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# The Himalayan Mail

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Govt working towards new Indira Gandhi university campus in proposed Narela edu hub: Delhi CM P-7

Rakul Preet Singh On What Drew Her To Surpanakha In Ramayana: 'She Was The Most Beautiful Woman Of Lanka' P-10

## LG, CM greet people on Raksha Bandhan

LG Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah have extended their heartiest greetings to the people of J&K on the auspicious occasion of Raksha Bandhan, which is being celebrated tomorrow across the country.

"Heartiest greetings and best wishes to all on the sacred occasion of Raksha Bandhan," he said in his message.

"The joyful festival celebrates the timeless bond between brothers and sisters. The sacred thread of rakhi symbolises

Cont. on P9

## 3 cattle-loaded trucks seized, smugglers flee

Police have foiled three bovine smuggling bids in Jammu's Kathua district, rescuing 49 cattle and seizing three trucks carrying them but the smugglers managed to flee.

In the first incident, a police team intercepted a truck at Lakhanpur for checking. While cops rescued 17 bovine animals, the truck driver managed to flee, officials said.

In the other two inci

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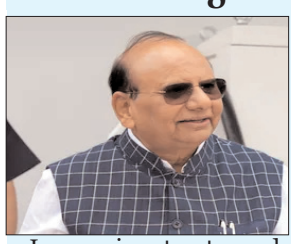
## Saxena approves VAT reduction on natural gas



In a major step towards promoting affordable clean energy, strengthening the city gas distribution (CGD) network and improving the ease of living for people, LG Vinai Kumar Saxenahas approved a significant reduction of VAT

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## Pilot, instructor killed in training aircraft crash

**KANPUR, AUG 27:** A trainee pilot and an instructor were killed on Thursday when a training aircraft crashed in Kanpur along the banks of Ganga, a senior police official said.

The Tecnam aircraft operated by Garg Aviation took off around 11:30 am and crashed about 20 minutes later near Nathapurwa village in the Katri area, Commissioner of Police Raghubir Lal said.

The cause of the crash was not immediately known.

## Govt trying to change "sarkari naukri" mindset: Jitendra

**Himalayan Mail News**
**JAMMU, AUG 27**

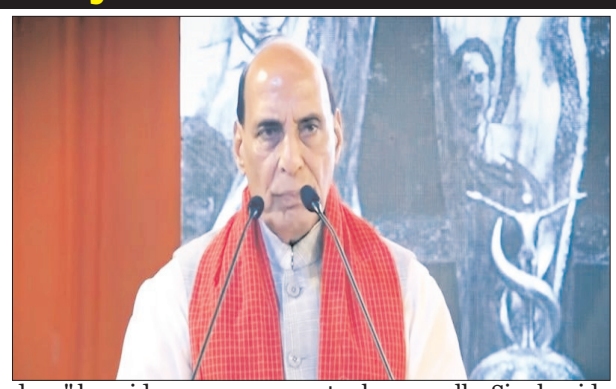
Union MinisterJitendra Singh said here today that one of the greatest contributions of this government was that there had been a conscious effort to change the "sarkari naukri" mindset and provide alternative

Cont. on P9

# Tanks 'iron wall' on borders, boost soldiers' morale: Rajnath

## Says they act as death knell for enemy

**JABALPUR, AUG 27:** ***Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday described tanks as an "iron wall" on India's borders that act as a death knell for the enemy and boost the morale of soldiers deployed in forward areas, asserting they remain vital to ground warfare despite the growing role of drones and missiles.***



Singh made the remarks after laying the foundation stone of a Rs 472-crore facility for the overhaul of T-series battle tanks at the 57-year-old Vehicle Factory Jabalpur (VFJ), an ordnance unit here.

"Our Army is one of the most powerful forces in the world. T-72 and T-90 tanks are extremely important for ground warfare. They stand like an iron wall on our borders," he said.

"Tanks act as a death knell for the enemy and also boost the morale of our soldiers deployed on the borders," Singh added.

He said tanks, like other military equipment, require regular maintenance and periodic overhauling to ensure their operational readiness.

Under the upcoming project, the facility will overhaul 80 T-72 and T-90 tanks annually, Singh said.

The Indian Army requires the overhaul of around 230 such tanks every year, according to him.

The Heavy Vehicles Factory (HVF) at Avadi currently overhauls around 150 tanks annually, and the new facility at VFJ will bridge the remaining shortfall, the defence minister said.

Singh said modern warfare was changing rapidly, with drones, missiles and other advanced technologies playing an increasingly important role.

