



Sinha enquires about condition of injured pilgrims



LG Manoj Sinha today visited SKIMS Hospital in Srinagar and enquired about the well-being of Shri Amarnathji Yatra pilgrims who were injured in a road accident at Ganiwan in Ganderbal district.

Cont. on P9 >
Widespread rains likely across J&K

The meteorological department today predicted fairly widespread light to moderate rains and thunderstorms across Jammu and Kashmir over the next 24 hours, with wet weather expected to persist during the following two days.

According to the forecast, many places across the union Territory were likely to witness one or two spells of light to moderate rain or thunder-showers on July 28 and 29, particularly during the early morning and

Cont. on P9 >
Fin Dep'tt sets Aug 15 deadline for submission of APRs

The finance department today directed all officers in the Jammu & Kashmir Accounts (Gazetted) Services to submit their Annual Performance Reports (APRs) for the five-year period from 2015-16 to 2019-20 by August 15, 2026.

According to a notice issued by the Directorate General of Accounts & Treasuries, the APRs were required for the finalisation of Regular Promotion (DPC) cases.

The requisite documents must reach this office within 15 days from the date of issuance of

Cont. on P9 >
MHA allows ad-hoc promotions in Ladakh

LEH, JUL 28: In a significant step that would address the shortage of gazetted officers in the Union Territory of Ladakh, the Ministry of Home Affairs has conveyed its approval for filling vacant Group 'B' Gazetted Administrative Service posts through "ad-hoc promotions", as an interim measure.

In a communication, the MHA stated that while necessary steps were being taken to establish a long-term solution to overcome the shortage of officers, the

Cont. on P9 >

Govt plans 44 airports for hub & spoke flights

NEW DELHI, JUL 28: The government aims to have a total of 44 airports, including 4 hub airports, to provide seamless international air connectivity.

Air India today launched flights under the Hub and Spoke model from Amritsar, the second airport after Varanasi from where such flights have been started.

Presently, there is one hub airport -- Delhi -- and two spoke airports -- Varanasi and Amritsar. The next spoke airport will be Ahmedabad.

The model, that seeks to make India a global aviation

Cont. on P9 >



The Himalayan Mail

www.himalayanmail.com

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2026

RNI No. 66860

Vol. 31

No. 208

12 Pages

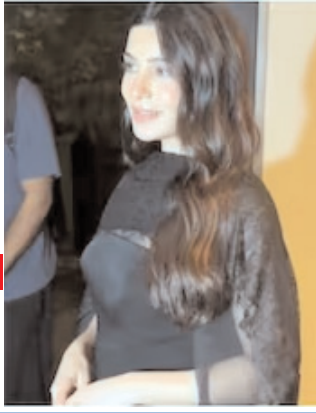
Rs. 2.00

PM Needs To Change Angle Of His Heart, Not Angle Of Cameras: Priyanka In Lok Sabha

P- 7

Mom-To-Be Samantha Ruth Prabhu Flaunts Baby Bump In New Video, Fans Say 'She's Back With Her Glow'

P-10



MEA slams 'cosmetic' PoJK polls as 14 killed in police firing

Calls it bid to camouflage Pak's illegal occupation

RAWALKOT/NEW DELHI, JUL 28: As 14 people lost their lives & two dozen others sustained injuries in police firing on protesters at Rawalakot in Pakistan-occupied J&K Monday evening, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) today slammed 'cosmetic' PoJK elections, saying that it was an attempt to camouflage Pakistan's illegal occupation of the territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

At least 14 people were killed and nearly two dozen injured after Pakistani security forces opened fire on protesters at Rawalakot on Monday evening, eyewitnesses associated with the Awami Huqooq Long March said.

In a video released by him, Imtiaz Aslam, a core member of the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), said the protest convoy had reached Chinar Chowk and was advancing towards D-Chowk before halting for the

night at Maqbool Bhat Shaheed Chowk, Rawalakot.

"Today, the forces from Pakistan opened fire on our innocent youths. As a result, 14 of our young people have been martyred. Among them is Usman Nazir, the younger brother of the movement's founder, Omar Nazir Kashmiri. Other martyrs include a companion from Khaigala, one from Kotli city, one from Tattapani, one from Banjabaspoor, one from Chhota Gala, and one from Haveli. In total, 14 have been martyred, including two of our Baloch friends. Almost two dozen others are injured," he said.

Aslam appealed to overseas Kashmiris to raise the issue internationally, alleging that the authorities were carrying out atrocities against protesters.

