



### 2 held for spreading radical propaganda

Two persons were today taken into custody by the CI wing of police for allegedly disseminating radical and anti-national content through social media platforms.

They were identified as Mehran Qazi of Hiller Shahbad, Dooru, in Anantnag district, and Babar Hamid Dar of Chankan, Sopore.

According to officials, they were allegedly found to have shared content

### Cont. on P9 > DSP, 2 PSOs injured in SUV accident

A DSP and his two PSOs were wounded after the Scorpio in which they were travelling met with an accident at Awan-tipora in the valley today.

According to officials, the Scorpio met with the accident after one of its tyres burst, resulting in injuries to three police personnel.

The injured included DSP DAR, Awantipora, Rafiq Ahmed and his two PSOs - SGCT Amir Ahmad and Riyaz Ahmad.

All of them were undergoing treatment at a Srinagar hospital.

### 3 drug peddlers held

A teenager was among three drug peddlers held in Samba & Kathua districts of Jammu along with heroin.

According to officials, a teenager was intercepted late Sunday evening while travelling on a motorcycle from Balole Khad towards JDA Colony in Bari Brahmana area of Samba.

He was taken into custody after cops recovered 3.36 grams of heroin from his possession. The motorcycle was also seized.

A case under NDPS Act was registered against the teenager, who was subse

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### UGC-NET answer key to be out this week: NTA

NEW DELHI, AUG 10: The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Monday said it will publish the provisional answer key for the UGC-NET June 2026 examination on its official website this week.

It will also release answer keys for CSIR-NET and ICAR AIEEA (PG) and AICE (PhD) 2026 examinations.

"The provisional answer keys for the UGC-NET June 2026 examination will be published on the official website this week, along with the provisional answer keys for the CSIR-

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### Jitendra for enhancing pvt sector role in biotech ecosystem



NEW DELHI, Aug 10: Union Minister Jitendra Singh has called for enhancing private sector participation in India's Biotechnology ecosystem, strengthening the industry outreach to promote indigenous products and technologies in biotechnology and life sciences, and to encourage greater private in

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## Opposition MPs protest in Parliament complex on Ram temple donation 'theft'

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## Shehnaaz Gill accidentally swallows nose ring during shoot, video goes viral

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## Tribunal Reforms Bill passed

# Overhauling of tribunals proposed primarily through 'NTC'

NEW DELHI, AUG 10: *The all-important Tribunal Reforms Bill, which proposes a complete restructuring of how tribunals are managed, primarily through the establishment of a new oversight body - National Tribunal Commission (NTC) - was today passed in the Lok Sabha by a voice vote amid protests by the opposition parties.*

It aims to improve transparency & efficiency of tribunals and deal with complaints involving chairpersons and members of 16 tribunals and appellate bodies.

Aimed at addressing the concerns about what the Supreme Court identified as "inefficiency and lack of independence" of India's 16 tribunals, the Tribunals Reforms Bill will reshape the functioning of quasi-judicial bodies in India.

The most transformative



feature of the Bill is the establishment of NTC. Headquartered in New Delhi, the NTC is designed to be an independent body tasked with conducting selection processes for tribunal vacancies, reviewing performance, and managing a new digital repository of case information.

The NTC will consist of a chairperson and four members: Two judicial mem-

bers and two technical members. To ensure high-level expertise, the chairperson must be a former judge of the Supreme Court or a chief justice of a High Court.

Technical members are required to have at least 25 years of experience in fields, such as public administration, finance, law, or technology.

According to the Bill, its

key aim is to improve efficiency, ensure independence, transparency and uniformity in the qualification and appointment of chairpersons and members of various tribunals.

Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal introduced the Bill amid noisy protests by opposition members, seeking the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah over the police crackdown on students during the July 20 protest here against the NEET paper leak.

When the Bill came up for consideration and passage, it was passed by a voice vote without a debate as the opposition protests drowned the House proceedings.

In brief remarks, Rijiju made it clear that the draft law does not change or alter the jurisdictions of the various tribunals but only makes the appointment process uniform.

He said the Bill was a part

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### J&K cabinet expansion after Aug 15

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, AUG 10

The long-awaited expansion of the J&K Council of Ministers is likely to take place after August 15.

"The government intends to go ahead with the cabinet expansion," Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said and expressed hope that the process would move forward after the Independence Day celebrations.

His remarks came amid growing speculation within political circles over the possible induction of new minis

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### Bill introduced to change Kerala's name to Keralam

NEW DELHI, AUG 10: The government today introduced a bill in the Lok Sabha to rename 'Kerala' as 'Keralam' after the state assembly adopted a resolution two years ago.

The Kerala government had forwarded to the Centre a resolution passed by the state's legislative assembly regarding the name change in June 2024.

Subsequently, the President of India referred a bill to the state legislature for expressing its views and later, the state assembly adopted a unanimous resolution agreeing with the

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### Ex-terrorist sentenced to life imprisonment

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, AUG 10

An ex-terrorist has been sentenced to life imprisonment for the 2020 murder of a former terror outfit chief inside a mosque, saying that violence in a place of worship cannot be tolerated.

Principal Sessions Judge, Srinagar, Haq Nawaz Zargar said such acts strike at values of harmony and communal peace, and deserve strong judicial condemnation.

