

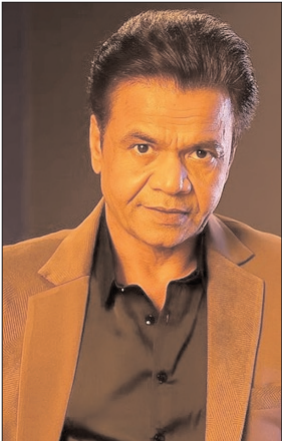


BNP's Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir Elected As 23rd President Of Bangladesh

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Rajpal Yadav breaks silence on debt controversy, says "Roughly Rs 25-30 crores" is currently owed

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Searches launched in Billawar woods

Following inputs about the movement of suspected terrorists in the area, security forces today launched a massive search operation in the dense Billawar woods of Kathua district, bordering Udhampur.

According to reports, unidentified persons, believed to be terrorists, late last night went to a house in a Billawar village. They knocked at the entry door but the family members did not respond, reports said.

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Land subsidence threatening local infra

There are reports of land subsidence at Kheri, Raipur, about 10 km from Jammu city on the upper Akhnoor road here, threatening local infrastructure.

According to reports, nearly a dozen families on a small chunk of land in the village have been affected and forced to take shelter in tents.

The land is said to be sinking, with cracks

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27 new wetlands identified: JKPCCT to NGT

The JKPCCT has informed the National Green Tribunal that 27 new wetlands with an area of over one hectare had been identified.

The green body is hearing the matter based on media reports about the shrinking J&K wetlands and threats to the region's ecosystem, besides the findings by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) this year regarding the alarming rate at which the region's water bodies (518 of 687

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Saxena calls on Modi



NEW DELHI, AUG 20: Ladakh LG Vinai Kumar Saxena today called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and discussed the progress of key developmental initiatives and infrastructure projects as well as the implementation of central welfare schemes in the Union Territory.

"I am extremely grateful to the prime minister for his vision, constant guidance and support for the inclusive and sustainable development of Ladakh," he said

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Ladakh using glacier water for agri security

LEH, AUG 20: Previously lost as untapped runoff into Indus river, Ladakh has successfully started utilising 90 million litres of glacier water per day for sustainable water and agricultural security in the UT.

This colossal volume of glacial-melt water from Stok village nallah in Leh is now being directly channelised into the Igoo-Phey irrigation canal, catering to nearly 12 villages and augmenting irrigation of over 1,000 acres of barren land that earlier remained parched due to paucity of water in the canal.

This became possible af

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'Anti-national, open defiance of law'

Shah slams Cong over 2 stanza Vande Mataram decision

CHENNAI, AUG 20: A day after the Congress Working Committee decided to sing only two stanzas of Vande Mataram, Union Home Minister Amit Shah described the CWC move as "anti-national" & "open defiance of law", accusing the party of reviving the politics of appeasement pursued in 1937.

"Yesterday, the Congress Working Committee took an anti-national decision. Reiterating its 1937 resolution, the Congress has decided to sing only two stanzas of 'Vande Mataram'," he said and accused the Congress of repeating the same politics that it pursued in 1937.

"I wish to remind the nation that by deciding to split 'Vande Mataram' in 1937 for the sake of Muslim ap-



peasement, the Congress laid the foundation for the country's partition. Today, the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has strengthened national unity by rectifying that historic blunder of the Congress and also accorded it legal status," Shah asserted.

Taking a sharp swipe at the Congress, Shah said its decision to sing only two

stanzas of Vande Mataram had exposed its "politics of appeasement".

Describing the CWC decision as an insult to millions of freedom fighters, he said, "This decision by the Congress once again exposes its politics of appeasement. The Congress has not only insulted this great composition by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay but has also disrespected the millions of

Borders neglected in past, top priority now: Rijiju

NEW DELHI, AUG 20: Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju today said that border areas had been neglected in the past but were now a "top priority" of the Narendra Modi government, as he sought to counter claims of fresh Chinese incursions in Arunachal Pradesh.

