



Nepal's PM Balendra Shah says 'eager to work closely' with India

Annet Padda's Sister Reet Gets Backlash; Karan Kundrra Reacts To Secret Wedding Rumours

Avalanche warning issued

A day after seven persons lost their lives in a massive avalanche at Zojila Pass, authorities today issued an avalanche warning for two districts in the valley and asked people to remain highly vigilant. "An avalanche with a medium danger level is expected to occur above 2,400 mt in Bandipora and Ganderbal districts within next 24 hours," officials said. "People are strictly advised to avoid venturing

Rain, snow likely till Mar 30

The weather department has forecast a spell of generally cloudy weather with intermittent rain and snowfall across Jammu and Kashmir over the next few days. Officials said that from March 28 to 30, the weather was expected to remain generally cloudy towards evening with intermittent light to moderate rain in plains and snowfall over higher reaches at most places. Thunder, lightning and

Cop hurt in accidental discharge of colleague's rifle

A policeman was injured after the gun of his colleague accidentally went off at district police office in Kashmir's Shopian area today. Officials said constable Ashiq Hussain, working as a canteen boy, sustained bullet injury in his lower abdomen due to accidental discharge from another policeman's rifle in the canteen.

He was admitted to 92 Base Hospital of Army, where he was undergoing treatment, the officials added. Police had, however, taken cognizance of the incident.

Jal Shakti Xen held in graft case

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, MAR 28

ACB today arrested an executive engineer of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division, South Awantipora, Kashmir, after catching him red-handed while accepting a Rs 12,000 bribe for clearing AMC bills.

According to officials, the arrest followed a complaint alleging that the Xen had demanded Rs 20,000, of which Rs 8,000 had already been paid. The complainant alleged

Shabir Shah gets bail in money laundering case

NEW DELHI, MAR 28: A Delhi court on Saturday granted bail to Kashmiri separatist Shabir Shah in a money laundering case linked to terror funding.

Special Judge Prashant Sharma granted Shah the relief. On March 12, the Supreme Court had granted bail to Shah in a terror funding case, in which he was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on June 4, 2019.

On September 4 last year, the apex court refused to grant interim bail

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India facing West Asia war impact with full strength: Modi

Says we must face global challenges calmly

NOIDA, MAR 28: Urging collective resilience & national unity to navigate emerging global crises, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said India was confronting the challenges arising from the ongoing conflict in West Asia with full strength.



"The country is taking all necessary steps to safeguard its citizens," he said while addressing a gathering at the inauguration of the Noida International Airport in Jewar here.

"Conflict has been ongoing in West Asia for over a month. Due to the war, food, petrol, diesel, gas, coal, and other essential goods have been affected. There is a crisis all around, and every country is trying to face it. Our India is also fighting this crisis with all its might, relying on the strength of its citizens," Modi said.

Highlighting that India

depends on crude oil and gas from conflict-affected regions, he said, "The government is taking necessary steps to ensure the burden does not fall on families and farmers."

Emphasising the impact of ethanol blending on cutting oil dependence, Modi said, "If ethanol production and its blending in petrol had not increased, the country would have had to import 4.5 cr barrels of crude oil from abroad

every year." "The hard work of our farmers has given the country significant relief during this crisis. The nation has benefited from ethanol, and the farmers have also benefited greatly. About Rs 1.5 lakh cr in foreign currency has been saved; without ethanol, this money would have gone abroad," he added.

"The government prioritises securing India's interests and safeguarding fam-

ilies and farmers," the prime minister said. Achieving a "Viksit Bharat" would require collective effort and unity among 1.4 billion citizens to face global challenges, he said.

He also stressed that the government's priority was to enhance citizens' convenience by saving time and reducing costs.

"I once again appeal to the people of the country that we must face this crisis calmly, with patience and unity. This is a global crisis, but we must prioritise India's interests. That is our greatest strength," he said.

He said he had discussed the situation in detail in Parliament and also held extensive and "very positive" deliberations with Chief Ministers of various states.

The Prime Minister also urged political parties, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, to refrain from making ir-

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Pak-based terror groups look to target India, annex J&K: US report

NEW DELHI, MAR 28: A fresh brief by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) has said that Pakistan continues to host a range of militant organisations, including several groups focused on India including the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The report underscores that outfits long associated with attacks in India remain active despite years of military operations and counter-terror measures.