The court sentenced Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Dar to life

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## Panel calls for tourism SOP updates before peak seasons in J&K

NEW DELHI, AUG 10: Against the backdrop of massacre of 26 people in the valley's Pahalgam area last year, a Parliamentary Panel has recommended an "integrated security and surveillance framework" for all major tourist destinations in Jammu & Kashmir with centralised monitoring facilities.

"Clear inter-agency standard operating procedures (SOPs) be prescribed and reviewed before every peak tourist season to ensure a coordinated and timely response to any security-related incident," the panel said in its report on Administrative Governance, Socio-Economic Development and Border Security and Internal Security of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Border Security Management and Preparedness in the UT of Ladakh.

The recommendations came in the backdrop of the terror attack on tourists on April 22 last year in the scenic Baisaran valley of Pahalgam, where 26 people, 25 of them Hindu tourists, were killed by terrorists who had taken shelter in the higher locations.

The committee said all major tourist destinations should have comprehensive CCTV coverage, centralised monitoring facilities, regular vulnerability assessments and periodic security audits. It also recommended that clear inter-agency standard operating procedures should be prescribed and reviewed before every peak tourist season.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee

on Home Affairs further said periodic joint security audits and vulnerability assessments should be carried out, particularly before the start of the tourist season and the Amarnath Yatra, to identify and address emerging security concerns.

The panel, which visited Jammu, Srinagar, Gulmarg, Sonmarg and Kargil from May 11 to 15, 2026, undertook an "on-the-spot assessment" of security arrangements in Gulmarg, interacted with Jammu and Kashmir Police representatives on the law and order situation in Sonmarg, and reviewed border security establishments and operational preparedness in Kargil through interactions with Indian Army representatives.

Noting a steady rise in the number of tourists in Jammu and Kashmir, the panel said security management at tourist destinations had assumed special importance as it directly affects the perception of safety, visitor experience and the continued growth of tourism.

"The committee recommends that dedicated emergency response units, adequately equipped ambulances, trauma-care facilities and clearly identified evacuation routes be made available at all high-footfall destinations," the report said, while appreciating the overall security and preparedness of the forces. It also said emergency contact numbers and safety instructions should be prominently displayed in multiple languages at hotels, transport points and tourist facilities.

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## 'Ready for debate on students' stir' Oppn will have to listen to Amit Shah's reply peacefully: Rijiju

NEW DELHI, AUG 10: Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Monday said the government was ready for a debate in the Lok Sabha on the student protests as well as police action, and Union Home Minister Amit Shah will reply to the debate but the Opposition should give an assurance that they will not run away from it and listen peacefully.

There has been a persistent demand from the Opposition for a statement



from the home minister on the police action against students protesting in the city last month. Shah has not been seen in the House even though he has been regularly coming to Parliament House complex.

Rijiju also said that since the government is ready for the debate on the student protests in different parts of the country, the Opposition can't create any turmoil and resort to any sloganeering during the discussion in the House as well as reply to the debate.

"We have made it clear to the BAC (Business Advisory Committee) of the Lok Sabha that the government is ready for a detailed discussion on the students

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## MHA asks states, UTs to adhere to Flag Code

### Says flags shouldn't be thrown on ground

New Delhi, Aug 10

The Union home ministry directed all the states and Union territories on Monday to adhere to the Flag Code, underlining that while flags made of paper may be waved by the public on occasions of important national, cultural and sports events, those should not be discarded or thrown on the ground after the events.

In a communique to the chief secretaries of all the states and Union Territories, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said a perceptible lack of aware-

ness is often noticed amongst people as well as organisations and agencies of the government with regard to laws, practices and conventions that apply to the display of the national flag.

"I am directed to say that the Indian National Flag represents hopes and aspirations of the people of our country and hence should occupy a position of honour," it said.

It asked the states to undertake mass awareness programmes in this regard and give them wide publicity

through advertisements in the electronic and print media.

The ministry said the national flag should be hand-spun and hand-woven or machine made, and the material used should be cotton, polyester, wool, silk or khadi bunting.

"A member of public, a private organisation or an educational institution may hoist/display the National Flag on all days and occasions, ceremonial or otherwise, consistent with the

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## PoJKelections 3rd phase held amid rigging allegations, clashes

ISLAMABAD, AUG 10: The third phase of elections in Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK) was held today in four constituencies, amid violence and allegations of rigging.

Polling started in Poonch Division's Bagh and Haveli districts at 8 am, while elections in seven constituencies have been indefinitely postponed.

Clashes between Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) workers were reported in some areas

as the region's election commission classified most of the 803 polling stations in the four constituencies "sensitive or highly sensitive".

The Election Commission had postponed polls on seven seats in Poonch Division in the third and final phase "due to concerns over the law-and-order situation".

India maintains that the entire Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh are integral and inalienable parts of it. New

Delhi also asserts that Pakistan has been in "illegal and forcible occupation" of parts of these Union Territories.

The first and second phases of the polls in the region's so-called legislative assembly were held on July 27 and August 2, and were marred by violent protests and massive rigging allegations.

The establishment-backed PML-N won both phases, emerging as the single majority party, bagging

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