



SFs launch searches in Poonch villages

Following inputs about the movement of terrorists, security forces today launched massive search operations in multiple Surankote villages in Poonch district.

According to officials, the search teams had been rushed to some villages that fall in the upper reaches of Surankote after 'credible' inputs suggested the movement of terrorists.

While searches were in progress when reports last came in this evening, details were awaited.

A terrorist was recent

Cont. on P9 >

Detained Pak national repatriated

A Paknational, who was recently apprehended after he 'inadvertently' entered the Indian territory, was today handed over to the Rangers at a border outpost along the International Border here.

He was identified as Nazir Sakhir, a resident of Luni Pundra village in Sialkot. He was handed over to the PakRangers by BSF personnel at

Cont. on P9 >

6 'criminals' held with pistol, tokas

Police today arrested six members of 'Khouf Gang' along with a pistol and sharp-edged weapons at Arnia on the city outskirts here.

According to officials, they were taken into custody for allegedly threatening a man at Kool Kalan, Arnia, by showing him a pistol and tokas.

Acting swiftly on a complaint, all the six accused were taken into custody by police. One pistol along with a magazine, three live rounds and five sharp-

Cont. on P9 >

Drug peddler who escaped NCB custody still untraced

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, SEP 07

A drug peddler, who was said to have escaped from NCB custody here last night, was still untraced.

He was identified as Aqib Bashirof Kakapora in the valley's Pulwama district. He was arrested by NCB along with 522 grams of heroin from a passenger bus in Samba district on September 3.

He escaped from NCB custody at Narwal here late Sunday night, according to officials.

After he escaped, an alert

Cont. on P9 >

Ladakh forms committees for works above Rs 10 cr

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, SEP 07

The Ladakh administration has constituted Technical Sanction & Contract Committees of PHE/I&FC department for works above Rs 10 cr.

According to officials, the technical sanction committee will accord technical sanction to detailed cost estimates for original works costing above Rs 10 cr, including special repairs, renovations, additions, alterations and improvements not covered under maintenance.

The contract committee

Cont. on P9 >

The Himalayan Mail

JAMMU, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 08, 2026 RNI No. 66860 Vol. 31 No. 248 12 Pages | Rs. 2.00

'Widow's Bay' dominates with 8 Emmys at earlier ceremony and 'The Pitt' takes 4

P-7

Aviation firm files Rs 3 crore defamation suit against Nora Fatehi for 'toy plane' remark

P-10



'Global footprint expands' India secures 9 FTAs amid growing diplomatic influence: Shah

PANAJI, SEP 07: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said India's reach in the diplomatic world was increasing and asserted that the country had maintained the momentum of its economic growth despite global geopolitical turmoil.

He said India had concluded nine free trade agreements (FTAs) by 2026, noting wider economic engagement helped the country record GDP growth rate of 7.8 per cent for the first quarter (April-June) of the financial year 2026-27.

"The global diplomatic landscape has remained turbulent over the past few years due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and



now the conflict involving the US, Iran and the Gulf countries," he said while addressing a function organised here to confer the President's Colour on the Goa police.

He pointed out that Prime Minister Narendra Modi travelled to 22 countries

over the past year, while heads of state from around 15 countries visited India during the same period.

"At a time when the whole world was grappling with uncertainty over its economic growth because of this (geopolitical) turmoil, we engaged with other

countries, presented strategic partnerships and maintained the momentum of our economic growth," Shah said.

"India has entered into concrete agreements in areas such as defence, technology, energy, investment and trade," he stressed.

Shah said India had concluded nine free trade agreements by 2026, while FTAs had been proposed with 38 countries as effective trade arrangements.

He said India was pursuing FTAs with the UAE, Australia, the UK, Oman, New Zealand and the European Union with the objective of increasing trade.

"This is also one of the reasons why, in the first quarter of this (fiscal) year, our GDP recorded a robust

Cont. on P9 >

IIT (BHU) Global Alumni Meet in Chicago New India stronger at home, confident abroad: LG

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, SEP 07

LG Manoj Sinha, who today addressed the IIT (BHU) Global Alumni Meet in Chicago, Illinois, in the US, said that 'new India is stronger at home and confident abroad'.

"Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is building its own place in the world and preparing to lead it. This is India's moment. This is India's century. I can confidently say that this is the rise of a civilisational power, which is confident,



compassionate, innovative and unstoppable," he said in his address while paying tributes to Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya.

The LG also spoke about the rise of a new India, which is stronger at home, confident abroad and prepared to contribute in shap

Cont. on P9 >

In touch with HM over pending issues between J&K, Centre: Omar

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, SEP 07

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today said he was in constant touch with Union Home Minister Amit Shah as there were several issues pending between the Union Territory and the Centre, including restoration of statehood.

He also lauded the fact that Jammu and Kashmir was hosting its first international film festival.

"I am in constant communication with the home minister. There are several issues between Jammu and



Kashmir and the central government that are discussed," he said while talking to reporters.

The chief minister said Jammu and Kashmir and the Centre had pending issues, such as restoration of statehood, approval of business rules, the appointment

of the advocate general delayed for almost two years now and the reservation report that had not been forwarded to the union government after the Union Territory cabinet answered the queries raised earlier.

"Discussions are held on all these issues," Abdullah said when asked about his recent meeting with Shah in New Delhi.

On the demolition of a mosque in Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur, the National Conference (NC) leader said it was unfortunate that Muslims were being treated as the "other entity" in the

Cont. on P9 >

'Monsoon Session on ventilator' Shah 'scrambling' for majority to get delimitation bill passed: Cong

NEW DELHI, SEP 07: The Congress on Monday questioned the delay in proroguing Parliament's Monsoon Session, alleging that the union home minister was still scrambling for his "super-tainted" two-thirds majority to get the delimitation bills passed.

"Today is exactly 25 days since Parliament was adjourned sine die. But it has still not been prorogued," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X.

"Normally prorogation takes place 3-4 days after adjournment is announced sine die. That session had been washed out almost entirely over the Lalit Modi issue but the Modi government kept the session alive hoping to bulldoze the GST Bills through. It needed a two-thirds majority in the Rajya Sabha which it did not have," he said.

"As it turned out the Modi government was forced to consult more meaningfully with the Opposition and pass the Bills much later," he said.

Ramesh said, "The 2026 Monsoon Session has been kept on ventilator because the Home Minister is still scrambling around for his super-tainted two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha to get the Delimitation Bills passed."

"How much longer before he accepts the reality that his politics of threats and intimidation has reached its limit?" the Congress leader said.

The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha were adjourned sine die on August 13.

During the Budget Session on April 17, the Modi government faced a setback as the Constitution Amendment Bill, involving delimitation, for the implementation of the

Cont. on P9 >

SC seeks reports from states on old-age homes

NEW DELHI, SEP 07: The Supreme Court on Monday asked all states to submit fresh status reports on the establishment of old-age homes and the facilities available to senior citizens.

The bench was hearing a long-pending PIL, filed in 2016, seeking effective implementation of measures for the welfare and protection of the elderly.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joydalya Bagchi and V Mohana took up the PIL filed by Dr Ashwani Kumar, who has sought implementation of directions regarding the establishment of old-age homes in every dis

Cont. on P9 >

Int'l Film Festival takes off, offering platform to global, local filmmakers



Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, SEP 07

The four-day International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJ&K), themed "Rang-e-Cinema" (colours of cinema), took off in Srinagar today, with artists and officials describing the event as an important step towards reconnecting the UT with

Bollywood and the global film industry.

The festival is scheduled to be held in Srinagar, Jammu, Gulmarg and the multiplex 'Inox'.

Organised by the Department of Information & Public Relations, the festival lineup features a curated international and regional screening programme, spotlighting compelling local cinema alongside global

selections.

