



Vaishno Devi yatra suspended

In view of the inclement weather advisory issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the administration today said that Shri Mata Vaishno Devi yatra would remain temporarily suspended as a precautionary measure to ensure the safety and well-being of pilgrims.

According to officials, the decision was taken in the interest of public safety following forecasts indicating unfavourable weather conditions in the region. Devotees were ad

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2 detained under PSA

Two persons, including a bovine smuggler, have been detained under PSA in Rajouri and Kathua districts of Jammu.

Mohammad Mustafa of Thanamandi area of Rajouri, was detained for his persistent involvement in illegal bovine smuggling activities, officials said.

Officials said considering his repeated involvement in bovine smuggling, and his activities being prejudicial to the

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NC expels LAHDC Kargil CEC Akhooon

National Conference has expelled LAHDC Kargil Chief Executive Councillor Mohammad Jaffer Akhooon from the party's primary membership for six years for anti-party activities and indiscipline.

The action followed differences within the local INDIA bloc alliance over the implementation of a pre-poll rotational power-sharing arrangement with the Congress. Dr Akhooon had reportedly declined to step down in accordance with the agreement.

In a post on its official

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Saxena bans use, sale of chemical fertilisers in Ladakh



LEH, JUL 18: Ladakh LG Vinai Kumar Saxena has ordered a ban on the use and sale of chemical fertilisers for agricultural purposes in the Union Territory as a major step towards becoming India's largest certified organic region.

This decision, aimed at

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India's first pvt orbital rocket Vikram-1 lifts off

SRIHARIKOTA (ANDHRA PRADESH), Jul 18: India's first private orbital-class rocket, Vikram-1, carrying multiple technology demonstration payloads and a postcard from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, lifted off from this spaceport on Saturday.

Named "Mission Aagam" (arrival), the test flight's launch marks a historic milestone for the country's commercial space sector, executed by Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace.

On a cloudy day, the

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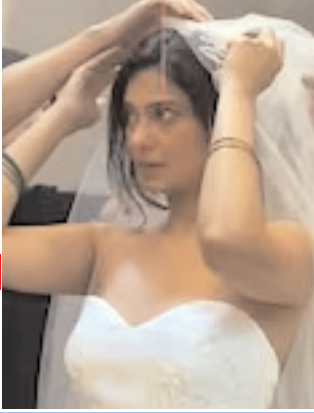
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Trump blames Canada for wildfire smoke, hreatens additional tariffs over pollution costs

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Jennifer Winget Reportedly Marries William Ishmael In UK; Bridal Gown Fitting Videos Surface

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Firm message to Pakistan Zero tolerance against terrorism not merely statement for us: Def Min

NEW DELHI, JUL 18: *Sending a firm message to Pakistan, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today asserted that 'zero tolerance against terrorism is not merely a statement for us but a line of action'.*

"India, backed by a major boost in indigenous defence production, is rapidly emerging as a credible global security partner, expanding its strategic footprint from the Indian Ocean to the Indo-Pacific," he said while addressing an event here.

Singh sent a firm message to Pakistan, saying that New Delhi had clearly articulated its perspective on terrorism before the entire world and added that "zero tolerance against terrorism is not merely a statement for us, but a line of action".

"We will strike against terrorism not just at the doorstep but by entering the house. The whole world saw this during Operation Sindoor," he noted.



The defence minister also highlighted India's success in indigenous defence manufacturing.

"Defence products made in India are being exported to nearly 100 countries and the total volume of the country's defence production has reached a record level of nearly Rs 1.78 lakh cr annually," he said.

"Today, India is not just manufacturing defence

equipment for itself. India is becoming a credible security partner for the world. From the Indian Ocean to the Indo-Pacific, India's role is continuously strengthening," he said.

The defence minister added that the nation was well-positioned to hit a Rs 3 lakh crore defence production milestone by 2029.

"If a country depends on other countries for

weapons, ammunition, navigation systems, missiles, radars and drones, then its strategic and military autonomy also becomes limited. We are working with the full intention of completely changing this," he said.

Singh said the success of Operation Sindoor is a testament to the trust in India's industries.

He described Op Sindoor as a reminder of the unmatched valour of the Indian defence forces, which gave a befitting reply to terrorists and their patrons.

The defence minister said the "biggest step" the Modi government had taken towards strengthening India in the defence sector was to promote self-reliance in the defence industrial sector.

"Our vision for empowering India in the defence sector is the one that trusts India's capabilities. But the perspective of previous governments was, somehow, doubtful about India's potential and capability. They

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Heavy rain alert issued for J&K

**Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, JUL 18**

The weather department has issued a heavy to extremely heavy rain alert for J&K from July 19-23, saying that Jammu region was to see most of the downpour.

A MeT official said July 18 would remain generally hot and humid with brief spells of rain or intense thunder-shower at scattered places towards late afternoon and late night or morning hours.

However, from July 19 to 23, the weather would remain generally cloudy with

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5 kg heroin seized near LoC, suspect held

**Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, JUL 18**

In a major success, NCB today seized five kilograms of high-grade heroin near the LoC in Kosalyain village of Haveli, Poonch, and took into custody a suspected smuggler in this regard.

