



Sinha pays homage to Kargil war brave hearts

LG Manoj Sinha today paid homage to the brave hearts of Kargil War on the eve of "Kargil Vijay Diwas".

"On Kargil Vijay Diwas, I bow to our martyrs who made supreme sacrifice to safeguard the sovereignty and honour of Maa Bharti during Operation Vijay," he said in his message.

"The extraordinary courage of our Armed Forces will forever inspire generations to come," the

Machail Mata yatra to begin on July 28

The Machail Mata Yatra in Jammu's Kishtwar district has been deferred by three days due to inclement weather, with the pilgrimage now set to commence on July 28 subject to favourable weather conditions.

The revered shrine was reopened for devotees on April 14 after remaining closed during the winter months.

The yatra begins in Jammu, with pilgrims travelling almost the en

Pak drones sighted, searches launched

Following the sighting of Pak drones on this side of the International Border, massive searches were today launched in Samba & Kathua sub-sectors of the region.

Officials said security forces picked up the movement of a Pak drone over the forward Tarore village in Vijaypur area of Samba late Friday night.

Another drone was noticed hovering over Chak Nalua village in Hiranagar area of Kathua district.

Security forces conducted comprehensive searches at both the

Court directs Pak-based terror handler to appear by Aug 21

Police today executed a special court proclamation against a cross-border terror handler in Reasi district, directing him to appear by August 21 in connection with the twin bomb blasts in Katra and Narwal areas in 2022-23.

Police executed the proclamation under section 84 of BNSS against wanted terrorist Mohamad Qasim alias 'Salman',

ACB files chargesheet against patwari

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has filed a chargesheet before the Special Judge, Anti-Corruption, Baramulla, against then patwari of Halqa Khawaja Bagh and a former Lumberdar in connection with a graft case.

According to officials, the chargesheet was filed against patwari Fida Hussain Shah and ex-Lumberdar Manzoor Ahmad Mir in connection with a case registered at ACB Police Station,

Time Has Come To Remove This Govt, 'Daro Mat': Rahul Gandhi After Pradhan's Resignation

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Haare: Noor Chahal's latest love anthem

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NEET paper leak row Pradhan resigns, Pralhad assigned charge of Education Ministry

NEW DELHI, JUL 25: *Following several days of protests by students led by CJP over NEET paper leak row, Dharmaendra Pradhan today resigned as education minister while Union Minister Pralhad Joshi was assigned charge of the education ministry, in addition to his existing portfolio.*

Pradhan stepped down from his post 35 days after a clamour for his resignation over irregularities in the exam system and the NEET paper leak galvanised thousands of students in an unprecedented protest spear-headed by CJP.

As he said it was not a matter of "individual prestige" for him and cheers broke out at Jantar Mantar, ground zero of the organic protests, the CJP made it clear this would not be the end and the movement that had spread across the country could well continue.

"We have two more demands. We will not go like



that. We are cockroaches, once they enter, they don't leave," the CJP founder said after news came in that the government had relented and the minister had finally resigned.

Pradhan's resignation came just before CJP representatives met union ministers Jitendra Singh and J P Nadda for another round of talks to figure out an amicable solution to the impasse. The talks were held at Vithalbhai Patel House near Jantar Mantar, in accordance with the CJP's demand for a neutral venue.

In his detailed note in Hindi announcing his resignation, the minister said he was disturbed to see the series of events that unfolded in the last 10 days.

"I took responsibility of NEET paper leak from day one," he said.

It was his resolve not to let the country's youth get ensnared in a web of confusion, he said.

"Considering the situation at Jantar Mantar and across the country-with the aim of preventing anti-national forces from exploiting it, preserving national unity, ensuring that not a single student's future gets entan-

gled in legal complexities, and allowing our children to devote their time to studies and focus on building their careers-I have submitted my resignation to prime minister," he said.

The two-time education minister, who was faced with a similar controversy in 2024 over alleged NEET and NET paper leaks, added that he respects the aspirations, sentiments, and legitimate expectations of the country's youth.

"I have always held unwavering faith in the strength of our democracy and have deeply respected the aspirations, dreams, and expectations of the youth. They are not merely India's future; they are the torchbearers, creators, and architects of a new and developed India," he said.

Joshi was appointed as Education Minister following Pradhan's resignation from the post. He was given additional charge of the education ministry, besides his

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Vaishno Devi yatra resumes

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, JUL 25

The highly revered Shri Mata Vaishno Devi yatra in Trikuta Hills of Katra partially resumed today after remaining suspended for nearly a week due to adverse weather conditions, bringing relief and joy to thousands of devotees waiting for the pilgrimage to restart.

Despite rains, the shrine board allowed pilgrims to undertake the journey through the traditional track after putting in place extensive safety measures, including the deployment of

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2 women killed as vehicle falls into gorge

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, JUL 25

Two women were killed while their five relatives sustained critical injuries after a vehicle they were travelling in skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge near Jathali in Doda district today.

According to officials, a tempo traveller fell into a gorge near Jathali after its driver lost control over it.

