



Maharashtra TET paper leak: Rahul demands fresh exam date, action against culprits

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Taapsee Pannu Credits Herself For Never Chasing Commercially Viable Films: 'I Take That Leap Of Faith'

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Heavy rains from July 18

The weather department has forecast a significant change in weather across Jammu and Kashmir from July 18, with chances of heavy rains and flash floods in vulnerable areas.

Until July 17, the weather was likely to remain generally hot and humid with scattered places witnessing brief spells of rain and thunder showers, a Met official said.

According to the forecast, conditions will change from July 18 with partly to generally cloudy

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Man injured in bear attack

A man was injured critically in a bear attack at Sundri in Poonch district of Jammu today. This was the fourth such incident

He was identified as Mohammad Sadiq Gujjar. According to officials, he was attacked by the bear near his residence in Sundri village.

He sustained critical injuries and was rescued by locals. He was undergoing treatment in the hospital.

Lightning kills over 50 livestock

More than 50 domestic animals were killed after lightning struck the upper reaches of Surankote in Jammu's Poonch district early today.

According to officials, the lightning struck a herd of livestock owned by Shokat Hussain at Ranjati Dhok, resulting in the death of 50 sheep and goats, one buffalo, and one cow.

Hussain, however, escaped unhurt in the incident, officials said.

In another incident, an ox was electrocuted after coming into contact with a live wire along the border fence in Haveli area of the district, officials said.

Searches launched for 2 'terrorists'

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, JUL 14

A massive search operation was launched today in some villages of Thanamandi in Rajouri district after CCTV footage captured the movement of two suspected terrorists.

According to officials, the suspected terrorists were caught on CCTV crossing a road late Sunday night, prompting Army, Special Operations Group (SOG) of local police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) to launch a coordinated search operation in the area.

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Rs 25.36 cr released for census functionaries

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, JUL 14

The government has sanctioned the release of Rs 25.36 cr for payment of honorarium to eligible officials engaged in Census 2027 across the Union Territory.

As per a government order, the funds would be released in favour of the Planning, Development and Monitoring Department, Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, and the Municipal Commissioners of Jammu and Srinagar for disbursement to

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'Decades-long systemic exploitation'

India asks world to hold Pak accountable for egregious abuses in PoJK

NEW DELHI, JUL 14: *Accusing Islamabad of responding to public dissent with excessive force instead of addressing people's grievances, India today said the ongoing protests in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) were a direct consequence of Pakistan's decades-long "systemic exploitation and administrative oppression" in areas under its "forcible" occupation.*

PoJK has been witnessing widespread protests since last month over rising living costs, administrative neglect, political discrimination and atrocities against minorities. Reports have also emerged of clashes between protesters and security forces, with allegations of police brutality resulting in deaths and injuries.

"New Delhi expects the international community to hold Pakistan fully accountable for the egregious abuses and misdeeds in

Large demonstrations have been reported across Muzaffarabad, Rawalakot, Mirpur and other parts of the region. According to reports, the territory has experienced its deadliest unrest in years, with at least 24 people killed during nearly two weeks of protests, prompting a region-wide shut down that disrupted normal life.

PoJK," ministry of external affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal during a media briefing, where he also responded to questions on several foreign policy issues, including the ongoing crisis in West Asia.

In reply to a question, he said, "The ongoing protests in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir are a direct consequence of Pakistan's decades-long systemic exploitation, denial of fundamental rights and administrative oppression in areas under its illegal and forcible occupation."

Jaiswal said the unrest in PoK had stemmed from longstanding grievances of the local population living under Pakistan's "illegal and

forcible occupation".

"Rather than addressing the legitimate grievances of the local populace, the Pakistani state has responded with extreme police brutality, including food and medicine, enforcing internet blackouts, and deploying lethal force against unarmed civilians that has resulted in tragic fatalities," he said.

The MEA spokesperson said India expects the global community to take note of the situation and hold Pakistan fully accountable for what he termed "egregious abuses and misdeeds" in PoJK.

EAM puts maritime security at centre of India's UNSC campaign

UNITED NATIONS, JUL 14: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said that India will ensure that issues, such as free, open and rule-based maritime order, including safety of seafarers, and countering terror financing, get the "attention they deserve" at the UN Security Council.

India launched its official campaign for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council (UNSC) for 2028-29 on Monday at an event at the world body's headquarters, attended by UN ambassadors, diplomats and officials.

Jaishankar said that In-



dia's approach to the UN is rooted in 'SHANTI: Securing Holistic Advancement through Norms, Trust and Integrity', as he outlined in detail New Delhi's priorities for the UNSC term.

