



Buddha Amarnath Yatra from Aug 17

The 12-day-long Baba Buddha Amarnath Yatra this year is likely to begin on August 17 in Poonch district of Jammu.

According to officials, the first batch would leave from the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas here.

"The Yatra this year is likely to start on August 17 and conclude on August 28 on Rakshabandhan," officials said.

Like every year, a large number of devotees were expected to visit and pay obeisance at the cave shrine.

"The arrangements are

Cont. on P9 ➤

Ex-sarpanch killed in road accident

A former sarpanch was killed after a boulder, that came rolling down the hill, today hit his car on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway near Trishul Morh in Ramban district of Jammu.

He was identified as Mohammad Iqbal Tantray.

Officials said he was on his way from Seri to Ramban town when the boulder hit his car near Trishul Morh, injuring him

Cont. on P9 ➤

JU bans blacklisted authors, publishers

In the wake of the controversy surrounding two banned books, which glorified separatists and anti-national elements, the University of Jammu has banned and blacklisted the authors and publishers and directed all its departments to withdraw any such material from their libraries and repositories.

According to a JU circular, the decision was taken in compliance with a government order issued by the school education department, which banned the authors and publishers and ordered

Cont. on P9 ➤

CISF DG reviews yatra arrangements

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, JUL 15

CISF DG Praveer Ranjan today reviewed security arrangements for the ongoing Amarnath Yatra in Jammu.

He visited Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas base camp, the Joint Police Control Room (JPCR), CCTV Control Room and the Tawi River Front, where he reviewed security measures, medical response systems, fire safety preparedness, logistics and other facilities for pilgrims, officials said.

Cont. on P9 ➤

MHA proposes recruitment rules at I4C

NEW DELHI, JUL 15: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has proposed framing of recruitment rules for the posts of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Additional Chief Executive Officer in the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), aimed at strengthening India's cyber-crime response framework.

The ministry intends to frame recruitment rules for one CEO post at Pay Matrix Level-15 (an Additional Secretary rank) and three Additional CEO posts at Level-14 (a senior-level position such as Joint Secretary in

Cont. on P9 ➤



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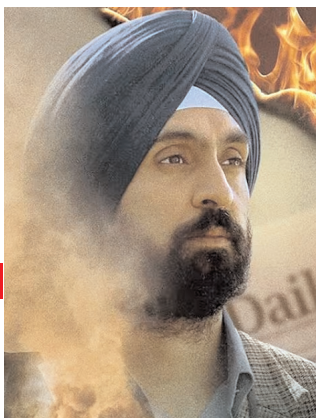
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President Murmu urges Ayurveda students to follow path of Acharya Sushruta

P- 7

Diljit Dosanjh's Satluj SPARKS major policy shift? Centre reportedly reviewing CBFC rules for OTT films

P-10



Most ambitious, aspirational of FTAs Landmark India-UK trade pact takes effect, cutting tariffs

➤Will give zero-duty access for 99 pc of Indian exports

NEW DELHI, JUL 15: *Termed as one of the most ambitious & aspirational of FTAs in recent years, the India-UK Comprehensive Economic & Trade Agreement (CETA), under which a host of domestic goods will enter the British market at zero duty, came into force from today.*

Both the countries have operationalised a free trade agreement from July 15 which includes a social security agreement.

The landmark trade deal is set to deliver several benefits to Indian exporters and consumers in terms of greater access to UK markets and imported goods at cheaper costs respectively.

With its implementation, the trade deal becomes the sixth free trade agreement brought into force during

the Narendra Modi government's tenure. India has previously implemented similar agreements with Mauritius, the UAE, Australia, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and Oman.

Trade between India and the UK increased by 8.62 pc to \$25.12 billion in 2025-26, compared with \$23.13 billion in 2024-25. During the same period, India's exports declined 7.6 pc to \$13.44 billion, while imports from the UK rose 36.11 pc to \$11.68 billion.

India received foreign direct investment (FDI) worth \$1 billion during 2025-26, up from \$795 million in 2024-25.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi termed the operationalisation of the India-United Kingdom CETA and the Agreement on Social Security a significant moment in the bilateral ties.