He also invoked former Defence Minister A K Antony's 2013 statement in Parliament, saying the Congress leader had then acknowledged India's historical policy of keeping border areas underdeveloped and that allowed China to steal a march over India in building infrastructure and capabilities along the frontier.

Antony, however, had also made it clear in the same speech that the policy had been abandoned 20 to 25 years earlier and said successive Indian governments had since been strengthening infrastructure and military capabilities in border areas. He had claimed that the UPA government, then in



its ninth year in office, had done the "maximum" to strengthen such capabilities.

The remarks by Rijiju, who represents Arunachal West in the Lok Sabha, come amid renewed concerns over Chinese military activity in the Upper Subansiri region of Arunachal Pradesh.

"Some people casually commented on border. Border areas are tough but Narendra

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SED notifies new Transfer Policy for teachers, masters, others

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, AUG 20

The school education department today notified a new 'Transfer Policy' for teachers, masters and others for the purpose of bringing greater transparency, accountability and objectivity in transfers & postings.

The new policy will govern transfers and postings of teachers, masters, lecturers, headmasters, principals, zonal education officers, chief education officers and equivalent personnel serving under the school education department, says an order issued

by SED.

Under the policy, educational institutions have been grouped into five broader Annual Transfer Drive (ATD) Zones - Zone-I, Zone-II, Zone-III, Zone-IV and Zone-V, with Zone-V designated as the difficult-area category.

Employees posted in Zone-I, Zone-II and Zone-III will ordinarily have a tenure of three years at a particular institution, while employees posted in Zone-IV and Zone-V will ordinarily serve for two years and one year respectively.

The policy provides that employees serving in Zone-V, who complete the pre-

scribed tenure, shall ordinarily be relieved for further posting, with completion of Zone-V tenure also providing a preferential claim for consideration against suitable vacancies in Zones-I or II, subject to administrative requirements.

The department has provided that transfers and postings shall ordinarily be processed through the designated Online Transfer Portal. The directorates will maintain updated electronic databases containing posting history, tenure, service particulars and transfer records to facilitate

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Jammu-Sgr to get 3rd Vande Bharat train via Udhampur

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, AUG 20

Indian Railways is set to introduce a third Vande Bharat train between Jammu and Srinagar via Udhampur to provide passengers with another travel option and help increase train capacity between the two capital cities of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

At present, two Vande Bharat trains, operating four services, run between Jammu and Srinagar. Both these trains were introduced on June 6, 2025, initially running between Shri



Mata Vaishno Devi, Katra, and Srinagar.

From April 30, 2026, the services were extended to Jammu Tawi railway sta-

tion, giving passengers a direct Vande Bharat connection between Jammu and Srinagar. These are: train

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Police can't probe offences under PCPNDT Act: SC

NEW DELHI, AUG 20: The Supreme Court today held that police cannot investigate offences under the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act.

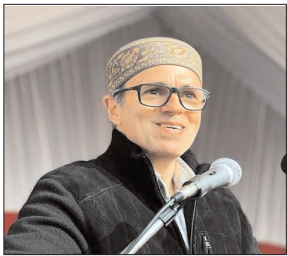
The PCPNDT Act was enacted with the intent to prohibit the use of prenatal diagnostic techniques for determination of the sex of the foetus.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and N Kotiswar Singh held that authorities designated under the law must take action in such cases.

The top court said the PCPNDT Act concerns matters that are technical and

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'Matter between 2 countries' Omar on Pak-US row over Gor's J&K remarks



Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, AUG 20

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today said Pakistan's summoning of the US Charge d'Affaires in Islamabad over US Ambassador Sergio Gor's remarks on Jammu and Kashmir was a matter between the two

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Youth dreaming big, Women SHGs empowering local economies: LG



Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, AUG 20

Asserting that it was the resolve of his administration to make border villages self-reliant, LG Manoj Sinha today said that youth were now dreaming big in these areas and Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) were making immense contribution in empowering local economies.

