



LG, CM greet people on Janmashtami

LG Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Shri Krishna Janmashtami. "On the joyous occasion of Shri Krishna Janmashtami, I extend my heartiest greetings and best wishes to all," the LG said in his message. "The life and teachings of Almighty Krishna carry a universal message celebrating the ultimate victory of righteousness and virtue. His timeless

Cont. on P9 >

Pak intruder held near IB

A Pakistani intruder was today apprehended by BSF near the International Border in Kanachaksub-sector of Jammu. Officials said the intruder was apprehended by the personnel of 44 BSF Bn near Sohan Border Out Post (BOP) in the morning. His sustained questioning was in progress to ascertain his identity, purpose of entry and other relevant details, officials said.

Cont. on P9 >

SKIMS doctor terminated over unauthorised absence

The health & medical education department has terminated the services of Dr Mohammad Himayun, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at SKIMS Medical College & Hospital, Bemina, with retrospective effect from March 1, 2017. According to an official order issued by the department, the doctor had reported to work for only nine days in early 2017, following a previous suspension.

Cont. on P9 >

UPSC to conduct MO interviews in Ladakh

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, SEP 03

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) will conduct interviews for provisionally shortlisted candidates for 125 posts of Medical Officers from September 21 to 25 in Leh as a special case. The decision follows the request made by LG Vinai Kumar Saxena through his letter dated July 13, 2026, to the UPSC Chairmanto conduct the interviews in Leh, instead of requiring candidates to travel to the UPSC office in Delhi. This move is

Cont. on P9 >

JeI-linked school buildings, shops attached

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, SEP 03

Police today attached several properties, including school buildings, linked to proscribed Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) terror outfit in Kashmir's Baramulla district. Officials said police attached two buildings, six shops and two kanals of land in Sopore area after completion of due legalities under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The properties surfaced during investigation into a case under various sections of the UAPA registered at

Cont. on P9 >

The Himalayan Mail

JAMMU, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 04, 2026 RNI No. 66860 Vol. 31 No. 244 12 Pages | Rs. 2.00

Ahmadabad media delegation visits Biotech Park Kathua, gathers insights of Agri-Startups & Bio-incubation activities

P-7

Karan Johar To Bring Radha Krishna's Divine Love Story To Big Screen, Sachin Ravi To Direct: Report

P-10



Untangling 'political gridlock' Ahead of Sep 9 talks, govt clears LAHDCs for all 7 Ladakh distts

BHARAT BHUSHAN
JAMMU, SEP 03

Ahead of the September 9 talks, widely regarded as crucial towards untangling the political gridlock in the Union Territory, the Ladakh administration has cleared LAHDCs for all the seven districts of the mountain-locked region.

The historic decision for the creation of Autonomous Hill Development Councils in the newly created five districts - Sham, Nubra, Changthang, Zaskar & Drass - alongside the existing councils in Leh & Kargil, was announced by the central government on July 13, 2026. With this, all seven Ladakh districts will now have LAHDCs - a significant step towards decentralisation of governance.

The final stamp of approval on the Centre's key decision was put by Ladakh LG Vinai Kumar Saxena who greenlit the proposal today.

In his statement, the LG thanked

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for the historic step, stating that the establishment of councils in all seven districts would decentralise & strengthen participatory local governance, allowing local aspirations and priorities to be reflected more effectively in district-level planning & development.

With the approval, LAHDCs will now be extended to all seven districts of Ladakh - Leh, Kargil, Sham, Nubra, Changthang, Zaskar and Drass. As a result of this, the framework of elected local self-governance, which was earlier limited to Leh & Kargil only, would now also be extended to the five newly created districts.

The development, of course, marks a significant step towards decentralisation & strengthening of grassroots governance in Ladakh. The new councils will also provide institutional mechanisms for greater participation of people in matters relating to the development and administration of their respective districts.

"The creation of autonomous hill development councils in all seven dis-

tricts is a milestone in strengthening grassroots governance in Ladakh. This will surely empower people and enable development to be more responsive to local needs and aspirations," LG Saxena said.

