



Prez confers Handloom Award on 2 J&K weavers



President Draupadi Murmu has conferred National Handloom Award on two weavers from J&K. The Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, extended heartiest congratulations to weavers - Manzoor Ah

CB files chargesheet in state land encroachment case

The crime branch of police today filed a chargesheet against an accused for allegedly encroaching upon more than two-and-a-half kanals of state land in Rajouri district four years ago.

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) filed the chargesheet against Yash Paul, a resident of Bhajwal village, in the Sunderbani Court of Judicial Magistrate First Class in the 2022 state land encroachment case, officials

Ladakh records 2 lakh tourist arrivals in 2 months

A record over 2 lakh tourists visited Ladakh in June & July. The UT recorded 3,30,332 tourist arrivals from January to July this year, already reaching 98.35 pc of the total 3,35,872 tourists recorded during the entire calendar year 2025.

The surge has been particularly noticeable in the months of June and July, when more than 2.12 lakh tourists visited Ladakh, accounting for nearly 65 pc of the total 3.30 lakh tourist arrivals recorded so far this year.

Ladakh received 1,05,046 tourists in July

India eyes France-led sixth-generation fighter prog

NEW DELHI, AUG 08: The Future Combat Air System (FCAS) may very well become India's sixth-generation fighter aircraft. The ministry of defence informed Parliament in a written response that India is in talks with France to co-join the programme that is now spearheaded by France.

This development takes place just two months after Germany left the programme, which also has Spain as a partner. The aircraft, which is still on the drawing board, is expected to have its first flight in

Rijiju launches scathing attack on Cong



NEW DELHI, AUG 08: Union Minister Kiren Rijiju launched a scathing attack on Congress leadership, pointing out that the party has failed to realise its errors and shortcomings, lately.

He highlighted the contrast stating that former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's was 'blunt' in ad

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Student kills at least 7 people at high school, home outside Bangkok, officials say

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Box Office collection Day 9: Tom Holland and Zendaya's movie crosses Rs 400 crore gross in India

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Keep curiosity, learning instinct alive: Modi to students

NEW DELHI, AUG 08: *Calling upon students to keep their curiosity and learning instinct alive in their lives, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said 'the more empowered the youth of the country are, the more empowered the entire country will be'.*

"Students need to question things that are accepted without a thought," he said while addressing the 57th convocation ceremony at IIT Delhi.

He insisted that they should not only question but also show courage to find solutions, adding that challenges will turn into opportunities for those who dare to find new solutions to challenges.

The PM also advised the students to keep their curiosity alive in life and keep their learning instinct alive.

"The more empowered the youth of the country are, the more empowered the entire country will be.



India is now working towards becoming self-reliant in every sector; whether it is economic self-reliance, technological self-reliance, or industrial self-reliance; this forms the strong foundation of 'Viksit Bharat'," he said.

Highlighting the profound emotional resonance of the ceremony, he reflected on the vibrant, dream-filled atmosphere of the campus.

Congratulating students and their families on their academic achievements, Modi emphasised that their degrees represent much more than academic suc-

cess, serving as a mandate to contribute to the nation.

He extended special praise to the medal recipients and celebrated the launch of new AI initiatives at the institute.

"You are stepping out from here with a dream of doing a lot for the country," he said.

Reflecting on the whirlwind journey of the students, Modi vividly recalled their transition from orientation day to convocation, acknowledging the diverse aspirations, from landing first salaries and building startups to pursuing further competitive exams,

that fill their minds.

"You must absolutely have a lot of satisfaction from this remarkable journey and the enthusiasm of starting a completely new chapter in life," he said.

Referring to the rapidly shifting geopolitical and strategic global landscape, the prime minister identified the relentless speed of technological advancement as the primary catalyst for these massive global transformations.

He framed this era of rapid change as a dual landscape of unprecedented challenges and vast new opportunities.

"Amidst all this rapid change, remember my words: the one who continuously learns is the one who will win," he said.

Redefining the true value of an IIT degree, Modi emphasised that the qualification goes far beyond a high CGPA (cumulative grade point average) or a lucrative placement offer, acting

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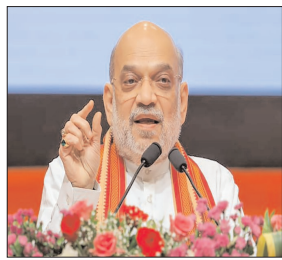
J&K wins 'Best Adventure Tourism Destination' award



AHMEDABAD, AUG 08: The Jammu and Kashmir Tourism concluded its vibrant three-day participation at the Travel and Tourism Fair (TTF), Ahmedabad, emerging as one of the major attractions for travel trade, tourism stakeholders and the visitors at the prestigious event.

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Technology key for urban cooperative banks: Shah



MUMBAI, AUG 08: Union minister Amit Shah on Saturday urged urban cooperative banks to embrace technology, ensure transparency and modernise customer services to remain competitive.

