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

and Ladakh in 2019 when Article 370 was also revoked. Officials said at least three residential houses collapsed due to heavy rains in Shikari village of Mahore in Reasi district in the morning.

As the occupants had vacated the houses in time and moved to safer places, no casualties were reported, officials said.

Meanwhile, the LG spoke to senior officials and assessed the ground situation in the districts affected by heavy rains, flash floods, and landslides across the Union Territory of J&K.

"I spoke with senior officials today to assess the ground situation in districts affected by heavy rains, flash floods, and landslides across Jammu & Kashmir. During the review, I was briefed about the ongoing relief efforts by the district administrations, SDRF, NDRF, police, Army, BRO, NHAI, Health, PWD, and Jal Shakti departments. Directed teams to intensify rescue operations. Joint operations continue in Poonch and Rajouri and over 400 damaged roads in Jammu division have already been restored," he said in a post on X.

"I've instructed officials to position manpower and machinery at safe, strategic locations near vulnerable areas for immediate response and issued directions to disseminate timely advisories to citizens discouraging unnecessary travel in high-risk zones. I also spoke with DC, Ramban, regarding the tragic shooting stones incident in which two precious lives were lost. My deepest condolences to the bereaved family members and praying for the speedy recovery of those injured. I have directed the district administration to ensure the injured receive the best possible medical care and to also provide all necessary support to the affected families during this difficult time," he added.

Meanwhile, vehicular traffic on Jammu-Srinagar national highway was suspended, following multiple landslides triggered by relentless rains.

Officials said the vehicular movement on the highway was stopped from both sides in the morning after heavy rainfall triggered landslides, mudslides and shooting stones at nearly a dozen places between Udhampur and Banihal.

Official men & machinery had been pressed into service clear the debris and make the road traffic-worthy. People were advised not to undertake any journey on the highway until the weather improved and the road was declared safe for traffic.

According to weather department, Kathua district received the highest rainfall of 153 mm, followed by Samba (133 mm), Udhampur (112.6 mm), Jammu (62.1 mm), Katra (58.5 mm), Poonch (51 mm), and Rajouri (40.5 mm) during the past 24 hours, ending 8.30 am Wednesday.

The weather office has predicted moderate to heavy rains till Thursday evening.

Almost all water bodies, including the major rivers, were in spate, while residents of several low-lying areas had reported flash floods inundating their homes and shops.

Police cautions against sharing Anantnag terror content

the wake of similar directives issued by Anantnag police, wherein the circulation of sensitive operational content was deemed detrimental to national security and ongoing law-enforcement efforts.

Police have reiterated that maintaining the integrity of the investigation is of paramount importance and has called for public cooperation.

Timelines set for fund release, bill payments

the executing agencies or DDOs within next 10 days, failing which the funds will be reversed.

For Centrally Sponsored Schemes under the SNA-SPARSH framework, departments must release funds to subordinate offices within 48 hours.

The order also mandates that sanctions for advance draws be issued within five working days, with bills to be submitted within the next five days.

Treasury offices have been instructed to process bills within two working days, while deficiencies must be communicated within one working day.

A real-time monitoring dashboard will be developed by NIC J&K to track bill processing, with the Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, overseeing compliance.

All departments, treasury officers and financial advisers have been directed to strictly adhere to the prescribed timelines.

4 new trains introduced in Jammu Divn: Vaishnaw

This information was given by Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, in a written reply to an unstarred question in the Lok Sabha today.

He informed that Jammu Division, the 70th Division of Indian Railways, was created in January 2025. The newly

introduced train services include the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Budgam Express, Amritsar-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Vande Bharat Express, and two pairs of Jammu Tawi-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express trains.

The minister stated that Jammu Tawi railway station was presently served by 114 train services, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra station by 46 train services and Badgam station by 19 train services.

Regarding the introduction of additional train services, he said, It is an ongoing process and depends on various operational factors, including line capacity, availability of train paths, rolling stock, supporting infrastructure, maintenance requirements of railway tracks and other assets, as well as passenger occupancy and traffic demand on the section."