The CRS "In Focus" report identifies Pakistan as a base of operations and a target location for numerous armed non-state mili-

tant groups, some of which have existed since the 1980s. It categorises the groups into several types - globally oriented organisations, Afghanistan-focused militants, India and Kashmir-oriented groups, domestically focused outfits, and sectarian groups.

According to the report, 12 of the 15 organisations listed are designated as Foreign Terrorist Organisations (FTOs) under US law, and most are driven by Islamist extremist ideology.

The report highlights several groups historically linked to attacks against

India.

Among them is Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), founded in the late 1980s and based in Pakistan's Punjab province and PoJK. Led by Hafiz Saeed, the outfit has been responsible for multiple high-profile attacks, including the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

Another outfit flagged is Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), founded by Masood Azhar in 2000. The group has been linked to several major attacks in India, including the 2001 Indian Parliament attack, and seeks the annexation of

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Former Nepal PM Oli arrested



KATHMANDU, MAR 28: Nepal's former Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli was arrested today, a day after the newly formed government of Balendra Shah implemented the probe commission report on the Gen Z protest that rocked the nation last year.

Oli, also CPN-UML chair, was arrested at the Gundu area of Bhaktapur district,

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Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan

LG directs massive crackdown on smuggling networks targeting youth



Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, MAR 28

Reviewing the progress of Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir at a high-level meeting held at Lok Bhawan here today, LG Manoj Sinha asked for a massive crackdown on smuggling networks targeting youth.

"Deliberate and sinister efforts are being made to push the youth of Jammu & Kashmir into the abyss of drug addiction. A comprehensive, whole-of-government approach, combining stringent enforcement, robust preventive measures, and a carefully calibrated multi-pronged action plan, is urgently required to dis-

mantle the entire ecosystem of drug smuggling and narco-terrorism," he said.

The LG directed for a massive crackdown on smuggling networks that target the youth of Jammu & Kashmir.

He also called for Jan Bhagidari and a coordinated response against drug abuse for achieving the goal of Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting discussed five key focused areas - Enforcement, IEC, Counselling, Treatment and Rehabilitation, while integrating a rigorous social media monitoring system to counter false narratives.

The LG directed officials for implementation of de-

terrents, especially within educational institutions, in a mission mode. He also asked for identifying and strictly punishing any remnants of narco-terror networks within the system.

He emphasised that the citizens must be encouraged to report the drug addiction and drug smuggling related matters to police and administration.

The LG also reviewed the preparations of all the line departments for the upcoming intensive drug awareness campaign across the UT of J&K.

"Religious leaders, social organisations, ex-servicemen, NCC, NSS, Scouts & Guides and political leaders must be taken on-board in the fight against drug addiction," he said.

On the occasion, Sinha directed for an assessment of the activities conducted under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan over the past one year.

The meeting also discussed the onboarding of

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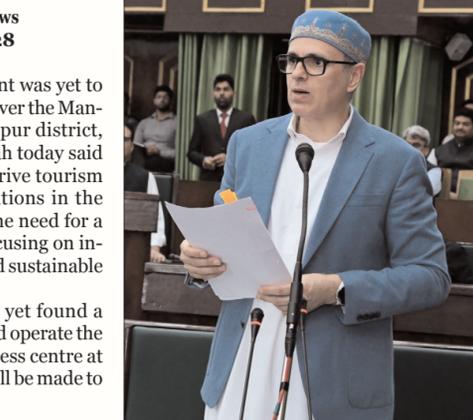
Govt yet to find suitable party to take over Mantalai Yoga Centre: Omar

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, MAR 28

Stating that the government was yet to find a suitable party to take over the Mantalai Yoga Centre in Udhampur district, chief minister Omar Abdullah today said cable cars alone could not drive tourism growth at potential destinations in the Union Territory, stressing the need for a comprehensive approach focusing on infrastructure, connectivity and sustainable development.

"The government has not yet found a suitable party to take over and operate the international yoga and wellness centre at Mantalai, and fresh efforts will be made to

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West Asia conflict Iran war enters 2nd month, leaving Trump chasing deal

TEHRAN, MAR 28: Gulf countries and Israel came under missile fire and Israeli forces struck Iran on Saturday, as the war raged into its second month, with Washington expressing hopes for progress in talks with Tehran.

