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Reservation a constitutional right, no power can abolish it: Chirag Paswan

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Kunal Kemmu, Sparsh Shrivastava & Preity G Zinta lead VIBE's chaos

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BIG NEWS

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No major weather activity till Aug-end

According to weather department, no significant weather activity was expected in J&K till the end of this month except for a few brief showers from August 29 to 31 at scattered places.

According to the weather forecast, the weather was expected to remain generally hot and humid till August 28.

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KP employees seek enhanced security

After the surfacing of a fresh threat poster, the All-PM Package Employees Forum, Kashmir, has sought immediate enhancement of security arrangements for the KP employees working in the valley.

The forum, in a representation submitted to the

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3 families evacuated after land subsidence

Three families, comprising 10 members, were evacuated as a precautionary measure after land subsidence and cracks in residential houses were reported in a village in Ramban district of Jammu.

The land subsidence at Kulthi Chakka Kundi, Rajgarh, along the banks of Chenab River, triggered panic among locals, particularly in the wake of recent heavy rains that had affected several areas of the dis-

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IT deptt asks to file ITR before Aug 31 deadline

NEW DELHI, AUG 24: The Income Tax department today nudged taxpayers with business or professional income who are not subject to audit to file ITRs for AY 2026-27 before August 31.

Till August 20, over 2 crore ITR 3 and 4 were filed on the e-filing portal, taking the total Income Tax returns filed for AY27 to over 6.5 crore. This also includes over 5.9 crore ITR-1 and ITR-2, which were filed by the due date of July 31.

"31st August 2026 is the due date for filing ITRs for

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Sinha takes over as ED of AIIMS Jammu



Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, AUG 24

Prof (Dr) Sanjeev Sinha today assumed charge as the new executive director

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'Targeting USD 100 bn trade with Russia'

EAM calls for removing non-tariff barriers, FTA conclusion

MOSCOW, AUG 24: *External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar today called for decisive measures, including the removal of non-tariff barriers, the strengthening of national payment systems, and the swift conclusion of a Free Trade Agreement, to push bilateral trade between India and Russia to USD 100 billion by 2030.*

"Resolving the mounting trade imbalance between the two nations is now one of our foremost priorities," he said while addressing the 27th India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission (IRIGC-TEC) in Moscow alongside Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov.

Jaishankar noted that while bilateral trade in goods had expanded more than fourfold, from approximately USD 13 billion in 2021-22 to



nearly USD 60 billion in 2023-24, the surge has triggered a massive widening in the trade gap from USD 6.6 billion to over USD 50 billion.

"Over the last five years, bilateral trade in goods has increased more than fourfold from about US dollars 13 billion in 2021-22 to nearly US dollars 60 billion in 2023-24. This demonstrates the immense potential of our partnership. And the rapid expansion

of trade has, however, been accompanied by a significant widening of the trade imbalance, which has also increased from 6.6 billion to over US dollars 50 billion," he said.

"Addressing this imbalance is today one of our foremost priorities. Excellency, colleagues, progress on market access, removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers, strengthening payment mechanisms and stronger business-to-business engagement will be critical for addressing this imbalance and achieving our shared objective of US dollars 100 billion in bilateral trade by 2030," he added.

Jaishankar pointed to ongoing discussions regarding the India-Eurasian Economic Union Free Trade Agreement and referenced wide-ranging cooperation across energy, nuclear power, metallurgy, space, railways,

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NEET protests

SC panel to prioritise sexual assault complaints by women

NEW DELHI, AUG 24: The Supreme Court on Monday said the High-Powered Enquiry Committee set up to examine allegations of police violence during the NEET protests has been asked to take up, on priority, complaints of sexual assault faced by women protesters. The court said the panel had been requested to immediately submit an interim report on the issue.

The clarification came

when senior advocate Shobha Gupta urged the court to take suo motu cognisance of allegations of sexual assault and molestation of women during the July 20 protest at Jantar Mantar. She also asked the court to create a mechanism through which alleged victims could directly send their complaints for examination.

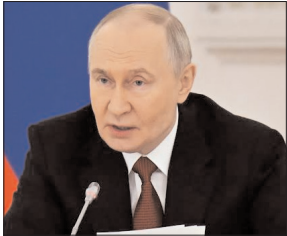
A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joyymalya Bagchi and

V Mohana said the issue was already before the committee.

The CJI said the High-Powered Enquiry Committee would take up on priority the complaints of sexual assault faced by protesters. Referring to the order passed last week, he said, "the committee has been requested to examine it on a priority basis, and immediately submit an interim report".