"The economic linkages between the two nations are going to get even deeper and will translate the shared am-

bition into tangible opportunities for the people," he said.

Modi also said that the CETA would give a fresh momentum to farmers, entrepreneurs and MSMEs, besides several vibrant sectors would gain a stronger access to the UK market.

He said it would also deepen cooperation in technology, professional services and innovation, while supporting greater mobility for skilled Indian talent.

"This is a significant moment in the India-United Kingdom partnership! With the coming into force of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement and the Agreement on Social Security, our economic linkages are going to get even deeper. Together, these agreements translate our shared ambition into tangible opportunities for our people," the PM said in a post on 'X'.

"With the coming into force of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agree-

ment and the Agreement on Social Security, our economic linkages are going to get even deeper," commerce & industry minister Piyush Goyal said in a social media post.

The CETA would give fresh momentum to Indian farmers, entrepreneurs and MSMEs. Several vibrant sectors would gain stronger access to the UK market, he added, saying that it would also deepen cooperation in technology, professional services and innovation, while supporting greater mobility for skilled Indian talent.

The social security agreement will provide invaluable support to Indian professionals working temporarily in the UK and strengthen the competitiveness of Indian enterprises, he said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the India-UK free trade agreement was set to unlock untapped potential across

Cont. on P9 ➤

J&K Bank crosses 30,000 loan sanctions



Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, JUL 15

J&K Bank has crossed the milestone of 30,000 loan sanctions under the Government of Jammu & Kashmir's flagship Mission YUVA, reaffirming its com

Cont. on P9 ➤

Bhairav Yatra of Rajouri added to ICH list

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, JUL 15

The Bhairav Yatra of Rajouri has been officially included in the national inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of India.

LG Manoj Sinha welcomed it as a "proud moment" and congratulated the Rajouri administration and the department of culture, J&K, for securing the prestigious recognition.

Rajouri's centuries-old Bhairav Yatra is a sacred procession held annually in the main markets of the

Cont. on P9 ➤

No change in plan for Delhi protest: Omar



Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, JUL 15

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today said NC would proceed with its plan to hold a protest in Delhi in support of their demand for restoration of statehood to J&K.

The party has already an

Cont. on P9 ➤

Showcase Jammu, hold sightseeing tours for pilgrims: LG to officials

Reviews arrangements at Bhagwati Nagar camp



Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, JUL 15

Emphasising the need to showcase Jammu, LG Manoj Sinha today directed officials to organise sightseeing tours for Shri Amarnathji pilgrims while actively promoting local handicraft & handloom products.

"Ensure flawless registration, comfortable lodging, and smooth travel arrangements for all devotees of Baba Barfani," he said to officials during his

visit to Bhagwati Nagar base camp where he reviewed facilities & services for pilgrims.

The LG emphasised the need for showcasing Jammu, and directed officials to organise sightseeing tours for pilgrims to the Jammu division's key spiritual and tourism spots, while actively promoting local handicraft and handloom products.

On the occasion, he also interacted with the officials of police, Army, security forces, shrine board and civil administration, and

took stock of the measures taken to facilitate the comfortable stay of pilgrims.

He commended the hard work of all of them and urged them to treat every yatri as a divine guest.

"With the holy pilgrimage already crossing the 3-lakh mark in just 12 days, ensuring a smooth and hassle-free experience for pilgrims is our top priority," the LG said.

"It is our goal that whenever Baba Amarnath pilgrims return homes, they carry with them something

Cont. on P9 ➤

US senators unveil Bill for 100 pc tariffs on India

WASHINGTON, JUL 15: A bipartisan group of US Senators unveiled a bill that seeks to impose 100 per cent tariffs on five countries, including India and China, for purchasing oil from Russia.

The bill, brokered by late Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, exempts 15 European nations that buy gas from Russia from the tariffs, arguing that the purchases amount to a fraction of their total requirement and the countries in question were taking steps to reduce dependence on Moscow.

Apart from India and

China, other countries that will be hit by the tariffs are Slovakia, Hungary and Azerbaijan.

"It's been referred to as a tariffs bill, but actually it imposes full blocking sanctions on wide swaths of the Russian economy, including its energy industry, financial industry, defence industrial base, oligarchs, business people, and Vladimir Putin himself," Richard Blumenthal, a Democratic Senator from Connecticut, told reporters in Washington.

