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LS clears anti-paper leak amendment bill amid Oppn uproar

lated to paper leaks had also reduced over the last few years.

The Bill proposes stricter punishment for paper leak offences, including imprisonment of up to 10 years and a fine of up to Rs 50 lakh. It also increases penalties for organised crimes and service providers, mandates investigations within two months and trials within three months through special fast track courts, and provides a dedicated appeal mechanism before high courts.

Dr Singh said no bullet was fired on students protesting in the national capital against the NEET fiasco as he dismissed allegations that Union Home Minister Amit Shah had ordered firing on students.

He said the authority to issue order for firing rests with the magistrate, not with a minister. Rahul Gandhi lacked experience in public life and hence had levelled such allegations, he added.

He said the Congress leader alleged that the home minister had ordered firing on protesters in Delhi but was not able to authenticate that allegation.

"The first and fundamental point is he should know that when no shots were fired in the first place, the question of giving an order does not arise at all. (Jab goli chali hee nahi, toh aadesh dena ka sawal hee paida nai hota)," Singh said, dismissing the allegations levelled by the leader of opposition in Lok Sabha.

He said the authority to issue such an order rests with the magistrate, not with a minister.

"No bullet was fired, only tear gas was used," Singh said, strongly defending Shah.

On Gandhi's remarks that the home minister had gone on foreign travel, the minister said Gandhi should know that Shah has never visited a foreign country.

"So, without facts, and without a sense of responsibility, saying something in the House and then leaving the House, cannot be the behaviour of a responsible leader of opposition," he said.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju objected to Gandhi's remarks and asked him to clarify the basis of his allegations and apologise.

Immediately after the passage of the bill by voice vote, the Lok Sabha was adjourned for the day.

Ending a week-long logjam, the Lok Sabha had yesterday begun 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 objective of the amendments was to ensure that students were rewarded for their genuine efforts while enhancing the credibility, transparency and fairness of public examinations.

LS panel on ONOE gets extension

submission of the report till the first day of the last week of the Winter Session. The resolution was passed by voice vote in the Lok Sabha.

The 41-member panel is scrutinising the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024, which seeks to introduce simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and state assemblies.

The committee has been holding nationwide consultations on the proposed implementation of simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha, state assemblies and local bodies by 2029.

The Winter Session of Parliament usually begins in the last week of November and concludes before Christmas.

At UNSC, India condemns Strait of Hormuz attacks

on July 11. Daily transits, which exceeded 100 before the conflict and had recovered to 49 by July 7, fell to as low as 8-15 by mid-July, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific has said.

Harish underscored that India's stakes in the security and stability of the region are high and noted that India's trade and energy supply chains are strongly linked to the West Asia region.

With bilateral annual trade of around 180 billion dollars, cumulative Foreign Direct Investment of over 31 billion dollars, and remittances of more than 52 billion dollars from Gulf Cooperation Council alone, these linkages have direct implications for India's economy and energy security.

Around 10 million Indians live and work in the Gulf region. "Their safety and well-being are a key priority for us," he said.

India also told the Security Council that the world's focus on the Strait of Hormuz must not divert "our attention away from the dire humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip".

The loss of civilian lives and destruction of civilian infrastructure are pressing concerns that the international community must act on immediately, with a deep sense of urgency, Harish said, adding that India is firmly committed to efforts that make a tangible impact on the daily lives of the Palestinians and Delhi's development assistance amounts to around 175 million dollars.

He added that the international community should simultaneously press ahead for a sustainable and durable political solution. "India believes that a sovereign, independent and viable State of Palestine living side by side in peace with Israel, within secure and recognised borders, is essential to a comprehensive and lasting solution," he said.

On Yemen, India reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to the unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the West Asian country and rejected any interference in its internal affairs. "We further condemn attacks by Houthis on maritime navigation.

The protection of the Bab al-Mandab Strait and the Southern Red Sea is a shared international responsibility and is a global interest," Harish said.

On Lebanon, India said UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) peacekeepers serve in challenging circumstances, pursuing UN Security Council mandates and therefore, must never become targets. India has strongly condemned all attacks on UNIFIL peacekeepers, stressing that their safety and security are a priority.

"Further, it is important to be ready for a post-UNIFIL scenario, and in this context, the Lebanese Armed Forces must receive requisite support and assistance," Harish said.