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Putin praises Modi's personal focus on India-Russia ties



MOSCOW, AUG 24: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is devoting his "personal attention" to developing bilateral relations, while noting that the turnover of trade between the two nations has increased this

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I&FC employee dismissed from service

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, AUG 24

The government today ordered the dismissal of an employee of irrigation & flood control (I&FC) division, Poonch, for his involvement in a case registered against him under NDPS Act.

He was identified as Vimal Kumar, son of Chuni Lal of Jhullas, Haveli, in Poonch district. He was presently working as an or

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BJP to go solo in Punjab polls

NEW DELHI, AUG 24: Amid buzz over an alliance with Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), party national general secretary B L Santosh today said that BJP would contest all 117 Assembly seats in Punjab on its own in the upcoming elections.

The buzz over a BJP-SAD alliance had intensified after Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Badal met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi earlier this month. Notably, the SAD and BJP

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Kishtwar schoolgirl incident

Omar gives SED 1 month to complete probe

Says power tariff hike govt's compulsion

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, AUG 24

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today directed the school education department (SED) to complete its inquiry into the Kishtwar schoolgirl incident within one month. He also termed the recent hike in power tariff as government's compulsion.

He said the Kishtwar incident probe should be completed expeditiously so that stringent and exemplary action could be ensured in the matter.

The chief minister directed the authorities con-



cerned to complete the inquiry within one month and take all necessary steps to bring the investigation to its logical conclusion.

He stressed the need for a thorough and time-bound inquiry, underscoring that the matter must be dealt with firmly and that appropriate action be taken based on the findings of the inquiry.

Meanwhile, defending

the recent electricity tariff hike, he said there was no crisis in the government and maintained that any cabinet reshuffle would be carried out when he deemed it necessary.

"There is no crisis in the government. Our work is going on," he said when asked about a possible reshuffle in his government.

The chief minister said he had only ruled out a reshuffle before August 15 when asked about it earlier, and had not committed to carrying it out immediately afterwards.

"I only told you that it would not happen before

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Doval reaches Beijing for boundary talks amid uncertainty over Xi's visit



BEIJING, AUG 24: NSA Ajit Doval arrived here today for a two-day visit to take part in the Special Representatives talks on the India-China boundary question with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, his counterpart on the mechanism.

The talks, scheduled for Tuesday, are significant as they are being held amid uncertainty over Chinese President Xi Jinping's expected visit to India for the BRICS summit on September 12-13.

The meeting is also taking

place at a time when differences over the border and Arunachal Pradesh continue to weigh on bilateral ties. Relations between New Delhi and Beijing had come under severe strain after the 2020 Galwan Valley clash

and the prolonged military stand-off in eastern Ladakh, though both sides have since taken steps to stabilise ties.

Announcing the talks at a media briefing in Beijing on Monday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said Doval and Wang would hold an in-depth discussion on the boundary question as well as bilateral, regional and international issues.

He said the China-India Special Representatives

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US vows 'economic D-Day' as Iran threatens to halt all oil exports

WASHINGTON, AUG 24: The US has threatened Iran with what it called "the greatest financial offensive ever marshalled" as it prepared to roll out economic sanctions on Monday that target Iran's trade partners.

Iran in turn vowed to shut down all oil exports from the Gulf "if the economic war continues."

The warring nations have not conducted military strikes against each other for weeks, but they also have not engaged in meaningful talks to end the six-

month-old conflict.

Thousands of people have died, most of them in Iran and Lebanon, since the US and Israel began strikes on February 28, degrading much of Iran's conventional military capacity and inflicting economic pain while killing Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

But Iran has preserved enough missile and drone capability to attack its Gulf neighbours and threaten oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz, bringing shipping in

the key waterway to a near standstill and pressuring world fuel prices. The exact state of Iran's nuclear program, which the Americans and Israelis aim to wipe out, remains unknown.

Without detailing specific measures, Bessent signalled the US would target "fearful nations" that practice "appeasement" by engaging with Iran's economy and financial system.

Iran has been bracing for the sanctions for days, issuing a series of strongly

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EVMs not connected to Internet, Bluetooth or Wi-Fi: CEC

LUCKNOW, AUG 24: Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar today said Indian electronic voting machines (EVMs) are manufactured by public sector companies and do not have internet, Bluetooth, or Wi-Fi connectivity.

During his two-day visit to Lucknow, Kumar interacted with students at the historic Colvin Taluqdars' College and discussed India's democratic system, the electoral process, the relia-



bility of EVMs, and the importance of young voters, according to an official statement.

In response to questions about EVMs, the CEC emphasised that the machines

used in India are produced by public sector companies and are not connected to the internet or any wireless technologies.

He advised students to verify the sources and authenticity of information before accepting or sharing it, particularly in today's social media landscape. "Before accepting any information, it is essential to check its source and verify its au

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