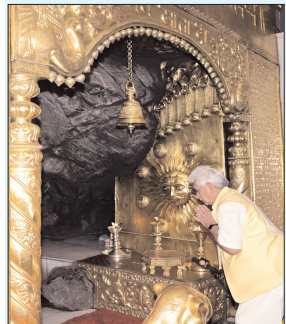




Sinha pays obeisance at Bhawan



LG Manoj Sinha today visited the highly revered cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi in Trikuta Hills of Katra and paid obeisance to the Almighty

Cont. on P9 ➤ ACB arrests patwari in graft case

ACB today trapped & arrested a patwari of Mahanpur Patwar Halqa in Kathua district for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe in exchange for providing mutation-related documents.

According to officials, the ACB registered a case under section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 at ACB Police

Cont. on P9 ➤

Court allows Er Rashid to attend Monsoon Session

A Delhi court today allowed jailed Lok Sabha MP Er Rashid to attend the Monsoon session of Parliament in custody on all dates.

Special Judge (NIA) Prashant Sharma was hearing the plea filed by Rashid, seeking custody parole to attend the upcoming parliamentary session scheduled from July 20 to August 13 and allowed the plea.

Custody parole entails a prisoner being escorted by armed police personnel to his place of visit.

The court conducted the proceedings in cam

Cont. on P9 ➤

NTA declares NEET-UG results

NEW DELHI, JUL 16: The National Testing Agency (NTA) today declared the results of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Undergraduate) or NEET-UG, with 11.21 lakh candidates qualifying for admission to undergraduate medical courses across the country.

According to the NTA, 19 candidates scored 700 out of 720 marks, while 1,492 secured more than 650 marks in the highly competitive entrance examination.

Aryan Gupta of Punjab and Panshul Bansal of Haryana emerged as the

Cont. on P9 ➤

Cong to join NC's statehood push

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, JUL 16

The Congress has decided to participate in the NC's proposed protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, asserting that the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood was a people's issue and not confined to any political party.

"Congress has been raising the demand for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's constitutional rights and statehood at every available forum," AICC general secretary and

Cont. on P9 ➤

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Mallikarjun Kharge urges PM Modi to call all-party meeting to discuss delimitation

P- 7

Jennifer Winget to marry William Ishmael in private UK ceremony function

P-10



Roads, tunnels as crucial as weapons in future wars: Rajnath

NEW DELHI, JUL 16: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today asserted that border infrastructure would remain indispensable even in an era of technology-driven warfare, saying roads, tunnels, ports, and airfields were as vital to military success as advanced weapons and precision technologies.

"Modern warfare may increasingly rely on cutting-edge weapon systems and platforms, but the ability to rapidly move troops and equipment through robust infrastructure will continue to determine operational effectiveness," he said while addressing the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) Strategic Infrastructure Conclave here.

"Even as state-of-the-art weapons and platforms are being inducted into the defence forces to address the challenges posed by the evolving nature of warfare, ports, airfields, roads and tunnels will continue to play an indispensable role in the



future," he said, stressing that basic infrastructure remains central to enabling military operations.

Highlighting the strategic significance of border connectivity, the Defence Minister said, "Sometimes, the first front of a war is not at the border itself, but on the road that leads our soldiers to the frontline. Therefore, the person who builds that road is as vital a guardian of national security as the soldier who stands at the border."

Lauding BRO for embracing advanced technologies, Singh said the organisation

was adopting niche technologies to build world-class infrastructure that strengthens national security while contributing to the government's vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

He noted that over the past six and a half decades, the BRO has transformed itself from a road construction agency into one of the world's most respected strategic infrastructure organisations.

Citing engineering landmarks such as the Atal Tunnel, Umling La Pass and the Sela Tunnel, Singh said these projects stand as "liv-

ing testaments" to the BRO's capabilities and the dedication of its personnel working under some of the world's most challenging conditions.