These are "a voice of the Global South; advancing reformed multilateralism; a future ready peacekeeping;

addressing threats posed due to misuse of AI; securing maritime commons; and countering terror financing", he said.

"In an era where supply chains connect our economies, the world is also increasingly focused on securing the maritime commons," Jaishankar said.

He said the challenge begins with ensuring adherence to relevant international law, specifically the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

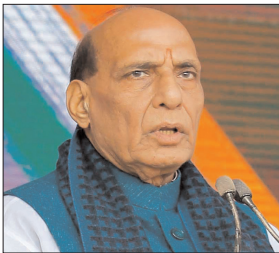
"Our collective interest is in maintaining safe and unimpeded flow of mar

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Kargil Victory shows our resolve to respond with full might: Rajnath

NEW DELHI, JUL 14: Asserting that Indian soldiers reclaimed every peak, hill and bunker from enemy control during the Kargil war, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today said that their victory represents the country's enduring resolve to "respond with full might" to any hostile gaze upon its land, identity and honour.

"When the soil from here (National War Memorial) unites with the one in Kargil (at Drass memorial), it will symbolise the confluence of reverence of the nation's current generation



and the valour of the nation's heroes," he said while flagging-off a motorcycle expedition from the National War Memorial in Delhi to Kargil War Memorial in Drass, Ladakh, as part of nationwide celebrations marking 27 years since Operation Vijay in 1999.

The 13-day commemorative expedition -- 'Shaurya Vijay Yatra' -- will see participation of 28 riders, including serving and retired defence forces personnel, and their family members.

It will cover 1,900 km while traversing through the demanding terrain of the northern Himalayas to honour the courage, resolve and supreme sacrifice made by Indian bravehearts who ensured victory in the 1999 Kargil war. The motto of the expedition is 'One Ride, One Nation, One Salute'.

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Mustafa Kamaal passes away



Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, JUL 14

NC's additional general secretary and former minister Sheikh Mustafa Kamaal passed away today after a brief illness.

He was actively associated with the party for several decades and played an important role in the UT's

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Indian killed in Iranian strike in Hormuz

DUBAI, JUL 14: An Indian crew member was on Tuesday killed while eight others, including six Indians, sustained injuries in an Iranian strike on UAE shipping tankers in the Strait of Hormuz close to Oman, in a major escalation of the conflict in West Asia.

The UAE Ministry of Defence, in a statement, said its national tankers Mombasa and Al Bahiyah were targeted by two Iranian cruise missiles while transiting the southern shipping lane of the Strait of Hormuz, within Omani territorial waters.

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LG reviews rehabilitation scheme for drug abuse victims

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, JUL 14

LG Manoj Sinha today chaired a meeting to review the proposed Rehabilitation and Socio-Economic Reintegration Scheme for drug abuse victims.

The scheme is aimed at establishing a comprehensive, convergence-based framework for the rehabilitation and social reintegration of individuals recovering from substance use disorders across the Union Territory.

The LG appreciated the comprehensive and collaborative approach adopted by the task force in formulating the scheme.

He emphasised the need for a coordinated, humane and outcome-oriented rehabilitation framework that ensures sustained recovery, social inclusion and livelihood opportunities for individuals affected by drug abuse.

He stressed that community participation, family support, skill development and continuous monitoring



must remain the cornerstone of the rehabilitation process.

Sinha directed the concerned departments to ensure effective inter-departmental coordination for successful implementation of the scheme.

He underscored the importance of leveraging technology for transparent monitoring and evidence-based decision-making.

He directed that the pilot implementation of the scheme should be initiated in two most affected districts-one from the Kash-

mir Division and one from the Jammu Division-to assess its effectiveness and ensure a focused approach towards rehabilitation of drug abuse victims.

The pilot implementation should be closely monitored so that the learnings can be incorporated before scaling up the Scheme across the Union Territory, he said.

The LG instructed that committed officers be identified to work with dedication and vigour towards the rehabilitation of drug vic

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Amarnathji Yatra crosses 3-lakh mark

Fresh batch of 5,335 pilgrims leaves for holy cave shrine

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, JUL 14

While Shri Amarnathji Yatra today set a new record with over 3 lakh performing darshans of the naturally-formed ice-Shivalingam, a fresh batch of 5,335 pilgrims left Bhagwati Nagar base here early in the morning for the holy cave shrine in South Kashmir Himalayas.

"The yatra has set a new record, with the total number of pilgrims crossing the 3-lakh mark in the first 12

days," officials said.