"It imposes tariffs that are targeted: narrowly limited to the five major pur-

chasers - up to 100% - with waiver authority that is narrowly tailored and constricted. And those five major purchasers, right now, of oil are China, India, Slovakia, Hungary, Azerbaijan," Blumenthal said.

If the bill passes, it would be the first time that the Congress has explicitly authorised the use of tariffs as a geopolitical weapon with the goal of punishing countries financing another nation's war effort.

Blumenthal said, "Our European allies are not targeted here. It is very important to understand that we

Cont. on P9 ➤

Shri Amarnathji Yatra Amid tight security, 6,251 pilgrims leave for valley base camps

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, JUL 15

Amid tight security, 14th batch of 6,251 pilgrims today left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here for the twin base camps in the valley for their onward pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine of Almighty Shiva in South Kashmir Himalayas.

According to officials, the pilgrims left early in the morning in a fleet of 230 vehicles comprising Light Motor and Heavy Motor Vehicles.

The batch comprising 2,985 pilgrims for Baltal and 3,266 for Pahalgam left for the pilgrimage under a multi-layered security grid, with coordinated arrangements by the civil administration, police, security forces and Shri Amarnath Shrine Board to ensure that the yatra was conducted in a safe & secure atmosphere.

More than 3 lakh pilgrims from different parts of the country have already visited the cave shrine.

The 57-day pilgrimage to the cave shrine was offi-

cially flagged off by LG Manoj Sinha on July 2 morning from Bhagwati Nagar base camp here simultaneously for the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district. The yatra will conclude on August 28.

Authorities have put in place multi-layered security arrangements along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and at all transit camps to ensure the

Cont. on P9 ➤

Kavinder encourages youth to explore green entrepreneurship

SHIMLA, JUL 15: Governor Kavinder Gupta today said that, while joining prestigious services was an admirable goal, success was not confined to a single career path.

He encouraged young people to explore diverse opportunities in innovation, entrepreneurship and scientific research, particularly in the field of medicinal plants and natural resources, as Himachal Pradesh had immense untapped potential.

"Countries, such as New Zealand, have successfully created global markets around the Manuka plant,



South Korea has transformed Ginseng into a major economic resource, and Jammu & Kashmir has witnessed remarkable socio-

economic change through lavender cultivation," the governor said while addressing 'Shimla Ke Med

Cont. on P9 ➤



der tunnel.

Soon after the hole was found, a joint team of

Army, BSF and police reached the spot and

Cont. on P9 ➤

Hole in field triggers search operation near IB

No tunnel found

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, JUL 15

Following the detection of a 'big' hole in an agricultural field near the International Border in Samba district of Jammu, a massive search operation was launched but the possibility of a cross-border tunnel was ruled out.

According to officials, the hole was discovered in the border Jarain village of Ghagwal, Samba, triggering the fears of a cross-bor-

Country heading towards economic crisis due to Modi govt's policies: Cong

NEW DELHI, JUL 15: With the wholesale price inflation rising to 9.87 per cent in June, the Congress on Wednesday claimed that the country is steadily heading towards an economic crisis due to the Modi government's "anti-people policies".

The opposition party also demanded answers from Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the rising inflation, and said he alone must answer for this "economic failure".

"Due to the Modi government's anti-people policies, the country is steadily heading towards an eco-

nomics crisis. The Congress party has repeatedly warned the government about this over the past few months," Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jai Ram Ramesh said in a post on X.

Amidst the worst wholesale inflation in 44 months (9.87 pc) and a staggering 27.4 pc surge in fuel and electricity prices, agricultural sowing has dropped to a three-year low, he said.

The common people are reeling under the burden of rising inflation and unemployment, while the nation's farmers -- the providers of food -- are suf-

fering the double blow of the government's flawed policies and adverse weather conditions, Ramesh said.

Rising inflation had driven up operational costs for industries, he pointed out.

At a time when all key economic indicators are flashing 'red alert,' the Modi government, instead of managing the situation, is busy chasing headlines to divert public attention, Ramesh said.

Rather than controlling inflation, the government is merely attempting to

Cont. on P9 ➤