Speaking at the inauguration of the new office of the National Urban Coop

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PM must speak on 'chanda chori' issue: Cong

NEW DELHI, AUG 08: The Congress today said Parliament has not functioned for 15 consecutive days because Home Minister Amit Shah lacks the courage to face MPs and answer queries on police 'brutality' against students and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has not spoken on the 'chanda chori' issue.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh alleged that the "boastful duo full of bluff and bluster" has now been exposed as "cowardly".

"Parliament has not functioned normally for 15 consecutive days for one and

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Strength of democracy lies in constitutional values: LG

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 08

Outlining four essential principles for democratic leadership, LG Manoj Sinha today said that 'strength of democracy lies in constitutional values and the leaders committed to the values of honesty'.

"The strength of democracy lies in constitutional values, institutions and in those leaders who are committed to the values of honesty, humility, and public service," he said at the convocation ceremony of the 9th batch and the induction of 10th batch of the Indian Institute of Democratic Leadership (IIDL), an initiative of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini, Mumbai.

Addressing the graduating youth, faculty members, mentors, administrators, distinguished guests, and parents, the LG said,

"The event is a convergence of two important journeys, one reaching completion, and the other beginning



with new energy and hopes."

He congratulated the graduating students of the 9th batch, who now step into diverse fields of public life, and warmly welcomed the 10th batch, who begin their journey of learning with enthusiasm and aspirations.

The LG expressed confidence that the institute would continue to enrich young leaders with constitutional values, discipline and wisdom.

Highlighting the journey of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini since its establishment in 1982, he said it had made immense contribution to leadership training

and capacity building.

"With over 60,000 parliamentarians, legislators, panchayat representatives, entrepreneurs, and youth trained, the institution has played a pivotal role in strengthening governance and entrepreneurship. The creation of IIDL further ensured that India's democratic institutions continue to receive young leadership infused with energy and resolve for nation-building," he said.

"India's future depends on addressing seven key challenges: sustaining long-term economic growth; eliminating terrorism, separatism and divi

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Amarnath Yatra suspended due to adverse weather forecast

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 08

Due to adverse weather forecast, the holy Amarnath Yatra, which commenced on July 2 from Jammu, has been suspended from August 9 for the safety and security of pilgrims.

No fresh batch of pilgrims was this morning allowed to leave the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here for the valley base camps.

The yatra would remain suspended on both Baltal and Pahalgam routes, offi-

cials said, adding that the Pahalgam track was already closed for necessary repairs.

Officials said that more than 4.8 lakh pilgrims had so far performed darshan at the holy cave shrine of Almighty Shiva in South Kashmir Himalayas.

"Due to recent rains, the need for repair and maintenance of yatra tracks at vulnerable stretches has been felt. The restoration work is being undertaken by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO)," officials said.

"The decision to suspend

the pilgrimage has also been taken in view of the weather forecast issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) for the next few days," the officials added.

"Adverse weather conditions have been predicted by the IMD over the next few days. Hence, the yatra shall remain suspended from both routes with effect from August 9, 2026," officials said.

Chadi Mubarak shall proceed via traditional Pahalgam route and mark the culmination of yatra on Au

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Case backlog reduced from past decades: CJI

Praises impact of technology

INDORE, AUG 08: Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant today said that the backlog of court cases in the country is no longer what it was 10 or 20 years ago, and that various schemes designed through technology for speedy disposal of cases have yielded "very good results".

There are many reasons for the backlog of cases and these are being gradually resolved in a systematic manner, the CJI told reporters when asked about



the long-pending cases in courts.

He said that the backlog of cases in the country is no longer what it was 10 or 20 years ago.

"We have developed numerous schemes for speedy disposal of cases through

technology, and these have yielded very good results," the CJI said.

When asked that many harassment cases filed by women are proving to be fake, he said no general statement can be made on this matter and each case depends on its specific facts.

Replying to a query about the central government's repeated return of names recommended by the Supreme Court Col

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'Honey-trapped' IAF officer held for leaking def data to Pak operative

NEW DELHI, AUG 08: Following a complaint from the IAF, a serving officer has been arrested for allegedly sharing details regarding the military after being honey-trapped by a Pakistani intelligence operative through social media.

A case was registered under provisions of the Official Secrets Act against the officer. The chargesheet was filed before the competent court on July 30 after completion of the investigation, officials said.

The investigation is linked to a suspected espionage network in which the ac-

cused officer was allegedly contacted by a woman who interacted with him through video calls and other digital platforms, said a source.

"The woman is suspected to have been operating on behalf of intelligence handlers based in Pakistan," he said.

The case has drawn significant attention as the accused remains in judicial custody and has not sought bail since his arrest.

Officials said the serving officer was arrested on May 30, 2026, after allegations emerged that he had been honey-trapped by a sus-

pected Pakistani intelligence operative.

He was initially questioned in police custody and later sent to Tihar Jail by a Delhi court.

Investigators said the officer had been under surveillance before being handed over to the relevant agencies. Delhi Police suspect that he may have been part of a wider espionage network through which strategic military information was allegedly being sought.

Agencies are now examining whether any foreign

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