

Students Are More Important Than Any Post: Shah After Dharmendra Pradhan's Ext

NEW DELHI, JUL 26: Union Home Minister Amit Shah has said that the country, youth and students are far more important than any position for BJP workers and the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan exemplifies this principle.

His remarks came after Pradhan resigned on Saturday amid mounting pressure due to the protests over the NEET paper leak controversy.

"The Modi government respects the sentiments of the country's youth and is committed to implementing the necessary reforms against paper leaks," he said in a post on X late Saturday night. "For the BJP, the nation, our youth and students hold far greater importance than any position," he said.

The decisions taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure strict punishment for those guilty of paper leaks are commendable, Shah said.

"I am fully confident that these steps will ensure complete justice for the students who succeeded in the NEET examination,"

the Home Minister said. <

Shah said Pradhan has brought about significant reforms in the effective implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP), arrangements for examinations in mother tongues, expansion of PM SHRI Schools, promotion of digital education, skill development, and strengthening industry-academia coordination during his tenure.

"His efforts toward making the examination system more inclusive and student-centric have also been noteworthy. His tenure is a testament to his dedication to the resolve of making India a developed nation," he said.



Rain-triggered landslides shut 134 roads in HP; orange alert in 4 districts from Jul 28

SHIMLA, JUL 26: A total of 134 roads remained closed in Himachal Pradesh on Saturday due to landslides and flash floods triggered by torrential rains, while the Meteorological Department issued an orange alert for heavy to very heavy rainfall in four districts of the state from July 28 to 30. Shipping & Logistics

The Shimla Meteorological Centre also warned of low to moderate flash flood risk in parts of Chamba, Kangra, Kinnaur, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla and Sirmaur districts till Sunday morning, cautioning that inundation could occur in saturated soils and low-lying areas.

A total of 134 roads, including 58 in Mandi, 33 in Kullu, 14 in Chamba, 12 in Sirmaur, seven in Shimla, five in Kangra, four in Lahaul and Spiti and one in Una district, were closed for vehicular traffic on Saturday evening due to landslides and flashfloods triggered by torrential rains.

As many as 35 water supply schemes and 78 transformers have also been affected in the state



according to the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC). Light to moderate rains continued across parts of the state since Friday evening, with Dharamshala recording the highest rainfall at 80.5 mm, followed by Palampur 62 mm, Berthin, 50.7 mm, Pachhad 41.3 mm, Gohar 40 mm, Mandi 39.8 mm, Mashobra 32.5 mm, Slapsper 31.6 mm, Kangra 30.4 mm, Jubberhatti 29.5, Sarahan 28.7 mm, Sundernagar 24.6 mm, Joggin-dernagar and Sainj 23 mm, Jattion Barrage 20.4 mm.

"During monsoon, the body is prone to infections. Most diseases in the rainy season are waterborne, such as jaundice, cholera and other gastrointestinal illnesses, and drinking filtered or boiled water is essential", an advisory issued by the Shimla Jal Prabandhan Nigam Limited said.

In the rainy season, turbidity increases in the water sources, and the possibility that it might interfere with disinfection, allowing harmful microbes to grow, including bacteria, viruses and parasites, cannot be ruled out, a statement issued here said and requested the public to drink water after boiling it for 10 minutes.

The Met has predicted that a wet spell in the state will continue till July 31. Keylong was the coldest in the state, recording a night temperature of 11.3 degrees Celsius, while Neri was the hottest during the day, recording the highest temperature of 32.1 degrees Celsius. (PTI)

Indian-origin diamond businessman kidnapped in Mali, released after family pays 4 million euros

SURAT, JULY 26: An Indian-origin diamond businessman who was allegedly abducted in Mali in April has been freed after nearly three months in captivity and remains in the West African nation, an industry source familiar with the developments said on Sunday.

The source claimed that the family of the 75-year-old diamond merchant, Dhiru Ramani, paid a ransom of 4 million euros (nearly Rs 44 crore) to secure his release earlier this week.

The Surat-based source claimed that the abductors had initially demanded around Rs 100 crore, but

Ramani's family, who live in the US, negotiated the amount down before securing his release.

Ramani, originally from Gujarat's Amreli district and associated with the diamond trade in Surat, remains in Mali where local authorities are questioning him after his release, the source told PTI on condition of anonymity.

According to the source, Ramani was allegedly abducted nearly three months ago while he was in Mali, where he had recently acquired a gold mine and had been living for some time.

"He has been released, but he is still in Mali. The local police are questioning

him about his release and the circumstances surrounding it," the source said.

The source further alleged that Ramani's US-based family handled the negotiations on its own and that no Indian government agency was involved in the process. TrendingVideos

According to the source, Ramani is originally from Dhar village in Amreli district and has been associated with the diamond business since around 1980. He later moved to the United States, where his family is engaged in the international diamond trade.

Around the time of the alleged kidnapping in

BJP seeks actor Sreelekha Mitra's arrest over 'obscene poster' of PM at Kolkata protest

KOLKATA, JULY 26: The BJP on Sunday lodged police complaints against Bengali actor Sreelekha Mitra seeking her arrest on grounds that she publicly displayed an obscene and offensive image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a students' protest rally in Kolkata two days ago.

While a complaint against Mitra was lodged at the Anandapur Police Station by BJP leader and party spokesperson Keya Ghosh, reports of complaints having been filed against her at the Bidhannagar Cyber Crime Police Station and several other police stations across several districts were also received.