As per the notification issued by Ladakh's revenue department, elections to the newly constituted councils would be held in due course of time. A formal notification in this regard is likely to be issued under Section 8 of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils Act, 1997.

The notification will come into force from the date of its publication in the official gazette.

As the UT is now all set to move ahead with the new system of governance in all its seven districts, MHA has fixed September 9 for the next meeting of the sub-committee holding talks on the future political & administrative framework of Ladakh. The crucial meeting, which is part of the ongoing dialogue aimed at deepening democratic processes in the Union Territory, is scheduled to be held in

Cont. on P9 >

India, Belgium expand cooperation in trade, defence Country's economic growth source of confidence for world: Modi

NEW DELHI, SEP 03: India and Belgium on Thursday agreed to significantly expand their cooperation in trade, defence, critical minerals, clean energy and technologies following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's wide-ranging talks with his Belgian counterpart Bart De Wever.

In his media statement, Modi highlighted India recording a 7.8 per cent growth rate in the last quarter and said the country's economic rise was a source of confidence and new opportunities for the world.

The Belgian prime minister described the conclusion



of the India-European Union free trade pact as a major milestone, and said New Delhi and Brussels are building a relationship that is broad and more strategic than ever before.

"Today, the world is passing through a phase of great upheaval. In many parts of the world, situations of conflict persist. Food, fuel or

supply chains - uncertainty is affecting every sector," Modi said.

"Even in this challenging environment, India's economy has maintained its momentum. In the last quarter, we have recorded a growth of 7.8 per cent," he said.

The prime minister said India's growth story is becoming "a source of confidence and new opportunities for the world".

Modi once again pitched for resolving the conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia through dialogue and diplomacy.

"India and Belgium, both

Cont. on P9 >

Investors' Meet in US India's 7.8 pc growth despite global disruptions remarkable: Sitharaman

NEW YORK, SEP 03: Stating that India remains the fastest-growing major economy in the world, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today said India recorded a "remarkable growth" of 7.8 per cent in the first quarter of fiscal year 2026-27 despite global disruptions, and against all odds.

She participated in a high-level business roundtable with investors, organised by the Consulate General of India in New York in association with Bank of America, New York.



Addressing investors, Sitharaman said that "despite global disruptions and against all odds, India continues to be the fastest-growing major economy in the world, recording a remarkable growth of 7.8 per cent in Q1 of FY 2026-27,"

Cont. on P9 >

Himachal needs technology-driven solutions to tackle natural disasters: Kavinder

UNA (HP), SEP 03: Himachal Pradesh Governor Kavinder Gupta today said 'the state needs technology-driven solutions to effectively address the challenges posed by snowfall, landslides and other natural disasters, with a particular focus on developing technologies capable of providing early warnings and enabling timely interventions to minimise loss of life and property.'

"The state, with its unique geographical and climatic conditions, offers several opportunities for young technologists to develop innovative solutions with direct societal impact," he said while addressing the



8th convocation of the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Una at Lata Mangeshkar Kala Kendra, Una.

Gupta called upon the graduating engineers to leverage their technical

knowledge and emerging technologies to address the specific needs of Himachal Pradesh, particularly in disaster management, agriculture, water conservation and rural entrepreneurship.

Cont. on P9 >

Death toll in Nepal flash floods rises to 1,252

KATHMANDU, SEP 03: The death toll due to the devastating flash floods in Nepal rose to 1,252 on Thursday as more bodies were recovered from the affected areas while thousands remain missing after more than a week of the disaster.

According to the data released by Nepal Police, 355 bodies were recovered from Chitawan district, 218 from Nawalparasi East, 208 from Nawalparasi West, including 18 recovered from India and handed over to Nawalparasi West, and 177 from Nuwakot.

Similarly, 127 bodies were recovered from Rasuwa district, 69 from Gorkha, 60 from Dhading and 38 from

Cont. on P9 >

Pistol, grenade recovered from Mahore woods

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, SEP 03

Security forces today recovered arms & ammunition, including a pistol and a grenade, from Khataji Ridge woods of Mahore in Reasi district of Jammu.

