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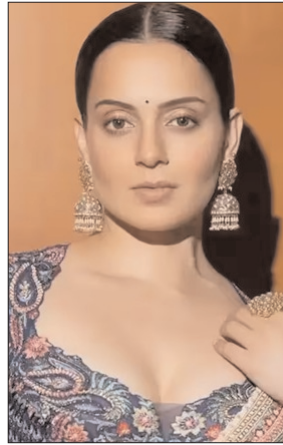
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Writing about my life did not come easily to me: Sonia Gandhi on her upcoming memoir

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Actress reveals how Bharat Bhhagya Viddhaata changed her view on health workers, 'Deeper sense

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1ST INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

JAMMU & KASHMIR

7-10 SEPTEMBER 2026

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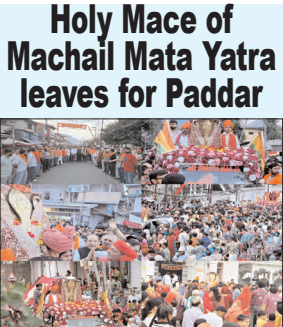


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Holy Mace of Machail Mata Yatra leaves for Paddar

The sacred Pavitra Charri (Holy Mace) of Shree Machail Mataji Yatra, accompanied by thousands of devotees,

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Searches continue in 3 distts

Searches, which were launched by security forces for suspected terrorists at multiple locations in Udhampur, Kathua and Reasi districts of Jammu, continued today also.

However, forces were yet to find any trace of the suspects, officials said.

According to officials,

JKAS officer transferred

The government today ordered the transfers and postings of two JKAS officers.

As per a GAD order, Bilal Ahmad Mir, Sub-Registrar, Khansahib, holding additional charge of Sub-Registrar, Budgam, is transferred and posted as Deputy Secretary in the J&K Legislative Assembly, with immediate effect.

Jahangir Ahmed, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Khansahib, shall hold the

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Panel to review career progression of PM package employees

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, AUG 19

In a significant move to resolve career stagnation, the administration has constituted a high-level committee to examine the career progression and promotion avenues of employees appointed under the Prime Minister's Package for Kashmiri Migrants and the J&K Relief Organisation (DMRR).

Headed by the administrative secretary of General Administration Department

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Saxena approves reservation for sportspersons



LEH, AUG 19: With a clear focus on securing the future of young sportspersons and encouraging more youth in Ladakh to take up sports as a career, LG Vinai Kumar Saxena has accorded approval for 4 pc horizontal reservation for

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Pak miffed over US envoy calling J&K vital part of India

Will review travel advisory, says Gor

NEW DELHI, AUG 19: *Red-faced Pakistan wasted no time in lodging a strong protest with the United States after US ambassador to India Sergio Gor, during his visit to Srinagar, today described J&K as "an integral part of India".*

The US Charge d'Affaires in Islamabad was summoned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where Pakistan lodged what it termed a "strong demarche" over Gor's remarks and his visit to Jammu & Kashmir.

The statement came hours after Gor, during a joint media briefing with Chief Minister Omar Abdul-



lah in Srinagar, said, "Jammu & Kashmir is an important part of India and an incredibly beautiful place."

Gor reached Srinagar earlier in the day on a two-day visit to Jammu and Kash-

mir, and Ladakh.

He said that the United States would reconsider the advisories on travel to Jammu and Kashmir as the central government and Chief Minister Omar Abdul-

lah had taken steps to make it a safer place.

"The United States puts out travel warnings and every so often, we re-evaluate those travel warnings. I cannot make any big announcements here today, but it is something we are going to look at. New Delhi, the chief minister here, the government here, we believe have made some incredible steps to keeping this area safer and making it more safe," Gor said.

"So, we will be looking at if the travel warning that is imposed and recommended by the United States is something that should be downgraded because, as I

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India-Japan to discuss maritime security cooperation

NEW DELHI, AUG 19: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is set to hold a bilateral meeting with the Defence Minister of Japan, Shinjiro Koizumi on Thursday. The meeting is expected to further strengthen bilateral defence relations, enhance strategic trust and cooperation, promote stability and security in the Indo-Pacific region and identify new areas of collaboration.

Sharing the details in a press release, the Ministry of Defence said that the two Ministers will exchange

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3 killed as SUV falls into gorge

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, AUG 19

Three members of a family were killed and two others injured after an SUV skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge near Panasain Reasi district of Jammu late last night.

The ill-fated vehicle was on its way from Thanole to Thub.

According to officials, the incident occurred after the SUV driver lost control over the steering while negotiating

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RDI fund disbursal planned shortly: Jitendra



NEW DELHI, AUG 19: The monthly joint meeting of science secretaries chaired by Union Minister Jitendra Singh was marked by three important an

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Let us resolve to make SMVDU pilgrimage centre of knowledge: LG

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, AUG 19

Asserting that a university is not built by its buildings but by ideas, LG Manoj Sinha today emphasised the need for making SMVDU a pilgrimage centre of knowledge.