Schools closed due to inclement weather

ment commissioner, Doda, the chief education officer (CEO), Doda, ordered the closure of all government and private schools across the district on July 29 as a precautionary measure to ensure the safety and security of students and staff.

In adjoining Kishtwar district also, the administration ordered the closure of government and private schools, citing continuous heavy rainfall, slippery roads and the possibility of shooting stones.

The order, however, exempted schools located within Kishtwar city, from Malipeth to Cherhar, which remained open.

Moderate to heavy rainfall began around 5 am across the region, including Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban districts.

3 IAS officers relieved by Delhi; 1 posted in J&K

Kashmir.

According to an order issued by the Services Department (Services-I Branch), the officers will be relieved with effect from July 31, 2026, in compliance with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) transfer order.

As per the order, Rishita Gupta, currently serving as Deputy Commissioner in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), is transferred to Arunachal Pradesh.

Mamta Yadav, also serving as a Deputy Commissioner in MCD, is transferred to Jammu & Kashmir, while Wairokpam Punshiba Singh is posted to Lakshadweep.

The order, issued by Deputy Secretary (Services) Jitendra Kumar Arora, states that the officers are being relieved to facilitate their joining at their respective places of posting. Copies of the order have been forwarded to the Chief Secretaries of the concerned States and Union Territories, the Ministry of Home Affairs, and other authorities for necessary action.

J&K Bank reports Rs 424 cr net profit in Q1

and a 17 per cent increase in deposits to Rs 1,73,420 cr.

Managing Director and CEO Amitava Chatterjee said the achievement marked another defining moment in the bank's transformation journey and reflected the trust of customers as well as the successful execution of its long-term growth strategy. He said the Bank would continue to pursue balanced, customer-centric and technology-driven growth while expanding its footprint across the country.

On the operational front, the bank's Net Interest Income (NII) increased by 2 per cent to Rs 1,497 cr from Rs 1,465 cr in the corresponding quarter last year, while the Net Interest Margin (NIM) stood at 3.28 per cent. Operating profit rose 4.5 per cent year-on-year to Rs 703 crore, and the Cost-to-Income Ratio improved to 58.90 per cent from 60.75 per cent, indicating enhanced operational efficiency. The Bank also reported an improvement in the yield on advances to 8.56 per cent on a sequential basis.

Commenting on the quarterly performance, Amitava Chatterjee said the Bank had begun the financial year with strong core business fundamentals, supported by robust business expansion and improved asset quality. He noted

that the quarter also witnessed sequential growth in deposits for the first time in six years, although elevated funding costs and slower mobilisation of low-cost deposits continued to put pressure on margins.

He said the bank's recent strategic decisions were focused on strengthening the liability franchise, accelerating business growth and reinforcing the balance sheet to ensure sustainable long-term value creation.

The Bank also registered further improvement in asset quality during the quarter. Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) declined to 2.37 per cent from 2.50 per cent in the previous quarter and from 3.50 per cent a year ago. Net Non-Performing Assets (NNPA) improved to 0.60 per cent from 0.64 per cent in the previous quarter.

The Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) remained healthy at 90.53 per cent, reflecting the Bank's conservative provisioning policy and strong risk management practices.

Highlighting the improvement in asset quality, the MD & CEO said the gains were the result of disciplined underwriting, effective credit monitoring, focused recovery efforts and a robust risk management framework. He added that the Bank remained committed to building a resilient balance sheet while supporting quality credit growth.

J&K Bank also strengthened its capital position, with the Capital Adequacy Ratio (CRAR) improving to 16.67 per cent from 15.98 per cent a year ago, remaining well above the regulatory requirement. Amitava Chatterjee said the strong capital base and approvals for additional capital raising would provide the Bank with sufficient flexibility to support future growth while maintaining a prudent capital cushion.

Govt introduces uniform building permission fee

all Municipal Corporations, Municipal Councils, Municipal Committees and Development Authorities under a single policy framework.

According to an order issued by the housing & urban development department, the revised fee structure would be applicable uniformly across J&K and comes into effect from July 29, 2026.

As per the new notification, residential houses and housing colonies will attract a building permission fee of Rs 80 per sq mt while commercial & institutional buildings, including shops, offices, industrial units, hospitals, schools and other public establishments, will be charged Rs 270 per sq mt.