Govt willing to hold discussion: Rijiju tells Lok Sabha

sue but the Speaker would have to meet floor leaders of all parties to decide on the rule under which the discussion would be held, its date and duration.

The opposition has been demanding a discussion on the NEET paper leak issue and is also seeking the resignation of Pradhan over the handling of the controversy over the alleged examination irregularities.

"Our demand is simple. When the entire nation is feeling the pain of our students - all other business of the House should be set aside and this burning issue should be the top priority for Parliament," Venugopal said.

Later, speaking to reporters, Rijiju said the government was ready for a "detailed" discussion "as the people should know the steps taken by the government."

He accused the Opposition of taking to the streets instead of debating the issue in Parliament, and said sensitive issues concerning the youth should be discussed in the House. Street protests will not yield results, he underlined.

In the Lok Sabha, Birla said he had heard the views of all sides and noted the government's willingness to hold a discussion with an open mind.

He urged Opposition parties to participate in a detailed debate instead of rushing to the Well of the House and disrupting proceedings.

Most Congress and Samajwadi Party MPs wore black clothes in the House to protest the NEET paper leak and the police crackdown on protesters at Jantar Mantar and other locations.

Omar condemns cop's killing in terror attack

cowardly terror attack in Anantnag area of South Kashmir," the chief minister said in a post on X.

"I unequivocally condemn this attack & send my heart-felt condolences to the members of his family," he added.

Soon after the attack, a massive cordon-and-search operation was launched in the area to nab the assailants.

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

he said. The commissioning ceremony was attended by Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, senior naval officers, veterans and representatives of state-run Cochin Shipyard Ltd.

The IAF chief said, "We all understand how important maritime security and the maritime power for India's growth are. Because any nation, they say, the maritime routes decide your trade and your trade decides your destiny. And as far as India is concerned, we all understand how important the Indian Ocean region is to us."

He said the Indian Navy has been playing a vital role in securing sea lines of communication and ensuring that Indian trade and economic growth continue unhindered.

Without naming the Iran-US conflict, Singh said that developments around the world in recent times have strengthened the belief that no country can succeed unless it has secure sea lines of communication and free trade.

Referring to the government's thrust on self-reliance, the Air Chief said the Navy had made significant progress in indigenous shipbuilding and expressed hope that the aviation sector would emulate the model.

"I just hope that the other two services, especially the Indian Air Force, learn the lesson as to how the Indian Navy has been able to get this whole concept right, where you have your Indian Navy officers who are embedded in your shipbuilding right from the beginning," he said.

Singh said these people grow up in the same chain and become even the seniormost in those shipyards. "And even after retirement, they continue to render the services. Something similar, I think, the Indian Air Force has to adopt to make sure that even in the aviation sector, our self-reliance, our dream of being self-reliant becomes a reality and becomes a reality soon," he said.

He said that the Air Force was steadily moving closer to achieving its dream of self-reliance. "The Indian Navy adopted this vision of self-reliance very early on. In fact, it

is we who took longer, because different sectors require different amounts of time to develop," he added.

The Air Chief said that INS Malvan had around 80 per cent indigenous content by value, which reflected the success of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.

He said the country was moving closer towards the goal of self-reliance, adding that while some components still needed to be sourced or co-produced abroad, those gaps would eventually be bridged.

Emphasising the importance of indigenous research and development, Singh said military technologies must be developed at a pace that keeps them relevant.

"If you are growing at a speed that by the time you design and develop something, by the time you produce something, the world has moved over to a new technology, then that has no meaning. According to me, any technology delayed is technology denied," he said.

He said the growth of indigenous R&D (research and development) and production capabilities was encouraging, though the country still had some distance to cover before achieving its targets.

Singh also praised the Indian Navy for inducting its seventh warship this year and commended Cochin Shipyard and the Navy's project teams for successfully delivering INS Malvan.

Referring to Naval Base Karwar, where the commissioning ceremony was held, Singh described it as one of the world's most modern naval bases and a symbol of India's maritime strategic vision under Project Seabird, an ambitious naval infrastructure initiative.

