H.No. 45 Naranaria Mohalla opposite Ustad Mohalla, Jammu for duping the complainant Rashid Manhas of Gujjar Nagar, Jammu of Rs. 10.00 lakh cash & Gold worth 5 Lakh on the pretext of providing job. CB has also filed chargesheet against Rahul Shakhdar S/o

Jawahar Lal R/o Anand Nagar Bohri, Jammu for duping an amount of Rs. 23.00 lakh on the assurance of providing government job to the grandson of the complainant namely Kewal Krishan Gupta of Nanak Nagar, Jammu.

Another charge-sheet has been filed against accused Ashish Dinesh Kumar Shah S/o Sh. Dinesh Kumar Shah R/o Mhada layout Versova Andheri West, Mumbai. for duping Jammu resident Er. Bonish Behal of Old Janipur Jammu of Rs 88.50 lakh by committing real estate fraud.

Early cloudburst prediction efforts in progress : Union Mins

Jammu, Sep 12 : Union minister Jitendra Singh on Friday highlighted the challenges related to predicting the exact forecasting of earthquakes and cloudbursts and said that efforts are on to study the contributing factors behind cloudbursts so that early warning can be provided.

There is no exact forecasting capability for earthquakes and cloudbursts yet, but we are studying the contributing factors behind cloudbursts.

Typically, when there is humidity and heat at a particular place, it tends to become explosive (a trigger for cloudbursts). If we can identify these contributing factors, we can at least provide possible early warnings," Singh told reporters at a Vartalap programme organised by PIB here. He added that the department has also initiated programmes like the Himalayan ecology mission to understand these phenomena better. Speaking on improving weather forecasting, Singh said there is a plan to establish a full-

fledged IMD regional centre in Jammu, besides installing four more weather radars in the Union territory. At the programme, Singh also discussed lithium exploration in Reasi district and stated that the process will be restarted following a poor response initially during the tendering stage.

Once exploration is carried out, we will know the actual quantity of lithium present. Several specialised companies exist in the country, but perhaps none have come forward so far. We will restart the process," he said. Singh also mentioned the growth of start-ups in the country and said that India has risen to become the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world, with the number of startups increasing exponentially from just 350 in 2014 to over 1.5 lakh in 2025. He highlighted the CSIR-Aroma Mission in Jammu & Kashmir, under which over 3,000 lavender-based startups have been established across rural India.