A total of seven persons were travelling in the ill-fated vehicle. While two lost their lives, five sus

CJP withdraws protest in 'good faith'

NEW DELHI, JUL 25: CJP today announced that it had withdrawn the 37-day long agitation at Jantar Mantar in "good faith" after Education Minister Dharmaendra Pradhan stepped down from the Council of Ministers and the outfit received assurance on other demands from the government.

Addressing a press conference at the Constitution Club here, CJP Chief Spokesperson Saurav Das said, "Cockroach Janta Party declares that we withdraw the agitation in good faith, with the understand

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Bill to amend Paper Leak Law to be introduced in Par

NEW DELHI, JUL 25: A bill to amend The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, which proposes to increase jail term up to 10 years and fine up to Rs 10 crore for offences related to paper leaks, is likely to be introduced in Parliament on Monday.

According to the Bill circulated to members ahead of its introduction, individuals involved in paper leaks or unfair means in exams will get jail terms for a minimum of 5 years and a maximum of 10 years, and a fine of up to Rs 50 lakh. Geographic Reference

For organised crimes, the bill proposes a minimum sentence of seven years and a fine of up to Rs 10 crore.

All investigations will have to be completed within two months, it says.

All states and UTs will be directed to set up fast-track courts, which will conduct hearings swiftly and complete the trial within three months of filing of the chargesheet.

The Union Cabinet had yesterday approved a draft

bill proposing stricter punishments for those involved in examination paper leaks, hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi had made an announcement in this regard.

The proposed legislation, aimed at strengthening the legal framework against exam-related fraud, is expected to be introduced in Parliament on Monday.

The cabinet meeting chaired by the prime minister yesterday at the Parliament House complex had approved the draft bill to hand stricter punishments to those involved in paper leaks than the existing laws.

Under the proposed amendments, the government plans to significantly tighten punishments for paper leak offences. The draft Bill provides for a maximum prison term of 10 years and a fine of up to Rs 10 crore for those found guilty of leaking examination papers. It also seeks to raise the minimum imprisonment from three years to five years, strengthening the existing provisions un-

der the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024.

The proposed law is also expected to provide for faster prosecution of offenders through dedicated mechanisms, including fast-track courts.

The proposal comes amid a political storm over the alleged NEET paper leak and repeated disruptions in Parliament, with the Opposition demanding accountability and a discussion on examination irregularities.

The move also comes amid Cockroach Janta Party emergence as a youth-led movement after alleged paper leaks in major competitive examinations, particularly NEET, and later expanded its demands to include accountability for examination irregularities and resignation of the Union Education Minister Dharmaendra Pradhan.

The fresh legislation builds on the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024,

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Shri Amarnathji Yatra resumes 6,269 pilgrims leave for cave shrine as LG reviews repair work

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, JUL 25

While Shri Amarnathji pilgrimage, which was suspended on July 19 due to inclement weather conditions, resumed today with 6,269 pilgrims leaving Bhagwati Nagar base camp here for the holy cave shrine in South Kashmir Himalayas, LG Manoj Sinha reviewed the repair & restoration works along the yatra tracks.

Sinha chaired a high-level meeting with camp directors and senior officials to review the ongoing repair and restoration work along the yatra tracks in the wake of recent heavy rainfall.

He assessed the damage on tracks, safety



railings, and essential infrastructure and directed the executing agencies and offi

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Rain fury continues Woman killed in house collapse, toll reaches 27 in 1 week

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, JUL 25

A woman today lost her life while two of her family members sustained serious injuries after their house gave way to heavy rains at Bhatian in Rajouri district. This takes the death toll to 27 in one week in Rajouri, Poonch and Doda districts of the region.

Officials said as heavy rains lashed the region since early morning, the house of Abdul Rehman collapsed in Bhatian vil-

lage.

While locals forthwith started the rescue operation, Rehman's wife died by the time she was taken out of the debris. However, two of the family members were saved and shifted to hospital for treatment, officials said.

The dead was identified as Rehman's wife Shahida Parveen.

With this, the death toll in rain-related incidents in Rajouri, Poonch and Doda districts of Jammu rose to 27 in the past one week.

The body of Khalida

Kouser, wife of Yasar Iqbal of Murrah, was recovered near the Fazalabad footbridge at Surankote, Poonch, during a search operation on July 23. She was washed away in the devastating flash floods that struck the area on the night of July 18.

Six persons were still missing in Poonch & Rajouri districts and a search was on for them but the rescue teams were yet to find any of theirs, officials said.

In the tragedies triggered

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HP Governor offers prayers at Tirupati Balaji Mandir

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, JUL 25

Himachal Pradesh Governor Kavinder Gupta today paid obeisance at Shri Tirupati Balaji Mandir on the city outskirts here and offered prayers.

On the occasion, he prayed to Almighty Balaji for the peace, prosperity, happiness and overall well-being of the people of Himachal Pradesh and the entire nation.

The governor sought the divine blessings of Balaji for good health, harmony and prosperity for all. "India's



rich spiritual and cultural traditions inspire society to uphold the values of service, harmony and the welfare of humanity," he said.

Gupta expressed confidence that the blessings of Balaji would guide everyone

towards a life of peace and prosperity, and strengthen the nation's continued progress and development.

He visited the temple along with his wife Bindu Gupta, and other family members