For mixed-use buildings comprising both residential and commercial components, the government has fixed the fee at Rs 150 per sq mt. However, religious structures have been completely exempted from payment of the building permission fee.

The government has also introduced a uniform debris and construction waste management charge. Under the revised norms, residential projects will be required to pay Rs 3,000, whereas commercial, institutional and other non-residential buildings will have to deposit Rs 10,000 towards waste management.

The order stipulates that any construction undertaken without obtaining prior permission will attract a compounding fee equivalent to 40 per cent of the prescribed building permission fee, in addition to the regular charges, for cases eligible under the relevant provisions.

Officials said the fee will be calculated on the total approved built-up area of the proposed construction and will be collected exclusively through the Online Building Permission System (OBPS) to ensure transparency and ease of compliance.

The government has also made it clear that no Urban Local Body or Development Authority will be permitted to revise or alter the notified fee structure without obtaining prior approval from the Housing and Urban Development Department.

The decision is aimed at eliminating disparities in fee structures across different urban areas, streamlining the building approval process, and establishing a transparent, uniform and citizen-friendly regulatory mechanism throughout Jammu and Kashmir.

SC closes case against Manmohan Singh

to the former PM and others.

The top court said there was no reason for the trial court judge to turn down closure reports of CBI and take cognisance.

"Due to unfortunate demise of the appellant, this appeal could be disposed of as infructuous. But with a view to consider the aspect of special judge taking cognisance and summoning the appellant, we have gone through both closure reports filed by CBI. Having regard to the relevant parameters consistently laid down by this court on acceptance of reports of investigating agency, we are satisfied that there was no reason for judge to turn down closure reports of CBI and take cognisance. We allow the appeal and set aside the impugned judgment. As a result, we accept the closure reports of CBI and close the

matter," the bench said.

Singh, industrialist Kumar Mangalam Birla, ex-coal secretary PC Parakh and three others were summoned as accused by a special court in a coal scam case pertaining to allocation of Talabira-II coal block in Odisha in 2005.

The Supreme Court, however, intervened and stayed the directive.

Singh questioned the absence of the mandated sanction for prosecuting public officials like him, and denied any criminality in his decision concerning the coal block allocation.

Toll reaches 75; 3.32 lakh affected

The seven districts of Sivasagar, Charaideo, Golaghat, Jorhat, Nagaon, Sonitpur and Kamrup Metropolitan were still reeling under the deluge, affecting 21 revenue circles and 622 villages, officials said.

The flood-hit population was at 3.32 lakh, and Charaideo was the worst-hit district with 1.42 lakh people impacted, followed by Sivasagar (97,074) and Jorhat (57,371).

The seven fatalities on Tuesday were reported from Nazria revenue circle of Sivasagar district, taking the toll in the floods this year to 75, the officials said.

On Monday, six districts had been affected by the deluge, with 4.45 lakh people impacted.

Altogether 81 relief camps were operational in the affected districts, in which 32,477 displaced people have taken shelter. Another 34 relief distribution centres were also functioning.

Multiple agencies, including Army, Air Force, NDRF, SDRF, Fire and Emergency Services and civil volunteers, continued to carry out relief and rescue operations.

A crop area of 45,341.98 hectares has been submerged, while damage to various infrastructure like houses, cow sheds, schools and anganwadi centres was also reported from across the flood-hit districts.

The intra circle roaming (ICR) facility has been extended in the flood-affected areas of Sivasagar until 11:59 PM on July 30 or until further orders, to ensure uninterrupted mobile phone connectivity, the officials said.

The ICR facility will also be "available to all in-roamers in the district, enabling subscribers of different telecom service providers to stay connected even if their own network is not connected", one of the officials said.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said special attention was being given to affected children to help them tide through the difficult times.

"Creating a congenial atmosphere for children in relief camps remains our focus. Dedicated spaces for learning & playing are helping ensure that the impact of floods does not interrupt their childhood and they are not adversely affected due to the ongoing situation," the CM said in a post on social media on Wednesday, sharing photos of children engaged in learning activities in relief camps.

2,051 pilgrims leave Bhagwati Nagar camp for Amarnathji shrine

tra, formally began today, Mahant Deependra Giri said. 'Chhari Mubarak', the saffron-robed silver mace of Almighty Shiva, was taken from its abode at Dashnami Akshara in Srinagar to Pahalgam in Anantnag district for 'bhoomi puja' ritual.