Jaishankar calls for deeper India-ASEAN cooperation

can serve our respective interests. In this era of volatility and disruption, the most visible stress is on supply chains," he added.

"Energy, food and health security can no longer be taken for granted. Because we are all so dependent on maritime trade, that too could become a source of anxiety. Observing international law in that regard is therefore vital. Coincidentally, 2026 is the ASEAN-India year of maritime cooperation," he said.

The ASEAN, or the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, is considered one of the most influential groupings in the region, and India and several other countries, including the US, China, Japan and Australia, are its dialogue partners.

"It is a timely reminder of what we can do for a more stable and secure future. At the same time, both India and ASEAN are optimistic about their prospects. Our eyes must therefore be firmly fixed on opportunities, even while addressing challenges."

He further said that the India-ASEAN agenda covers trade and investment, mobility and talent, tech, digital and AI, green and sustainability, as well as connectivity.

"It is only through deeper cooperation that we can de-risk and diversify."

"India and ASEAN have traditionally worked for the welfare of the larger region... This is a world in transition, and India and ASEAN, who account for 2 billion, must navigate it together if it is to remain safe and steady," Jaishankar said.

During his visit, Jaishankar will join foreign ministers of Australia, Japan and the United States at the Quad meeting.

The Quad foreign ministers last met in New Delhi in late May, when US Secretary of State Marco Rubio travelled to India.

Tawi, Chenab flowing above danger mark

According to the latest data, Chenab river at Akhnoor touched the danger mark at 5 pm, with the water level touching 35.8 ft - three notches above the alert level of 32.0 ft. The evacuation level is 42.0 feet.

"The water level is continuously increasing in Chenab & Tawi. All agencies are monitoring the situation," officials said.

Pradhan meets Birla

told the Lok Sabha that it was willing to hold a detailed discussion on the NEET paper leak issue.

Besides a discussion on the paper leak issue, the opposition is also seeking the resignation of Pradhan.

629 NH projects behind schedule: Gadkari tells Par

ensure interoperability, scalability, and uniform service delivery across the National Highway network, a Unified ATMS Software Platform is being implemented with standardised protocols for monitoring, enforcement, data integration, and performance management.

Responding to another question, Gadkari said based on the available accident data from Electronic Detailed Accident Report (e-DAR) for the period 2023-2025, total number of 6,358 Black corridors have been identified.

Certain segments on National Highways (NHs) have been identified as black corridors which are continuous

stretches qualifying the criteria of black spots i.e. locations with occurrence of certain number of accidents involving fatalities and grievous injuries. These black corridors have been identified in real time through AI-based tools.

To a separate query, he said the government has introduced a FASTag-based Annual Pass for non-commercial cars, jeeps, and vans, which has come into effect from 15th August, 2025.

Under this scheme, an Annual Pass can be activated on payment of Rs 3,075/- for the year 2026-27 and allows travel through all National Highway/National Expressway fee plazas for one year or upto 200 fee plaza crossings, whichever is earlier.

"As of June, 2026, more than 77 lakh Annual Passes have been issued registering 63 crore transactions on National Highway Fee Plazas," Gadkari said, adding that presently, around 33 per cent of total Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) transactions done by car/jeep/van are Annual Pass Transactions.<

Things moving very well, have taken positive turn: SC

proceeding in the right direction and substantial work was carried out with regard to the installation of CCTVs in police stations.

Earlier, the issue concerning utilisation of funds by the states for the installation of CCTVs was flagged before the court.

The bench was informed that the Centre gives 100 per cent funds in UTs and 90 per cent in the hilly states.

It was told that in the remaining states, the Centre gives 60 per cent, while the remaining 40 per cent funding is by the respective state.

The top court had earlier directed registration of a suo motu case over the lack of functional CCTVs in police stations after taking cognisance of a media report.

The apex court had in 2018 ordered the installation of CCTV cameras across police stations to check human rights abuses.