On July 24, a large number of people protested on the streets of Kolkata against the alleged NEET examination paper leak, demanding the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan, a day before the Union education minister actually stepped down in the wake of students' unrest in Delhi and other parts of the country. SupremeCourt Updates

Mitra had joined the demonstration in the Esplanade area of central Kolkata and posed for a photograph while holding a poster. According to the complaint, the poster displayed an offensive image of the Prime Minister.

"During this rally, Ms Sreelekha Mitra actively participated and publicly displayed a poster featuring a highly derogatory, objectionable and disrespectful cartoon/caricature depicting the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi," Ghosh's complaint said.

"The poster was deliberately displayed in a prominent public space to mock, demean and insult the constitutional head of the Government of India in full view of the public and



stitutional head of the Government of India in full view of the public and media personnel," it added.

The complaint cited provisions of

LG Ladakh inaugurates Automated Driving Testing Centre at Kurbathang in Kargil

KARGIL, JULY 26: Marking another significant milestone in the Administration's efforts to promote transparent, technology-driven and citizen-centric governance, Lieutenant Governor, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, today inaugurated the state-of-the-art Automated Driving Testing Centre (ADTC) at Kurbathang, Kargil. Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC Kargil, Dr Mohd Jaffer Akhoun and Member of Parliament from Ladakh, Shri Mohmad Haneefa Jan were present during the inauguration.

Developed under the guidance of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India, the Automated Driving Testing Centre has been constructed at a cost of approximately ₹2.48 crore. The facility is equipped with advanced sensor-based and fully automated technologies that will ensure objective, scientific and transparent assessment of driving skills for the issuance of driving licences.

The Centre incorporates advanced technologies, including RFID-enabled applicant identification, laser and infrared sensors, electronic sensor-based driving track, high-resolution CCTV surveillance, automated scoring software, computerised test monitoring system, real-time data processing, digital result generation, automated pass/fail evaluation system, and seamless integration with the VAHAN and SARATHI platforms. These technologies eliminate human bias and provide an objective assessment of driving skills, ensuring that only qualified drivers are issued driving licences.

The facility has been developed in accordance with the guidelines of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and comprises Computerised Testing and Control Room, Automated Driving Test Track, CCTV Surveillance System and other essential utilities.

Addressing the gathering, L-G Shri Saxena emphasised the importance of responsible driving, and observed that safe roads begin with safe drivers. He noted that a driving licence

is not merely a document but a certification that a person is capable of driving responsibly while ensuring the safety of both self and fellow road users. He underlined the need for driving tests to be conducted in a fair, scientific and completely transparent manner.

"The Automated Driving Testing Centre reflects our commitment to Digital India, e-Governance and Good Governance. By ensuring a transparent and technology-driven licensing system, we are not only improving public service delivery but also strengthening road safety across Ladakh. I am confident that this Centre will emerge as a model for transport reforms in the Union Territory," said L-G Shri Saxena.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed confidence that the new system would enhance public trust in the Transport Department by making the driving licence process faster, more transparent and efficient. He added that improved driving standards would contribute significantly towards reducing road accidents and promoting safer roads in the region.

Appealing to the citizens of Ladakh, L-G Shri Saxena urged everyone to treat obtaining a driving licence as a responsibility towards society rather than merely a legal requirement. He called upon motorists to strictly follow traffic rules, observe speed limits, wear seat belts and helmets, and always drive responsibly, noting that a small act of caution can save many precious lives.



Lotus-shaped lab-grown diamonds from Surat shine aboard Vikram-1: CEO

SURAT, JULY 26: The CEO of a Surat-based firm has claimed that its lotus-shaped design of laboratory-grown diamonds sparkles on recently launched Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram-1 orbital rocket.

The firm has sent its lotus collection of lab-grown diamonds to Skyroot.

"When the sun rays fall on the rocket orbiting space, the diamonds sparkle wonderfully," said Nityas Gems and Jewellery CEO Rajnikanth Chanchad on Sunday.

He claimed Surat, known as the diamond city, has for the first time sent a diamond into space.

Skyroot Aerospace recently successfully launched India's first privately developed orbital rocket, Vikram-1, under Mission Agaman from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC-SHAR) in Sriharikota.

"The launch of the Vikram-1 rocket is a moment of great pride for India. And Surat also has a special reason to share. This is the first time that Surat's diamonds and jewellery are shining in space," Chanchad claimed.

He said the sparkle of the diamonds, grown in the firm's lab in Surat, can be seen in videos shared from space.

The diamond design was developed over six months by around 20 skilled artisans based on specifications provided to them, Chanchad added. The complex design consists of a total of 32 pear-cut lab-grown diamonds, weighing 16.95 carat and valued at around Rs 10 lakh. Each diamond is set in gold in such a way that it looks like blooming lotus petals.

The lotus was designed based on special safety parameters to withstand the conditions of the rocket launch and space, he claimed.

According to Chanchad, the diamonds were mounted on a special aerospace-grade aluminium plate, solidly embedded in gold, to withstand the extreme vibrations, atmospheric pressure and the extreme temperatures during the rocket's take-off.

"It (the lotus collection) consists of 32 pear-shaped diamonds designed as petals of lotus," he added.

Chanchad explained that the design is inspired by lotus, which is a symbol of Lord Brahma.

He said the firm had received the order based on its work, product range, and strength, and is proud to have delivered the order as per specification.

"Since it was to be sent into space, we together designed and drew its parameters, and decorated it," he added.