LG Manoj Sinha commended all the officials, service providers and volunteers for their valuable contribution to the holy pilgrimage of Shri Amarnathji.

"Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra has set a historic new record, crossing the 3-lakh mark in just 12 days. I commend all the officials, service providers and volunteers. Their dedication and hard work have made this holy pilgrimage smooth and memorable for every devotee of Baba Barfani.

Har Har Mahadev!" he said in a post on X.

Meanwhile, the 13th batch of 5,335 pilgrims left the Jammu camp for the twin base camps in the valley amid tight security arrangements.

They left in a fleet of 232 light and heavy motor vehicles, officials said.

The batch comprised 1,736 pilgrims bound for the Baltal base camp and 3,599 for the Pahalgam base camp.

More than 2.5 lakh pilgrims from different parts

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Must strengthen education system to realise vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat: Kavinder

SHIMLA, JULY 14: Governor Kavinder Gupta today said that the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat could be realised through a robust, inclusive and future-oriented education system.

He stressed the need for continuous efforts to strengthen academic excellence and research activities in universities through collective commitment and institutional innovation.

"The university must continuously enhance the quality of education and research to meet the demands of a rapidly changing world," he said while addressing the 36th meet-



ing of Himachal Pradesh University Court here.

Prior to the meeting, the LG inaugurated the university's newly established Digital Studio/Mooc Recording Studio, where

Director of International Centre for Distance Education and Open Learning Pradeep Kumar briefed him on the studio's role in expanding access to qual

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Jammu should act as a bridge for political stability amid rising tensions between Srinagar and Delhi

Sahil Mahajan

Amid rising political temperatures between the National Conference's high-intensity pitch for the restoration of statehood for Jammu and Kashmir and the counters offered by the BJP, Jammu, caught between the two, will have to chart its own course. Its aim should be to maintain stability and anchor political harmony. Jammu alone has the capacity to keep tempers in check, given the historical role it has played in defining the Srinagar-Delhi relationship.

Jammu is part of the current UT. Several sections in the region aspire for the return of statehood to the UT as a whole, and they want to stay part of it. Others are not that enthusiastic about it, for they fear that the transfer of law

and order and security affairs could imperil the ongoing state of normalcy. There are voices calling for a separate state for Jammu, as they believe that this is a panacea to all the ills that have hit the region. Multiple viewpoints converge here.

There, however, is little appreciation of the fact that the Valley, once a place where secessionist "Azadi" slogans rent the air, is now asking for statehood -- that too which was promised to it at the time of the Union Territories of Ladakh and J&K in August 2019. This is a great transition from the days when Kashmir symbolized a high level of terrorism and was dreaded by visitors. Today, it is asking what the national leadership had promised. The promises hold their own sanctity.

As the National Conference has

clearly departed from its 'wait and watch' approach and made no secret of its intentions to take to the streets to press for the demand, the BJP has reacted with a lot of anger -- first, on the very demand for the change of the status. Secondly, it discovered a lot to resent in the content of the speeches made in the course articulating this demand. In political rhetoric, many things are said and countered, but given the sensitivities that Jammu and Kashmir, these narratives hint at the possibility of political instability. When such instability starts, Jammu suffers the most.

Jammu at the moment is the face of BJP's electoral strength. The region mandated the BJP to represent 29 out of 43 constituencies. It has reposed faith in the party. The BJP had hoped that it would gain power, but fell way

short of that goal because it could not add even a single seat from the other region. It seeks its relevance in opposing the NC government tooth and nail in the hope that its constituents would be happy with their performance in pointing out shortcomings in the system that came into being after the September-October 2024 elections. Thus, the BJP, it is believed, represents and says everything on behalf of the region, and that's true to a large extent.

The party is also entrusted with the mandate that its words and actions should be a stabilizing factor. But when the signs of destabilization appear, it has a responsibility to keep things steady. This is not out of a desire to win political battles or score brownie points over National Conference, but because of the fact that destabilization will only

serve the interests of the enemy nation across the western border. The history of the place bears a testimony to this. Political instability has always resulted in unhealthy developments, for which the people of Jammu and the rest of the nation had to pay a big price.

Jammu should assume its role as a bridge between Delhi and Srinagar to initiate steps that can keep the Union Territory on the course of political stability. Its civil society and political leadership should join hands in convincing both Srinagar and Delhi to engage in dialogue over all issues, and this engagement should have a definite roadmap and inputs from the Jammu region. It has a role to play, and that it must play in the national interest. Jammu's anchorage alone can save the situation from slipping out of hand.