"We are moving forward. I appeal to overseas Kashmiris to stand up against these atrocities. The state is in a state of panic and is resorting to genocide. Please

protest at Pakistani embassies and international human rights organisations like the UN. Organise rallies to show solidarity with the Long March participants," he said.

Aslam also urged people in Mirpur and Muzaffarabad divisions to hold demonstrations in solidarity with the protesters, claiming that internet and mobile services had been suspended, making communication difficult.

"Because of transport issues, we will march on foot over the next few days. God willing, in three to four days, we will reach the city of martyrs and power, Muzaffarabad. Tonight, the Awami Huqooq Long March will make its first stop at Maqbool Bhat Shaheed Chowk," he added.

Another eyewitness said the protesters had entered Rawalakot's Chandni Chowk while carrying white flags and insisted that the movement remained peaceful.

India, China reaffirm importance of maintaining peace along border

BEIJING, JUL 28: India and China have reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace and tranquillity along the border during Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's visit to Beijing, as the two sides reviewed the full spectrum of bilateral relations and explored ways to deepen co-operation.

The discussions reflected the shared vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping that India and China should view each other as partners in development while pursuing mutually beneficial coopera-

tion, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

Misri is on a two-day visit to China from Monday. During the visit, he held talks with Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Hua Chunying and Sun Haiyan, Vice Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

Both the countries recognised the significance of preserving peace and stability in the India-China border areas while discussing the overall trajectory of bilateral ties.

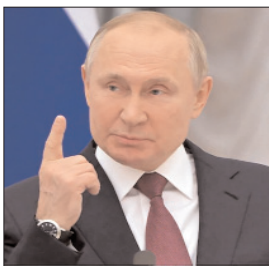
"Both sides discussed bi-

lateral relations in its entirety and discussed means of advancing the vision of the two leaders (Modi and Xi) that India and China are partners and development opportunities for each other, including through mutually beneficial outcomes across trade and economics, culture and people-to-people exchanges," the MEA spokesperson said.

Responding to a question on the resumption of border trade through Nathu La, he said the move was part of an understanding reached between the two countries last

Cont. on P9 >

Putin defends Russian war effort, blasts West



in which "the fate and future of our people" had been at stake.

"We will achieve our goals and, together, do everything for victory - for Russia," Putin said.

He thanked lawmakers

for their joint efforts to strengthen Russia's sovereignty and defend its national interests, adding that Russia continued to uphold its security and independence.

"The participants in the special military operation are heroically fighting for Russia and their homeland. They have the support of our entire nation and society," Putin said.

In his remarks, he asserted that Russia had historically responded to ex-

Cont. on P9 >

Trump expresses frustrations with Netanyahu before White House meeting



havoc and driven prices higher ahead of midterm elections this November.

Trump revealed some tension with Netanyahu ahead of their meeting, complaining about reports that the Israeli leader plans to discuss intelligence on Iranian activities at Pickaxe Mountain, a potential nuclear site that the US

president has threatened repeatedly to bomb.

"I know exactly what's going on at Pickaxe," Trump said.

He insisted that whatever Iran was doing was "not a big problem" and that "Bibi's telling me that because he wants me to stay involved." "Why do you have to announce to the world?" Trump added, flashing his frustrations with his ally.

The two leaders also plan to discuss the framework agreement the US and Israel signed with Lebanon over the Israel-Hezbollah

Cont. on P9 >

NEET protests SIT may be set up to probe police excesses: SC

NEW DELHI, JUL 28: The Supreme Court today said a Special Investigation Team (SIT) may be set up to ensure a fair, transparent and thorough probe into all incidents of violence during the recent student protests. The law must take its course once there is violation of "defined protocol", the apex court said.

Dealing with a batch of pleas alleging police excesses against students protesting irregularities in exams and the NEET paper leak across the country, a

Cont. on P9 >

Will never reach 'understanding' with US: Iran

TEHRAN, JUL 28 : Iranian Deputy Parliament Speaker Hamidreza Haji Babaei said Iran would "never reach an understanding with America," asserting that the Strait of Hormuz is "the pinnacle of our power" while reiterating support for the "resistance" and warning Ukraine against any "mischief" in the Caspian Sea.

Speaking during the parliament's public and closed session, Haji Babaei began by referring to Hezbollah's recent pledge of allegiance to Iran's leadership, saying it was "the high peak of the

Cont. on P9 >

'No fixed criteria for inclusion of languages in 8th schedule'

NEW DELHI, JUL 28: The Centre today said there were currently no fixed criteria for the inclusion of any language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, making it difficult to set a timeline for considering long-pending demands, including the demand to include Bhojpuri.

Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said this in a written reply in the Lok Sabha to a question by MP Ramashankar Vidharthi Rajbhar, who sought to know whether the government

Cont. on P9 >

Future belongs to those who seek new solutions: LG

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUL 28

Stating that education should not be confined to classrooms only and it must prepare students to begin life's journey with confidence, LG Manoj Sinha today said that 'future belongs to those who seek new solutions and develop new thinking'.

"Education should not be confined to classrooms. It must prepare every student to begin life's journey with confidence, skills, and practical understanding," he said while addressing aspiring youth and representatives from leading industries at the 77th State-Level Mega Job Fair held at Amar Singh College in Srinagar.

Organised by Desh Bhagat University, Punjab, & Cluster University, Srinagar, in collaboration with NIELIT, Nations Development Association (NDA) and MY Bharat, the job fair aims to directly connect youth with industries. The



fair brought together more than 50 reputed companies across diverse sectors including information technology, healthcare, banking, financial services, manufacturing, retail, hospitality, education, logistics, and engineering.

"Dream big and focus on new discoveries. The future belongs to those who seek new solutions, develop new thinking, and lead change. Success is meaningful only when achieved with ethics and responsibility," the LG added.

He described the job fair as a powerful means of con-

necting the aspirations of youth with opportunities, and as an important step toward building the nation's bright future.

"This is a platform where dreams meet direction, where education meets industry, and where the foundation of a new Jammu & Kashmir is being strengthened," he said.

Highlighting the participation of thousands of registered students, the LG emphasised that the greatest value of such initiatives lies in the confidence they instill in young people.

Cont. on P9 >

Stalemate ends

Lok Sabha takes up debate on Anti-Paper Leak Bill

NEW DELHI, JUL 28: Ending a week-long logjam, the Lok Sabha today began a discussion on the anti-paper leak Bill, with Union Minister Jitendra Singh describing it as a reaffirmation of the government's commitment to safeguard the welfare of students and the youth.

"The legislation reaffirms government's commitment to safeguarding the future of students and reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve to ensure that no one is allowed to

compromise with the aspirations of the country's youth," he said while initiating the discussion on the Bill in Lok Sabha.

RSP MP N K Premchandran moved that the Bill should be circulated for stakeholder consultations till December 1, so that it can be made more fruitful.

Singh said that Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026 was a significant step towards further strengthening the legal framework to curb exami-

nation-related malpractices and protect the interests of students and youth across the country.

He described the legislation as a milestone in strengthening the integrity of India's public examination system.

"Incidents of question paper leakages and examination-related malpractices have occurred across different states over the years, highlighting the need for a comprehensive national legal framework,"

Cont. on P9 >

'Outlier' caves in

Permanent commission allowed for women in Indian Coast Guard

NEW DELHI, JUL 28: In two significant policy reforms, the Ministry of Defence today granted permanent commission for women in the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), paving the way for promoting gender parity in the induction and service conditions of officers.

The ministry also announced a new policy to streamline the administrative procedures for granting ex gratia to the families of personnel reported missing at sea while on duty. Both policies were

unveiled by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

"The first policy directive establishes a comprehensive, women-centric approach by ushering in a gender-neutral framework for the induction of officers into the ICG. The highlights of the policy include induction of women candidates into both Short Service Appointments (SSA) and Permanent Appointments (PA) at par with their male counterparts. SSA has also been opened for male candidates," a statement by the defence

ministry said.

The policy ensures equal opportunities for career progression, commencing right from the ab-initio training phase (entry-level instruction period given to beginners).

The existing PA women officers shall also be considered for promotion to higher positions subject to fulfilment of eligibility conditions, the Ministry said.

It added that the existing serving women officers on SSA will be provided an option to convert their service

Cont. on P9 >

Kavinder pays obeisance at Baba Lal ji Dhainpur Dham on Guru Purnima

GURDASPUR, JUL 28: On the eve of Guru Purnima, Himachal Pradesh Governor Kavinder Gupta today paid obeisance at the revered Baba Lal ji Dhainpur Dham in Punjab and offered prayers for peace, prosperity and the well-being of all.

"Guru-Shishya Parampara upholds India's civilisational values," he said while extending greetings on the occasion of Guru Purnima.

"The festival is a timeless tribute to the Guru-Shishya tradition, which has been the cornerstone of India's rich spiritual and cultural



heritage," Gupta said.

"The guidance of a Guru enlightens minds, strengthens character and inspires individuals to walk the path of truth, righteousness and selfless service," he added.

"The saints have played a pivotal role in preserving the country's civilisational values and fostering the ideals of compassion, harmony and universal brotherhood,"

Cont. on P9 >