Describing the BRO as a frontline organisation in adopting modern technologies, the Defence Minister highlighted the growing use of tunnelling technology, saying it has revolutionised infrastructure development from metro rail systems in cities to highways in mountainous terrain.

Calling connectivity an essential pillar of national development, Singh said the government had expanded road, rail, air, and digital infrastructure to ensure inclusive growth.

"We have ensured that no citizen residing in a remote area feels cut off from the mainstream. We are developing border villages, once referred to as the last villages, into the country's first villages under the Vibrant Village Programme. A nation with robust infrastructure is the one with a bright

Cont. on P9 ➤

Iran threatens to destroy 'all infra in region'

DUBAI, JUL 16 : Iran's joint military command stepped up its threats on Thursday as intensifying US airstrikes targeted the country, saying it would destroy "all the infrastructure in the region".

The threat from the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters referenced US President Donald Trump's repeated warning that he could launch attacks against power plants and bridges in Iran.

Col Ebrahim Zolfaghari, a spokesperson for the Iranian military's Khatam Al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, issued the warning.

Cont. on P9 ➤

Govt grants carbon neutrality recognition to ethanol

NEW DELHI, JUL 16: The Ministry of Power on Thursday circulated the Draft Corporate Average Fuel Economy 2027 Norms (CAFE-III) for stakeholder consultation. The norms are proposed to apply to M1 category passenger vehicles manufactured or imported for sale in India during 2027-28 to 2031-32.

For the first time, Carbon Neutrality Factors (CNFs) are proposed to recognise the carbon-neutrality of ethanol, biofuel, and Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) by

Cont. on P9 ➤

Jitendra announces first phase of ARC technologies



NEW DELHI, Jul 16: Union Minister Jitendra Singh today announced the first-phase of Advanced Road Construction (ARC) technologies for Jammu and 15 other towns.

The initiative marks a significant step towards demonstrating and scaling up innovative, sustainable

Cont. on P9 ➤

LG chairs SMVDSB meeting, reviews donation management system

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, JUL 16

In a high-level meeting of SMVDSB members and senior officials, which he chaired here today, LG Manoj Sinha reviewed the management system of donations & offerings at the holy cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi nestled in Trikuta Hills of Katra.

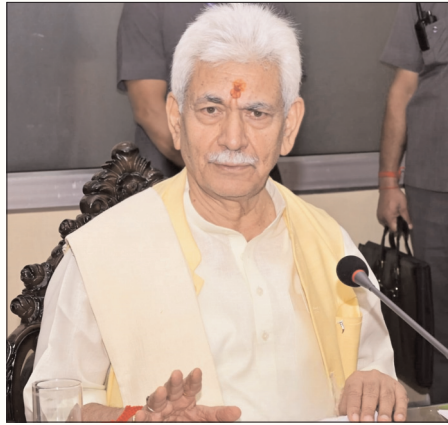
The meeting was convened to ensure complete transparency, accountability and adherence to established Standard Operating Procedures in the management of offerings and donations received at the holy shrine.

According to officials, a comprehensive review of the collection, counting, accounting, safeguarding and the utilisation of the offerings made by devotees was made during the meeting.

People from across the country and abroad visit the highly revered Mata Vaishno Devi cave shrine every year to seek the blessings of the Goddess.

A presentation highlighted the robust systems and institutional mechanisms put in place by the shrine board for the secure and transparent handling of offerings received through donation boxes, donation counters, online platforms and offerings in the form of precious metals.

The board, which met under the chairmanship of the LG, was apprised of verification processes, surveillance mechanism, banking safeguards and periodic audits



that govern every stage of the process.

Besides, it was also highlighted that all financial transactions pertaining to offerings and donations were undertaken strictly in conformity with prescribed banking norms, statutory provisions and the guidelines issued by the Government of India from time to time.

The board also noted the stringent security protocols adopted for handling and storage of the offerings received in the form of precious metals as well as its secure transportation, processing and refinery through reputed government-approved institutions including Reserve Bank of India and India Government Mint, Hyderabad.