Chanting Vedic hymns, a group of sadhus led by Giri, custodian of the holy mace, left for Gauri Shankar Temple, Pahalgam, where the bhoomi puja of the holy mace would be held, Giri said.

He said the holy mace would stop at Martand temple in Mattan area for a holy bath on its return journey to the abode here later in the day.

The 57-day pilgrimage to the cave shrine was officially flagged off by LG Manoj Sinha on July 2 morning from Bhagwati Nagar base camp here simultaneously for the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district. The yatra will conclude on August 28.

Authorities have put in place multi-layered security arrangements along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and at all transit camps to ensure the safe and smooth movement of the yatra convoys. A multi-tier security setup has been activated in and around the Bhagwati Nagar base camp.

The commencement of the yatra had marked the beginning of the country's one of the most revered spiritual pilgrimages and reflects the coordinated efforts of the administration and all stakeholder departments to facilitate a secure, seamless and memorable pilgrimage experience for every devotee.

Traffic restrictions will remain in force on various stretches of the highway till August 28, with daily advisories and sector-wise cut-off timings to regulate traffic, officials said.

Ramban police atach properties of 4 Pakistan/PoJK-settled terrorists

RAMBAN, JULY 29: Ramban Police on Wednesday attached immovable properties belonging to four Pakistan/PoK-settled terrorists in Banihal and Khari areas of Ramban district under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), officials said.

The action was taken in compliance with Police Headquarters (PHQ) Order No. 1874 of 2026, conveyed through an endorsement dated June 24, 2026, under Section 25 of the UAPA, a police spokesperson said.

According to the spokesperson, the attached properties include 11 marlas of inherited land belonging to Abdul Rashid alias Bashir of Zinhal, Banihal, valued at approximately ?9.25 lakh; cultivation rights over 10 kanals of land belonging to Ghulam Rasool alias Badshah of Kundan Khari, estimated at around ?60 lakh; three



kanals of inherited land belonging to Abdul Latief Naik alias Sajjad of Koot Khari, Banihal, valued at about ?20 lakh; and two marlas of land belonging to Mushtaq Ahmed of Chareel, Banihal, worth around ?1.52 lakh.

Police said the attachment of these immovable

properties forms part of its sustained campaign to dismantle the support infrastructure of terrorism by depriving terrorists and their associates of the benefits of illegally held assets.

The spokesperson said such legal measures are intended to safeguard public order, reinforce the rule of

law and send a strong message against activities prejudicial to the security and integrity of the nation.

Ramban Police reiterated its commitment to taking strict legal action against terrorists, their associates and all those involved in anti-national activities in accordance with the law.

CEO Poonch Inspects schools, calls for focused academic push

POONCH, JULY 29: Chief Education Officer (CEO) Poonch, Mr. Javed Iqbal Gulshan, today conducted inspection visits to Government Higher Secondary School (Girls) Poonch, Middle School Chandak, Higher Secondary School Chandak, and Government Higher Secondary School (Boys) Surankote to review academic preparedness and the smooth resumption of classes following the summer vacation.

Interacting with students and teachers, Mr. Gulshan welcomed students back to school and expressed hope that they had enjoyed a refreshing and rejuvenating break and returned with renewed enthusiasm and determination for the academic session.

During his interactions, the CEO highlighted the importance of the initial months of the academic ses-



sion, stressing that regular attendance, disciplined study habits, and active classroom participation would lay the foundation for academic success throughout the year.

Interacting with the teachers, Mr. Gulshan emphasized the need to identify the individual learning needs of every student and adopt learner-centric teaching practices to ensure holistic development in both scholastic and co-scholastic

areas.

"Students should attend classes regularly and make the best use of every learning opportunity. Teachers must understand the learning needs of every child and provide the necessary academic support so that each student can achieve his or her full potential," he said.

The CEO also directed teachers to keep their lesson plan diaries updated and aligned with the provisions of the National Education

Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework (NCF). He emphasized that systematic academic planning and effective classroom transactions are essential for improving learning outcomes and preparing students for future challenges.

During the inspection, Mr. Gulshan also reviewed classroom teaching, student attendance, school infrastructure, and overall academic functioning.