"We need drones, missiles, artillery, electronic warfare systems and modern tanks. Our soldiers should have both tanks and drones, with effective coordination between the two," he said.

The upcoming facility in Jabalpur would further strengthen India's capabilities in this direction, Singh added.

New technologies were constantly emerging in the defence sector and battles could no longer be won using conventional methods alone, the defence minister said.

In the age of drones and missiles, some may question the relevance of tanks, he said, adding that he held a different view.

Cont. on P9

## Nepal flash floods

# Death toll rises to 162; thousands remain missing

**KATHMANDU, AUG 27:** While the death toll in the devastating flash floods in Nepal rose to 162, leaving scores, including security personnel and foreign tourists, missing, and sweeping away properties in one of the country's worst disasters in recent years, over 300 Indian nationals were said to be missing.

The flash floods yesterday wreaked havoc across three districts in Nepal.

It was caused after an avalanche blocked the flow of the Lhende tributary of the Bhotekoshi and first hit Timure, near Nepal's border with China at Rasuwagadhi, reports said, quoting officials.

Much of the settlement, home to hundreds of people, was swept away before the flood surged downstream. With no rainfall reported in the area, residents had no warning of the disaster and were going about their daily routines when the flood struck.

As the scale of the disaster became apparent, Rajendra Dhungana, chief customs officer in Rasuwa and dozens of others fled into the nearby forest. More than 300 vehicles and trucks waiting at the customs checkpoint were washed away.

Reports said the midmorning flash flood on the Bhotekoshi River wreaked havoc across three districts on Wednesday, killing at least 162.

A preliminary assessment on Thursday suggested that the flash flood was caused by an ice avalanche upstream blocking a river on the Nepal-China border, Disaster Management authorities said.

The assessment suggests

Cont. on P9

# Fin Min meets top bosses of Canadian financial firms

## Seeks greater investments

**WASHINGTON, AUG 27:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has met senior executives of various Canadian financial firms, including Sun Life Financial and Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB) and asked them to enhance their investment in India.

During the bilateral meeting with Sun Life Financial President and CEO Kevin D Strain in Toronto, she highlighted the liberalisation of the insurance sector, including the increase in FDI (foreign direct investment) limit from 74 per cent to 100 per cent, and the government's vision of 'Insurance for All by 2047'.

Discussions covered India's resilient growth, expanding market, macroeconomic stability and rapidly developing digital & physical infrastructure, creating significant opportunities for

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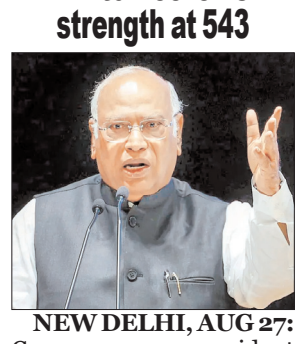
## Kharge urges PM to freeze LS strength at 543



**NEW DELHI, AUG 27:** Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to convene an all-party meeting to discuss the government's proposed delimitation exercise and called for the Lok Sabha's existing strength of 543 seats to be retained for another 25 years.

In a letter to Modi, he also sought the continuation of

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# Modi to visit Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan; attend SCO summit

**NEW DELHI, AUG 27:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to embark on a four-day visit to Uzbekistan and the Kyrgyz Republic from August 29 to September 1, during which he will undertake a bilateral visit to Tashkent and participate in the 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Bishkek.

Modi's visit to Uzbekistan from August 29 to August 30 is at the invitation of its President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. This will be his fourth visit and his second bilateral visit to the Central Asian country, according to MEA Secretary (West) Sibi George.

During his upcoming State Visit to the Uzbek capital of Tashkent, the Prime Minister will hold delegation-level talks with President Mirziyoyev, aimed at further strengthening the strategic partnership between India and Uzbekistan.

The two leaders are expected to review bilateral cooperation across a wide range of areas, including trade and investment, defence, digital connectivity, energy, education and people-to-people ties. They will also discuss the way forward in advancing the shared developmental visions of Viksit Bharat 2047 and Uzbekistan-2030.

Prime Minister Modi is also expected to visit the Shastri Memorial in Tashkent and the Mahatma Gandhi Centre at the Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies.

Addressing a special briefing on the Prime Minister's visit, MEA Secretary

Cont. on P9

# 14 IPS, JKPS officers transferred; Tejinder posted IGP Jammu

**Himalayan Mail News**
**JAMMU, AUG 27**

The government today ordered the transfers and postings of 14 senior IPS and JKPS police officers with immediate effect.

