



Schools to reopen as weather improves

All government and recognised private schools across Jammu & Kashmir would reopen tomorrow, as scheduled, with no further extension in the summer vacations, following a marked improvement in weather conditions.

According to officials, the government had decided not to extend the summer vacations any further and that all schools across Jammu and Kashmir would re

Cont. on P9 >

Ladakh LG pays tributes to Kargil War heroes



Ladakh LG Vinai Kumar Saxena today paid tributes to the soldiers who laid down their lives during the 1999 Kargil War, saying their unparalleled courage, sacrifice and unwavering commit

Cont. on P9 >

High-powered task force on exam reforms set up

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today announced the formation of a high-powered task force on examination reforms, headed by technology expert and Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani, to overhaul India's testing system, improve transparency and strengthen the use of technology in future examinations.

The announcement came a day after the Centre accepted the key demands raised by the youth-led CJP, which had spearheaded a month-long student agitation in

Cont. on P9 >

Iran war spreads to Red Sea

WASHINGTON/ATHENS, JUL 26: The Iran war broadened over the weekend despite a pause in U.S. strikes, as Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis attacked Saudi oil installations along the Red Sea coast and Iran accused Ukraine of targeting one of its vessels in the Caspian Sea.

The U.S. military said on Saturday its naval blockade against Iran "remains in full effect" but did not explain why it halted a streak of 13 nights of escalating strikes.

There were also no weekend reports of attacks by

Cont. on P9 >

Maldives ready to facilitate SAARC revival: Muizzu



NEW DELHI, JUL 26: Addressing the Maldives' 61st Independence Day ceremony, President Mohamed Muizzu said the country is ready to aid the revival of SAARC meetings that have been halted for the last nine years. He called SAARC a pivotal regional platform.

Cont. on P9 >



The Himalayan Mail

www.himalayanmail.com

JAMMU, MONDAY, JULY 27, 2026

RNI No. 66860

Vol. 31

No. 206

12 Pages

Rs. 2.00

NDIA Bloc Set To Raise Alleged Excesses Against NEET Protesters In Parliament; Rahul Writes To Shah, TMC Moves Notice

P- 7

Masaba Gupta debuts bridal collection at India Couture Week 2026 JJ Valaya unveils Autumn/Winter showcase

P-10



'Talks only on PoJK' Rajnath slams Pakistan for making terrorism 'State Policy'

DRASS (LADAKH), JUL 26: Asserting that there would be no talks with the neighbouring country other than on Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK), Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today slammed Pakistan for making terrorism a "part of its State Policy".

"PoJK is a part of India illegally occupied by Islamabad," he said in his address at the Kargil War Memorial here on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas.

The defence minister also said that Operation Sindoor clearly demonstrated what would be the fate of those who attempt to threaten India with terrorism, asserting that the country could respond to any misadventure by Pakistan in a manner "beyond their imagination".

He described India's victory in the Kargil war in 1999 as "a diamond studded in the crown of Bharat



Mata".

Recalling the Operation Sindoor conducted in May 2025 in response to the Pahalgam terror attack, he said the Indian armed forces dealt a severe blow to the backers and supporters of terrorism.

"Operation Sindoor made it clear what the fate will be of those who attempt to threaten India with terrorism," Rajnath said.

India had launched Operation Sindoor to avenge the massacre of 25 Hindu holidayers and a local by three Pakistani terrorists at Baisaran meadow of Pahalgam, Kashmir, on April 22, 2025.

India had bombed nine terror hubs inside Pakistan and PoJK, damaging terror infrastructure and killing several terrorists, including trainers and commanders.

Asserting that India and its armed forces had the capacity to respond to any misadventure by Pakistan in a manner "beyond their imagination", the minister said, "Any evil step towards the sovereignty and integrity of India will meet with the same fate."

"There will be no talks with Pakistan other than on Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK), a part of India which it has occupied

illegally," the defence minister said.

Sharpening his attack on the neighbouring country, Singh said at a time when India was designing ships, Pakistan was busy engaging in terror design.

"While we are finding new ways of innovation, Pakistan is seeking new ways of infiltration. Today, India is making data centres but Pakistan is busy creating radical centres," the defence minister said.

Kargil Vijay Diwas commemorates the culmination of Operation Vijay, the name given to India's military operation to reclaim the heights of Kargil after Pakistan's infiltration, which culminated on this day in 1999.

"The victory in Kargil wasn't just a military or diplomatic success; our soldiers exhibited indomitable courage and valour. I salute our bravehearts and their valour on 27th Kargil Vijay Diwas," Singh said.

Cont. on P9 >

Prez remembers valiant warriors



NEW DELHI, JUL 26:

On Kargil Vijay Diwas, President Droupadi Murmu today paid tributes to the valiant warriors who laid down their lives for the protection of the motherland, and said the nation shall forever remain indebted to them.

"On the occasion of Kargil Vijay Diwas, I pay humble

Cont. on P9 >

Prahlad Joshi takes charge as Edu Min



NEW DELHI, JUL 26: Union Minister Prahlad Joshi today assumed charge as the Union Education Minister, a day after President Draupadi Murmu accepted the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan and assigned him the additional responsibility of the ministry.

