



Heavy rain alert for J&K

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted a strong monsoon affecting J&K-Ladakh-Gilgit-Baltistan-Muzaffarabad, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh until August 4.

Residents should expect widespread showers, heavy rainfall, thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds across the region, the IMD said.

According to the IMD's morning All India Weather Summary and

Udh-Chenani stretch of NH to remain closed

In view of the continuing threat posed by landslides and falling debris, the administration has ordered a complete suspension of traffic on the Udhampur-Chenani stretch of National Highway on July 31 to facilitate intensive slope stabilisation and restoration works near Ladha, Samroli.

According to officials, the incessant rainfall since July 18 has triggered repeated land

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Properties of 5 terrorists attached

Police today attached 1.7 hectares of land belonging to five terrorists, who actually belong to Reasi district but were presently operating from Pakistan.

The attachment was made on the orders of DGP Nalin Prabhat, officials said.

According to the attachment order, the terrorists whose land was attached in Reasi district were identified as Altaf Din, Ghulam Mohammad, Mohammad Ashraf, Shabir Ahmad, and Bahar Din.

They had infiltrated to Pakistan several years ago to receive training in

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Oppn MPs protest in Parliament

NEW DELHI, JUL 30: Opposition MPs today staged a protest in the Parliament complex over the police action against student protesters at Delhi's Jantar Mantar and the embezzlement of donations made to the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple in Ayodhya.

MPs from several INDIA bloc parties gathered around 10.30 am, holding placards questioning who ordered the alleged use of force against students during the July 20 protest.

Slogans such as 'chadhawa chor, gaddi chor', 'grih mantri sadan mein

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23 heritage sites declared as protected monuments



LEH, JUL 30: In a landmark initiative aimed at safeguarding Ladakh's rich archaeological, historical and cultural heritage, Ladakh LG Vinai Kumar Saxena has approved a notification for declaring 23 heritage sites across the

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Govt Brought Paper Leak Bill To Pacify Youth, Not To Address Issue: Kharge

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Rahul Mishra's Devi: The Eternal Muse, unveiled in Paris in early July, served as the finale to India Couture Week 2026

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CCS Meeting

Modi reviews security, safety of seafarers amid West Asia conflict

NEW DELHI, JUL 30:

In the fourth special meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), Prime Minister Narendra Modi today reviewed the evolving situation arising from the ongoing conflict in West Asia and assessed the preparedness of various ministries to mitigate its impact on India.

Such meetings were chaired by the prime minister earlier, in March and April.

The government said that Cabinet Secretary TV Somanathan briefed the committee on the geopolitical situation, and outlined measures taken to safeguard the country's energy security and ensure uninterrupted supplies of petroleum products, including liquefied natural gas (LNG), liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and fertilisers.

According to the cabinet secretary, the government has diversified sources for LPG procurement, while overall stocks and supplies



of major petroleum products remain adequate.

"Sufficient availability of crude oil has enabled state-owned refineries to operate at their 100 percent capacity, ensuring continued production of petrol, diesel and other essential fuels," he said.

According to an official statement, the CCS was also informed about steps to reduce dependence on LPG through expansion of piped natural gas (PNG) infrastructure.

"The government is accel-

erating the rollout of the National Gas Grid, augmenting LNG import and regasification capacity, expanding City Gas Distribution networks and fast-tracking pipeline and last-mile connectivity approvals under the Pipeline Infrastructure Order, 2026," it said, adding that these measures had led to a significant increase in PNG connections across the country.

The meeting also reviewed fertiliser availability ahead of the upcoming Rabi season, with discussions fo-

cusing on meeting projected demand and identifying alternative sourcing options.

As per the statement, the prime minister directed that all necessary measures be taken to ensure uninterrupted fertiliser supplies to farmers.

"The welfare of Indian seafarers serving on both domestic and foreign-flagged vessels operating in conflict zones also figured prominently during the deliberations. Modi directed officials to establish a dedicated mechanism for providing timely information, emergency assistance and counselling to affected seafarers and their families," it said.

Emphasising the need to safeguard Indian citizens and the diaspora from the fallout of the conflict, the Prime Minister is learnt to have called for sustained co-ordination across ministries and agencies. He stressed that a whole-of-government approach should continue

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Single protest won't yield results: Omar



**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUL 30**

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today said that a single protest for the restoration of statehood to J&K won't yield results.

"Repeated efforts are required to make the demand heard," he said while speak

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India-China border trade through Shipki La resumes

NEW DELHI, JUL 30: The traditional India-China border trade through Himachal Pradesh's Shipki La Pass would resume from August 1 after remaining suspended for six years due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Shipki La Pass is situated at an altitude of 3,930 mt in Himachal's Kinnaur district.

According to officials, the trade season would continue until November 30, marking the revival of a historic commercial route between the two

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Rot in education system deep: Cong

NEW DELHI, JUL 30: The Congress today said that the "rot" in India's education system was deep and Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation as education minister was only the first step in a long journey to restoring its integrity.

Party general secretary Jairam Ramesh on X shared a screenshot of a media report claiming that the engineering admissions process in Maharashtra's premier institutes has come under scrutiny after the surfacing of a scam alleging managed exam centres.