"The festival received an overwhelming response, with more than 1,100 entries from 80 countries. As you all know, the first-ever International Film Festival of J&K has started. It will be a four-day festival from September 7 to 10. When we were inviting entries for screening in the festival, we received an overwhelming

Cont. on P9 >

J&K security recast CRPF to replace Army in Udhampur-Kathua region

NEW DELHI, SEP 07: With the government declaring that the country is free of the Naxal menace, surplus troops of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) are set to be deployed again to Jammu and Kashmir, where they will gradually take over counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism (CI/CT) responsibilities from the Army in parts of Udhampur and Kathua districts.

According to security establishment sources, the government had recently communicated to CRPF to prepare for and facilitate

the replacement of Army personnel in designated CI/CT roles.

The move is aimed at rationalising the deployment of security forces involved in internal security operations in the terror-affected region.

The transition is expected to cover 21 hypersensitive locations across the Udhampur-Kathua belt, sources said, adding that the requirement of personnel at each location was being assessed, and deployment will be carried out according to a pre-decided, priority-based plan.

The formalities were said to currently underway and the CRPF was expected to assume charge at these locations shortly.

"The restructuring will also involve the CRPF's specialised CoBRA unit. Nine CoBRA teams are planned to be deployed in the Udhampur-Kathua sector, while another nine teams will undergo training. Their operational deployment will subsequently be managed dynamically depending on security requirements," a source familiar with the plan said.

Cont. on P9 >

3-way talks with Ukraine, US can resume: Russia

MOSCOW, SEP 07: Russia does not rule out fresh, three-way talks with Washington and Kyiv on the Ukraine war, the Kremlin said Monday, after a visit to Moscow and Kyiv by US negotiators Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner.

US-led diplomatic efforts to end Europe's deadliest conflict since World War II have stalled in recent months, as Washington has shifted focus towards the war with Iran.

Russian and Ukrainian negotiators last met for US-mediated talks in February, in Geneva, but failed to reach an agreement on the thorny issue of territory.

Talks have not resumed since.

Russia "does not rule out the resumption of the trilateral format, but it is too early to say anything about the venue or the exact dates at this stage," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

Witkoff and Kushner met with Russia's Vladimir Putin and Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy over the weekend in a renewed push to end the fighting.

A senior Ukrainian presidential source said the pair had brought "more effective" proposals on ending the war, although neither Moscow and Kyiv an-

nounced a breakthrough.

The four-and-a-half year conflict has left tens of thousands of soldiers and civilians dead.

Talks remain deadlocked over the issue of Ukraine's eastern Donbas region, which Russia does not fully control but has demanded as part of any peace settlement.

Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff travelled to Ukraine for the first time yesterday for talks with Volodymyr Zelenskyy in an attempt to end the war with Russia.

The Ukrainian president announced plans to widen peace discussions to include

Cont. on P9 >

AI can pose 'existential risk to humanity': UN

UNITED NATIONS, SEP 07: The United Nations rights chief warned Monday that artificial intelligence could pose an "existential threat to humanity", demanding immediate action to reduce the risks.

"Humans currently face unfamiliar, even unprecedented threats to their rights," Volker Turk said while speaking before the UN Human Rights Council.

"The need for AI governance is widely acknowledged, but where is the action?" he asked, warning that "delay only benefits the massive tech companies, their owners and enablers".

Turk decreed that "a

handful of men has almost unlimited power over AI, which we are repeatedly told has unimaginable computing capacity".

"They talk about freedom, but on closer inspection, this turns out to be little more than the freedom to exploit our data," the rights chief said.

Turk warned in particular that "AI that escapes its testing environment or blackmails developers to prevent itself from being turned off, is AI that is too powerful".

He appeared to be alluding to revelations in July that OpenAI agents had escaped supposedly controlled environments and

had broken into servers of Hugging Face, a widely used platform where programmers share AI software.

That episode shook the tech world and revived calls for tighter regulation and oversight of AI.

Anthropic, Meta and other companies have reported similar incidents while testing agents.

"I share the concerns of industry insiders that advanced AI could pose an existential risk to humanity," Turk said.

"I am calling here, today, for an all-out effort to put cast iron guarantees in place around the safety and secu

Cont. on P9 >