In a sign that the conflict may be expanding further, Israel's military said air defences responded to a missile launched from Yemen -- the first since the start of the war on February 28, and after threats from Iran's Houthi allies to launch attacks.

The war began when the United States and Israel launched airstrikes across Iran, killing supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and sending shockwaves across the globe.

A month later the conflict showed no sign of ending, with Israel announcing fresh strikes on Tehran.

Emirati authorities said debris from a successful missile interception started fires at an Abu Dhabi industrial zone, injuring five Indian nationals. Saudi Arabia said it had

intercepted a missile and several drones, and Bahrain said a blaze caused by the "Iranian aggression" had been brought under control.

In Israel, repeated air raid sirens sent people to shelters, including in Tel Aviv where one man was killed and two others were wounded, and in the country's north, where media reported a simultaneous attack from Iran and its Lebanese ally Hezbollah.

An Iranian missile and drone attack on the Prince

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CJI inaugurates distt court complex, LLSA building in Leh



Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, MAR 28

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant today inaugurated the newly constructed district court complex in Leh, marking a significant step towards strengthening judicial infrastructure in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

The inauguration cere

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Legislative Assembly passes 3 Bills through voice vote

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, MAR 28

The legislative assembly today passed three important bills through voice vote, marking a significant step towards governance reforms, social equity and strengthening of the judicial framework in Jammu and Kashmir. Finance & audit reports were also tabled in the House.

The bills, moved by chief minister Omar Abdullah, were subsequently put to

vote by Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather.

The House passed LA Bill No 1, which seeks to amend certain enactments to decriminalise and rationalise minor offences, thereby promoting trust-based governance and improving ease of living and doing business in Jammu and Kashmir.

The assembly also approved LA Bill No 2, aimed at eliminating discrimination against persons affected by leprosy. The legislation ensures equal

treatment, removes stigmatising provisions and enables government to fulfill its obligations through affirmative action.

The House also passed LA Bill No 3, which proposes amendments to the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Courts Act, 1977 (Svt), with the objective of improving the efficiency and functioning of judicial system.

All three bills were passed by voice vote after being taken up for consideration.

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Lt Gen Pratik presents 93 gallantry, service awards to Army personnel

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, MAR 28

Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, GOC-in-C, Northern Command, today presented 93 awards, including 52 individual honours and 41 unit citations, to Army personnel in recognition of exceptional courage and distinguished service at the Northern Command Investiture Ceremony held at Udhampur, about 60 km from here on Patnitop road.

The awards acknowledged acts of extraordinary valour in counter-insurgency operations, high-altitude deployments and sensitive border missions across Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and other operational theatres, a defence PRO said. The individual awards included four



Yudh Seva Medals, one Bar to Sena Medal, 37 Sena Medals, one Bar to Vishisht Seva Medal, eight Vishisht Seva Medals and one Jeevan Raksha Padak (posthumous), he said.

The ceremony was attended by serving

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2 'terrorists' held at Malerkotla

MALERKOTLA, MAR 28: Punjab police, in coordination with J&K police, have arrested two suspected terrorists linked to Pakistan from Malerkotla in the neighbouring state.

They were identified as Abbu Gaba and Usman. They were living at Malerkotla as tenants for a long time, according to officials.

The Malerkotla police learnt about the duo during an inquiry of a local drug peddler detained as part of the ongoing Yudh Nashian Virudh anti-drug campaign. Their identities matched those of two wanted terror

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Must adopt modern technologies to meet energy demands: Kavinder

SHIMLA, MAR 28: Himachal Pradesh governor Kavinder Gupta today said that modern technologies must be adopted to meet the growing energy demands in a sustainable manner.

He made this statement during his interaction with three top officials, including state election commissioner Anil Kumar Khachi, who called on him at Lok Bhawan here.

Meanwhile, Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Limited chairman Prabodh Saxena, who also called on the governor, ap-



prised the latter of the functioning of the board, ongoing power projects, and the steps being taken to strengthen electricity distribution and ensure

uninterrupted power supply across the state.

Gupta stressed the importance of adopting modern technologies and pro

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