The seized heroin, valued at Rs 25 cr in the international market, had been smuggled from across the Line of Control, officials said.

The seizure was made during a meticulously planned anti-drug opera

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Shutdown in Doda, Ktwr over Bhaderwah firing death

**Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, JUL 18**

A partial shutdown today affected normal life in Doda and Kishtwar areas of the region as protesters demanded action over the killing of a youth in alleged police firing at Jai, Bhaderwah, late Thursday night.

The suspension of mobile internet services across Doda district was extended for the second consecutive day on Saturday, while internet speeds were throttled in the neighbouring Kishtwar amid protests.

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Goal is to position J&K as national hub for knowledge: LG

**Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, JUL 18**

Stating that books are like living conversations, LG Manoj Sinha today said that his goal was to position J&K as a premier national centre for knowledge.

"Our goal is to transform Jammu & Kashmir into a national hub for knowledge, culture, and creativity," he said in his address after attending the third edition of Chinara Book Festival in Srinagar.

The LG congratulated the National Book Trust and the organisers for their commendable work.

"This festival is more than just an event. It is a movement to build a vibrant community of readers, writers, and thinkers. I hope this book festival will inspire youth to read every day, protect endangered languages, and use literature as a way to value and respect diversity," he said.

"Books are like living conversations and they force us to think deeply, ask questions, challenge what



we believe, and inspire us to grow," Sinha said.

"Nothing matches the power of writing. Combined with a strong imagination, it becomes a lasting strength. A vibrant book festival creates such environment and a welcoming space where literature becomes accessible, inspiring, and meaningful for everyone," he said.

He said that in a very short span of time, the Chinara Book Festival had become a unique celebration of ideas, transforming into a vibrant intellectual movement across Jammu & Kashmir.

"I believe writers and thinkers are like glowing

lamps and blooming roses. In many ways, they mirror the majestic Chinara tree. In Kashmir, the Chinara is a living symbol of patience, beauty, and endurance. Writers and their books share this same lasting spirit, guiding human civilisation through the ages. Together, we share the responsibility to restore Jammu & Kashmir as a leading hub for education, literature, and youth empowerment," he said.

"The Chinara Book Festival has become a strong national platform of ideas, debates and knowledge exchange. Its identity is no longer confined to stalls

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Shri Amarnathji Yatra suspended Fresh batch of 3,632 pilgrims leaves for valley base camps

**Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, JUL 18**

While a fresh batch of 3,632 pilgrims today left Bhagwati Nagar base camp here for the twin base camps in the valley for pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine of Baba Amarnathji in South Kashmir Himalayas, the administration temporarily suspended the yatra from July 19 due to adverse weather forecast.

Officials said that 3,632

pilgrims left in a fleet of 148 vehicles comprising Light Motor and Heavy Motor Vehicles. Tight security arrangements were in place for their safe and secure movement from Jammu to the valley base camps of Pahalgam and Baltal.

The batch comprised 1,008 pilgrims for Baltal and 2,624 for Pahalgam. They 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 make sure that the yatra was conducted safely, securely and smoothly.

Amarnathji Yatra has set a new record, crossing the 3.5 lakh mark in just 15 days.

Meanwhile, the administration said that the yatra would remain temporarily suspended from both Pahalgam and Baltal routes from July 19 in view of the inclement weather forecast issued by India Meteorological Department (IMD).

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UN human rights agency voices concern over 'wave of unrest' in PoK

UNITED NATIONS, JULY 18: The United Nations human rights agency has voiced concern over the "wave of unrest" in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), calling for investigations into killings of protesters as well as members of security forces.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk appealed for calm in PoK amid a wave of unrest ahead of regional elections at the end of the month, a statement issued in Geneva said.

It added that dozens of people, mostly protesters but also law enforcement

personnel, had reportedly been killed since June ahead of the vote for the legislative assembly on July 27.

The High Commissioner called for prompt, thorough and impartial investigations into all deaths that have occurred due to the unrest, both amongst protesters and members of security forces.

The Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) - a movement behind the protests comprising traders, transporters, students, lawyers, activists and others, has been banned under anti-terror-

ism laws for allegedly threatening public order and security.

Some of the group's leaders have subsequently been arrested.

The criminalisation of a civil society organisation and imposition of strict limitations on gatherings raise serious concerns about infringements on the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, the statement said.

Detained JAAC leaders must have access to legal representation and their families. Their rights to due

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Kavinder calls upon graduates to harness technology for social good

SHIMLA, JUL 18: Governor Kavinder Gupta today attended the 7th Convocation of Jaypee University of Information Technology (JUIT), Wagnaghat, and conferred the chancellor's gold medals, vice-chancellor's gold medals and other academic awards on meritorious students for their outstanding academic achievements.

A total of 2,244 degrees were awarded during the convocation, including 1,966 B Tech, 3 Integrated M Tech, 69 M Tech, 116 M Sc and 90 Ph D degrees. Congratulating the uni-



versity on completing 25 years of academic excellence, the governor described the silver jubilee as a milestone reflecting the dreams of thousands of students, the dedication of fac-

ulty members and the institution's significant contribution to higher education in Himachal Pradesh.

Addressing the graduating students, Gupta urged

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