Acting on a specific input from the local Army intelligence unit, a search operation was conducted by security forces in the dense forests of Khataji Ridge, officials said.

During the operation, forces recovered war-like stores, including 140 AK rounds, 19 rounds of PIKA (machine gun), one pistol

Cont. on P9 >

3 IAS officers transferred to Arunachal Pradesh

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, SEP 03

The Government of India today ordered the transfer of three IAS officers belonging to the AGMUT cadre from Jammu & Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh with immediate effect.

According to an order issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the postings of the three officers had been changed with the approval of the competent authority.

As per the order, the transferees are: Mohammad Aijaz, Harvinder Singh and Shishir Gupta.

Cont. on P9 >



The Himalayan Mail wishes all its readers a Happy Shri Krishna Janmaashmi. Editor-in-Chief

Sinha meets Puri, discusses development issues of J&K

NEW DELHI, SEP 03: LG Manoj Sinha today met Petroleum & Natural Gas and Housing & Urban Affairs minister Hardeep Singh Puri at his office in New Delhi, and discussed with him development issues concerning J&K.

The meeting is seen as part of the ongoing engagement between the Union Territory administration and the central government aimed at strengthening coordination on development and governance-related matters in Jammu and Kashmir.

Puri shared details of the meeting on social media, expressing pleasure over the interaction with LG



Sinha. "Very happy to receive the LG of Jammu & Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, in my office today. It was a pleasure to interact with him," Puri said in a post.

While no official statement was issued regarding the specific agenda of the meeting, sources said the interaction provided an opportunity for discussions on

Cont. on P9 >

Omar chairs meeting to discuss amendments in Master Plans of Jammu, Sgr

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, SEP 03

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today discussed proposed amendments in the Master Plans of Jammu & Srinagar in a meeting with the 91st Board of Directors of Jammu Development Authority (JDA) and 85th Board of Directors of Srinagar Development Authority (SDA).

On the occasion, JDA vice-chairman Rupesh Kumar and SDA vice-chairman Shabir Hussain Bhat made separate presentations on the proposed plans.

The discussions covered proposed amendments, public feedback, regulatory



requirements and measures for planned and sustainable urban development.

The revised Jammu Master Plan-2032 was discussed for 15 planning zones, rationalisation of land-use categories, geo-referenced mapping and aligning major infrastructure projects in the plan document, environmental and heritage safeguards, in-

cluding protection of the Tawi riverbed and watercourses, were also deliberated upon.

For Srinagar, the meeting discussed town planning schemes, safeguards for Dal, Nigeen and other water bodies, alignment with J&K Unified Building Bye-Laws-2021, and reforms to simplify land-use zoning and building permissions.

The chief minister stressed the need to balance planned urban growth, reforms for ease of doing business, addressing public concerns and ensuring environmental protection while finalising the proposed Master Plans.

Cont. on P9 >

Yasin Malik denies involvement in KP nurse's murder case

Seeks death penalty

NEW DELHI, SEP 03: Jailed JKLF chief Yasin Malik, an accused in the murder of a Kashmiri Pandit woman, has submitted a 25-page affidavit before a special court here, pleading not guilty but refusing to contest the case and asking for capital punishment.

He claimed that the charges read more like a fabricated story than a legitimate police investigation, arguing that the case was constructed decades later purely to frame him.

In the affidavit, Malik, who is lodged in Tihar jail

here, also announced his decision to dissolve his marriage with his wife, Mushaal Hussein Mullick, citing his prolonged incarceration and inability to communicate with his family over the past eight years as he did not have any access to phone calls or video conferencing.

"Before I will be hanged, I have taken the decision to separate you from the bond of our Nikah," Malik wrote to his wife in the same affidavit and advised his daughter to call her grandparents every day for five

minutes. In the affidavit, verified and attested at Central Jail No7, Tihar, Malik declared his decision to stop contesting the ongoing trial proceedings, stating that he had put his entire case in the hands of god.

"Considering my personal circumstances and after deep reflection, I have decided not to contest the trial proceedings further. My decision shall not be treated as an admission of any prosecution fact, guilt or acceptance of the allega

Cont. on P9 >