Cont. on P9 >

Cong questions PM's 'stony silence' on student protests

NEW DELHI, JUL 26: The Congress today lashed out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for maintaining "stony silence" on the student protests and the alleged "police brutality" in his "Mann ki Baat monologue", claiming the government has no intention of ensuring students receive quality education.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said education was a full-time portfolio at any time and Prahlad Joshi, the new incumbent, was already the Minister of New and Renewable Energy as well as

Cont. on P9 >

Spiritual values must remain foundation of society: LG

Pays obeisance to Mata Sidh Lakshmi

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, JUL 26

LG Manoj Sinha, who today paid obeisance to Mata Sidh Lakshmi at Anantnag in the valley, said spiritual values must remain the foundation of society.

"Teerathraj Lok Bhawan at Anantnag, with its tranquil and divine surroundings, stands as a living symbol of India's eternal spiritual tradition," he said in his address after attending the sacred Harbah festival at Anantnag and paying obeisance to Mata Sidh Lakshmi.

The LG extended greetings to all the devotees who participated in the annual Hawan.

Spiritual values must remain the foundation of society, he said and underlined the importance of unity, compassion, and respect for all.

"Harbah festival is a profound moment of devotion, gratitude, and inner experience," he said and added,



"Every stone, every stream, and every breath here convey the immortal consciousness of our Sanatan culture and spiritual heritage which has guided humanity for centuries along the path of truth, compassion, and dharma."

Highlighting the historical significance of the sacred temple, he recalled its ancient name Lokpunya as mentioned in Kalhana's Rajatarangini. The LG noted that the annual Hawan and flag hoisting were rekindling the flame of devotion, service, sacri-

fice, patience and social harmony.

He also highlighted the challenges of modern life, observing that while science and technology had brought the world closer, they had also led to rising loneliness and division.

"The Harbah festival reminds us that true devotion manifests as service to humanity, mutual respect, and selfless love," he said.

He also laid out his vision for a peaceful and prosperous society and made three key appeals to the people.

Cont. on P9 >

No comparison with any Army: Gen Seth hails Indian soldiers

DRASS, JUL 26: Highlighting the unique character of Indian soldiers, Army Chief, Gen Dhiraj Seth today said that they were different from the soldiers of any other army in the world that there was no comparison.

"The soldiers of Indian Army are so different from the soldiers of any other army in the world that there is no comparison," he said during a media briefing at the Kargil War Memorial at Drass during the 27th Kargil Vijay Diwas commemorations.

Gen Seth paid rich trib-



utes to the soldiers who laid down their lives during the 1999 Kargil War, saying their courage and sacrifice continue to inspire generations while reaffirming the Indian Army's unwavering

commitment to the nation's development.

He said he felt "a new energy and a new pride" on being present at the memorial to honour the fallen he

Cont. on P9 >

Amarnathji Yatra surpasses 4-lakh mark

Fresh batch of 4,474 pilgrims leaves for holy cave shrine

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, JUL 26

With the highly revered Shri Amarnathji Yatra surpassing four-lakh mark, the 19th batch of 4,474 pilgrims today left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here for the holy cave shrine of Baba Amarnath in South Kashmir Himalayas.

"By Almighty Shiva's divine grace, the holy Shri Amarnathji Yatra has crossed a remarkable milestone and more than 4 lakh pilgrims have already com-

pleted the sacred journey. Till now, 4.14 Lakh devotees have received darshans. I bow with reverence to Baba Amarnath for this blessing and extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make this journey a truly divine experience for all," LG Manoj Sinha said in a post on X.

The pilgrims left in a convoy of 166 vehicles under tight security for Baltal base camp in Ganderbal district at about 2.40 am, officials said.

There was, however, no

pilgrim movement from Jammu to Pahalgam base camp in Anantnag district due to the ongoing repair works being undertaken along the traditional route following the damage caused by recent rains.

The pilgrimage resumed on July 25 after remaining suspended for six days. It was temporarily halted on July 19 due to heavy rains, flash floods and landslides for the safety of pilgrims.

Last evening also, there was a landslide on the Jammu-Srinagar National

Cont. on P9 >

Kavinder calls for preserving cultural heritage, building drug-free society

CHAMBA, JUL 26: Himachal Pradesh Governor Kavinder Gupta, who inaugurated the historic International Minjar Fair here today, called for preserving cultural heritage and building a drug-free society.

On the occasion, he also extended his greetings to the people of Chamba and Himachal Pradesh.

"The centuries-old festival is a vibrant symbol of the state's rich cultural heritage, communal harmony and living traditions, and plays an important role in preserving Himachal's unique identity," Gupta said while



addressing the inaugural function at the historic Chaugan Ground.

"Himachal Pradesh has preserved its rich traditions, folk art, fairs and festivals for generations," he said and

urged the younger generation to remain connected with their cultural roots and take pride in India's civilisational heritage.

"Festivals like Minjar not

Cont. on P9 >

