



Schools to reopen only after safety inspections

As heavy rains continue to lash Jammu, the directorate of school education, Jammu, today issued strict guidelines prohibiting all government, private, and coaching institutions from resuming physical classes without thorough safety assessments.

In view of the recent spell of heavy rainfall and the consequent flooding across various parts of Jammu division, it has been reported by several

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2 trapped in Tawi, rescued

In a swift and well-coordinated rescue operation, police and SDRF today successfully rescued two persons who were trapped in Tawi river near Prambli, Phallian Mandal here, following a sudden rise in the water level.

Officials said Farman Ali of Allora and Farooq Ahmed of Sohanjana had gone to the area along with their cattle when the water level suddenly increased, leaving them trapped in the middle of the river.

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Privileges Committee to hear motion against PDP MLA

The committee on privileges of J&K Assembly will meet here on Friday to hear the motion against PDP MLA Waheed Para in a breach of privilege case.

The assembly secretariat has asked Para to present himself before the nine-member committee on privileges headed by Hasnain Masoodi at 11 am on Friday.

A breach of privilege notice was issued to him in November 2024 based on a complaint by NC MLA Nazir Ahmad Gurezi.

Gurezi had accused the

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IMD forecasts widespread rains in J&K

NEW DELHI, JUL 23: The India Meteorological Department (IMD), in its morning bulletin issued at 0820 hours IST on Thursday, forecast widespread rainfall over J&K-Ladakh-Gilgit-Baltistan-Muzaffarabad, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana-Chandigarh-Delhi, and parts of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan for the coming week.

The IMD also warned of isolated very heavy rainfall in several of these areas.

The IMD expects widespread rainfall over Himachal Pradesh, J&K-

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Foundation stone laid for transformation of old Leh town



LEH, JUL 23: In a landmark initiative aimed at the heritage-led transformation of old Leh town, LG Vinai Kumar Saxena today laid the foundation stone for the comprehensive Infrastructure Upgradation and Beautification Project of the historic town.

Guided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi,"

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Day after cop's killing, LG orders swift action on security risks

Chairs meeting of senior officers of Army, police, CAPFs

**BHARAT BHUSHAN
JAMMU, JUL 23**

Day after a police cop attained martyrdom in a terrorist attack at Anantnag's Lal Chowk, LG Manoj Sinha today called a meeting of senior officers of Army, police, CAPFs & civil administration, and ordered them to proactively eliminate emerging security risks in the UT.

The terror attack raised serious security concerns as Head Constable Ashiq Husain, who became the target of terrorists, was on Shri Amarnathji Yatra security duty. Though the pilgrimage is temporarily halted since July 19 due to heavy rains, the yatra convoy passes through the same area while on its way from Jammu to the Nunwan base camp at Pahalgam.

The Resistance Front (TRF), a shadow outfit of the Pakistan-based



Lashkar-e-Toiba, was quick to claim the responsibility for the attack through a social media post.

The attack, first on police personnel this year, prompted massive anti-terror operations across the valley, with security forces carrying out raids at multiple places and laying hands on more than 3,500 OGWs and terror sympathisers in a span of few hours. The operation still continues.

As the incident was deeply concerning, LG Sinha forthwith called a high-level security review meeting with senior officials Army, police, civil administration, CAPFs, and other key security agencies.

In his address, he directed officials to remain highly vigilant, step-up intelligence-led anti-terror operations and proactively neutralise emerging security threats.

He comprehensively reviewed logistics and safety arrangements for the ongoing Shri Amarnathji Yatra in the light of the recent inclement weather and heavy to heavy rains across the region.

The LG instructed all departments to maintain seamless coordination and ensure the safety, well-being and convenience of all pilgrims of Baba Barfani.

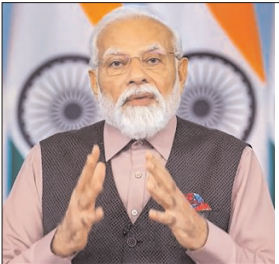
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Modi's outreach to protesters: Welfare of youth govt's top priority

NEW DELHI, JUL 23: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said the welfare of the country's youth is the top priority of his government and asserted that anyone trying to harm their future will not be spared.

His outreach to the youth came three days after thousands of students took part in the 'Sansad Chalo' march against irregularities in the NEET exam and to demand the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

During the march, police resorted to lathi-charge and lobbed tear gas shells, injuring scores of students. Over



100 policemen were also injured while trying to stop the protest march.

In his message on X, Modi also said that the government had decided to set up fast-track courts to ensure swift and stringent punishment for those involved in paper leaks.

"Nothing is more impor-

tant than the welfare and future of our youth! This is our top priority. Those who try to harm the future of our youth will not be spared," he said in a post on X.

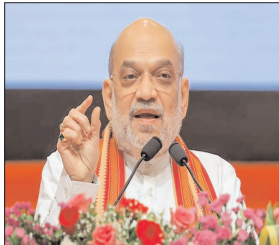
The prime minister also said that he has directed the concerned authorities and officials to take all necessary steps on the issue of paper leaks.

"This is an important step in the series of decisions being taken by the government to safeguard the interests of students," he said.

Modi's first public message on the NEET paper leaks came on Tuesday,

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Committed to betterment of youth: Shah



NEW DELHI, JUL 23: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said the welfare of the youth and their bright future is both the highest priority and the resolve of the Modi government.

"The decision to expedite hearings and take stringent action against the guilty in

Cont. on P9 >

India slams Pak at UN over cross-border terrorism

Says J&K integral part of India

UNITED NATIONS, JUL 23: India has strongly rejected Pakistan's remarks at the United Nations, asserting that cooperation under the Indus Waters Treaty cannot be expected when "cross-border terrorism" is used as an "instrument of state policy".

