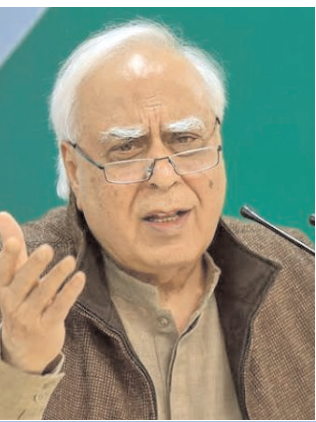




Vaishno Devi, Amarnath yatras remain suspended

Because of the heavy downpour, pilgrimages to the highly revered Vaishno Devi, Amarnath, Shiv Khori & Machail Mata remained suspended for the fourth consecutive day today.

The yatras were temporarily stopped for the safety of pilgrims on July 19 when there were flash floods and landslides due to incessant rains.

"The pilgrimages will resume as soon as there is improvement in situation," officials said.

Jawan dies after accidental fall

An Army jawan today died after accidentally falling from a height near the Line of Control (LoC) in Sunderbani area of Rajouri district of Jammu.

He was identified as Rifleman Sukhpreet Singh (27) of Punjab. Officials said he was on official duty at forward Mahadev Post in Sunderbani sub-sector when he lost balance and fell down from a height, resulting in his death.

The body was shifted to hospital for postmortem. Police had taken cognizance of the incident.

Police cautions against sharing Anantnag terror content

The cyber police have issued a stern advisory for media organisations and the general public, urging them to refrain from sharing or circulating any photographs and videos related to the Anantnag terror incident.

The dissemination of such sensitive material could severely hamper ongoing investigations and compromise public security, officials said.

Police said strict legal action would be initiated against violators under the relevant provisions of law.

This advisory comes in

Cont. on P9 >

Timelines set for fund release, bill payments

BHARAT BHUSHAN
JAMMU, JUL 22

The finance department has issued an order, prescribing strict timelines for the release of funds and processing of bills to ensure timely execution of development works and a smooth payment cycle.

Administrative departments have been directed to release CAPEX funds to Heads of Departments within 10 days of their release by the finance department, while HoDs must further release the funds to

Cont. on P9 >

4 new trains introduced in Jammu Divn: Vaishnaw



NEW DELHI, JUL 22: Indian Railways introduced four pairs of new train services, including two pairs of Vande Bharat Express trains, in Jammu Division during 2025-26 to improve rail connectivity in the region.

Cont. on P9 >



The Himalayan Mail

www.himalayanmail.com

JAMMU, THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2026

RNI No. 66860

Vol. 31

No. 202

12 Pages

Rs. 2.00

SC agrees to hear Kapil Sibal's plea on interpretation of Tenth Schedule

P- 7

Actress Ayesha Khan detained during Mumbai protest, questions police action

P-10



Torrential rains continue to wreak havoc

NH closed; couple killed pushing toll to 25 in 4 days

LG reviews situation, speaks to officials

BHARAT BHUSHAN
JAMMU, JUL 22

As torrential rains continue to wreak havoc across J&K, a man & his wife lost their lives after the vehicle in which they were travelling was hit by a massive landslide at Gangroo in Ramssoo area of Ramban district, pushing the death toll in rain-related incidents to 25 in four days.

The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was also closed to vehicular traffic, following multiple landslides on its Ramban-Banihal stretch. LG Manoj Sinha spoke to senior officials to take stock of the situation.

Officials said a tempo traveller, which was on its way from Banihal to Ramban, was hit by a landslide while it was passing through the vulnerable Gangroo stretch. A total of six persons were travelling in it. While a woman died on the



spot, five others survived with critical injuries and were evacuated by rescuers to the primary health centre, Ramssoo.

At the PHC, the woman's husband succumbed to his injuries. Officials identified

the dead as Nazir Ahmad of Kastigarh, Doda, and his wife Shakeela Begum.

The injured included Gulzar Ahmad, son of Din Mohammad of Kastigarh, Akhtar Hussain, son of Mir Din of Rajgarh, Ramban,

Taslima Bano, daughter of Shamas Din of Kastigarh, and Irshad Ahmad, son of Ghulam Rasool of Kastigarh.

Seven people had gone missing in Poonch & Rajouri districts last Sunday. While searches continue for them, rescuers were still to find any trace of their whereabouts.

In rain-triggered tragedies, 12 people lost their lives in Poonch & Rajouri districts on July 19 and 11 in Poonch, Rajouri & Doda districts on July 20. Following the July 19 deaths, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had cut short his stay in the Union Capital, where he had gone to lead a party protest in support of their demand for the restoration of statehood to J&K.

The erstwhile state of J&K was bifurcated into the Union Territories of J&K

Cont. on P9 >

Omar condemns cop's killing in terror attack

BHARAT BHUSHAN
JAMMU, JUL 22

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah strongly condemned the terror attack in south Kashmir's Anantnag in which a policeman was today killed.

He expressed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members and prayed for eternal peace to the martyred cop.

"Deeply saddened by the death in the line of duty of Head Constable Ashiq Hussain of IRP 3rd Bn. He made the ultimate sacrifice in a

Cont. on P9 >

Tawi, Chenab flowing above danger mark

BHARAT BHUSHAN
JAMMU, JUL 22

As the mighty Chenab river at Akhnour and Tawi river in Jammu city were flowing above the danger mark, the authorities concerned today asked people to stay from their banks for their safety.