As per a home department order, Tejinder Singh, IG CID, J&K,is transferred and posted as IGP, Jammu Zone, vice Bhim Sen Tutiwho is transferred and posted as IG HQ, J&K, against an available vacancy.

MKSinha, ADG HQ, is transferred and posted as ADG CID, J&K, vice Nitish Kumar.

Nitish Kumar, ADG CID, J&K,is transferred and posted as ADG Armed Police, J&K, against an available vacancy.

Uttam Chand, IGP (Police Operations & Services), Police Headquarters,is transferred and posted as IGP Railways, J&K, vice Vivek Gupta. He shall also continue to hold the additional charge of IGP (Police Operations & Services), Police Headquarters, till further orders.

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## Iftikhar Gillani nominated as PoJK 'PM'

**LAHORE, AUG 27:** Pakistan's ruling PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif has nominated Iftikhar Gillani for the so-called post of prime minister of Pakistan-occupied Jammu-Kashmir (PoJK).

The polls in the region's so-called legislative assembly were held in three phases on July 27, August 2 and August 3 and were marred by violent protests and massive rigging allegations.

The legislative assembly was likely to elect the prime minister on Friday.

Gillani, who was defeated from a seat he contested but later elected to the legisla

Cont. on P9

# Cong alleges Rs 36,000-cr sugar scam, says govt aided hoarders

**NEW DELHI, AUG 27:** The Congress on Thursday accused the Narendra Modi government of facilitating an alleged Rs 36,000-crore sugar scam by allowing hoarders and black-marketeers to profit from rising sugar prices ahead of the festive season.

Addressing a press conference, Congress general secretary Randeep Surjewala alleged that the government was aware of a potential sugar shortage in April but failed to take timely action, resulting in prices rising from around Rs 40 to Rs 75 per kg.

Surjewala said the country is expected to consume around 12 million tonnes of sugar between August and November. If consumers are forced to pay an additional Rs 30 per kg, the resulting burden would amount to around Rs 36,000 crore, which he claimed would benefit hoarders and black-marketeers.

"When people celebrate Dussehra and Diwali, they will face the brunt of the price rise of sugar this year and shell out more from their pockets," he said, alleging collusion between profiteers and those in power.

Surjewala attributed the rise in sugar prices to lower production and alleged diversion of stocks, calling it a "masterstroke" by the Modi government to benefit profiteers and black-marketeers.

He also criticised BJP leaders over remarks linking higher sugar prices to efforts to discourage diabetes.

"BJP leaders are giving wisdom to the public by claiming that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made sugar expensive to drive away diabetes and added it to petrol. The result is that cars are stuck in garages and people's pockets are emptying," he said.

Surjewala claimed that

Cont. on P9

# Kishtwar observes bandh over minor girl's rape, death

**Himalayan Mail News**
**JAMMU, AUG 27**

Kishtwar district of Jammu observed a complete bandh today in response to a joint call given by Sanatan Dharam Sabha and Majlis-e-Shura over the alleged rape and death of a 15-year-old tribal girl in the district.

Shops and business establishments remained closed across the district, while public transport was also affected, officials said.

Security forces and police were deployed in large numbers, particularly in

Kishtwar and Chatroo towns, to maintain peace and ensure normalcy, officials said.

The bandh reflected growing public anger over the girl's death, with protesters demanding justice, stronger measures for the safety and protection of children and stringent action against the culprits.

The girl was alleged to

Cont. on P9

## SC to hear plea on cash donations to political parties

**NEW DELHI, AUG 27:** The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on August 31 a plea which has challenged the validity of a provision of the Income Tax Act that allows political parties to receive cash donations below Rs 2,000.

According to the apex court's cause list of August 31, the plea would come up for hearing before a bench comprising justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta.

On November 24 last year, the top court had agreed to hear the petition and sought responses from the Centre and others on it.

The plea claimed that lack of transparency under

Cont. on P9

# Internationally acclaimed cyclist calls on Kavinder

**SHIMLA, AUG 27:** Internationally acclaimed cyclist and social activist Somen Debnath today called on Himachal Pradesh Governor Kavinder Guptaat Lok Bhavan here.

During the meeting, Debnath apprised Gupta of his extraordinary 19-year cycling journey spanning 191 countries across all seven continents, undertaken to spread awareness on vital social issues and to carry the spirit of Indian culture and values to the world.

He also briefed the governor on his ongoing year-long nationwide campaign, "Reunion Bharat - One

Tree, One Life, Indian Youth and Sports," covering 28 states and fiveUnion Territories, which seeks to promote national unity, environmental stewardship, youth empowerment and sports.

The governor commended Debnath's achievement as a rare testament to

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