



BSF, Pak Rangers meet at R S Pura

BSF and Pak Rangers today held a flag meeting along the International Border in R S Pura sub-sector near here.

According to officials, the meeting was held near Bullechak Border Outpost on the request of Rangers over an incident of firing. Officials said the BSF clarified that the firing was part of a scheduled training exercise within its area of responsibility.

The meeting was conducted in a cordial atmosphere, with both sides reit

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JKAS officer transferred, posted

The government today ordered the transfer and posting of a JKAS officer in the interest of administration.

According to the order, JKAS officer Athar Amin Zargar was posted as additional secretary, home department, with immediate effect.

He was awaiting adjustment orders in the General Administration Department. The order was issued and signed by GAD secretary M Raju.

Sexual harassment panel's mandate expanded

The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has expanded the mandate of its Sexual Harassment Probe Committee to include complaints relating to transgender persons, in addition to the matters concerning women.

An order issued by the Registrar General stated that the decision had been taken in compliance with the directions passed by Supreme Court of India in a writ petition titled Geeta

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1,400 illegal structures demolished across J&K: Govt

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, FEB 12

A total of 1,425 illegal structures, including residential, had been demolished in Jammu and Kashmir since the formation of the National Conference-led government in October 2024, the legislative assembly was informed today.

The government said due procedure under the J&K Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1988, and other relevant laws was followed prior to the action.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah provided the in

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'Safety first, production next' formula for nuclear power: Jitendra



NEW DELHI, FEB 12: 'Safety first, production next' is the formula followed by India's atomic energy sector, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Jitendra Singh on Thursday said, as he allayed concerns around safety at the Kudankulam nuclear power

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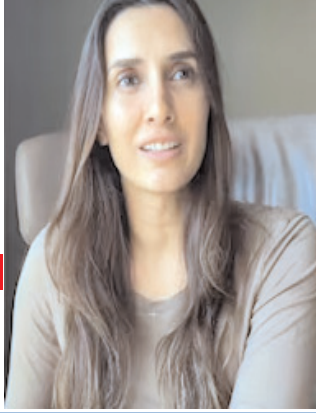
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AI Impact Summit signals to world, India is serious about AI: CK Tandon

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Pragya Kapoor Marks 10 Years Of 'Fitoor', Credits Film For Shaping Her Producing Journey

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B'desh votes amid bomb attacks, clashes

BNP leading in 175+ seats, Tarique frontrunner for PM post

DHAKA, FEB 12: Voting began on Thursday morning in Bangladesh's crucial general election - the first since the ouster of prime minister Sheikh Hasina in massive nationwide protests two years ago - amid sporadic violence. According to the latest updates, BNP was leading in over 175 seats, and Jamaat was ahead in 30.

Bangladesh's parliament, the Jatiya Sangsad, has 300 seats, with 151 required for a simple majority.

Counting was currently underway after voting concluded largely peacefully in Bangladesh. Voter turnout of 47.91 pc was recorded till 2pm after the voting officially ended at 4:30pm (local time), Election Commission (EC) Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed said.

Voting was also held for the National Referendum, which will decide whether the July Charter will be

adopted.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party chief Tarique Rahman, considered to be the frontrunner for the post of Prime Minister, was leading in his constituency in Dhaka.

Rahman, 60, who is contesting from the Bogura-6 (Sadar) constituency, was ahead by a margin of two to one in the partial results. The figures were based on partial results available from the returning officer's office until 9:30 pm on Thursday.

The Election Commission reported that 32.88 per cent of votes had been cast across 32,000 polling centres nationwide by 12 noon during the election. The update was shared at a briefing at 12:45 pm on Thursday.

EC Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed said voting was continuing in all centres despite isolated incidents in different parts of the country, The Dhaka Tribune reported.

"So far, voting has not

been suspended in any polling centre. There is no alarming situation," he told reporters.

The voting started in 299 out of 300 parliamentary constituencies across the country from 7:30 am (local time) and will continue until 4:30 pm. The counting of votes is expected to begin shortly after the voting concludes.

Voting in one constituency was cancelled due to the death of a candidate. The 13th parliamentary elections were held simultaneously along with a referendum on a complex 84-point reform package. The Election Commission had made elaborate security arrangements, deploying nearly 1 million security personnel -- the largest-ever in the country's electoral history.

The contest was mainly between the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its once ally Jamaat-e-Islami, in the absence of

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Sheikh Hasina rejects election as 'voter-less farce'



NEW DELHI, FEB 12: Former Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina on Thursday issued a strongly worded statement rejecting the national election conducted under the interim administration led by Muhammad Yunus, calling it a "voter-less, illegal and unconstitutional" exercise that was widely boycotted by the people.