The huge flow of water in Chenab & Tawi, besides other rivers in the region, because of the continuing rains prompted the authorities concerned to issue safety advisories, officials said.

Cont. on P9 >

Pradhan meets Birla



NEW DELHI, JUL 22: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan today called on Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla after the government agreed for a discussion on NEET paper leak in the Lok Sabha.

The Union Minister met the Speaker in the parliament, officials said.

The meeting took place soon after the government

Cont. on P9 >

Cop martyred in terrorist attack; 2,000 OGWs detained

Sinha condemns 'cowardly' act

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, JUL 22

In the first terror attack targeting police personnel this year, terrorists today shot dead a head constable deployed on Amarnath Yatra security duty in Anantnag district of the valley.

Soon thereafter, a massive anti-terror operation was launched and nearly 2,000 overground workers (OGWs) were detained by security forces from different parts of the valley. LG Manoj Sinha said the heinous act won't go unpunished.

According to officials, the incident took place at about 12.30 pm at Lal Chowk, Anantnag.

The martyred cop was identified as Head Constable Ashiq Hussain of IRP 3rd Bn. Officials said he was posted on Amarnath Yatra security duty when he was critically injured after being shot at by the terrorist who fled the spot soon thereafter.

He was rushed to the Government Medical College & Hospital, Anantnag, where was declared dead on arrival by the doctors, officials said.

The Pakistan-based Resistance Front (TRF), a shadow outfit of Lashkar-e-Toiba, claimed responsibility for the attack through a social media post.

Soon after the killing, security forces cordoned off the area and launched a massive operation to track down the assailant.

DGP Nalin Prabhat visited the attack site

for first-hand assessment of the situation. Searches were launched across four districts of south Kashmir -- Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian & Kulgam -- and dozens of suspected OGWs were detained, officials said and added that their sustained questioning was in progress.

At Pulwama and in other areas, police established mobile check-points at several locations to prevent the movement of subversive elements, officials said.

Senior police officers in each of the four districts were monitoring the operations in their respective areas, officials said.

The terror attack on the Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel, the first this year, drew widespread condemnation from politicians and civil society members.

The LG condemned the killing and said the heinous crime would not go unpunished. "I strongly condemn this cowardly attack. This heinous act will not go unpunished. Police and our security forces are on the ground and will bring those responsible to justice," he said in a post on X.

He said he had spoken to DGP Nalin Prabhat to take stock of the situation.

"I spoke with DGP Nalin Prabhat to review the situation following the terror attack in Anantnag. My heartfelt condolences to the family of Head Constable Ashiq Hussain Qureshi, who sacrificed his life in the line of duty. The whole country stands shoulder-to-shoulder with the family of the martyr," he added.

Future wars can't be fought by individual services: IAF Chief



fast progress towards self-reliance in the aviation sector, particularly referring to the Indian Air Force (IAF).

"No future war is going to be fought by an individual service. All of us, whether we are in blues (IAF),

whites (Navy), or OGs (Olive Green of the Army), or whichever colour, whether we are in allied services, we all have to fight together as one nation, and then only we will succeed," he said.

Singh said that the momentum that this collective mission has gained over the last four to five years, particularly after the creation of the Chief of Defence Staff post, will continue to grow stronger.

"All of us will move forward together and bring greater glory to the nation,"

Cont. on P9 >

CCTVs in police stations

Things moving very well, have taken positive turn: SC

NEW DELHI, JUL 22: The Supreme Court today said things were moving well and had taken a positive turn in the matter concerning installation of CCTVs in police stations across the country.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta was informed by senior advocate Siddhartha Dave, who is assisting the top court as an amicus-curiae in the matter, that substantial progress has been made.

"It is heartening to note that in this matter, things

are moving very well and we must give credit to Dave for his efforts," the bench said, adding that things had taken a positive turn in the last few months.

The top court was hearing a suo motu matter concerning the lack of functional CCTVs in police stations.

During the hearing, the bench flagged two issues -- extension of the funding scheme for installation of CCTVs in police stations and maintenance of cameras installed.

The law officer appearing

for the Centre said he would take instructions on these aspects.

The top court granted two weeks to the law officer to take instructions and posted the matter for hearing on August 5.

It noted that the amicus has placed before it a note based on the meeting held on July 11 with the representatives of the Centre, states and the Union Territories (UTs).

On May 13, the amicus had informed the bench that most of the states were

Cont. on P9 >

Kavinder calls for integrating Indian knowledge systems with modern education

SHIMLA, JUL 22: Himachal Pradesh Governor Kavinder Gupta today said that education should not only equip students with professional skills but also nurture character, values and a spirit of service.

"There is a need to integrate Indian knowledge systems with modern education to build a strong, self-reliant and developed India," he said while addressing the 57th Foundation Day celebrations of Himachal Pradesh University.

The governor congratulated the university fraternity and lauded the institu-



tion's remarkable journey since its establishment in 1970. He appreciated its academic excellence, quality research and NAAC 'A' Grade accreditation, de-

scribing the occasion as one of celebration as well as introspection.

Highlighting the growing challenges of climate change

Cont. on P9 >