"Let us resolve to make SMVDU a pilgrimage centre of knowledge, a laboratory of innovation, and a guiding light for society," he said while addressing the 23rd Foundation Day of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University.

"A university is not built by its buildings but by ideas, dreams, and possibilities," the LG said.

On the occasion, he felicitated the achievers and out-



lined a vision for the university's future and its role in nation-building.

Extending warm greetings to the university family, the LG described the day as a celebration of foresight, resolve, and sustained efforts that had transformed SMVDU into a centre of knowledge, innovation, and social responsibility.

He emphasised that the

university, blessed by Mata Vaishno Devi, carries in its name the tradition of devotion, strength, and faith, inspiring millions across India and the world.

He highlighted the role of visionary leadership, dedicated faculty, and curious students in shaping institutions that nurture not only knowledge but also humil

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Govt's Gen Z outreach: 1 minister to visit 1 university every day

NEW DELHI, AUG 19: In a major outreach to Gen Z, the Modi government is planning to send one Union minister to one university every day to engage with the youth, discuss their concerns and better understand their perspectives on issues facing the country.

The initiative comes in the backdrop of student protests on the NEET paper leak issue at Jantar Mantar in Delhi and in other parts of the country.

Under the 'One Day, One

University' programme, a Union Minister will visit an assigned university to interact with students, listen to their views on different subjects, and inform them about various government welfare schemes, particularly those for youth and students, sources aware of the initiative said.

It is learnt that Education Minister Pralhad Joshi and Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya have been given the responsibility to coordinate

with the universities and the ministers for the visits.

The planned initiative also figured at a meeting of the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday, the sources said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets during the 80th Independence Day celebrations, at Red Fort in New Delhi, Saturday, Aug. 15, 2026.

According to the University Grants Commission,

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US sanctions 'flagrant attack' on court independence: ICC

NEW DELHI, AUG 19: The International Criminal Court on Wednesday lashed out at the United States after Washington slapped sanctions on President Tomoko Akane, calling it a "flagrant attack" on the court's independence.

The US imposed sanctions on Akane of Japan and ICC Senior Trial Lawyer Abdoulaye Seye of Senegal on Tuesday, as part of Washington's campaign against what it calls a "corrupt and fatally politicised" body.

"These sanctions are a fla-

grant attack against the independence of an impartial judicial institution," the court, based in The Hague, said in a statement.

"Such measures targeting judges, prosecutors and staff... undermine the rule of law," added the court.

Washington's latest move follows sanctions it imposed on several ICC officials, largely in response to the court's investigations involving Israel, a US ally.

Japan also objected to the sanctions, saying the country has "consistently sup-

ported the ICC... in its efforts to prosecute and punish the most serious crimes of concern to the international community and to uphold the rule of law."

"From this standpoint, the announced measures are very unfortunate," foreign ministry press secretary Toshihiro Kitamura said in a statement.

Japan is the biggest funder of the ICC and a close US ally -- which is not a party to the international treaty that established the

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Time for Congress to prepare roadmap for youth: Kharge

Says Modi govt has 'destroyed' future of students

NEW DELHI, AUG 19: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge today accused the Modi government of "destroying" the future of students and asserted that the time has come for the Congress to formulate a comprehensive 'Education-to-Employment Roadmap' for the youth.

In his opening remarks at the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting at the Indira Bhawan here,



Kharge also questioned the "silence" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the alleged theft of Ram temple donations and demanded

that the PM apologise for it and answer to the people.

"Over the last 12 years, the Modi government has devastated the future of the youth. Instead of new schools opening, 94,000 schools have closed in recent years. Driven by the race for privatisation, higher education is becoming increasingly expensive and out of reach for ordinary families," Kharge said.

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Joshi reviews implementation of PM's free online coaching initiative

NEW DELHI, AUG 19: Union Education Minister Pralhad Joshi on Wednesday held a meeting with senior officials to review implementation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative to provide free online coaching to youth preparing for competitive examinations.

Modi had made the announcement during his Independence Day speech last Saturday.

Joshi said on X that the



meeting with the officials of the Department of Higher Education focused on "building a robust national platform that makes high-quality learning content, expert guidance and struc-

tured preparation accessible to students across the country".

The prime minister had announced free online coaching for aspirants preparing for competitive exams to ease the financial burden on their families.

"Coaching classes burden the poor and the middle class. We will provide free online coaching for various exams," Modi said in his address to the nation on In

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J&K Bank reviews Mission YUVA progress, felicitates top performers

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, AUG 19

J&K Bank today organised a review-cum-felicitation meet at its Divisional Office in Kashmir to review the progress achieved under Mission YUVA and recognise outstanding performers for their contribution to the flagship employment initiative.

Director Employment and Mission YUVA, Harvin-



der Singh chaired the meeting in the presence of J&K Bank Divisional Head (Kashmir) Arshad Qadri,

Zonal Heads of Anantnag, Baramulla, Budgam, Pulwama and Srinagar, and

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