"Poverty has declined, migration reduced, incomes risen, and employment op-

portunities expanded. Women's self-help groups are powering local economies, and our youth are dreaming big, just like their peers in Delhi or Mumbai," he said in his address to the residents of six strategic villages - Karol Krishna, Rathua, Gujjar Chak, Gajnal, Bobiya & Kadiyala - under VVP-2.

The LG visited Karol Krishna, a border village in Kathua district. Karol Krishna, Rathua, Gujjar Chak, Gajnal, Bobiya & Kadiyala come under the Vibrant Vil-

lage Programme-Phase-2 (VVP-2). He handed over benefits under several government schemes to local families and appointment letters to youth.

He emphasised that border villages were not India's last villages, but its first villages, the frontline of the nation's identity and development.

He noted that for decades, the word "border" carried a sense of distance and these villages were far from the priorities of gover

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UNSC membership must not be used to 'legitimise' terrorists: India

UNITED NATIONS, AUG 20: Membership of the UN Security Council must not be used as a tool to "legitimise" terrorists by seeking their removal from the sanctions regime or to blacklist entities solely on "political considerations", India has said, asserting that the powerful 15-nation body must not become a platform for pursuing narrow interests.

"Security Council membership brings significant responsibilities. This must not become a platform to pursue narrow political interests," Charge d'Affaires at India's Permanent Mission to the UN Ambassador



Yojna Patel said while addressing a Security Council open debate on working methods.

She flagged the need for greater transparency and objectivity on this front. Presence in the Security Council must not be instrumentalised to legitimise ter

council's sanctions regimes.

"Listing and de-listing are a case in point. There must be more transparency and objectivity on this front. Presence in the Security Council must not be instrumentalised to legitimise ter

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Centre gives nod to set up J&K HC bench in Ladakh

NEW DELHI, AUG 20: The Union Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved setting up a bench of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir in the UT of Ladakh.

"The move will improve access to justice for people in remote areas by reducing the time needed to avail legal services," Union Home Minister Amit Shah said in a post on X.

Shah said the decision was taken under the leadership of PM Modi.

"The move will significantly improve access to justice for citizens living in remote areas of Ladakh by

reducing the time required to avail themselves of legal services," he added.

He added that the government was committed to the "all-round development of Ladakh" and ensuring constitutional safeguards.

The cabinet also approved four railway projects and a highway project worth a combined Rs 13,041 crore, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said at a cabinet briefing.

Three of the railway projects involve adding new lines on sections of the Howrah-Chennai High Density Network, with the aim of expanding capacity for passenger and freight

movement along the key east coast corridor.

"From Howrah to Chennai, we will ultimately have a complete quadrupled, four-line route. This will allow us to operate many more trains. It will also facilitate the movement of cargo and make maintenance easier," Vaishnaw said.

The three projects are the fourth line between Kharagpur and Bhadrak (Ranital), the fourth line between Bhadrak and Haridaspur, and the third and fourth lines between Gummidipundi and Gudur.

The fourth railway project involves constructing the

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Kavinder calls upon people to actively participate in Census

SHIMLA, AUG 20: Himachal Pradesh Governor Kavinder Gupta, who today completed the process of his self-enumeration under the second phase of Census 2027 at Lok Bhavan here, called upon people to actively participate in the exercise.

In his message to people, he said the second phase of Census 2027 (population enumeration) would be conducted in the snow-bound areas of the state from September 1 to September 30, 2026.

"This exercise is extremely important for the accurate formulation of the



state's development policies and welfare schemes. Keeping public convenience in mind, a special facility for digital self-enumeration has

been made available for residents of snow-bound areas from August 17 to August 31, 2026," the governor

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