In December 2020, the top court directed the Centre to install CCTV cameras and recording equipment at the offices of investigating agencies, including the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

It said that states and UTs should ensure that CCTV cameras were installed at every police station, at all entry and exit points, main gate, lock-ups, corridors, lobby and reception, as well as in areas outside the lock-up rooms so that no part was left uncovered.

The top court had said that CCTV systems must be equipped with night vision and have audio as well as video footage.

The court had made it mandatory for the Centre, states and the UTs to purchase such systems which allow storage of data for at least one year.

Kavinder calls for integrating Indian knowledge systems with modern education

and natural disasters, he urged the university to strengthen research in disaster management, environmental sustainability and emerging technologies.

He also stressed the need to promote interdisciplinary research, regional languages, Indian knowledge systems, and innovation in areas such as medicinal plants and organic farming.

The governor called upon university teachers to adopt one village each and actively contribute towards spreading education, environmental awareness and social development at the grassroots level.

Quoting the ancient ideal, "Vidyartham Agachchha, Sevaartham Nirgachchha" (Come to acquire knowledge, leave to serve society), he said that graduates should carry modern technology in one hand and India's timeless values in the other.

He expressed confidence that the harmonious blend of scientific advancement and India's ancient wisdom would help the nation emerge as a global knowledge leader.

On the occasion, the governor presented the Best Teacher and Researcher Awards and Best Employees Awards to distinguished faculty members and staff.

Earlier, Vice-Chancellor (Prof) Mahavir Singh welcomed and honoured the governor, highlighting the university's recent achievements, including research funding sanctioned by ARTRAC for innovation and research, and two major DRDO research projects worth Rs 82 lakh and Rs 87 lakh.

He also informed that several new interdisciplinary centres and skill-oriented courses had been introduced to prepare students for future challenges.

Dean of Studies (Prof) B K Shivram presented the University's Annual Report. A documentary titled "Pragati Ka Ek Varsh" was also screened on the occasion.

Vidyanand Sarek, Nek Ram Sharma and Dr Rajeev Chauhan, Assistant Professor, PGIMER Chandigarh, also addressed the gathering.

Registrar Jyoti Rana presented vote of thanks.

DC Rajouri oversees rescue, relief and restoration efforts in flood-hit areas



RAJOURI, JULY 22: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today toured flood-affected areas of Aiti, Badalamang and Baila Bus Stand to assess the ground situation, supervise rescue and relief operations, and review restoration of essential services.

Accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Rajouri Gaurav Sikarwar, the Deputy Commis-

sioner monitored evacuation operations in vulnerable localities where floodwaters had risen, and directed departments concerned to ensure safe and timely evacuation of residents from vulnerable areas and extend every possible assistance to affected families.

During his visit to Baila Bus Stand, the Deputy Commissioner ordered immediate closure of shops and

in the repair works, and interacted with engineers, field staff and labourers engaged in the work.

While interacting with local residents, the Deputy Commissioner assured them that the District Administration is closely monitoring the situation and that measures are being taken to provide timely relief, restore essential services and minimise inconvenience to the public. He reiterated that all departments have been directed to remain on high alert and maintain close coordination to respond swiftly to any emergency.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed progress of rescue, relief and restoration works at various locations and directed officers concerned to ensure uninterrupted coordination, continuous field monitoring and prompt response until normalcy is fully restored. District and sectoral officers accompanied the Deputy Commissioner.



UDHAMPUR, JULY 22: Manav Utthan Sewa Samiti (MUSS), Udhampur branch, organised a plantation drive at Government Degree College, Neeli Nallah, Udhampur, under the blessings of Sadgurudev Shri Satpal Ji Maharaj.

Around 140 saplings of different varieties were planted by volunteers of Manav Sewa Dal and members of the Samiti to promote environmental conservation. Former DDC President Lal Chand, Vice Principal Dr. Sunil Tanoch, faculty members and MUSS office-bearers participated in the programme. Speakers highlighted the importance of tree plantation and urged people, especially youth, to contribute towards environmental protection and a greener future.