After a detailed review, the board expressed satisfaction over the transparency, accountability and efficiency of the existing arrangements.

Cont. on P9 ➤

Chhari-Mubarak on July 29

15th batch of 5,201 pilgrims leaves for Amarnathji cave shrine

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, JUL 16

While Chhari-Mubarak would be performed on July 29, the 15th batch of 5,201 pilgrims today left Bhagwati Nagar base camp here for the holy cave shrine of Baba Amarnath in South Kashmir Himalayas.

More than 3.25 lakh pilgrims were said to have visited the cave shrine since the start of the yatra and had darshans of the naturally formed ice-Shiv-

alingam.

The fresh batch comprised of 92 sadhus, nine sadhvis, 3,970 men, 1,124 women, five children, and one transperson. They left in a convoy of 251 vehicles escorted by CRPF and police.

Officials said the convoy departed in two groups. The Baltal convoy, carrying 1,745 pilgrims in 74 vehicles left at 3 am, while the Pahalgam convoy, comprising 3,456 pilgrims in 177 vehicles, departed at 3.30 am, officials said.

Cont. on P9 ➤

Govt to bring bill raising SC strength to 38

NEW DELHI, JUL 16: The Centre is set to introduce a Bill in the monsoon session of Parliament to replace an ordinance increasing the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court from 34 to 38 judges, including the Chief Justice of India.

The Lok Sabha has admitted a statutory resolution moved by opposition members opposing the ordinance, according to a House bulletin.

As per the procedure, if a bill is brought to replace an ordinance, opposition members move a statutory resolution opposing the ordinance. The resolution

states, "This House disapproves of the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Ordinance, 2026..."

Former Union law secretary P K Malhotra said an ordinance remains in force for six months, but must be approved by Parliament within six weeks of the commencement of a session, failing which it lapses.

The Union Cabinet had cleared a Bill in May to increase the number of judges, following which the government promulgated the ordinance. Subsequently, five judges were appointed to the Supreme

Court under the enhanced strength.

The proposed legislation does not require a Constitutional amendment and can be passed with a simple majority.

The strength of the Supreme Court was last increased in 2019 from 30 to 33 judges, excluding the Chief Justice of India. Under the original 1956 Act, the sanctioned strength was 10 judges, which was revised to 13 in 1960, 17 later, 25 in 1986, and 30 in 2009.

Article 124(3) of the Constitution lays down the

Cont. on P9 ➤

Special NIA court frames charges in narco-terror case

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, JUL 16

The special NIA court here has ordered the framing of charges in a narco-terror case having its roots across the borders in Pakistan and PoJK.

According to officials, a case in this regard was registered in October 2022 at SIA police station, Kashmir, on the basis of credible intelligence regarding a highly organised cross-border conspiracy orchestrated by Pakistan/PoJK-based handlers of the proscribed terrorist

outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

The court directive paves the way for commencement of a trial against the members of a Pakistan-backed narco-terror syndicate, financing terrorist activities in Jammu & Kashmir through proceeds generated from smuggling of narcotics.

The SIA probe established that the syndicate smuggled narcotic substances across the Line of Control into Jammu & Kashmir and channelised the illicit proceeds for financing terrorism, sustaining terrorist in-

frastructure and strengthening the terror ecosystem in the Union Territory.

The probe also uncovered the larger conspiracy and identified the involvement of 16 accused, including four Pakistan/PoJK-based terrorist handlers. The accused included Rubeena Nazir Malik, Ishfaq Ahmad Mir, Mudasar Ahmed Poswal, Safer Ahmad Mughal, Mohammad Rashid Thakkar, Mohammad Rayaz Lohar, Javid Iqbal Thakkar alias Raja Thakkar, Abdul Rashid Mir, Abdul Rashid Bhat and Basharat Ali Poswal. "They

Cont. on P9 ➤