For the first time in 30 years, the boat, the Awami League's electoral symbol, did not appear on the ballot paper in the election, the first since the ouster of

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Procurement of 114 Rafale jets cleared

NEW DELHI, FEB 12: The defence ministry on Thursday cleared a long-pending proposal to procure 114 Rafale fighter jets under a government-to-government framework from France, nearly 13 years after a similar acquisition was almost firmed up.

In total, capital acquisition of military hardware worth Rs 3.60 lakh crore was approved by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, to enhance the combat readiness of the defence forces.

The approval for procurement of the Rafale jets

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2 BJP MLAs stage walkout

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, FEB 12

Two BJP legislators today staged a walkout from the legislative assembly in support of extending reservation benefits under the Pahari quota to eligible community members, including Pakistani refugees residing in the plains.

Narinder Singh Raina and Arvind Gupta walked out of the House, stating they were not satisfied with the government's response regarding the extension of reservation benefits under the Pahari quota to com

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EU leaders meet to counter pressure from Russia, China, Trump

BILZEN-HOESELT, BELGIUM, FEB 12: Leaders from across the European Union met Thursday in a Belgian castle as the 27-nation bloc faces antagonism from U S President Donald Trump, strong-arm economic tactics from China and hybrid threats from Russia - challenges that have prompted a rethink of Europe's approach to diplomacy and trade.

"We all know we must change course, and we all know the direction," Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever told a meeting of some European leaders.

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Shri Amarnathji Yatra

Pratham pooja on June 29; accidental insurance enhanced to Rs 10 lakh



Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, FEB 12

In its 50th meeting, held here today under the chairmanship of LG Manoj Sinha, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) announced that Pratham Pooja for the 2026 pilgrimage would be performed on June 29 on the occasion of Jyeshtha Purnima.

However, the formal commencement date of the yatra would be finalised soon.

The board also approved the setting up of Laser & Sound Show

dedicated to Almighty Shiva. The show would be hosted both in Jammu and Srinagar and serve as a cultural beacon, highlighting the rich spiritual history of the Union Territory.

The board approved various key measures and interventions to further enhance the spiritual experience and convenience of devotees for the upcoming yatra.

The board also decided to enhance the accidental insurance cover for registered yatris, service providers, officials, seasonal workers and pujaris from Rs 5 lakh to Rs

10 lakh. The board also discussed and approved various welfare measures for SASB employees.

The LG, who is also chairman of the board, directed the officials to identify spots for installation of suitable toilet facilities en route the yatra.

He directed the installation of shelter sheds and rain shelters on tracks for pilgrims, service providers and security personnel.

The meeting also discussed ongoing projects,

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LA Speaker assures discussion on social media smear campaigns against MLAs

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, FEB 12

Taking cognisance of concerns raised by members across party lines over online smear campaigns, legislative assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather today assured a separate half-an-hour discussion on the issue during the ongoing budget session.

The issue was raised in the House amid allegations that fake social media accounts and politically motivated handles were circulating defamatory content



and misleading videos against elected representatives, damaging their reputation and undermining the dignity of the House.

Earlier, the government informed the assembly that a dedicated media monitoring cell had been estab-

lished in the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) to track and counter fake and misleading information in real time.

Replying to a starred question by MLA R S

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Working to bring 'misguided' J&K youth into national mainstream: MoS



were commonly seen in Jammu and Kashmir, but the Union Territory was now moving towards creating employment.

"For the first time in the country, in the last seven years, new EPFO subscribers have joined, and in Jammu and Kashmir,

1.6 lakh new subscribers have joined. This is a very big thing in Jammu and Kashmir," she told the house.

"We are working under the leadership of PM Modi in bringing people of Jammu and Kashmir into the national mainstream and to ensure that they do not go on the wrong path," Karandlaje said.

She said the people of Jammu and Kashmir were being brought to the national mainstream, and 'we will continue to do

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Committed to comprehensive development of Ladakh: Kavinder

Himalayan Mail News
LEH, FEB 12

Ladakh LG Kavinder Gupta today assured the delegations, that called on him here today, that the UT administration was committed to the comprehensive development of the region.

The delegations apprised him of the issues related to development, renewable energy, tourism promotion, connectivity and social welfare in different parts of the Union Territory.

A joint delegation from



Ladakh Renewable Energy Development Agency (LREDA) and Kargil Renewable Energy Development Agency (KREDA) met the LG and briefed him on the matters concerning the

functioning of hydroelectric power projects in Leh and Kargil districts.

A delegation associated with the Pangong Frozen Lake Marathon informed

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