India also maintained that Jammu and Kashmir "has always been, is, and will remain" an integral and inalienable part of the country.

The remarks were made by India's Permanent Representative to the United States, Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, at the High-Level Open Debate of the UN Security Council on Natural Resources Governance: the Foundation of Peace, Security and Prosperity.

Responding to Pakistan, he said India was compelled to reply after Islamabad "misused" the discussion to push a "false narrative".

"Our position on the Indus Water Treaty remains



clear and consistent. Cooperation on the basis of mutual trust and goodwill cannot be expected when cross-border terrorism is regularly deployed as an instrument of state policy," Parvathaneni said.

India's sharp rebuttal came after Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN, Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, accused New Delhi of "weaponising water" by placing the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in abeyance, calling the move "illegal" and claiming it threatened the livelihoods of over 240 million Pakistanis.

The IWT, signed in 1960,

is a World Bank-brokered agreement between India and Pakistan that governs the sharing of the waters of the six rivers of the Indus basin, allocating the eastern rivers to India and the western rivers largely to Pakistan.

India put the IWT in abeyance following the April 22, 2025, Pahalgam terror attack, saying cooperation under the agreement cannot continue in the face of cross-border terrorism.

"As for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, it has always been, is,

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Will continue backing StartUps, ready to invest in innovative ideas: Omar

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUL 23**

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today reaffirmed the government's unwavering commitment to strengthening Jammu and Kashmir's StartUp ecosystem, assuring young entrepreneurs of sustained support to transform innovative ideas into successful enterprises.

"If we fund 10 startups, possibly eight will not succeed; but the two that do succeed will more than make up for the eight that



failed," he said while addressing the ASCEND 2026 Startup Summit at SKICC in Srinagar.

The event was organised by the Jammu and Kash-

mir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI).

The chief minister described the two-day sum

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Int'l waterways must remain safe, unimpeded: Jaishankar

MANILA, JUL 23 : External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday stressed that "under no circumstances can attacks on seafarers, civilian shipping or infrastructure be countenanced."

Addressing the 21st East Asia Summit in the Philippine capital, the External Affairs Minister asserted that deliberate strikes on maritime crew members, non-military vessels, and crucial infrastructure are entirely unacceptable.

"India stresses that international waterways must remain safe and unim-



peded, fully in consonance with international law," Jaishankar said, adding that "under no circumstances can attacks on seafarers, civilian shipping or infrastructure be countenanced."

Fourteen Indian nationals have lost their lives in

West Asia since the escalation of hostilities after the joint US-Israel military action against Iran on February 28.

During his address, Jaishankar touched upon several pressing regional issues, including the South China Sea, the internal situation in Myanmar, transnational cyber scam networks, and the Israel-Palestine conflict. He reiterated New Delhi's steadfast commitment to ASEAN centrality, regional equilibrium, and a free, open, and prosperous

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Death toll in rain-related incidents rises to 26

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUL 23**

With the recovery of a woman's body from Poonch today, the death toll in the recent rain-triggered flash floods and landslides across Jammu region rose to 26.

The body of Khalida Kouser, wife of Yasar Iqbal of Murrah, was recovered near the Fazalabad footbridge at Surankote, Poonch, during a search operation, officials said.

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3,500 suspects detained after Anantnag attack

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUL 23**

More than 3,500 OGWs and suspects have been detained across the valley as police on today intensified search operations to track down the terrorist who yesterday shot dead a Head Constable in Anantnag district.

"The anti-terror operations are in full swing and, so far, we have detained more than 3,500 suspects for questioning following the terror attack at Anantnag yesterday," officials

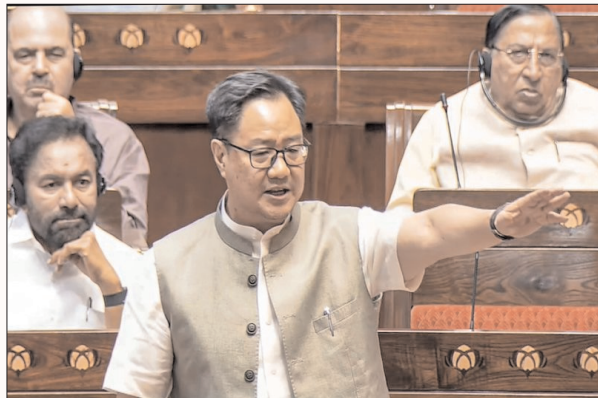
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Oppn trying to run away from NEET debate: Rijiju in LS

NEW DELHI, JUL 23: Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju today accused the opposition of trying to run away from a debate on the NEET paper leak issue by attaching pre-conditions.

As the Opposition insisted on the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Rijiju told the Lok Sabha that during the discussion, the government would also like to put across its point of view on the matter.

He said Opposition members can speak for as long as they want and the discussion can take place



even for two days.

Further, Rijiju said the date and duration of the discussion in both the Houses can be decided by

the Opposition.

According to him, the government has approached the Congress and

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Kavinder visits veteran leader Ranjit Singh, enquires about his health

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUL 23**

Himachal Pradesh Governor Kavinder Gupta today visited the residence of veteran leader Ranjit Singh at Kathua and enquired about his health.

He met Ranjit Singh and his family members, and conveyed his heartfelt wishes for his speedy recovery. He prayed for his good health, strength and long life.

During interaction, the governor recalled Ranjit Singh's long years of public



life and his significant contribution to organisational work and social service in

Kathua district.

"Ranjit Singh's dedica

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