"The rot in India's education system is deep and Mantri Pradhan's resignation is only the first step of a

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Anti-paper leak amendment bill passed with stricter punishment

NEW DELHI, JUL 30:

Parliament today passed a bill to amend the anti-paper leak law to introduce stricter punishments, with the government expressing its commitment to go the extra mile to safeguard the interests of students, who are the country's future.

The Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, was cleared in the Rajya Sabha with a voice vote amid a walkout by several Opposition parties of the India bloc. The Lok Sabha had passed the Bill on Wednesday.

According to the Bill, individuals involved in paper leaks or unfair means in exams will get jail terms for a minimum of five years and a maximum of 10 years, and a fine of up to Rs 50 lakh.

For organised crimes, the Bill proposes a minimum sentence of seven years and a fine not less than Rs 10 crore.

Soon after the Congress-led Opposition staged a walkout before the minis-



ter's reply, leader of the house J P Nadda accused them of being "irresponsible" and having no respect for parliamentary proceedings, parliamentary democracy or decorum.

Replying to a seven-hour discussion on the Bill, Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Jitendra Singh criticised the Opposition for not properly reading the provisions of the Bill, which have been very diligently worked out.

He also attacked the Congress and other opposition parties for staging a walk-

out just before he started replying to the debate.

"The issue is so vast and so serious here, that it cannot be left to government alone. The government is already doing its way; it will continue to do so. We call for cooperation from all sections of society...we are open to receive suggestions.

"We are proceeding with an open mind. We are not only ready to walk the talk, but we are in fact ready to walk an extra mile," Singh said.

He accused the Opposi

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Par clears Bill criminalising insults to Vande Mataram

NEW DELHI, JUL 30:

The parliament today passed a bill that makes any insult to national song Vande Mataram a punishable offence amid din after a brief debate as the opposition raised slogans against the donation theft issue at the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

The government asserted that The Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026 will grant status to Vande Mataram on par with national anthem Jana Gana Mana. It seeks to make any insult to Vande Mataram a

criminal offence.

Responding to a brief debate in the lower house in which only two members participated, Minister of State for Home Nityananda Rai said the Congress should have given Vande Mataram its due respect during its 76 years of rule, but instead it resorted to appeasement politics.

"The Narendra Modi government is now giving the national song its due respect which it deserves," he said.

"For Ek Bharat, Shreshtra Bharat, we need complete (all six stanzas) Vande

Mataram song," Rai said, as he concluded his brief reply to the bill with a chant of Vande Mataram.

The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act currently prohibits intentionally preventing the singing of the national anthem (Jana Gana Mana), or causing disturbance to any assembly engaged in such singing.

These offences are punishable with imprisonment up to three years, a fine or both. A second and every subsequent conviction is punishable with imprison

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Shri Amarnathji Yatra

Fresh batch of 1,795 pilgrims leaves for holy cave shrine

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUL 30**

Amid heavy security, the 23rd batch of 1,795 pilgrims today left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here for the holy cave shrine of Baba Amarnath in South Kashmir Himalayas.

The batch included 1,406 men and 389 women. They left for Baltal route in 82 vehicles at about 2.50 am, officials said.

With the departure of today's batch, the total num-

ber of pilgrims who had so far left the Jammu base camp for the annual pilgrimage had risen to 1,32,150, officials said.

This was the smallest batch that had left Bhagwati Nagar for the yatra. 2,051 pilgrims had left Jammu for the shrine yesterday.

The traditional Pahalgam route was closed for necessary repairs. The yatra was suspended on July 19 due to rain-triggered landslides and flash floods. After remaining suspended

for six days, it had resumed on July 25.

More than 4.40 lakh pilgrims were said to have offered prayers at cave shrine of Almighty Shiva till now.

'Chhari Mubarak', the saffron-robed silver mace of Almighty Shiva, was yesterday taken from its abode at Dashnami Akshara in Srinagar to Pahalgam in Anantnag district for 'bhoomi puja' ritual.

The 57-day pilgrimage to the cave shrine was officially flagged off by LG

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Technology delayed, technology denied'

IAF Chief stresses critical need for self-reliance in def sector

NEW DELHI, JUL 30:

Underscoring the critical need for self-reliance in India's defence sector, Indian Air Force Chief, Air Chief Marshal A P Singh stated that "technology delayed is technology denied," warning that production technology loses its relevance if competitors already hold it.

Addressing a gathering on the integration of futuristic capabilities, the Air Chief Marshal emphasised that while different operational zones have been established, effective implementation requires deep struc-



tural and procedural integration.

"We now need to think about unmanned systems. We have created different zones, but for the implementation we need to think... Integration is very important. We need to

know each other's positions, whether it is procedural or production," he said.

Calling for absolute self-sufficiency across the entire defence supply chain, Air Chief Marshal Singh asserted, "Every brick should be developed in India. Then only we can say that we are fully indigenous."

Highlighting modern digital and technological demands, he noted that cybersecurity remains paramount and stressed the urgent requirement for indigenous Artificial Intelli

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